

COMPREHENSIVE RURAL WEALTH FRAMEWORK₁



These capitals represent a robust and comprehensive measure of both tangible and intangible wealth and create the basis for assessing current and future well-being. These different forms of capital are often complementary. By investing in one type of capital, we can create opportunities to invest in another. Understanding the framework of rural wealth and rural wealth creation we can impact the longevity and success of rural communities. By focusing on the totality of assets within rural communities, this framing lends itself to a more inclusive, diverse, and promising future built upon existing assets.

THE WEALTH CAPITALS: Detailed Definitions¹

 INTELLECTUAL	<p>The collective knowledge, resourcefulness, creativity, and innovation of the people, institutions, organizations, and sectors leveraged to create synergy to effectively utilize and grow community resources.</p> <p><i>Formal and informal education institutions, workforce training programs, adult and youth leadership and educational programs, lifelong learning activities.</i></p>
 HUMAN	<p>The skills, knowledge, physical and mental health of individuals that provide the ability to earn a living and contribute to strengthening the community, family, and oneself.</p> <p><i>Levels of education and training of the residents, degree of entrepreneurship, health of the population.</i></p>
 SOCIAL	<p>The connections, relationships and networks among people and organizations that help make things happen in the community; includes close ties building trust and community cohesion/bonding that promotes broad-based action on key community initiatives.</p> <p><i>Associations and activities that build trust and create positive relationships among people and groups across the community's population fostering cooperation, citizen involvement in community discussions and events, involvement in civic and service groups.</i></p>
 CULTURAL	<p>The values, norms, beliefs, traditions, customs, and view of the “world” that people inherit and learn from family and community; includes material goods produced at a specific time and place that have cultural or historical significance contributing to community identity.</p> <p><i>Heritages/ethnicities/multi-lingual populations, cultural/community-identifying events/festivals, historical associations, religious institutions.</i></p>
 POLITICAL	<p>The goodwill, influence, and power that people, organizations, and institutions in the region can exercise in decision-making.</p> <p><i>Engagement by citizens in community issues, influence by elected and appointed government officials, involvement by organized issue/lobbying groups.</i></p>
 PHYSICAL	<p>The physical infrastructure of the community – the basic set of facilities, services and physical structures needed by a community.</p> <p><i>Utilities and water/sewer systems, roads/bridges/sidewalks, broadband, main street/retail, grocery stores, business parks/incubator facilities, childcare facilities, hospital/health care facilities, housing, parks and trails.</i></p>
 NATURAL	<p>The quality and quantity of natural and environmental resources existing in a community.</p> <p><i>Water, land, air, minerals, plants, wildlife; resources drawn from nature – including renewable and non-renewable.</i></p>
 FINANCIAL	<p>The variety of financial resources available to invest in local projects or economic development initiatives. Efforts to build wealth to support community development activities.</p> <p><i>Financial institutions, community development organizations, community foundations and granting programs, donors and philanthropy, taxation, and bonding ability.</i></p>