

1.3 Remote Work Friendly: Community Assessment

To be remote work friendly a community must have the appropriate telecom infrastructure and service, but the experience of employers and employees and local government support for remote work are very important as well. Below are some of the factors that go into making a community remote work ready. They can serve as an initial checklist, but further evaluation is recommended for communities that want to market themselves as remote work friendly.

1. Telecom Infrastructure and Service

Complete the following to assess your current infrastructure and service.

- Number of telecom providers
- Age/status of networks
- Telecom services and prices
- Download/upload speeds for each level of service
- Number of broadband customers served
- Coverage area
- Service interruptions

- Redundancy

- Customer ratings of telecom service

- Plans for future expansion in area

2. Local Employers: Attitude toward and experience with remote work

Send out a survey and conduct interviews to collect the following information to assess your current local employer attitudes and experience with remote work. For each company surveyed or interviewed, try to collect as much of the information below as you can.

- Share of employees for which remote work is operationally possible

- Number of employees working remotely

- Have companies sought training and counsel on remote work?

- Have companies offered employees training in remote work?

- Are hybrid remote working policies and practices in place?

- Geographic distribution of remote work employees

- Future remote work plans

3. Local Workers: Attitude toward and experience with remote work

Use focus groups, interviews or a survey to collect the following information on local workers' attitude and experience with remote work.

- Employer (local or otherwise) supportive of remote work?

- Quality of your residential telecom network and service?

- Have you received any assistance from your employer for remote work (training, equipment, etc.)

4. Community Support for Remote Work

Collect the following information to assess your community's support for becoming more remote work friendly.

- Personnel, committee or task force dedicated to support remote work friendly initiatives?

- Plans in place with regular evaluation to:
 - Support and improve remote work status
 - Promote economic development through remote work status
 - Market community as remote work friendly
- Training and education planned/offered to local employers and workers
- Remote or shared work center(s), public or private