Is Your Community Ready?

Is your community ready to undertake an economic development initiative? How would you rate your community in each of these areas? Few communities are strong in all the areas listed below. It is possible that your first economic development initiative could be to fill in some of the gaps.

Instructions: Do you feel your community as a whole is **STRONG (3)**, **MODERATE (2)**, or **WEAK (1)** in each of the following areas? Circle the appropriate response for each question.

1. **Vision**
   - Widely supported vision for community’s future.  
     - Circle: 3 2 1
   - Willingness to be innovative and think “outside the box.”  
     - Circle: 3 2 1
   - Does your community take a long-term view in its planning (at least 10 years into the future)?  
     - Circle: 3 2 1
   - Widely supported vision for region’s future.  
     - Circle: 3 2 1

2. **Leadership**
   - Group or individual willing/able to spearhead economic development effort.  
     - Circle: 3 2 1
   - Existing economic development organization(s) in community.  
     - Circle: 3 2 1
   - Proactive (rather than reactive) leaders.  
     - Circle: 3 2 1
   - High ethical standards.  
     - Circle: 3 2 1

3. **Citizen Involvement**
   - Diverse community leadership (age, race, ethnicity, gender)  
     - Circle: 3 2 1
   - Regular opportunities for citizen dialogue about community issues.  
     - Circle: 3 2 1
   - Involvement of young people in community affairs and discussions.  
     - Circle: 3 2 1
   - Active nonprofit organizations.  
     - Circle: 3 2 1
   - Community Web site or other tool to promote an informed citizenry and encourage involvement.  
     - Circle: 3 2 1
4. **Connections**

- Good race relations within your community.  
- Good relations with new immigrants.  
- Openness to cultural and lifestyle diversity.  
- History of community organizations working together.  
- Connections with neighboring communities (working together on common issues).  
- Partnerships between government, business, and non-profits.  
- Connections between businesses.  
- Connections with communities overseas (such as Rotary).

5. **Workforce**

- Quality of K-12 education.  
- Accessibility of higher education.  
- Availability of adult education programs.  
- Availability of ESL classes for immigrants.  
- Partnerships between schools and businesses.  
- Linkages between different levels of education.

6. **Business Innovation**

- Access to research or land grant universities.  
- Access to industrial modernization specialists/programs.  
- Access to overseas markets.  
- An entrepreneurial attitude in businesses.  
- Entrepreneurship education programs.
7. **Physical Infrastructure**

   - High-speed internet access.  
     
   - Roads.  
     
   - Other transportation/shipping services.  
     
   - Water and sewer.  
     
   - Other utilities.  

   3  2  1