

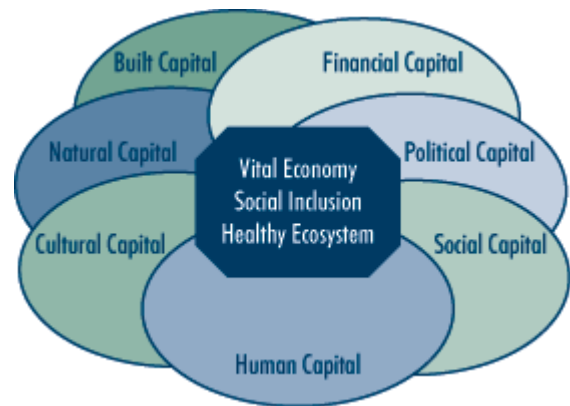
Community Capitals

NOTE: This page is extracted from the Iowa State NCRCD site. A more complete version will be archived at

<http://www.soc.iastate.edu/staff/cflora/ncrcrd/capitals.html>.

This page includes resources related to the Community Capitals Framework (CCF). Both the Center and a number of our partners now use the CCF to map strategies and impact and in our evaluation, research, and outreach efforts.

Cornelia and Jan Flora (2008) developed the **Community Capitals Framework** as an approach to analyze how communities work. Based on their research to uncover characteristics of entrepreneurial and sustainable communities, they found that the communities most successful in supporting healthy sustainable community and economic development paid attention to all seven types of capital: natural, cultural, human, social, political, financial and built. In addition to identifying the capitals and the role each plays in community economic development, this approach also focuses on the interaction among these seven capitals as well as how investments in one capital can build assets in others. The seven capitals include:



- **Natural capital:** Those assets that abide in a location, including resources, amenities and natural beauty.
- **Cultural capital:** Reflects the way people “know the world” and how to act within it. Cultural capital includes the dynamics of who we know and feel comfortable with, what heritages are valued, collaboration across races, ethnicities, and generations, etc. Cultural capital influences what voices are heard and listened to, which voices have influence in what areas, and how creativity, innovation, and influence emerge and are nurtured. Cultural capital might include ethnic festivals, multi-lingual populations or a strong work ethic.
- **Human capital:** The skills and abilities of people, as well as the ability to access outside resources and bodies of knowledge in order to increase understanding and to identify promising practices. Human capital also addresses leadership’s ability to “lead across differences,” to focus on assets, to be inclusive and participatory, and to be proactive in shaping the future of the community or group.
- **Social capital:** Reflects the connections among people and organizations or the social glue to make things happen.
 - **Bonding social capital** refers to those close ties that build community cohesion.
 - **Bridging social capital** involves weak ties that create and maintain bridges among organizations and communities.
- **Political capital:** The ability to influence standards, rules, regulations and their enforcement. It reflects access to power and power brokers, such as access to a local office of a member of Congress, access to local, county, state, or tribal government officials, or leverage with a regional company.

- **Financial capital:** The financial resources available to invest in community capacity building, to underwrite businesses development, to support civic and social entrepreneurship, and to accumulate wealth for future community development.
- **Built capital:** The infrastructure that supports the community, such as telecommunications, industrial parks, mainstreets, water and sewer systems, roads, etc. Built capital is often a focus of community development efforts.

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