

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

As part of United Way of Mower County's ongoing commitment to change lives in our community, we are sponsoring a Community Assessment of Needs and Assets. As demand for health and human service needs continue to increase the community must focus resources on areas of need that will maximize the impact of the community's investments.

A Community Assessment is a comprehensive document outlining a community's needs and assets. These are areas identified by the public as concerns.

A Steering Committee has been formed involving people from all over the community to over see the various committees. We are currently looking for volunteers to serve on the following committees.

Inventory Committee:

Inventory Committee will identify the capabilities and associations of organizations. Included in the inventory are groups involved in all aspects of community life such as business, education, health and human service, government, labor, neighborhood and religious activities.

Data Collection & Analysis Committee:

Data Collection and Analysis Committee will use a three legged stool approach. (1) they will create surveys for the general population (2) create surveys and focus groups of key informants and (3) complete research on quantitative indicators of social, economic and environment conditions. They will also collect new data and compile existing data from other organizations.

Communications Committee:

The Communications Committee will put together a plan to write grants and ask for financial support, ensure that the community at large is informed of the process and take the analyzed data and put it into a form that is easy to read and available to the community.

Each committee will set up their own schedule that works best for committee members. Meetings average about once a month but depending on scope of projects and time line may meet more frequently at times.

We all have gifts, talents and interests in different areas. This is an opportunity for you to get involved in a positive way in our community. The results from this Community Assessment will be organized into a working document to be used by any organization or business in the county, including city and county administration. We will be able to coordinate our efforts to make best use of limited resources.

If you are interested in serving on one of the committees above or would like more information regarding the Community Assessment please call United Way at 437-2313. We are excited about this collaborative community effort.

**United Way
of Mower County**

