



Ansted

A Community Profile of Current Conditions and Capacity

**Prepared for the
West Virginia Blueprint Communities Initiative**

April 2007

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The town of Ansted is located in South Central West Virginia in Fayette County. The town was incorporated in 1891 and has its roots in the coal industry. In fact, the Town's namesake was a geologist who mapped the local coal seams. Coal mining is no longer a primary industry in the local area and most residents make their living in service related industries including education, health and social services or through retail trade. Ansted is located along U.S. Route 60 with access to a major North-South Corridor to the East (U.S. Route 19).

The latest population estimates available (2005) for the town of Ansted reflects a population of 1,604 people. About twenty-three percent (23.5%) of the population is under 18 years of age and nineteen percent is 65 years of age or older. There are 647 households in Ansted and about 425 families.

Introduction:

This community profile is provided for use by the Blueprint Team in order to provide a general overview of some of the more relevant measures of local conditions and community capacity. It is one of many tools you may find useful. The profile should be reviewed and kept in your community toolbox for future reference. Local Blueprint Teams will undoubtedly wish to examine some of the areas addressed in the profile in more detail once specific priorities are established for local community development. The profile should initially be useful in identifying areas of concern that may require further study and assessment by local citizens and later on it may provide guidance about measures that can be used to monitor progress.

The Ansted community profile is intended as a resource for community builders. It is a portrait of current conditions and local capacities. Information presented here can be useful to local Blueprint Community Team members and other community residents in considering where to invest time and energy and in establishing both short and long term priorities and goals for community improvements. However, the statistics and other information summarized here are no substitute for local initiative. Objective facts and individual perspectives must be considered in the context of local knowledge, opportunities and desires which can only be gleaned from community members. For example, if the general profile suggests increased attention to healthy lifestyle choices, local health care professionals should be consulted to assist the community in understanding the links between lifestyle and health. If programs or facilities to encourage physical fitness are suggested, local residents should be asked what activities would be of interest and what types of facilities would be used. It is important to involve people in the community in planning for community improvements. If people are involved in the planning they will be more likely to be involved in the doing.

A Few Words about Community Capacity and Capital:

Community Capacity may be defined as the level of resources, assets, human capital, and social capital available to a group of people (a community) to achieve the results they want and care about. "Community capacity, in a general sense, is what makes communities work. It is what makes well-functioning communities function well." (Chaskin, et.al., 2001). Capacity may be found in local people, in the strength of the relationships among people, in civic enterprises, in local institutions, in the value of property and buildings, in financial investment, and in the quality of the environment.

“Community capacity is what makes well-functioning communities function well” – (Chaskin, 2001)

Sufficient levels of community capacity are necessary prerequisites for successful community development. Community capacity can be measured and it can be built. The Blueprint Communities Program is focused on increasing community capacity in order to build stronger and more prosperous communities.

The community profile is organized by capacity domains - important areas of influence defined by the *West Virginia Community Development Gathering*. A domain of capacity may be thought of as a significant area of influence that affects the ability of a community to get things done. If capacity is lacking in any particular area it should be built so that available resources and investments can be optimally utilized. Each of the seven domains (areas of influence) of capacity is discussed in the profile based on selected quantitative data and the opinions of Blueprint Team members reflected in their on-line survey responses.

“Capital” is another term that is helpful in organizing information within the profile. We are generally familiar with financial capital, the monetary investment that is made available to build something useful. Other forms of capital discussed in the profile are no less important. Human capital, social capital, cultural capital, and environmental capital are all local resources that can be drawn upon to improve community conditions.

Human Capital

Human Capital includes the health and well being of local residents as well as the knowledge skills and abilities of local people. There is considerable data available that can be used to measure health and well being. Much of the available data related to health and well being is accessible only at the county level. Thus, some of the measures of local health and well-being discussed here are reflective of Fayette County while others describe the town of Ansted when local level information is available.

Health and Well Being of Local People

Healthy People:

Three key measures of health were compiled for county residents. These measures include health insurance status, adult obesity, and low birth weight. Adult obesity which is defined as significantly exceeding recommended healthy weight is 31.3% in Fayette County. This is above the average for West Virginia (27.7%) and significantly above the average for the U. S. (22.8%). The number of adults without health insurance is also higher than the state and national averages at 26.9% of adults uninsured. The percentage of low birth weight babies (9.1% in Fayette County) is again above the national average of 7.8% and very close to the statewide average of 9.3%.

Obesity and low birth weight are significant risk factors for major health problems and these measures of health should be of concern to residents of the County. Of course, it is possible that county statistics may not accurately reflect the health status of residents in the town of Ansted. Local residents may wish to look closer at this issue by talking to local health care professionals to get a more accurate picture of the health status of local residents. The high number of adults with no type of health insurance coverage is also an issue that should be of concern. Most children are able to qualify for health care insurance through public programs if they are not insured through a parent's employer; however, that is not the case for many adults residing in the state. Again, local health care professionals would have a good sense of the extent of this problem for town residents and they should be consulted.

School Readiness:

At least three long term research studies (Abecedarian, Perry Preschool, Chicago Child-Parent Centers) have established a significant link between early childhood development and future success in school and later life. Two key measures of school readiness – that is early childhood development that prepares children for school – were considered. The percentage of kindergarten children enrolled in public preschool programs is a good measure of school readiness as is the rate of retention in preschool and kindergarten programs. Preschool enrollment as a percentage of kindergarten enrollment in Fayette County is not particularly good (12.1%). There is good news here for Ansted however. The percentage at Ansted Elementary School is 40.4% which approaches the statewide average of 43.2%. When children are provided with preschool programs their success in later grades will be enhanced.

The percentage of pre-K and kindergarten students who are retained in Fayette County (not promoted to the next grade) was 12.6% (2003-04 data). This is very close to the state average of 12.2%. Due to the higher enrollment of Ansted children in pre-K programs it is reasonable to expect

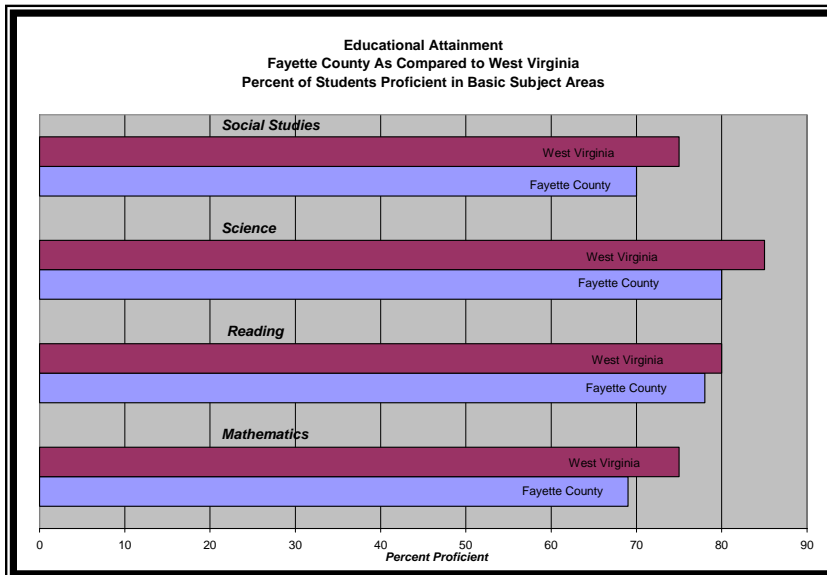
that less children may be retained in kindergarten at Ansted Elementary although local school data was not collected.

School readiness does not appear to be a major area of concern for Ansted based on the measures reviewed; however, given the importance of early childhood development as a predictor of future success; the Blueprint Team may wish to examine this area more closely. Preschool and kindergarten teachers and the Principal at the local school would be the best source of information about how prepared children are when they enter school.

Educational Attainment and Access:

Success in school may be measured by looking at several key indicators of continued education and achievement in the public schools. Measures selected for the profile include education levels of the population, high school graduation rates, students going on to college, and test scores on standardized testing.

24.1% of the residents of Ansted did not complete high school. This is about the same as the statewide percentage (24.8%) but significantly higher than the U. S. population as a whole (19.6%). Only 8.5% of Ansted residents over the age of 25 years hold a college degree. This is lower than both the statewide percentage of 14.8% and the national percentage of 24.4%. The high school graduation rate in Fayette County for 2006 was 80.1%. This is somewhat lower than the statewide rate (84.6%).



For the 2005-06 school year, students at Ansted Elementary exceeded state averages for proficiency in basic subjects; however, proficiency in two subject areas (Science and Social Studies) is less than the state average at Ansted Middle School.

Fayette County students as a whole lag behind state averages in proficiency levels across all four basic subject areas as measured by standardized achievement test scores. See chart.

Young people in Fayette County are also going on to college at a lower rate than the state average. One measure of the college going rate is the percentage of high school graduates who take college entrance exams. In 2006, 49.1% of Fayette County high school graduates took the ACT college entrance exam; the percentage of students taking the ACT test statewide is considerably higher at 64%. The composite ACT score for Fayette students at 19.3 was also less than the state average of 20.6.

It is difficult to separate out students who reside in Ansted from the larger county population of high school students; however, it is reasonable to assume that achievement levels and rates of college attendance among school age children in Ansted would not be significantly different than their peers attending school in Fayette County.

Community Safety:

The overall crime rate for West Virginia as a whole is one of the lowest in the nation at 28.98 crimes per 1,000 population. Crimes reported by Ansted city police are at a rate of 8.65 per thousand population – a very low crime rate indeed (2005 Uniform Crime Report). The Ansted police department did not report any drug and narcotics related crime and the Fayette County Sheriff's office reported only 0.16 such offenses per 1,000 population in the County.

There are three sex offenders with Ansted addresses listed in the WV Sex Offender Registry. This is a rate of 1.87 per 1,000 population. The statewide rate is 1.39 per thousand.

Ansted appears to be a safe community with little crime; however, there may be local safety issues of concern. The local Blueprint Team and other local planners are in the best position to assess any safety concerns community residents may have.

Family Stability:

Two measures of family stability were researched for the community profile – domestic violence investigations and the ratio of marriages to divorces. Local statistics for the Ansted area indicate a rate of 1.55 investigations related to domestic violence per 1,000 households. This is a very low rate as compared to the statewide rate of 16.39 per thousand households. The ratio of marriages to divorces in Fayette County is 1.31 marriages to every divorce. This is slightly lower than the statewide ratio of 1.49 marriages to each divorce.

A third measure of family stability that was selected for review is the rate of confirmed child abuse and neglect; however, reliable data at the county or local community level is not available. Local child protective services workers can provide considerable insight into this issue. If this is an area of concern for the local Blueprint Team it is recommended that local child protective service staff be consulted to obtain information about the extent of this problem in the community. In general, families in the Ansted area appear to be relatively stable based on the limited measures available.

Economic Security:

Perhaps the most telling component of family and individual well being is economic security. Unemployment, poverty, and a general lack of financial resources place families under severe stress that often leads to other problems. Five measures of economic security are included in the profile.

The most recent (January 2007) unemployment rate for the area is 6.1%. This is higher than the state and federal rates of 4.8% and 5.0% respectively. Unemployment is a significant issue in the county. Additional information about jobs and local industries will be discussed later in the profile in relation to financial and manufactured capital.

Significant levels of poverty are present in Ansted and Fayette County. In 2003, 20.2% of all families in the county were estimated to have household income below the federal poverty level. The poverty rate for all families in West Virginia is 18.5% and for the nation it is at 12.7%. What is more telling is the 2000 census data for families residing in Ansted. The 2000 census data is more accurate than the estimates for non-census years and reflects the poverty situation in Ansted in 1999. The poverty rate in Ansted for all families reflected by the 2000 census was 20.7%; however, the rate for families with children was 27.6% in poverty and 37% of Ansted families with children less than five years of age are below the poverty level. Clearly, there are many families (particularly families with young children) in the Ansted community who struggle to make ends meet.

The 200 Census figures for Ansted report that 37% of all families with young children (under age 5) have household income below the federal poverty level.

Per capita annual income in Ansted in 1999 (as reported in 2000 census data) was \$15,671. This is lower than the state average of \$16,477 and much lower than the national average of \$21,587. Even though these figures describe the average personal income per person living in Ansted when the 2000 census was conducted, they provide a basis for relative comparison of income levels that is the most accurate available for smaller communities like Ansted. Income levels may have increased

somewhat over the past several years but there is little reason to believe that Ansted residents are significantly better off than the 2000 census figures would indicate.

Data from 2000 also indicate that 22.2% of households have a severe burden related to housing costs as defined by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Severe housing cost burden is based on low income families that pay 50% or more of their household income for housing. Severe housing cost burden in Ansted is slightly higher than the statewide percentage (21.3%) and slightly lower than the national figure of 25.8% of households.

A further measure of economic security is the *Universal Living Wage*. This is the hourly wage necessary to afford housing based on Fair Market Rents in any particular area assuming that someone works 40 hours per week and 52 weeks per year. For Fayette County this wage is \$7.37 per hour for a one bedroom apartment. The current federal minimum wage is \$5.15 per hour although the Congress appears ready to increase it to \$7.25 over a two year period.

The quantitative data tells us that many families in the Ansted area do not have an adequate level of household income and that families with young children (many headed by single mothers) are particularly vulnerable.

Survey Responses from Blueprint Team Members Related to Health and Well Being:

Responses to the survey from seven members of the Blueprint Community Team average +0.40 for the statements related to community capacity in this domain. (See appendix A for an explanation of survey scoring and interpretation of this average score.) This average score would indicate that there is capacity present within this domain when the five components of health and well being discussed above are considered; however the team's responses also indicate that the team sees the health and

economic security of local people as problem areas while local education programs and community safety are seen as attributes. These perceptions are generally reflected in the data discussed above.

Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities of Local People

Indicator areas related to using and enhancing skills, knowledge and abilities of local people, citizen engagement, and data driven decision making are included in this domain of capacity. Some information is available in existing data sets that can provide us with measures of citizen engagement; however, measures relating to using and enhancing skills knowledge and abilities will, at least for the present, need to be identified locally. The perception of Blueprint Team members as reflected in the survey results is one measure of this domain, and team members are encouraged to consider relevant local information and knowledge to identify other measures.

There are no current depositories of local information about how people use and enhance their skills. The Blueprint Communities training program is an example of local people (the Blueprint Team) enhancing their skills and the participation of team members in the program is a measure of local capacity in this area. The level of participation on local boards, task teams, work teams etc. is another such measure. Other useful measures of this domain where information may be known to the Blueprint Team or information could be collected locally might be participation of citizens in community meetings; training programs offered locally in areas of leadership development, group facilitation or planning; number of local community members who have participated in such training, or observations about how local government or town meetings are conducted. Are there local opportunities to gain leadership skills? Are citizens encouraged to participate in local town meetings? Are diverse parts of the community represented and are all opinions welcomed?

Citizen Engagement:

Measures of citizen engagement have been compiled for consideration by the Blueprint Team members. Some information is available in existing data sets related to participation in elections and volunteerism. Participation in elections is often used as a measure of citizen engagement. In 2004 (a Presidential election year), 62.7% of registered voters in Fayette County cast a ballot. Voter turnout in Fayette County was slightly less than the statewide voter turnout of 65.9%. An additional measure of citizen participation is the percentage of the voting age population that actually registered and exercised their rights as a citizen to vote for their elected officials. In Fayette County the percentage of the voting age population that voted in the 2004 election was less than the state or national turnout. 46.7% of the voting age population voted in Fayette County as contrasted to 54.7% in West Virginia and 55.5% across the nation.

Volunteerism is another measure of this domain for which we have some data. Fayette County residents participate in the Adopt-A-Highway program at a higher rate than the state average – 18.9 volunteers per 1,000 population in Fayette County and 13.2 per 1,000 statewide. Another measure of volunteer interest is the number of persons expressing interest in volunteering through the state registry maintained by the WV Commission on National and Community Service. This registry reflects 6.1 Fayette County residents per 1,000 population and a state average of 9.1 per 1,000.

Survey Responses from Blueprint Team Members Related to Knowledge and Abilities of Local People:

The measures reported above related to voting and volunteerism drawn from available data provide some useful information; however, we are forced for the most part to rely on the perceptions of Blueprint Team members about the level of capacity in this domain as reflected in their survey responses. Based on the survey responses of the team members, some degree of capacity exists in the Ansted Community within this domain. The average score for this domain was +0.43 indicating those team members believe local capacity is present that can be tapped. Four of the five variables related to this domain were seen positively by team members. Local opportunities to enhance skills knowledge and ability were seen as lacking. The team may want to consider options for building capacity in this area through locally sponsored workshops and training or community forums to discuss local issues.

Social Capital

“Although some...continue to believe that healthy economies create vibrant communities, in fact, the reverse is more often the case. A strong community is a prerequisite for creating a healthy economy because it alone produces social trust.”
(Jeremy Rifkin, 2000)

Two domains of community capacity make up social capital – ***Relationships and Interpersonal Communications*** and ***Community Initiative Responsibility and Adaptability***.

These domains address levels of shared values, trust, connectedness, participation, collective vision, leadership planning, and sense of hope in the community. There are currently few if any sources of local data that effectively measure these important components of community capacity. One measure that may be useful was secured from school survey data. Youth at Ansted Middle School were asked if they participate in community activities such as scouts, sports teams, youth clubs, etc. Participation in such activities is one way social capital is built among young residents in the community. For 2004-05, 29.6% of Ansted Middle School students reported participation in such activities which is higher than the statewide rate of 26.7%.

With the exception of this one measure of relationship building in the local there is little information compiled about the level of social capital in local communities. We can gain some insight into this domain of community capacity through the perceptions of Blueprint Team members (survey data). However, the levels of social capital are best considered locally by observing interactions among people, identifying local leaders, and encouraging a collective vision and plan for the community. Are public issues discussed in local newspapers or community forums? How many adults attend youth activities? Are pot luck dinners a routine event and are new members of the community welcomed at community events? Are local organizations and local government connected to one another and engaged in joint planning to improve the community? Does the community work (and play) well with other communities in Fayette County? Do community residents resolve disagreements amicably and trust one another? The Blueprint team can develop its own local measures of social capital by asking themselves these types of questions and then asking: how would we know?

Local information can also be gathered by talking to local government officials or agency directors about their vision for the community and how they plan for the future. Is there a collective vision for local development? How many citizens are engaged in discussions about the future? What is the level of resources dedicated to planning?

Survey Responses from Blueprint Team Members Related to Relationships and Interpersonal Communications:

This domain of capacity within the community is seen as a potential community asset by the Blueprint Team. All five of the statements designed to measure this domain received a positive average response by the team members as a group. The average score for this domain across the

five variables is +0.57 which is indicative of a belief in a moderate level of existing capacity within the community by the team members.

Survey Responses from Blueprint Team Members Related to Community Initiative, Responsibility, and Adaptability:

Overall, team members see this domain as a positive as well although there was somewhat more variance in individual team members responses to the statements related to this domain. On average, four of the five variables are seen as positives and one as a negative. The overall average score for this domain is +0.54. This overall score reflects a perception by team members that is closely aligned with their perception of the other domain of social capital within the community.

Cultural Capital

Cultural Diversity and Quality of Life

This is another domain where existing databases offer little useful information. The 2000 census data does reflect some limited degree of cultural diversity within the population of Ansted. The data indicate fifty local residents (3.2%) who report themselves as Black or African American and two persons of Asian descent. 1.6% of the population reported speaking a language other than English in the home. As is the case in most of the state, there is little cultural diversity within the population of Ansted.

Fayette County has three museums or art galleries located in the county and eight libraries. 5.99% of the work force of the county is employed in the Arts, Entertainment, or Recreation sector most likely reflecting the whitewater rafting industry which is significant within the county.

Survey Responses from Blueprint Team Members Related to Cultural Diversity and Quality of Life:

Blueprint Team members believe the quality of life in Ansted is generally good. The average score for this domain is +0.77. This score is relatively high and reflects a considerable degree of capacity within this domain. Nevertheless, two of the five variables are seen by the team as deficient (average score less than zero). Opportunities for enrichment through music and the arts is seen as lacking by some team members and team responses indicate few recreational opportunities within the local community.

The local Blueprint Team may want to consider ways to use the cultural capital and quality of life they perceive to the benefit of the community. Additional information about how other community members see these issues may be useful as plans are developed. Do community residents want more access to live music performances and the arts? How can the good quality of life issues be leveraged to attract needed investment? What types of projects or activities can tap into the positive perception of local quality of life?

Financial and Manufactured Capital

Investments in Community and Financial Resources

A significant number of measures have been identified from existing data sets to describe levels of community capacity and current conditions within this domain.

Financial Investments:

Data obtained from the WV Secretary of State Business Organization Information System indicates that nearly 11% of the for-profit businesses in Ansted have started up within the past year. The statewide percentage of new business start ups is 4.18%; thus, this level of new business activity may be a positive development for the town. This is an area where local knowledge is necessary to interpret this measure in the context of local business activity. Data from the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act database was not available for Ansted which may indicate a low level of new home loans.

Local Financial Resources:

One measure of local financial resources is deposits in local banks. Local information for Ansted residents is not easily available but this measure for Fayette County was calculated from available 2004 data at \$9,184 in per capita deposits (average deposits per county resident). The state average per-capita deposit is significantly higher at \$12,472. Fayette County has sixteen banking locations in the county and a total of \$430 million dollars in total deposits (2004 data).

Another measure of local financial resources is average wage per job. Fayette County residents earnings are, on average, significantly less than the state average at \$26,337 per job held. The state average is \$30,879 (2005 data).

These measures tend to indicate a lack of local financial resources as compared to the state as a whole.

Access to Outside Financial Resources:

Several measures of federal spending and investment of federal financial resources in the area have been identified. This data is most recently available for Fayette County (2004) and not available for local municipalities. The Fayette county data documents a considerable federal investment. Unfortunately, a good portion of the federal dollars is related to federal payments to individuals for unemployment benefits, retirement, social security, disability payments, and other forms of payment not attributable to earnings from work. These “federal personal transfer receipts” for 2004 averaged \$8,122 for each person in the county (per-capita receipts). Statewide this figure is \$6,929. Fayette County residents appear to be more dependent on federal government programs than the average state resident.

Federal per-capita spending in Fayette County for salaries and benefits of federal employees, military personnel, procurement contracts, grants and other forms of investment averaged \$7,885 per person in 2004. This is less federal investment than the state per capita average of \$8,364. Federal grant funds received in Fayette County during 2004 totaled \$80,196,000. These grant funds

include grants made directly to local governments or organizations as well as federal grant funds distributed by state government to the county.

Business Efficiency:

One measure of business efficiency is retail sales. The Economic Census of 2002 reported per capita retail sales in Fayette County as \$7,477. Statewide retail sales were \$9,277 per capita.

Job creation and changes in net employment are other measures that can be used to assess business efficiency within the county. During 2005, Fayette County had a net gain of 193 jobs with 1021 new jobs created during that period. Average new hire earnings are reported at \$1,895 per month. These measures indicate some very modest growth in jobs within the county during 2005; however the net increase in county-based jobs from 2000 to 2004 was only 211 jobs. Data available seems to indicate a fairly stable level of available jobs within Fayette County.

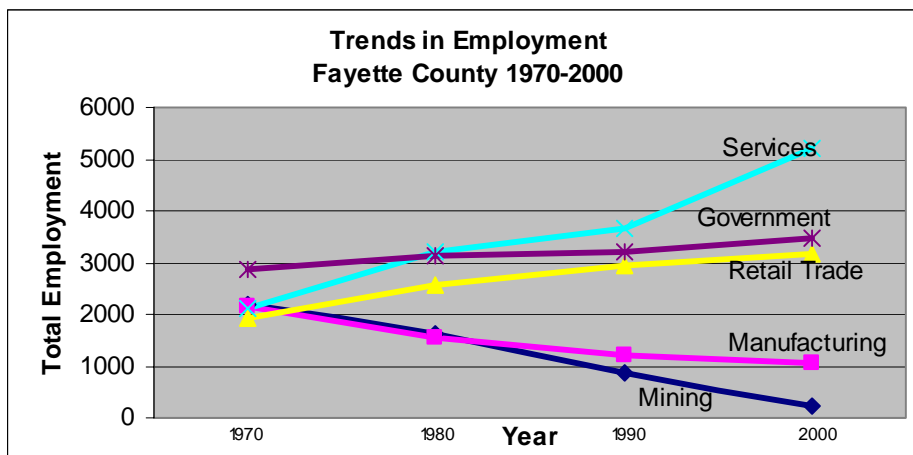
Business Diversity:

Business diversity within the county is reflected in the number and types of business establishments and in the types of jobs available. Total non-farm business establishments in Fayette County in 2004 were 920. The 2002 Survey of Business Owners conducted by the Census Bureau included 789 businesses with employees. Within the town of Ansted, the WV Secretary of State Business Organization Data System lists 46 for profit businesses and 18 registered non-profit organizations.

Employment in Fayette County for 2004 (the most recent available data) reflects a total employment of 16,752 persons. 78.5% of the employment is in private sector jobs while government employment accounts for 20%. The remaining 1.5% is farm employment.

2000 Census data for the town of Ansted reports 502 Ansted residents employed. 74.1% were private sector employees, 18.3% were government employees, and 7.6% were in their own business at that time. Ansted residents' occupations in 2000 were listed as:

- Management and Professional – 22.1%
- Service Occupations – 27.3%
- Sales and Office – 21.9%
- Construction, Extraction, and Maintenance – 12.4%
- Production, Transportation – 16.3%



Trends in Employment 1970 to 2000:

If we look closer at selected industries over the past thirty years the total employment in Fayette County within these particular industries shows a modest increase (13,217 jobs in 1970 and 15,150 jobs in 2000). However, the shift in

type of employment has been significant. Employment in services, retail trade, and government has increased while the number of persons employed in manufacturing and mining has declined dramatically. The rate of increase in service jobs is particularly notable as is the rate of decrease in mining related jobs during the period. See chart showing trends in these selected industries over thirty years.

Cultivating Entrepreneurship:

Limited data is available in this area. Some measure of entrepreneurship within the town of Ansted may be implied from the 7.6% of residents that owned their own business in 2000; however, more information about who these people are and what business activity they generate would be necessary to draw conclusions from this statistic.

Community Resident Assets:

Resident assets may be measured to some extent by looking at the value of owner occupied housing. For most home owners their home is the greatest asset they have. In 2000, 78.3% of Ansted residents owned their homes. This is a higher percentage than the state average of 75.2% and the national home ownership rate of 66.2%. The high home ownership rate is somewhat mediated by a relatively low value of owner occupied housing units in Ansted. The average value of the homeowner's property in Ansted was \$51,963 in 2000 while the average value of owner occupied housing statewide was \$86,995 and nationally it was \$158,934.

The average value of farm land and buildings in Fayette County is also considerably less than the state average. The 2000 census of agriculture documents an average value for farm land and buildings in Fayette County of \$132,862. The average value of farm land and buildings in West Virginia was \$231,999.

Community Infrastructure:

Community infrastructure is an area where local resident knowledge far exceeds available statistics drawn from large data sets. Blueprint Team members can most likely assess infrastructure issues fairly accurately based on their own local knowledge.

Census data tells us that housing in Ansted is relatively old with more than half (52%) of the housing units were built prior to 1960 and 26% built before 1939. Most occupied houses are heated with electricity (64%) and only 4 housing units lacked complete plumbing facilities in 2000.

A high percentage of workers in Fayette County commute outside the county to work (40.22%) This is twice the state average and more than ten times the national average. Average travel time to work is only slightly higher than the state average, however. Net commutation (persons coming into the county to work minus those leaving to work) is -3,613. These figures tell us that large numbers of Fayette county residents work in other counties. This may have implications for highway infrastructure or public transportation and it may be an area the local team wishes to examine in the context of the local Ansted community.

Other measures of local community infrastructure should be examined by the Blueprint Team. One measure of the increase in local assets is the number and type of building permits sought by local

residents. This data should be locally available and is good measure of investment being made to increase the value of homes or business property.

Survey Responses from Blueprint Team Members Related to Investments in the Community and Financial Resources:

Survey responses of the Blueprint Team members indicate that capacity is lacking in this domain. The average score for this domain was the lowest of the seven domains of community capacity at +.09. This score indicates a general perception on the part of team members that there is no significant level of financial resources to draw upon and financial investment in the community is lacking. There was some level of agreement that businesses in the community tend to do well; however other variables related to this domain averaged to zero indicating no real confidence that much capacity exists in this area. Blueprint Team members may wish to focus attention on planning and strategy development to build capacity within this domain. Local workshops or training related to entrepreneurship or small business development may be ways to build capacity in this domain.

Environmental Capital

Sustainable Healthy Ecosystems with Multiple Community Benefits

Local environmental issues are another area where existing data sets are not particularly useful. Information about the environment is available from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of Environmental Protection as well as the State Department of Natural Resources. Much of the information is based on data collected for regional areas or metropolitan areas and is therefore not applicable to local rural areas such as the town of Ansted.

There does appear to be a local recognition in Fayette County of the importance of the environment as is evidenced by three recent grant awards (for 2007) from the REAP Office of the State Department of Environmental Protection totaling \$164,180.

There were no environmental clean up sites or toxic waste emissions listed for areas near Ansted in state and federal databases.

The percentage of surface waters with impaired or threatened uses is 21.6% in Fayette County which ranks 11th among West Virginia counties. The highest percentage of surface water impairment for any county in the state is 55.1% and the lowest is 5%.

In 2005, Fayette County industrial sites released 665,602 pounds of toxic chemical waste into landfills and the air according to U. S. EPA databases. This is 0.68% of all toxic chemical releases into the environment in the state. How such releases affect the local Ansted community is a question the team may wish to explore.

Local environmental issues may be monitored and potential problems identified through local projects to monitor water quality and bio-diversity. Local schools might be encouraged to conduct tests on local streams or conduct wildlife counts as student science projects. Recycling is another area that can be considered to maintain a high quality environment. Any local environmental organizations should be included in visioning and planning for local development.

Survey Responses from Blueprint Team Members Related to Sustainable Healthy Ecosystems with Multiple Community Benefits:

This domain of community capacity is seen by the Blueprint Team members as an important asset and considerable stores of environmental capital are reflected in the team responses to the survey. This domain of capacity was seen as strong by all team members and the average score for this domain was +0.80. Four of the five variables used to calculate the team perception about this domain were strongly positive. Planning for land use within the community is an area that was not seen as positively as other variables related to this domain by team members. Land use planning may be an area the community wants to consider if there are concerns, but generally the community capacity related to environmental issues appears to be a community strength that should be drawn upon as plans are made for further development.

Appendix A

Methodology and Technical Information

A Capacity Assessment Framework was used as the basis for constructing a community profile for each of the ten West Virginia Blueprint Communities. The framework is based on a community capitals model and it addresses levels of capacity - that is stores of capital- that might be drawn upon to improve local conditions. Seven domains or “areas of influence” effecting community capacity were defined by a group of stakeholders known as the “Community Development Gathering” in West Virginia during 2006. These domains were adapted from work done by the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development at Iowa State University. To the extent possible, measures for each domain were selected from relevant existing databases and these selected measures are discussed in the profile. The community profile discusses current conditions in the context of five capitals, seven domains and defined indicator areas that say something significant about each of the domains of interest. This framework is included as Appendix B.

Compiled and published information at the level useful for local assessment and planning is very limited for some areas of influence that determine local community capacity. Consequently, domains relating to social capital, cultural capital, and environmental capital are more difficult to measure using existing data sets. Given this lack of good information readily available for some of the defined domains, a survey was developed to assess the opinion of key informants about the levels of capacity within each of the Blueprint Communities. Blueprint Community team members were asked to complete the web-based survey in order to secure information about how the team members see their community and identify (from the perspective of the team members) areas where local capacity appears to be present. Because of the makeup of the Blueprint Teams, the Blueprint Community Team members are considered to be appropriate key informants knowledgeable about the local community.

The information discussed in the community profile was compiled from existing data sets and from analysis of survey results solicited from local Blueprint Team members. The profile is a portrait of current community conditions and existing areas of capacity with some historical trend information related to key indicators when such trends in the data appear helpful in understanding current community conditions.

Methodology for Analysis of Survey Responses:

Blueprint Team members were asked to complete a survey in order to measure beliefs held by each of the team members related to 35 measures of local capacity. The survey is composed of a series of 35 statements. Each of the seven domains of community capacity defined in the framework is measured by five statements contained in the survey. Survey respondents (Blueprint Community Team members) were asked to evaluate each statement based on their personal knowledge of the larger community (county or town designated as a Blueprint Community) and choose the degree to which they agree or disagree with the 35 statements using a five point Likert scale. Responses for each statement can range from “strongly disagree” to strongly agree”.

Individual survey responses were analyzed to produce a composite score for each of the thirty-five variables. For purposes of analysis individual responses were scored from -2 to +2. Responses were scored as follows: “a response of strongly disagree was assigned a value of -2, disagree was valued at -1, neither agree or disagree received 0 value, a response of agree was valued +1, and strongly agree was assigned a value of +2. The average of the assigned values for each team was then used as the team score for each individual statement (variable). Finally, a score was calculated for each of the seven domains by averaging the team scores of the five variables related to each domain. The score for each domain is based on a total of five variables multiplied by the number of team members responding. Thus, if eight team members completed the survey the score for the domain is based on a total of 40 responses (5 variables X 8 team members). Domain scores can range from minus two (-2.0) if all respondents strongly disagree to plus two (+2.0) if all respondents strongly agree. For any given statement it is highly unlikely that the average response will approach either -2 or +2. In general, positive domain scores indicate capacity is present and negative scores indicate the community lacks capacity in the area defined by the domain. Higher scores are interpreted as indicative of higher levels of capacity.

Since this “capacity score” was derived from the opinion of a small number of key informants, it is reflective only of the collective belief or opinion of the Blueprint Team members about the level of capacity that exists within the designated Blueprint Community. Survey results are used to supplement the more objective quantitative data related to community capacity when such data is available.

Appendix B - Framework for Assessing Community Capacity

<i>Capacity Domains (Areas of Influence)</i>	<i>Indicator Areas</i>
<i>Human Capital</i>	
1. Health and Well-Being of Local People	1(a) Healthy People 1(b) School Readiness 1(c) Educational Attainment & Access 1(d) Community Safety 1(e) Family Stability 1(f) Economic Security
2. Skills, Knowledge, and Ability of Local People	2(a) Using Skills, Knowledge, Abilities 2(b) Enhancing Skills, Knowledge, Abilities 2(c) Citizen Engagement 2(d) Data-driven Decision Making
<i>Social Capital</i>	
3. Relationships and Interpersonal Communication	3(a) Shared Values 3(b) Participation 3(c) Internal Connectedness 3(d) External Connectedness 3(e) Trust 3(f) Ability to Solve Problems
4. Community Initiative, Responsibility, and Adaptability	4(a) Shared Vision 4(b) Leadership 4(c) Planning 4(d) Building on Local Resources 4(e) Seeking alternative ways to improve 4(f) Sense of Hope
<i>Cultural Capital</i>	
5. Cultural Diversity and Quality of Life	5(a) Heritage 5(b) Arts 5(c) Recreation 5(c) Spirituality
<i>Financial and Manufactured Capital</i>	
6. Investments in Community and Financial Resources	6(a) Financial Investments 6(b) Local Financial Resources 6(c) Access to Outside Financial Resources 6(d) Resource Mobilization 6(e) Business Efficiency 6(f) Business Diversity 6(g) Cultivating Entrepreneurship 6(h) Community Resident Assets 6(i) Community Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing - Facilities - Water/Sewer - Transportation - Communications
<i>Environmental (Natural) Capital</i>	
7. Sustainable, Healthy Ecosystems with Multiple Community Benefits	7(a) Air Quality 7(b) Water Resources 7(c) Biodiversity 7(d) Soil 7(e) Landscape (sense of place) 7(f) Ecosystem Knowledge and Appreciation

Appendix C

Data Sources and References

Data and information used within the community profile has been drawn from a wide range of secondary data sources. For purposes of the Blueprint Community Profiles, secondary data is defined as information and statistics collected by government agencies or private organizations that are useful in describing and measuring the defined domains or areas of influence of local community capacity.

A great deal of data is readily available through internet based websites and documents that are related to the defined domains of community capacity. Some of this data is readily available at the local community (municipality) level, some is available at the county level, and some is only available for regional or statewide areas. Some of the information referenced within the community profile is reported at the county level since that is the geographic unit of analysis that is generally available to the public. Local communities also operate within the larger context of the county in which they are located. Thus, county level data is often useful in providing measures of local capacity and community conditions. In cases where the designated Blueprint Community is a town or city, information is reported for that smaller geographic area when the specific small area measure could be obtained.

Over fifty data sets were reviewed in order to identify relevant measures that would provide local Blueprint Teams with meaningful information about their community. The information compiled within the profile paints a portrait of current community conditions and provides guidance for planning and priority setting. Since the data profile is organized under seven areas of influence (or domains) that collectively define community capacity, the profile also provides some level of insight into specific areas (domains) where local capacity may need to be built.

Much of the information reported in the community profile is drawn from publicly available data sets published on the Internet by federal and state agencies. Local Blueprint Teams may wish to access one or more of these sites for further information or more detailed information about specific local issues determined to be an area of concern or identified as a priority for local planning. The community profile provided for use by the Blueprint Team is designed to provide a general overview of some of the more relevant measures of local conditions and community capacity. Once the Blueprint Team begins to focus on specific areas for community development, additional or more detailed information about that area may be useful. Therefore, the most useful and comprehensive data sites reviewed in developing these profiles are listed on the following pages with web addresses.

Federal Data Sites:

- United States Bureau of the Census <http://www.census.gov>
 - USA Counties – Provides many data sets from decennial census and annual estimates organized by county
Web address: <http://censtats.census.gov/usa/usa.shtml>
 - American Communities Survey – Provides data from the annual American Communities Survey for larger geographic areas. Data is generally not available from the ACS for rural counties and towns in West Virginia.
Web address:
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS&_submenuId=&_lang=en&_ts=
 - Consolidated Federal Funds Report – Provides information about a wide range of federal expenditures at state and county levels.
Web address: <http://harvester.census.gov/cffr/>
 - Quarterly Workforce Indicators – Provides current and recent information about economic indicators and employment by quarter (every three months).
Web Address: <http://lehd.dsd.census.gov/led/datatools/qwiapp.html>

- United States Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis – Provides detailed information about economic conditions, jobs, employment, labor markets, industry types, etc.
Web Address: <http://www.bea.gov/>

- United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics – Provides information about labor markets, employment, occupations, economic conditions, etc.
Web Address: <http://www.bls.gov/>

- United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Toxic Release Inventory – Provides detailed information about reported releases of toxic chemicals into the environment.
Web Address: <http://www.epa.gov/triexplorer/>

- Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Call Reports and Thrift Financial Reports – Database of information about all FDIC insured Banks and Savings and Loans that contains detailed financial status reports by quarter.
Web address: http://www2.fdic.gov/call_tfr_rpts/search.asp

- United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service – Data by county about farms and farm products.
Web address: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Census/Create_Census_US_CNTY.jsp#top

- Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reporting System – Local, state, and national statistics of crime.
Web address: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/>

State Data Sites:

- WV Department of Health and Human Resources - Bureau for Public Health; Health Statistics Center – Statistics related to births, deaths, marriages, divorces, etc.
Web Address: <http://www.wvdhhr.org/bph/oehp/vital04/index.htm>
- WV Department of Health and Human Resources – Office of Accountability and Management Reporting – Information related to recipients and expenditures for major social welfare programs.
Web address: <http://www.wvdhhr.org/oamr/DAMRreports.htm>
- WV Department of Health and Human Resources - Bureau for Public Health; Behavioral Risk Factors Survey Reporting – Results of the Behavioral Risk Factors Survey addressing wide range of health status and health behavior indicators.
Web address: http://www.wvdhhr.org/bph/oehp/BRFSS_2003/default.htm
- WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence – Statistics on prevalence of domestic violence in West Virginia.
Web Address: <http://www.wvcadv.org/>
- WV State Police Uniform Crime Reports – Statistics on crime in West Virginia.
Web address: <http://www.wvstatepolice.com/ucr/ucr.htm>
- Sex Offender Registry – Locations of known sex offenders in West Virginia.
Web address: <http://www.wvstatepolice.com/sexoff/websearchform.cfm>
- WV Department of Education – Wide range of information about educational facilities, performance, accountability, enrollment, expenditures, personnel, etc.
 - Report Card Data – Accountability indicators, testing data, graduation rates, etc. for every school in West Virginia.
Web address: <http://wveis.k12.wv.us/nclb/pub/rpt0506/pickreportcard.cfm>
 - West Virginia Education Information System – Detailed statistics for every school and county school district related to personnel, expenditures, facilities, enrollment, needy students, etc.
Web address: <http://wveis.k12.wv.us/>
- West Virginia Secretary of State Business Organization Information System – Searchable database containing information about types and numbers of businesses registered in West Virginia.
Web address: <http://www.wvsos.com/wvcorporations/>

- WV Department of Environmental Protection – Information about the environment including air quality, watersheds, waste sites, permits, etc. Information is provided on a regional basis.
Web address: http://www2.fdic.gov/call_tfr_rpts/search.asp
 - WVDEP Enviromap Explorer – Interactive geographic information system containing environmental information for West Virginia regions and local areas including aerial maps (large files).
Web address: <http://gis.wvdep.org/>
- WorkForce West Virginia Labor Market Information – Information drawn from federal and state data sets related to workforce, employment, and economic conditions in West Virginia.
Web address: <http://www.wvbep.org/bep/LMI/default.htm>

Private Organization Data Sites:

- Universal Living Wage – Information about Fair Market Rents and household income levels necessary to afford housing.
Web address: <http://www.universallivingwage.org/>
- Scorecard – This website compiles a wide range of information related to environmental pollution, air and water quality, and other environmental information about larger municipalities and counties in the U.S.
Web address: <http://www.scorecard.org/>

Compiled Data Sets and Profiles for Counties and/or Local Municipalities:

Local Area Data Sets:

- DataPlace - <http://www.dataplace.org/>
- EPodunk - <http://epodunk.com/>
- West Virginia Development Office State Data Center Profiles of WV places from 2000 Census - <http://www.wvdo.org/business/2000CensusProfiles.html>

West Virginia County Data Sets and Profiles:

- WorkForce West Virginia County Profiles - <http://www.wvbep.org/bep/LMI/CNTYPROF/DEFAULT.HTM>
- West Virginia Development Office State Data Center Profiles of WV counties from 2000 Census - <http://www.wvdo.org/business/2000CensusProfiles.html>
- West Virginia University Bureau for Business and Economic Research – County profiles of business and economic conditions. http://www.be.wvu.edu/bber/data_profiles.htm