Building on Community Capacities

An assessment involves both needs and capacities. Use your analysis of capacities to determine what to do. Use your analysis of needs to determine where to focus your attention. To build on capacities, the following tasks must be completed.

1) **Identify Map the capacities of the community**
   a) Identify the skills, experiences, and products of individuals in the community and how they spend money in the community
      (1) Artists, elderly, disabled, youth, etc.
   b) Identify voluntary associations in the community
      (1) Neighborhood associations, e.g., neighborhood watch groups
      (2) United Way,
      (3) Disease associations, e.g., Cancer society, Lung Assn., etc.
      (4) Red Cross, Mental Health Association,
      (5) Women's groups, e.g., Junior league, AAUW.
      (6) Service groups, e.g., Rotary, Kiwanis, Animal clubs, e.g., Lions, Elks, etc.
      (7) Senior groups, e.g., AARP, SNAP sites,
      (8) Youth groups, e.g., Scouts 4H, FFA, YMCA, YMCA
      (9) Business groups, e.g., Chamber of Commerce
      (10) Churches
      (11) Veterans groups
      (12) Sports groups, e.g., little league, etc.
      (13) Political groups, e.g., Democratic and Republican Party
      (14) Outdoor groups, e.g., garden clubs, conservation societies
      (15) Etc.
   c) Identify institutions in the community
      (1) Schools
      (2) Hospitals
      (3) Businesses
      (4) Police
      (5) City parks
      (6) Etc.

2) **Develop a community plan**
   a) Define the vision, goals, objectives
   b) Use a broad representative group, since each group has different view of the situation
   c) Insure the institutions are dominated by the associations and individuals

3) **Determine what each capacity can do to help implement the vision**
   a) Build relationships among assets
   b) Mobilize assets

4) **Leverage economic resources**
   a) Keep dollars circulating locally
   b) Develop an investment trust for loaning dollars locally
   c) Develop a brokerage system for banking and loaning assets and resources
   d) Build bridges to leverage philanthropic organizations outside the community
   e) Build bridges to leverage governments outside the community