



Resource Team Report Sisseton, South Dakota

April 24-26, 2007

A Governors 2010 Initiative

Acknowledgements



The Community Resource Team Assessment Program is coordinated by the South Dakota Rural Development Council to help fulfill Goal #4 of the Governors 2010 Initiative to “*Brand and Develop South Dakota’s Quality of Life as the Best in America by 2010*” by stabilizing rural populations through community development.



This program is made possible through the collaborative efforts of over 150 volunteers representing 50 plus organizations throughout South Dakota.



The program is also made possible through financial contributions made by the State of South Dakota (Governors Office of Economic Development), USDA Rural Development, and the South Dakota Community Foundation.

At the local level, this process would not be possible without the many hours of volunteer service from your local planning taskforce and local financial sponsors.



Special recognition to South Dakota’s Elected Officials including Governor Mike Rounds, Senator Tim Johnson, Senator John Thune, and Representative Stephanie Herseth for their continuing support for the South Dakota Rural Development Council. Also, special thanks to the Council’s Board of Directors for initiating this program in South Dakota



South Dakota
Community Foundation

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this Assessment a success!

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April 24-26, 2007

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Executive Summary

The Resource Team had a great experience during our three-day visit to Sisseton. The hospitality and friendliness of the citizens was outstanding. Sisseton has a great foundation from which to grow and your many assets make that possible. Combined with the community's enthusiasm for the future and the possibilities are endless.

Some of your biggest community assets are your various civic groups, who seem ever-ready to help out when needed. Another key asset is the Sisseton Promotion Board, which continues to look at ways to expand on the community's tourism potential. Your location along I-29 and glacial lakes creates many opportunities for the community. Hosting the oldest Native American Pow-Wow is also a significant asset. But most importantly, and as it was repeated throughout the listening sessions we held, it is "the people" of the community that are your most important asset.

The last time a community-wide planning project was conducted was in 1992 when the community participated in the Gold Community Initiative. That planning process resulted in a significant number of improvements to your community. Many of those improvements lead to Sisseton being named "2000 Community of the Year" by the Governor and the Governors Office of Economic Development (GOED). It is my hope that this report can work as a catalyst for Sisseton just as the Gold Community Initiative did 15 years ago. As I look at your community, there is so much opportunity ahead of you.

It is now up to you as a community to prioritize your ideas based on the report's recommendations, build your comprehensive vision for the future of Sisseton, and then organize yourselves to take these ideas and move from talk to action. The report includes many suggestions how you can move forward. Mobilize your local organizations and residents to help achieve the goals and objectives that you set for yourselves. Recognize that you have many of the resources locally to achieve your objectives, and when necessary, look to outside resources and technical assistance to help you meet these goals. But primary responsibility for moving forward with your objectives resides at the local level. There is nothing that your community cannot accomplish if you focus your efforts on a select set of shared objectives.

The first step is broad participation by the community in the Assessment's Follow-Up Meeting – to be scheduled shortly after distribution of this report. It is vital that as many people participate in this final session / town hall meeting as possible so that the results reflect your priorities for the future of your community. Once this has been done, you can begin to develop strategies for how you want to accomplish your objectives over the next 2, 5, 10 or 20 years.

On behalf of the Resource Team, I want to personally thank your community for the warm welcome that we received while we were in your community. A special thank you to all those who helped to plan this assessment at the local level. You did an exceptional job.

Sincerely,

Mike Lauritsen
Resource Team Leader

Introductions by Resource Team Members

Wanda Jundt (Eureka Community Development Company): Thank you, residents of the Sisseton area, for your hospitality during the assessment, and for hosting our Community Assessment team during our three-day visit. It was a pleasure meeting so many wonderful people and hearing your thoughts. A special thanks to Curt and Katy for all their work in setting up the assessment and keeping everything running so smoothly, and to John Rasmussen for the outstanding tour. The natural beauty of the area combined with the desire of so many people who want to see positive changes are some of your greatest assets. I look forward to following Sisseton's growth and changes as you continue this process.

Linda Salmonson (East River Electric Power Cooperative): I'd like to commend the community leaders that organized the assessment process, and the citizens that participated in the sessions. You all did a great job! The sessions were full of concerned and involved citizens and you kept the team moving around the community. It was great to see what your town has to offer and hear about your ideas for making it even better. Certainly you have challenges, all communities do, but you have begun a process of civic engagement that will serve the area well for years to come. Don't let it end with this report. Pick up the conversation on key issues and continue the dialog until you reach your goals. There was a comment that referenced Sisseton's location adjacent to I29 as being the next town up the line after Sioux Falls, Brookings and Watertown. I had never thought about it in those terms, but it correctly identifies some of the potential you have to bring people into your community to visit and do businesses. Your location combined with the landscape, cultural diversity and tourism opportunities truly gives Sisseton a great base to build on.

Buddy James Seiner (South Dakota Office of Tourism): I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the great hospitality you showed us while we were in Sisseton. As voiced in all the listening sessions, you have a very nice community with friendly, helpful and caring people. You have taken the first step in making Sisseton the community you want it to be and we hope this assessment will provide you the tools and resources to continue. Thank you.

George Zimmerman (Black Hills RC&D): Sisseton's Community Assessment was the first time I've participated in this program, and I'm so glad that my first experience was in your town. The Resource Team heard from many residents about the wonderful people and great sense of community in your town. I enjoyed meeting so many of you and hearing about your many achievements as well as your concerns and goals for the future, and I sincerely hope our recommendations will provide you the encouragement to continue moving forward.

Process for the Development of This Report

The South Dakota Rural Development Council (SDRDC) has provided a Resource Team to assist the city of Sisseton, South Dakota in evaluating the community's assets and liabilities and in developing suggestions for improving the environmental, social and economic future of Sisseton.

The Sisseton Promotion Board coordinated the Community Assessment locally. Curt Weber served as the community planning leader and, with the help of many local volunteers serving on the planning taskforce, developed the agenda, coordinated logistics, and publicized the assessment within the local community.

The Resource Team toured the town and surrounding area and interviewed over 250+ individuals during the three-day period from April 24-26. The team interviewed representatives from the following segments of the Sisseton community: Law Enforcement/Emergency Services, City Council / County Commissioners, Health Care (CDP,TLC,IHS,Greenleaf), Teachers, Administration / School Board, High School Students, Senior Citizens, Ministerial/Civic Groups/Non-profits, Economic Development/Industry, Chamber/Business/Retail, Banking/Insurance/Financial Planners, Agriculture, Minorities and more. Each participant was asked to respond to three questions designed to begin communication and discussion and to serve as a basis for developing an action plan. The three questions were:

- **What do you think are the major problems and challenges in Sisseton?**
- **What do you think are the major strengths and assets of Sisseton?**
- **What projects would you like to see completed in two, five, ten, and twenty years in Sisseton?**

Upon completion of the interviews, the team met to compare notes and share comments following three days of intense study. The team then agreed that each team member would carefully analyze the things said, synthesize what they heard with their knowledge of programs and resources, prepare their notes and suggestions, and then forward these items to be combined into SDRDC's final report to Sisseton.

An oral report was presented to the residents of Sisseton on April 26th, 2007. Following the oral report, a formal written report was prepared and presented to the community of Sisseton. A community follow-up and prioritization meeting will be held in Sisseton after this report is distributed and made available to the community at large.

Resource Team Members
Sisseton Resource Team, South Dakota
April 24-26, 2007

Resource Team Members

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Wanda Jundt

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Rapid City, SD 57702-8007
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Sisseton Promotion Board
PO Box 206
Sisseton, SD 57262
605-742-0808
curtweber@venturecomm.net

Sisseton Community Assessment Agenda April 24-26

Tuesday, 4/24/07

Time	Title	Sector	Location
4:30 pm – 5:45 pm	Resource Team Meets		Lakeland Lanes
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Listening Session 1	Law Enforcement/Emergency Services	Fire Hall
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Listening Session 2	City Council / County Commissioners	Fire Hall
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Listening Session 3	Health Care (CDP, TLC, IHS, Greenleaf)	Fire Hall

Wednesday, 4/25/07

Time	Title	Sector	Location
7:00 am – 7:45 am	Listening Session 4a	Teachers	High School Cafeteria
7:45 am – 8:15 am	Listening Session 4b	Administration / School Board	High School Cafeteria
8:30 am – 9:15am	Listening Session 5	High School Students	Class Room @SHS
9:45 am – 12:30 pm	Community Tour	John Rasmussen, Tour Guide	Community Transit
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Listening Session 6	Senior Citizens (coffee & cookies)	Senior Center
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Listening Session 7	Ministerial/Civic Groups/Non-profits	Senior Center
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Listening Session 8	Economic Development/Industry	VFW
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Dinner	Business After Hours with Economic Development/Chamber/Business/Retail	VFW
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Listening Session 9	Chamber/Business/Retail	VFW

Thursday, 4/26/07

Time	Title	Sector	Location
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Listening Session 10	Open Session (coffee & cookies)	Nicollet Tower
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Listening Session 11	Banking/Insurance/Financial Planners	Nicollet Tower
10:00 am – 11:00pm	Listening Session 12	Agriculture	Nicollet Tower
11:30 am – 12:30pm	Listening Session 13	Minorities	Dakota Connection
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	Working Lunch	Minorities w/ Resource Team	Dakota Connection
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Team Preparation		St. Peters Hall
6:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Community Dinner	All Sectors are welcome	St. Peters Hall
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Town Hall Meeting	All Sectors are welcome	St. Peters Hall



The Governors 2010 Initiative is the comprehensive strategic plan for economic development in the State of South Dakota over the next five years. The Community Resource Team Assessment Program is one piece of this initiative, with the mission of helping rural communities advance their community planning. The Community Assessment Program helps to develop a local community/economic development plan that is unique to the community, while at the same time, fitting in with the state's overall 2010 Initiative

The following Goals and Objectives were identified in the Governors Statewide 2010 Initiative

Goal 1: Double Visitor Spending from \$600 Million to \$1.2 Billion by 2010

- 1A. Change the way we market South Dakota
- 1B. Focus new energy and investment on expanding the fall shoulder season for visitors in order to increase the percentage of tourism revenues for this season to 42 percent
- 1C. Expand investment in tourism's peak season through greater use of partnership and cooperative efforts
- 1D. Develop a statewide "One-Click, on-call" reservation system by 2005
- 1E. Capitalize on the existing outdoor opportunities in our state

Goal 2: Increase GSP (Gross State Product) by \$10 billion by 2010

- 2A. Promote the creation and development of new businesses that will contribute \$6 billion to the GSP
- 2B. Promote the growth / expansion of existing businesses that will contribute \$4 billion to GSP
- 2C. Promote agricultural and natural resource development in South Dakota

Goal 3: Become a Recognized Leader in Research and Technology Development by 2010

- 3A. Secure Homestake Mine for use as an underground science laboratory
- 3B. Improve ranking to at least 30th nationally for NSF funding
- 3C. Development research and technology infrastructure at our universities with the private sector
(Emphasis on research that can be commercialized and will benefit South Dakota)

Goal 4: Brand and Development South Dakota's Quality of Life as the Best in America by 2010

- 4A. Enhance South Dakota's image to young people in an effort to retain and import young adults
- 4B. Enhance History and Arts as a tool for economic development and cultural tourism
- 4C. Stabilize rural populations through community development
- 4D. Stimulate affordable homeownership, rental housing, and day care facilities in South Dakota communities which evidence a need.
- 4E. Improve cooperative efforts with the Native American Tribes

Goal 5: Uphold Our Commitment to the 2010 Initiative as a Work in Progress

- 5A. Assign implementation to Department of Tourism and State Development
- 5B. Create ongoing update and accountability structure for 2010 Initiative

Following distribution of this Community Resource Team Assessment Report, the South Dakota Rural Development Council will convene a follow up priority-setting meeting in the community to help focus on select set of goals and objectives based on the data collected during the assessment and the recommendations included in this report.

What We Heard From What Was Said

After listening to citizens of Sisseton, the Resource Team reviewed what was said and condensed the comments down to major themes that will be addressed in the team member reports. (These are in no particular order or priority)

Major Theme / Sub Themes	Page Number
THEME: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
Shop Locally <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Marketing / Diversity 	11
Industrial Recruitment, Development and Expansion	13
Workforce Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internship 	18
Small Business Development, Creation and Entrepreneurship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Awareness • Youth • Ag development 	20
Main Street Revitalization	25
THEME: PROMOTING, MARKETING & TOURISM	
Regional Tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capitalizing on Natural Resources / Native American Culture • Package Deals 	27
Hwy 10 / I-29 Signage	31
Website Development	33
THEME: COMMUNITY FACILITIES & RECREATION	
Recreation Trails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking • Biking 	35
Community Center / Sports Complex / Fine Arts Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Center / B&G club • Meeting Center • Adult Recreation 	36
THEME: SOCIAL ISSUES	
Drugs / Alcohol / Teen Smoking	42
Diversity	44
Adult / Continuing Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative Classroom Education 	45
Evening Activities	47

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Major Theme / Sub Themes	Page Number
THEME: SOCIAL ISSUES <i>continued</i>	
Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single Family • Affordable • Housing Rehab • Housing Assessment 	49
Communication / Cooperation / Unification	53
THEME: YOUTH	
Youth Attraction and Retention	56
After School Activities	60
Youth Role in Community / Engagement	61
Parental Involvement	62
THEME: COMMUNITY PRIDE	
Community Involvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteerism • Attitude • Leadership 	65
Beautification	66
Community Events	67
Celebrating Achievements	69
THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE	
Streets	71
Sidewalks	74
Curb and Gutter	75
THEME: VISION & PLANNING	
Capital Improvements Planning	78
Strategic Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of vacant buildings 	79

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Shopping Locally

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUB THEME: Shop Locally

Challenge: Work with regional marketing and diversity to bolster local sales. Local shoppers are concerned about the amount of money going to businesses in larger cities.

Recommendation: Many times local people do not know the wide diversity of goods and services that are available in their home town. An educational campaign may help in this area. One way to do that is to feature a business weekly, bi-weekly or monthly in the local newspaper so the community sees the in-depth goods and services that are available at each business.

To encourage local shopping, provide hand-out sheets at special community events, use them as newspaper inserts, or have them available at specific places in community. These can be done by individual businesses, groups of businesses, or the Chamber of Commerce. Coupons are often used in these flyers. These can be used by local citizens who are then shopping locally and also by the visitors who are helping the local economy.

People want to know that their hometown shopping is appreciated. Something as simple as “Thank you for shopping at our store, we really appreciate it” can go a long way in good customer relations.

Big box stores may offer lower prices on some items, but are seldom known for services. By highlighting services (such as free delivery, service-after-the-sale, free assembly) businesses can show that they have something even better to offer than a sometimes lower price.

Regional marketing of cultural items provides a draw to those who wish to shop for specialty items.

A shop-at-home campaign was a youth-led effort in Miner County several years ago. With the youth explaining the benefits of shopping locally, sales in Howard increased greatly because of the youth efforts.

Education is also a key element in letting the people know how their tax dollars (money raised through local shopping) is used in the community. Spell it out in black and white what services in the community cost, and what happens when the funds are not available (higher cost for those living there or a decrease in services). As success is seen as an

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Shopping Locally

increase of local revenue, publicize those numbers. Let the shoppers know that their loyalty to local merchants is also a direct benefit to themselves.

Resources:

Glacial Lakes & Prairies
PO Box 244
Watertown, South Dakota 57201-0244
www.sdglaciallakes.com

Small Business Development Center
416 Production St. N
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605-626-2565

Governor's Office of Economic Development
Mark Vaux, Regional Representative
416 N Production St
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605-725-2700

Miner County Community Revitalization
131 South Main St. PO Box 307
Howard, SD 57349

ProEdge Skills
Customer Service Training and Presentation Skills Training
Phone: 800-731-0601
Email: info@ProEdgeSkills.com
Website: <http://www.proedgeskills.com>

American Independent Business Alliance
222 South Black Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59715
Phone: 406-582-1255
Email: info@amiba.net
Website: <http://amiba.net/>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Industrial Recruitment, Development and Expansion

Resources: continued

Small Business Administration
Sioux Falls District Office
2329 North Career Avenue, Suite 105
Sioux Falls, SD 57107
Phone: 605-330-4243
Fax: 605-330-4215
TTY/TDD: 605-331-3527
Website: <http://www.sba.gov/sd/>

EQUIP and the Center for Women Business Institute
- *Customer Service Training*
Contact: Kathleen Sheets
University of Sioux Falls
1101 W. 22nd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605-331-6697
www.sdbusinesssuccess.org

SUB THEME: Industrial Recruitment, Development and Expansion
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Challenge: To recruit, develop and expand more industry in Sisseton.

Recommendation: Sisseton has the assets and foundation for developing and recruiting industries, such as the Sisseton Promotion Board, Sisseton Area Community Foundation, Sisseton Economic Development Corporation, Sisseton Chamber of Commerce, your location on the I-29 corridor, business real estate tax incentives....just to name a couple. These assets are instrumental in developing and recruiting industries. So that raises the question, how to go about developing and recruiting industries? To secure a prospect, Sisseton will have to develop a recruitment campaign.

When considering what kind of business or industry to attract / develop / recruit, I would suggest looking at what business would complement a current industry. This will help to focus your efforts when seeking out new prospects. You may also consider surveying your current industries to get their input on what type of business or industry they feel would be of assistance to them – what are their needs, who are their suppliers.

Another possible option would be to develop a brochure that highlights the benefits of the area, tax incentives, etc., but provide the appropriate information for the specific type of industry/company you're working to attract. Customize your information / presentation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Industrial Recruitment, Development and Expansion

Remember the most successful recruiting efforts in economic development are typically the result of some type of connection to the area. You have several alumni that have left Sisseton and now work in a variety of fields. This is one of your best resources in terms of business prospects. If you have not done so yet, assemble the list of alumni from Sisseton High School. Survey these individuals to determine where they work, what they do, if they are interested in starting a business, if their current employer is considering an expansion, and if they have an interest in investing in their “home” community of Sisseton.

When marketing to these prospects capitalize on your assets:

- Located directly off of highway 10 which intersects with I-29
- Low interest loans
- Sisseton Area Community Foundation
- Labor force with that coveted Midwestern work ethic
- Exceptional school system
- Excellent healthcare facilities
- Small town, friendly feel (safety – low crime rate)
- and the many recreational opportunities

This is just a start for the many incentives to use when courting a new industry. Your website is great and I think you deserve a pat on the back for being so up-to-date. You may consider adding a page for business development and relocation. If you have not already done so, I would suggest developing print material with the same information. Utilize the local talent of high school students in the development of print material. It’s essential to ensure all details are kept current.

Below are some of the programs that provide assistance in industrial development. Many of the resources and programs that assist in the development of industrial parks require that there is a commitment from a large business or industry to locate in the industrial park.

Economic Development Administration (EDA) Investment Programs

1. Public Works and Economic Development Program
Public Works and Economic Development investments help support the construction or rehabilitation of essential public infrastructure and facilities necessary to generate or retain private sector jobs and investments, attract private sector capital, and promote regional competitiveness, including investments that expand and upgrade infrastructure to attract new industry, support technology-led development, redevelop Brownfield sites and provide eco-industrial development.
2. Economic Adjustment Assistance Program
The Economic Adjustment Assistance Program provides a wide range of technical, planning and infrastructure assistance in regions experiencing adverse

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Industrial Recruitment, Development and Expansion

economic changes that may occur suddenly or over time. This program is designed to respond flexibly to pressing economic recovery issues and is well suited to help address challenges faced by U.S. regions and communities.

3. Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms Program

EDA administers the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms Program through a national network of eleven Trade Adjustment Assistance Centers to help manufacturing and production firms, which have lost domestic sales and employment due to increased imports of similar or competitive goods, become more competitive in the global economy.

Programs available through the SD Department of Transportation

- 1) The Industrial Park grants will be made to any local unit of government for the development of new and expanded access for new industry located within industrial parks.
- 2) The Agri-Business Access Grants will be made to any local unit of government for the development of access to new or expanded agri-business industries.
- 3) The Community Access Program grants will be made to communities with populations of less than 5,000 to enhance existing access to downtown areas or for roads leading to schools, hospitals, grain terminals, or other significant traffic generating features of a small community.

USDA Rural Development

1. Rural Economic Development Grants/Loans (REDG/REDL): Provide loans and grants through Rural Utility Service borrowers to be used to promote rural economic development and job creation projects.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program:

The South Dakota CDBG program is also an option to assist with financing. I would suggest working with your Planning District to find ways to utilize this program. These programs are often best utilized with a committed prospect.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Industrial Recruitment, Development and Expansion

Resources:

Governor's Office of Economic Development
711 East Wells Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-3369
Phone (605) 773-3301
Toll Free: 800-872-6190

Small Business Administration
Sioux Falls District Office
2329 N. Career Ave., Suite 105
Sioux Falls, SD 57107
Phone (605) 330-4243
Fax (605) 330-4215
TTY/TDD (605) 331-3527
www.sba.gov

Enterprise Institute
Vonnie Barnett
Assistant Director of
Economic Intelligence
vonnieb@sdei.org

U.S. Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration
John Zender
1244 Speer Blvd., Suite 632
Denver, CO 80204
303.844.4902 - phone
303.844.4919 - fax
jzender@eda.doc.gov

South Dakota Department of Transportation
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Becker-Hansen Building
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-3265
Website: www.sddot.com

Dakota Roots
<http://www.dakotaroots.com/default.aspx>
Matches participants with career openings available from the state's leading businesses
and allows participants to decide which ones to pursue.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Industrial Recruitment, Development and Expansion

Resources: continued

Governors Office of Economic Development
South Dakota Department of Tourism and Development
(CDBG Program and Economic Development Assistance)
711 E. Wells Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-5032
<http://www.sdgreatprofits.com>

USDA Rural Development
Aberdeen Field Office
605.226.3360
Janell Telin, Rural Development Manager
janell.telin@sd.usda.gov
www.rurdev.usda.gov/sd

First District Development Company
124 1st Avenue NW
PO Box 1207
Watertown, SD 57201
Phone: 605-882-5115
Fax: 605-882-5049
www.1stdistrict.org/FDDC

Below are some websites developed around an economic development theme that can serve as a good reference:

- Sioux Falls Development Foundation - <http://www.siouxfallsdevelopment.com/>
- Dakota Dunes - <http://www.dakotadunes.com/>
- Brookings Economic Development - <http://swiftel.net/brkecon/>
- Aberdeen Economic Development - <http://www.adcsd.com/>
- De Smet Economic Development - <http://www.desmetdevelopment.com/>
- Freeman - <http://www.freemansd.com/freeman/edev.txt>
- Madison's Lake Area Improvement Corporation - <http://www.madisonworks.com>
- Chamberlain's Lake Francis Case Development corporation - <http://www.chamberlainsd.org>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Workforce Development

SUB THEME: Workforce Development

- **Internship**

Challenge: 1) Identify resources to assist with maintaining a well-trained workforce
2) Internships

Recommendation:

All communities in South Dakota are struggling with workforce development. Many businesses find it difficult to attract employees with the right job skills. The following are some programs that are available to assist with worker training. I included contact information for Lake Area Technical Institute, because it is located close to Sisseton. However, the technical institutes in Mitchell, Sioux Falls and Rapid City also provide worker training. Depending on the situation, the Governor's Office of Economic Development may be able to provide funding to cover all or part of workforce training for a new or expanding business. Contact information is listed below.

Lake Area Technical Institute, Business & Industry Training (BIT) will provide customized classes and services in areas such those listed below. They can be customized to meet a business' specific needs.

- Lean Manufacturing
- Supervisor Training
- Geometric Dimension/Tolerance
- Computer Seminars
- Forklift Training
- Welding Techniques
- Customer Service
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- CPR Child & Adult , First Aid, AED
- Various Industry Seminars

BIT now has available software that will do "training needs assessment for many job descriptions. This helps identify exactly what employees know and don't know and help business owners spend their time and resources on training that will help the workforce grow. Classes can be held at your location or can be scheduled at LATI to accommodate the business. They also rent classrooms and computer labs for a business to do its own training.

The Governor's Office of Economic Development provides some grants for workforce training through its Workforce Development Program. Through this program, companies can access dollars to help train new and existing employees.

The Governor's Office of Economic Development will provide technical assistance to help develop the Workforce Development Program application. Technical assistance is provided to help identify approaches and ideas necessary to develop a successful project.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Workforce Development

The application must be completed and submitted before training is scheduled to begin. A response to the application will be made approximately thirty days after the completed application is submitted. An incomplete application will slow the review process. Payment of the grant for approved applications will be made upon the completion of training.

The application must contain the following:

- Business and Project Information
- Budget Detail
- Program Narrative

Also consider internships for students with local businesses. The community of Rutland, SD manages a business through the school using youth in the community. This is seen as a learning experience for the youth as well as providing a service to the community. The important thing to remember in the development of a youth enterprise is that the ideas and responsibilities for developing the enterprise must reside primarily with the students (with advice, coaching, oversight and consent from adults in the community). This will help sustainability of any project undertaken.

One other idea is to start a scholarship program for local high school students in skills areas needed by local industries. The community of Platte, SD set up a scholarship program partially funded by local businesses and the city/development corporation that helps pay tuition at a post-secondary institution. Recipients agree to come back for a predetermined number of years otherwise the grant reverts to a loan. The scholarships are focused primarily on technical skills needed by local manufacturers.

Resources:

Workforce Development Program
Governors Office of Economic Development
2329 N Career Ave., Suite 109
Sioux Falls, SD 57103-1650
605-367-5340
605-367-4519 (fax)
Ann.Gesick-Johnson@state.sd.us

Lake Area Technical Institute
Myron Johnson
johnsonm@lakeareatech.edu
1.800.657.4344, ext 320
605-882-5284, ext 320
www.lakeareatech.edu

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Small Business Development, Creation and Entrepreneurship

Resources: Continued

Rutland High School
Nancy Falor, Business Instructor
102 North Main Street.
Rutland, SD 57057
605-586-4352

Platte Development Corporation
Karen Burket, Executive Director
PO Box 393
500 S Main St
Platte, SD 57369-0393
605.337.3921
mkb@midstatesd.net

SUB THEME: Small Business Development, Creation and Entrepreneurship
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- **Resource awareness**
- **Youth**
- **Ag Development**

Sub Theme: Small Business Development, Creation & Entrepreneurship

Challenge: 1) Resources Awareness
 2) Youth
 3) Agriculture Development

Recommendation: Over 99% of the businesses in South Dakota are classified as small businesses. They are the economic engine of most small towns. A diversified small business sector assures a community a wide range of job opportunities, plus access to goods and services. Resource awareness was listed as one of the challenges to small business development in the area. Something to keep in mind is that Sisseton, as the county seat and largest community in the region, can build on its status as the regional trade center. To succeed, Sisseton will have to think regionally. Building strong relationships with nearby smaller communities, as well as nearby larger communities like Watertown, can help strengthen the local economy of the entire region.

It was said many times that I-29 goes both ways and people will travel, because they can, so the challenge is to provide needed goods and services in Sisseton that will draw people off the highways and into town. One place to start is with supplying other local businesses with goods and services. Engage the youth (a high school class perhaps) to conduct a study of the manufacturing, retail and service businesses and where they buy

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Small Business Development, Creation and Entrepreneurship

their goods and raw materials. Analyzing the results may help the community identify potential opportunities for new business or expansions of existing ones.

Sisseton is home to one of the best resources for growing small business in the state in Northeast South Dakota Economic Corporation (NESDEC). NESDEC may operate in 22 counties, but because they are headquartered in Sisseton, you have local access to an organization that has resources to help finance small business, knows the statewide network for small business assistance, and can help you make the connection to the right resources at the right time. NESDEC also sponsors the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) serving the region, headquartered in Aberdeen. The SBDC provides valuable assistance to people planning a new business or contemplating expansion. They can assist with market research, business planning and financial projections and their services are free. Contact information for NESDEC and SBDC is listed below along with a number of other business resources.

Agriculture development is much the same as small business development, however the barriers to agriculture development are greater in an economy that is seeing larger and more mechanized farms and ranches. Unlike some small businesses, agriculture requires a large investment to get started. The investment in land, buildings, stock and equipment is beyond the reach of many potential young farmers, unless there is a family connection. The information listed below is a sample of what can be found at the South Dakota Department of Agriculture web site (www.state.sd.us/doa/ag_dev/) to help agribusiness. There was also discussion about needing businesses that supply agriculture. This may prove to be a challenge considering the high cost of entry into the implement business, however, this might be an opportunity to network with larger communities about mutually beneficial interests.

Business Development Resources:

Northeast South Dakota Economic Corporations
Lori Finnesand
605.698.7654
lorif@nesdcap-nesdec.org

Small Business Development Center
Kelly Weaver
605.626.2565
kweaver@midco.net

Other Small Business Financing Partners:

First District Development Company
Paula Hulsher
605.882.5115
paula@1stdistrict.org

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Small Business Development, Creation and Entrepreneurship

Business Development Resources: continued

Rural Electric Economic Development, Inc
Steve Ahles, Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative
605.432.5331

Don O'Leary, Traverse Electric Cooperative
320.563.8616

Linda Salmonson, East River Electric Power Cooperative
605.256.8015

lsalmonson@eastriver.coop

Agri-Business Development Resources:

South Dakota Department of Agriculture
Robert Weyrich, Value-Added and Crop Development Specialist or
Eric Iversen, Livestock Development and Marketing Specialist
Terri LaBrie Baker, Loan Administrator
Carmen Keyes, Finance Program Specialist
1-800-228-5254 (In State Only) or 605-773-5436
www.state.sd.us/doa/ag-dev

Ag Finance Counseling. Ag counselors provide one-on-one assistance to South Dakota farmers and ranchers in financial management, such as completing loan paperwork, financial planning, or handling financial difficulties.

Assistance Programs. The Ag-Hotline, Feed Finder and Harvest Hotline are available to assist South Dakota's ag producers.

Dairy Retention & Enhancement. A one stop shopping center for information and education for producers, lenders and the public on value added dairy production.

DakotaFlavor.com. Finding South Dakota made products just got easier! Dakota Flavor is a virtual showcase of the agricultural products, producers, and processors from this great state!

Farm Loan Mediation. Mediation provides a service to agricultural borrowers and lenders by bringing them together to assist in resolving their financial disputes in a confidential setting.

Livestock Development & Marketing. Offers marketing assistance to South Dakota livestock producers.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Small Business Development, Creation and Entrepreneurship

Agri-Business Development Resources: continued

Financial Assistance Programs. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) in conjunction with the South Dakota Value Added Finance Authority (VAFA) offers financial assistance to South Dakota's farmers and ranchers as well as value-added businesses.

The VAFA's mission is to provide lower cost financing, which is achieved by acting as a conduit to issue federally tax-exempt bonds. The VAFA is a seven member board appointed by the Governor. The board usually meets the last Thursday of the month, providing timely approval of applications.

The VAFA was formed in 1996 and as of June 30, 2006, over \$36.8 million of tax-exempt bonds have been issued! Tax-exempt bond programs are available for Beginning Farmers, Agribusinesses, and Manure Management Facilities. The VAFA also administers a direct loan program for small, ag processing businesses. This program provides up to \$150,000 at a low interest rate. As of June 30, 2006, nineteen businesses in South Dakota borrowed \$1,578,900.

Value Added & Crop Marketing: Assists the state's producers and processors in marketing their products both domestically and internationally.

Resources for Youth Involvement:

The Rural Learning Center has done the most work in engaging youth in Business Development, their contact information is below. Another resource is Junior Achievement, which can be implemented in the classroom beginning in Kindergarten through grade 12 at the discretion of the local community. A list of other educational resources for youth and entrepreneurship also follows. Contact information follows:

Rural Learning Center
Joe Bartmann
605.772.5139
joe.bartmann@mccr.net

Junior Achievement
1000 N West Ave, Ste. 110
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-1314
605-336-7318
jasd@jasd.org
www.soudakota.ja.org

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Small Business Development, Creation and Entrepreneurship

Resources for Youth Involvement: continued

DECA – South Dakota
Distributed Education Clubs of America
700 Governor's Place
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-4673
605-773-4236 (Fax)

Kauffman Foundation
4801 Rockhill Road
Kansas City, MO 6410-2046
816-932-1000
www.kauffman.org

National Council of Economic Education
1140 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036
212-730-7007
202-730-1792 (Fax)

REAL Enterprises
Corporation for Enterprise Development
115 Market Street, Ste. 221
Durham, NC 27701
919-688-7328
919-682-7621
info@realenterprises.org
www.realenterprises.org

South Dakota Community Foundation
Bob Sutton, Executive Director
PO Box 296
207 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
605-224-1025 or 800-888-1842
www.sdcommunityfoundation.org

South Dakota Council on Economic Education
University of South Dakota
School of Business
414 E. Clark st.
Vermillion, SD 57069
lroach@usd.edu
www.usd.edu/~econed/1.htm

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Main Street Revitalization

Resources for Youth Involvement: continued

US Department of Education
OVAE, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-7110
202-245-7708
Karen.Holliday@ed.gov
www.ed.gov/news/fedregister

Youth Venture
1700 N. Moore St. Suite 2000
Arlington, VA 22209
703-527-4126
www.youthventure.org

SUB THEME: Main Street Revitalization

Challenge: Sisseton residents identified some challenges in its core area on Veterans Avenue. There are two, soon to be three vacant buildings. A fire that destroyed part of the Boys and Girls Club, a vacant lot or two, and a general shift of the business district to Hwy 10 are additional causes of concern. There is also some very unique art on the walls of the Senior Citizens Center that should be preserved.

Recommendation: “In problem solving we try to make something we don’t like go away, in creating we try to make something we truly care about exist.” Peter Senge

Think for a moment about the downtown, about what it was in the past and what it is like today. Would you agree that maybe it is time to reinvent what that area will be in the future? It might not be possible to recreate the thriving business district of yesteryear. But it certainly is possible to envision new uses for the buildings and spaces and then work to make the vision reality.

I just returned from a couple days in Minnesota, learning about their community development processes and came across one program that Sisseton might like to try to replicate. It won’t be easy. As an extension of this assessment process, would the community be interested in a process that looks at community design? The process could begin with purchase of disposable cameras and sending citizens and/or students out into the community to take pictures of areas to be preserved, areas that need to be improved and examples of good design throughout the community. The photos serve as a reminder of what is and a starting point for change. The process would take some planning and involve a broad cross section of the community, just as the assessment has. The points below explain just a little about the process.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Main Street Revitalization

Objectives:

- Increase awareness of quality design in development of communities
- Preserve each community's identity
- Participatory process, grass-roots initiative

Disciplines Represented:

- Architects, landscape architects, planners, designers, transportation planners, historic preservation, economic development, tourism, environmental specialists

Challenges:

- Bring people together to generate ideas, improve the community and create a sustainable future (sounds a lot like the community assessment process doesn't it)
- Helps communities develop a process for turning ideas into reality
- Provides a graphic representation of a community's vision
- Serves as a mirror

Issues Addressed:

- Downtown redevelopment, streetscape, parks
- Trails, natural resources management, gateways
- Incorporates tourism and economic development, growth management

Benefits to Communities

- More people involved – increases capacity
- Better idea of what citizens envision for the community
- Increased design awareness
- Identifies appropriate design
- Creates pride of place
- Tangible plans the community can work to implement

Resources

For more information on the Minnesota process and a look at the workbook used in each community go to:

<http://www.minnesotadesignteam.org>

If you think you might want to try this I'd be happy to assist in getting you in touch with the Minnesota contacts and assembling a SD design team. (Linda Salmonson).

PROMOTING, MARKETING & TOURISM

SUB THEME: Regional Tourism

- **Capitalizing on Natural Resources / Native American Culture**
- **Package Deals**

Challenge: The strengths and assets that were mentioned in the listening sessions prove to me that Sisseton is a great place to live. The challenge now lies in finding a way to market the great things that Sisseton has to offer to the visitors and residents that pass by on a daily basis.

Recommendation: Some of the major strengths and assets that were mentioned in the listening sessions were: the people, the natural resources, location, diversity and the great events among many others. Here are some suggestions on how to take advantage of these assets.

- Review the list of strengths and assets that were discussed during the Community Assessment. Put together a top ten list (similar to the one I mentioned at the community meeting) of positive things about Sisseton. Make sure that this list is made public, whether that means posting it on the city's website or just sending out a community letter. Also, try to have this list included in any information packets that are sent to potential residents. Having a positive attitude about your community may be contagious. I would also suggest developing a town motto if you have not already done so.
- Try to develop information packets that can be handed out at hotels, visitor's centers in the area or the casinos. Include information about housing, an index of local businesses and restaurants, a listing of local churches, information on the school system, and information on the hospital and medical clinic. Also, remember to include fun things like outdoor recreational opportunities, the most recent events calendar (so people can see how many events are happening in Sisseton), and coupons for local businesses (so they are encouraged to shop in town).
- I mentioned the outdoor activities above. This is a major part of what Sisseton has to offer. We heard numerous times that one major thing people love about Sisseton is that you can hunt or fish for anything, the scenery is amazing and it is a very unique spot in terms of topography. This promotion can go on all year

PROMOTING, MARKETING & TOURISM

Regional Tourism

around, and it will not only attract future residents to your community, but tourists as well.

- Promote water and outdoor recreation during the spring and summer, and promote scenic drives, snowmobiling, hunting etc. in the winter/fall months. Sisseton has already been somewhat successful in capitalizing on the hunting and fishing industry; it is just a matter of taking it a step further and marketing other activities such as water recreation, snow sports, hiking, golfing, etc. Parents are passing up Disney World vacations for an “off the beaten path” vacation to South Dakota where there are no televisions and only the sounds of crickets under a clear starlit night. Travelers are looking to unwind and Sisseton has the perfect opportunity to capitalize on this growing industry. Activities such as nature walks, bird watching, stargazing, nature photography, snowmobiling, paragliding, riding ATVs, and cross-country skiing can draw tourists to any area. Getting back to nature is what it is all about and Sisseton has an abundance of resources to offer. A little thinking outside of the box and creating a “rural living” experience is a great idea for tourists who don’t have access to these types of activities.
- Try to give people a reason to come back by offering a unique experience. Daytime and nighttime activities, great hospitality and a nice, clean community will all contribute to second visits. For evenings, you might consider a wild game feed with an auction; an old-fashioned summer evening with an ice cream social, horseshoes, or storytelling around a campfire. One of the nice things about photography and nature tourism is that the best hours for great photographs are early morning and late evening— which provides you with a great opportunity for getting tourists to spend the night in the area and having breakfast and supper in town.
- Like many of you said in the sessions, the children are your future. “We need to find ways to keep them around.” One option you can look into is the Dakota Roots program, initiated by Governor Rounds. This is a great tool to encourage former South Dakotans to move back to our state. Check into the possibility of posting job opportunities on the Dakota Roots website. People interested in returning to South Dakota will be notified when jobs are posted. Another potential way to bring past residents back to Sisseton is to create an alumni database. Track all the students who graduate from Sisseton High School and note where they went to college, what they majored in, and what career(s) they have had. When an opening comes up, you can contact people who might be interested in and qualified for that position.
- Diversity is such a strong part of Sisseton. Travelers to South Dakota are very interested in history and Native American Culture. When tourists visit an area known for its rich history and heritage, they don’t want to go into a casino or department store, but they want to experience a powwow or visit a historic

PROMOTING, MARKETING & TOURISM

Regional Tourism

house. These are things that Sisseton can offer potential travelers, they just need to be made aware of them.

- Consider putting together vacation packages with predetermined activities and plans for people to do while in the area. You could develop a hunting package, a fishing package, a nature package, etc. You might have each business, farmer/rancher or individual who is interested in participating. Make a list of what they could offer — lodging, food, guiding service, etc. You could also have someone with experience in agri-tourism come talk to your community about how to get started and how to market your ideas.

Here is an example of how a package might work (this would work with events as well):

1. A motel or hunting lodge would set a room price
2. A restaurant or restaurants would set a breakfast, lunch and dinner price
3. A farmer/rancher or guiding service would set a per hunter per day price

The vacationer can mix and match between different lodging, dining and activity options. The package would be one price inclusive, collected at the motel and then dispersed to the restaurant and farmer/rancher or guiding service.

Example: 3 day package for \$600

- Room @ \$70/day = \$210
- Meals @ \$30/day = \$90*
- Hunt @ \$100/day \$300*

Also, try working with the Tourism Office in Pierre to see if there are any co-op programs available to better promote your area.

- When putting packages together, consider including other communities close by. Take advantage of various activities, events and attractions in neighboring communities. A regional approach to the visitor packages will benefit everyone and entice visitors to come back or recommend your community to friends who are looking for a great getaway package.
- One of the main ingredients for a package deal to be successful is marketing. You will want to advertise your packages and amenities over the internet, through your website (which will be discussed later), through the SD Office of Tourism and other agri-tourism websites. When connecting with convention and visitor's bureaus and chambers of commerce in various cities across the state, they become your assistants, not our competition, making it a win-win situation for everyone. Overall, being creative is the key and working as an entire community and/or region will determine your success.

PROMOTING, MARKETING & TOURISM

Regional Tourism

- One of the best things that Sisseton can do to promote tourism in their area is to host writers from all over the country. Whether they are outdoor writers, travel writers or local writers show them what Sisseton has to offer and make sure you get some good articles out of it. It will be worth the trouble in the long run. If you have any questions regarding a particular writer and their credentials, contact the Office of Tourism.
- USDA's Rural Information Center website is full of guides, Q & A, success stories and step-by-step explanations of how to start using tourism in your community.
http://ric.nal.usda.gov/nal_display/index.php?info_center=5&tax_level=1

Resources:

Dakota Roots

Phone: 1-800-592-1882

Website: <http://www.dakotaroots.com/>

South Dakota Department of Labor

700 Governors Drive

Pierre, SD 57501

Phone: 605-773-3101

Website: <http://www.state.sd.us/applications/LD01DOL/default.asp>

South Dakota Office of Tourism

Nicole Gall – Visitor Industry Relations

711 E. Wells Ave.

Pierre, SD 57501

Phone: 605-773-3301

Website: www.sdvisit.com, www.TravelSD.com

Glacial Lakes and Prairies Tourism

Rosie Smith - Director

1200 33rd St. S.E.

Watertown, S.D. 57201

Phone: 605-886-7305

Website: www.sdglaciallakes.com

Kelly Rasmussen

Value-Added Agricultural Subfund

Governor's Office of Economic Development

711 E. Weils Ave. Pierre, SD 57501

605-773-5032

www.sdreadytowork.com

PROMOTING, MARKETING & TOURISM

Hwy 10 / I-29 Signage

Resources: continued

Cheri Rath, Executive Director
Value-Added Agriculture Development Center
303 Illinois Avenue, SW
Huron, SD 57350
Phone: 605-352-9177
Cell: 605-350-3128
cherirath@yahoo.com
www.sdvalueadded.coop

National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service
PO Box 3657
Fayetteville, AR 72702
800-346-9140
<http://www.attra.org/>

Value-Added Agribusiness Relending Program — VAARP
South Dakota Department of Agriculture
Division of Agricultural Development
523 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501-3 182
605-773-3375
agmailstate.sd.us
www.state.sd.us/doa

Gary Wedel
Rural Development Specialist
USDA Rural Development
Aberdeen Field Office
605.226.3360
Janell Telin, Rural Development Manager
janell.telin@sd.usda.gov
www.rurdev.usda.gov/sd

SUB THEME: Highway 10 / I-29 Signage
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Challenges: From the assessment listening sessions we heard over and over again that Sisseton is in a great location. Only two miles west of I-29 and right on Highway 10, Sisseton has many travelers going by it each day. One thing that I noticed was the lack of advertising out on the interstate. This lack of advertising seems to be directly correlated to a lack of awareness among visitors. The goal is to make travelers aware of not only where Sisseton is, but what it has to offer.

PROMOTING, MARKETING & TOURISM

Hwy 10 / I-29 Signage

Recommendations: This is a great opportunity to promote your area to a very broad group of travelers. Outdoor signage offers a community the unique ability to reach people in their car who are, for the most part, unreachable. Satellite radio, DVD's, CD's and books on tape are dominating the car scene preventing virtually all form of advertisement, except one; Outdoor advertising.

- Outdoor advertising is the second-fastest growing form of advertising next to the internet according to Outdoor Advertising Association of America. It is cheaper than TV and more effective than radio. Producing outdoor signage highlighting what your area has to offer is essential in your part of the state to effectively increase tourism to your community. One sign will not do it, but a string of signs communicating key points to travelers all along the interstate. It is an effective medium that must be utilized.
- Wall Drug is a business that has fully taken advantage of the outdoor advertising world and continues to make the news because of it. You do not have to advertise to the same extent of Wall Drug, but use them as a benchmark.

Resources:

South Dakota Office of Tourism
Buddy Seiner – Outdoor Media and PR Rep
711 East Wells Avenue Pierre, SD 57501-3369
1.800.872.6190
www.sdvisit.com, www.travelsd.com

Dr. Russ Stubbles Agri Tourism Consultant Brookings, SD 57006
605.692.5275
605.691.1074
stubbles@brookings.net www.agritourism-prairie.com

Wall Drug
Ted Husted
510 Main St.
Wall, S.D. 57790
Phone: 605-279-2175
Website; www.walldrug.com

PROMOTING, MARKETING & TOURISM

Website Development

SUB THEME: Website Development
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Challenge: Taking advantage of a continuously growing tool used by visitors and residents alike. How to develop a website that is both rich in information and easy to use will be a difficult task. Here are some suggestions to develop a better website:

Recommendation: Take a good look at your website. Ask the new and existing members of the community what they like and dislike about it. Look at websites from around the state to gather ideas.

The South Dakota Office of Tourism has just given a whole new look to their website at www.TravelSD.com. By using a multi-media approach, The Office of Tourism's website has become more easy to use, informative and is promoted on a large scale.

A few things to include on your website are links to various businesses in town, easy to find contact information, an events calendar, any attraction information, history of your community, nearby attractions, activities available, positive quotes from current residents and visitors, etc.

Again, research other community websites to gather ideas as to what you will include in your newly developed site. Also look to the Universities/colleges for students who may be able to provide assistance with website development. Many schools have programs that allow students to gain valuable experiences working on real projects with communities in need of their services. This would be a great opportunity to take advantage of free help or suggestions while, at the same time, providing a student with a great experience.

Upon development of your new website, also consider a way to promote and monitor your website hits. This can be done in a variety of ways. Having a hits counter on the page is probably the most common method.

Resources:

South Dakota Community Foundation
PU Box 296 207 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501
(800) 888-1842, (605) 224-1025
(605) 224-5364 fax
www.sdcommunityfoundation.org

- funds projects designed to address community needs

PROMOTING, MARKETING & TOURISM

Website Development

Resources: continued

The University of South Dakota
Human Resources
212 Slagle Hall
414 East Clark St.
Vermillion, SD 57069
phone: 605-677-5671
fax: 605-677-6630
hr@usd.edu
www.usd.edu

South Dakota State University
University Relations
Phone: (605) 688-6161
Fax: (605) 688-6357
<http://www3.sdstate.edu/Administration/UniversityRelations/Index.cfm>

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & RECREATION

SUB THEME: Recreation Trails

Challenge: Many people in the community would like trails, not only for recreation, but for safe walking and biking around the Sisseton community.

Recommendation: A well-planned and developed nature, hiking and biking trail would be a tremendous asset to recreational use of the area for local residents and visitors, and would be accessible virtually year around.

Walking trails are considered to be an important part of the transportation system and can receive up to 80% grant funding to construct a new trail. Projects must be designed, engineered and routed with matching funds in place before an application can be submitted. A local government body such as a city or a county must sponsor applications.

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) administered by the Game, Fish and Parks Department provides 80 percent reimbursement for projects such as new trails, rehabilitation of existing trails, developing trail related facilities and educational programs. The program is highly competitive and likes to fund smaller scale projects.

The South Dakota Department of Transportation also has a program for trail projects called the Transportation Enhancement Grant. This program provides substantial reimbursement (also around 80%) for projects such as recreational trails, landscaping, historic preservation, and establishment of transportation museums.

Contact your local planning district, First District, for assistance in developing a grant application for either of these programs.

The National Park Service also offers a technical assistance program that has an application process for communities that would like assistance in developing a recreational trail project. More information on this program is available online at <http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/>

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & RECREATION

Community Center / Sports Complex / Fine Arts Center

Resources:

Department of Game, Fish and Parks
Trails Program Specialist, Scott Carbonneau
523 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-3391
Scott.Carbonneau@state.sd.us

SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks
Recreational Trails Program OR Land and Water Conservation
523 E Capitol Ave — Foss Building
Pierre, SD 57501-3 185
www.sdglfp.info

Department of Transportation, Office of Local Government Assistance
Paula Huizenga
700 East Broadway
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-4831
Paula.Huizenga@state.sd.us

First District of Local Governments
PO Box 1207
Watertown, SD 57201-1207
605.882.5115
Dick Edenstrom, Executive Director
www.1stdistrict.org

SUB THEME: Community Center / Sports Complex / Fine Arts Center

Challenges: It was repeatedly said that the community would like a Community / Recreation Center / Youth Center and improvements to community sports/fine arts facilities.

Recommendations: There seems to be broad support for the development of a community / recreation / youth center in Sisseton. The question is where to put the building, what facilities/programs to offer to the public, and how to fund this project. Other communities have had much success building a facility that combines multiple uses. By combining a wide range of age groups, there is opportunity for inter-generational activities to take place.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & RECREATION

Community Center / Sports Complex / Fine Arts Center

One such success story involves the City of Parker who remodeled an existing facility into what is now called the Parker Multigenerational Center. The MGC houses the Parker Senior Citizen Center, the Hearts in Mind Preschool, and the Parker Medical Clinic. Since its completion, the center has created a lot of synergy between the different entities within the building. The City of Parker used Community Development Block Grants, Federally appropriated funds and funds from the City of Parker to complete the project.

The City of Viborg also has a multiuse facility that the community uses on a daily basis. Viborg's facility has a gymnasium that is used for kid's activities, community walking, wedding dances, receptions and much more. Their facility has separate meeting rooms that act as meeting locations for many of their service organizations in the community.

The cities of Faulkton, Madison, Milbank (mentioned many times during the assessment), and Spearfish all have created public private partnerships to build community centers and fine arts facilities. Contact information for these communities is included resources section below. Visit with the community leaders in these communities about their experiences in developing Community centers. Find out what worked well and what they wish they could change if they did it all over again. Each community is different and has a story to tell about community vision, commitment, public and private partnerships and funding. You can learn a lot about the process and the pitfalls from contacting someone who has been through it.

Faulkton Development Corporation partnered with the school district to construct a facility that is used by both the school and community. Madison has built both Dakota Prairie Playhouse and a Community Center. The Playhouse was a private effort in the late 80's and was host to Prairie Repertory Theater for many years. In addition to the theatre, it also has a large meeting facility. The community center is a recreation center with swimming, basketball courts, walking track, exercise equipment and more. The efforts to build both facilities were led by citizen committees. Milbank was mentioned many times during the assessment, so many people in the community have knowledge of that facility. Platte also built a community center that hosts the city and economic development offices in addition to a library, a large community room and kitchen, a smaller meeting room and an exercise center. It was financed through the city and a Community Development Block Grant, but a large amount of donations and some loans also made it possible.

The first step in developing such a facility for the City of Sisseton is to make a determination of what might all be included in this facility. Given that this will be a "community center," the City is in the position to take the lead in organizing relevant partners in this project including the Development Corporation, School, Senior Center, B&G Club, etc. By joining together to work on this project, you can leverage your joint financial and technical resources to support the project. Also, an independent survey of the community as to what they would like to see in this facility would be necessary so that when and if you construct a community center, it is built to meet the community's needs - now and into the foreseeable future.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & RECREATION

Community Center / Sports Complex / Fine Arts Center

A primary source of funding for a community center project would be the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). Based on 2000 census data, Sisseton appears to be qualified to submit an application for this program. Contact the First District Association of Local Governments to provide assistance in the development of a grant application for this program. First District has worked with other communities on similar projects to apply for CDBG grants. It is important to have First District and the State involved early in the process to determine what would or would not qualify for funding through this program. For example, a general community center would qualify, but the program cannot fund projects that involve space for city services (i.e. a city hall). Contact information for First District and the CDBG Program are included below in the resources section.

We heard numerous times from both the students and the parents that there is a deep need for a new sports complex and a new fine arts center.

From the listening sessions we found out that the arts plays a large role in the town of Sisseton. It would be sad if this program was to leave the Sisseton community without a fight. It seems as if there are plenty of buildings that could be of use with such a facility, but there needs to be a plan. Look back at the past facilities and determine what you would like to change. Then, begin to implement those changes into your new community goals.

The same goes for the sports complex. This could be a great project for the kids and parent to do together. Fundraising could be a major contributor of the funds that will go towards paying for this new sports facility. A new track and facility would bring more towns to your area for competition and would, in turn, increase economic development. A potential grant opportunity for outdoor recreational projects is the State's Land Water Conservation Program. This program can provide small grants for various types of outdoor recreation projects. Again, contact First District Association of Local Governments for more information on this program and assistance in developing grant applications.

Some resources that might be available to assist with these types of projects include:

- USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities Program – *for building or renovating community structures.*
- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) – *multiple potential uses.*
- Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation – *could provide general grants for multiple purposes such as buying equipment or supplies.*
- Local businesses
- Land Water Conservation Program (SD Department of Game, Fish & Parks) – *Provides small grants from recreation projects such as ball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, etc.*

We also heard repeatedly that the City Hall building could be used for the Community Center. Be sure to explore all options to see which is going to be the most feasible for the

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & RECREATION

Community Center / Sports Complex / Fine Arts Center

community. With the strength of your musical and theatrical assets, a performing arts theater would be a fine use of the building. Other uses could include a museum, gallery, business incubator or youth center.

Resources:

USDA Rural Development
Aberdeen Field Office
605.226.3360
Janell Telin, Rural Development Manager
janell.telin@sd.usda.gov
www.rurdev.usda.gov/sd

Community Development Block Grants — CDBG Steve Harding
Governor's Office of Economic Development — GOED Department of Tourism and
State Development 711 E. Wells Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-5032
goedinfo@state.sd.us
www.sdgreatprofits.com

First District of Local Governments
PO Box 1207
Watertown, SD 57201-1207
605.882.5115
Dick Edenstrom, Executive Director
www.1stdistrict.org

Department of Game, Fish and Parks
Land Water Conservation Fund
523 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
(605)773-3391

Rural Electric Economic Development, Inc.
PO Box 227
Madison, SD 57234
www.eastriver.coop/programs/reed/

Hill City Boys and Girls Club Center
Boys and Girls Club of the Black Hills
Paula Kruse
PO Box 677
Hill City, SD 57745
605-574-2010
bgcbh@hills.net

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & RECREATION

Community Center / Sports Complex / Fine Arts Center

Resources: continued

(Alexandria) Hanson School Community Activity Center
Security State Bank
P0 Box 430
Alexandria, SD 57311
605-239-4306

Beaumont Foundation of America
P0 Box 1855
Beaumont, TX 77701
866-546-2667
www.bmtfoundation.

Platte Community Center
Karen Burkett
605.337.3921
mkb@midstatesd.net

National Endowment for the Arts
1100 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20506 (202) 682-5400
webmgrarts.endow.gov
arts.endow.gov

National Endowment for the Humanities
1100 Pennsylvania Ave.
N.W., Washington, DC 20506
(800) NEH-1121, (202) 606-8400
(202) 606-8240 fax info@neh.gov neh.gov

Institute of Museum and Library Services
1800 M St. NW, Suite 900,
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 653-4707, (202) 653-4600 fax
imsinfoimls.gov
www.ims.gov

- provides funds to museums or interpretive centers for improvement, operations and project development

American Association of Museums
1575 Eye St. N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005
(202) 289-1818, (202) 289-6578 fax
aam-us.org

- funding for assessment of museum's operations, policies/ procedures and public dimension

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & RECREATION

Community Center / Sports Complex / Fine Arts Center

Resources: continued

South Dakota Community Foundation
PU Box 296 207 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501
(800) 888-1842, (605) 224-1025
(605) 224-5364 fax
www.sdcommunityfoundation.org

- funds projects designed to address community needs

Madison Community Center
Aaron Walter
605.256.5837
aaron.walter@dsu.edu
www.communitycenter.dsu.edu

Dakota Prairie Playhouse
Donna Fawbush
605.256.5666
donna.fawbush@dsu.edu

Spearfish Chamber of Commerce
Lisa Langer
605.642.2626
spfcoc@spearfish.sd.us

Milbank Chamber of Commerce
Carolyn Mount
605.432.6656
chamber@milbanksd.com

Faulkton Development Corporation
Verne Hansen, Treasurer
605.598.6285

SOCIAL ISSUES

SUB THEME: Drugs / Alcohol / Teen Smoking

Challenge: Drugs, alcohol and teen smoking seems to be a common problem throughout the plains states in the west. It was made very clear that the use of any of these drugs has been a common occurrence among the youth of the city. Drugs are openly sold on the streets, public drunkenness is not uncommon and underage teens can be frequently seen smoking on the sidewalks.

Recommendation: One thing is very clear when it comes to drugs, alcohol and tobacco, there is no easy solution. If there was we would have solved this problem long ago.

The solution to this issue is certainly complex but most of it can be targeted at five different categories:

1. Enforcement
2. Parental Guidance
3. Community Commitment
4. Education
5. Rehabilitation.

No one element on this list can be excluded or not be taken seriously if Sisseton intends to make progress on this problem.

The status of drug enforcement activities in Sisseton and the surrounding area should be evaluated to determine if the present staff is sufficient to deal with the illegal trafficking of drugs in Sisseton. If it is determined that the drug problem has grown out of the control of the local law enforcement, a decision should be made as to whether the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) should be contacted. A request could be submitted to deploy a Mobile Enforcement Team (MET), as was done on the Yankton Sioux Indian Reservation. The MET program helps local law enforcement entities attack the violent drug organizations in their neighborhoods and restores a safer environment for the residents. Depending on the severity of Sisseton's drug issue, this is one avenue that could be pursued.

To address the remaining factors I suggest contacting the Human Service Agency located in Watertown, South Dakota. This state run organization has a number of beneficial programs and services Roberts County. Their Community Prevention Services provide information and assistance in conducting student and community assessments and developing action plans to coordinate drug/alcohol abuse and violence prevention efforts. They also offer a Safe & Drug Free Schools and Communities Services where they assist

SOCIAL ISSUES

Drugs / Alcohol / Teen Smoking

schools and community groups with grant writing, goal setting and an evaluation of prevention efforts. In addition there are General Prevention Services that provide presentations for student and adult groups on a large number of topics including Family Fun Nights, Children of Alcoholics, Drug Free Workplace Act, Anger Management and Violence Prevention, Peer Helping, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Stress Management, Employee Assistance and Student Assistance Programs.

The community of Canton addressed this issue coming out of a Community Assessment they held in spring 2006. Some of the steps that community took to address this issue are:

- 1) Started a STARS program in which students serve as mentors and models to other students in not using illegal substances.
- 2) Started a Parents Connection email network for parents interested in sharing information with one another about what to look out for in terms of substance abuse in teens, as well as other areas of interest to parents.
- 3) Starting alternative activities for youth that do not involve drugs or alcohol.
- 4) Partnered with Lincoln and Minnehaha Counties and the Sioux Falls School District to produce TV commercials that show various parents discussing the impact that alcohol had on their children.
- 5) Produced a 15 minute video that was distributed to all parents in grades 6-12 that parents were to watch and discuss with their kids that addressed issues such as substance abuse, seatbelts, etc.

For more information on this program, contact Lisa Alden with the Canton Development Corporation. Lisa can refer you to individuals in the Canton community that helped spearhead these efforts.

Resources:

Human Resources Agency
123 19th Street NE
PO Box 1030
Watertown, SD 57201
Phone: 605-886-0123
Fax: 605-886-5447
1-800-444-3989
<http://www.humanserviceagency.org/neprc.htm>

Drug Enforcement Administration
Mailstop: AES
2401 Jefferson Davis Highway
Alexandria, VA 22301
605-330-4421
<http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/programs/metp.htm>

SOCIAL ISSUES

Diversity

Resources: continued

Lisa Alden
Economic Development Coordinator
Canton Economic Development Corp
PO Box 34
Canton, SD 57013
605-764-7864
lisa.canton@iw.net

SUB THEME: Diversity

Challenge: Sisseton is made up of two distinct groups. There is a white European group made up of Norwegian, Irish and German descendants and there is a Native American group comprising the Sisseton/Wahpeton Tribe. We heard in our listening sessions that barriers exist between the two groups.

Recommendation: The cultural diversity of a community can be its most valuable asset, but when the groups don't understand or respect each other's cultural heritage then conflicts arise. The leaders in Agency Village and the City of Sisseton need to come together and form a committee called the Cultural Awareness Task Force. This group needs to develop a strategy to help bridge the gap in these cultures through education, community involvement, and a celebration of each side's heritage.

Education covering cultural diversity needs to be addressed in the school system. This type of program needs to begin in the early years of their education before biases are established. This doesn't need to be established as a stand alone class but could be incorporated across the curriculum into history, art or any type of class. The school could also establish a cultural awareness event where events are scheduled throughout the day and include the communities of both cultures.

Education of adults may be the biggest challenge of all. This could be accomplished by holding presentations at the Senior Citizens Center and at any of the local organizations such as the Christian Women's Club, Friends and Neighbors, the Garden Club, the Kiwanis Club and the Sisseton Arts Council.

The community should try to establish an event that is centered on the cultural diversity in the area. This could come in the form of a city picnic with art displays, native dancers, games for the kids and ethnic food.

Some possible funding sources for developing an educational curriculum and community events are the Ben and Jerry's Foundation. This is a foundation established to promote

SOCIAL ISSUES

Adult / Continuing Education

social change but not social services. I think it would be an excellent source to partner with the tribal college to develop a curriculum and strategy to educate the community.

The Tribal Government also has access to funds that support tribal activities. A Tribal – Community partnership, much like a public private partnership would be a positive step in the right direction. Funding can address not only the bringing together of the two cultures, but also address other social needs such as the boys and girls club, community and fine arts center, housing, community beautification and economic development. The human resources and the capital resources of both communities can come together to build a progressive Sisseton area for all. A rising tide raises all boats.

Resources:

Ben & Jerry's Foundation
30 Community Drive
S. Burlington, VT 05403
Phone: 802-846-1500
<http://www.benjerry.com/foundation/index.html>

SUB THEME: Adult / Continuing Education
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Challenge: It was mentioned in the sessions at the school that there is a need for some type of adult / continuing education along with alternative high school education program.

Recommendation: There are many aspect of continuing education, but this could be accomplished with a joint effort from the School and Cooperative Extension. They could establish a community education series for the residents of the Sisseton community. There are many positives to this. The teachers could be employed in the summer months to earn a little money and the community could expand their education programs. Dell Rapids is a good example of a community that did just that. Their teachers formed a local private school informally, offering various courses as part of a Summer Challenge camp. They offered courses in areas such as cooking, mathematics, crocheting, reading, soccer, puppetry, computer training, cake decorating, and much more. The cost to participate is about \$25 to \$30 per course. A printed summary of courses is developed each spring along with schedules. Most of the money collected is given to the teacher of the class. This has really taken off in Dell Rapids and may be something the community of Sisseton may benefit from. The contact information for some of the teachers in Dell Rapids who helped get this program up and running is listed below. Consider using a survey, it could be sent out in the community to see what types of courses the community would be interested in.

Also mentioned was the need for an Alternative School. The Alternative School model has been used in schools as small as Wagner, Hot Springs and Dell Rapids. The process

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for contacting Department of Labor follows. If you want to see an Alternative Classroom, I have listed Select High in Brookings at the end. It is affiliated with the Brooking School District, is a highly regarded program and seemed like a good match for Sisseton. The NOVA school affiliated with the Watertown Career Center is in the area, too.

Department of Labor Affiliate Alternative Schools: Recognizing a high school education is a basic need to advanced training and employment, the South Dakota Department of Labor dedicates funds for alternative schools willing to incorporate career programming. Affiliate schools must not only assist youth in completing a high school program, but prepare youth to successfully transition and complete further training or employment.

Programming must incorporate all components of the federal Workforce Investment Act of skill assessment and individual service strategy for youth with barriers to completing their education and obtaining employment.

Applicants must:

- Document their alternative education accreditation through the Department of Education.
- Be off-site from the traditional high school programs.
- Ensure the student: teacher ratio not exceed 12:1.
- A minimum of 35 percent of the students must meet the WIA income eligibility criteria. The remaining 65 percent must have a documentable barrier recognized under the WIA legislation such as:
 - School dropout
 - Below 9th grade in basic reading comprehension and math computation
 - One or more grade levels behind the grade appropriate to the age of the youth
 - Pregnant or parenting
 - Has a recognized barrier limiting their attaining educational and employment goals
 - Homeless, runaway, foster child, or ward of the state
 - Offender
 - Requires additional assistance to complete their secondary education and obtain and maintain employment
- Complete required documentation and data management as required by WIA and SDDOL.
- Attend regional and state WIA meetings as requested.
- Develop curriculum for each youth to meet the approval of cooperating school districts and the Department of Education rules and policies. Document a 50 percent match of amount requested.

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Evening Activities

Resources:

Select High
Gayle Klinker, Coordinator
504 Third Avenue
Brookings, SD 57006
605-696-4766

Linda Daugaard, Jen Ruesink, or Dawn Longville
St. Mary Catholic School
812 N. State Ave.
Dell Rapids, SD 57022
605-428-5592
dlongville@siouxvalley.net

Department of Labor – Alternative High Schools Program
South Dakota Department of Labor
700 Governors Drive
Kneip Building – 3rd Floor
Pierre, SD 57501-2291
<http://www.state.sd.us/applications/LD01DOL/>

SUB THEME: Evening Activities

Challenge: During our sessions with the community, an issue that continued to arise was that the youth around town don't have enough activities to occupy their time. As a result of this, some of them have been painting graffiti on buildings, walking the streets in groups, smoking and drinking. The community would like to see the young people in town being more involved and occupy their time with more beneficial activities.

Recommendation: When teenagers and young adults have too much idle time on their hands and are left unattended, not many good things seem to be the result. It was obvious from our sessions that not only do the kids have to take the initiative to find hobbies and other constructive things to do, but also the adults in the community have to get involved with this issue.

In almost every session we attended the subject of a new community center with an indoor pool came up. We also heard that the Boys and Girls Club was in poor condition. It would be to the benefit of all the residents in Sisseton that a new community center that also included the Boys and Girls Club be established. The benefits to kids with idle time are obvious. Membership fees are normally required to use most community centers. However, for those families that can not afford to join, there should be a scholarship program set up. This would allow the opportunity for every kid in the community to

SOCIAL ISSUES

Evening Activities

participate. Paying for this type of facility is not easy. It is possible that the USDA/Rural Development may have funds through one of their programs to get started. I would also suggest the organization of intramural sports competitions.

The senior citizens in Sisseton seem to be a source that hasn't been tapped yet. There needs to be a symbiotic relationship between the seniors and the youth. A program needs to be established where the kids can meet at the senior citizens center and show the seniors how to use computers. In turn the seniors can share some of their skills they have learned that now may just be hobbies; for example wood carving, painting, playing musical instruments, making fishing lures, knitting or any other type of hobby.

Another program that could be started is a student intern program. Local businesses could be approached to see if they would be willing to take on an intern to give students some experience on what it takes to run a business or learn a trade. If this could be done after school, then it would help take some kids off the streets.

I have also seen cities that hold a community appreciation day and they allow high school seniors out of school for the day to work on these projects. They rake leaves, paint houses and clean up the park among other things. All of this is done with some adult supervision so that kids don't just disappear in the process. It has proven very successful.

Another type of activity that was very successful in Belle Fourche was an outdoor community movie night. This was accomplished by acquiring some G or PG movies and showing them outdoors in the park. They could be projected on the side of building or find a sign company that has an old billboard that could be used. Families could come down to the park, spread out the blanket with their popcorn and watch the movie. With a little innovation the cost of this would be almost nothing. Just bring the mosquito repellent.

Resources:

Rural Development Manager
Janell Telin,
524 Enterprise Street, South Suite 100
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Phone number: (605) 226-3360
Fax number: (605) 225-7829
TDD number: (605) 352-1147
E-mail address: janell.telin@sd.usda.gov

SOCIAL ISSUES

Housing

Resources: continued

Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce
Teresa Schanzenbach
415 Fifth Avenue
Belle Fourche, SD 57717
605-892-2676

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201
Telephone: 202-619-0257
Toll Free: 1-877-696-6775
<http://www.afterschool.gov/>

SUB THEME: Housing

- **Single Family**
- **Affordable**
- **Housing Rehab**
- **Housing Assessment**

Challenge: There are a variety of housing needs throughout the community. These include the need for affordable single family dwellings and rehabilitation of existing housing.

Recommendation: A housing survey/housing assessment may be a good place to start. By surveying current residents and employees who commute to the community, you will learn what type of housing is needed, such as rental, single family, subsidized, elderly, etc. It will also identify the price range that people are looking for, and the availability of housing in each category. The First District Association of Local Governments

The establishment of a housing taskforce comprised of representatives from the city, county, economic development and other groups will be beneficial in further exploration of the housing issue and determining possible solutions.

Housing rehabilitation involves more than just cleaning up the yard or painting a house. There may be families in town who need physical or financial assistance with home repairs, and several programs are available for those with such needs.

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Some of the housing programs available are:

USDA-Rural Development

- The Section 504 rural Home Repair Loan & Grant Program is available to assist eligible very low income homeowners make repairs to their homes. Repairs can be made to improve or modernize the home, to make it safe, sanitary, or to remove health and safety hazards. Rates and terms are 1% with up to 20 years to repay the loan. Grants are available only for repairs that remove health or safety hazards. Applicants for the grants must be at least age 62.
- The Direct 502 Housing Program is available to eligible Very Low, Low and Moderate income families to repair or improve their homes. This is a program with interest rates as low as 1%. Loans may be made for 100% of the appraisal with a maximum 33 year term.
- Housing Preservation Grants assist Very Low and Low income rural individual homeowners to repair or rehabilitate their buildings.

South Dakota Housing Development authority (SDHDA)

- SDHDA together with various banks throughout the state has a Community Home Improvement Program or CHIP. The program provides low interest loans to income eligible owners for repairs or improvements to their single family residence. The interest rate depends on the family income with a 7-year repayment term.
- HOME Homeowner Rehab Program provides funds for rehabilitation of affordable housing in conjunction with the weatherization program to ensure that needed repair items that cannot be financed with weatherization funds are addressed. The funds are available to eligible persons/families on a zero-interest, five year decreasing balance loan. Funds can be used for accessibility modifications for persons with disabilities, in addition to making necessary repairs for health, safety, and code compliance.
- HOME Program – developers can apply for funding to purchase and rehab single family homes that can be either sold or rented to low income households.
- Paint South Dakota Program provides paint and supplies to community-based organizations to paint one house in the community. The application for these funds is generally announced in January or February and the homes are painted in June.
- The Governor's House program through the South Dakota Housing Development Authority is a good resource for both individuals and communities seeking starter homes. The Governor's Houses are standardized homes built by prisoners in South Dakota that are sold to individual home buyers or development groups at a cost of \$33,000 for a 1008 sq. ft. home. These can be placed on top of a full basement (the floor plan was recently changed to allow access to the basement from within the home), or placed on a crawl space. Income qualifications for potential homebuyers apply. In some

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communities, these have been used to provide affordable housing for all age groups. In other communities, they have placed these homes side by side, attached garages, and created accessible homes for elderly individuals in the community. They could also be used to provide affordable, accessible homeownership opportunities to people with disabilities.

Northeast South Dakota Community Action Program (NESDCAP)

- **Energy Assistance and Weatherization.** The Weatherization program helps low-income South Dakota households overcome the high cost of energy by making their homes more energy efficient. It can be used to repair/replace windows, do weather stripping and caulking, and additional energy efficient items. It is run by the NESDCAP office in Sisseton. This program is limited to energy conservation type items like insulation, windows, furnaces, and wiring. No cosmetic repairs are available under this program.
- NESDCAP also offers a variety of home rehab, down payment assistance, and home financing programs that assist potential homeowners and homebuyers. NESDCAP is located in Sisseton and is a primary resource for your community as you look to address your housing concerns.

HUD/FHA

- HUD's 203K loan requires a minimum of \$5000 worth of basic repairs to be done on the home. Such repairs can include basic systems such as water, heating, electrical, and roofs. The 203K loan requires the owner to refinance into this loan, and allows additional expenses beyond the appraised value for these repairs.
- FHA Title I loans may be used to finance permanent property improvements that protect or improve the basic livability or utility of the property – including manufactured homes, single-family homes, nonresidential structures, and the preservation of historic homes. The maximum loan amount is \$25,000 and the term may go up to 20 years.
- HUD's Energy Efficient Mortgage allows a new buyer to finance, or a current owner to refinance, using this mortgage. It provides additional funds beyond the cost of the home to make the home energy efficient.
- Reverse Mortgages. Homeowners 62 and older who have paid off their mortgages or have only small mortgage balances remaining are eligible to participate in HUD's reverse mortgage program. The program allows homeowners to borrow against the equity in their homes, and use it as a line of credit to not only do home repairs, but also use as a source of income for living expenses or other items. There are no loan repayments made until the homeowner no longer lives in the home. At that point the home is sold, and the loan repaid to the lender. The homeowner is never responsible to pay any more than the house is worth.

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Veterans Administration

- Veterans Administration (VA) offers Specially Adapted Housing for Disabled Veterans to help certain severely disabled veterans acquire a home which is suitably adapted or to purchase equipment to adapt a current home to meet the special needs of the individual.

Resources:

First District Association of Local Governments
PO Box 1207
Watertown, SD 57201-6207
Phone: 605-882-5115
Fax: 605-882-5049
greg@1stdistrict.org
ted@1stdistrict.org

South Dakota Housing Development Authority
PO Box 1237
221 South Central Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-3181

USDA Rural Development
Aberdeen Field Office
605.226.3360
Janell Telin, Rural Development Manager
janell.telin@sd.usda.gov
www.rurdev.usda.gov/sd

Northeast South Dakota Community Action Program (NESDCAP)
414 3rd Avenue E, Courthouse Annex
Sisseton, SD 57262
605-698-7654
nesdcap@tnics.com

US Department of Housing and Urban Development
2400 West 49th Street, Suite I-201
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Homes Are Possible, Inc. (HAPI)
9 5th Avenue SE
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605-225-HAPI
www.homesarepossible.org

SOCIAL ISSUES

Communication / Cooperation / Unification

Resources: continued

Homeownership Education Resource Organization (HERO)

PO Box 1237

Pierre, SD 57501

sdhomebuyer.org

SUB THEME: Communication / Cooperation / Unification
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Challenge: Having all organizations and elected boards in the community working cooperatively toward common goals.

Recommendation: It is a big challenge, even in a small community, to know about the projects of every entity. But, knowing what is happening in each facet of the community will eliminate duplication of efforts and the possibility to work cooperatively on projects.

Sometimes communication happens because of people serving on multiple boards and they in turn provide the needed communication between the boards. Some communities set up monthly or quarterly meetings which are attended by a representative of each community organization. In Centerville, representatives of each community organization are invited to a quarterly meeting. Each representative reports on the projects their organization is currently engaged in, and then the group identifies projects to work on collectively. Finding time for “one more meeting” can be hard, both on the community calendar and in the people’s spare time. But, the payoffs can be great as communication is expanded. Joint meetings between elected boards can be beneficial when working on a common project. It was demonstrated many, many times during the listening sessions that people in and around Sisseton are willing to share ideas and work cooperatively.

Communication starts with having a common vision for the future of Sisseton. This assessment process is meant to help the community identify this vision, and after the distribution of this report and the follow-up/priority setting meeting is held, you should have a great template to start from.

The community, as a whole, needs to participate in the last town (priority-setting) meeting which will set up goals and objectives for the community to pursue in the short term. I have included an example of how to roll out your vision, involving multiple organizations in the community collaborating together once this vision has been established:

1. Convene a Joint Visioning Taskforce that consists of at least one representative from each of the relevant organization in the community (i.e. school, city,

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- Economic Development Corporation, business community, agricultural community, civic and social organizations, ministerial group, etc).
2. Review the themes and responses from the assessment report. Utilize the priorities established in the assessment's follow-up/priority setting meeting to provide the starting point for establishing your objectives or goals for your Vision or strategic action plan.
 3. Establish timelines for when you want to meet your objectives.
 4. Establish who or what organization is going to take the lead in moving each objective forward (this is why it is important to include multiple organizations as part of this joint taskforce).
 5. Identify potential resources available for each objective using the recommendation in this report and other reference materials (such as the SD Resource Directory).
 6. Share this Vision with the entire community and allow for public comment. Adjust your plans accordingly.
 7. Recruit a list of interested volunteers to help execute each portion of the plan. You might establish sub committees for each objective where there is not a single organization that is willing or able to take the lead on a particular objective.
 8. Begin implementation of your plan. Plan your work and work your plan.
 9. Track your progress over time. Share this with the community. This will keep people interested and build momentum over time as you start to see the successes of your efforts.
 10. Remember to celebrate the accomplishments, even small ones, to keep the motivation continuous.
 11. Stay Positive! This is going to take a little work, but a positive attitude can go a long way in the development of your community.

This process takes the commitment from more than the Council members as it is also the responsibility of the citizens to keep this strategic plan going. This would include recruiting volunteers to participate in the process.

Communication among organizations and with the general public is essential as you move forward. Being proactive about sharing information among organizations and with the general public will ensure that you are moving forward in a way that is most efficient and effective, and leverages the shared talents of individuals in your community. Keeping the public informed and engaged will help to continue your momentum as you capitalize on your successes and look toward your future goals and objectives. As such, it is a good idea to host semi annual meetings, inviting the entire public, to reassess where you are at in terms of goals and objectives, what has been successful and what has not, and what you plan to do over the next 12 months to several years.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Communication / Cooperation / Unification

Resources:

Bill Hansen
Centerville Development Corporation
2201 State St.
Centerville, SD 5714
605-201-7593
bjhansen@hcinet.net

Publication: Community Participation – How People Power Brings sustainable Benefits to Communities. Available online at <http://www.ezec.gov/Pubs/commpartigrept.pdf>

Publication: A Guide to Strategic Planning for Rural Communities
<http://www.ezec.gov/About/strategic.pdf>

YOUTH

SUB THEME: Youth Attraction and Retention
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Challenge: In the ever shifting population decline in rural communities many are asking what can be done to retain and attract their youth.

Recommendation: During the Youth Session the question was asked, “how many of you plan on attending college?” Almost all raised their, the challenge is getting these young people to return.

One area that could be explored would be facilitating entrepreneurialism. Teach Sisseton’ youth to be entrepreneurial. Development of entrepreneurs begins early and can be developed through the local school system, which can equip your youth with the skills necessary to create their own opportunities in rural communities. The community of Rutland, SD manages a business through the school using youth in the community. This is seen as a learning experience for the youth as well as providing a service to the community.

The important thing to remember in the development of a youth enterprise is that the ideas and responsibilities for developing the enterprise must reside primarily with the students (with advice, coaching, oversight and consent from adults in the community). This will help sustainability of any project undertaken.

There are various organizations that work through schools that could support the development of this initiative. One such organization is DECA or the Distributive Education Clubs of America. Another is Junior Achievement, which is basically a curriculum that teaches students how to start and run businesses through student led enterprises and voluntary assistances from mentors in the community. REAL Enterprises is another school-based program that provides assistance to schools looking to implement youth enterprise curriculum. Kathleen Sheets and the staff of EQUIP have developed a youth entrepreneur program that fits into curriculums already offered in schools. Finally, there is an organization called Youth Ventures that helps support the development of “youth teams” interested in starting a business or providing a social service in a community. Youth Venture may also provide a small amount of financial assistance to help get things started.

The main thing is to be creative, allow the youth to take a leadership role in developing this project, and focus on meeting the needs of the high school youth as well as the general public.

YOUTH

Youth Attraction and Retention

Resources for funding this type of project (See detailed contact information below)

- USDA Rural Development's Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) – *for developing a youth business project concept.*
- South Dakota Community Foundation – *could provide general grants for multiple purposes such as buying equipment or supplies.*
- Youth Venture – *for starting a youth project serving the greater community.*
- Kauffman Foundation – *Provides general grants in the area of entrepreneurship.*
- Beaumont Foundation of America – *Community Technology Center grants.*
- US Department of Education – *Community Technology Center grants.*

Curriculum or Technical Assistance Providers

- DECA
- Junior Achievement
- REAL Enterprises
- Black Hills Special Services Coop
- Youth Venture
- National Council of Economics Education
- South Dakota Council on Economic Education
- Kauffman Foundation
- Making Cents
- NxLevel

Another great opportunity for youth retention is something the Platte Development Corporation has worked on (also mentioned in a previous recommendation) and that is where the youth shadow or work with a business during high school and then upon graduation, if both the student and business agree, a contract is signed by the business, student and Platte Economic Development Corporation and all pay 1/3 of that student's education with the understanding that the student would come back and work with that business for four years or the grant would revert back to a loan. The community of Sisseton could assess their needs and possibly approach those community members to see if they would be willing to participate.

Resources:

Karen Burket
Platte Development Corporation
PO Box 283
Platte, SD 57369
mkb@midstatesd.net

YOUTH
Youth Attraction and Retention

Resources: continued

Beaumont Foundation of America
PO Box 1855
Beaumont, TX 77701
866-546-2667
www.bmtfoundation.com

DECA – South Dakota
Distributed Education Clubs of America
Steven Rounds
700 Governor's Place
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-4673
605-773-4236 (Fax)
Steven.rounds@state.sd.us

Junior Achievement
1000 N West Ave, Ste. 110
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-1314
605-336-7318
jasd@jasd.org
www.soudakota.ja.org

Kathleen Sheets
Program Manager
Equip
1101 W. 22nd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
(605)331-6587
Kathleen.sheets@usiouxfalls.edu

Kauffman Foundation
4801 Rockhill Road
Kansas City, MO 6410-2046
816-932-1000
www.kauffman.org

Making Cents
www.makingcents.com/curriculum/youth.php

National Council of Economic Education
1140 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036
212-730-7007
202-730-1792 (Fax)

YOUTH
Youth Attraction and Retention

Resources: continued

NxLevel
www.nxlevel.org

REAL Enterprises
Corporation for Enterprise Development
115 Market Street, Ste. 221
Durham, NC 27701
919-688-7328
919-682-7621
info@realenterprises.org
www.realenterprises.org

Rutland High School
Nancy Falor, Business Instructor
102 North Main Street.
Rutland, SD 57057
605) 586-4352

South Dakota Community Foundation
Bob Sutton, Executive Director
PO Box 296
207 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
605-224-1025 or 800-888-1842
www.sdcommunityfoundation.org

South Dakota Council on Economic Education
University of South Dakota
School of Business
414 E. Clark St.
Vermillion, SD 57069
lroach@usd.edu
www.usd.edu/~econed/1.htm

Youth Venture
1700 N. Moore St. Suite 2000
Arlington, VA 22209
703-527-4126
www.youthventure.org

YOUTH
After School Activities

SUB THEME: After School Activities

Challenge: The young people of Sisseton would like more things to do outside of school activities.

Recommendation: Having a larger variety of activities for the youth was a challenge identified by the youth, and echoed during several sessions attended by adults.

Using what is available may be an option that could be implemented. It was stated that there are many gyms in town, but they are often closed. Groups working together may be able to find a solution to have the gyms open and available to youth for specific hours each day. These open-gym sessions could be sponsored by church or civic groups, the school, or hiring a responsible person to be present. Participants may be charged a fee for attending or purchasing a season pass, or the cost of the open gym could be covered by a sponsoring organization.

A fine arts center, sports complex and community center were facilities mentioned most often. All would be assets to the community, and all would need funding for construction. Hosting a community meeting on any one of these projects would show the amount of enthusiasm there is, and whether it is feasible to do fund-raising for construction of any of the facilities. If the support is there, a task force of both youth and adults should be formed to decide what type of facility would be most beneficial in the community, and whether it needs to be new construction, an existing building, how it will be funded and who will operate it. A business plan will need to be developed outlining a specific timeline among other things. A timeline can make or break a project. Stick to it, and your project will likely be successful.

With Sisseton's abundant natural beauty, the activities associated with it may be overlooked. Although people are aware of the hunting, fishing, golfing, hiking, snowmobiling, bird watching, camping, and countless other outdoor activities, they sometimes need a "call to action" to get them to enjoy these activities. It seems like the things closest to us are often taken for granted and even ignored. Try incorporating the every day activities into community events or fundraisers.

I attended Teen Institute for two summer sessions as an advisor, and one activity that was done with the youth was a brain-storming session to compile a list of "things to do". The youth supplied the dialog along with a written list showing all the things that could be done in the community. The majority of these sessions came at little or no cost. This could be duplicated in your community by inviting youth to such a session and asking for their input.

YOUTH

Youth Role In Community / Engagement

Resources:

Small Business Development Center
416 Production Street North
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605-626-2565

Youth in the Community: They Have a Lot to Contribute. A publication from the SDSU Cooperative Extension Service, available online at <http://agbiopubs.sdstate.edu/index.cfm> designed to help establish and maintain youth and adult partnerships in communities.

South Dakota Community Foundation
Funding, Technical Assistance
Bob Sutton, Executive Director
207 East Capitol
Box 296
Pierre, SD 57401
605-224-1025
www.sdcommunityfoundation.org

SUB THEME: Youth Role in Community / Engagement
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Challenge: Youth are looking to become more involved in the community. What we heard from the youth is that their voices are not heard. Decisions are made affecting them without their input.

Recommendation: Some communities have a student on their boards, such as school board, city council, economic development. Some of these students are full board members with voting rights – others are there in an advisory role.

When changes are made that will directly affect the students, it might be helpful to hold listening and discussion sessions with students in small groups so dialog is possible and students can voice their opinions and concerns. Through this process with the students directly involved, they are able to understand how and why decisions are made. Also consider the fact, however, that not all students will want to participate. Make this a voluntary session, and hopefully students will spread the positive word about contributing their ideas to the community.

Through Horizons, our community was able to attend a session by Richard Goll entitled “Youth Empowerment in Your Community: Engaging Young People in Things That Matter”. He gave examples of youth and community leaders working on parallel boards

YOUTH

Parental Involvement

with equal power, and how they were successful. If you are able to get this speaker through your Horizons program, it would be an up-close look at how success can be achieved in this area.

Another way to get the youth engaged is having them involved in providing a service to the community. An organization called Youth Ventures helps support youth teams who are interested in starting a business or providing a service to the community. Youth Ventures may also provide a small amount of financial assistance to get things started.

Resources:

Cheryl Jacobs
Cooperative Extension Service
917 N. Main
Mobridge, SD 5761
605-230-0077
jacobs.cheryl@ces.sdstate.edu

Youth Venture
1700 N. Moore St. Suite 2000
Arlington, VA 22209
703-527-4126
www.youthventure.org

SUB THEME: Parental Involvement
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Challenge: During some of the listening sessions, it was pointed out to the resource team that some students could benefit from their parents being more involved in their lives. Being more involved in their kids lives may open up a new communication channels between parents and students. This also factors into the substance abuse concerns that were readily expressed in various listening sessions as well.

Recommendation: This is a very difficult issue and not one that can be easily resolved. It was heard in many listening sessions that parental control over the family unit needs to be stronger. Statements such as “children having children”, “youth being on the streets at all hours of the night”, “parents not knowing or not caring what their children are doing”, “youth involved in gangs” showed that there is a need for change. Parent education classes may be the first step in helping those changes occur.

YOUTH

Parental Involvement

The following are some suggestions as to how parents can be more actively engaged in their children's lives.

1. Create a smooth takeoff each day. Give your child a hug before she ventures out the door and you head to work. Look her in the eye, and tell her how proud you are of her. Your child's self-confidence and security will help her do well both in school and in life.
2. Prepare for a happy landing at the end of the day when you reconvene. Create a predictable ritual such as 10–20 minutes listening to your child talk about his day—before you check phone messages, read the mail, or begin dinner. That way you are fully present to listen, and your child has a touchstone he can count on between school and home.
3. Fill your child's lunchbox with healthy snacks and lunches. Have dinner at a reasonable hour and a healthy breakfast. A well-balanced diet maximizes your child's learning potential.
4. Include calm, peaceful times in your children's afternoons and evenings. Maintain a schedule that allows them to go to school rested, and if they are sick, have a system in place so they are able to stay home.
5. Remember it's your children's homework, not yours. Create a specific homework space that's clutter-free and quiet. Encourage editing and double-checking work, but allow your kids to make mistakes, as it's the only way teachers can gauge if they understand the material. It's also how children learn responsibility for the quality of their work.
6. Fill your child's life with a love for learning by showing him your own curiosity, respecting his questions, and encouraging his efforts.
7. Fill your home with books to read, books simply to look at, and books that provide answers to life's many questions. The public or school library is an excellent resource.
8. Be a partner with your child's teacher. When you need to speak to him or her in reference to a specific issue with your child, do it privately, not in front of your child. Make a point never to criticize your child's teacher in front of your child.
9. Set up a system where routine items are easily located—such as backpacks, shoes, signed notices. Create a central calendar for upcoming events to avoid the unexpected.
10. Tuck a "love note" in your child's lunch bag to let her know how special she is. Knowing they are loved makes it easier for children to be kind to others.

YOUTH
Parental Involvement

Resources:

Parent Teacher Organizations:
<http://www.pta.org/homepage.html>

National Community Education Association
<http://www.ncea.com/>

Parent Involvement in Education:
<http://www.nwrel.org/scpd/sirs/3/cu6.html>

Sisseton churches

Sisseton Ministerial Association

COMMUNITY PRIDE

Community Involvement

COMMUNITY PRIDE

SUB THEME: Community Involvement

Challenge: Volunteerism, Attitude, Leadership

Recommendation:

Volunteerism. Like most towns, Sisseton struggles with maintaining a strong base of volunteers. It seems like the same people are always called on to volunteer and there are many others who could be included. The simple recommendation is ask them. People have changed, they are busy, work one or two jobs, have families that come first and are hard to track down. Today's younger generation is willing, I'm sure, but because they are busy they have to be asked. And don't forget to tap our youth. The younger generation has great ideas, maybe different than the norm. They have different ways of getting things done, but they also need to be included, valued and asked for their assistance. The following are a few tips I remember from an article I read recently on volunteerism:

- Segment a project into as many duties as possible, as the lead volunteer, keep those that need your special touch, or have sensitive deadlines
- If it will take longer to teach someone to do it that to do it yourself, it might not be wise to delegate those duties in full, rather ask someone to help you and let them learn that way. Be a mentor, and next time they can take on more responsibilities.
- Give people responsibilities in areas where they are comfortable and competent. Don't ask them to do things they don't understand.
- If it is a board or committee, consider co-chairpersons to share the load
- Make it fun. Even cleaning up after an event can be a fun activity.
- Say thank-you. It means a lot.
- Let people get things done in their own way, in their own order. So long as the job is done, don't micro-manage how it gets that way.

Attitude. Generally when I see this word I think in the negative, like bad attitude or negative attitude. In reality it is just another perspective and everyone is entitled to one. I think you have learned through Horizons/LeadershipPlenty that looking at community issues through an asset lens is much more invigorating than looking at things through a "problem" lens. The quote from Peter Senge in an earlier recommendation that "Problem solving is making something we don't like go away and creating is making something we truly care about exist" pertains to attitude, too.

Leadership. I was glad to learn Sisseton is participating in Horizons. The LeadershipPlenty segment of Horizons is an opportunity to learn and practice leadership

COMMUNITY PRIDE

Beautification

skills, like decision making, running an effective meeting, identifying strategic partners, resolving conflict and a host of others. However, of even more importance to Leadership in Sisseton is the opportunity to learn to “move from talk to action” in implementing projects and the “value of evaluation” to keep every undertaking on track. Stick with Horizons and support the new and emerging leaders in the community.

SUB THEME: Beautification

Challenge: Residents of Sisseton expressed concern about the community’s appearance. The city is aging and new residential development seems to be somewhat lacking. In addition, the older residential areas are in need of some maintenance. As businesses move off of Main Street, the buildings are not being maintained and the ones that are there could use some help. Some parks and public places are not being maintained. There also seems to be issues with the non-enforcement of some ordinances. We were informed during the sessions that there are also a high number of pets running loose.

Recommendations: The appearance of a city says volumes about the character of the community. When businesses are searching for a location to establish they are not only looking for a lucrative deal but they want a place with a quality of life that is comfortable for their families. So if Sisseton wants to attract new business and tourists, a hard look at the cities appearance is in order.

I think the place to start is the Keep America Beautiful program. This is a national program that helps to locate funds, trains organizers and provides a huge network from across the U.S. to focus on litter prevention, waste reduction, beautification and community improvement. They will help the city to develop a plan that will put you on the right track. In order to get the most out of this program, the city should consider becoming an Affiliate Member. If you look on their web site you will find that there are only two affiliates in South Dakota. Hot Springs is one of them. Give them a call and see what they think. This will cost the city about \$1,000 for the initial sign up and about \$100 each year thereafter. They boast that a return of 10 to 1 for every dollar invested in the affiliation.

Once you have a plan with Keep America Beautiful you can start organizing. Get the youth involved with a Community Appreciation Day at the High School. Give the seniors one or two days off to work on supervised community projects. Another option would be to contact Youth Works out of Minneapolis. This is a mission group that organizes young people to spend weeks at a time to help clean up small communities. It is free to the community and they will even supply the paint if needed. Maybe the local youth could even work along with them. This could be a great experience for them, and they might even make some friends in the process. This organization has been used extensively through South Dakota. Check out their web site, which is listed in the resources section below.

COMMUNITY PRIDE

Community Events

All the attempts for Sisseton to get cleaned up will be for not if there are no ordinances in place to keep things beautifully once clean. There needs to be a serious effort to enforce these ordinances. The city government needs to review their enforcement policy and determine if they need to make some changes. This includes enforcing the pet policy in town as well.

Resources:

YouthWorks, Inc.
3530 East 28th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55406
phone: 612.729.5444
toll-free: 800.968.8504
fax: 612.729.4113
YouthWorks Service Center
servicecenter@youthworks.com
www.youthworks.com

Keep America Beautiful
1010 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06901
Tel: 203.323.8987
Fax: 203.325.9199
Web site: www.kab.org
General Questions: info@kab.org

SUB THEME: Community Events

Challenge: Promoting community events to draw people to town and to help bring together cultures.

Recommendation: There are many community events that are well-established and well-attended in the Sisseton area. People in the listening sessions expressed a strong desire to encourage attendance as a way to understand others' cultures. Also, capitalize on the natural resources in the area.

Below are some community events that other communities in South Dakota have taken advantage of:

- Ice cream socials
- Band concerts
- Harvest Festival –contact Spearfish Chamber of Commerce,
- Car shows - contact Vermillion Chamber of Commerce

COMMUNITY PRIDE

Community Events

- Poker runs - contact Vermillion Chamber of Commerce
- Crazy Daze - contact Vermillion Chamber of Commerce
- Downtown After Dark - contact Vermillion Chamber of Commerce
- Golden Easter Egg promotion and Easter Egg Hunt – contact Vermillion Chamber of Commerce
- Chilly cook-off
- Christmas tree decorating contest
- Mini triathlons and road races 5k's or 10k's
- Fishing tournaments
- “Make and Take Day” where senior citizens teach youth how to make simple things (art, food, needlecraft) that they can complete and take home with them; or use the same type of day where one culture teaches the other.
- Create an “Arts in the Park” weekend that features local talent

Also develop a comprehensive list of community events and publicize it to bring people downtown into the area (not just from Sisseton, but surrounding communities as well) for entertainment and shopping.

Tie the events into “packages” for those coming to your community. For one fee they get lodging, event admission, and anything else you would like to put into the experience for them. Having multiple events at the same time will draw more people into the community (fishing tournament for husbands – art and crafts in the park for wives)

Resources:

Buddy James Seiner
Outdoor Media & PR Representative
South Dakota Office of Tourism
711 E. Wells Ave
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-5036

South Dakota Arts Council
711 E Wells Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-3369
605-773-3301

Spearfish Area Chamber of Commerce
Convention & Visitors Bureau
PO Box 550 / 106 W. Kansas
Spearfish, SD 57783
1-605-642-2626 / 1-800-626-8013

COMMUNITY PRIDE

Celebrating Achievements

Resources: continued

Vermillion Chamber of Commerce &
Development Company
906 East Cherry Street
Vermillion, SD 57069
1-800-809-2071 or vacc@vermillionchamber.com

SUB THEME: Celebrating Achievements
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Challenge: If Sisseton is wondering why they have a hard time getting more volunteer help, it may very well be that you are not putting the time into celebrating any of the successes that you have seen.

Recommendation: William Arthur Ward, once said, “We can choose to throw stones, to stumble over them, to climb over them or to build with them.” How true for rural communities. We work so hard to accomplish things, that when a success occurs, all we can think of is, “It’s about time!”

Achievements both big and small need to be celebrated because they give people a chance to reflect and give thanks for a job well done. It also gives a positive spin to the work, and sometimes controversy that is involved with development. Sisseton has such a positive attitude and so many good projects to look forward to. Celebrate them!

The celebration of success is done in four forms that usually overlap. The first is the delivery of awards. These can be anywhere from program or project completion awards to groups or individual achievement awards. The second are rewards that may send the staff or boards to retreats, provide doughnuts for a morning break, give a cash incentive or anything that the group or individual could benefit from. The third and probably the most important is the word needs to be spread through the media, public recognition, annual reports and testimonials. And finally people just need to be thanked with luncheons, notes, emails or any type of recognition program.

There are a number of awards that I see could be recognized in Sisseton. One could be the most improved residential property. Another could be the most improved local business or the business that made best use of a main street building. I could also see a number of group awards for the organization of community events, the work put into securing a grant or the work from volunteers on a community clean up program. Talk to your political representatives and ask them to come out and present the awards.

COMMUNITY PRIDE

Celebrating Achievements

Rewards for many people come in the form of the satisfaction of knowing that they made a difference and the community is a better place because they contributed. In most cases I have found that providing a monetary award or an expensive trip is not the best type of reward. The best types of reward seem to be the ones that the recipients can share and celebrate with others. These may come in the form of an appreciation dinner, doughnuts at their place of work, t-shirts or hats for the people that work on the community cleanup. Use your imagination here and I'm sure you can come up with more.

Providing awards and rewards don't seem to mean much unless everyone knows about it. You need to spread the word to anyone that will listen and then a few who won't. Use the Sisseton Courier, the Sota Iya Ye Yapi, the Watertown Public Opinion or the Aberdeen American News. Also contact KBWS radio station and have the Chamber put on a regular radio show that recognizes local accomplishments, spreads the word about community events and brings on guests to toot their horn a little. The city should also consider utilizing a billboard to recognize accomplishments. How much pride would fifty high school seniors have if all their pictures were pasted on a billboard in town recognizing their efforts in a community clean up.

Finally, people just need to be thanked. Many times a personal letter or an e-mail makes them feel like they are appreciated. When a new business opens or one expands, do an open house. This may sound like a given, but don't just host tours. Have a program where people involved in the success are recognized and thanked for their part. The people involved know how much effort is involved in development; make sure everyone else does, also!

INFRASTRUCTURE

Streets

INFRASTRUCTURE

SUB THEME: Streets

Challenge: The need for repair and replacement of streets. Below is a list of resources available generally for street improvements.

Recommendation: Infrastructure projects don't happen overnight, they often take many years to complete and many hours of planning. The best tool for this process is planning for such improvements as part of your Capital Improvement Program (CIP). A CIP works hand-in-hand with achieving your community's infrastructure goals and is covered under the Theme Vision and Planning.

Street improvements can be financed in a number of ways including:

- a) USDA-Rural Development's Community Facility loan program
- b) A city special assessment process
- c) General city tax dollars
- d) General obligation bonds issued by the city
- e) Sales tax revenue bonds
- f) Rural Electric loan funds (REED)
- g) SD Department of Transportation Grant funds (Industrial Park, Agri-Business, and Community Access Grants),
- h) HUD CDBG funds from the State.

The City may use several sources to complete street projects, depending on the location of the project and the source of funds available. Each program may have some different requirements about how and where the money may be used. For example, USDA Rural Development Community Facility Loan/Grant Programs are available to assist with the construction of streets, but will need to be backed by a revenue source (sales tax) and/or general obligation bonds (general tax dollars). General obligation bonds will require an election.

Grant funds for building and reconstructing streets is very limited and focused to specific areas in the community. The primary resource for road construction grants is the SD Department of Transportation or SDDOT. The three primary grant programs administered by SDDOT include the industrial park grant program, agri-business grant program, and the community access grant program.

Industrial Park Road Grants

- Primarily for building new roads in industrial parks when a known business is preparing to move in or expand.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Streets

- Commitment by a business to begin construction on their facility within six months of date of grant approval; or evidence that the new construction has taken place within the last year.
- No Application Deadline
- Eligible applicants are units of government
- There is 20% local cash match required for construction costs if the project is located within an industrial park or 40% for a road leading to or running adjacent to an industrial park.
- The unit of government also agrees to operate and maintain the road for its useful life.
- Minimum capital investment of at least five times the required state participation costs
- Five new jobs will be created by the industry.
- Land in industrial park must be zoned Industrial.
- Land in the industrial park must be owned by the government, industry, or an industrial development corporation.

Agri-Business Access Grants - Requirements are similar to the industrial road grant program, except there is a 40% local match required on all construction costs and the road must serve as the primary access to an agricultural production or service business. There is no deadline for submitting applications.

Community Access Grant Program

- Available to units of governments with populations less than 5,000 in population.
- The purpose is to enhance existing roads to downtown areas or for roads leading to schools, hospitals, grain terminals, or other significant traffic generating features of a community.
- Grant may not exceed \$400,000 and a local match of 40% of the construction costs is required.
- Applications usually are accepted once a year around August 1.

Some communities will redo streets and curb/gutter in small increments over time. For example, they may do three to eight blocks per summer, depending on what their budgets allow, with new streets, curb and gutter. The way that this is paid for or assessed is up to the city. One option is to have the city pay the cost of the street improvements and assess property owners for the cost of curb and gutter.

It is highly recommended that before street improvements are started that all water, sewer, and storm sewer improvements have been undertaken to ensure that the street does not have to be dug up again in order to complete other infrastructure improvements later on.

The Community Development Block Grant is another potential option for financing road improvements, particularly as it may relate to building access to a new or expanding

Infrastructure

Streets

business. Certain income qualification would apply in order to meet eligibility requirements for this program.

Contact the First District Association of Local Governments for more information on the grant and loan programs detailed in this recommendation.

Resources:

South Dakota Department of Transportation
700 E. Broadway Ave. Becker-Hansen Building
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-3265
Website: www.sddot.com

USDA Rural Development
Aberdeen Field Office
605.226.3360
Janell Telin, Rural Development Manager
janell.telin@sd.usda.gov
www.rurdev.usda.gov/sd

HUD CDBG funds
Governors Office of Economic Development – GOED
711 East Wells Ave
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-5032 or 800-872-6190
Fax: 605-773-3256
www.state.sd.us/goed

First District Association of Local Governments
PO Box 1207
Watertown, SD 57201-6207
Phone: 605-882-5115
Fax: 605-882-5049
greg@1stdistrict.org
ted@1stdistrict.org

Rural Electric Economic Development
East River Electric Cooperative
PO Box 227
Madison SD 57042
605-256-4536

Infrastructure

Sidewalks

SUB THEME: Sidewalks

Challenge: Our team heard many times that one of the infrastructure improvements needed was sidewalks.

Recommendation: Sidewalks are normally the responsibility of the property owner. The city can require, by ordinance, that property owners install and maintain sidewalks. First, a sidewalk master plan could be developed that reviews the status of existing sidewalks and where new sidewalks should be placed. Your planning district and/or your city engineer can assist local units of governments in preparation of such plans. Ordinances will also need to be developed regarding sidewalk installation and maintenance for property owners to follow. Further, the city will need to enforce such an ordinance once sidewalks are installed.

Most city sidewalk projects are financed by the city utilizing general tax dollars or a loan based on sales tax revenue. Sidewalks can also be done by assessing the property owners via a “special assessment” for the cost of the project. In many instances, property owners can complete their own sidewalk projects in accordance with a city standard. Depending on where the sidewalks are and if a street project is being completed, sometimes sidewalks have been installed or replaced as part of a South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) funded project under the Community Access Program. These types of SDDOT financed projects usually involve Main Streets, streets to schools, elevators, and/or industrial park projects.

USDA Rural Development Community Facility Loan/Grant Programs are available to assist with the construction of sidewalks, but will need to be backed by a revenue source (sales tax) and/or general obligation bonds (general tax dollars). General obligation bonds will require an election.

Resources:

First District Association of Local Governments
PO Box 1207
Watertown, SD 57201-6207
Phone: 605-882-5115
Fax: 605-882-5049
greg@1stdistrict.org
ted@1stdistrict.org

Infrastructure
Curb and Gutter

Resources: continued

USDA Rural Development
Aberdeen Field Office
605.226.3360
Janell Telin, Rural Development Manager
janell.telin@sd.usda.gov
www.rurdev.usda.gov/sd

South Dakota Department of Transportation
Community Access Grants
Office of Local Government Assistance
Paula Huizenga and/or Terry Jorgensen
700 Broadway Ave. E.
Pierre, SD 57501-2586
Phone: 605-773-6253
Fax: 605-773-3921
<http://www.sddot.com/fpa/lga/econdevgrants.asp>

SUB THEME: Curb and Gutter

Challenge: Improve Sisseton’s curb and gutter system – both for improved use and visual appeal.

Recommendation: Again be sure to include this improvement as part of your Capital Improvement Program (CIP). A CIP works hand-in-hand with achieving your community’s infrastructure goals.

Steps to include when developing a curb and gutter program:

- Planning, prioritizing, scheduling, and implementing curb and gutter projects during the next 6 years
- Developing a revenue policy for proposed curb and gutter improvements
- Budgeting high priority curb and gutter projects
- Informing the public of planned curb and gutter improvements

Curb and gutter can have a profound impact on an entire community, beyond just its ordinary purpose as a drainage/storm water control mechanism. Curb and gutter can improve the “look” of a community and give visitors, residents, and prospective businesses a sense that this is a community that is successful, forward-thinking, and investing in its own infrastructural improvements.

Infrastructure

Curb and Gutter

There are some options available for doing this type of work, but in general, it is difficult to find any grant funds for these types of projects. Curb and gutter improvements are generally recommended to be dealt with through local assessments on landowners.

There are several grant and loan options available for water and waste improvement projects through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Community Development Block Grants, and USDA Rural Development. Often, curb and gutter can be dealt with in conjunction with a water and waste upgrade project.

In some specific cases, curb and gutter is included in major road reconstruction project and covered partially through a couple of transportation grant programs:

1. Community Access Grant Program – Generally used for Main Street reconstruction projects, or roads leading to elevators, schools or hospitals.
2. Industrial Park Road Grants – Used to provide assistance when communities have a new or expanding industry and they need to provide street access.
3. Agri-Business Access Grants – Used for construction of roads that serve as primary access to an agricultural production or service business.

All of these programs are administered through the SD Department of Transportation. You can receive additional information by contacting DOT or your local planning district (also see the previous recommendation regarding “Streets”).

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Infrastructure

Curb and Gutter

Resources: continued

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VISION & PLANNING

SUB THEME: Capital Improvements Planning

Challenge: In many of the listening session we heard about all of the infrastructure projects that needed to be completed. To aid in the completion and the planning of future project, I would suggest completing a Capital Improvements Plan.

Recommendation: Infrastructure projects don't happen over night. They often take many years and many hours of planning. The best tool for this process is developing a Capital Improvement Program (CIP). A CIP works hand-in-hand with achieving infrastructure goals by mapping out a schedule for the repair and replacement of crucial community facilities and infrastructure.

One of the primary responsibilities of local government officials is to preserve, maintain, and improve a community's stock of buildings, roads, parks, water and sewer facilities, and equipment. Planning for capital improvements is a matter of prudent financial management as well as sound development practice.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

A Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Sisseton would be a community plan for short- and long-range physical development. It is intended to link the community's comprehensive plan and fiscal plan to physical developments, and provide a mechanism for:

- Estimating capital requirements, including the capital needs of Emergency Service providers (Fire & EMS);
- Planning, prioritizing, scheduling, and implementing projects during the next 5 to 10 years ;
- Developing revenue policy for proposed improvements;
- Budgeting high priority projects;
- Inter-fund & Inter-Department coordinating of projects within Sisseton; and
- Informing the public of planned capital improvements.

Critical Components

This policy is intended to be an evolving plan which will facilitate meeting the future capital needs of Sisseton, including public works infrastructure. There are numerous factors that will influence and affect the planning process as the CIP continues to develop and mature over time, including the following list of critical components:

VISION & PLANNING

Strategic Planning

- Forecast Demand for future services and capital facilities, taking into account all applicable demand factors such as population trends, housing units, traffic volume, commercial growth, etc.
- Inventory of Existing Capital Facilities to determine future demands for maintenance, repair, rehabilitation or replacement; and to determine adequacy of existing facilities to meet future needs.
- Funding plans for use of public funds for capital projects. Where use of public debt is planned, cash flow projections over the life of the debt amortization must be calculated, and the impact on future City budgets and financial statements must be estimated.
- Commitment, active involvement, and support by the Town's management staff, elected policy makers, community interest groups, and the public.

Sisseton's City Council, along with other participants, will need to draw upon a variety of resources in order to institute this policy effectively and efficiently. Sisseton's main resource for advancing its CIP would be to work with your Planning Agency (First District) and the city engineer.

Resources

First District Association of Local Governments
PO Box 1207
Watertown, SD 57201-6207
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greg@1stdistrict.org
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SUB THEME: Strategic Planning

Challenge: Sisseton is dealing with an exodus from Main Street (Veterans Ave.) to Highway 10. The grocery store has built a new facility and moved. A longstanding variety store has closed. A drug store is moving out onto Highway 10 as part of a new business coming to town. It appears that Highway 10 is quickly becoming the core business district. Unfortunately it is spread out over a long stretch of busy highway that has no sidewalks, and is leaving the former business district with empty lots and buildings

Recommendation: Most of what needs to be discussed here is included under Economic Development, Main Street Revitalization. I'll repeat a few key issues.

VISION & PLANNING

Strategic Planning

- Main Street may never be revitalized to be the business district of the past. Instead new uses for the land and building will need to be devised. Does that mean an Office District, with a few shops and places for workers to eat? Is there an opportunity to convert one of the buildings into a mini-mall or office space with apartments above? Or a mini-mall with offices above? Only the citizens of Sisseton can decide these things.
- What about clean up? It was said numerous times that there are people loitering downtown. Why? Is there a way to create a place for them to go?
- The Boy's and Girls Club used to occupy half a city block, what needs to be done to rebuild or renovate that space? Should it remain where it is or be combined with the proposed Wellness/Community Center? Will that be located in the former downtown area making the downtown a recreation area instead of a business district?
- The old Middle School is located near downtown; can its renovation/removal be part of a master plan for the area?
- Have other businesses been surveyed for their future plans. If there are more business planning to move, what can be done to keep them within reasonable distance from each other and create a new business district on Hwy 10?
- The senior center has beautiful, and historic, murals on the walls, but is in need of significant repair and possibly handicapped accessibility is an issue. How can this be incorporated into a Master Plan? Can a single level facility be designed to meet their needs either through renovation or new construction?
- The fire hall, city offices, banks, phone company and some other service business are located on Veterans Ave. They can become anchor 'tenants' of a revitalized business district that offers services instead of goods.

All the above issues need to be investigated and put into a Master Plan for the area. Whether it is a campaign to bring business back to downtown or to build an office/recreation/service center in the area is immaterial if there is not a plan that includes options, phases, costs and a timeline. This issue is the responsibility of the entire community and the private sector. Bring the players together to Design the Future. See Economic Development, Main Street Revitalizations, Minnesota Design Team for a recommendation on how to begin.

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Issues and Challenges

Responses to the Question: What are the major issues and challenges facing the community of Sisseton?

- One major problem is the youth. It seems to be struggling; some changes need to be made. Offer activities.
- Alcohol is also a major problem
- Younger children are having children. Their parents are not teaching them proper values at home.
- Kids are a big issue
- Trying to bring the tribe in to work with them
- Not enough for the kids to do
- Kids are out late at night, hanging around late
- Need something for the teenagers, the boys and girls club is not enough
- Take more pride in the community. Get out and clean up your own property and even help out your neighbor with their property. Take some pride in your home and your children
- Race relations. Developing a dialog to be used between the two groups should be a major goal
- Tribal relations
- Law enforcement staff to stay around for a longer period of time. Willing to do their jobs and to treat people fairly. Give them the support and the credit that they deserve. More wages!!
- Problems with not working together with the local native American population
- Landlords are not taking care of their properties.
- Parenting is a major problem. They are not home to discipline and teach their children, and they have lost their respect.
- Not enough people come to the meetings, not enough people care about the town and what happens to it.
- Communication problems, again not enough people in the room
- Not enough pride in the community
 - Work release program
 - Events/activities
 - Time
- Economic Development – Wages are too low to get people who want to improve their lives. May be a contributing factor in the problems in the community.
- No respect for authority or the people of the community.
- Not enough outlets for the kids in the community, especially on the weekends.
 - B&G club
 - Bowling alley
 - Movie theatre
- Begin education with the middle school/high school. Too many people working to get federal funding and not trying to better their lives or situation.
- A federal tax base
- Very big drug problem – reaches beyond Sisseton
- The children have very little guidance; have no respect for the community.

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Issues and Challenges

- Little involvement of Native Americans at various community meetings.
- Not enough people shop locally. If more people did look around to buy things locally, we would have a better local retail base. Possible boycott going on, but other residents should take the initiative.
- Economic development. Must have enough jobs that provide a LIVING wage, not a minimum wage. Some people are working two jobs to make ends meet and that may be the reason they can't be home for their kids. If they had jobs that paid a better wage that may better the situation.
- I'm pretty negative because I have lived here for so long. I have two broken windows. Maybe organize a neighborhood watch.
- Even teachers speak with bad words, its no wonder the kids speak like that.
- Was able to build onto the casino with \$70 million, but could not get funding for a new jail.
- Very negative talk in the Watertown paper. Have a very good school system, many churches in the community. But I don't know how to get people to start being parents for their children. Grandmothers and grandfathers will not do it anymore because they are working.
- I don't know why the Natives Americans are boycotting businesses, but if this was a Native American's meeting being put on, the room would be full of Native Americans.
- Creating a better AA program to help people. I still associate with people who have some problems and the problem is getting better. Will take a large effort to get this problem taken care of. Has been a hub for drugs for many years and the police force has really helped!
 - The awareness of this problem is peaking now. Many changes are needed and changes cause pain.
- Too many people sitting on their couches not wanting to come out to voice their opinion
- Very surprised at how many people have never been to a pow wow. People come from all over the U.S. to see this event, this culture and there are people who live 8 miles away and they have never gone out to see it.
- Community policing can't do everything. Everyone else needs to step up to help out. Everyone hands off problems to the police department and the community as a whole needs to take initiative to solve their problems before they hand them off.
- Private EMT service in town will probably be going out of business soon. – tough to get people to volunteer. They need to take a 120 hr class.
- Economic development and labor force
- Ditto
- Keep the city growing
- More activity for youth
- Ditto
- We have poor race relations
- We are losing tax dollars to trust land
- More youth activity, juvenile crime is a problem right now
- Keep more of our youth in our community. We need to retain more of them.

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Issues and Challenges

- Ditto
- Ditto
- We need more communication with the tribe
- Need more activity for the over 45 (age) community
- Need better race relations, more parent involvement, and more youth activity
- Need more youth to be respectful
- Vacant buildings need to be filled
- Accountability...parents need to be accountable for youth and there actions, including the court system. Parents need to be involved.
- Racism is a big issue...there are some good cops and bad cops
- The people are closed minded and it's stopping growth
- Under space in the health facility
- Need more doctors
- Need more building but no money
- Ditto
- No emergency room at the reservation
- Injuries causing loss of life
- Need work force
- Personal care staff
- Merging of the health care services are not accepted
- Staffing needed
- Local ambulance service may close
- Ditto
- Race problem getting worse
- Wages for staffing is too low
- Need transit system to bring people in
- Poverty level is high so medicaid is high
- There is a bus service that needs to continue
- Whites always accused of being prejudice
- A high rate of preventable injuries
- In the rural communities there will be reduced access to health care
- Lack of access to mental health care
- Ditto
- Poor access to pharmacies
- Race emotions continue to rise to the top
- Pharmacy hours very short
- Misconception on how the health care system here works
- Ambulance service may end
- Community not having one focus or direction. Little sectors all over town, but nothing ever comes together.
- Would like to see people come together
- More things for the youth
 - Recreation facilities
 - Swimming pool

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Issues and Challenges

- City/tribal relations
- Parent involvement
- Need to put our differences aside, need unity in the community
- Youth problem in our community
 - Not just the youths fault, but the adults need to look at the example they are setting for their kids
- Need new businesses in our community. No new jobs coming into the city. Poverty problem
- Many unwanted animals that run around town, maybe need a humane society.
- The main street is gone.
 - Need a Hardees, Menards, Lowes
- Businesses close too early.
- Make a true effort of complimenting each other – for adults and parents
- Sisseton tends to not appreciate the fine arts as much as they should
- New businesses
- Education – many students who come from difficult backgrounds or are gone for some time. There is no facility for alternative education for those students
- Maintaining the high quality of education with all of the pay cuts, less faculty, more duties, more classes.
- Budget cuts to school
- Small amount of people that do everything in the community
- Don't promote the outdoor opportunities as much as we should
- Not enough pride taken in the community. Clean up, etc.
- Alcohol is a major problem in the community
- Accidents
- Children being left alone
- Drinking and driving
- Separation between the city and the tribe and it creates problems with the two communities
- Education...we need more parents to be responsible and be involved in the students education
- Youth needs to be more involved in the community
- Lack of industry and higher paying jobs we are in a prime location
- A major problem is poverty and it affects the school system and the way kids behave
- The closing of businesses
- Ditto, the poverty problem there are lot of people here that don't make a lot of money
 - There's also a lot of programs in the community but they don't work together which hurts the community
- The students need to be more respectful
- There's a lack of community involvement from the Native American community
- The two governments need to work together. The people work together but where the problems come from is from the governments.
- School system, I don't like it.
- Different races don't always get along

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Issues and Challenges

- Not much to do here
- Drugs and things of that nature around.
- Not enough for kids to do if not in sports
- School board doesn't fund athletic facilities very well
- New programs for kids after school
- Drop outs walk main, elderly afraid of them
- Favoritism in sports
- Drug and alcohol problem
- Ditto
- Not enough to do for kids not in sports
- No activities like unity square in Milbank
- Violence
- Gangs
- Business moving off main street, seniors can't access them as easily
- Seniors need more transportation
- Senior center needs to keep going
- No parking
- Ditto
- Need more businesses here
- Not a lot of industry to provide better paying jobs
- Downtown revitalization
- Getting people to work together
- Seniors need to invest in their building, preserve murals
- Needs of senior center to assist seniors, city government is not concerned
- Seniors don't have voice with city. Seniors should be revered, listened to
- Need to learn from our elders, respect for elders
- People shop in other towns
- The Main Street is dieing
- There is some cultural problems
- There is not enough low income / affordable housing
- We are losing business, but our Main Street is not dieing
- We don't have enough support for the boys and girls club, we need to support our kids
- Meth is a problem in town. You can get drugs anywhere in this town.
- We need better communication – we have a great paper and radio station but people still don't know what's going on
- We need a vision to go in the direction we want to go in.
- We need more affordable and low income housing. Condo and single person housing.
- We need to communicate better. We can talk to people in other states about our problems but we can't talk to our neighbors about our problems.
- We need to develop more bike and walking trails
- Ditto
- We need more open communication sessions like this for the community talk out problems

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Issues and Challenges

- We are a small town and this should make it easier to make changes
- Keeping people here on the weekend to shop
- Everyone goes to Watertown or Fargo to get their things
- Not a lot of retail available here
- Lack of activities for all ages
- Lakes are becoming polluted
- Lack of zoning
- Not enough planning of what should go where in the city
- Not enough effort to take care of older buildings in the city
- Taking care of the ‘eyesores’ of the town
- Lack of advertising on the interstate – provide an incentive to advertise?
- A lot of competition in other towns – why not promote what we have?
- Has a bad reputation
 - Companies leave and blame their workforce
 - People think the town has bad people in it
- Name is tarnished – keeping businesses and service-oriented businesses from moving
- Children out all night, breaking bottles, spraying graffiti, lack of authority
- Lack of a qualified work force
 - Kids lack basic skills to work in the community
 - Costs too much to train them to do everything
- Lack of communication
- Too many rumors that are counterproductive. This is damaging to the community
- Lack of industries for children to come back to
- Not a lot of jobs for kids with degrees
- Lack of available/affordable housing
- Have to think regional, not just from a town perspective, but also to build businesses and customer base
- Communication between the various factions of the community
- Inability to work together
- Poverty as a community – not only in terms of financial poverty, but lack of opportunities
- Lack of parenting
- Communication
- Lack of a vision for the community. Need long-term goals for the area.
- No incentives for children to come back home after leaving (i.e. for college)
- Need opportunities for the next generation
- Difficult to find steady help – high turnover rates, bad employees
- Find another way to market and retail that will work more effectively in small towns.
Still trying to compete with the ‘big box’ retailers for business.
- Lack of involvement in the community – “lots of talk and no do”
- Lack of communication
- Need something to bring new business to the Main Street
- All talk, no action
- Racism in South Dakota, nobody wants to talk about it, but it is there.

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Issues and Challenges

- Nobody wants to talk to each other or work together. We sidestep issues that need to be addressed and worked on together.
- Very close minded
 - Never think outside the box
 - Can't limit ourselves to manufacturing – what about the internet?
- Youth need things to do, especially in summer
- Concern about teens and their free time
- Main street losing businesses, empty buildings, add to youth issues—vandalism potential
- Ditto
- Town has activity, but downtown is empty
- SD is beautiful, but people don't always keep their property clean in town, ordinances not enforced
- Jobs, not enough employment
- Young people don't know what opportunities are out there job-wise
- Youth on the street, underage smoking
- Complaints but not personal action
- Kids don't have a place to go to stay out of trouble
- Racism, tribe vs. town, there are concerns, attitude, need public education on all cultures
- Lack of community pride, enforce ordinances, first impressions count
- Park board under funded and under staffed, importance not recognized
- Keep intoxicated people out of parks
- Skateboarding place needed, use parking lots now
- Kids hang out at night, need something to do, structured
- Boys and girls club struggles with kids hanging out on streets too
- There are things to do, but kids don't take advantage
- Little police presence on Main Street, drug dealing goes on, more enforcement needed to deter potential for crime, etc
- People are not aware of what services are available in town
- We need to figure out why we are not growing
- We need to clean up our town
- Ditto
- We need to get up-to-date and develop a new image
- We need to be more appealing
- We need more jobs and better jobs and benefits
- I have to kids that had to move to Sioux Falls to get a high paying job
- Our Main Street is a dead street
- Our community looks trashy. We need to do more community clean up.
- We have a lot of vacant buildings downtown
- Probably do not put enough into the development of agriculture in the area
- Hard to get people to come to start a business in the area of agriculture
- Problem getting youth involved in agriculture
- Attempting to replace the retired farmers

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Issues and Challenges

- Not a lot of opportunities for the youth
- Need more farmers
- No opportunities for youth
- Trying to acquire land in the area
- Price of land has increased
- Racism
- Lack of activities for middle school children
- Racism
- Noxious weed problems that are not contained on tribal land. They are spreading from field to field
- Diversity problems
- No implement dealer in town – lack of ag-related businesses
- Reduced tax base
- Agriculture is more money intensive than labor intensive
- Lack of start up funds for the younger kids interested in farming
- Very few young kids getting into agriculture
- Tough to get young farmers to come into town when there are no opportunities for their family.
- Lack of a positive attitude
- Too much crime for a small community
- Two schools dividing everyone
- Poverty
- Native people are not welcome back after receiving an education
- Racism after starting a business
- Stereo types in the white community
- Need to work on friendships between the races
- Increased drug use
- Controversy over the Techewitha art center
- Art work in the native community needs to be embraced and shared

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Strengths and Assets

Responses to the Question: What are the major strengths and assets for the community of Sisseton?

- There are some of the nicest people you will ever meet. Friends and family
- A very dedicated group that wants change in the community – but it is difficult to get people off their couch to come out and voice their opinion.
- The main reason I am still here is because there are a lot of people who care for each other. A close knit community.
- Benefits that help those less fortunate. People really care for one another.
- The small town life is a definite asset here.
- A small community is still better than a big one
- Born and raised here, many close friends here
- Lived here for a long time, experienced the big city and was glad to get back to the small town
- I have never seen Main Street. so busy! I think people are starting to listen, but then they hear rumors and they do not show up for meetings.
- A lot of diversity in the town. People that come from this town seem to be very successful when they get out in the world. Seems to make strong people.
- Great people, great community. It has it's problems and a lot of people who don't care, but there are a lot of people that do care. I came to Sisseton for the job and the experience and then I was out, but it didn't happen that way. I like the community and I like that. I am making a difference. A lot of work still needs to be done.
- 99% complaining but there is 1% that want to make a difference. This 1% continue to try different programs, willing to do different things and hopefully this will start to spread. Only been here for a year, but just in that year I have seen the negative outlook of the police department change into a positive. People saying that the police department is doing a heck of a job.
- Hopefully the people who aren't here will see that they can make a difference.
- Very open communities. They welcome newcomers and make them feel at home.
- There are a lot of things in Sisseton – grocers, hardware stores, etc. a lot that we have without having to drive 60 miles to get it.
- Not only are the people good, but you can go fishing, hunting or golfing anywhere around the town. There is plenty to do.
- Great school system, good government officials, good churches. Hard to find these things in small towns and counties. Strong townships that come out to help.
- People have a voice and can acquire official positions. Have to give back to your community in one way or another.
- The people are the strength of the community. Haven't been here long enough to accept that problems are not solvable. It won't be easy. The resources are here, it is just going to take someone and some hard work to get it done. I can't think of anywhere in the U.S. that has better outdoor recreational opportunities than this area here. They come from all over the country to hunt waterfowl, pheasants, and to fish. We have some beautiful parks here. There are bigger opportunities out there to "sell" the Native American culture.

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Strengths and Assets

- The location of the area is good, we have great ag land, and many good people in our community.
- We have many good people, but we do have race issues
- People, this is god's county but we could use some more people.
- People, we are tough and we are in an incredibly beautiful area
- We raised our kids here and this is a little bit of heaven
- There are opportunities here to spend more money in town
- The people are the greatest strengths, everyone pulls together and the hospitality
- The People
- The lakes and the hunting and fishing
- Ditto
- Ditto
- This is a tight knit community and is very laid back, there is nothing we can't overcome
- The county commissioners do a good job
- People
- Ditto
- Ditto
- I came back for a job, but I stayed because I liked it so much
- People
- People are friendly and helpful
- Cultural diversity
- The people, we need to open our minds to new ideas and be more open
- Natural resources and our location on the interstate,
- The people here
- The connection to others
- Good health care services
- Shared services between care facilities
- Major employers provide insurance
- Best hospital in the area and best doctors
- People
- Health care some of the best
- Have dialysis system here
- Fitness center very good and will expand
- When something gets started, people gets behind it
- School system binds community together
- Diversity of cultures is a good experience for the kids. This diversity can be a very positive thing.
- Location
- Right on the interstate
- Beautiful area
- Lakes and recreation opportunities
- The people are very welcoming and friendly

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Strengths and Assets

- Very active and well respected arts council that brings many different programs and events into to the community for the kids to take advantage of.
- The hunting, fishing and outdoor opportunities offers a release to the community people who need to get out
- School system
- Great teachers
- Health care system. – Very fortunate as a small community to have the health care that they do. Very competent, caring and something a lot of communities don't have.
- Location
- Opportunities for students
- Future business leaders
- Possible trips for students
- Community of hard working people.
- Should work together with all of the school to work on the problems and to take advantage of the assets of the community
- Very nice location
- Very nice area
- Great health care facilities
- Location on the interstate
- The fact that we are looking to see what we need to do about problems. This planning is very good.
- Things are a lot better than they were 60 years ago. The city has done a lot to improve the community.
- Cultural diversity
- There's not as much discrimination
- The beauty of the area
- The location of this area is good, the people are friendly...it's a positive place
- There a lot of people that want to make a positive change
- The people we are rich in culture in this community
- The location and the people, also the businesses that are here, we have many activity places in town
- We have a very strong educational system, we have a lot of strong good people
- Ditto - the people are good. There's a lot of people that setup to make a positive impact on the community .
- Bowling
- Golfing
- Allot more clubs than other smaller schools
- Scholarship programs
- Bowling
- Basketball
- Helping people succeed, sports
- Ditto
- Sports

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Strengths and Assets

- Golf
- Hunting and fishing
- Small community, hunting and fishing
- Small town, know everyone, helping one another
- Job opportunities
- Hunting and fishing
- Good school clubs
- Boys and girls club
- People, their love of community
- People are welcomed here. Sense of community is strong.
- Hard working on community projects.
- Standards of communication between white and Indian have strengthened over the years
- People are trying to make things work, but need help.
- Good people, safe
- Ditto
- Good education system
- Ditto
- High rise, low rise for elderly, many apartments for elderly.
- Ditto
- Quality hospital
- The people
- I29 could be better utilized
- We live in a great place. We need to tap into our resources, one of our assets is having and working with the tribe
- More youth need to understand that they are welcome to come to church even if they are not dressed up. Times have changed and we need to change with them.
- The unemployment rate is low here but more people could be working
- We are a hub and we have lots of good people
- We work together to get things done
- Our community is diverse and this is good
- Our horse and buggy days
- There is an energy and so much art that comes from our two communities
- Volunteers wanting to see improvement in the community
- Location
- People
- Good strong hospital
- Great people and values
- Location is one of the major strengths
- Outdoor opportunities
- Beautiful lakes
- Off the beaten path
- Hard working people in the area
- Not afraid to get involved

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Strengths and Assets

- The history is a huge asset
- 140 continuous years with a pow wow – oldest event in South Dakota
- Great events put on by the community that bring tourists from all over the nation
- Powwow
- Horse and buggy days
- Positive economic impact from the tribe in Northeast South Dakota
- The town never helps or attends the Native American events
- Some negatives in the community, but for a community of 2500, they have a lot going for them
- Hunting, fishing, outdoor activities
- Golf course
- Meat locker
- Bakery
- Grocery store
- Nice hotels
- Volunteers in the community who work very hard
- Economic development working very hard to find businesses and to find money for community projects
- Great health care system
- Great location
- Major state highway running through out town
- A lot of opportunities for tourism in the area
- A lot of natural resources
- Diverse population
- Location
- Great tax structure in place for residents and businesses alike
- Cultural tourism/ eco-tourism
- Lakes, Hills, State Parks...all free things for us to market
- Year-round recreation opportunities
- The tribe is an asset to our community
- Number of people
- Economic benefit for everyone
- Natural resources
- Have a competitive advantage with all of the outdoor opportunities available
- No crowds!!
- Clean Air
- No fish advisories
- Natural resources
- Farm land
- No income tax
- The people are the strongest point
- “They called me when they recognized my son’s shoe! Where else does that happen?”

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Strengths and Assets

- Diversity and culture can be an asset to work with, however, differences still persist in the community. There is an opportunity to overcome these differences and work together in the community.
- The community has overcome adversity before, we can do it again. We just need to come together and get over our differences.
- The land for hunting and farming
- Tourism in the area
- Outdoors
- Culture
- History
- Very welcoming community
- Some great industries downtown that provide a variety of job opportunities
- The people are great
- Fantastic topography
- One of the more unique areas in the whole state
- Great health care!
- Diversity is one of the major assets
- Our community is not much different from another community our size in terms of racism and problems.
- The agricultural community
- The city was founded on agriculture and still one of the best agricultural areas in the state
- Bustling with activity at times
- Beautiful countryside
- Ditto beautiful
- Sica Hollow
- People know you, your name, like family, close community ties, help each other, caring
- Ditto
- Youth is a huge asset
- The fishing and the lakes are an asset
- The natural resources
- Beautiful, natural resources not developed
- Fishing, boating potential, hunting
- We have a lot of natural resources and we need to take care of them to keep them
- Ditto all of the natural resources and the interstate
- We have several motels and tourists can get anything they need while they are here
- The people
- The tribe
- The people know they have the power and community pride to change, also we have corporate activity but we need more of it
- The people and their willingness to work together. Also very open to newcomers
- The scenery

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Strengths and Assets

- Have had good rainfall
- Very good people in the community
- More people are moving back to Sisseton
- Active elderly population
- Good producers in this part of the state
- Good dual producers in the area
- Excellent facilities for the elderly
- Lifestyle brings people back
- A lot of things that the kids can do if they want
- Kids can gain valuable experiences on the farm from their parents
- A lot of job opportunities
- Hunting and fishing opportunities
- Good events
- Sale barn has expanded
- Good ag programs at school, good experiences working on the farm
- Good location
- Great land for hunting and farming
- All of the farmers get along pretty well
- Have two very good banks that do a lot of business with farmers. They are aware of what things costs, and they do their best to work with farmers to fill their needs.
- The elevator does a good job.
- Rail line that runs through town
- Local livestock auction
- Shultz goose farm
- Great quality of life
- Many recreation opportunities
- Great people
- A lot of people are willing to help, it is just a matter of getting everyone going in the right direction
- “A little piece of heaven up here”
- Great accessibility to transportation
- Depth within the family going back for generations
- The diversity brings a lot of positive benefits
- Working together helps bridge the gap in racism
- The tribes are a big part of tourism in the country
- The natural resources
- Location
- Small town
- People in the town

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Projects

Responses to the Question: What are the projects you would like to see accomplished in Sisseton in the next 2, 5, 10, and 20 years?

- Adult educations systems – so people can better themselves with their current jobs
- Getting a community center open to the public. White or Native American, everyone would be welcome to do things together.
- Would like to see something for the teenagers. Would be a very stressful position, so do not know who would run it.
- Community cleanup would be a big one
- Parenting programs – don't just talk to the current parents, but to the students and future parents. And visa versa
- Tribal relations program
- Community center – A place where a lot of different people could come down there to meet and communicate.
- One thing we really need in Sisseton is a treatment center for both youth and adults
- More business on Main Street. Start getting business away from Highway 10.
- Would like to see all of the fire hydrants all the same kind.
- Economic development board needs to try harder to get more higher paying jobs in the community.
- Cultural diversity education programs are needed. Have learned a lot from the Native American culture just in one year. The more you know, the less afraid you are to speak about the problems/issues.
- Some kind of transportation especially on the weekends. More public transportation
- Community improvement. From the small things like putting park benches in, and improving Main Street. to improving the buildings and roads in town. Transportation for intoxicated folks and for folks in general.
- Quite a few empty buildings on Main Street. Maybe open one of them up for a dance or something for the kids. Events/activities for kids. Possibly worked through the B&G club, something to bring the Native Americans and whites together.
- Would like to get the word out for people to get involved.
- Community policing can't do everything. Everyone else needs to step up to help out. Everyone hands off problems to the police department and the community as a whole needs to take initiative to solve their problems before they hand them off.
- Tribal council and city council should start working together. Pool funds, put their heads together and get things going. They don't want to work together, but to benefit the community, it has to happen.
- More vehicles for the police/fire dept.
- More work between Tribal Council, city council and county working together
- More job opportunities for youth
- A different community center for meetings and community events

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Projects

- We need a side walk to our ball fields and more infrastructure projects
- Ditto and a bike path, and curb and gutter, and housing issues
- Need to keep community growing and more families coming here more family related activities
- The school is closing and we could turn that into a community center
- Need more manufacturing jobs, it's the only way to keep the youth
- Ditto more jobs, and walking areas,
- Need more apartments that are updated. Most of the apartments are old and expensive. More affordable housing
- More economic growth to keep youth from moving away
- Ditto more jobs
- Ditto industry
- Need to help small business expand the little ones with 3-4 employees could grow, shop locally needs to be stressed
- Youth center
- We need to challenge the youth and the people
- City beautification
- Community tourism and promotion, improve the appearance of the town, curb and gutter on every street, I would like to see the community work together.
- Keep building on the projects that we have started
- We need more volunteers
- More community pride and beautification, and more better paying jobs to bring in the younger families, we also need to develop a promotion for tourism of the outdoor recs.
- Training program for youth
- More community involvement for programs like the horizons program and programs like this.
- Full time Economic Development director
- Community clean up
- More affordable housing
- Complete the transition to the new health facility and housing
- Community center
- Hospital - build on
- Youth center
- Ditto
- Health care staffed with social workers
- Main Street needs renovating
- Affordable insurance
- Community center
- More dentists
- Shop locally
- Fine arts center at high school
- Walking trails

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Projects

- A service road out by the interstate
- Build a small generating plant to build refuse
- Have a city pickup for recycling
- Have an area in town to deposit glass, plastic, recyclables
- More jobs
- Curbs and sidewalks
- A new B&G club/community center
- Building a new fine arts facility
- New sports complex – gathering funds
- Water park in town, something for the kids in town
- Education program for the parents and getting them involved
- Somewhere for the young people to go.
- Building a fine arts center
- More activities for adults and kids alike
- Alternative high school for those who need extra assistance
- Fine arts center
- Something similar to Unity square in Milbank
- Animal control center
- Someone to oversee yard cleanup/town clean-up
- Bike or walking trail
- City-wide recycling program
- Safe driving program
- I would like to see the area be all on people and unification
- Community clean up along Hwy 10
- More people participate in community events and volunteer
- Bringing new industry to town and having the people to fill those jobs
- Also we need to create more tourism
- City infrastructure - curb and gutter the streets
- Program for youth, keep kids off streets
- More for kids to do.
- Less drugs and violence on streets
- Agree
- Reduce violence
- New athletic facilities, track
- Unity square community center
- Ditto
- Recreation center
- Place to go, something to do, youth center
- Same
- New track
- Fine arts center
- New track and football stadium
- Community center

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Projects

- Rec center
- Youth center
- Concerts, activities for youth, evening
- Youth center, including games, pool/games
- Place for youth to go together
- Recreation center
- Get kids off streets
- Clean up the streets, the town, visually, help homeless, build better reputation for town
- Decrease gangs
- Rodeo grounds
- Clean ditches, garbage
- More people wanting to come to the district because of academics and athletics
- Kids are scared to come here from other schools, change the reputation
- Fine arts center, school should help pay for it too
- Build a better reputation, attitude
- Fill Main Street
- Fill empty buildings
- Something for younger generation, activities
- Something to bring people to town, business
- Progress, people that are trying hard,
- Fine arts center
- Track repaired
- See spot between café and bank improved, like corner in Britton.
- Make building safe (senior center)
- Indoor swimming pool. Used year around, for therapy.
- Re-evaluation of living with different cultures. Less focus on government, more on town's personality. Same with tribal government. Show next generation how and why to build community—town and tribe
- Address drug problem
- More activities for mature adults, wellness
- No new taxes
- Ditto
- Activities for younger kids
- Ditto
- Address drug problem
- Make community and school system to be safe haven, positive activities
- Keep churches strong, a strength
- Computer education for older people. Help them get on line
- Work toward a community center
- More celebration of our success, we need to look at developing walking and biking trails, and we need more focus on economic development
- I think we need to improve the community with things like adopt a Highway

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Projects

- Community clean up
- Walking trails
- We need to save our community
- I like to see something come into this community that doesn't have casino written on it
- Off sale liquor in plastic containers only, next time there is an assessment that we come together as one community
- The parents need to be responsible so that youth will learn good habits from parents
- We need to figure out what kind of community we want to be we can say we want to stop drug problems and what not but we need a plan
 - Do we want to be an economic center or a tourism center
 - We need a vision
- We need to be a place young families want to come back too
- We need to bring someone in from the outside to help us build a plan for what we want to be
- More industry – more reasons for people to come back home after school
- Would like to see a better diversification of the industry
- Community awareness of what we have and the assets that are available to the community
- Will need more assisted living facilities in the near future/elderly housing
- Apartments/affordable(available) housing for everyone in the community
- More community pride – get to where people are proud of their property and they want to take care of it. Junk is spread throughout the community.
- If we are going to tear a building down or change things, we should have a plan of what will come next for that area.
- Need a vision/plan for the next 10-20 years
- Housing is a big issue
- Jobs with a decent salary
- Would like to see a program that offers benefits to people who do want to stick around longer. Incentives for people interested in starting a business or building a house
- Education programs for the kids about business/getting a job.
- Must do a better job at selling what they do have.
- Promote the fact that there are not a lot of people as an asset not a liability
- City and civic groups working together to remove all of the graffiti in town.
- Cleaning up the town, making it look nicer
- Tax incentives for new businesses
- YMCA/community center for the town
- More community sports – things in the community to get them involved

APPENDIX A

Key Points to Effective Strategic Planning

And Moving Forward After a Community Assessment.

- 1) **Broad based decision making:** Include as many people as part of the process as possible. You have already involved much of the community as part of the Assessment listening sessions. Continue to keep them engaged as you implement your goals and objectives.
- 2) **Broad Goals:** The objectives in your plan should cover a broad range of perspectives and topic areas, as identified in the Assessment. This helps your community to understand that community, business and economic development are not mutually exclusive – but instead they are highly dependent on each other.
- 3) **Action-Oriented:** To reach your goals, you must have a series of actionable steps to accomplish. You will begin to flesh these out during your town-hall follow up meeting at the completion of this assessment. These will need to be further defined by your “Implementation Mechanism” detailed below. The assessment report will be a resource for developing these action steps.
- 4) **Roles:** A good plan assigns and distributes roles among various organizations, entities, and individuals in the community so that everyone understands what they should accomplish and be held to these standards. Recruit a list of interested volunteers to help execute each portion of the plan. You might establish sub committees for each objective where there is not a single organization that is willing or able to take the lead on a particular objective.
- 5) **Deadlines:** Deadlines are necessary to make sure that progress continues to be made on each of the goals and objectives.
- 6) **Resources:** You must determine how you will pay for various projects and to whom you can look to for technical assistance. Some projects will have loan and grant programs associated with them that you might be able to tap into. Others will not and will rely exclusively on local fundraising or through local governmental participation through the regular budgeting process. Again, the assessment report and the resources listed therein will be a reference point for you.
- 7) **Implementation Mechanism:** This is where many communities get hung up. You must have a mechanism to implement and this mechanism must be broad based and involve all relevant organizations and entities in the community. You need to assemble a Visioning Taskforce that consists of one to two appointed representatives from each community entity (city, county, development corporation, chamber, school, youth, senior, churches, social services, healthcare, major employers, agriculture, etc). The purpose of this group is to flesh out the Vision coming out of the assessment, evaluate and refine the objectives and action steps, come to consensus on who or what organization is going to take the lead in moving each objective forward, refine the deadlines assigned to various action steps, etc. This group should meet regularly until the Vision is completely refined and released

- to the public. From then on, it is probably sufficient to meet quarterly to bring everyone up-to-speed with what has been accomplished and what is yet to come.
- 8) A Community Champion: There must be a person that is willing to coordinate implementation of your Vision in your community. This person helps keep people on task, keeps communication open, and coordinates various meetings.
 - 9) Communication with the Public: This is another area where many communities fall down. If the community doesn't hear anything, they simply assume that nothing has been accomplished. It is imperative that you continue to provide updates to the community on what has been accomplished on a regular basis. The newspaper is crucial to these efforts. Celebrate what you have done. Organize a yearly or semi-annual banquet where organizations in the community provide updates to the public on what they have accomplished to make your Vision a reality over the last year.
 - 10) Adopt A Can-Do Attitude and Embrace Success as Well as Failure: This is the most difficult component to gauge, but successful communities always have a positive outlook and attitude. It is a self-fulfilling prophecy. If you think you can't do something, then you won't. But if you think you can, you will find a way to get it done. You also need to understand that failure is part of the process. Learn from it, but don't let it drag you down. It is okay to fall down as long as you fall forward. Just because something didn't work before doesn't mean that it won't work at another time under different circumstances. Welcome peoples' input and work at all times to engage as much of the public as you can in all of your efforts.
 - 11) Begin implementation of your plan. Plan your work and work your plan.
 - 12) Track your progress over time. Share this with the community. This will keep people interested and build momentum over time as you start to see the successes of your efforts.
 - 13) Evaluation: This is often the most overlooked part of the process, but it must be taken into account. When you meet annually to review what has been accomplished – don't forget to also evaluate the success or lack of success regarding various projects. Let these evaluations help guide any changes that you make to your community's vision over time.
 - 14) Remember to celebrate the accomplishments, even small ones, to keep the motivation continuous.