



Collage In A Box

Purpose of Collage in a Box

Collage in a Box helps people with developmental disabilities share what they think and feel. It supports them in answering two important questions:

- What Does a Good Life Mean to Me?
- What Do I Need to Live this Good Life?

People can share their ideas in many ways, such as by choosing pictures, using symbols, drawing, using their AAC device, pointing, or using gestures.



COMPLETING THE ACTIVITY

Step 1 — Review Materials in this Digital Copy of Collage In A Box

- Open the picture/icon sheets and the blank collage templates.

Step 2 — Support the Participant to Choose Pictures and Paste onto each page

Options include:

- Drag-and-drop digital images
- Hand-draw or type answers
- Use photos taken on a phone/tablet

Step 3 — Submit Results

Email picture of person completing collage as well as the completed collage files or clear photos of printed sheets to: council@gcpd.in.gov.

Subject Line: Collage in a Box – [Organization Name]

- Include:
 - Participant initials (if permitted)
 - Facilitator name and contact
 - Date completed

Please note: If you would like to complete the activity using hard copy materials, e-mail council@gcpd.in.gov to request a Collage In A Box. Please indicate in your e-mail:

- The number of boxes you need
- Your mailing address

A Collage In A Box will be mailed to you.

Have fun!

Facilitator Tips

1. Presume Competence

Assume the participant understands and can communicate preferences in their own way.

2. Do Not Lead

Avoid giving your interpretation first. Ask open, neutral prompts:

- “Which one do you want to choose?”
- “Show me what feels important to you.”

3. Go Slowly

Give 10–20 seconds for responses. Allow breaks.

4. Make Choices Concrete

Use:

- Real photos
- Objects (keys for transportation, cup for eating, etc.)
- Environmental cues (walk to kitchen, outdoors)

5. Reinforce Autonomy

The participant—not staff—should choose all images.

6. Be Mindful of Sensory Needs

- Provide a quiet environment
- Use familiar support people
- Offer breaks or alternative seating

7. Document Objectively

Write down what you see—not interpretations. Example:

- ✓ Participant looked at the house picture for 10 seconds and smiled.
- ✗ Participant wants more independence.

Adapting the Activity for Participants Who Are Non-Verbal, Use AAC or Visual Cues

For Participants who are Non-Verbal:

- Use Multiple Ways to Show Choices
 - Eye gaze
 - Pointing or reaching
 - Facial expressions
 - Touching a picture
 - Handing a picture to the facilitator
 - Moving unwanted pictures away
 - Using a “yes/no” method (card, gesture, switch)

- Offer Pictures in Small Sets
 - Present 2–4 pictures at a time to avoid overload.
- Observe Carefully
- Note:
 - Excitement (smile, vocalization)
 - Disinterest (turning away)
 - Focused attention (longer looking at an item)
- Record the Communication Method
 - Facilitators should briefly document how each choice was made.

For Participants using AAC (Speech-Generating Devices, Symbol Boards, Apps)

- Encourage Use of Their Existing Vocabulary
 - Help the participant navigate to categories (home, relationships, community, support).
 - Allow them to point to a symbol that represents what they want included.
- Pair AAC Symbols With Picture Cards
 - For example: Show picture icons from the Daily Living sheet and allow the participant to select the corresponding symbol on their AAC device.
- Let AAC Narrate the Collage
 - Participants can press buttons to “tell” you why they selected certain images.

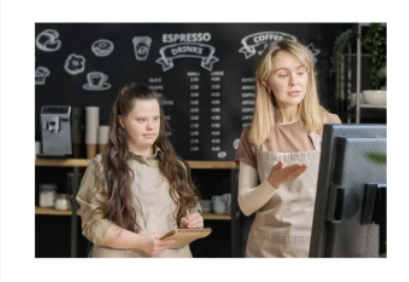
Using Visual Cues & Supports

- Visual Tools That Help
 - First–Then boards
 - Yes/No cards
 - Simple visual instructions (“Step 1: Pick pictures,” “Step 2: Add them to your collage”)
 - Colored borders for each LifeCourse domain
 - Large print versions of icons
 - High contrast options for low vision
- Using Color and Layout
 - Group pictures from each domain by color.
 - Provide a large, uncluttered workspace.
- Tactile Options
 - Add textured stickers, foam shapes, or raised markers to selected cards.



EXAMPLE

Personal Strengths & Assets



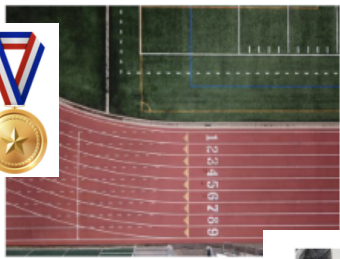
Technology



Relationships



What Do I Need to Live This Good Life?

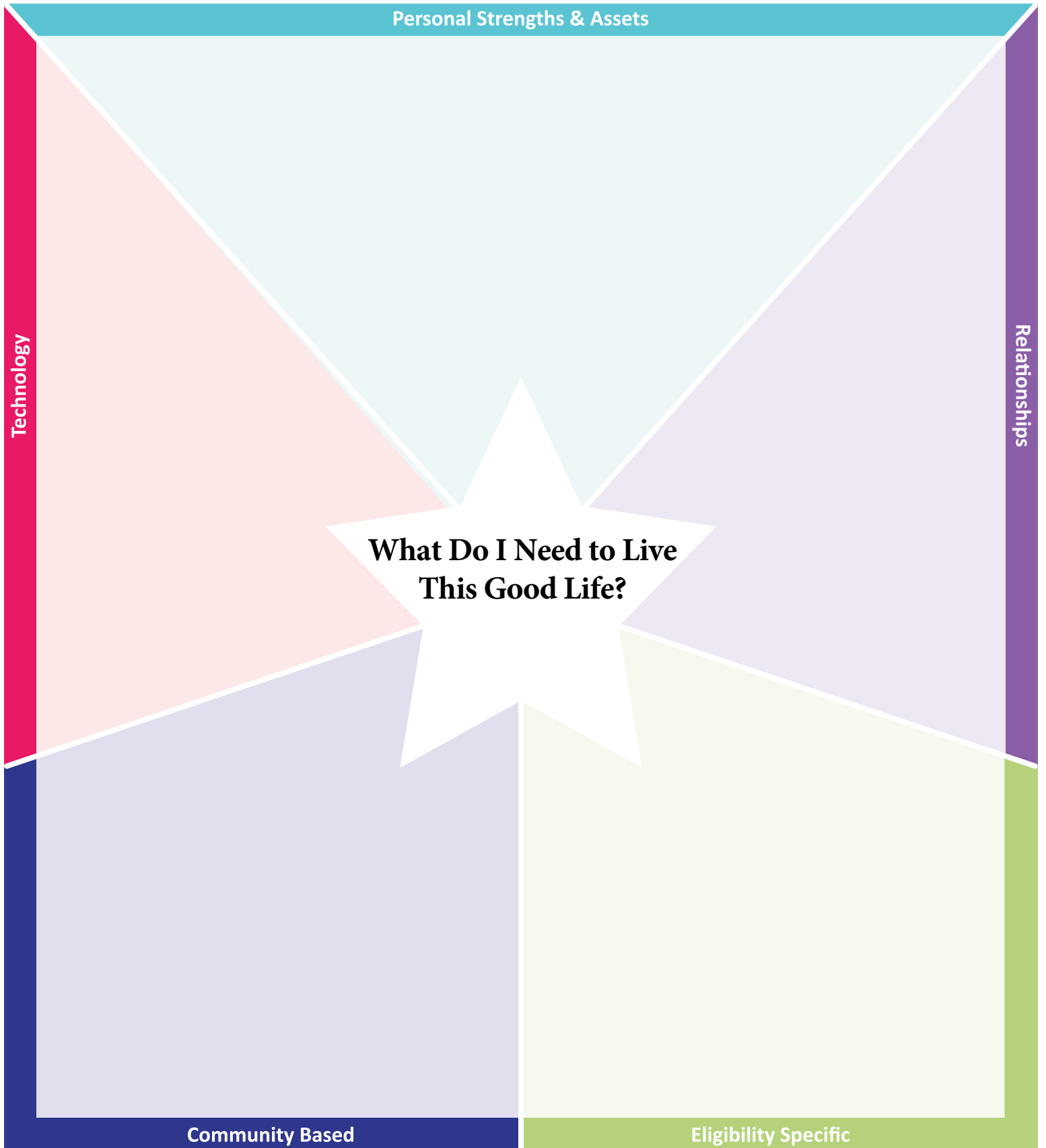


Community Based

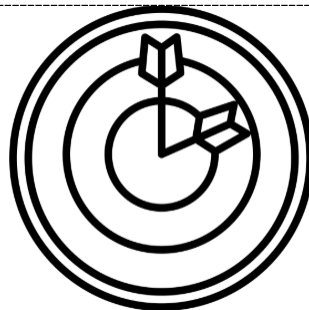
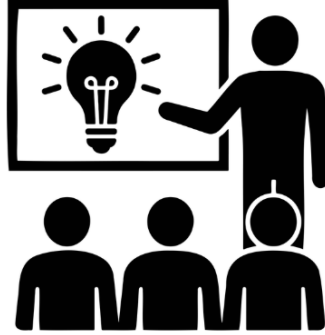
Eligibility Specific



What does a good life mean to me?



Advocacy and Engagement



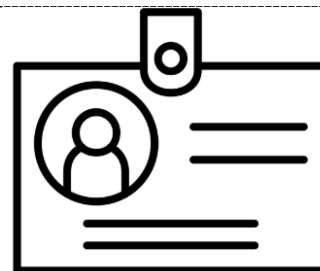
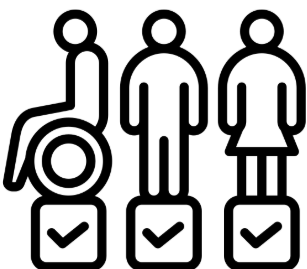
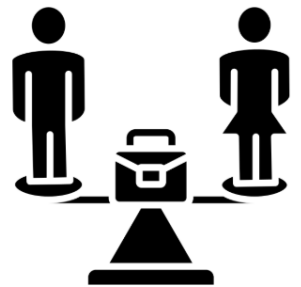
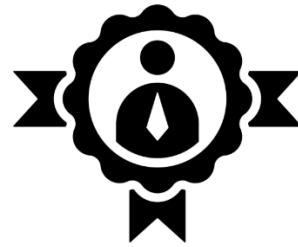
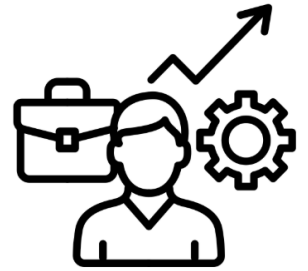
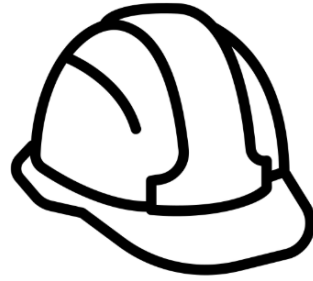
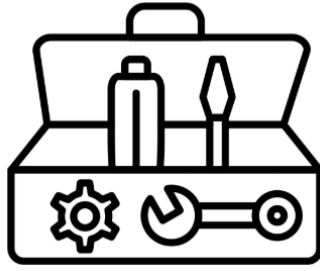
Community Living



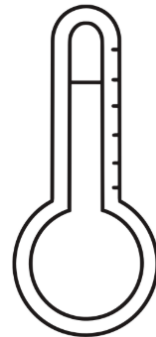
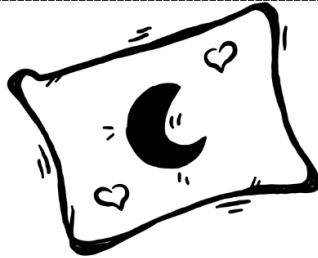
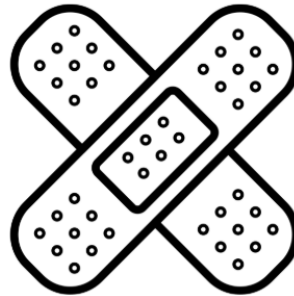
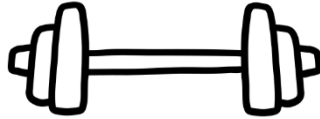
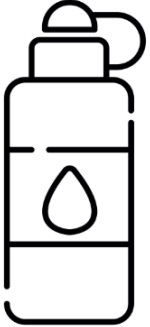
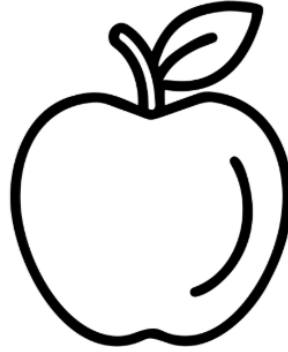
Daily Living



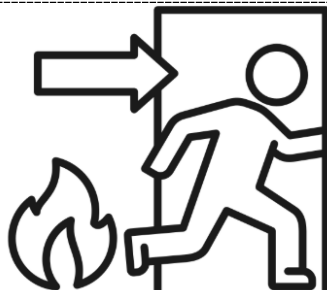
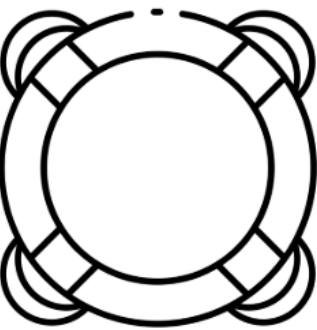
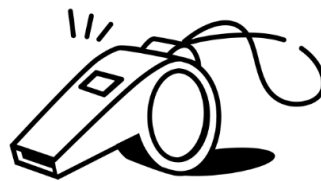
Employment



Healthy Living



Safety and Security



Social and Spirituality

