Asset-Based Community Development

Video Resources:
- ABCD Animation (5 min) - Brief overview of the philosophy
- ABCD 101 (70 min) - A presentation by John McKnight explaining the basics of ABCD

Asset Map Assignment

**Step 1**
Choose a location of appropriate size (ex: a Chicago neighborhood, a larger portion of a smaller city, an entire small suburb, etc.) and identify its assets/capacities. You may wish to narrow your scope by focusing on a specific issue or population. For example, you might research jobs and economic development in Avondale, healthcare in Humboldt Park, or senior services in Pullman.

**Step 2**
Create an asset map incorporating at least 10 different assets of your chosen community, describe them, and explain why they are an asset.

**Step 3**
Develop an “action plan” (2 pages) demonstrating how these community assets could be connected to do something new or address a particular issue of concern for the neighborhood. Be sure to focus on connecting 2 or more assets that were not previously connected.

**Note:** It can be difficult to identify individuals if you aren't inherently familiar with the location you've chosen. In that case, focus on types of individuals. If an area has a significant number of students, artists, or senior citizens, what are typical characteristics of those groups that could be an asset to the community?

**Examples:**
- Brooklyn Park, MN
- Pilsen

**ABCD Reflection**

In **2-4 pages**, reflect upon and answer the following questions with specific examples:

- In what ways does your internship organization focus on assets? On deficits? How are both valued at your organization?
- In what ways do you focus on assets? On deficits? How do you value both?
- How is your work in the community contributing to your understanding of community development? If it is not, how could it be moving forward?

ABCD Assignment provided by Andrew Miller