

Journey Level Assessment Instructions

Purpose

This assessment is designed to help communities move from alignment to action. At this level, communities are beginning to organize around shared priorities, coordinate efforts across partners, incorporate resident perspectives, and demonstrate early progress toward improving quality of life.

Request an Assessment

Submit your request [here](#). You will receive an email confirmation and one PDF copy of the 2025–2027 C.O.R.E. Guide. Additional PDFs or hard copies may be purchased separately. Please note there is a \$2,500 assessment fee, which supports expert review, a detailed feedback report, and optional briefing. An invoice will be issued within five business days of submitting the Request for Assessment form.

Prepare your Application

Respond to all questions in the Community Profile and Categories 1, 2, and 3 of the C.O.R.E. Guide. In addition, respond to the *establishing level* questions in Categories 4, 5, and 6. The application is limited to 30 pages, excluding a cover page, Core Group structure chart, and glossary of abbreviations.

What Reviewers Are Looking for at this Level

At the Journey level, reviewers are looking for evidence that your community is moving beyond alignment into coordinated action. Specifically, they are looking for:

- A clearly defined and functioning core group
- Evidence of shared priorities and direction and early coordination across organizations or sectors
- Initial use of resident input to inform priorities and actions
- Use of data to guide decisions and track progress
- Initial results or indicators of movement, even if early or uneven

Formatting

- One- or two-column layout
- Minimum 11-pt font (9-pt for charts/graphs), ½-inch margins, page numbers required
- Bold category, item, and question numbers; Full questions do not need to be written out
- Tables, diagrams, and graphs are encouraged

Submit your Application

Email completed application to stephanie@connectwithcore.org by July 1st, 2026.

What Happens Next

- You will be invited to participate in up to two one-hour virtual presentations with the assessment review team to enhance your application and respond to clarifying questions.
- By October 1, you will receive a feedback report with key themes, strengths, and opportunities for improvement to support continuous improvement, a certificate acknowledging your community's commitment, and the opportunity to be recognized at our annual conference celebration.
- You may request a one-hour briefing to discuss the report and next steps.