What is Resource Mapping?

Resource mapping can also be referred to as community asset mapping, taking an inventory. The process by which a community chooses to collect data and information on its resources is less important than having a concrete idea about what kind of information a community wants to collect and how that information will be used to build a stronger, healthier community.

More importantly still, communities must understand that the Mapping, while time and resource intensive is NOT the work. The results of the mapping are used to inform community members on how best to accomplish their goals with the existing resources and where to focus their efforts on resource re allocation and resource development.

Creating the resource maps shouldn't be seen as the end of the process. The power of resource mapping comes with what happens after the resources have been identified. The information gained by resource mapping should not be collected as an end in itself: it should be used to create new partnerships for community building

Benefits of Resource Mapping:

Resource mapping focuses on what communities have to offer by identifying their assets and resources that can be used for building communities. The process acknowledges that individuals, organizations and local institutions all have the capacity to create real change in their area.

Resource mapping can get valuable information on community resources out of people's heads and displayed so it can be viewed and used by all community members. Resource mapping can help identify gaps, overlaps and duplication of services, programs and resources, enabling a community to reallocated resources where there is the greatest need. Resource maps can be combined with other data, such as housing information, juvenile crime statistics, educational attainment data, and a Geographic Information System (GIS) map to give a comprehensive picture of the Community.

Resource maps can provide insight into the community’s goals, projects and structure, which could contribute to strategic planning process. Resource maps can also help individuals to realize their work is not done in a vacuum - it is part of a greater community of organizations and individuals working together for community building.