NEWS & NOTES
from ND COMPASS
A monthly newsletter to keep you informed.

Brand New Community Building Toolkit
Looking at ND Compass data in a different way!

To start May off right, ND Compass is launching a new resource, the Community Building toolkit! The toolkit was developed using the Community Capitals Framework. Community capitals (i.e., natural, cultural, human, social, political, financial, and built) are assets or resources that belong to a community, which are invested in order to create new resources and additional benefits.

The new toolkit aims to help identify forms of capital in the community, understand how capital is invested at the present time, measure progress toward desired outcomes, educate the community, and lead communities in the right direction, so they are better equipped to form plans of action and intervention to assure continued support of community capitals. The toolkit builds upon the information provided in ND Compass and is meant to aid communities that want to become more vibrant and have healthy, sustainable economies.

To support the launch of the new toolkit, the Ask a Researcher column features Kathy Tweeten, director of the Center for Community Vitality, who shares a few thoughts on how the Community Capitals Framework could be used in sustainable community development. Howard Barlow, in the For Discussion column, reflects over community building endeavors he has been a part of.

Check out these brand new resources!
For Discussion
Helping Build a Better Community

Howard Barlow is an investment specialist with Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota in the Lutheran Social Services Housing Program. Having worked for a number of community organizations, Mr. Barlow shares his experience working with non-profits as a Non-profit Resource Specialist (NRS) with Bremer Bank and serving as a former board member of the FM Coalition for Homeless Persons.

Read more.

Ask a Researcher
Why All Community Development Decisions Should Use the Community Capitals Framework

Kathleen Tweeten is the director of the NDSU Extension Center for Community Vitality. She is also the program leader for community vitality and a state specialist in community economic development. Her areas of specialty are business retention and expansion and community and organization strategic planning. She is a nationally certified TalentSmart trainer in Emotional Intelligence and is an international instructor for Business Retention and Expansion International certification courses.

Read more.

ND COMPASS: New Data Available

A number of charts have been updated within the following key measures:

- Disability under the topic Aging
- Low Birth Weight under the topic Early Childhood
- Jobs under the topic Economy
- Educational Attainment under the topic Workforce
Don't forget our new Geo profiles!

If you haven't already, make sure and check out our Geo Profiles (new since February!) to see a quick snapshot of data available for your area!

By tracking and analyzing trends in areas that affect our quality of life, North Dakota Compass gives everyone in our state--policymakers, business and community leaders, and concerned individuals who live and work here--a common foundation to act on issues to improve our communities.

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