

EL Civics Needs Assessments

A Brief Overview

Community and Student Needs Assessments

- Identify civic education needs in your service delivery area.
- Provide information about the English language and literacy skills of students to be served.

Community and Student Needs Assessments

- Guide selection of appropriate level(s) and context of civic objectives.
- Guide selection of appropriate instructional materials, community resources, skills assessments, instructional approaches, and professional development.

Key Value of Student Needs Assessment

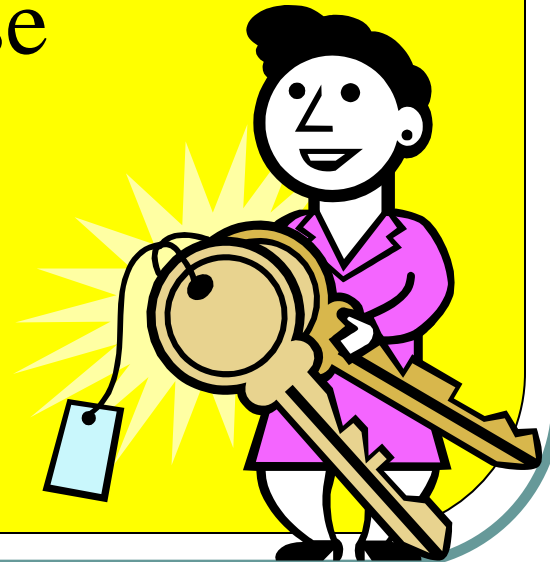
- Provides info on what learners
 - Want to know
 - Need to know
 - Want and need to be able to do to participate in sustained civic participation
- Informs development of emergent curricula responsive to the needs of learners.

Types of Needs Assessments

- Surveys or questionnaires
- Picture prompts or interest inventories
- Learner interviews or focus groups
- Reading material review
- Language logs or journals
- Language use inventories or reading materials review

The Key

To be effective, needs assessments used with learners and potential learners must be appropriate for the language and basic skill levels of those being assessed.



Example for Beginners



Picture Prompts

Circle the 2 areas you need to learn about the most.

**Places in the
Community
(Add Picture)**

1

**Family Safety
(Add Picture)**

2

**Child's School
(Add Picture)**

**See example on page 10*

3

**Activities
for Kids
(Add Picture)**

4

**Healthcare
(Add Picture)**

**See example on page 11*

5

**Medicine
(Add Picture)**

**See example on page 12*

6

Locate Key Places in the Community

Use the same graphics, projected on a wall or in poster form, to set up for your needs assessment and to use as an instructional tool.



Example #1: Interact with child's school



Example #2: Communicate with healthcare professionals



Example #3: Obtain & use medicine



Example for Intermediates



**Sentence
Completion**

Completing Sentences

1. I need to speak English to use the services of _____ in my community.
2. I need to learn about _____ in order to get a job or improve my work skills.
3. I need to be able to _____ in order to protect my health and my family's health.
4. I need to be able to _____ to help my children.
5. I need more English so I can _____

Examples for Int./Adv.



Surveys

Check each topic you need more information about

Consumer Economics Survey

- Identify and ask about banking services
- Make consumer complaints
- Start a small business
- Obtain housing
- Ask about renter rights, leases and rental agreements
- Solve home maintenance problems
- Practice personal and family safety

Community Resources Survey

- Find a solution for a community problem
- Find preschool or childcare
- Locate key places in the community
- Explore cultural diversity in the community
- Access DMV services
- Communicate with children's school
- Obtain education or training to meet a personal goal
- Locate and use emergency services
- Practice disaster and emergency preparedness

Community Resources Survey (continued)

- Solve family problems
- Locate and use services for seniors
- Understand immigrant rights
- Explore extra-curricular activities for children
- Practice parenting skills
- Ask about leisure time activities
- Locate community resources
- Avoid being an accident or crime victim
- Ask about opportunities to volunteer

Health Survey

- Obtain health care services
- Respond in emergency situations
- Communicate with health care professionals
- Deal with medical insurance issues
- Obtain and use medicines
- Prevent and treat addictions

Employment Survey

- Ask about job requirements
- Obtain job training and education
- Obtain employment related services
- Discuss employment rights
- Practice job safety
- Understand workplace expectations

Reporting Needs Assessment Results

Be Specific – Data supports decisions

Picture Prompts – 50 students responded

40 chose - Places in the Community

35 chose - Child's School

30 chose - Healthcare

15 chose - Family Safety

10 chose - Medicine

7 chose - Kid's Activities

Survey Results

Of 100 Students

The five highest areas of need chosen were:

- Communicate with health care professionals - 79
- Locate community resources - - 72
- Practice disaster and emergency preparedness - - - - 69
- Obtain employment related services - 61
- Communicate with children's school - 59

Needs Assessment Assistance

- Network with other agencies in your area to share ideas.
- Go online to Web sites that provide instructional resources, such as OTAN (www.otan.us).
- Contact your CDE Consultant or your CASAS Program Specialist.