

ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR COMMUNITIES – ARE YOU READY?

DO YOU HAVE....

RATE 1 - 10

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Status of Planning for the Service System	
Comprehensive assessment of needs, expenditures, and gaps in services and funding.	
Community-wide goals and desired outcomes for children, youth and families. Agreement by core stakeholders about priorities for increased funding.	
Capacity of Network and Leadership	
Multi-racial, multi-sector network/coalition that works together across multiple areas of children and youth services, and has overcome turf issues. Convening entity (organization, network or coalition) with credibility and capacity to organize meetings in the early phase of work, and which can work with diverse sectors and partners.	
Network members or partners beyond service providers, such as a large membership organization or organizing group, parent groups, youth, faith, and/or labor.	
Willingness and independence to speak out forcefully about unmet needs and funding options. Youth and parent leaders and organizations which are activists, and can be partners in or initiators of the planning process. History of collaboration to increase local budgets for children and youth services.	
Members who are politically engaged and have credibility with elected officials and community. Fundors to support early work, e.g. staff support.	
Political and Civic Culture	
Civic culture that supports children, e.g. business, media, faith, and service organizations. Political leaders who have prioritized children and youth, and are current or potential allies.	
Successful ballot measures that have funded education or community services.	
Base of private funding and volunteers who support children’s services. History of success in “winning-over” opponents of public funding for community services. .	
TENACITY, PASSION, HUMOR – Most important criteria for success	