



Community Capacity Building Task Force

In defining the work of this task force, it's important to understand what we mean by "capacity." The capacity to do what? Two terms used similarly in community development work - "community capacity" and "social capacity" - speak to the *ability* of members of a community to work together effectively to develop and sustain strong relationships; solve problems and make group decisions; and collaborate effectively to plan, set goals, and get things done. To build community or social capacity is to create that *ability* through intentional means.

The Issue Identified by Community Input

When a community or region lacks that *ability* described above, it means they are deficient in social capacity. The lack of social capacity within the One Shawnee region was identified through community input as an obstacle to regional revitalization. Relationships among key stakeholders appeared to be few and far between, partnerships among institutions to learn from one another and solve problems collectively rarely form, and there was a lack of shared goals or initiatives for the region.

Purpose

The Community Capacity Building Task Force is charged with carrying out the following objectives:

- Provide recommendations for ways to cultivate relationships among leaders and stakeholders throughout the region for the purposes of collaborative problem solving now and in the future.
- Create a plan and method for engaging community members in the work of collective action for the purposes of revitalizing the region.