

C.O.R.E. Level Assessment Instructions

Purpose

This assessment is designed to evaluate how effectively your community's collective efforts are achieving and sustaining results. At this level, communities demonstrate coordinated, cross-sector efforts aligned to shared priorities and producing measurable improvements in quality of life. The focus is on how well strategies, actions, and resources are integrated, how consistently data is used to manage performance and drive results, and how resident voice informs priorities and ongoing improvement.

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 \$5,000 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 all six categories of the C.O.R.E. Guide. The application is limited to 50 pages, excluding a cover page, Core Group structure chart, and glossary of abbreviations.

What Reviewers Are Looking for at this Level

At this level, your application should demonstrate:

- How your community's efforts are aligned and integrated across sectors
- How strategies are deployed and managed over time
- How resident voice and experience are used to shape priorities, strategies, and actions
- How data is used to evaluate performance and guide improvement
- Evidence of measurable results and sustained progress

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 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.