

Look & Listen

Look for meaningful community needs; listen to youth voice and seek diverse perspectives.



Assessing genuine community needs is a valuable part of the service-learning process and a great way to begin. As a group, develop a list of issues or needs that can be addressed through service-learning projects. Be sure to solicit information from a variety of sources in the community as described below.

- **Needs/Assets List** – Create a list of all of the assets or positive things and the needs of the community. Needs can include things that need to be improved, need to be changed, or need to be developed.
- **Walkabout** – Take a walk around the community recording observations of what is seen, heard, etc.
- **Media Search** – Scan newspapers, or listen to radio or TV reports for information about the community.
- **Visit** – Visit important sites in the community--soup kitchens, thrift stores, nursing homes, and any agencies where people can get help.
- **Map** – Make a map including points of interest and concern, as well as indicating the locations of important resources.
- **Survey** – Create, conduct, and share the results of a variety of surveys that will help others gain a better understanding of the community.
- **Interview** – Interview various members of the community to determine their ideas for service projects as well as the role they could play in a project.

Assets	Needs
Good, positive resources in the community	Things that need to be improved, developed, or changed