Regardless of whether neighborhoods are in urban and rural areas – large cities and small towns — building a catalog of community resources helps create options for Discovery and becomes especially important during Customized Job Development. The process of getting to know a person's neighborhood is often referred to a community mapping. In general, there are 5 areas of community resources:

* People
* Associations
* Institutions
* Civic Resources
* Businesses

People are the most important community resource. During your conversation, make sure to note every person that is mentioned and briefly inquire as to their relationship with the employment seeker. If it makes sense, we may be involving them in the later in the Discovery process.

Many of us belong to associations in our everyday community lives. Associations tend to be less structured and often run by volunteers. They could be:

* Social / recreational
* Clubs
* Special events
* Specific / common interests
* Neighborhood
* Business / professional
* Educational

Associations provide clues to a person's interests, commitments, social consciousness and relationships.

Institutions will be more formal and are usually located in buildings. Schools, churches, government agencies, and hospitals are examples of community institutions.

Civic Resources are a subset of Institutions. They are connected to an institution but have a unique function of focus. Examples include: Parks and Recreation, Street Department, Public Transportation, Utilities, etc.

Listing the local businesses is a valuable exercise. Where do you get your hair cut? Buy groceries? Get your car fixed or a prescription filled? Where are you considered a regular? This isn't necessarily about finding potential places of employment as much as it about relationships and where you belong.

You will learn about some of these resources during your home visit. Ask the employment seeker to describe their neighborhood or part of town. Are they close to public transportation? What services or amenities do they commonly use in their community (barber, grocery store, gas station, etc.)? Are they a “regular” at these places? Are there neighbors around? Do they know them and have regular interactions with them? Do you know what they do for a living?

To add to what you've been told, spend some time walking the neighborhood with the employment-seeker to learn about neighbors, businesses, and area landmarks near their home.