

## Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)

Developing strategies and actions for community empowerment and resilience based on assets, opportunities and self-realization



*“What can I not do today to help my community thrive?”*

John McKnight

Tags: Social: Leadership and empowerment. Whole System: Whole System Design

### Challenge:

As a community or organization, you may feel there is lack of resources and look for the support from outside the community as the only way to address challenges. Many communities live as people high and low moments in their lives. One challenge is how to look at your own resources as a community during those low moments.

### Solution:

ABCD is a systematized way to identify assets at different levels in the community (individuals, associations and organizations), as well as developing strategies and actions for community empowerment and resilience based on assets, opportunities and self-realization.

### Links:

- <http://www.abcdinstitute.org/>
- <http://www.nurtureddevelopment.org/>
- <https://sustainingcommunity.wordpress.com/2013/08/15/what-is-abcd/>

**References:**

***Community Capacities and Community Necessities***, address by John L. McKnight, at the “From Clients to Citizens Forum,” Coady International Institute, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia (2009).

***Communities in Control: Developing Assets***, Carnegie Foundation report on the first European ABCD Summit, Cormac Russell (2009).

***Discovering Community Power: A Guide to Mobilizing Local Assets and Your Organization's Capacity*** by John P. Kretzmann and John L. McKnight, with Sarah Dobrowolski and Deborah Puntenney (2005).

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