

CAPACITY TOOL 2: REFLECTING ON CAPACITY BUILDING

REFLECTING ON CAPACITY BUILDING¹

When capacity mapping, try reflecting on the principles, assumptions, and values that guide the work of building healthy communities:

1. Community health improvement involves the population as a whole, not merely individuals at risk for specific physical, mental, or social conditions.
2. Community health requires changes in both the behaviors of large numbers of individuals and the conditions or social determinants that affect health and development.
3. A healthy community is a local product with priority issues and strategies best determined by those most affected by the concern.
4. Freedom and justice require reducing income disparities to promote optimal health and development for all.
5. Since health and development outcomes are caused by multiple factors, single interventions are likely to be insufficient.
6. The conditions that affect a particular health or development concern are often interconnected with those affecting other concerns.
7. Since the behaviors that affect health and development occur among a variety of people in an array of contexts, community improvement requires engagement of diverse groups through different parts of the community.
8. Statewide and community partnerships, support organizations, and grantmakers are catalysts for change: they attempt to convene important parties, broker relationships, and leverage needed resources.
9. The aim of support organizations is to build capacity to address what matters to people over time and across concerns.
10. Community health and development involves interdependent relationships among multiple parties in which none can function fully without the cooperation of others.

For more information:

Fawcett (n.d.). *Chapter 1. Section 3: Our model of practice: building capacity for community and system change*. Retrieved from The Community Tool Box: <http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/overview/model-for-community-change-and-improvement/building-capacity/tools>

¹ Capacity tool borrowed directly from <http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/overview/model-for-community-change-and-improvement/building-capacity/tools>