Key Informant Interview Questions

Turning the Tide on Poverty
Key Informant Interview

Name:

Title:

Community:

Date/ Time of Interview:       Phone:

Length of time in current position:

Length of time in the community:

1. What would you say are the 2-3 key issues your community is grappling with right now?

2. Over the past 2-3 years, how would you describe your community in terms of its ability to effectively address and resolve important local problems (or to act on key opportunities)?

3. In the past 2-3 years, what groups or individuals have tended to have the most influence in deciding how community issues were addressed? How were they involved?

4. How would you describe the manner in which decisions are made in the community?
   a. Are they made by a small group of local elites; by different organizations or individuals depending upon the issue being tackled; or does the community have trouble finding people or groups that are willing to act on local decisions?
   b. Are all segments of the community given a chance to weigh in on various local issues, or are there some people that simply don’t get involved? If so, which groups and why?
   c. If local residents are concerned about certain local problems or issues, how do they take action on these concerns?

5. During the past 2-3 years, how often would you say that people in this community disagree with each other on important matters? How are such disagreements handled?

6. During the past 2-3 years, what has your community done, if anything, to get more local residents involved in community improvement activities? For example . . .
   a. Has it conduct community leadership development programs? If so, who sponsored this program(s)? Who did they target for this type of program?
b. Did local leaders host community forums/roundtables so that a variety of local people and groups can share their views on local issues?
c. Were there other ways that local leaders seek the input of local residents?

7. During the past 2-3 years, what do you feel have been the major barriers preventing local residents from taking an active part in addressing community issues?

8. In the past 2-3 years, to what extent has Cooperative Extension Service worked to encourage resident involvement in this community? Are you aware of any specific examples? Please explain. How has the community benefited from this engagement? How has the university benefited? Do you believe that CES should be more involved in this area? Why or Why not?

9. Any other information that you would like to share about your community or the way important issues are addressed? Are there other individuals that you feel could provide valuable insights on the questions we have discussed in this interview? If so, could you provide me with the person's name and contact information?

10. Finally . . .
   a. Do you have any questions that you would like to ask me?
   b. Can I contact you again if I have any more questions?

   Thank you for your time and assistance

Interviewer’s Summary Notes

Note any impressions you have or comments about the interview

Summary:

Gender:

Age:

Person’s role in the community:

Major issues covered:

Key impressions (Was the person knowledgeable? Did (s)he show genuine interest in the topic of the interview? Any impression on how they viewed the role of citizens?):