

Community Assessment

Community Assessments are designed as one-day or two-day sessions which analyze a community’s present level of economic development activity and lay out potential strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities.

A one-day assessment involves a full day in a community, assessing its economic condition, meeting with local officials and business people, and preparing a report which can become a basis for guiding economic development efforts. It is designed for communities which do not presently have an active economic development program in place.

A two-day assessment involves two days in a community, with the additional day being given over to meetings with officials and economic development staff and volunteers, as well as review of a community’s marketing materials and website. The report will list any deficiencies in the existing program as well as suggesting areas for improvement in the program. For a community whose economic development program is active, the assessment will focus on identifying and emphasizing assets which can be marketed to potential business or industry clients, and on target marketing specific assets to industries or site consultants

Communities which undergo the assessment process will be asked to fill out a fairly intensive questionnaire and submit a variety of information. The community visit process will involve meetings with a wide variety of individuals, both public and private officials and leaders. A point person within the community will be responsible for providing advance information and for scheduling meetings upon request. Community reports will include demographic and statistical information on the community, as well as an assessment of its current economic climate and potential points of development.

Fees for community assessment:

One-day assessment -- $2,500 plus travel and lodging expenses

Fee includes pre-visit research and planning, time on site, and preparation of report, which will be submitted in both electronic and hard-copy form.

Two-day assessment -- $5,000 plus travel and lodging expenses

Fee includes pre-visit research and planning, pre-visit review of website and marketing material, time on site and preparation of report, which will be submitted in both electronic and hard-copy form.