

PROGRAM UPDATE

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This program update is based on information from a recent conference, *Building Extensions Public Value through Community Capital Investments*. It will focus on a continuation of work previously reported, using a much-simplified version of the framework of Community Capitals and Public Value of CCE programs.

Community Capitals-All communities have assets, and an asset becomes capital when it is invested; e.g. elders with wisdom and a knowledge of history are a community asset. If that asset is used in an intergenerational program mentoring youth it becomes human, social and cultural capital.

The **Community Capitals** framework consists of **7 Capitals** which when developed together create a healthy ecosystem, vital economy and social well-being. The **7 Capitals** are: **Natural** (those resources that abide in a location such as amenities and natural resources), **Cultural** (the way people "know the world" and act within it), **Human** (skills and abilities of people to develop and enhance their resources), **Social** (connections among people and organizations or the social glue to make things happen), **Political** (access to power and power brokers), **Financial** (financial resources available to invest in community capacity building), **Built** (infrastructure that supports the community).

Public value is the value of a program to those who do not directly benefit from it. We are accustomed to assessing the value to program recipients, e.g. the extent to which parents increased time actively engaged with their children as a result of learning more developmentally appropriate, inexpensive activities to do at home. The **Public Value** question might be, "What value is our program to supporting success in school? Based on research we know that children whose parents are actively and appropriately engaged with them on a regular basis are more likely to succeed in school.

Much of our Human Development programming is carried out in collaborations, in support for those working in community. We may deliver program as part of a committee of an organization such as an advisory council, we may provide consultation and resource sharing on-site or through technology, or provide instruction in a classroom setting or through activities that teach in ways other than classroom instruction.

It may be instructive to focus on one area of Human Development about which Program Updates have provided information over several years, i.e. programming in the Rondout Valley area including the Little Ones Library/Learning Center, Rondout Valley Early Childhood Workgroup, and the Rondout Valley Education Foundation, and consider some questions such as:

"What community capitals does our programming enhance?"

What is the public value of the programming, i.e. how does it benefit the public good, not just the direct, private recipients? How do we frame these answers to effectively communicate our public value to others?

Think (or look) back to previous Program Updates and consider those questions. What do you think?