

## **Our Community Assessing Social Capital**

# **Community Survey**

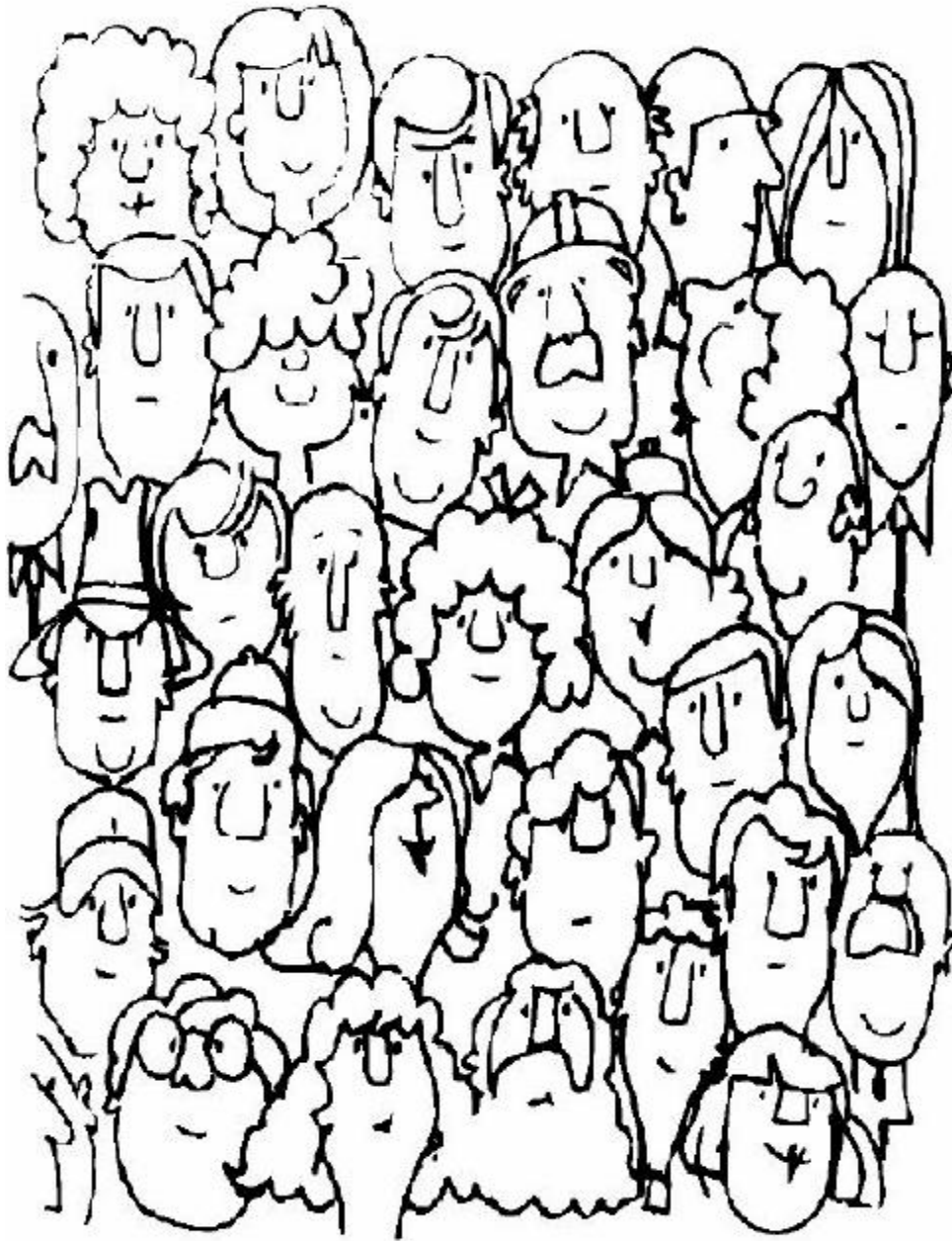
We are pleased to provide you with this preview copy of our social capital community survey. Our literature search for a community survey was started in August 2002. When no model for rural communities could be found, we decided to develop our own tool. The first pilot of the survey was started in January 2004 and we are just completing the research (validity and reliability testing) on this our third version of the survey.

We've piloted the instrument in 10 rural communities (4 towns, 2 school districts and 4 counties) where we've gathered data from 2,659 adults. There have also been 555 youth who have completed a youth version of the survey. An online version of the survey has also been piloted.

The full survey has a total of 12 questions which focus on six measures: bonding-trust, bonding-engagement, bridging-trust, bridging-engagement, linking-trust, and linking-engagement.



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April 2008



Preview copy

# Our Community

Assessing  
Social  
Capital

Version 4: [community name]

Dear Community Member,

We invite you to assist us in looking at the social capital in your community. Social capital, the relational foundation of a community, consists of trust, connections, and involvement. Upon completion, we will identify areas where your community already has a strong foundation as well as areas you may want to strengthen.

We believe the strength of communities rests on the relationships we have with one another. Research has shown that communities with a strong foundation of trust between and among different individuals and groups are healthier and thrive economically and educationally. These are the benefits we, the sponsors of this community assessment, want for all communities. Thank you, in advance, for your participation in this assessment of your community's social capital!

Instructions:

1. This survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.
2. There are no right answers.
3. Please read each question carefully and mark your answers clearly in the space provided. Please write legibly and **fill in the circles completely where appropriate.**
4. To ensure complete confidentiality, please do not write your name anywhere on the survey.
5. Your responses will be combined with the responses of others in your community into a profile that identifies community strengths and community weaknesses.
6. Once the results of the survey are available, the staff leading the assessment will work with your community to develop plans to improve the overall social capital in the community.

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To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (fill in a number from 1=strongly disagree to 6=strongly agree).

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. When I need some extra help, I can always count on someone in the community to help with daily tasks like grocery shopping, house cleaning, cooking, telephoning, giving me a ride.	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
b. I often exchange favors with people in my community (by favors we mean such things as watching each other's children, helping with shopping, lending garden or house tools, and other small acts of kindness).	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
c. If I were seriously ill, I would ask my neighbors for help.	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
d. If something unfortunate happened to a neighbor, such as a serious illness or the death of a parent, members of this community would get together to help them.	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
e. It is hard to make good friends in [community name].	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
f. [community name] is welcoming of newcomers.	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥

We all trust different people and groups to different degrees. Choose your level of agreement with the following statements about trust (fill in a number from 1=strongly disagree to 6=strongly agree).

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. I trust my immediate neighbors	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
b. I trust people I work with (if employed)	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
c. I trust people at my church or place of worship	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
d. I trust people in the same clubs or activities as me	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
e. I trust people from other cultural or ethnic groups	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
f. I trust people of other religious beliefs	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
g. I trust people new to the community	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
h. I trust local government officials	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
i. I trust local business people	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
j. I trust people in local law enforcement	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
k. I trust local teachers /educators	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
l. I trust local nurses and doctors	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥
m. I trust the local news media	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥

In the past month, how often have you had contact with the following categories of people in the community? (fill in a number from 0=none to 5=five or more times or 9=don't know)

	None	Once	Twice	Three times	Four times	Five or more times	Don't Know
a. People much younger than me	0	1	2	3	4	5	9
b. People who have a different religion than me	0	1	2	3	4	5	9
c. People of a different race or ethnicity than me	0	1	2	3	4	5	9
d. People much poorer than me	0	1	2	3	4	5	9
e. People who have a different sexual orientation than me	0	1	2	3	4	5	9
f. People (adults) who have less education than me	0	1	2	3	4	5	9
g. People with disabilities	0	1	2	3	4	5	9
h. People who have different political views than me	0	1	2	3	4	5	9

How many times in the past twelve months have you participated in your community in the following ways?  
 (fill in a number from 0=no times to 5=more than 12 times)

	None	1 to 3 times	4 to 6 times	7 to 9 times	10 to 12 times	More than 12 times
a. Attended any public meeting in which there was discussion of school or town affairs.	0	1	2	3	4	5
b. Attended a political meeting or rally.	0	1	2	3	4	5
c. Attended any club or organization meeting.	0	1	2	3	4	5
d. Joined together with others in your community to address an issue.	0	1	2	3	4	5
e. Participated in a self-help or support group.	0	1	2	3	4	5
f. Tried to get your local government to pay attention to something that concerned you?.	0	1	2	3	4	5
g. Organized a community effort (like collection of food for food shelf, fundraiser for someone in need).	0	1	2	3	4	5