

CIVIC MUSCLE FRAMEWORK

PEER COUNTIES

Peer counties help to set goals, identify successful local strategies, and discover community partners

PEER CHARACTERISTICS

- Total population
- Population change
- Median household income
- Population age 75+
- Veterans
- Families with children
- Urban/rural populations
- Educational attainment
- Foreign-born population

CIVIC MUSCLE INDEX

The Civic Muscle Index is a framework for exploring the characteristics that contribute to thriving communities and engaged citizenry.

BELONGING

- Home ownership
- Not living alone
- Engaged youth
- Interaction indices
- Residential stability
- Faith-based organizations
- Social associations

CONTRIBUTION

- Nonprofit organizations
- Voter participation rate
- Census response rate
- Civic participation
- Labor force participation
- Volunteerism and fundraising

LEADERSHIP

- Trust in community leaders
- Trust in community members
- Trust in local police

WELL-BEING

Mental health

Physical health

General health

Life expectancy

VITALITY

- College-educated population
- High school graduation
- School funding adequacy
- School test scores
- Median household income
- Employment rate + rate change
- Crime-free neighborhoods
- Living in a safe neighborhood
- Access to childcare centers
- Access to primary care physicians
- Access to food stores
- Access to high-speed internet
- Access to libraries
- Access to parks
- Business creation