

UK Extension Community Needs Assessment Summary of Respondents' Comments Rockcastle 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 here. 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.

Summary of Respondents' Comments (N=53)

Category	Description	# of	% of
	·	Respondents	Total
Civic, Public &	Practical education targeting community	7	13.2
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	15.1
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	8	15.1
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	3	5.7
Seniors the	elders in areas such as low-income housing,		
Elderly	transportation, help with chores and home		
	repairs; provision of senior centers, health care,		

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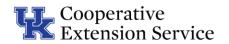
Agriculture and Natural Resources Family and Consumer Sciences 4-H Youth Development Community and Economic Development

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	nursing homes/assisted living; respite for		
	caregivers; computer training for seniors;		
	programs to enhance connection and reduce		
	isolation; etc.		
Family	Practical education on topics related to	3	5.7
Development	parenting, discipline, and child wellbeing;		
	training (and support) for relatives raising		
	children; support for parents raising children		
	with special needs; support and education on		
	domestic, child, and sexual abuse; respite for		
	caregivers; household money management and		
	budgeting; affordable/accessible childcare;		
	family time, activities for the family; etc.		
Support for Local	Practical education and support for small and	7	13.2
Agriculture,	family farms and new farmers; support for		
Farming, and	organic (or sustainable) and low chemical		
Gardening	farming; training on farmland preservation;		
	training on farm safety and food safety on farms,		
	and farmers markets; market support for locally		
	produced foods; education on off-grid living and		
	home gardening; etc.		
Food Access,	Practical education and support on topics	7	13.2
Nutrition & Healthy	related to hunger and food insecurity; food		
Eating	banks and pantries; nutrition education and		
	access to healthy food; education on growing,		
	preserving, and canning food; etc.		
Housing/Shelter	Need for support and education on	9	17.0
	homelessness and low income/ affordable		
	housing; housing for domestic abuse survivors;		
	teaching people how to take care of their		
	property/homes; and housing for families.		
Infrastructure	Comments related to need for (and	8	15.1
	improvements in) infrastructures including		
	transportation, roads, sidewalks, public transit,		
	intercounty transit, trails; utility infrastructure		
	such as water, sewer, internet, and cell		
	service.		
Workforce	Education on workforce preparation and job	3	5.7
Preparation and	readiness; basic skills training; job training		
Employment	including vocational and trade schools; business		

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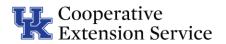
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	recruitment and economic development; support		
	for the working class (e.g., transportation to		
	work and childcare); need for living wage; etc.		
Youth	Need for youth development programs including	16	30.2
Development	recreation and physical activities, mental health		
	support, prevention of bullying, youth violence		
	and programs targeting youth life skills.		
Land Use &	Comments related to land use planning and	12	22.6
Development	zoning; land preservation and historic		
	preservation; sign ordinances, visual quality,		
	and beautification of community facilities;		
	availability and use of parks, open spaces, and		
	conservation areas; need for (and		
	improvements to) public facilities (e.g., sports		
	and recreation centers and conference		
	centers).		
Health/Healthcare	Access to healthcare, cost of care, support for	5	9.4
	chronic illnesses; improvements to healthcare		
	systems; programs (and advocacy) to promote		
	holistic health, healthy choices (e.g., nutrition		
	and physical activity) and healthy lifestyle		
	advocacy.		
Mental Health	Education and support for mental health and	2	3.8
Issues	wellbeing including the need for counseling and		
	therapy services and suicide (hotline)		
	awareness.		
Public Assistance	Comments related to the need for public and	6	11.3
	community assistance to address poverty,		
	disaster recovery, child nutrition, single parents,		
	etc.		
Recreation &	Need for public buildings for exercise or	7	13.2
Physical Activity	recreation; parks and outdoor recreation		
	facilities (e.g., walking, hiking, and/or biking		
	trails); entertainment and play areas for children,		
	youth, and family; need for organizations like		
	Boy Scouts.		
Public Safety	Comments related to need for (and	6	11.3
	improvements) in public safety including crime,		
	internet safety, fraud prevention, night safety,		
	and quality of law enforcement; safety training		
	and quantity or last officer of the salety training		

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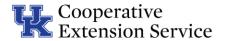
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(e.g., gun safety, safe driving, and driver's education); first aid and disaster preparedness; need for additional first responders and ambulances; training and education on combatting misinformation; animal control, loose pets, and animal cruelty; jail and prison and reentry issues; etc.

Scan the QR code to access the UK Community Needs Assessment



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



