



Building Community Vitality

On the Brink of New Promise
Mapping Your Community
Philanthropy Environment

April 2009

Mapping Your Community Philanthropy Environment

What is this tool?

This worksheet helps you identify all of the philanthropy organizations operating in your community, in order to understand the resources and relationships that you all bring to the table.

How to use this tool

Fill out the worksheet, answering all of the questions to the best of your knowledge. Then try the exercise as a group with your staff or board to help you develop an even more complete picture. Are there others who can help you fill in the map more completely? Ask them to join you in working through the exercise. Consider trying the exercise together with the leadership of other community philanthropy organizations to begin a discussion about how you can coordinate efforts to better serve your community.

This tool is part of the suite of tools focused on **Considering Your Context**. It can be used independently or in conjunction with the **Community Change Discussion Guide**.

Who should use this tool?

This tool can be used for discussions with foundation staff, board, and advisers, but it is also a good way to begin to incorporate representatives from other community philanthropy organizations into the process to help you obtain a broader set of perspectives and begin a larger conversation about the relationships between your organizations and the roles each of you can play. It is important to recognize that other organizations should be included in the exercise as peers and partners, not simply as groups that will help achieve *your* foundation's mission. An external facilitator may be helpful in setting the appropriate tone for the session.

Related resources

Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Finding and Mobilizing a Community's Assets, by John P. Kretzmann and John L. McKnight, ACTA Publications, 1997.

"The Harwood Public Capital Framework," in *Community Rhythms: Five Stages of Community Life*, by The Harwood Group, 1999.

GEO data portal and online mapping application. Online data sets used by the United Nations Environment Programme and its partners in the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) and other integrated environment assessments. <http://geodata.grid.unep.ch/>.

Gapminder. Provides statistical time series data in animated interactive graphics. Promotes sustainable global development and achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. <http://www.gapminder.org/>.

Tamarack: An Institute for Community Engagement, has a number of resources that will be of interest on this topic. www.tamarackcommunity.ca

1. What types of philanthropic organizations are operating in your community?
In the boxes below, list the organizations of various types that work in your area.

United Ways	Interest - based funds e.g., Youth, Women's, LGBTQ	Community foundations
Giving federations	Private foundations focused on specific or local issues	Giving circles
Significant individual donors focused on specific and/or local issues	National, provincial & regional funders that give in your area	Potential provincial & local government partners
Community -based public charities that give in your area	Local businesses that contribute to local issues	Other significant local giving groups e.g., churches, volunteer centers, healthcare foundations

2. Were there any surprises in these lists? Do you need to do more learning and outreach to fill in gaps in your knowledge of other community philanthropy organizations?

3. Think about your relationships with each of the players you identified. For each one, consider:
 - Have you ever worked with them before?

 - How would you describe your relationship with them?

 - Are there issues where your interests overlap?

 - What resources (financial, human, knowledge, networks) could they add to a partnership? What resources could you add to a partnership with them?

4. Think about the other philanthropic organizations in terms of the current and emerging needs of your community. What are your best opportunities for partnership and coordinated impact?

5. What are the next steps you should take to either build or improve your relationships with other community and philanthropic organizations?