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| County Emphasis |  |

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| [Concentration](https://extension.ca.uky.edu/2025-situation-statements)  *(select up to 4 from list below or the linked website)* | Connected and Resilient Communities |

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| [Situation](https://extension.ca.uky.edu/2025-situation-statements)  *(situation statements can be found at the linked website)* | Kentucky’s communities face unique challenges that require enhancing connectivity and resilience through digital access, social cohesion, and well-designed public spaces. Broadband access remains critical, particularly in rural areas where digital connectivity gaps hinder economic and educational opportunities. The 2023 Community Needs Assessment identified improved broadband and digital literacy as top priorities for enhancing community resilience.  Extension’s connectivity and resilience efforts focus on supporting local economies and helping communities recover from economic shifts and natural disasters (CEDIK, 2024). By promoting digital literacy, educating on safe and vibrant outdoor spaces, and implementing place-based disaster preparedness programs, Extension strengthens community connections and economic sustainability. These initiatives benefit residents, businesses, and local governments, fostering stronger, more resilient communities equipped to face future challenges.  Youth Focus  In today’s rapidly evolving world, youth are and can play a pivotal role in shaping the future of connected and resilient communities. Young people are leveraging technology and social networks to foster strong, supportive relationships that transcend geographical boundaries. They are actively engaged in community-building activities, promoting access to opportunity, and driving change. By participating in local and global initiatives, they are not only enhancing their own resilience but also contributing to the overall strength and adaptability of their communities. Their innovative approaches to problem-solving and their commitment to sustainability are essential in addressing the complex challenges of the 21st century. As they continue to collaborate and share knowledge, youth are laying the foundation for a more connected and resilient world. 4-H is committed to providing the resources necessary to promote youth connection in their communities. Thriving youth are healthy, productive, and engaged (Arnold, 2024). Communities that promote the indicators of youth thriving will have more connected, capable, and committed citizens that can critically think through addressing the needs and priorities of their community. |

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| County Situation |  |

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| Long-term  Outcomes | * Increased digital access improves economic and educational opportunities. * Communities recover faster from disasters/economic disruptions * Sustained investment in public spaces strengthens local economies * Cultural heritage is preserved and integrated into communities * Expanded partnerships enhance problem-solving and resource-sharing * Improved quality of life through connection and civic engagement |

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| Medium-term  Outcomes | * More citizens adopt digital tools for work and daily life. * Communities implement disaster preparedness and recovery strategies. * More public spaces are revitalized for community engagement. * Increased participation in cultural and arts-based programs. * More individuals engage in local governance and civic groups. * New partnerships and networks address community challenges |

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| Short-term  Outcomes | * Increased knowledge of digital tools and online resources. * Improved understanding of disaster preparedness and recovery strategies. * Greater awareness of the benefits of public spaces. * Increased understanding of cultural development and community identity. * Improved awareness of civic engagement opportunities. * Greater knowledge of community partnerships and collaboration strategies |

Learning Opportunities

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| Audience | Individuals |
| Project or Activity | Digital Literacy Initiatives |
| Content or Curriculum | Digital Literacy curriculum, Kentucky By the Numbers, CEDIK data profiles, publications, training, continuing education |
| Inputs | Programmatic materials, training, mentoring, paid staff, volunteers, community partners, non-profits, etc. |
| Date(s) | Ongoing |

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| Audience | Individuals |
| Project or Activity | Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery |
| Content or Curriculum | EDEN materials, KHERN publications, trainings, continuing education |
| Inputs | Programmatic materials, paid staff, volunteers, community partners, etc. |
| Date(s) | Ongoing |

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| Audience | Communities |
| Project or Activity | Building Connection in Communities |
| Content or Curriculum | SPARK! toolkit, Placemaking Toolkit, Community Design publications, Community Arts publications, CLD publications, Building Community Pop-Up Toolkit, Creative Community Projects toolkit, Community Mural toolkit, Story Circles, curriculum, trainings, continuing education, Civic Engagement publications, Coalition and Network building publications |
| Inputs | Programmatic materials, paid staff, community partners, volunteers, etc. |
| Date(s) | Ongoing |

Evaluation

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| Outcome | Increased knowledge of digital tools and online resources (short term) |
| Indicator | Number of participants demonstrating increased confidence or skills in using digital tools (e.g., online banking, telehealth, online applications, or virtual platforms) after completing Extension training programs |
| Method | Post-participation survey (self-assessment of learning gains). |
| Timeline | Collected immediately after program participation. |

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| Outcome | Improved understanding of disaster preparedness and recovery strategies (short term) |
| Indicator | Number of participants who reported that they intend to develop an emergency plan or preparedness kit after completing an Extension disaster training. |
| Method | Pre- and post-training survey. |
| Timeline | Collected before and after each session. |

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| Outcome | Increased understanding of cultural development and community identity (short term) |
| Indicator | Number of participants who reported increased understanding of the value of building local cultural assets such as foodways, arts, and heritage traditions. |
| Method | Reflection surveys and community feedback. |
| Timeline | Collected within 30 days of participation. |

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| Outcome | More individuals adopt digital tools for work and daily life (intermediate) |
| Indicator | Number of communities that reported implementing at least one new strategy to strengthen digital inclusion (e.g., improved public Wi-Fi, device access programs, digital literacy workshops) as a result of Extension-supported initiatives. |
| Method | Follow-up survey at 3 and 6 months. |
| Timeline | Collected at program completion and 6 months post-program. |

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| Outcome | Collected at program completion and 6 months post-program. |
| Indicator | Number of businesses, farms, or households reporting faster post-disaster recovery due to preparedness actions learned through Extension. |
| Method | Number of businesses, farms, or households reporting faster post-disaster recovery due to preparedness actions learned through Extension. |
| Timeline | Assessed following disaster events. |

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| Outcome | More public spaces are revitalized for community engagement (int) |
| Indicator | Number of individuals who reported that they contributed to efforts to improve public spaces through design, revitalization, or development (e.g., parks, community gathering areas, public art, creative placemaking projects) as a direct result of Extension-supported initiatives. |
| Method | Site visits, surveys, photo documentation, and community feedback. |
| Timeline | Tracked annually. |

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| Outcome | More individuals engage in local governance and civic groups (int) |
| Indicator | Number of participants who reported increased involvement in local governance, community groups, or public forums as a result of program participation. |
| Method | Participant self-reporting and organizational membership tracking. |
| Timeline | Follow-up at 6 and 12 months. |

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| Outcome | Expanded partnerships enhance problem-solving and resource-sharing |
| Indicator | * Number of communities or organizations securing external funding (grants, sponsorships, or resource investments) as a result of Extension support. * Number of new collaborative networks, partnerships, or cross-sector initiatives developed to address local challenges as a result of Extension-supported programs. |
| Method | grant tracking, partners surveys, local reports |
| Timeline | annually |

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| Outcome | increased participation in cultural and arts-based programs |
| Indicator | Number of participants in Extension arts or design-based community programs (e.g., story circles, murals, design charettes, creative placemaking) who reported increased connection or belonging. |
| Method | pre- and post- surveys from program participation, |
| Timeline | after program participation |

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| Outcome | Improved quality of life through connection and civic engagement |
| Indicator | Number of participants who reported experiencing stronger ties to their community as a result of participating in Extension arts programming with others. |
| Method | pre- and post- surveys from program participation |
| Timeline | after program participation |

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| Outcome | Increased ability to access, interpret, and apply data for informed decision-making (initial). |
| Indicator | Number of participants reporting increased confidence in accessing, interpreting, and applying data to inform local decision-making. |
| Method | Self-reported surveys collected after data literacy training sessions, Agent documentation of community plans, grant applications, or policy discussions that reference data profiles. |
| Timeline | after program or training participation |

Data Sources (select any/all that apply)

Extension Community Needs Assessment – Data Dashboard

Extension Community Needs Assessment – Respondent Comment Summaries

Kentucky by the Numbers – Secondary Data for the Community Needs Assessment

Kentucky by the Numbers Data Profiles

CEDIK County Data Profiles

**Concentrations (select up to 4 – copy and paste your selection in the concentration section above)**

Animal Production and Management

Plant Production and Management

Sustainability, Natural Resources and Wildlife Management, and Environment

Financial Security and Economic Well-Being

Food Safety, Quality, and Access

Connected & Resilient Communities

Building Leadership Capacity

Work and Life Skill Development

Health and Wellbeing

Family and Youth Development

Small Farm Development

Substance Use Prevention and Recovery

Mental Health and Well-Being