Community Readiness Assessment

This worksheet is designed to be used by a community facilitator, project champion or leadership team. Completing this worksheet will help you determine the likelihood of a community successfully initiating a Connecting Communities project. Respond to the following statements for the community you are considering for a Connecting Communities project. Consider contacting the Chamber of Commerce, economic development organization, Tourism Bureau, County or City Planner, University Cooperative Extension Office or similar organization that is knowledgeable about the community to assist you with completing this worksheet if you are not intimately familiar with the community.

Connecting Communities projects require some level of community social capital. The first three items will help you gauge the level of social capital in the community. Higher scores indicate a higher level of social capital exists in the community.

1. Is there one or more organization in the community that is able to bring together leaders across the community to discuss community issues? YES _____ NO _____

If **YES** name them

_____

_____

Consider contacting leaders in these organizations to gauge their interest in partnering to initiate a Connecting Communities project or participating as a leadership team member.

2. Do organizations (public, private and nonprofit) in the community have a history of collaborating to solve community issues? (Circle the number below the appropriate response.)

No history of collaboration	Limited history of collaboration	Some history of collaboration	Consistent history of collaboration
1	2	3	4

It is important to understand the history of collaboration in the community to address community issues. The higher the score the more likely the community will engage in Connecting Communities projects.

3. How do leaders in the community react to change?
(Circle the number below the appropriate response.)

Do everything they can to keep things exactly as they have always been.	Recognize needed changes in the community but want someone else to solve the problem.	Work together when change negatively impacts the community.	Recognize that change is natural and work together proactively to plan for change.
1	2	3	4

The higher you rate the community on this item the more likely there is recognition that changes such as increased availability and use of broadband is important to the future of the community and the faster Connecting Communities projects could be implemented.

4. Are there one or more individuals in the community that appear to be leading broadband awareness and the improvement of broadband access or increasing the diffusion and adoption of information technologies in the community?

If so who are they?

_____

_____

_____

Any individuals listed above would be natural partners in an effort to undertake a Connecting Communities project.