

Community Strengths and Weaknesses

The following is a list of 20 characteristics found among thriving communities, based on research conducted by the Heartland Center for Leadership Development. Most thriving communities will tend to possess a variety of these characteristics, but perhaps not all 20 characteristics.

Review these characteristics. Based on your community, rate each characteristic as a strength (+), a weakness (-), or as neutral (/).

Characteristic	+	-	/
1. Evidence of community pride			
2. Emphasis on quality in business and community life			
3. Willingness to invest in the future			
4. Participatory approach to community decision-making			
5. Cooperative community spirit			
6. Realistic appraisal of future opportunities			
7. Awareness of competitive positioning			
8. Knowledge of the physical environment			
9. Active economic development program			
10. Deliberate transition of power to a younger generation of leaders			
11. Acceptance of women in leadership roles			
12. Strong belief in and support of education			
13. Problem-solving approach to providing health care			
14. Strong multi-generational family orientation			
15. Strong presence of traditional institutions that are integral to community life			
16. Sound and well-maintained infrastructure			
17. Careful use of fiscal resources			
18. Sophisticated use of information resources			
19. Willingness to seek help from the outside			
20. Conviction that, in the long run, you have to do it yourself			

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