

# **2023 Extension Community Assessment**

Russell County Results Summary

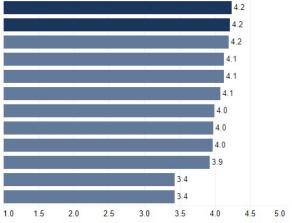
This handout provides summary data from the Cooperative Extension Community Needs Assessment conducted in fall 2023 for Russell County. The interactive data dashboard at <a href="https://extension.ca.uky.edu">https://extension.ca.uky.edu</a> provides additional details, including demographic information about the 585 respondents from Russell County. The site also includes links to secondary data that correlate with the needs and issues included in the assessment.

#### **Top 15 Issues in Russell County**

Minimizing youth substance use								4.5	i i
Support for substance use addiction prevention/recovery								4.4	
Ensuring individuals and families have access to affordable nutritious food								4.4	
Youth life skill training opportunities (e.g., leadership and communication skill building opportunities)								4.4	
Strengthening youth workforce readiness (including entrepreneurship, business development skills, etc.)								4.3	
Improved access to mental health and wellbeing resources								4.3	
Building financial literacy and/or resource management skills								4.3	
Reducing youth obesity through nutrition education and/or exercise								4.3	
Minimizing bullying and/or school violence								4.3	
Strengthening youth-adult or mentorship relationships								4.3	
Sustainability of family farms								4.2	
Stronger parenting and relationship-building skills								4.2	
Social, emotional, and/or behavioral education for adults working with youth								4.2	
Market support for locally grown and produced foods								4.2	
Senior citizen support programs								4.2	
	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.

### Agriculture and Natural Resources Needs

Sustainability of family farms				ļ
Market support for locally grown and produced foods				
Streghtening/supporting the local food and agriculture industry				
Providing increased market opportunities for farmers				l
Preserving/managing agricultural land				l
Access to high-speed internet				Ī
Issues affecting crops (e.g., pests, diseases and weed issues)				
Helping individual, families, farmers, and/or businesses recover from natural disasters				
Assisting farmers in agricultural production or profitability				
Helping individuals, families, farmers, and/or businesses prepare for natural disasters				
Helping producers create carbon neutral businesses				
Dealing with climate variation				l
	1.0	1.5	2.0	



#### Cooperative Extension Service

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

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

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## Community and Economic Development Needs

Efforts that support local and small businesses	
Strengthening adult workforce readiness (including entrepreneurship, and business develop	oment skills)
Safe, accessible community places for outdoor physical activity (walk, run, bike, etc.)	
Addressing housing issues (e.g., affordable housing, evictions, and unhoused populations)	
Opportunities that promote a sense of local community (e.g., community events, creative ex community gardens)	xpression, and
Collaborations among community organizations and local government, particularly represer with underserved populations	nting or working
Building the capacity of local nonprofits and community leaders	
Preparations for community-wide disasters and/or climate impacts	
Assisting local government and businesses with land use decisions	
Assisting more populated communities in addressing issues associated with community, so economic development	cial and/or
Programs/information to build capacity for community arts & design, placemaking and infrast	structure
Creating inclusive involvement of diverse populations in community efforts/events and decise	sion-making
	10 15 20 25

#### 4.2 4.1 4.1 4.1 3.9 3.9 3.9 3.8 3.8 3.8 3.7 3.6 3.0 3.5 5.0 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 4.0 4.5

4.5 4.4 4.3 4.3 4.3 4.3 4.2 4.2 4.2 4.1 4.0 3.9 4.0

4.5 5.0

## Youth Development Needs

Minimizing youth substance use			1	
Youth life skill training opportunities (e.g., leadership and communication skill building opportunities)		1		
Strengthening youth workforce readiness (including entrepreneurship, business development skills, etc.)				
Reducing youth obesity through nutrition education and/or exercise				
Minimizing bullying and/or school violence				
Strengthening youth-adult or mentorship relationships		 		
Social, emotional, and/or behavioral education for adults working with youth				
Strengthening youth peer-peer relationships				
Coping strategies to support youth wellbeing		 		
Promoting youth agriculture and natural resource literacy				
Maximizing youth voice in issues that matter to them				
Engaging diverse and non-traditional youth audiences in programming		 		

1.0

1.5

2.0

2.5

3.0

3.5

# Individual and Family Development Needs

Support for substance use addiction prevention/recovery
Ensuring individuals and families have access to affordable nutritious food
Improved access to mental health and wellbeing resources
Building financial literacy and/or resource management skills
Stronger parenting and relationship-building skills
Senior citizen support programs
Food as health: addressing food insecurity and diet related chronic diseases
Building life skills of community members
Building employee soft skills (e.g., communication, productivity, and teamwork skills)
Educational opportunities about home food safety practices (e.g., food preservation and canning)
Educational opportunities to promote healthy homes (e.g., mold prevention/treatment and home safety
Prepare community members for formal/informal leadership and/or volunteer roles

