Telosa + Polco

Together, we can create thriving, equitable, and resilient communities.



A Guidebook to Measure Community Connections

A Key Tool to Help Decision Making and Strengthen Our Communities

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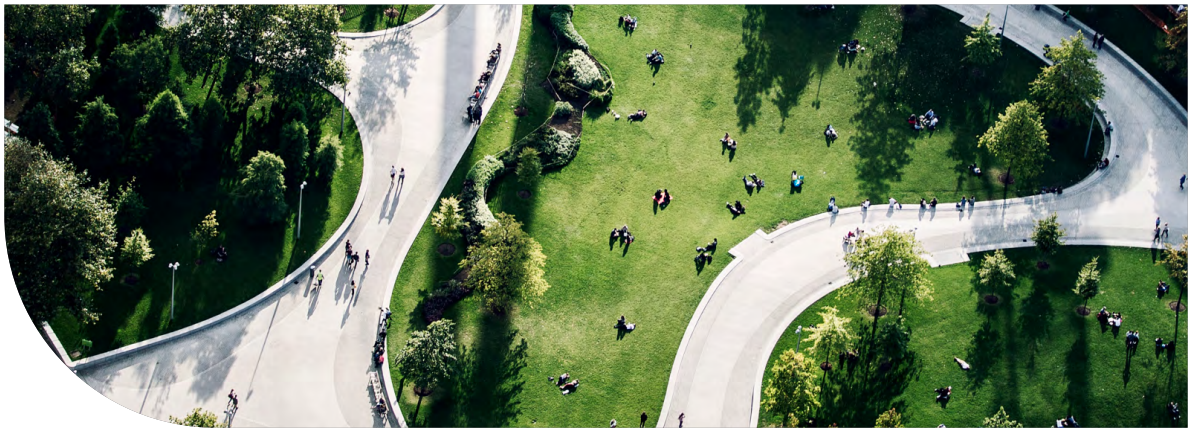
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I. Purpose

The following guidebook and resources are intended to help you and all of the stakeholders in your community. We are drawing on best practices and extensive data to help decision-makers improve local policy-making and programming. Benefits and actions required are provided for you in this document to improve stakeholder engagement. The information is designed to help you better assess the strength of your current community connections and implement a process for improvement. We look forward to working together to create more thriving communities now and for our future.

Today, few cities measure community connections as a strategy to become more cohesive, resilient, and supportive environments for their members. **Assessing community connections is crucial to strengthen the following elements of a thriving community: social capital, equity, economic growth, educational attainment, health and wellbeing, arts and culture, community design and governance.** It enhances overall quality of life and plays a key role in building resilience during crises, increasing civic engagement, promoting cultural inclusivity, improving educational outcomes, bolstering economic growth and ensuring community safety.

Community connections and social capital are essential to improving the quality of life for residents and increasing access to opportunity. Martin Luther King Jr. understood the importance of community connections and the role they play in day-to-day living. He eloquently stated,



> We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.

Community connections and social capital are key to creating vibrant, equitable, and resilient cities.

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