

UK Extension Community Needs Assessment Summary of Respondents' Comments Russell County

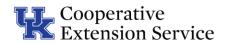
A statewide survey was conducted between August and December 2023 to understand Kentuckian's perceptions of the extent to which practical education and assistance is needed in their communities. More than 35,000 Kentuckians, representing all 120 counties of the Commonwealth, responded to the survey. 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=94)

Category	Description	# of	% of
		Respondents	Total
Civic, Public &	Practical education targeting community	18	19.1
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	15	16.0
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	8.5
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.		



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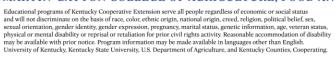


Support for Seniors the Elderly	Practical education to support seniors and elders in areas such as low-income housing, transportation, help with chores and home repairs; provision of senior centers, health care, nursing homes/assisted living; respite for caregivers; computer training for seniors; programs to enhance connection and reduce isolation; etc.	8	8.5
Environmental	Practical education on habitat	3	3.2
Issues	protection/restoration, watershed (or stream) protection; dumping and littering; pesticide use and pollinator protection; recycling and sustainability; floodplain protection and drainage issues; etc.		
Family	Practical education on topics related to	8	8.5
Support for Local Agriculture, Farming, and Gardening	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. Practical education and support for small and family farms and new farmers; support for organic (or sustainable) and low chemical farming; training on farmland preservation; training on farm safety and food safety on farms, and farmers markets; market support for locally	5	5.3
	produced foods; education on off-grid living and home gardening; etc.		
Food Access,	Practical education and support on topics	7	7.4
•	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 homelessness and low income/ affordable housing; housing for domestic abuse survivors;	15	16.0

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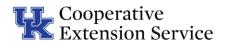
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	teaching people how to take care of their		
Infrastructure	property/homes; and housing for families.	3	3.2
inirastructure	Comments related to need for (and	3	3.2
	improvements in) infrastructures including		
	transportation, roads, sidewalks, public transit,		
	intercounty transit, trails; utility infrastructure		
	such as water, sewer, internet, and cell service.		
Workforce	Education on workforce preparation and job	14	14.9
Preparation and	readiness; basic skills training; job training	17	14.5
Employment	including vocational and trade schools; business		
Linployment	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	19	20.2
Development	recreation and physical activities, mental health	13	20.2
Development	support, prevention of bullying, youth violence		
	and programs targeting youth life skills.		
Land Use &	Comments related to land use planning and	7	7.4
Development	zoning; land preservation and historic	,	7.4
Development	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	7	7.4
ricallifi icallicale	chronic illnesses; improvements to healthcare	,	7.4
	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	2.1
Issues	wellbeing including the need for counseling and	۷	2.1
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	therapy services and suicide (hotline)		
Public Assistance	awareness.	0	0.5
Public Assistance	Comments related to the need for public and	8	8.5
	community assistance to address poverty,		

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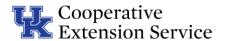
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Community and Economic Development









	disaster recovery, child nutrition, single parents,		
	etc.		
Recreation &	Need for public buildings for exercise or	2	2.1
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	2	2.1
	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;		
	need for additional first responders and		
	ambulances; training and education on		
	combatting misinformation; animal control, loose		
	pets, and animal cruelty; jail and prison and re-		
	entry issues; etc.		
Special Needs	Practical education on support for disability or	1	1.1
	disabled; special education/ neuro divergent		
	veterans and immigrants; etc.		
Other	Other comments that did not relate to any of the	1	1.1
	categories above.		

Scan the QR code to access the UK Community Needs Assessment



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



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

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