

Civic Participation and Leadership– 2007-2011 POW Worksheet

Logic Model Overview:

Situation:

Information gleaned from GAP assessments held in all 10 NH counties, as well as needs identified as a result of 45 Community Profiles conducted in NH towns over five years, indicates that communities find it difficult to engage diverse citizens in activities and decision-making processes. Lack of volunteerism and deficiencies in leadership exacerbate this decline in civic engagement. The following trends outline the situation facing NH communities:

- There appears to be a decreasing diversity of individuals participating in decision-making and community activities at the local level.
- There is a lack of support for activities that encourage diverse participation in local decision-making processes.
- The percentage of individuals that vote is declining.
- Social networks between community citizens, organizations, and associations appear to be weakening.
- Volunteerism around community activities has declined due to increasing life-demands on individuals and families.
- Existing leaders lack the skills to engage and/or mobilize diverse participation in community activities and decision-making processes.
- It is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit and develop new leaders for community activities.

Assumptions:

- The majority of community members care about the community they live in.
- Citizens want to impact community decision-making.
- All citizens have leadership potential and the capacity to contribute to their community.
- There are potential leaders and volunteers in every community.

External Factors:

- Changes in Extension priorities may occur as federal, state and county financial support changes
- Support for local Extension work may limit the scope of staff activities.
- Disasters and economic conditions may influence the short and long-term civic participation and leadership needs of NH residents.