Needs and Asset Assessment

Mega Mix | Dabbling + Creative Ways

WELCOME TO THE *DABBLING IN THE DATA + CREATIVE WAYS TO SOLICIT FEEDBACK* PLAYLIST!
One of the best ways to use the *Creative Ways* and *Dabbling* methods is to mix them together, creating a hands-on, interactive experience for your interest holders.

Just like those epic, genre-spanning mega mixes of lots of songs, putting together a combination of C*reative Ways* and *Dabbling i*s great way to collect rigorous, people-centered information and to make that data more memorable and meaningful.

The team at Public Profit put together the Needs and Asset Assessment Mega Mix to give you a jumpstart for your own work. Have fun!

NEEDS AND ASSET ASSESSMENT

Needs and assets assessments are often the first step in launching a new initiative, offering a way to get different interest holders on the same page when it comes to what's happening in a particular organization or community, and what opportunities may exist.

This mega mix will help teams to create a robust needs and assets assessment that prioritizes interest holders' perspectives and priorities. Want a primer on needs and assets assessments? Check out *Asset Mapping* from the UCLA Center Health Policy Research and *The Basics: Needs and Assets Assessment* from the Community Schools Learning Exchange.

Teams can weave these activities throughout the needs and assets assessment process. Each activity will take between 30-90 minutes, depending on the group size (larger groups = more time) and the complexity of the topic under discussion. Detailed instructions for each activity are in *Dabbling in the Data* and *Creative Ways to Solicit Feedback*.

GET TO KNOW THE DATA YOU HAVE

So that the team is familiar with the information already on hand for the needs and assets assessment, use one or more of these activities:

High-Low - good option for simple data sets, like survey results

Mind the Gap - compare groups to one another, or to a set standard

Data Placemat - look at several data points together

COLLECT ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS FROM INTEREST HOLDERS

As the team identifies gaps in its understanding of needs and assets, consider these non-survey based ways to get more information:

Feedback Wall or Token Survey - best for gathering input asynchronously, such as at the sign-out station of the after-school program or at a community event

Gallery Walk Focus Group or Exit Interview - synchronous ways to solicit input from groups (focus group) or individuals (interview)

Thrive Tree - hands-on, visually rich way for interest holders to describe their vision for a future state of the community

SET PRIORITIES

The team may need to make choices between different options, such as which information to share in the needs and assets assessment or which new services to recommend. Try one or more of these options:

Card Sort - individuals group options into three groups based on their proposed use, such as "definitely," "maybe," and "no."

Magic Quadrant - groups work together to categorize options based on two related criteria, such as its connection to a key priority and the quality of the information.