

Understanding Assets through the Community Capitals

All communities have resources that can be grown, sustained, or depleted. Mapping these assets is important to building the foundation for community-driven development. New Sun Rising has adopted the following definitions to understand driving forces in community development.

Natural - quality and quantity of natural and environmental resources

Cultural - values, norms, beliefs and traditions; also creatives, artists and things they produce such as paintings, performances, and literature

Human - skills, knowledge, health, and attributes of individuals that provide them with the ability to strengthen themselves and community

Social - trust, norms of reciprocity, structured networks, group membership, cooperation, common vision and goals, leadership, acceptance of alternative views, diverse representation)


Political - ability to influence and enforce rules and standards; access to people with power to influence decisions, participation in civic discourse

Financial - variety of financial resources available to invest in local projects, economic development initiatives, wealth building, and community

Built - infrastructure of the community including building and transportation, services such as telecommunications and utilities

Unlike many measurement approaches, Community Capitals Framework grew out of practice in the field. Using the data, insights, and analysis from their work on entrepreneurial communities, the Flora's started to look beyond social, human, and financial capital to see the value of other community assets to the change process. Started in 2004, the Community Capitals Institute brings together both the research and practice communities to explore the idea of community capitals and community change.

 [Community Capitals - evaluating strategic interventions and projects.pdf](#)

 [Community Capitals Framework Writeup Oct 2014.pdf](#)