

Iowa Rural Vitality Coalition

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1 What is the motivation for this work?

A1 *The underlying premise for creating this Coalition and what drives our approach is that we believe all Iowans should have the opportunity to live, long health lives (life span = # of years we live and health span = # of years in our life span that we feel good).*

When we think about why this Coalition came together, every Coalition partner has spent time, resources and have genuine interest in helping rural communities thrive. This means we want to make sure rural communities have the support they need to ensure their economy and their people are healthy and wealthy.

Q2 How was our community selected for the pilot?

A2 *Through the use of data both qualitative and quantitative. The Coalition was looking for communities that would be engaged with strong local leadership and could serve as a role model for other Iowa communities.*

Q3 What are the budget needs to participate in the pilot?

A3 *There is no fee to a community for the assistance it is receiving from the Coalition partners. However, there will likely be administrative investments for the community related to implementing the process, such as printing, postage, marketing, room rental, refreshments at community events, etc. The implementation of an initiative will likely have costs, but the goal of the Coalition will be to do our best in helping the community determine possible funding sources.*

Q4 Will there be assistance with identifying resources and funding?

A4 *Yes, throughout the community planning phase of the process, the facilitators will assist the community in identifying and connecting to potential resources and funding sources.*

Q5 Will there be technical assistance and implementation support once the community has developed its strategic plan?

A5 *Yes, the Coalition partners will have regular check-ins with the community planning team and implementing organizations to monitor implementation progress and provide appropriate technical assistance when needed.*

Q6 What is the name of the process or program?

A6 *The process does not have a branded name; however, this could be an outcome of the work done with pilot communities.*

Q7 What is the recommended size of the Community Planning Team?

A7 *The planning team should have representation from each of the 8 Wealth Capitals (Intellectual, Human, Social, Cultural, Political, Physical/Built, Natural and Financial). There can be multiple individuals (no more than 2-3) for each capital and/or an individual could overlap multiple capitals.*

Q8 What is the time commitment for a Community Planning Team member?

A8 *The time commitment will vary by community and their needs.*

Q9 How is community defined?

A9 *The defined geography of the “community” will be set by the Community Planning Team. An example could be a single town, a school district geography or an entire county.*

Q10 How do will the Coalition assist with gaining community input and engagement?

A10 *The Community Planning Team and the Facilitation team will work together to engage individuals and organizations through a variety of communication strategies and community input events. Additionally, before a plan is finalized and unveiled, all organizations with implementation responsibilities will have adopted and publicly endorsed the plan.*

Q11 How is this process different from other processes?

A11 *Through a formal coalition of diverse organizations, we are collaboratively designing and deploying a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to improve rural vitality. This process, using the Wealth Capital framework will take a more wholistic approach to accessing the community and developing a community plan. Each community will have an assigned facilitation team that will provide support beyond implementation. Bringing the organizations with expertise together to help plan and implement.*

Q12 What does success look like with this process?

A12 *Each Community Planning Team will define what success looks like for their community based on their plan. Additionally, as a pilot community we ask that you be active participants on the process and to provide feedback.*

Q13 Who are the project sponsors?

A13 *The coalition is a collaborative initiative of the Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative, the Iowa Rural Development Council, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, the Institute for Decision Making at the University of Northern Iowa, the University of Iowa College of Public Health and Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield.*

Q14 Who makes up the Community Planning Team?

A14 *The Community Planning Team is comprised of those individuals that represent the 8 Wealth Capitals*

Q15 What is the purpose of Inspire Event and the different task groups? Are their budgets allocated for the event and the task groups?

A15 *The "Inspire Event" is a one-time, community-wide input event. The Communications task group could be responsible for the external communication, such as handling meetings with the press, press releases, marketing for the Inspire Event, social media updates, etc. The Social Chair/Team Building task group would develop activities for each of the Community Planning Team meetings that help the team get to know each other better and promote a synergy that can extend well into the implementation phase of the pilot. There is no budget for these activities, however most will not require a cost and we can brainstorm with you on potential sponsorship sources if needed.*

Q16 Who should we direct our questions too?

A16 *Direct questions to the Rural Vitality Coalition Facilitator team and they will loop in any additional partner as needed.*

Q17: We completed a study from 12 years ago, but we still use it because it is still relevant information for us. Should we include it?

A17: Yes! We use the “10 year” mark as a general guideline, so you know that you don’t need to share every plan that was ever completed in your community. However, our highest priority is to compile information that is most relevant to you and your community; therefore, if that relevant document is 12 years old, please include it!

Q18: I have a survey from the school that may be relevant, but I am unsure. What should I do?

A18: As a test, you can ask yourself (or your team members) a few questions: “Does this survey provide a lot of very valuable information for this capital? Do I see data or priorities in here that will be very important to consider as we think about our strengths and weaknesses in my community?” If the answer is “Yes!”, include it. If the answer is “No”, or “I don’t think so”, feel free to not include in this round of the data collection. We can always return to it if we need it later on.