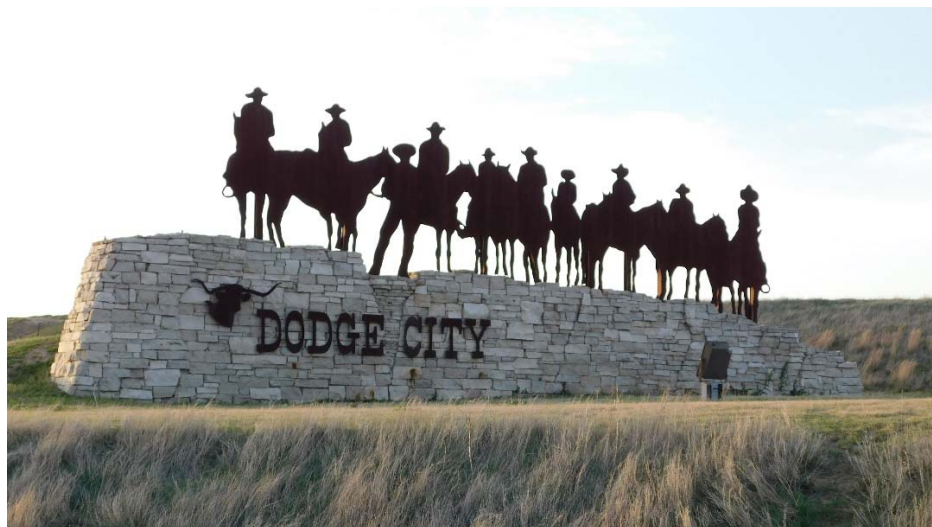




# Summary Report

**ARISE Community Studio Part 1:**  
*Building Community Resilience and Social Equity with  
Community Assets and Capitals*

**Dodge City, Kansas**  
**February 28, 2024**





# Community Studios

A **community studio** is defined as a framework that sparks conversation between community members and researchers to uncover meaningful insights for a research project.

These activities are not extractive, simply pulling information from the communities. Rather, they are meant to support collaboration for the benefit of *both* the communities and the researchers. Both parties should find value in participation, leading to community-centered insights.

To that end, and as promised, this report summarizes what was learned from our first community studio on February 28, 2024. We hope you find it insightful.



## Purpose and Overview

On February 28, 2024, 16 people gathered for three and half hours to participate in the first **ARISE Community Studio in Dodge City, Kansas**.

Their purpose: explore **community resilience** and **social equity** in Dodge City & Ford County, KS.

After a brief introduction, studio participants completed a series of activities, including a survey, storytelling activity, and an interactive asset “mapping” activity.

**Attendees included 11 community partners** from economic development organizations, utilities, nonprofit organizations, community service organizations, museums, educational institutions, parks, and local businesses.

**Five researchers** also participated in the studio from the ARISE Project. The studio was facilitated by Dr. Jason Bergtold from Kansas State University and Dr. Tonya Bronleewe and John Colclazier from Wichita State University.

**Objectives** to identify at the studio:

1. Traits of community resilience.
2. Traits of social equity.
3. Assets based on the community capitals framework and how these assets interlink with each other.
4. Which assets influence community resilience and social equity.

### Workshop Schedule

- > **Introductions**
- > **Community Storytelling Activity**
- > **Resilience and Social Equity Presentation**
- > **Community Resilience And Equity Activity**
- > **Break**
- > **Community Capitals Presentation**
- > **Community Capitals Activity – Part 1**
- > **Lunch and Discussion of Guiding Principles of Community -Centric Resilience and Equity**
- > **Community Capitals Activity – Part 2: Connecting Capitals to Resilience and Equity**
- > **Wrap-up and Next Steps**



# Resilience and Social Equity Guiding Principles

To explore community resilience and social equity for the community, the facilitators asked participants to complete a short exercise comparing aspects and guiding principles of resilience and equity. These aspects and guiding principles were things like having effective leadership and fairness and impartiality.

**What is resilience?** Resilience is the capacity of individuals, communities, businesses, institutions, and governments to adapt to changing conditions and to prepare for, withstand, and rapidly recover from disruptions to everyday life, such as hazard events, in the short and longer term.

**What is equity?** The term “equity” means the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities.

The guiding principles were developed based on a review of academic literature, prior focus group interviews in Kansas communities, and input from governmental and nonprofit organizations.

*As we present the results below, we recognize that different groups and individuals have their own ideas about community resilience and social equity. We also recognize that the guiding principles do not cover all aspects of community resilience and social equity for any given community, as each community will have unique contexts that need to be considered.*



## What aspects matter most for equity?

Here’s how participants ranked various aspects/guiding principles of social equity.

**Table 1:** Relative importance of alternative guiding principles and aspects of social equity for Dodge City and Ford County, KS.

Relative Ranking	Guiding Principle
Higher Ranked Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equal access to clean water, affordable energy, and transportation.</li> <li>Recognition of social and economic needs across the population.</li> <li>Equal access to educational, social, and economic opportunities.</li> <li>Everyone has access to their needed public services and resources.</li> </ul>
Aspects Ranked in the Middle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fairness and impartiality.</li> <li>Respect for all voices and identities.</li> <li>Public policies do not disproportionately burden any specific group.</li> <li>No one has difficulty receiving public services.</li> </ul>
Lower Ranked Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation and representation of all groups in local governance.</li> <li>Everyone is able to participate in decision-making processes.</li> <li>Each household receives the same response to concerns.</li> <li>Outreach to groups with social needs.</li> </ul>

The higher-ranked aspects could be seen as those aspects that provide an opportunity for making more significant improvements to **social equity** in the community.



## What aspects matter most for resilience?

Here’s how participants ranked aspects/guiding principles of community resilience.

**Table 2:** Relative importance of alternative guiding principles and aspects of community resilience for Dodge City and Ford County, KS.

Relative Ranking	Guiding Principle
Higher Ranked Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective leadership.</li> <li>Reliable access to infrastructure services (water, energy, and transportation).</li> <li>Reliable and hardened infrastructure (water, energy, transportation).</li> <li>Disaster and hazard preparedness plans and resources developed and ready.</li> <li>Equitable access to community services (health, education, housing, child-care).</li> </ul>
Aspects Ranked in the Middle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong and equitable emergency response.</li> <li>Strong and equitable emergency response.</li> <li>Good communication between infrastructure services (water, energy, transportation) during emergencies.</li> <li>Strong and reliable communication networks</li> <li>Reliable access to community services (health, education, housing, child-care).</li> <li>Equitable access to infrastructure services (water, energy, and transportation).</li> </ul>
Lower Ranked Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All community members can easily access information about their water, energy, and transportation services.</li> <li>Reliable and sufficient labor force.</li> <li>Community sticks together.</li> <li>Effective early warning.</li> <li>Actively building capacity to withstand future hazards.</li> </ul>

The higher-ranked aspects could be seen as those aspects that provide an opportunity for making more significant improvements to **community resilience**.

**A note about interpreting rankings:** The rankings might not necessarily indicate that certain principles or aspects are not important or critical for a community. For example, many participants commented on the strong community and social networks in Dodge City, indicating that this is a strength and asset in the community. Thus, they ranked the aspect “Community sticks together” lower relative to other aspects. That is, this aspect is already a strength for the community and may not need as much focus as others. The higher-ranked aspects could be seen as those aspects that provide an opportunity for making more significant improvements to community resilience and social equity in the community.



# Mapping the Lifeblood of a Community

Participants teamed up to identify assets and capitals that support the lifeblood of their community. To do this, participants engaged in a storytelling activity. We emphasized telling stories of positive changes, success, and beneficial transformations in the community (Emery et al., 2006). We also inquired about other community capitals not identified in the stories.






*These activities help set the stage for us to think about how to build on the assets and resources we have now to address the community’s needs in the future.*

**What is an asset?** Anything that we want to keep, build upon, and sustain for future generations. They are a useful thing, person, or quality in your community.

**What is a capital?** When assets used to build other assets or resources they become a community capital. Capitals can be invested in, saved up, or used up (Emery et al, 2005).

**Community capitals** are assets and resources in a community that allow the community to grow, prosper, improve social well-being, and be resilient. Table 3 presents the types of community capital.

**Table 3:** Community Capitals and Community Resilience

Capitals	Description	Relevant Indicators for Resilience
Human 	Knowledge, education, skills, health, physical ability, management, and orientations of community members.	Job creation and stability, health access, food access, unemployment
Natural 	Resources (air, land, water, minerals, oil) and overall stability of ecosystems, weather, amenities, location.	Land use, carbon footprint, water supply and quality, flood mitigation,
Cultural 	Traditions, languages, identity, values, beliefs.	Minority representation, changes in beliefs
Social 	Social associates, networks, reciprocity, and trust generated by groups in the community, social norms	Social capital index, disaster planning and preparedness, charity and donations
Political 	Access to resources and ability and power to influence resource distribution and achieve internal goals.	Voter participation, public support, trust indices, organizational communication
Financial 	Monetary savings, income, investments, credit, wealth generation, fundraising.	Tax and energy revenues, income metrics and inequality, community savings
Built 	Physical infrastructure, community lifelines, critical facilities and services.	Energy resilience metrics, infrastructure service levels, service disruptions

Sources: Cafer et al. (2019), Cui and Li, (2019), Stofferahn (2012).

**A map of the community capitals for Dodge City is shown on the next page in Figure 1.**

*Note:* Not all community capitals are presented in Figure 1 (e.g. roads were not identified by participants for built capital). The capitals identified represent those assets and resources that can help lead to positive changes, outcomes, or transformation in the community.

# Figure 1: Mapping Community Capitals for Dodge City, KS







# Connecting Community Capitals to Resilience & Equity

For the final activity, small groups indicated how various community capitals influence resilience and social equity in the community using different colors. The colors used were:

- **Green** for a “Strong positive influence and it’s moving in the right direction.”
- **Blue** for a “Positive influence, but there is room for improvement.”
- **Yellow** for a “Lower influence and we need to work on this a bit more.”
- **Red** for a “No influence and currently needs a lot of work.”





The results were “averaged” across the small groups as shown in Table 4 below and on the next two pages. Given time constraints, not all community capitals were always rated by the groups, hence, some community capitals may not be present in Table 4. This does not mean they do not have an influence on community resilience and social equity or were not seen as important.

Table 4: Influence of Community Capitals on Community Resilience and Social Equity		
Capital Type	Community Resilience	Social Equity
<b>Built Capital</b> 	<b>Electrical Infrastructure</b> <b>Waste Water Treatment Plant</b> <b>Wind Farms</b> <b>Broadband Access/Internet</b> <b>Gas Infrastructure</b>	<b>Waste Water Treatment Plant</b> <b>Gas Infrastructure</b>
	<b>Solar Farms</b> <b>Equipment (e.g. Bobcats)</b>	<b>Electrical Infrastructure</b> <b>Equipment (e.g. Bobcats)</b> <b>Wind Farms</b> <b>Solar Farms</b>
	<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>	<b>Broadband Access/Internet</b>
	<b>Medical/Health Infrastructure</b>	<b>Medical/Health Infrastructure</b>
<b>Cultural Capital</b> 	<b>“Dodge City” Name</b> <b>Dodge City Days</b> <b>International Festival</b>	<b>“Dodge City” Name</b> <b>Boot Hill Museum</b> <b>Dodge City Days</b> <b>International Festival</b> <b>Main Street Festival</b>
	<b>Boot Hill Museum</b> <b>Ethnic Mindset Culture</b> <b>Main Street Festival</b> <b>Multicultural Committees</b> <b>Library Events</b> <b>Agriculture Culture</b> <b>Local Fundraisers</b>	<b>Multicultural Committees</b> <b>Library Events</b> <b>Local Fundraisers</b>
	<b>Mexican Village</b> <b>Farmers’ Community</b>	<b>Mexican Village</b> <b>Agriculture Culture</b>
	<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>	<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>

Ratings	
	Strong positive influence and it’s moving in the right direction
	Positive Influence, but there is room for improvement
	Lower influence and we need to work on this a bit more
	No influence and currently needs a lot of work



Table 4 continued.



Capital Type	Community Resilience	Social Equity
<b>Financial Capital</b> 	<b>Why Not Dodge Projects</b> <b>Protein Industry &amp; Plants</b> <b>Banks</b> <b>External Grants</b> <b>FEMA Funds</b> <b>Casino and Resort</b> <b>Tourism</b> <b>Meat Packing Plants</b>	<b>Why Not Dodge Projects</b> <b>Tourism</b>
	<b>Contractors and Services</b> <b>Charity Access for Resources</b> <b>In-Kind Support</b>	<b>Protein Industry and Plants</b> <b>Banks</b> <b>External Grants</b> <b>Casino and Resort</b> <b>In-Kind Support</b>
	<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>	<b>Contractors and Services</b> <b>Packing Plants</b>
	<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>	<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>
	<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>	
<b>Natural Capital</b> 	<b>Farms and Ranches</b>	<b>Neighborhood Parks</b> <b>Horse Thief Reservoir</b> <b>Natural Landscape</b>
	<b>Neighborhood Parks</b> <b>Access to Land</b> <b>Horse Thief Reservoir</b> <b>Agricultural Resources</b>	<b>Access to Land</b> <b>Farms/Ranches</b> <b>Agricultural Resources (Soil)</b> <b>Stewardship Commitments</b>
	<b>Stewardship Commitments</b> <b>Hunting</b> <b>Natural Landscape</b>	<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>
	<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>	<b>Hunting</b>
	<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>	
<b>Human Capital</b>  	<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>	<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>
	<b>Public-Private Partnerships</b> <b>Community College</b> <b>Community Volunteers</b> <b>USD 443</b> <b>Leadership Dodge</b>	<b>Labor Force/Job Creation</b> <b>Experienced Experts</b> <b>Library</b> <b>Community College</b> <b>Public-Private Partnerships</b> <b>USD 443</b>
	<b>Labor Force/Job Creation</b> <b>Experienced Experts</b> <b>Library</b> <b>Adult &amp; Youth Enrichment</b> <b>Programs/Groups</b>	<b>Community Volunteers</b> <b>Adult Enrichment</b> <b>Programs/Groups</b>
	<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>	<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>
	<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>	

Ratings
Strong positive influence and it's moving in the right direction
Positive Influence, but there is room for improvement
Lower influence and we need to work on this a bit more
No influence and currently needs a lot of work





Table 4 continued.

Capital Type	Community Resilience	Social Equity	Ratings
<b>Social Capital</b> 	<b>Divers Culture</b> <b>Church Community</b>	<b>Church Community</b>	Strong positive influence and it's moving in the right direction
	<b>Community Communication</b> <b>DC Chamber of Commerce</b> <b>Women's Chamber</b> <b>Community Foundation of SW Kansas</b> <b>Public-Private Partnerships</b>	<b>Diverse Culture</b> <b>Community Communication</b> <b>DC Chamber of Commerce</b> <b>Women's Chamber</b> <b>Public-Private Partnerships</b>	Positive Influence, but there is room for improvement
	<b>YMCA</b> <b>Community Volunteers</b> <b>Community Member Connections</b> <b>Social Media Groups</b>	<b>YMCA</b> <b>Community Volunteers</b> <b>Community Member Connections</b> <b>Community Foundation of SW Kansas</b>	Lower influence and we need to work on this a bit more
	<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>	<b>Social Media Groups</b>	No influence and currently needs a lot of work
<b>Political Capital</b> 	<b>Disaster Declaration</b> <b>County Commission</b> <b>Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation</b> <b>Mutual Trust</b> <b>STAR Bond Districts</b> <b>RHID Program</b> <b>Community Will (Can Do)</b> <b>Emergency Management Planning</b>	<b>Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation</b> <b>STAR Bond Districts</b> <b>RHID Program</b> <b>Community Will (Can Do)</b>	
	<b>City Council</b> <b>Leadership and City Administration</b> <b>Civic Organizations (non-profits)</b> <b>Police and Fire Departments</b>	<b>Disaster Declaration</b> <b>Mutual Trust</b> <b>Civic Organizations (Non-profits)</b> <b>Emergency Management Planning</b> <b>Police &amp; Fire Departments</b>	
	<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>	<b>City Council</b> <b>County Commission</b> <b>Leadership and City Administration</b>	
	<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>	<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>	
		<i>Nothing Listed in This Category</i>	

## References:

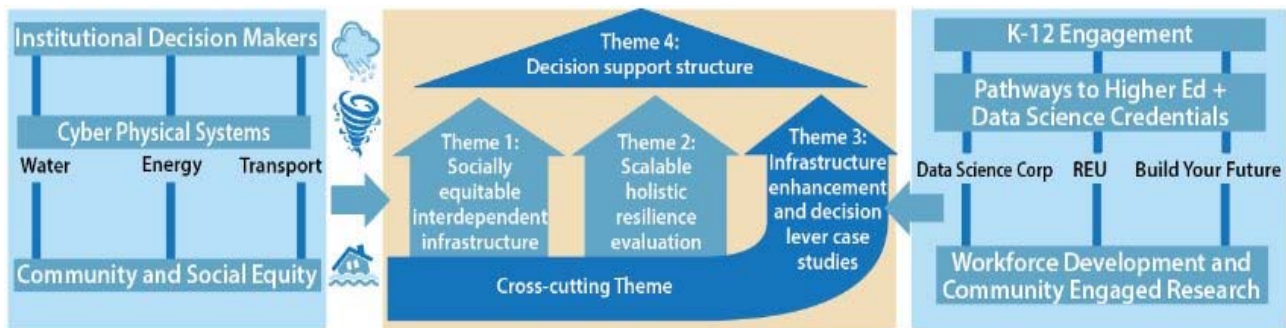
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The community studio was sponsored and organized by ARISE. This 5-year project seeks to build research capacity across Kansas while also strengthening the state’s economy and workforce. The National Science Foundation Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) and Kansas Board of Regents fund us. The ARISE team of scientists seeks to help Kansas communities safeguard infrastructure in the face of increasingly severe weather, cyberattacks, and other disasters. But rather than looking for answers just in the lab—they are co-creating solutions *with* Kansas residents.

A key goal is to develop a new social equity-driven paradigm for resilience analysis through a pipeline of community leaders and decision-makers. This is an important research topic because the most socially vulnerable people tend to live and work in the most physically vulnerable areas (e.g., floodplains) with undersized or undermaintained infrastructure.

Learn more at:  
[arisekansas.org](http://arisekansas.org)

To conduct this research, the team connects with residents from five regions in Kansas: (i) Dodge City and Ford County; (ii) Garden City and Finney County; (iii) Liberal and Seward County; (iv) Kansas City and Wyandotte and Johnson Counties. ARISE research centers on [four themes](#), as shown below. Other components of the project build talent in Kansas, including data science training, summer research experiences for college students, and hands-on science for youth and families.



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