

The Outpost

Foundations of Disaster & Hazard Readiness

Community Capitals

Recently I was asked to help develop a workshop for USDA and the Southern Rural Development Center. The focus of the workshop was to strategize for building community capacity with local veteran populations in mind. We used the graphic below to help participants identify assets, or capitals, in their communities, as a starting point for this work.

Here are some examples of the various capitals:

- Cultural: traditions, cultural events and festivals, libraries, museums, unique food, art, music
- Financial: foundations, grants, loans, banks
- Political: political organizations, access, to elected and appointed officials, ways for citizens to have a voice on local issues, voting
- Social: civic and social groups/clubs, community engagement activities, community coalitions, events or activities that build trust among different groups



IN THIS OUTPOST:

Community Capitals | 1
 FAQ | 3
 Sanity Second | 3
 Resources from the MFLN | 4

- Built: buildings, internet, hospitals, schools, bridges, roads, utilities, houses
- Human: formal and informal educational institutions and programs, workforce training, adult and youth leadership programs
- Natural: parks, wildlife, water features, woodlands, mountains

When we can identify and understand the strengths already inherent in a community—or strengths that are revealed during crises—they can also serve as an excellent starting point for envisioning a path to recovery from disasters and hazards.



Whether your community is your actual place-based community, your workplace, your department, or even your professional field, keep it in mind as you take a look at the community capitals model. What capitals can you identify within your community pre-pandemic? What capitals can you identify now in the midst of it? Are there gaps that weren't there before because of the pandemic? Were there any gaps pre-pandemic that have been filled because of strengths that emerged during the pandemic?

Now return to some of the questions the asset-based community recovery model asks:

- What dependencies have been created from the pandemic (i.e. technology)?
- What capacities have been built?
- Which unknown assets have come to light?
- What has changed that you do not want to lose?
- What are the long-term changes?

As you consider both of these models in your response and recovery plans, they may work hand-in-hand in several ways: community capitals may help inform how you address dependencies; emergent strengths might help you see capitals from new perspectives, as well as inform how you might address gaps in capitals moving forward. This could be a great exercise to do with a team as you address workplace responses to COVID-19, how your work processes have changed, how your organizational models have changed, etc.

We have one more session in this year's Academy: "Planning for the Worst, Hoping for the Best" will be presented November 18 at 11am ET. Having your community capitals in mind may help inform your learning and sharing experience at this session as you consider those capitals, strengths, and dependencies in the context of the planning and mitigation process.



The 2021 Military Family Readiness Academy will pick back up on February 3 with one of three Asset-based Community Recovery Workshops. These workshops will be an additional tool for learning from and growing out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Space will be limited in these workshops, which will be offered at different times to accommodate participants from multiple time zones. Sign up for a workshop here: <https://militaryfamilieslearningnetwork.org/event/92168/>.

And don't forget to register for all the Part 2 Academy sessions here: <https://militaryfamilieslearningnetwork.org/mfra2021/>.

I look forward to participating in the final session of this year's series with you!

Thank you and be well,
Brigitte Scott
Director of Program Development and Evaluation
Military Families Learning Network

FAQ

The final session in the 2020 Military Family Readiness Academy will be presented on November 18 at 11am ET. "Planning for the Worst, Hoping for the Best" features Dr. Angie Lindsey as facilitator, and Nancy Beers from the Center for Disaster Philanthropy will also join us to share her experience working as a disaster case manager in the aftermath of 2007 Southern Minnesota floods.

Have other questions? Email us at MilFamLN@gmail.com.



Sanity Second

Don't forget to breathe. Download a meditation podcast or search out a guide that can support you in starting and maintaining a meditation practice.

Resources from the Military Families Learning Network

Building a Battle Plan for Military Families

<https://militaryfamilieslearningnetwork.org/event/52255/>

Integration of Community Capacity Building Resources

<https://militaryfamilieslearningnetwork.org/event/27090/>

Climate Change and the Military Community

<https://militaryfamilieslearningnetwork.org/2019/01/24/climate-change-the-military-community/>

Breaking Down Silos and Building Networks to Support Military Families

<https://militaryfamilieslearningnetwork.org/2019/09/05/collaboration-breaking-down-silos-and-building-networks-to-support-military-families/>

Practicing Connection in a Complex World Podcast: Community Resilience

<https://militaryfamilieslearningnetwork.org/podcast/community-resilience-ep-3/>

