



PROBLEM-SOLVING JUSTICE

MAPPING COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Community mapping is the process of identifying and documenting assets, such as civic associations, social service agencies, schools, and faith organizations, that can serve as potential resources or partners in a problem-solving justice initiative.

This practitioner tool is one in a series to support the development of problem-solving justice initiatives. For other documents in the series, please visit www.courtinnovation.org.

MAPPING TIPS

- Usually, you do not need to start from scratch. See who has compiled lists already—talk to people, do web searches, look at organizations like the United Way or your local social service agency—and then build on and update what’s already there.
- Use the checklist below to begin to make your list of the key community “asset” categories your mapping should actively discover. Brainstorm about the kinds of resources your clients need, and tailor your list to those needs. As much as possible, meet with programs you plan on referring clients to so you can be sure of their quality and agree on protocols, including reporting progress.
- Make sure that you are culturally sensitive as you assemble your lists, and include resources that address the needs of the cultural groups your program is serving. Consult with various groups to find out how they feel they could be better served.
- Use the sample format on pages 2 and 3 to create a Rolodex of partners to draw upon to link defendants and others with community-based services. You can photocopy (or recreate in Word or Excel) the sample format. Enter a category on each page—e.g., Drug Treatment, Youth Services, Employment Services, etc.—and then fill in the information for each service provider under each category.
- Good practice suggests that you enter into a linkage agreement or memorandum of understanding with programs you’d use most frequently. Institutional relationships need to be developed to avoid interruptions when inevitable changes in personnel occur.

CHECKLIST: HAVE YOU INCLUDED...

- Arts Programs
- Businesses and Chambers of Commerce
- Benefits Assistance
- Community Foundations

no. 07



This practitioner tool was produced as part of the Community-Based Problem-Solving Criminal Justice Initiative, a project of the Bureau of Justice Assistance that aims to broaden the scope of problem-solving courts by testing their approach to wider defendant populations and applying key problem-solving principles outside of the specialized court context. The Bureau of Justice Assistance supports law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation’s criminal justice system. The Center for Court Innovation is a non-profit think tank that works with criminal justice practitioners, community-based organizations, and ordinary citizens to develop creative responses to public safety problems, aid victims, reduce crime, and improve public confidence in justice.

- Block Associations
- Defense Bar and Other Legal Assistance
- Domestic Violence Services
- Drug/Alcohol Treatment
- Employment/Job Training
- Faith Community
- Family Therapy
- Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Sexual-Oriented Services
- Government Agencies/Officials
- Health Education
- HIV (AIDS) Resources
- Hospitals (including clinics)
- Housing (including DV shelters, homeless shelters, etc.)
- Immigration Resources
- Judiciary/Court Management
- Law Enforcement/Probation
- Libraries and Literacy Programs
- Mental Health Services
- Mentoring Programs
- Parenting Classes
- Prosecutor's Offices (City, County, and U.S. Attorney)
- Reentry Programs
- Schools/Colleges/Universities
- Support/Self Help Groups
- Tenants Groups
- Victims Services Agencies
- Youth Programs

CATEGORY _____

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| ALTERNATE CONTACT: | |
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| COST: | |
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