

Identifying Community Assets

Assets can include a wide range of resources, from individuals' skills to important institutions to elements of the physical environment. The [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#) defines assets as “the people, places, and services that your community agrees are important to protect.” Assets provide resources and community strength to build resilience to hazards.

When identifying assets, you might consider different categories, including but not limited to:

- Government Services - municipal buildings, plans and ordinances, fire/police/EMS, public works, etc.
- Infrastructure - bridges, transportation, flood control structures, recycling centers, etc.
- Economic - banks, businesses, major employers, etc.
- Natural - recreation areas, open space, ecosystems, etc.
- Health - medical facilities, food system, mental health services, etc.
- Social and Cultural - museums, schools, libraries, nonprofit organizations, community events, places of worship, etc.
- Housing - apartments, houses, shelters, housing communities, etc.
- Community - community leaders, activists/concerned citizens, neighborhood associations, etc.

Your assets should be specific to your community - for example, rather than listing “municipal buildings” you might list “City Hall on 4th Street,” or rather than listing “major employers” you might list “St. Luke’s Children’s Hospital”.

You might ask, “What features, services, and opportunities make this a good place to live and work? What neighborhoods, historic sites, schools, tourist attractions, or retail centers make this place special?” Some communities utilize a [community street audit](#) to identify assets by sending community members out to record the assets they encounter on a walk in the community.

Examples:

- Liberty Park - amphitheater, sports fields, walking path
- Riparian areas along Cook’s Creek - trees and plants
- Lehigh Valley Hospital
- Main Street Business District
- Chamber of Commerce
- Farmer’s market
- Boys and Girls Club, YMCA
- School district facilities

Resources:

- [FEMA’s Community Lifelines](#) - FEMA focuses on assets that are most relevant to community functioning in times of crisis or disruption.
- [Resilient NJ: Identify and Prioritize Assets](#)
- [NCFH Community Asset Mapping Guide](#)