



2018
2019

Tioga County, New York Quality of Life Assessment EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Brief

In August 2018, the Project Lead gathered pre-existing reports to better understand the assets, challenges, and gaps in Tioga County literature.

STEP
01



The Survey

In September 2018, a brief, one-page survey was created and distributed to those who live or work in Tioga County in order to gain a broad understanding of perceptions of quality of life in Tioga County. The survey yielded 315 responses.

STEP
02



The Kickoff

On October 19th, 2019, thirty-six residents and stakeholders gathered to learn about the trends from the preliminary survey, and to brainstorm strengths and challenges impacting quality of life in Tioga County. Survey results and kickoff discussions were used to develop question routes for the focus group discussion phase of the project.

STEP
03



The Discussions

From December 2018 to February 2019, partnerships and collaborative efforts among many organizations and stakeholders brought over one hundred residents to the table to discuss the details of quality of life.

STEP
04

The Delivery

STEP
05



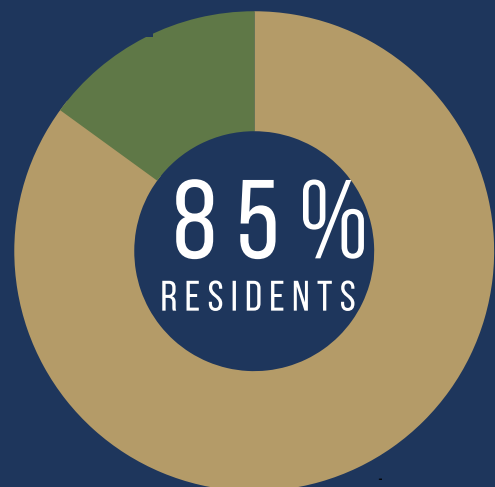
In the final months of the project, data from the discussions were analyzed, a final report and supplemental materials were created and distributed to stakeholders and residents, future recommendations were developed, and presentations were conducted in the county.

Project Overview:

The Tioga Tells Quality of Life Assessment began in August 2018 as a way to identify the strengths and challenges influencing quality of life for Tioga County residents. There has long been widespread understanding among community partners that, while numerical data tells us about a community's status for a specific snapshot in time, it does not tell us the factors influencing those outcomes through the voices of the people who live, work, play, and thrive in that community. Tioga Tells created an opportunity to collect that information through a brief survey and over a dozen community discussions. At its core, Tioga Tells' purpose is to invite Tioga County residents to the table to tell their own stories.

315 SURVEY
36 KICKOFF
149 FOCUS GROUP

500 PARTICIPANTS



Survey Findings:

- Natural capital is viewed most positively, as 49% of respondents report a positive outlook on the quality of the county's soil, air, and water resources
- Residents have a generally positive view of social and human capital, with 74% reporting the quality of each to be positive or stable
- Financial, political, and cultural capital are perceived most negatively, with over 38% of respondents reporting a negative outlook on each
- Respondents view their independence levels and spirituality most positively, with over 80% of participants rating these factors as either "good" or "excellent"
- Participants were most dissatisfied with their financial well-being, as nearly 30% of survey-takers report being in a "fair" or "poor" financial condition
- Respondents overwhelmingly believe Tioga County to be a safe, active, and kid-friendly community with good schools, but that the county lack sufficient job opportunities
- Over 60% of respondents believe there is a sense of community pride and an opportunity to make a difference in Tioga County
- Most respondents (53%) believe that there are barriers to participation and a mutual trust and respect between decision-makers and residents exists (55%)

Next Steps:

In an effort to customize realistic action planning and improvement strategies while addressing the identified challenges, the following broad objectives were created for the 2019-2020 period:

Objective #1: Retain and increase engagement of the Tioga Tells Steering Committee.

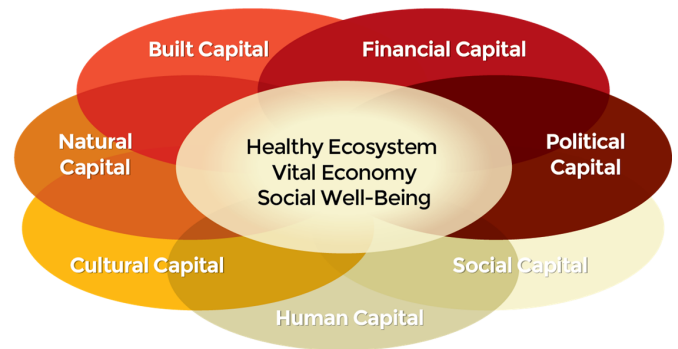
Objective #2: Increase opportunities for Tioga County residents to learn about services, resources, and/or recreational opportunities available within the county.

Objective #3: Increase opportunities for community members to play a role in municipal policy

Objective #4: Promote activities that expand upon the strengths identified in the 2018-2019 study

As the project transitions from Year 1 to Year 1, community residents and stakeholders are encouraged to stay connected to project efforts. Please visit <https://tiogatells-tiogacountyny.hub.arcgis.com/> for the full report!

FORMS OF CAPITAL



Focus Group Results:

When discussing life in Tioga County, participants identified the following strengths and challenges as impacting their quality of life:

1. Nature Appeal
2. Local Schools
3. Sense of Community
4. Community Organizations
5. Disconnect and Division
6. Traveling out of Tioga County
7. Lack of Social Support
8. Nostalgia
9. Transportation Barrier

STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES

At first glance, this collection of data seemed to paint a contradictory picture of social capital in Tioga County. While most survey respondents perceived social capital to be positive, other data revealed some negative aspects of social capital. Upon further investigation, we found that participants tended to describe these elements of social capital in two differing ways: among people with similar demographic and socioeconomic characteristics in their immediate network, or between people with different traits outside their immediate network. These two forms of social capital are also known as bonding and bridging social capital, respectively... *Read the full report for more details!*



RURAL HEALTH
NETWORK
Serving South Central New York

Tioga Tells is supported in partnership by the Rural
Health Network of SCNY, Tioga County Public
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Prepared by AmeriCorps VISTA, Deanna
Hutchison



Public Health
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