Using Community Assets to Create Sustainable Change

“Capable Communities” is a Web site created by MSU’s Office of University Outreach and Engagement. The name of the site was inspired by a vision of integrating scholarship and community expertise into a unified picture of what a vibrant and strong community should be.

A capable community applies the strengths (assets) of its members to improve the overall well-being of the community. It mobilizes community members and groups to begin an informed and purposeful journey from being at-risk to becoming safe, and ultimately, to thriving.

University Outreach and Engagement develops partnerships with local organizations to assist their efforts to improve communities and the lives of residents.

If you are working to achieve healthy, fundamental, and sustainable change for individuals, families, groups, neighborhoods, or communities, this Web site will help you:

- Become familiar with the benefits of an asset orientation and the limitations of traditional deficit approaches
- Understand how focusing on measurable outcomes at the outset is integral to the change process
- Link outcomes with assets using the Outcome-Asset Impact Model (O-AIM) developed by University-Community Partnerships
- Consider ways to apply O-AIM to your own work

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