“When a community takes the time to get to know itself, it gains a sense of identity and purpose that informs decisions about its future.” –Lyman Orton

**ACCESS FAQs**

**What is ACCESS?**

A grass-roots, adaptable community assessment program that assists communities in developing sustainable and innovative approaches to economic growth and better quality of life!

**Does my community qualify for ACCESS?**

Yes! If...

1) The community needs and wants to participate. (Need)

2) Community leaders fully support participation in ACCESS. (Leadership)

3) Participants reflect your community’s cultural, economic and political perspectives. (Community)

**How is ACCESS different?**

ACCESS brings people together to build resident attachment and economically vibrant communities.

**What is the process?**

ACCESS is a 4 phase process (but is adaptable for every community)

**Phase 1** – Laying the groundwork: AEDI community developers meet with community leaders.

**Phase 2** – Discovering the community: AEDI analyzes the survey distributed by community members.

**Phase 3** – Building a framework: AEDI community developers will present the survey analysis, conduct a SWOT assessment and help create achievable goals.

**Phase 4** – Taking action: AEDI provides assistance in putting your plan to work.

**Who from my community would be involved in ACCESS?**

- Elected Officials
- Economic Development Office
- Chamber of Commerce
- Business Leaders
- Community Volunteers
- Public Service Workers

**What will this cost my community?**

Currently, ACCESS is fully funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration and there is no cost for communities.

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