

LOUISIANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER



Assessing Your Community for the New Year

As the year comes to a close, we encourage all of our communities to take stock of the past year. Making an assessment of your community will allow you to narrow down what your goals should be in 2024. A good place to begin is with an internal assessment.

Internal assessments are performed by or for community members themselves. Internal assessments may be performed by an economic development agency, chamber, or other individuals or organizations within the community. They may be led by members of the community, a resource available to them (i.e., a university or community college), or a consultant.

The objective of an internal assessment is to identify the community's strengths,

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weaknesses, opportunities and threats. This so-called SWOT analysis will serve as the basis for a community-wide dialogue, making citizens aware of current conditions, creating momentum for change, focusing planning efforts for the best use of resources and providing benchmarks for measuring progress.

Assessments are valuable tools in the comprehensive community development process. They create consensus about a community's assets and liabilities; build momentum for change; serve as baselines of performance levels against which to measure progress; and focus resources in a way that ensures positive, visible changes can be made as quickly as possible.

LED offers many tools and resources to help with your community development process at OpportunityLouisiana.gov.

There, you can also take a look at LED's annual report, which can be classified as a type of assessment, to see the many amazing things LED has achieved this past year. We look forward to beginning the New Year with new endeavors, keeping in mind the high bar that we have set in 2023, and we hope you will continue to be a part of our efforts.

To start 2024 off on the right track, consider registering for the upcoming Community Development Institute (CDI) in Bossier City, which is designed to build the capacity of individuals and communities to positively impact economic and social development. The program is made possible by a partnership between Community Development Institute (CDI) Central at the University of Central Arkansas and the Bossier Chamber of Commerce, and sponsored by LED. Participants move through the three-week training program in a cohort and are exposed to a comprehensive, applied approach to the field of community and economic development.

If you have an interest in making your community a better place to live, work, play and learn we encourage you to learn more about CDI by visiting BossierChamber.com/community-sustainability/cdi-central-in-louisiana

As we bid farewell to 2023, we eagerly welcome 2024 with open arms and hearts full of gratitude. This year promises new opportunities, fresh collaborations, and continued growth, and we couldn't be more excited to share it with you. We hope you have a happy New Year.

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