

Community Opportunity Scan

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If a church wants to be involved in the community and is looking for opportunities to partner with other organizations, start new ministries, or make changes to existing programs, a church ought to consider conducting a Community Opportunity Scan (COS).

WHAT IS A COS?

A Community Opportunity Scan helps a church to see and hear what God is already doing in the community. It also assists a church to better understand its community (the assets and challenges) and reveals ministry opportunities. Most importantly, it deepens your church's love for your community and for those who don't know Jesus.

HOW LONG DOES A COS TAKE?

The length of time required to complete a COS depends on many different factors like how many people are doing the work and their availability throughout the process, the size of the community, the method of discerning ministry priorities and others. Typically a COS takes 6-12 months.

CAN ANY KIND OF CHURCH DO A COS?

The resources available from Diaconal Ministries Canada have been used by established churches, church plants, rural congregations and urban churches. How you implement them will depend on the unique gifts and assets of your church and your community.

HOW CAN A CHURCH KNOW IF A COS IS RIGHT FOR THEM?

Great question! Here are some ways to know if your church is ready and/or if a COS is right for you:

- *Pray About It!* Is God calling your church to this process at this time? Discern His will through prayer together.
- *Seek Unity!* Is an eagerness for new opportunities shared amongst a majority of the congregation and its leaders? If so, this might compel the church to look for different ways to connect to the community.
- *Look around!* Take note of any recent changes in the neighbourhood/community. For example, the church might be moving in to a new place or adding on more space or there may be a significant demographic change in the local neighbourhood. A COS will help align your ministry to that change.
- *Clarify Vision!* Is it time for your church to review and re-evaluate its Mission/Vision? A COS will help you listen to the needs and opportunities from within the congregation and outside of the church.
- *Be honest!* Churches that are healthy and thriving (meaning there are no serious spiritual or personal conflicts going on between the leadership and members) will have much more success with the COS journey.

HOW MUCH DOES A COS COST?

There is no fee charged by Diaconal Ministries Canada for churches conducting a COS. All of the resources, support, and financial assistance offered by our staff are made possible through our NewGround Program, PLUS! NewGround will also provide up to \$1500 to churches undertaking a COS, if additional funding is needed.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Diaconal Ministries Canada staff are available to meet with churches and help them discover if they are ready and answer any of your other burning questions!

- **Visit our website:** diaconalministries.com
- **Send us an email:** dmc@crcna.org
- **Give us a call:** 1-800-730-3490