

A • B • C • D

Asset-Based Community Development



Video Resources:

[ABCD Animation](#) (5 min) - Brief overview of the philosophy

[ABCD 101](#) (70 min) - A presentation by John McKnight explaining the basics of ABCD

Asset Map Assignment

Step 1

Choose a location of appropriate size (ex: a Chicago neighborhood, a larger portion of a smaller city, an entire small suburb, etc.) and identify its assets/capacities. You may wish to narrow your scope by focusing on a specific issue or population. For example, you might research jobs and economic development in Avondale, healthcare in Humboldt Park, or senior services in Pullman.

Step 2

Create an asset map incorporating at least 10 different assets of your chosen community, describe them, and explain why they are an asset.

Step 3

Develop an "action plan" (2 pages) demonstrating how these community assets could be connected to do something new or address a particular issue of concern for the neighborhood. Be sure to focus on connecting 2 or more assets that were not previously connected.

Note: It can be difficult to identify individuals if you aren't inherently familiar with the location you've chosen. In that case, focus on types of individuals. If an area has a significant number of students, artists, or senior citizens, what are typical characteristics of those groups that could be an asset to the community?

Examples:

[Brooklyn Park, MN](#)

[Pilsen](#)



ABCD Reflection

In **2-4 pages**, reflect upon and answer the following questions with **specific examples**:

In what ways does your internship organization focus on assets? On deficits?
How are both valued at your organization?

In what ways do you focus on assets? On deficits? How do you value both?

How is your work in the community contributing to your understanding of community development? If it is not, how could it be moving forward?

