

	<b>Build Social Capital/ Create Networks and Share Information and Resources</b>	<b>Remove Barriers &amp; Change the “Floor” from which people move up</b>	<b>Build Healthy Communities</b>
<b>Health &amp; Wellness</b>	Increase collaboration and decrease competition in the planning, funding, and provisioning of health care services in order to improve access and quality of care for low-income persons.	Increase the number of people who have health care coverage, including prescription and alternative treatments.  Reduce substance abuse and behavioral health problems among all residents in Northcentral Montana.	Develop and build sustainable health promotion and disease prevention programs.
<b>Housing</b>	Develop and utilize integrated services for the homeless population including services to multiple families that live in a single-family dwelling. - Link services as continuum of care  Create new, safe, decent, sanitary and affordable single-family homes and multi-family housing for low-income and special needs populations where there is a lack of available housing. - Information clearinghouse - Regional coordinator	Create new, safe, decent, sanitary and affordable single-family homes and multi-family housing for low-income and special needs populations where there is a lack of available housing.  Rehabilitate existing single and multi-family homes to meet the needs of low-income families.  Develop and utilize integrated services for the homeless population including services to multiple families that live in a single-family dwelling	
<b>Transportation</b>	There will be a regional transportation network – the information source for transportation related needs.	Low-income persons will have a variety of options to get from Point A to Point B.	

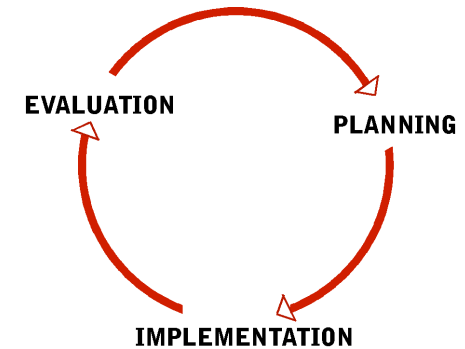
	Use and Protect the Land	Increase Assets / Capital Available	Assure Access and Use of Technology	Learning
Health & Wellness				Develop and build sustainable health promotion and disease prevention programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrate culturally based education about substance abuse, mental health</li> </ul>
Housing		Increase and retain home ownership of low-income households in the community of their choice.		Increase and retain home ownership of low-income households in the community of their choice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pre and post purchase education</li> </ul>
Transportation				

## Evaluation

A fundamental concern to both the Community Ventures Coalition and the NWAf is being able to evaluate how effective the efforts to reduce poverty are and to be able to make course corrections over the duration of the plan. Flexibility, the ability to learn from both successes and mistakes, and the capacity to respond to and support new ideas, strategies and actions, is an integral part of the financial and implementation plan. It is reflected in the Coalition's commitment to work as a learning organization and means that planning and evaluation are a continuous part of its activities and efforts.

A framework for evaluation, including suggested indicators for different aspects of the plan is provided in Appendix E. This framework uses three different types of measures:

- Measures of accomplishments – such as the number of youth served or number of presentations to community groups
- Measures of effectiveness – such as the number of homeowners on reservations or the number of new jobs created
- Measures of collaboration – such as the satisfaction of partners with their participation in the Coalition, or the number and variety of joint efforts across the region.



### **NWAF Criteria**

*Learning and adapting in response to new knowledge and changing circumstances*

The framework also acknowledges that community change comes slowly and years and even decades may be needed to measure the effectiveness of the poverty reduction plan. More than one Coalition member comes to this effort with the philosophy that their work is for the children of the region and the unborn generations.

Meaningful evaluation of broad outcomes will be challenging as the Plan will be implemented in an environment where federal, state and local governments are providing less and less support to people living in poverty, and are turning more and more to private organizations for what have been historically considered basic government functions (ranging from sidewalks to immunizations to providing support of food, shelter and health care for children). To measure improvements one must be clear about the baseline – where is the starting line from which one is measuring? This line is changing daily in Montana and we expect the number of people living in poverty to increase.<sup>10</sup> The challenge for the Northcentral Montana Community Ventures Project is to reverse this trend with the help of the Northwest Area Foundation, the assets of our region, and our ingenuity and energy.

<sup>10</sup> Since June, a decrease in TANF benefits from 40% to 30% of the federal poverty level was announced resulting in a drop of the monthly benefits for a family of three from \$507 to \$375, and the US Census Bureau announced an increase in the number of people living in poverty.