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
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Places in the Community</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Add Picture)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Safety (Add Picture)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child’s School (Add Picture)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*See example on page 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities for Kids (Add Picture)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare (Add Picture)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*See example on page 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine (Add Picture)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*See example on page 12</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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
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
- 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
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.