

Activity Preparation and Facilitation Guide: ABCD Community Mapping Exercise

ABCD Community Mapping Overview

[Asset-based community development \(ABCD\)](#) is a methodology for the sustainable development of communities based on their strengths and potentials. The ABCD process involves:

1. Assessing the resources, skills, and experience available in a community
2. Organizing the community around issues that are important to its members
3. Determining and taking appropriate action

Capacity building within communities often involves working directly with community groups. In the [Systems Thinking and Community Assets](#) video, Lisa Hadden, Executive Director of the Mid Central Area Health Education Center at the CMU College of Medicine, uses the [Technology of Participation tool](#) or ToP to increase participatory decision-making and effective action.

Activity

This brainstorming activity will assess community resources and identify the themes and properties of these resources.

Materials

- A large wall that you can stick Post-it notes on (or a Facilitation Sticky Wall)
- Large Post-it notes (8" x 6") in two colors (one color for brainstorming, a second color for theming)
- Flip chart

Assumptions

Each team reflects on their own community assets for this activity. This activity is normally conducted in a single community or area.

Brain Storming Technique and Facilitation

1. Have each group choose a scribe.
2. Ask the question: What helps create and sustain health in your community?
3. Small group:
 - Brainstorm answers to the question (building consensus)
 - When the team agrees with an asset the scribe writes it down in 3 – 5 words on a large Post-it note and holds the note up for collection
 - Runners pick up all thoughts generated and visually post all thoughts in random order on wall
4. Facilitator ends the brainstorming process once a sufficient number of thoughts have been collected (or once the groups run out of ideas).

ABCD Post-Brainstorming Action Setting

In the community setting, the facilitator would then ask the community to:

- Prioritize areas they are interested in focusing on
- Set a time sequence for action
- Establish responsibilities
- Determine follow-up and evaluation activities

Thoughts for consideration

- Does your CHNA include community assets?
- Has the community been engaged with the determination of their health priorities?
- How can we ensure that community voices are heard and incorporated when we set our health equity initiatives?