



## Focusing the Discussion

### The Right Questions to the Right People


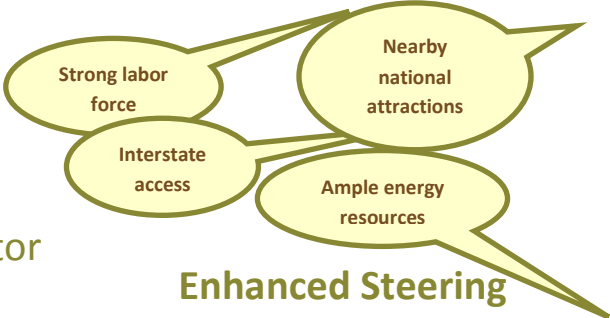




One of the fundamental beliefs of Building Communities is that the people in the community are the experts in terms of what the community *has* and what the community *wants*. In other words, community members have nearly all the answers.

Answers are not found on the Internet. Answers are not determined by out-of-town consultants. Answers should not be determined by the loudest voices but rather through collaborative community effort using the right questions.

The problem is that community members do not have all the right questions—and the questions are usually not asked at the right time and place.

Building Communities asks 146 questions to the right people at the right time and at the right place. From the information gained, community members answer for themselves the three essential questions that ultimately result in the community’s strategic plan:

- What **should** we do based upon likelihood of success?
- What do we **want** to do based on the desires of community members?
- What **can** we do based on the community’s staffing, funding, and technical know-how?

Question	# of Qs	Who Answers
 <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">What <i>should</i> we do?</p>	<p style="font-size: 2.5em; font-weight: bold;">85</p> <p>Key Success Factor Questions</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold;">Enhanced Steering Committee</p>
 <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">What do we <i>want</i> to do?</p>	<p style="font-size: 2.5em; font-weight: bold;">1</p> <p>Question</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold;">Community Members</p>
 <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">What <i>can</i> we do?</p>	<p style="font-size: 2.5em; font-weight: bold;">60</p> <p>Community Capacity Questions</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold;">Steering Committee</p>