

Community Needs Assessment Introduction Webinar from Chris Florquist for President

We will be holding a webinar on Wednesday, August 12th at 11:00 a.m. PDT / GMT - 7 to explain more about the Community Needs Assessment, which is our interpersonal, inclusive attempt, as members of this society, to solve the challenges we individually experience at this moment in time.

We do not accept that we, as Americans, individually don't know the right direction (identification and framing of our problems) or the right approach (practical steps necessary to solve our problems) or the responsibilities we each hold. We will not pretend that we are not aware of what we should do. We do know. We all know, and our political conversations, where we accuse the other person, party or candidate for violating these principles, demonstrates our awareness.

As a campaign, and personally, we have been anticipating and preparing to solve this current, all-encompassing problem of economic need for years with the hope that it would not come. We don't want to find ourselves in this position, facing the problems that we do today. We would much prefer that:

1. people accept that we are all concurrently responsible for our lives and the lives of others in every action we take, effectively making each of us managers, parents and CEOs supporting someone else's life's work, and working in concert with those who share the same responsibility,
2. people acknowledge that each action they take always includes someone else's life and requires each individual to extend the opportunity for the other person or persons' perspective to be contributed independently on terms that are concurrent and mutually beneficial,
3. despite our mistakes, we are still responsible, in the same moment of those mistakes, for our contribution to a better world, equally applied to everyone, and we must acknowledge our responsibility for solving both,
4. people acknowledge that they don't get to decide what they are going to do alone, when and where they want, simply because they believe they can convince a third-party of their correctness, independently of the actual responsibility for action,

5. people understood that the amount of investment in aggregate dollars applied to their lives, prior to their awareness or ability to invest in themselves, is consistently definitive of their current position in life,
6. our economy was growing sustainably as a function of our investment in individual opportunities, defined by investing in everyone to get the outcomes we need individually,
7. and that we had prepared our society long ago for a global pandemic.

But we don't find ourselves in that situation, and the only way we get a chance at something more enjoyable, less annoying and less difficult is to do the following:

You have to solve for the person next to you. There's no choice in this environment, where interconnectedness is definitive of our moment in time on the planet and in America, and yet the analysis inside our heads is misinterpreting the reality we live with every day - that our actions are actually defined by someone else's actions in a way we've never observed before.

- If we ignore this obvious data point, our economy won't function - it isn't currently functioning.
- The economy will continue to degrade, and we will continue to get each other sick from COVID-19, the combination of which will ensure that the economy will not restart, even when a vaccine is found, manufactured and deployed. The holes in the economy have created explicit breaks in the flows of money from people supplying and people demanding goods. Growth won't happen.
- This is just the math of our situation. We can ignore the math, we can try to avoid the reality, but we have the ability to solve it simply by identifying the variables to coordinate resources and investing in the people working together.
- In particular, the economic challenges we each face and will face in the future are all coordination of resources problems - and, for the reasons we outline in the "styrofoam walls" model below, we are actively avoiding taking any actions to coordinate anything at the scale of the problem we share.

- This is a national problem, experienced at the community level, and we should approach it accordingly.

There are portions of the U.S. where people are trying to solve this problem, but we are only going to get cohesion in our actions if we are solving along the lines of the same model, where we define “model” as a framework of ideas and concepts that can be applied to what we know, collectively, as verifiable knowledge. Smaller-scale coordination and coordination that violates self-interest and working together equally will not work. Less-than-our-best information won’t suffice.

What follows is our understanding of the individual barriers we are facing to coordinating resources. Our approach to this is the Community Needs Assessment, but the principles that define it apply to any problem we choose to solve with another person or group of people.

Below is the initial development of our model of individual human experience that explains why we are not yet collectively solving problems. We use false data from other people, sources, and experiences that cause us to build up a barrier with negative thoughts and believe the wall is made of bricks, when it’s actually styrofoam. We don’t do the work to determine whether our analysis of the data is accurate. We could just run through the wall to the other side if we knew that someone expected and believed that we could - that they believe we have the ability to embrace the responsibilities that we can see and help us attain the space that we know and previously believed was real. This recognition will allow you to more clearly evaluate and identify where real action can take place through the Community Needs Assessment.

1. I use an interaction with others, something outside of myself, such as a concept, person, relationship, or idea to feel safe about being me
 - a. I don’t know why I exist, and I don’t believe anyone else has the answer that makes sense for them and me equally
 - b. I recognize that people are treated by certain groups as if they belong, so I find a group that allows me to feel included for some of the things that feel natural for me
 - i. I will join multiple different groups, so I can feel safe in more areas where I am acting with regards to something that is natural for me
2. The existence of a question that someone asks of me is a signal that I am wrong
 - a. I feel like and expect that I’ve done something wrong when someone asks me a question, or they will find out I’ve done something wrong once I provide an answer

3. New information that does not align with the perception of my identity feels like an attack on that identity, and I respond with defensive action that may range from passive to aggressive
 - a. Changes to my identity framework signals that I don't know something, which signals that I got it wrong
 - b. The experience of getting it wrong brings up the awareness for myself and for others that I don't belong
4. To reinforce my identity, I need someone else to recognize that the work I am currently doing is right/correct, that what I have done is helpful, and that they also explain how they see it as beneficial
 - a. If I am right, then I am alive for a purpose
 - i. I use an identity to serve as the variable that signals that I am right because other people will ratify my identity
 - b. If I get it wrong and it is detrimental to my desires, then I look for the last thing I can control, so I can avoid the feeling of failure
 - i. I can always control the last action I take, and no one will have any say in the matter
5. I have original thoughts that don't need correction, but my experience is that, when someone challenges my original thoughts, I must be wrong, which invalidates my thoughts, so I accept when someone changes, omits, or replaces my ideas
6. I need to know where I fit into the Community Needs Assessment process and why my input is needed
 - a. My information and perspective are unique to me and add to others' awareness and understanding of the needs that exist
 - b. The full scope of a need is best understood with the insight and perspective from as many people as possible
 - c. The plans that result from this process of information gathering will necessarily be more effective at solving this need for the most people
7. I need to know why this campaign and the Community Needs Assessment were designed to help me
8. I need to know how this campaign and the Community Needs Assessment are designed to help me
9. I need to know how my involvement / action helps me
 - a. Providing my perspective into a process that actually includes my perspective into the solution development and execution necessarily benefits me
10. I need to know how my involvement / action will help others

- a. I am not the only person dealing with the issues I deal with, and I am not the only person that has the needs I do
 - b. Letting others know about these issues and needs and the inclusion of that information into solutions will help others who may not or cannot tell anyone about their same issues / needs
11. Our campaign policy plans are developed to illustrate how we will support each community in solving for its needs / desires
12. Our campaign understands that you will be best at identifying your immediate needs and how you would go about solving for them
 - a. We also understand that we will have a unique perspective to identify needs that you don't realize are present as a means to guide your community's inquiry
 - b. By collectively identifying all needs present for a community, it allows other communities to identify needs that might have gone unnoticed
13. Each person is a member of multiple groups of people all at the same time: family unit, neighborhood, town, region, state, country, world

We've outlined in our previous correspondence, which can be found at <https://www.chrisflorquist.com/invitation/>, how we can work together, and we look forward to continuing to do so.

To engage with your local community to address its needs, please submit the appropriate request form at <https://www.chrisflorquist.com/participate/> to begin the Community Needs Assessment process, and let us know if you have any questions along the way or prior to joining the webinar.

To register for the Community Needs Assessment Introduction Webinar, please submit the registration form at <https://www.chrisflorquist.com/introduction-webinar/>. Following your registration, you will receive an email 1 day prior to the webinar event with the Zoom login credentials as well as a reminder email 1 hour prior to the event start. The webinar will be recorded, Live-streamed and posted on [our YouTube channel](#).

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