

# UK Extension Community Needs Assessment Summary of Respondents' Comments Kenton County

A statewide survey was conducted between August and December 2023 to understand Kentuckian's perceptions of the extent to which practical education and assistance is needed in their communities. More than 35,000 Kentuckians, representing all 120 counties of the Commonwealth, responded to the survey. The survey consisted of four scales targeting needs related to: Agricultural and Natural Resources, Youth Development, Family and Individual Development, and Community and Economic Development. State- and county-level survey results are available <u>here</u>. The survey also included an open-ended question that asked respondents to describe other issues in their communities that need practical education and/or assistance. The table below summarizes responses to this question.

| Category        | Description                                       | # of        | % of  |
|-----------------|---|-------------|-------|
| eutogery        |   | Respondents | Total |
| Civic, Public & | Practical education targeting community           | 37          | 15.8  |
| Governance      | cohesion, engagement, and involvement;            |             |       |
| (Community      | governance and responsible use of public funds    |             |       |
| Wellbeing and   | and taxes; civics education, election education,  |             |       |
| Governance)     | election processes, and protection of             |             |       |
|                 | constitutional rights; diversity, inclusion, and  |             |       |
|                 | cultural understanding; etc.                      |             |       |
| Substance Use   | Practical education targeting substance use       | 8           | 3.4   |
| Prevention &    | prevention, recovery, and sober living; treatment |             |       |
| Recovery        | centers and programs; smoking and vaping          |             |       |
|                 | cessation; transportation and employment          |             |       |
|                 | support for people in recovery; etc.              |             |       |
| School System/  | Comments related to need for improvements in      | 19          | 8.1   |
| Education       | public school facilities and public-school        |             |       |
|                 | programs; teacher pay and training; education     |             |       |
|                 | of special needs students; tutoring and other     |             |       |
|                 | supports for adult education; programs for        |             |       |
|                 | home-schooled children; vocational/trades         |             |       |
|                 | training; funding for college education; etc.     |             |       |
| Support for     | Practical education to support seniors and        | 15          | 6.4   |
| Seniors the     | elders in areas such as low-income housing,       |             |       |
| Elderly         | transportation, help with chores and home         |             |       |

# Summary of Respondents' Comments (N=234)

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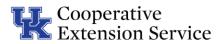
### MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Agriculture and Natural Resources Family and Consumer Sciences 4-H Youth Development Community and Economic Development Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Lexington, KY 40506



|  | repairs; provision of senior centers, health care,<br>nursing homes/assisted living; respite for<br>caregivers; computer training for seniors;<br>programs to enhance connection and reduce<br>isolation; etc.   |    |      |
|--|--|----|------|
| Environmental<br>Issues  | Practical education on habitat<br>protection/restoration, watershed (or stream)<br>protection; dumping and littering; pesticide use<br>and pollinator protection; recycling and<br>sustainability; floodplain protection and drainage<br>issues; etc.  | 19 | 8.1  |
| Family<br>Development  | Practical education on topics related to<br>parenting, discipline, and child wellbeing;<br>training (and support) for relatives raising<br>children; support for parents raising children<br>with special needs; support and education on<br>domestic, child, and sexual abuse; respite for<br>caregivers; household money management and<br>budgeting; affordable/accessible childcare;<br>family time, activities for the family; etc. | 14 | 6.0  |
| Support for Local<br>Agriculture,<br>Farming, and<br>Gardening | Practical education and support for small and<br>family farms and new farmers; support for<br>organic (or sustainable) and low chemical<br>farming; training on farmland preservation;<br>training on farm safety and food safety on farms,<br>and farmers markets; market support for locally<br>produced foods; education on off-grid living and<br>home gardening; etc.   | 25 | 10.7 |
| Food Access,<br>Nutrition & Healthy<br>Eating                  | Practical education and support on topics<br>related to hunger and food insecurity; food<br>banks and pantries; nutrition education and<br>access to healthy food; education on growing,<br>preserving, and canning food; etc.   | 33 | 14.1 |
| Housing/Shelter  | Need for support and education on<br>homelessness and low income/ affordable<br>housing; housing for domestic abuse survivors;<br>teaching people how to take care of their<br>property/homes; and housing for families.   | 24 | 10.3 |
| Infrastructure   | Comments related to need for (and improvements in) infrastructures including   | 13 | 5.6  |

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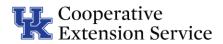
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Agriculture and Natural Resources Family and Consumer Sciences 4-H Youth Development Community and Economic Development



|  | transportation, roads, sidewalks, public transit,<br>intercounty transit, trails; utility infrastructure<br>such as water, sewer, internet, and cell<br>service.   |    |      |
|--|--|----|------|
| Workforce<br>Preparation and<br>Employment | Education on workforce preparation and job<br>readiness; basic skills training; job training<br>including vocational and trade schools; business<br>recruitment and economic development; support<br>for the working class (e.g., transportation to<br>work and childcare); need for living wage; etc.   | 16 | 6.8  |
| Youth<br>Development                       | Need for youth development programs including<br>recreation and physical activities, mental health<br>support, prevention of bullying, youth violence<br>and programs targeting youth life skills.   | 48 | 20.5 |
| Land Use &<br>Development                  | Comments related to land use planning and<br>zoning; land preservation and historic<br>preservation; sign ordinances, visual quality,<br>and beautification of community facilities;<br>availability and use of parks, open spaces, and<br>conservation areas; need for (and<br>improvements to) public facilities (e.g., sports<br>and recreation centers and conference<br>centers). | 26 | 11.1 |
| Health/Healthcare                          | Access to healthcare, cost of care, support for<br>chronic illnesses; improvements to healthcare<br>systems; programs (and advocacy) to promote<br>holistic health, healthy choices (e.g., nutrition<br>and physical activity) and healthy lifestyle<br>advocacy.  | 9  | 3.8  |
| Mental Health<br>Issues                    | Education and support for mental health and<br>wellbeing including the need for counseling and<br>therapy services and suicide (hotline)<br>awareness.   | 12 | 5.1  |
| Public Assistance                          | Comments related to the need for public and<br>community assistance to address poverty,<br>disaster recovery, child nutrition, single parents,<br>etc.   | 6  | 2.6  |
| Recreation &<br>Physical Activity          | Need for public buildings for exercise or recreation; parks and outdoor recreation facilities (e.g., walking, hiking, and/or biking  | 17 | 7.3  |

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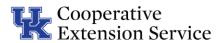
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| Public Safety | <ul> <li>trails); entertainment and play areas for children, youth, and family; need for organizations like Boy Scouts.</li> <li>Comments related to need for (and improvements) in public safety including crime, internet safety, fraud prevention, night safety, and quality of law enforcement; safety training (e.g., gun safety, safe driving, and driver's education); first aid and disaster preparedness;</li> </ul> | 18 | 7.7 |
|---------------|---|----|-----|
|               | need for additional first responders and<br>ambulances; training and education on<br>combatting misinformation; animal control, loose<br>pets, and animal cruelty; jail and prison and re-<br>entry issues; etc.  |    |     |
| Special Needs | Practical education on support for disability or<br>disabled; special education/ neuro divergent<br>veterans and immigrants; etc.   | 6  | 2.6 |
| Other         | Other comments that did not relate to any of the categories above.  | 1  | 0.4 |

Scan the QR code to access the UK Community Needs Assessment



For additional questions, contact Dr. Lola Adedokun at lola.adedokun@uky.edu

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 Family and Consumer Sciences
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