

The Road to Recovery

Making Choices for Your Community

One of the reasons people participate in discussion forums is to let others know how they feel about certain issues. Now that you've had a chance to participate in a forum on this issue, we'd like to know what you are thinking. Your opinions, along with those of others who participated in forums, will be reflected in a summary report that will be distributed to state and local leaders, the media, and other citizens in the region.

1. Which statement best describes your thoughts about what should be done to help your community recover from the current economic downturn? (Check one.)

- I am not at all sure about what should be done.
- I have a general sense of what should be done.
- I have a definite opinion about what should be done.

2. Do you agree or disagree with the statements listed below? (Strongly agree; Somewhat agree; Somewhat disagree; Strongly disagree; Not sure)

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
▶ My community should wait it out, EVEN IF the current economic downturn lasts for several more years.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▶ My community should focus on building our economy around our existing businesses and strengths, EVEN IF that narrows our options in the long-term.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▶ My community should focus on creating new strengths related to up and coming industries such as green businesses, EVEN IF some of them might fail.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Listed below are some potential actions that communities could take in response to the current economic downturn. Please rank your **top three** choices from among the actions below, with 1 being the action you think is most important, 2 the second most important, and 3 the third most important.

	1	2	3
▶ Develop a community asset map to identify local strengths			
▶ Create a local fund to invest in start-up companies			
▶ Provide job, financial and other types of counseling to people in the community who are in financial trouble			
▶ Help existing local businesses increase their markets by providing export development programs, e-commerce training, and other support services			
▶ Launch a "buy local" campaign to encourage people to buy from local businesses			
▶ Conduct a study to see what kinds of goods and services are being imported from outside the community in order to identify markets for new businesses to provide these things locally			
▶ Build partnerships with other organizations and neighboring communities			
▶ Provide entrepreneurial training and support to encourage new business formation			
▶ Revamp workforce training programs to prepare workers for jobs in up and coming industries such as green businesses and health care			
▶ Reduce regulations that hamper new business development			
▶ Look for savings in government operations			
▶ Other (please specify)			



4. Are you thinking differently about this issue now that you have participated in the forum? (Yes, No) If yes, please explain.

5. Do you see ways for people to work on this issue that you didn't see before? (Yes, No) Please explain.

6. What, if anything, would you personally be willing to do to help move the community forward on this issue?

7. What else, if anything, would you like to share about this topic? Please explain.

8. Are you male or female? Male Female

9. How much schooling have you completed?

- Some high school Some college Graduate or professional school
 High school graduate College graduate

10. For which type of business or organization do you work?

- Government Educational Institution I'm not currently employed
 Business I'm a student Other
 Non-profit I'm retired

11. How old are you? 17 or younger 18-29 30-49 50-64 65 or older

12. In which state do you live?

- AL AR GA KY LA MO MS
 NC OK SC TN VA WV Other

13. In which type of community do you live? Rural Urban Suburban