Hawaii Hazards Awareness & Resilience Program

Produced by

Hawaii State Civil Defense

HAWAII HAZARDS AWARENESS & RESILIENCE PROGRAM:

GOAL: To enhance community resilience to multiple hazards through a facilitated education and outreach program that promotes hazard understanding and awareness, and offers tools and information resources to guide mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

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COMMUNITY RESOURCE MAPPING

Module 4: Community Resource Mapping

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Module 4: Community Resource Mapping

WHAT IS COMMUNITY RESOURCE MAPPING?

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What is Community Resource Mapping?

- Also referred to as Community Asset Mapping.
- An important first step in understanding the resources that a community can leverage to support disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Provides an understanding of the skills and talents of individuals, social networks, cultural influences, informal associations and formal institutions.

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Why Map Community Assets?

- To identify resources that will support the achievement of community objectives.
- To inform planning efforts by identifying gaps and/or redundancies.
- To understand dependencies and interactions.
- To identify ways to strengthen institutions, build linkages.
- To identify common interests, and be a catalyst for partnership.
- To engage and motivate community members.

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The Approach: Assets vs. Needs

- The "Needs" approach ("glass half empty"):
  - Focuses on deficiencies.
  - Results in fragmentation of responses to local needs.
  - Makes people consumers of services; builds dependence.
  - Residents have little voice in deciding how to address local concerns.
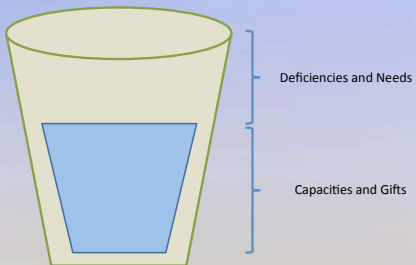
Source: Kretzmann, John P. and John L. McKnight   8

The Approach: Assets vs. Needs

- The "Assets" approach ("glass half full"):
  - Focuses on gifts and capacities.
  - Focuses on effectiveness.
  - Builds interdependencies.
  - Identifies ways that people can give of their talents.
  - Seeks to empower people.

Source: Kretzmann, John P. and John L. McKnight   9

Deficiencies vs. Capacities

Deficiencies and Needs

Capacities and Gifts

Source: Kretzmann, John P. and John L. McKnight   10

The "Assets" Approach

- Maintains the following principles:
  - Every person has talents, skills, and gifts important to a community.
  - Each time individuals use these abilities, the community in which they live is strengthened and these people feel a sense of empowerment.
  - Strong communities are places where the capacities of local individuals are identified, valued, and used.
  - The development "OF" the community is built upon the talents and resources of its members.

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Features of Asset Mapping

- Asset-Based:
  - Discovers talents and skills found in the community right now.
- Internally Focused:
  - Relies on the community's assets, not on those found outside of it.
- Relationship Driven:
  - Seeks to build linkages among local people, institutions and organizations.

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Discovering Community Assets

- Three major resource pools:

Formal Institutions

Individuals

Informal Organizations
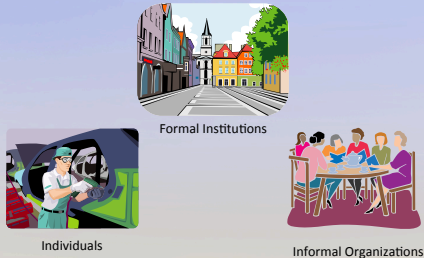
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Mapping the Assets of Individuals

- For each individual, identify:
  - Skills and Abilities
    - Developed or utilized at home, work or in the community.
  - Interests and Experiences
    - Previous experience of a natural disaster?
  - Resources to Share
    - Resources you can share with other community members in times of need?
  - Personal Information
    - Name, address, phone number, age, gender

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Activity

❑ Worksheet 1: Individual Capacities Inventory

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Informal Organizations

- Every community has groups of individuals who have organized for the purpose of pursuing common goals.
- These groups are voluntary and informal in nature (e.g., don't have officers or by-laws)
- Typically involve those who:
  - Share a common interest
  - Share a community goal
  - Come together to solve an issue or problem

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Examples of Informal Organizations

- Neighborhood Groups
  - Crime watch, community improvement
- Sports Leagues
  - Basketball, soccer, fishing, bowling
- Church Groups
  - Prayer, youth, service
- Community Groups
  - Boy/Girl Scouts, Rotary, Lions, Masons, Elks
- Community Celebrations Committees
  - Arts and Crafts Festival, July 4th Parade, Annual Fair

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How Can Informal Organizations Help?

- Already organized around a common goal.
- Have an existing network.
- Hold regular meetings.
- Venue offers opportunities to share community happenings.
- Often willing to do more to help.
- Sources of leadership for community activities.

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Mapping Informal Organizations

- Ask individuals about their involvement in informal community organizations.
- Examine printed materials
  - Newspapers, magazines and community directories
- Explore websites and online resources.
- Contact local institutions that may know of informal groups in your community.
  - Libraries, parks and recreational facilities, churches and schools are typical meeting places.

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Activity

❑ Worksheet 2: Participation in Informal Organizations

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Mapping the Assets of Formal Institutions

- Every community has a variety of public, private, and not-for-profit formal institutions that:
  - Carry out important community functions.
  - Meet the social needs of local residents through persistent, on-going activities.
  - Could engage in preparedness, response and recovery activities.

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Formal Community Institutions

Kinship (Family)   Economic   Education   Religious   Associations (formal)   Political

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Mapping Formal Institutions

- Inventory the formal institutions in your community.
- Identify the types of activities these institutions are engaged in, and map their assets.
- Explore ways to build links between formal institutions, as well as between them and the capabilities of individuals.
  - Local institutions may also serve as conduits to resources outside the community that may be needed.

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How Formal Institutions Can Help

- Example – Schools have the following assets and capabilities:
  - Facilities
  - Materials and equipment
  - Employment
  - Courses
  - Teachers
  - Parent involvement
  - Youth

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Activity

❑ Worksheet 3: Formal Institutions Inventory

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Learning Check

1. Can you describe the three general resource pools to explore when conducting your community asset mapping?
2. Can you give examples of the kinds of assets within each resource pool?

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Module 4: Community Resource Mapping

GETTING STARTED

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Getting Started

- Form your asset mapping team
  - Consider the background and knowledge base of your team members, as well their skill sets and affiliations.
- Set goals
  - Define the goals of the asset mapping process. Make them explicit and realistic!
  - If your general goal is to build community resilience to natural hazards, develop more specific goals that focus on improving disaster preparedness, response and recovery.
  - Make sure that you will be able to measure progress, and know when you have accomplished your goals!

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Getting Started (Continued)

- Scope the task
  - Define the region or community you will be mapping.
  - Determine the level of assessment
    - Will it be high-level (less detail)? Or comprehensive (very detailed)?
  - Who should be involved?
  - How will the assessment results be disseminated?
  - Who are the recipients of the assessment?

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Getting Started (Continued)

- Decide what gets mapped (based on goals and objectives)
  - Individuals
  - Formal Institutions
  - Informal Organizations
- Determine how information will be:
  - Collected
    - Examples: Online research, survey, community networking
  - Organized/Stored
    - Example: database

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The Mapping Process

- Identify Community Assets
  - In this step, you will identify and catalog community assets that may be relevant to disaster preparedness, response and recovery.
    - Search public data sources such as, local phone books, online resources, written reports, etc.
  - Have a limited group of stakeholders review and refine initial inventory.
  - Enter information into a database. If possible, use GIS software to map physical locations of assets.

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The Mapping Process (Continued)

- Evaluate Community Assets
  - This step will refine your list of community assets, and add additional detail.
  - Consider more specifically *how* you think the assets identified in the first step might contribute to disaster preparedness, response and/or recovery.
  - Record general descriptions of each asset, and add these to your database.
  - Discuss findings with your asset mapping team.

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The Mapping Process (Continued)

- Verify Community Assets
  - In this step your team will further refine the data collected so far by interviewing or surveying representatives of identified assets.
    - What are their roles and responsibilities before, during, and after a disaster?
    - How might they contribute to, or be relied upon by the community before, during, or after a disaster?

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Evaluation, Documentation & Communication

- Evaluate the data collected. This step will help you identify gaps or needs.
- Summarize key findings and initial recommendations.
- Share/discuss results with your asset mapping team and community leaders.
- Communicate and disseminate findings to the broader community.

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Take Action!

- Through this process you have identified community resources that can support disaster preparedness, response and recovery. The next step is to mobilize these assets to accomplish your community goals and objectives.
  - Take steps to connect community members, and build linkages between institutions and organizations.
  - Develop action plans to address any gaps or needs identified through the community asset mapping process.
  - Periodically review and update your community asset mapping database.

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Learning Check

1. Why would community asset mapping be useful to you and your community?
2. How would you get started with the asset mapping process in your community?

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Questions?

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The Hawaii Hazards Awareness & Resilience Program (HHARP) is the result of a collaborative partnership between Hawaii State Civil Defense and the Pacific Disaster Center.

Point of Contact: Hawaii State Civil Defense
Phone: (808) 733-4300

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