


4-2007

Western Kentucky University Regional Assessment & Strategic Plan

Paul N. Markham

Western Kentucky University, paul.markham@wku.edu

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Recommended Citation

Markham, Paul N., "Western Kentucky University Regional Assessment & Strategic Plan" (2007). *ALIVE Center Publications*. Paper 1.
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Western Kentucky University

Regional Assessment & Strategic Plan



WKU®



Prepared By:

Paul Markham
Western Kentucky University
ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships
1818 31W By-pass
Bowling Green, KY 42101
270.782.0082
paul.markham@wku.edu

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INTRODUCTION

What is the Regional Stewardship Program?

The Regional Stewardship Program is a new initiative that seeks to promote regional and statewide economic development, livable communities, social inclusion, creative governance, and civic participation through public engagement activities initiated by comprehensive university faculty and staff. Its purpose is to link the resources and knowledge of our universities to the needs and challenges of their respective regions. Kentucky is the first state in the nation to launch a statewide stewardship program.

The program provides funding for the comprehensive universities in three areas:

- *Infrastructure funds* support the development and maintenance of organizational structures, personnel, information systems, and community relationships directed toward the identification of regional needs, opportunities, and stewardship priorities.
- *Regional grant funds* will be used to recruit and retain full-time faculty or professional staff in areas of strategic benefit to a service region, or the state, as identified in an institution's strategic plan for regional stewardship and its priority area proposal, and as endorsed by a region's stewardship advisory committee. Appropriate uses for these funds include start-up costs, salaries, benefits, travel, and other professional expenses as permitted by university policy for new faculty or professional staff positions in targeted priority areas. It is anticipated that the addition of newly hired faculty or staff within a given council-approved priority area will result in reduced departmental teaching loads and increased release time, so that participating faculty will have more time to engage in regional stewardship activities.
- *Stewardship initiative funds* will be directed toward the creation of partnerships and the execution of engagement activities that promote regional or statewide economic development, livable communities, social inclusion, and creative governance, while helping to achieve the goals of House Bill 1 and the Public Agenda. Initiatives funded through the program will address critical regional needs, as identified in the strategic plan for regional stewardship and endorsed by a region's stewardship advisory committee.

What is Western Kentucky University's Regional Area of Responsibility?



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kentucky's Regional Stewardship program has provided a unique opportunity to increase WKU's level of regional engagement. Like so many initiatives of this nature the lessons learned and relationships built through this process will long outlast this document. Nevertheless, this regional assessment and strategic plan represents a significant collaboration between WKU and community members throughout our 27-county service region. Great care was taken in listening to those willing to express needs and offer solutions to meet them.

In a continuing effort to become an effective steward of place, WKU has committed to a number of strategic initiatives. The character of these initiatives is determined by the university's mission statement:

Western Kentucky University prepares students to be productive, engaged, and socially responsible citizen-leaders of a global society. It provides research, service, and lifelong learning opportunities for its constituents. WKU is responsible for stewarding a high quality of life for those within its reach.

As evidenced by institutional Strategic Goal 4, "Improve the Quality of Life in Kentucky and Beyond," WKU is dedicated to "responding to educational, social, cultural, and economic development needs through increased outreach, applied scholarship, research, public service, and innovative opportunities for life-long learning." In order to fulfill this obligation, WKU has committed to defining and expanding the role of regional stewardship by being accountable to the following performance indicators in the 2007/08 – 2011/12 Strategic Plan, *Challenging the Spirit*:

1. Number of partnerships with industry for workforce development and training developed through the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach (DELO)
2. Percentage of faculty involved in community partnerships and regional stewardship efforts
3. Percentage of academic departments with faculty involved in community partnerships and stewardship efforts
4. Percentage of regional counties impacted by WKU community partnerships and stewardship efforts
5. Number of DELO partnerships projects for education and training

Additionally, through the WKU Quality Enhancement Plan, "Engaging Students for Success in a Global Environment," we are committed to "engaging students with communities other than their own in purposeful learning activities that explicitly address their capacity and responsibility to contribute to community and society." To that end we are further accountable for the following *Challenging the Spirit* performance indicators:

1. Number of undergraduate students participating in learning activities designed to enhance their capacity as socially and culturally responsible citizens.
2. Total number of cultural, global, and diversity experiences reported by students.

3. Percentage of students indicating they are prepared to be socially and culturally responsible citizens.
4. Number of students involved in volunteerism and citizenship activities annually.

A lengthy process was undertaken to identify specific needs throughout the region. The process and results were reviewed by WKU's Regional Stewardship Advisory Council (RSAC), which consists of community leaders across our region. Under guidance from the RSAC, it was determined that WKU will initially address the following strategic priority need areas:

1. Healthcare
2. Education
3. Nurturing Communities

Given the priorities listed above, WKU has committed to the following initial strategic goals and related outcomes throughout our service region:

GOAL 1: Provide basic medical services for the under-served living in rural counties.

Plan: The WKU Institute for Rural Health Development and Research (IRHDR) has a long-standing commitment to providing services to the medically under-served and uninsured of rural Kentucky. In order to address these issues, the IRHDR Mobile Health and Wellness Unit was established to provide services including oral cleanings and screenings, dental sealants and oral radiology, as well as basic health screenings. The Kentucky Regional Stewardship Program has provided the opportunity to expand these services by allowing for the addition of a nurse practitioner (NP). This NP will supply the medical expertise necessary to create and maintain an adult immunization program, provide screening and treatment options for diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease, as well as develop lifestyle programs involving diet, exercise, and smoking cessation. In addition, the NP will assist adults to determine eligibility for further programs and services and provide assistance with the completion of required application materials.

Outcomes:

- (1) Reduce the risk of influenza and pneumonia in elder adult population.
- (2) Diagnose, treat, and reduce the number of adults with untreated chronic diseases.
- (3) Improve the overall general health of population by developing and implementing educational programs that stress the importance of diet, exercise, and smoking cessation.
- (4) Decrease the number of uninsured and increase the number of people participating in medical and pharmaceutical assistance programs.

GOAL 2: Provide increased opportunity and support for adult learners.

Plan: WKU is heeding the call to produce more baccalaureate-educated Kentuckians. Based on significant guidance from the Kentucky CPE and WKU's own Regional Stewardship Advisory Council, the decision has been made to increase outreach, recruitment, support, and programming efforts for non-traditional learners. Phase two regional grant funds will provide support for Adult Learner Counselors who will provide adult students with special attention and consideration. These counselors will help assimilate adult learners into the campus in a variety of capacities ranging from academic advising to childcare.

- Outcomes:
- (1) Increase the number of adult learners at WKU.
 - (2) Increase the number of adults completing a degree at WKU.
 - (3) Implement an effective system for the utilization of the Adult Learner Counselors.

GOAL 3: Provide an incentive program designed to increase the level of regional engagement across WKU's academic departments.

Plan: WKU recognizes the importance of regional engagement across a broad range of university faculty and staff. The staff of the WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships worked alongside the Regional Stewardship Advisory Council to develop the "WKU Engaged Department Grant Program." The purpose of this initiative is to provide incentive and support to academic departments as they seek to address a wide variety of community-based needs throughout the region. Regional grant funds will be used to establish this program with the intent of generating viable campus-community partnerships throughout the region.

- Outcomes:
- (1) Conduct information and training workshops for WKU faculty, staff and students.
 - (2) Conduct information and training workshops for community partners throughout the region.
 - (3) Develop role of "WKU ALIVE CCP Fellow" – This designation is reserved for faculty and staff that exhibit exceptional efforts toward collaboratively addressing regional needs.
 - (4) Produce a biannual (one per semester) publication that highlights campus/community partnerships throughout the region. The idea is to "shine the light" on exemplary collaborative work as well as to encourage increased participation in the grant program. This publication will be distributed to the campus and regional community.
 - (5) Increase the overall participation of WKU students, faculty, and staff in community-based projects and research activity.

Details concerning the above projects appear in WKU's Regional Grant Funds Proposal.

DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENT

This document contains the summary of WKU ALIVE CCP activities directed toward determining regional need priorities. The first three sections deal explicitly with needs related to WKU's geographic region of responsibility. The first section, "Existing Needs Assessment Summary," represents input from social service organizations across the region. These needs assessments were not conducted for the purpose of informing the Regional Stewardship Initiative; however, service providers shared this information as a viable data source for county-level, regional needs.

The second section, "Regional Forum Participant Summary," represents the initial results from the Regional Stewardship Forums. This data source reflects the participant-level "coding" and prioritization process of the needs relative to their area of the region.

The third section, "Regional Forum Data Analysis," is a detailed analysis of the data set collected across the five regional forums. The four strategic areas were pre-determined based on consideration of categories identified by the Alliance for Regional Stewardship (ARS)¹ and the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center (KLTPRC)². Relevant subcategories along with detailed data records are listed below each strategic area. The priority rating was determined based on the frequency in which the need appeared across the data set. The section concludes with the list of relevant assets submitted by forum participants.

The final section of this document is a summary of existing Western Kentucky University resources directed toward addressing the identified regional needs. Following each program summary is a list of the strategic areas addressed by the initiative.

This document also includes three appendices supplying further information relevant to the Regional Stewardship process.

¹ The ARS identifies four core principles as the bases for effective regional stewardship – (1) innovative economy, (2) livable community, (3) social inclusion, and (4) collaborative governance. For more see <http://www.regionalstewardship.org>.

² The KLTPRC designate five focus areas in order to track the quality of life across the state of Kentucky – (1) vibrant, nurturing communities, (2) lifelong, quality educational opportunities, (3) a sustainable, prosperous economy, (4) a clean, beautiful environment, and (5) honest, participatory government at all levels. For more see <http://www.kltprc.net>.

Existing Needs Assessment Summary

The following is a summary of some of the existing county-level needs assessments collected during WKU's Regional Stewardship Initiative process. These assessments have been gathered from a variety of sources including:

- United Way of the Ohio Valley
- United Way of Pennyrile
- United Way of Southern Kentucky
- Audubon Area Services
- Community Action of Southern Kentucky
- Community Action of Central Kentucky
- Pennyrile Allied Services
- Lake Cumberland Community Action
- Green River Regional Educational Cooperative
- Commonwealth of Kentucky Statistic Database
- Kentucky State Data Center

The following pages include a summary of documented needs presented alphabetically by county, as well as a listing of the top five needs for the region based on these existing assessments.

County-Level Needs

ADAIR COUNTY

1. Jobs that pay a living wage
2. Affordable housing
3. Emergency assistance
4. Assistance with health concerns
5. Youth programs

ALLEN COUNTY

Community Action

1. Higher paying jobs
2. More jobs
3. Teen pregnancy programs
4. Medical health assistance programs
5. Affordable housing for the elderly

United Way (community residents)

1. Unemployment or underemployment
2. Illiteracy, not being able to read
3. Affordable medical care
4. Drug abuse
5. Public transportation

BARREN COUNTY

Community Action

1. Higher paying jobs
2. More jobs with benefits
3. More jobs
4. Teen pregnancy prevention programs
5. Free and/or reduced prescription programs

United Way

1. Drug abuse
2. Alcoholism
3. Affordable medical care
4. Domestic violence directed at adults
5. Domestic violence directed at children

BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY

1. Free/reduced prescriptions programs
2. Safe/affordable housing
3. Homeless services/shelters
4. Higher paying jobs, more jobs with benefits, more jobs
5. Youth programs, teen pregnancy prevention programs

BUTLER COUNTY

1. More jobs
2. Higher paying jobs
3. More jobs with benefits
4. Safe and affordable housing
5. Drug/alcohol awareness, prevention and treatment programs

CLINTON COUNTY

1. Jobs that pay a living wage
2. Affordable housing
3. Emergency assistance
4. Assistance with health concerns
5. Youth programs

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

1. Jobs that pay a living wage
2. Affordable housing
3. Emergency assistance
4. Assistance with health concerns
5. Youth programs

DAVIESS COUNTY

Audubon

1. Employment
2. Education
3. Emergency needs
4. Housing
5. Self-sufficiency

United Way

1. Alcohol and drug programs
2. Youth development programs

3. Sex education teens
4. Dental care
5. Medical care

EDMONSON COUNTY

1. More jobs
2. More jobs with benefits
3. Higher paying jobs
4. Medical health assistance programs
5. Drug/alcohol awareness, prevention and treatment programs

GRAYSON COUNTY

1. Free/reduced prescriptions programs
2. Safe/affordable housing
3. Homeless services/shelters
4. Higher paying jobs, more jobs with benefits, more jobs
5. Youth programs, teen pregnancy prevention programs

GREEN COUNTY

1. Jobs that pay a living wage
2. Affordable housing
3. Emergency assistance
4. Assistance with health concerns
5. Youth programs

HANCOCK COUNTY

Audubon

1. Employment
2. Housing
3. Education
4. Emergency needs
5. Self-sufficiency

United Way

1. Alcohol and drug programs
2. Youth development programs
3. Sex education teens
4. Dental care
5. Medical care

HARDIN COUNTY

1. Free/reduced prescriptions programs
2. Safe/affordable housing
3. Homeless services/shelters
4. Higher paying jobs, more jobs with benefits, more jobs
5. Youth programs, teen pregnancy prevention programs

HART COUNTY

1. Higher paying jobs
2. More jobs with benefits
3. More jobs
4. Safe and affordable housing
5. Medical health assistance programs

LARUE COUNTY

1. Free/reduced prescriptions programs
2. Safe/affordable housing
3. Homeless services/shelters
4. Higher paying jobs, more jobs with benefits, more jobs
5. Youth programs, teen pregnancy prevention programs

LOGAN COUNTY

Community Action

1. Higher paying jobs
2. More jobs with benefits
3. Job training
4. Support and counseling to continue education
5. Rental assistance housing programs

United Way (community residents)

1. Drug abuse
2. Affordable medical care
3. Unemployment or underemployment
4. Illiteracy, not being able to read
5. Child neglect

MCLEAN COUNTY

Audubon

1. Employment
2. Emergency needs
3. Housing
4. Education
5. Health

United Way

1. Alcohol and drug programs
2. Youth development
3. Sex education teens
4. Dental care
5. Medical care

MEADE COUNTY

1. Free/reduced prescriptions programs
2. Safe/affordable housing
3. Homeless services/shelters
4. Higher paying jobs, more jobs with benefits, more jobs
5. Youth programs, teen pregnancy prevention programs

METCALFE COUNTY

1. Higher paying jobs
2. More jobs with benefits
3. More jobs
4. Teen pregnancy prevention programs
5. More affordable housing for the elderly

MONROE COUNTY

1. More jobs
2. Higher paying jobs
3. More jobs with benefits
4. Financial assistance to continue education
5. Safer community

MUHLENBERG COUNTY

1. Jobs that pay a living wage
2. Affordable housing

3. Emergency assistance
4. Assistance with health concerns
5. Youth programs

OHIO COUNTY

Audubon

1. Employment
2. Housing
3. Education
4. Emergency needs
5. Health

United Way

1. Alcohol and drug programs
2. Youth development programs
3. Sex education teens
4. Dental care
5. Medical care

RUSSELL COUNTY

1. Jobs that pay a living wage
2. Affordable housing
3. Emergency assistance
4. Assistance with health concerns
5. Youth programs

SIMPSON COUNTY

Community Action

1. Free and/or reduced prescription programs
2. Higher paying jobs
3. More jobs with benefits
4. Safe and affordable housing
5. Teen pregnancy prevention programs

United Way

1. Drug abuse
2. Affordable medical care
3. Teenage pregnancy
4. Recreational facilities
5. Juvenile crime

TAYLOR COUNTY

1. Jobs that pay a living wage
2. Affordable housing
3. Emergency assistance
4. Assistance with health concerns
5. Youth programs

TODD COUNTY

Neighborhood Issues

1. Shortage of recreational facilities
2. Drug abuse
3. Lack of affordable medical care
4. Shortage of affordable housing
5. Alcoholism

Neighborhood Problems

1. Lack of affordable medical care
2. Shortage of affordable housing
3. Shortage of recreational facilities
4. Lack of affordable legal services
5. Shortage of affordable child care

WARREN COUNTY

Community Action

1. Free and/or reduced prescription programs
2. Higher paying jobs
3. More jobs with benefits
4. Safe and affordable housing
5. Financial assistance to continue education

United Way (community residents)

1. Affordable medical care
2. Child abuse
3. Drug abuse
4. Domestic violence directed at adults
5. Poverty

Existing Needs Assessments – Top Five Regional Needs (based on frequency)

1. Employment
2. Healthcare
3. Housing
4. Youth development
5. Substance abuse

Regional Forum Participant Summary

A key part of the stewardship process included the convening of regional forums held at five strategic locations throughout the region. The goal of these forums, or “listening sessions,” was to gather important information from local leaders regarding needs specific to their area of Kentucky. The following strategic areas and rankings were determined by the forum participants.

Owensboro	
Strategic Area	Ranking
Education	1
Healthcare	2
Transportation	3
Economic Development	4
Employment	5
Community Perception	
Quality of Life	
Environmental Concerns	

Bowling Green	
Strategic Area	Ranking
Healthcare	1
Education	2
Transportation	3
Public/Social Services	4
Aging Society	5
Economic Development	
Youth Services	
Housing	
Employment	
Substance Abuse	
Environmental Concerns	
Community Development	
Recreation	

Elizabethtown	
Strategic Area	Ranking
Education	1
Economic Development	2
Transportation/Infrastructure	3
Healthcare	4
Youth	5
Technology	
Childcare	
Housing	
Recreation	
Environmental Concerns	

Glasgow	
Strategic Area	Ranking
Education	1
Transportation	2
Healthcare	3
Housing	4
Youth Development	5
Technology	
Economic Development	
Infrastructure	
Recreation	

Campbellsville	
Strategic Area	Ranking
Transportation	1
Education	2
Community Development	3
Healthcare	4
Employment	5
Substance Abuse	
Housing	
Recreation	
Economic Development	
Quality of Life	
Law Enforcement	
Tourism	

Region-wide Ranking	
Strategic Area	Ranking
Education	1
Transportation/Infrastructure	2
Healthcare	3
Economic Development	4
Employment	5
Youth Development	5

Regional Forum Data Analysis

The following summary is based on an analysis of the individual needs submitted by the participants of the regional forums. From the 745 total data samples there were 50 need categories identified.

This report summary will list the need categories in general and explore the six pre-determined strategic areas in detail. In addition, participant-identified assets will be listed for the strategic areas.

IDENTIFIED NEEDS CATEGORIES

Afterschool Programming
Art
Bike/Pedestrian
Buildings
Business
Children
Churches
Community Education
Community-Sustained Agriculture
Cultural Diversity
Early Childhood Education
Elderly
Elementary Education
Employment
Environment
Financial
Graduation Rate
Healthcare Coverage
Healthcare Research
Higher Education
Housing
Immigration
Industry
Infrastructure
Local Government
Medical Professionals
Mental Health/Disability
Neighborhood Development
Neighborhood Safety
Nontraditional Students
Nutrition
Opportunity for Higher Education
Physical Disability
Physical Fitness

Prenatal Healthcare
Prescription Medication
Preventive Healthcare
Public Transportation
Recreation
Roads
Secondary Education
Sexual Abuse
Social Services
Substance Abuse
Technology
Tourism
Utilities
Vocational Education
Volunteerism
Youth

STRATEGIC AREA PRIORITY LIST

1. Nurturing Communities
2. Education
3. Healthcare
4. Economic Development

NEED CATEGORY DETAIL

Nurturing Communities

Community Education (84)

- Education classes for small businesses (Owensboro)
- Language training for those entering country (Owensboro)
- Life/Living skills (Owensboro)
- Job/Work values - “Work habits” (Owensboro)
- Life-long learning (Owensboro)
- Literacy (Owensboro)
- Adult education (Owensboro)
- Empower community to make behavior changes, i.e. prevent obesity, smoking/tobacco (Owensboro)
- In-home training for parents (Owensboro)
- Parenting training (Owensboro)
- Adult education for people wanting to further their education (Owensboro)
- Encouragement & support groups for parents (esp. of teens & babies) (Owensboro)

- Understanding of medical plans (Owensboro)
- Increased awareness in civic engagement opportunities for all (Owensboro)
- Community cohesive activity (Owensboro)
- Library in Fordsville (Owensboro)
- A better self-image and promotion of positive community qualities (Owensboro)
- Stronger support for library services (Glasgow)
- More participation in continuing education (Glasgow)
- More work in the area of adult literacy (Glasgow)
- Increased incentives for obtaining GED (Glasgow)
- Increased GED success (Glasgow)
- Educate people what is offered to improve their life - Ex. YMCA, senior citizens, city bus, cultural center (Glasgow)
- I.D. theft education (Glasgow)
- Internet crime education (Glasgow)
- Lessen apathy among young voters (Glasgow)
- How to get more involvement in civic organizations (Glasgow)
- Find ways to keep alumni more involved and interested (Glasgow)
- Financial responsibility (Bowling Green)
- Improve the health of our citizens (promote living physically, active, smoking less) (Bowling Green)
- Increased community awareness and support of healthy lifestyles is physical activity (Bowling Green)
- Networking support for single mothers (Bowling Green)
- Financial counseling information/awareness that will help lead individuals to credible resources (Bowling Green)
- A way or better way or educating the public as to what is offered in our community (Bowling Green)
- Financial planning help (Bowling Green)
- Re introduction into the job market (Bowling Green)
- Implement the Greenhouse Project for LTC in our communities (Bowling Green)
- Increased opportunities for literacy education to ensure citizens can read and understand (Bowling Green)
- Consistent service-learning training more offer than twice a year for leaders of organizations (Bowling Green)
- Cultural recognition of importance of education for own sake (Bowling Green)
- Parenting classes for teen mothers (Bowling Green)
- Parent Education (especially about value of education) (Bowling Green)
- Employment education-job search assistance (Bowling Green)
- Employment training (Bowling Green)
- Life-long learning opportunities (Campbellsville)

- Educated more on taking responsibility of their life and family. Need to be taught that they need to take care of themselves financially by working (Campbellsville)
- More opportunities for adults to further education (Campbellsville)
- Activities to encourage community participation (Campbellsville)
- More activities to encourage community participation (Campbellsville)
- More libraries or more space in current (Elizabethtown)
- Learning Centers in every county not ABE or GED but full service learning centers (Elizabethtown)
- Adult classes in food preparation (new ideas & nutrition) (Elizabethtown)
- Early student education of “life skills” how to balance checkbook, how to check out a company, how to find a good employer (Elizabethtown)
- Education for young adults about credit, buying practices, buying a house, etc. (Elizabethtown)
- Consumer education as it relates to unethical behavior (scams) (Elizabethtown)
- Network of resources to protect our citizens - financial harm (Elizabethtown)
- Community awareness programs (Elizabethtown)

Children and Youth (83)

- More education for kids on how to be a good parent (Owensboro)
- Push youth toward higher education (Owensboro)
- Education on nutrition for kids (Owensboro)
- Grants for anti-smoking programs for kids (Owensboro)
- Reach Back Program – Mentoring (Owensboro)
- HIV/AIDS prevention programs for our youth (Owensboro)
- Drug/alcohol programs for our youth (Owensboro)
- Youth programs (Owensboro)
- Affordable day care facilities (Owensboro)
- Teen activity center at North Ohio County Park (Owensboro)
- More youth activities (supervised) (Owensboro)
- Political interest by young people (Glasgow)
- Teen Center - 15 to 19 year (Glasgow)
- Increased youth-focused services (Glasgow)
- Provide psychological treatment for children in foster care (Glasgow)
- Educational needs for children who “age out” while in foster care (Glasgow)
- Emotional needs assessments for children in foster care (Glasgow)
- Counseling services for troubled youth (Glasgow)
- Babysitting for high school students with children (Glasgow)
- Childcare facilities for students pursuing post-secondary education (Glasgow)
- Mandatory counselors for all kids in foster care system and going through transitions/different homes (Bowling Green)

- Low cost childcare (Bowling Green)
- Increased regulation of alcohol vendors selling alcohol to youth (Bowling Green)
- Childcare (Bowling Green)
- Increased physical activity for non-athletic children (Bowling Green)
- Improved diet available for school children and education for children and parents about healthy eating (Bowling Green)
- Childhood obesity (Bowling Green)
- Tobacco use in teens (Bowling Green)
- Underage drinking (Bowling Green)
- Transportation for youth to be able to participate in activities after school and on weekends (Bowling Green)
- Backpack program for disadvantaged youth in schools (Bowling Green)
- More opportunities for youth during out of school time (Bowling Green)
- Community (affordable) tutoring services for underprivileged populations (Bowling Green)
- At time to complete homework, additional tutoring (Bowling Green)
- Child mentoring opportunities-more volunteers so more children are served (Bowling Green)
- Parenting classes for teen mothers (Bowling Green)
- Support groups and education for children with LD, ADHD, and mental health (Bowling Green)
- Mentoring (Bowling Green)
- Job opportunities for youth 16-18 (Bowling Green)
- Foster care homes (Bowling Green)
- Jobs for the youth (Campbellsville)
- Day care that is more affordable for low-income families so that they can afford to work (Campbellsville)
- Youth programs and activities (Campbellsville)
- Youth programs and a place for youth to gather (Campbellsville)
- Youth resources / activities w/in the communities (Campbellsville)
- Recreation for youth (Campbellsville)
- Youth programs that would allow for students to have a gathering place (Campbellsville)
- Programs for single Dads - support, assistance, financial, health, etc.
- Child care for families / single moms (Campbellsville)
- Activities for youth - where there is monitoring of attitude, language, alcohol & drugs (Campbellsville)
- Expanded entertainment venues for youth (Elizabethtown)
- More children's playgrounds in north Etown - South Radcliff (Elizabethtown)

Public Transportation (45)

- Public transport for families and senior citizens (Owensboro)

- Transportation of older citizens (Owensboro)
- Transportation in rural areas for people with health problems (Owensboro)
- Expanded hours for our city bus to aide people to get to jobs that don't work 8-4 - Bus pass for low monthly fee (Glasgow)
- Affordable countywide transportation (Glasgow)
- Commuter transit system between Glasgow & Bowling Green (Glasgow)
- More public transportation (Glasgow)
- Transportation to medical and groceries (Glasgow)
- Transportation to provide access to post secondary centers from outlying area/counties (Glasgow)
- Public transportation to job sites (Glasgow)
- Bus systems that travels throughout the city and county (Bowling Green)
- Mass Transit System (other than elderly & handicapped)-Needs (Bowling Green)
- The public transit system needs more expanded and made more accessible (Bowling Green)
- Expanded public transportation (Bowling Green)
- Additional funding to expand CART transportation (Bowling Green)
- Mass transit system (walking and biking paths) (Bowling Green)
- Simpson County-wide affordable transportation for seniors and students (Bowling Green)
- Public Transportation (Bowling Green)
- Widely available public transportation system (bus system) (Bowling Green)
- Public Transportation that is available 24 hours (Bowling Green)
- More stops at public transportation areas (Bowling Green)
- Increased forms of reasonable transportation for poverty to more around the cats (Bowling Green)
- Viable Transportation alternatives community wide (Bowling Green)
- Move stops on the current cart route (Bowling Green)
- I feel there is a need for better public transportation (Bowling Green)
- 24 hour 7 days per week transportation (Bowling Green)
- More alternative transportation options (Bowling Green)
- 24hour public transportation system (Bowling Green)
- Better public transportation (Bowling Green)
- Continue to improve availability of bus transport (public) in Bowling Green consider passes for multiple rides and transfers (Bowling Green)
- Public transportation for elderly (Campbellsville)
- Transportation for elderly (Campbellsville)
- Transportation for elderly (to get groceries, buy medicine, go to doctor, etc.) (Campbellsville)
- Public transportation such as a taxi service (Campbellsville)
- Local transportation for international students (Campbellsville)
- Transportation for retired seniors (Campbellsville)

- Transportation to jobs (Campbellsville)
- Public transportation for elderly in rural areas (Campbellsville)
- Public transportation between cities and within (Elizabethtown)
- Local transportation in Etown and surrounding areas to community college for classes (Elizabethtown)
- Public transportation (Elizabethtown)
- Additional public transportation (Elizabethtown)
- Taxi service (Elizabethtown)
- Public transportation (Elizabethtown)
- Public transportation - bus, tram, train, etc. (Elizabethtown)

Substance Abuse (37)

- Local inpatient juvenile drug treatment (alcohol) (Owensboro)
- Being more proactive to drug/alcohol issues (Owensboro)
- Facilities for drug and alcohol rehabilitation (Owensboro)
- Drug awareness and drug addiction prevention and education (Owensboro)
- Stronger substance abuse programs in community (Owensboro)
- Different approaches to combating drug problem (Glasgow)
- Drug awareness (Glasgow)
- Drugs – meth (Glasgow)
- More money to address illegal drugs (Glasgow)
- Substance abuse prevention (Bowling Green)
- Addressing drug problems with multiple modes-not only law enforced (Bowling Green)
- Government support of anti-drug efforts (visible leadership) (Bowling Green)
- Community Awareness of Anti-Drug Issue (Bowling Green)
- Better access to substance abuse treatment services (Bowling Green)
- Community Awareness of Anti-Drug Issue (Bowling Green)
- Early intervention, treatment for first offenses (alcohol and drugs) (Bowling Green)
- Drug/alcohol treatment (Bowling Green)
- Drug Awareness Prevention (Bowling Green)
- Treatment Facilities (Bowling Green)
- Illegal Rx Drugs (Bowling Green)
- Underage drinking (Bowling Green)
- Opportunity for people to call in and report drug related (manufacturing) activities in anonymous scenario (much like CrimeStoppers for crimes already committed) (Bowling Green)
- Assistance for individuals who are experiencing drug addiction/or likelihood (concern is with growing meth problems) (Bowling Green)
- Education for teens to prevent drug abuse that details the consequences and repercussions both physical and legal perhaps by recovering drug addicts (Bowling Green)

- Greater cooperation between law enforcement entities within the region against drug usage (Campbellsville)
- Drugs, illegals, school age access to drugs, Rx & non-Rx (Campbellsville)
- Drug intervention (Campbellsville)
- Rehab for released inmates (Campbellsville)

Housing (35)

- Affordable housing (Owensboro)
- More low rent housing (Owensboro)
- Affordable housing (Owensboro)
- Affordable housing (Owensboro)
- More affordable housing opportunities (Glasgow)
- Emergency temporary housing for homeless (Glasgow)
- More opportunities for low income housing (Glasgow)
- Housing closer to job sites (Glasgow)
- Affordable housing (Glasgow)
- Affordable housing (Glasgow)
- Affordable quality housing (Bowling Green)
- Avoid Sprawl (Bowling Green)
- Affordable mixed income housing (Bowling Green)
- Affordable stand-alone housing, not part of sprawling housing complex (Bowling Green)
- Affordable Housing (Bowling Green)
- Increase opportunities for affordable housing for retired/retiring seniors who have modest income and modest savings (much is becoming available for low income and high income already) (Bowling Green)
- Retiree Affordable Housing (Bowling Green)
- Decent, safe affordable housing (Bowling Green)
- Affordable housing for 1st time buyers (Bowling Green)
- More housing for the disabled and for the underprivileged (Bowling Green)
- More affordable housing (Bowling Green)
- Increased housing that is safe and affordable for poor and disabled (Bowling Green)
- Safe and affordable housing (Campbellsville)
- Housing for those who slip through the cracks (Campbellsville)
- It is hard for middle income families to purchase a home (Campbellsville)
- Housing to accommodate senior citizens - handicap accessible - assisted living, etc. (Campbellsville)
- Affordable housing for first-time buyers (Campbellsville)
- Affordable housing - assistance to low income individuals to obtain housing loans - credit counseling (Campbellsville)
- Affordable housing for the elderly (Campbellsville)

- Housing for single (or female) mothers who are felon's and struggling to care for families (Campbellsville)
- Safe, affordable housing (Campbellsville)
- Housing for Hispanics (Campbellsville)
- Affordable housing for everyone - majority of low income have bad credit (Campbellsville)
- Lack of affordable housing (Elizabethtown)
- Lack of transitional housing for people struggling to get back on their feet (Elizabethtown)

Elderly (34)

- Elderly issues (Owensboro)
- Senior Center for Fordsville community (Owensboro)
- Senior assisted living center (Owensboro)
- Elderly services with activities for them with prizes being fruit, household goods, bus tokens (Glasgow)
- Elder services - transportation, home repair, in-home care (Glasgow)
- Assistance for adults taking care of aging parents (Glasgow)
- Greater range of senior-care options (Glasgow)
- Home care for elderly (Glasgow)
- More opportunities for aging population (Bowling Green)
- More In-home help with eldercare (Bowling Green)
- More opportunities for seniors to begin computer skills. Basic level-low fee for classes it's so important to get senior computer savvy (Bowling Green)
- More involvement of colleges in working with seniors--gain credit and life experience (Bowling Green)
- We need facilities that transitions between private homes and the nursing homes (Bowling Green)
- Help for elderly to stay in their homes instead of being warehoused in nursing homes (Bowling Green)
- Need an alternative to traditional nursing home care (Bowling Green)
- Retirement facilities for average, middle class people who are retiring and sizing down (Bowling Green)
- Form a community of seniors to assist with planning of all senior projects and spending resources (Bowling Green)
- People being taken advantage of with medical bills and credit cards older retired usual target (Bowling Green)
- Job training for older folks (Bowling Green)
- Senior citizen services (Bowling Green)
- Education for seniors on how they can benefit the community (Bowling Green)
- Medical transportation for disabled and elderly (Campbellsville)

- Transportation for low income and elderly - doctor visits, grocery, community meetings (Campbellsville)
- Transportation for elderly to the grocery store (Campbellsville)
- Activities for elderly (retired people) - meet and greet (Campbellsville)
- More assistance to help elderly with heating expenses (Campbellsville)
- Activities for elderly (Campbellsville)
- Hot meals for single retirees (Campbellsville)
- Technology training for adult/senior citizens (Elizabethtown)
- Senior citizen activities - tours, hostel (Elizabethtown)
- Marketing to develop Central KY as a retirement community – destination (Elizabethtown)
- Elderly programs and transportation (affordable) (Elizabethtown)
- Improved services for a “graying” population (Elizabethtown)

Social Services (33)

- Social services (Owensboro)
- Broader financial resources for non-profit support (Owensboro)
- Food assistance in our rural areas (Owensboro)
- More emergency support for our communities (Owensboro)
- Increased opportunities for connecting people seeking services (Glasgow)
- Assistance to grandparents raising grandchildren (Glasgow)
- Increased youth-focused services (Glasgow)
- Counseling services for troubled youth (Glasgow)
- More support for child advocacy groups like CASA-justice system (Bowling Green)
- More funding for local clinics--than already help people (Bowling Green)
- Economic Assistance (Bowling Green)
- Accessibility to emergency services (food, shelter for a night) (Bowling Green)
- Funding for nonprofit agencies or groups (Bowling Green)
- Sustained funding for vital services (Bowling Green)
- Assistance in food programs (Bowling Green)
- Hunger/Ability to feed those who have no food (Bowling Green)
- Meet clothing needs (Bowling Green)
- Financial planning help (Bowling Green)
- Parenting classes for teen mothers (Bowling Green)
- More interaction between all nonprofits to ensure that the whole communities needs are met (Bowling Green)
- Budgeting resources to help clients better manage money (Campbellsville)
- Chapter of Salvation Army in the county (Campbellsville)
- Effective counseling services available and affordable for all citizens (Campbellsville)
- Big Brother Big Sister program (Campbellsville)

- Programs for single Dads - support, assistance, financial, health, etc. (Campbellsville)
- Adequate programs for those w/ socioeconomic needs (Campbellsville)
- More children's programs i.e. Big Brothers/Big Sisters (Elizabethtown)

Local Government (33)

- Local officials involved in school activities (Owensboro)
- City/County government cooperation (Owensboro)
- Cooperation between city and county governments (Owensboro)
- Less government (Owensboro)
- Open government (Owensboro)
- Better cooperation between local & city government (Owensboro)
- Less taxes (Owensboro)
- Public education of local governments (Glasgow)
- Way to pay for volunteer fire departments volunteers (Glasgow)
- Increased governmental financial support for community agencies (Bowling Green)
- Government support of anti-drug efforts (visible leadership) (Bowling Green)
- Promoting a group of civic and governmental leaders to lead/pave the way corporate and community pride (Bowling Green)
- Cut back on unfunded mandates from State especially jails (Bowling Green)
- Expense of duplication of services--city--county government (Bowling Green)
- Responsible accountable government (Bowling Green)
- We need better availability to our legislators (Bowling Green)
- Pass Right-to-work law (Bowling Green)
- More police (Bowling Green)
- Greater cooperation between law enforcement entities within the region against drug usage (Campbellsville)
- Drug Court (Campbellsville)
- Family Courts (Campbellsville)
- Drug Court (Campbellsville)
- Drug Courts (Campbellsville)
- County-wide building zoning
- Appointment of judge to family court for county as not yet have this in our county (Campbellsville)
- Involvement of more people in local government (Campbellsville)
- Closer working of relationships between city and county government (Campbellsville)
- Keeping the legislators accountable to all not just own benefit (Elizabethtown)
- Increased involvement of our local, state, federal representatives (Elizabethtown)
- Aid elected officials in developing more vision for community (Elizabethtown)
- Coordination among cities - not just on problems, but ongoing (Elizabethtown)

Environmental Concerns (28)

- Recycling opportunities (Owensboro)
- Better use of resources (something water??) (Owensboro)
- Recycling (Owensboro)
- Better utilization of KY's wood resources (Owensboro)
- Education that global warming does exist and is a serious problem (Owensboro)
- A commitment for all individuals, institutions and corporations to be more environmentally responsible (Owensboro)
- Alternative (non-petroleum based) forms of energy (Owensboro)
- Education about recycling and litter (Glasgow)
- Stronger focus on area beautification (Glasgow)
- Protect national resources (waterways, caves, forests) (Bowling Green)
- Recycling and protecting the environment by passing legislation for bottle-bill (glass, aluminum, plastic) (Bowling Green)
- No new coal/develop renewable (Bowling Green)
- Protection of green spaces, trees and prime agricultural land (Bowling Green)
- Not more energy but better/wiser use of energy/conservation, efficiency, retrofits, renewable resources (Bowling Green)
- Clean air for workers in their environment (Bowling Green)
- Clean air (Bowling Green)
- Indoor air quality specific to restaurants (Bowling Green)
- Recycling (Bowling Green)
- Wise use of resources and recycling (Bowling Green)
- Promotion of healthier lifestyles and local foods (Bowling Green)
- Wiser use of resources and recycling on environment awareness (Bowling Green)
- Preserve open space and natural beauty (Bowling Green)
- Improve and sustain greenway (Bowling Green)
- Clean environment (Bowling Green)
- Recycling (Campbellsville)
- Recycling requirement (Elizabethtown)
- Environmental protection (Elizabethtown)
- Environmental education (Elizabethtown)

Recreation (28)

- Continue to build Built Environment - Places to get physical activity within community (Owensboro)
- Entertainment district (Owensboro)
- Gambling (Owensboro)

- Skate Park (Glasgow)
- Build a skate park (Glasgow)
- Physical activity facilities in rural communities (Bowling Green)
- Increased funding support for developing recreation facilities and initiatives (Bowling Green)
- Public swimming pool (Bowling Green)
- Green River Lodge & Golf Course (Campbellsville)
- Land for new public park. 100 acres or more (Campbellsville)
- Public golf course (Campbellsville)
- Green River Lodge and Development (Campbellsville)
- Additional recreational facilities (Campbellsville)
- Activity center for county such as YMCA (Campbellsville)
- Recreation for all ages - skating, tennis courts, etc. (Elizabethtown)

Cultural Diversity (18)

- Language training for those entering country (Owensboro)
- A desire to help people understand others way of thinking (Owensboro)
- More meeting with of all colors and backgrounds to understand (Owensboro)
- African American History Museum Document BG African American History (Bowling Green)
- Respect for all citizens (Bowling Green)
- More arts/culture opportunities for youth and families (Bowling Green)
- Multi-cultural Integration and education (Attn: to hate crimes) (Bowling Green)
- Education cultural diversity/trans air travel access (Bowling Green)
- Increase awareness in Cultural Sensitivity (Bowling Green)
- Education on the diversity on culture in our community (Bowling Green)
- Regional racial and ethnic reconciliation programs (Campbellsville)
- Cultural lectures to attend (Elizabethtown)
- Theatre to improve culture (Elizabethtown)
- Community programs for Hispanic-Anglo, Japanese-Angloo, etc. Culture & language emphasis (Elizabethtown)

Neighborhood Development (13)

- Education classes for small businesses (Owensboro)
- Promoting a group of civic and governmental leaders to lead/pave the way corporate and community pride (Bowling Green)
- Safe Streets for Walking, Biking, Driving (Bowling Green)
- Taking care of our community (Bowling Green)
- Community gardens (Bowling Green)

- Community Pride Development (Bowling Green)
- Safe caring community (Bowling Green)
- Historic neighborhoods restoration (Bowling Green)
- Compact development to contain urban sprawl and overdependence on the private automobile and create attractiveness of neighborhoods and communities (Bowling Green)
- Community improvement that renovated old buildings and neighborhoods (Bowling Green)
- Equal access to all community resources (Bowling Green)
- Funding to meet needs of growing communities - not just sticking to a “list” (Elizabethtown)
- City beautification, especially - rip out 80% of parking lots in Radcliff and put in grass, trees, sidewalks and benches or trees (Elizabethtown)

Immigration (13)

- Language training for those entering country (Owensboro)
- Make sure migrant labor is legal (Owensboro)
- Increase in programs that target our migrant or ESL populations (Glasgow)
- Ability to get health information to migrants disp. Populations (Bowling Green)
- More assistance in providing ESL assistance to folks in the community (Bowling Green)
- Language offerings for immigrant population (Bowling Green)
- Community involvement for international students (Campbellsville)
- Volunteer opportunities for international students (Campbellsville)
- ESL for immigrants (Campbellsville)
- Legal workers (Elizabethtown)
- Community programs for Hispanic-Anglo, Japanese-Angloo, etc. Culture & language emphasis (Elizabethtown)

After School Programming (10)

- Affordable after school programs (Glasgow)
- Afterschool care/ more options (affordable) especially for working families (Bowling Green)
- Afterschool activities (Bowling Green)
- Afterschool supervision for youth (Bowling Green)
- Creation of age-specific regulation at state level for license afterschool and summer youth programs (Bowling Green)
- Simpson County afterschool learning opportunities for grades 6-12 (Bowling Green)
- Afterschool language development for students who do not speak English (Bowling Green)
- Continued assistance and education on importance of afterschool programs (Bowling Green)
- Tutoring afterschool programs (Bowling Green)
- After school facilities for children (Campbellsville)

Neighborhood Safety (6)

- Neighborhood watches in each community (Owensboro)
- Neighborhood watches - start! (Owensboro)
- Safe Streets for Walking, Biking, Driving (Bowling Green)
- More law enforcement manpower in rural communities (Bowling Green)
- Multi-cultural Integration and education (Attn: to hate crimes) (Bowling Green)
- More police (Bowling Green)

Opportunity for Higher Education (5)

- More post-secondary opportunities for students in the area (Owensboro)
- More accessibility for people seeking to move into trying for master degree (Owensboro)
- Incentives or programs for individuals to obtain higher education (Owensboro)
- More educational opportunity for workers in area (Owensboro)
- Advance degree opportunities locally (Elizabethtown)

Art (5)

- Art something??? Maybe appreciation or opportunities?? (Owensboro)
- More arts/culture opportunities for youth and families (Bowling Green)
- Arts in the community (Campbellsville)
- “Little” theater productions in which to participate (Elizabethtown)
- Theatre to improve culture (Elizabethtown)

Volunteerism (5)

- Volunteers and mentors in our school systems (Owensboro)
- Reach Back Program – Mentoring (Owensboro)
- Incentives for service (Owensboro)
- Child mentoring opportunities-more volunteers so more children are served (Bowling Green)
- More citizen involvement in our education needs (Elizabethtown)

Community-Sustained Agriculture (4)

- Stronger local farm/food economy (Bowling Green)
- Promotion of healthier lifestyles and local foods (Bowling Green)
- Farm (Bowling Green)
- More local agriculture resources that would provide local grown produce to residents (Elizabethtown)

Churches (1)

- Church members involved in school system (Owensboro)

Sexual Abuse (1)

- Sexual abuse prevention (Bowling Green)

Education

Higher Education (52)

- More 4 year degree programs (Public) (Owensboro)
- Addressing increased cost of education - Making it affordable in the future (Owensboro)
- Post high school education for full time employees (Owensboro)
- 4 year post secondary programs (Owensboro)
- More 2 + 2 programs between community colleges and four year institutions (Owensboro)
- Incentives or requirements that students stay in high school and complete college degrees (Owensboro)
- Less students needing remedial course upon entering college (Owensboro)
- Increased # of individuals who have obtained degrees/credentials (Assoc./2 year, 4 year) (Owensboro)
- Increasing # of high school students who go to college (Owensboro)
- Increase # of college graduates (Owensboro)
- High school students better prepared for workforce or higher education (Owensboro)
- # of B.S./B.A. graduates (Owensboro)
- Need for more adults to have bachelor's degrees (Owensboro)
- Promoting education (Owensboro)
- Educated work force (Owensboro)
- More highly skilled workforce (job skills / work ethics) (Owensboro)
- Bridge the gap between high school and college preparedness (Glasgow)
- Building expansion at WKU-Glasgow (Glasgow)
- Awareness to public about the financial aide and grants available for post secondary education (Glasgow)
- Help in the area of college costs (Glasgow)
- Qualified internship applicants (Masters & BA) (Glasgow)
- Affordable higher education (Glasgow)
- Increase preparedness for postsecondary - English & Math (Glasgow)
- Greater retention rate of WKU - Freshman class (Glasgow)
- More involvement with WKU and K-12 (Glasgow)
- Offering college-level certificate programs for special needs students to achieve (Bowling Green)

- Stricter Master Plan that restricts sprawl and seeks balance between development and preserving rural character of the regional (Bowling Green)
- More systematic collaboration among between public entities schools-university government (Bowling Green)
- WKU study possible access to grants to fund student involvement with seniors to help mental health, health, education (Bowling Green)
- Training students on what the needs are at employers (Bowling Green)
- Better prepared undergraduate students entering higher education (Bowling Green)
- Consortium of all the education providers (Bowling Green)
- Transitions to post-secondary education under prepared students (Bowling Green)
- Improved access to nursing education programs. Too many good students are turned away due to limited seats available (Bowling Green)
- Nurses in the schools (Bowling Green)
- More higher education programs available on-line - anywhere, anytime learning (Campbellsville)
- Education is expensive for those above poverty guidelines (Campbellsville)
- Skilled and better educated workforce (Campbellsville)
- Help for low income students (Campbellsville)
- Post secondary education facility in Northern Hardin County (Elizabethtown)
- Educational opportunities in the human resource field (Elizabethtown)
- The expansion of Fort Knox as a result of BRAC will result in increased skills for our workforce (Elizabethtown)
- Educational opportunities in the information technology field (Elizabethtown)
- Educated workforce - constant re-training for new jobs (Elizabethtown)
- Opportunities to obtain 4-year degrees in various fields without having to leave region (Elizabethtown)
- Increased opportunities for scholarships for needy families (Elizabethtown)
- More 4 year college degree programs (Elizabethtown)
- More advance college programs (Elizabethtown)
- Additional bachelors degree programs offered through ECTC @ ECTC (Elizabethtown)
- College classes to meet needs of educators (who have not completed degrees) who will be stationed with husbands or wives stationed at Fort Knox (Elizabethtown)
- Additional 4 year degrees to be completed in Elizabethtown (Elizabethtown)
- Child care center at or near community college for students attending classes (Elizabethtown)

Secondary Education (52)

- More technology education opportunities for high schools (Owensboro)
- Incentives or requirements that students stay in high school and complete college degrees (Owensboro)

- Less students needing remedial course upon entering college (Owensoboro)
- Involvement of industry in daily activities of schools (Owensoboro)
- Assist local schools with pre-college curriculum and assess the school's graduates on their education quality through their abilities in college entry-level classes (Owensoboro)
- Increasing # of high school students who go to college (Owensoboro)
- Merge city and county school systems (Owensoboro)
- Smaller high schools - limit enrollment so teacher/student ratio is acceptable (Owensoboro)
- High school students better prepared for workforce or higher education (Owensoboro)
- High school graduation rate (Owensoboro)
- Teachers in special areas (math, science, special education, foreign languages) (Owensoboro)
- High school retention rate (Owensoboro)
- Incorporate "soft skill" into jr. & sr. year - high schools (Owensoboro)
- Educated work force (Owensoboro)
- Bridge the gap between high school and college preparedness (Glasgow)
- Awareness to public about the financial aide and grants available for post secondary education (Glasgow)
- Better Glasgow City School facilities (Glasgow)
- Expand ESL programs in all schools (Glasgow)
- All day preschool in all districts of public schools (Glasgow)
- Work skills for students not attending college (Glasgow)
- High school drug/alcohol education (Glasgow)
- Increase preparedness for postsecondary - English & Math (Glasgow)
- Geography taught in K-12 (Glasgow)
- More involvement with WKU and K-12 (Glasgow)
- K-12 Education for lifelong learning (Bowling Green)
- Later start dates for public schools (Bowling Green)
- More systematic collaboration among between public entities schools-university government (Bowling Green)
- Training students on what the needs are at employers (Bowling Green)
- Increase physical activity and health education in schools--reduce obesity, heart disease and other chronic diseases (Bowling Green)
- Better prepared undergraduate students entering higher education (Bowling Green)
- Consortium of all the education providers (Bowling Green)
- Transitions to post-secondary education under prepared students (Bowling Green)
- Transition of ESL students into P-12 (Bowling Green)
- Business P-12 Partnerships to address future needs (Bowling Green)
- More technology for local schools (Bowling Green)
- School transition assistance for professional transfers/area newcomers with children (Bowling Green)

- Health education promotion in schools (physical activity, etc.) (Bowling Green)
- More effective health education programs in schools (Bowling Green)
- Food preparation and nutrition education in schools (Bowling Green)
- Equitable fitness activities in schools for all children, not just the elite athletes (Bowling Green)
- Better understanding of the importance of policy of PE in schools (Bowling Green)
- Improvement in schools to work transition for special education students wanting to go to work after graduation (Bowling Green)
- To better educate teachers about dyslexia and how to treat it in the classroom (Campbellsville)
- Merger between Campbellsville Independent School and Taylor County School Systems (Campbellsville)
- Advanced placement classes in our high school (Campbellsville)
- Funding (Campbellsville)
- Certification programs for high school students not going to college. CU is in the planning stages on this, TTC (Technology Training Center) is doing employee gap analysis of needs (Campbellsville)
- School drop-out intervention (Campbellsville)
- Mandarin Chinese should be offered in local schools (Elizabethtown)
- Concentrated emphasis on high school student career development (Elizabethtown)
- Secondary Ed. Restructuring (Elizabethtown)
- Open up schools in the evening (Elizabethtown)

Elementary Education (31)

- Involvement of industry in daily activities of schools (Owensboro)
- Merge city and county school systems (Owensboro)
- Teachers in special areas (math, science, special education, foreign languages) (Owensboro)
- Better Glasgow City School facilities (Glasgow)
- Expand ESL programs in all schools (Glasgow)
- Foreign language elementary school (Japanese & Chinese) (Glasgow)
- Geography taught in K-12 (Glasgow)
- After school daycare (Glasgow)
- K-12 Education for lifelong learning (Bowling Green)
- Later start dates for public schools (Bowling Green)
- More systematic collaboration among between public entities schools-university government (Bowling Green)
- Increase physical activity and health education in schools--reduce obesity, heart disease and other chronic diseases (Bowling Green)
- Consortium of all the education providers (Bowling Green)

- Transition of ESL students into P-12 (Bowling Green)
- Business P-12 Partnerships to address future needs (Bowling Green)
- More technology for local schools (Bowling Green)
- School transition assistance for professional transfers/area newcomers with children (Bowling Green)
- Health education promotion in schools (physical activity, etc.) (Bowling Green)
- More effective health education programs in schools (Bowling Green)
- Food preparation and nutrition education in schools (Bowling Green)
- Equitable fitness activities in schools for all children, not just the elite athletes (Bowling Green)
- Better understanding of the importance of policy of PE in schools (Bowling Green)
- To better educate teachers about dyslexia and how to treat it in the classroom (Campbellsville)
- Work for change in the No Child Left Behind requirements as applicable to the local school systems in the region. IE - Mainstreaming of disruptive children in lower grades (Campbellsville)
- More emphasis on children in the school system that need clothing and food (Campbellsville)
- Merger between Campbellsville Independent School and Taylor County School Systems (Campbellsville)
- Funding (Campbellsville)
- Better learning in elementary schools (Elizabethtown)
- Mandarin Chinese should be offered in local schools (Elizabethtown)
- 40% of children entering kindergarten are not prepared to learn (Elizabethtown)
- Open up schools in the evening (Elizabethtown)

Early Childhood Education (17)

- Early childhood education (Owensboro)
- More preschool education (Owensboro)
- Better childcare center in Fordsville (Owensboro)
- Additional child care facilities (Owensboro)
- All day preschool in all districts of public schools (Glasgow)
- Childcare - flexibility for working mothers in workplace (Glasgow)
- Better childcare for employees & students (Glasgow)
- Affordable daycare facilities (Glasgow)
- Stronger pre-school emphasis--including public, private schools (Bowling Green)
- Head start with parent participation (Bowling Green)
- Quality child care (Bowling Green)
- Consortium of all the education providers (Bowling Green)
- Transition of ESL students into P-12 (Bowling Green)

- Business P-12 Partnerships to address future needs (Bowling Green)
- Preschool programs (3 and 4 year olds) are a must - again, those above poverty guidelines have no preschool (Campbellsville)
- 40% of children entering kindergarten are not prepared to learn (Elizabethtown)
- Child care center at or near community college for students attending classes (Elizabethtown)

Vocational Education (12)

- Technical education for factory/industrial and trade jobs (Owensboro)
- Educated work force (Owensboro)
- More highly skilled workforce (job skills / work ethics) (Owensboro)
- Build welding, machinist, electrician, etc. programs - to meet growing needs (Owensboro)
- Work skills for students not attending college (Glasgow)
- Better trained workforce (Glasgow)
- Increased training offerings (technical) (Bowling Green)
- Collaborate workforce training (Bowling Green)
- Skilled and better educated workforce (Campbellsville)
- Certification programs for high school students not going to college. CU is in the planning stages on this, TTC (Technology Training Center) is doing employee gap analysis of needs (Campbellsville)
- Educational opportunities in the information technology field (Elizabethtown)
- Educated workforce - constant re-training for new jobs (Elizabethtown)

Graduation Rates (7)

- Increased # of individuals who have obtained degrees/credentials (Assoc./2 year, 4 year) (Owensboro)
- Increase # of college graduates (Owensboro)
- High school graduation rate (Owensboro)
- High school retention rate (Owensboro)
- # of B.S./B.A. graduates (Owensboro)
- Greater retention rate of WKU - Freshman class (Glasgow)
- School drop-out intervention (Campbellsville)

Nontraditional Students (4)

- Post high school education for full time employees (Owensboro)
- Scholarship opportunities for non-traditional students, single-parent homes, etc. (Glasgow)
- Creating flexible work schedules “awareness” to facilitate non-traditional returning to continue ed. (Glasgow)

- More programs for the non-traditional student to make them feel more comfortable to be in (Bowling Green)

Healthcare

Healthcare Coverage (49)

- Basic health care - including prescription assistance for uninsured & underinsured (Owensboro)
- Medical Care - adult with slightly above Medicaid wage (Owensboro)
- Affordable health care (Owensboro)
- Medical health assistance programs (Owensboro)
- Affordable medical care for KY (Owensboro)
- More assistance programs for families who have health problems (Owensboro)
- Child dental care for uninsured & underinsured (Owensboro)
- Emergency dental needs (Owensboro)
- More affordable healthcare coverage (Owensboro)
- Health insurance for all (Glasgow)
- Need for healthcare for all (Glasgow)
- Cost of health care (Glasgow)
- Affordable healthcare (Glasgow)
- Healthcare if you are without insurance - Education for help (Glasgow)
- Affordable healthcare (Bowling Green)
- Better funding of health care providers such as community health centers, free clinics, etc.s (Bowling Green)
- Affordable health care for community residents (Bowling Green)
- Access to health services in rural areas including prevention, medical care, screenings, dental care, and social services (Bowling Green)
- Workable insurances for all (Bowling Green)
- More options (affordable health wellness checkups, dental care, and immunizations) (Bowling Green)
- Improved access to affordable healthcare and medications, particularly for underserved and older populations (Bowling Green)
- Medical services for employed individuals with no insurance (Bowling Green)
- Affordable medical care and medications (Bowling Green)
- Access to free or low cost dental care for recovering drug addicts (Bowling Green)
- Affordable/available dental and eye care (Bowling Green)
- Available/affordable healthcare for all (Bowling Green)
- Healthcare for children (Bowling Green)
- Providing handicap accessible housing and academic support for injured GI's returning from combat (Bowling Green)

- Healthcare for children needs to be made more accessible. Especially children who are starting school (Bowling Green)
- Better access to dental care (all types) for children and adults--specifically financial access (Bowling Green)
- Access to healthcare (Bowling Green)
- Access to quality affordable health care (Bowling Green)
- Access to healthcare for all children (Bowling Green)
- Affordable healthcare (Bowling Green)
- Better quality and affordable healthcare programs (Campbellsville)
- Accessible health care (Campbellsville)
- Healthcare/medication for the elderly (Campbellsville)
- Healthcare for elderly (Campbellsville)
- Affordable healthcare/insurance for workers (Campbellsville)
- Affordable healthcare for all self-employed and married individuals (not just single parents) (Campbellsville)
- Affordable health insurance for everyone (Campbellsville)
- Health care - people without insurance (Campbellsville)
- Good, affordable healthcare for all of the citizens (Campbellsville)
- Health care access for the elderly (Campbellsville)
- Health insurance programs for small business (Elizabethtown)
- Accessible, affordable mental health services (Elizabethtown)
- 14,000 adults in Hardin County lack health insurance (Elizabethtown)
- Quality health care (patient-focused) (Elizabethtown)
- Reduce the time it takes to process disability claims (Elizabethtown)

Medical Professionals (12)

- Nursing shortages (Owensboro)
- More healthcare professionals (Owensboro)
- Incentives for doctors to come to our community (Owensboro)
- More nursing students (Glasgow)
- Better funding of health care providers such as community health centers, free clinics, etc.s (Bowling Green)
- Access to health services in rural areas including prevention, medical care, screenings, dental care, and social services (Bowling Green)
- Access to free or low cost dental care for recovering drug addicts (Bowling Green)
- Using telehealth-telerehab to provide services to persons with acquired brain injuries recovering at home (Bowling Green)
- Healthcare offices or doctors to fill needs for long wait to be treated (Bowling Green)
- Dermatology (Bowling Green)
- More Healthcare facilities needed (Bowling Green)

- Stimulate economic development by increasing shortage of health professionals--for example, physical therapy, CRNAs (Bowling Green)

Mental Health (8)

- A mental health system-beds are being lost institutes closed (Bowling Green)
- Aid to children and adults with emotional and mental needs (Bowling Green)
- Using telehealth-telerehab to provide services to persons with acquired brain injuries recovering at home (Bowling Green)
- Assistance to help disabled connect with valued roles in their community (jobs, committees, volunteerism) (Bowling Green)
- More local incentives for business owners to hire individual with disabilities (Bowling Green)
- Accessible, affordable mental health services (Elizabethtown)
- Quality, affordable mental health services (often takes 30-60 to get 1st appointment at Communicare) (Elizabethtown)
- Reduce the time it takes to process disability claims (Elizabethtown)

Physical Disability (7)

- Aid to children with physical needs (Bowling Green)
- Providing handicap accessible housing and academic support for injured GI's returning from combat (Bowling Green)
- Aid to adults with physical needs (Bowling Green)
- Assistance to help disabled connect with valued roles in their community (jobs, committees, volunteerism) (Bowling Green)
- More local incentives for business owners to hire individual with disabilities (Bowling Green)
- Put a stop to so many younger people getting disability (Campbellsville)
- Reduce the time it takes to process disability claims (Elizabethtown)

Nutrition (6)

- Nutrition (Owensboro)
- Nutrition education to fight obesity (Owensboro)
- Patient education on healthcare topics such as diabetes, obesity, nutrition, etc. (Owensboro)
- Nutritious meals (Glasgow)
- Improved recognition of eating problems (Glasgow)
- Treatment programs for overweight children and adults (Bowling Green)

Prescription Medication (5)

- Prescription assistance (Owensboro)

- Improved access to affordable healthcare and medications, particularly for underserved and older populations (Bowling Green)
- Affordable medical care and medications (Bowling Green)
- Healthcare/medication for the elderly (Campbellsville)
- Prescription programs - some have insurance which doesn't pay for prescriptions (Campbellsville)

Preventative Healthcare (5)

- Nutrition (Owensboro)
- Preventive health care (Owensboro)
- More options (affordable health wellness checkups, dental care, and immunizations) (Bowling Green)
- Weight loss services for every age and every county (Bowling Green)
- Better education about cancer screenings--why and how to get/do it (Bowling Green)

Prenatal Healthcare (1)

- Pre-natal care - young mothers (Owensboro)

Health Research (1)

- \$\$ on research for health (Owensboro)

Economic Development

Infrastructure – Roads (34)

- Better roads for large trucks (Owensboro)
- Stronger infrastructure (Owensboro)
- Mass transportation to cut out binding up roads (Owensboro)
- Interstate highway (Owensboro)
- Hwy 431 upgrades from Logan County to Daviess County (Owensboro)
- Interstate connector (Owensboro)
- Interstate highway designation for Natcher & Audubon Parkways (Owensboro)
- Widen rural & secondary roads (Owensboro)
- Highway 431 improvements (Owensboro)
- Interstate access (Owensboro)
- Access to interstates (Owensboro)
- Transportation & Entertainment - More shopping in our area (Owensboro)
- Interstate into our city (Owensboro)
- Widening of US 31-E.South, Hwy 90E and Hwy 249 (Glasgow)
- I-66 (Glasgow)

- Traffic relief on Scottsville Road (Bowling Green)
- Better routes of driving in city (Bowling Green)
- Expansion of road system to relieve traffic constraints (Bowling Green)
- Improved road infrastructure-traffic flow is very bad in many parts of BG (Bowling Green)
- Better traffic flow (Bowling Green)
- Improve our infrastructure (Bowling Green)
- Master plan for traffic flow (Scottsville Rd and Nashville Rd) (Bowling Green)
- Southern Bypass around Campbellsville (Campbellsville)
- Heartland Parkway (4-lane highway) (Campbellsville)
- Heartland Parkway (Campbellsville)
- 4-lane highway / Heartland Parkway (Campbellsville)
- Heartland Parkway (Campbellsville)
- 4-lane road - Heartland Parkway - to be completed - prospects are counting stop lights off a four lane road (Campbellsville)
- Connecting road to interstate roads (Campbellsville)
- Adequate infrastructure for economic development (Campbellsville)
- Better access to interstate and parkway systems (Campbellsville)
- Improvements / expansions to 31-W (Elizabethtown)
- Improved roadway and travel (Elizabethtown)
- Roads and priorities to build (Elizabethtown)

Employment (33)

- Better paying jobs for the under-educated (Owensboro)
- Jobs - good paying to bring a family above poverty level (Owensboro)
- Jobs for college graduates (Owensboro)
- \$\$ for job readiness programs (Owensboro)
- More higher paying jobs (Owensboro)
- A greater increase in wages (Owensboro)
- Means to keep college-educated in state (Owensboro)
- More jobs (Glasgow)
- Available jobs for high school graduates (Glasgow)
- More employment options (Glasgow)
- Employment opportunities for students pursuing an education and needing flexible work hours (Glasgow)
- Better paying jobs (Glasgow)
- Economic Development partnerships that create higher paying jobs for citizens (Bowling Green)
- More employment opportunity (Bowling Green)

- More opportunities for disabled individuals to learn new job skills need to be created & integrated back into the work force (Bowling Green)
- More incentives for local businesses to hire drug felons (first offenders) (Bowling Green)
- Jobs (Bowling Green)
- A lot of people need a boost or shove to go to work (Campbellsville)
- Area hit hard with job losses - without jobs nothing else works (Campbellsville)
- Development of jobs for semi-skilled people (Campbellsville)
- Jobs (Campbellsville)
- Keep our young people in our county (Campbellsville)
- Living wage jobs (Campbellsville)
- Jobs (Campbellsville)
- Regional community study? Wage & benefit study, regional labor force study (Campbellsville)
- Good paying jobs (Campbellsville)
- Workforce development and training (Campbellsville)
- Higher paying jobs (Campbellsville)
- Employee gap analysis (commuting, skills, wages) (Campbellsville)
- Workforce development identification (Elizabethtown)
- Development of technology jobs or new economy jobs (Elizabethtown)
- Jobs (Elizabethtown)
- A living wage for service and retail workers (Elizabethtown)

Business (24)

- Downtown development - A plan & commitment by elected officials to support (Owensboro)
- Downtown development (Owensboro)
- Greater focus on entrepreneurial efforts (Owensboro)
- Downtown development (Owensboro)
- Greater incentives (loan forgiveness, grants, etc.) for youth to return home (Owensboro)
- Encouragement to develop “Mom & Pop” businesses (Owensboro)
- Ways to get private businesses to invest in small downtowns (Glasgow)
- Support economic development for the whole state but focused on individual county needs (Bowling Green)
- Economic Development (Bowling Green)
- Simpson county greater assistance financially in citizens who want to start a business a structural program for all not just the traditional minorities (Bowling Green)
- Mixed using zoning to stimulate economic entrepreneurs (Bowling Green)
- Training for small business owners (Campbellsville)
- Partnerships geared toward entrepreneurial training to ensure successful management of small business (Campbellsville)

- Training to help start up businesses succeed (Elizabethtown)
- More options in public grocery stores (other chains) (Elizabethtown)
- Additional retail offerings (Elizabethtown)
- Accountability to business for their behavior (“Name the bad guy”) (Elizabethtown)
- Foster highest ethical marketplace relationships (Elizabethtown)
- Better higher end shopping (Elizabethtown)
- Need for “Creative Class” collaboration (Elizabethtown)
- Local TV station with news segments (Elizabethtown)
- Awareness of Chamber (Elizabethtown)
- Educating business and community about the impact of BRAC? (Elizabethtown)
- More shopping like department stores (variety) Keep more business here (Elizabethtown)

Tourism (11)

- Tourism signage (Owensboro)
- Motel or bed & breakfast (Owensboro)
- Marketing the region’s resources IE: Workforce, Leisure, Cost of Living (Owensboro)
- Agriculture - new trends to agritourism - where do we go from tobacco? (Glasgow)
- Greater tourism with Mammoth Cave (bike trails) (Glasgow)
- Promote tourism (Bowling Green)
- Stronger marketing plan linking with other communities mammoth cave, south union (Bowling Green)
- Programs to grow agri-tourism (Campbellsville)
- Development of a network of tourism projects (Campbellsville)
- Better local efforts with tourism (Elizabethtown)
- Better development of civil war sites for tourism (Elizabethtown)

Technology (11)

- Wireless internet (Owensboro)
- More high speed internet T-1 lines (Glasgow)
- Technology access to rural areas (Glasgow)
- Internet access for all better than library--needs to be DSL if going to get economic development (Bowling Green)
- Internet access for citizens who don't own computers (Bowling Green)
- Technology-Meet the needs of all members of society to enforce the area (Bowling Green)
- Technology (Bowling Green)
- Improve technology to rural areas via wireless access-get all connected (Bowling Green)
- County-wide broadband (Elizabethtown)
- Improve telecommunication infrastructure (Elizabethtown)
- Free wi-fi everywhere (Elizabethtown)

Industry (10)

- Better training for job skills for local plants (Owensboro)
- Area collaboration on industrial development (Glasgow)
- Need to keep industry in area (Glasgow)
- Sufficient paying jobs in industries (Glasgow)
- Incentives for industry (other than manufacturing) to locate in BG area (Bowling Green)
- Economic development that is environmentally safe (Bowling Green)
- Development of new industrial park (Campbellsville)
- Complete Heartland Commerce Park (Campbellsville)
- Heartland Commerce and Technology Park (Campbellsville)
- More emphasis on homegrown industries (Elizabethtown)

Infrastructure – Utilities (10)

- Fire protection – hydrants (Owensboro)
- Buried power lines (Owensboro)
- Water districts (Owensboro)
- Water lines for citizens - Hart County (Glasgow)
- Expansion of public sewage treatment systems (Bowling Green)
- Water and sewer for all (Bowling Green)
- Upgraded water and sewer infrastructure (Campbellsville)
- New sewer lines (Campbellsville)
- Improve telecommunication infrastructure (Elizabethtown)
- More effective methods in dealing with water drainage (Elizabethtown)

Infrastructure – Bike/Pedestrian (7)

- Better crosswalk system downtown - currently dangerous (Glasgow)
- Sidewalk areas for pedestrians in local communities (Bowling Green)
- Bike-friendly communities-built environment (Bowling Green)
- Built environment that favors exercise and good health (greenways, sidewalks, park systems, etc.) (Bowling Green)
- Urban design that promotes walking/biking (Bowling Green)
- Improve transportation-roads, work ways, bikeways (Bowling Green)
- Infrastructure to support human powered transportation (bike paths/lanes) (Bowling Green)

Infrastructure – Buildings (5)

- Better planning and zoning requirements (Owensboro)
- Up-to-date public safety building for fire, police, etc. (Glasgow)

- Regional jail (Glasgow)
- Building at the airport for ambulance and helicopter and crew (Glasgow)
- Wider parking spaces (Elizabethtown)

NEED CATEGORY ASSET

1. Nurturing Communities

- Adult & business mentors (Owensboro)
- Hospitals & clinics doctors (Owensboro)
- Green River District Health Department - Public Health (Owensboro)
- Parks & Recreation (Owensboro, Bowling Green)
- Audubon Area (AACS) (Owensboro)
- Matthew 25 AIDS Services (Owensboro)
- Food assistance / Food banks (Owensboro)
- Local churches (Owensboro, Glasgow, Bowling Green, Campbellsville, Elizabethtown)
*Churches were the most frequently named asset in this strategic area
- Senior Citizens groups (Owensboro)
- Advertisement in local newspaper community bulletin board about financial aide for post secondary (Glasgow)
- ALPHA (Adult Learning) (Glasgow)
- Barren River Aging Services (Glasgow)
- AARP (Glasgow, Bowling Green)
- Glasgow Recreation Department (Glasgow)
- Barren Family YMCA (Glasgow)
- Operation P.R.I.D.E. (Glasgow)
- TJ Samson (Senior CARE) (Glasgow)
- Retirees (Glasgow)
- Bunche Center (Glasgow)
- 4-H (Glasgow)
- Barren River Tobacco Prevention Coalition (Bowling Green)
- Military (Bowling Green)
- Community Education (Bowling Green)
- CASA of South central Kentucky (Bowling Green)
- Family Enrichment Center-Wee Care (Bowling Green)
- Delinquency prevention council (Bowling Green)
- The Save the Kids Coalition (Bowling Green)
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters (Bowling Green)
- Girls, Inc. (Bowling Green)
- Retired physicians and dentists (Bowling Green)

- Healthy Weight Kids Coalition (Bowling Green)
- WKU Communications Department (Bowling Green)
- WKU Student Interns (Bowling Green)
- Community Culture (Bowling Green)
- BG League of Bicyclist (Bowling Green)
- BRADD (Bowling Green)
- LEAP (Let's eliminate a problem) (Bowling Green)
- MADD (Bowling Green)
- Pennyroyal Center RPC/KY ASAP (Bowling Green)
- Celebrate Recovery (Bowling Green)
- Warren County Drug Taskforce (Bowling Green)
- WKU Geriatric Program (Bowling Green)
- HELP ministry (Faith United Methodist Church) (Bowling Green)
- Barren River Area DD/Office of Aging (Bowling Green)
- International Center (on and off campus) (Bowling Green)
- Lifeskills prevention Center (Bowling Green)
- Human Rights Commission (Bowling Green)
- Adult Learning Center (Campbellsville)
- Community Action / LIHEAP (Emergency food and shelter program) (Campbellsville)
- Adanta (Campbellsville)
- Ministerial association (Campbellsville)
- Eastern KY Child Care (Campbellsville)
- Senior citizen CAA (Campbellsville)
- Senior Center on Aging (Campbellsville)
- Elderly day care center (Campbellsville)
- Adanta (Campbellsville)
- Center for International Education - Campbellsville University (Campbellsville)
- ESL Dept. - Campbellsville University (Campbellsville)
- Innovation Center (Elizabethtown)
- Extension service (Elizabethtown)
- Banks - sponsor day and short trips for seniors (Elizabethtown)
- Local newspapers and media (Elizabethtown)
- Realtors (Owensboro)
- Habitat for Humanity (Owensboro, Bowling Green)
- KY Housing Coalition (Owensboro)
- Help Office (Owensboro)
- Housing Authority (Owensboro, Campbellsville)
- Connect KY (Owensboro)
- Homeless and Housing Coalition of KY (HHCK) (Glasgow)

- Glasgow Housing Authority (Glasgow)
- Board of Realtors (Glasgow)
- Barren River ADD (Glasgow)
- Connect KY Dept. Local Government (Glasgow)
- EDA, Bob Huster, Lexington, KY (Glasgow)
- Community Action of Southern Kentucky (Glasgow)
- AARP (Bowling Green)
- Community Action (Bowling Green)
- WKU Geriatric Program (Bowling Green)
- CART (Bowling Green)
- JARC at Housing Authority (Bowling Green)
- Phoenix House (Bowling Green)
- House of Joy (Bowling Green)
- Bowling Green Human Rights Commission (Bowling Green)
- Lifeskills, Inc. (Bowling Green)
- The Lighthouse (Bowling Green)
- Housing and Community Development (Bowling Green)
- Enterprise Community City of Bowling Green (Bowling Green)
- Salvation Army (Bowling Green)
- HANDS (Bowling Green)
- United Way (Bowling Green)
- Campbellsville University Technology Training Center (Campbellsville)
- Employment agencies - Malone staffing - WIA - Vocational Rehab (Campbellsville)
- Local Community Action agency - Emergency shelter, heating & cooling assistance (Campbellsville)
- Community Action / LIHEAP (Emergency food and shelter program) (Campbellsville)
- Nolin RECC (Elizabethtown)
- Windstream Brandenburg Telecom? (Elizabethtown)
- Insight (Elizabethtown)
- Banks - sponsor and pay for public transportation - (small buses or vans) (Elizabethtown)
- Providers of solar and other forms of alternative energy (Owensboro)
- Economic Development Corporation (Owensboro)
- Greenways Commission (Bowling Green)
- Kentucky waterways alliance (Bowling Green)
- WKU students (Bowling Green)
- Business owners and managers (Bowling Green)
- BG Women's Club and other clubs who work on conservation (Bowling Green)
- BG League of Bicyclist (Bowling Green)
- Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (Elizabethtown)

- Courts (Elizabethtown)

2. Education

- Adult & business mentors (Owensboro)
- Imagination Library / Learning community (Owensboro)
- Citizens Committee on Education (Owensboro)
- Local libraries (Owensboro)
- Industry (Owensboro)
- The Learning Center (Owensboro)
- OMPC (Owensboro)
- PTA (Owensboro)
- Head Start (Owensboro, Campbellsville)
- Hospitals & clinics doctors (Owensboro)
- Career center - Hancock County (Owensboro)
- Bill Gates Foundation (Glasgow)
- KHESLC (Glasgow)
- Advertisement in local newspaper community bulletin board about financial aide for post secondary (Glasgow)
- Retired Teachers Organization (Glasgow)
- D.A.R.E. (Glasgow)
- WKU Institute for Rural Health Development and Research (Bowling Green)
- WKU Communications Department (Bowling Green)
- WKU Student Interns (Bowling Green)
- DELO (Bowling Green)
- Kentucky virtual campus (Bowling Green)
- Hospitals pay for facility or buildings to allow program expansion (Bowling Green)
- International Center (on and off campus) (Bowling Green)
- GRECC (Bowling Green)
- Campbellsville University Technology Training Center (Campbellsville)
- Vocational Rehabilitation (Campbellsville)
- Center for International Education - Campbellsville University (Campbellsville)
- ESL Dept. - Campbellsville University (Campbellsville)
- WKU (Elizabethtown)
- ECTC (Elizabethtown)
- Wired grants (Elizabethtown)
- University of Phoenix (Elizabethtown)
- Challenger Center (Elizabethtown)
- Sullivan (Elizabethtown)
- North Central Education Foundation (Elizabethtown)

3. Healthcare

- Health Horizons (Owensboro)
- Health Council (Owensboro)
- Owensboro Medical Health System (Owensboro)
- Green River District Health Department - Public Health (Owensboro)
- Parks & Recreation (Owensboro)
- Audubon Area (AACS) (Owensboro)
- Food assistance / Food banks (Owensboro)
- Warren County Medical Society (Bowling Green)
- Mobile Health Unit (Bowling Green)
- Health Department (Bowling Green)
- Free Clinic (Bowling Green)
- Kentucky Psych Association (Bowling Green)
- WKU Institute for Rural Health Development and Research (Bowling Green)
- Clinical Education Complex (Bowling Green)
- Meals Program (Bowling Green)
- The Medical Center (Bowling Green)
- Greenview Hospital (Bowling Green)
- Fairview Community Health Center (Bowling Green)
- WKU's Acquired Brain Injury Program (Bowling Green)
- Churches (Bowling Green)
- Retired physicians and dentists (Bowling Green)
- Healthy Weight Kids Coalition (Bowling Green)
- Retired nurses (Bowling Green)
- HANDS (Bowling Green)
- Lifeskills prevention Center (Bowling Green)
- Wal-Mart \$4.00 prescription plan (Campbellsville)
- Local physicians (doctors, dentists, etc.) (Campbellsville)
- Hardin Memorial Hospital (Elizabethtown)
- Lincoln Trail Behavioral Health Clinic (Elizabethtown)
- Communicare, Inc. (Elizabethtown)

4. Economic Development

- Adult & business mentors (Owensboro)
- Industry (Owensboro, Elizabethtown)
- Commerce Center (Owensboro)
- Economic Development Corporation (Owensboro)

- Downtown Development Corporation (Owensboro)
- Churches & youth organizations (Owensboro, Bowling Green, Campbellsville)
- Public Service Announcements - WBKR & Media (Owensboro)
- Bill Gates Foundation (Glasgow)
- Advertisement in local newspaper community bulletin board about financial aide for post secondary (Glasgow)
- G.O.L.D. - Governor's Office for Local Development (Glasgow)
- Industrial Development Authority (Glasgow)
- Glasgow Chamber of Commerce (Glasgow)
- Idea Board (Glasgow)
- Business owners and managers (Bowling Green)
- DELO (Bowling Green)
- BG Green Partnership for Sustainable Community (Bowling Green)
- HELP ministry (Faith United Methodist Church) (Bowling Green)
- Hospitals pay for facility or buildings to allow program expansion (Bowling Green)
- Workforce Development Board (Bowling Green)
- Lifeskills vocational programs (Bowling Green)
- Office of Voc. Rehab (Bowling Green)
- Community Action (Bowling Green)
- Industrial Consortium (Bowling Green)
- Campbellsville University Technology Training Center (Campbellsville)
- Federal fund Park (Campbellsville)
- Adanta (Campbellsville)
- Wired grants (Campbellsville)
- BBB (Elizabethtown)
- Banks - sponsor day and short trips for seniors (Elizabethtown)
- Radcliff & Etown tourism organizations (Elizabethtown)
- Historical society (Elizabethtown)
- Banks - sponsor and pay for public transportation - (small buses or vans) (Elizabethtown)

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY – CURRENT RESOURCES

The following is a summary of WKU resources currently directed toward addressing identified regional needs. Following the center or initiative description is a designation of the strategic areas addressed.

WKU Institute for Rural Health Development and Research (IRHDR)

The WKU Institute for Rural Health Development and Research (IRHDR) was created to identify rural health and human services needs and facilitate collaborative arrangements engaging WKU students and faculty and community agencies in addressing these needs. The Institute is part of the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS). The Institute plays a major role in assisting CHHS in maintaining the focus of student engagement and community service.

The Institute's mobile health unit is a 40 foot vehicle equipped with two exams rooms and has dental radiology capabilities as well as limited lab services. The mission of this mobile health unit is to provide preventative services and health promotion activities to the medically under-served and uninsured of rural Kentucky, with special emphasis on the 10 county Barren River Area Development District (BRADD). Students and faculty within the CHHS provide free services. Services include cleaning, sealants, radiography, and basic health screenings. Health services are provided predominately during the academic year and oral health services are provided throughout the year.

The school based dental sealant program offers dental screenings and sealants to all 2nd and 7th graders each year. In addition to funding from WKU, this program also receives funding from Delta Dental and the Allen County Health Department.

Other partners collaborating with the Institute include Housing Authority of Bowling Green, Barren River Area District Health Department, school systems in 10 county BRADD area, Salvation Army, Kentucky Cancer Program, South Central AHEC, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, the Rural Social Work Conference, Hart County Amish community, Kentucky Dental Association, and the Kentucky Partnership for Farm Health & Safety.

STRATEGIC AREAS ADDRESSED: Healthcare
 Nurturing Communities

WKU Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Program

The WKU Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Program is part of a national competition that in which student teams create projects that teach participants about market economics, personal success skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, business ethics, and sustainability. Many of these projects engage community partners to serve the needs of various constituencies. WKU student team members represent a diverse cross-section of majors from broadcasting to turf management.

The goal of WKU SIFE Program is to provide members of the community with educational programs and events that further their knowledge and understanding of the free enterprise system; and to encourage excellence and personal success of all individuals. WKU SIFE provides team members with opportunities to make a difference in the community. Leadership, teamwork and communication skills are strengthened through learning, developing programs and teaching the principles of free enterprise.

Examples of the team's nineteen projects included educating elementary students about supply chain economics by using chocolate as an international product, helping senior citizens protect their financial assets, developing a fundraising strategy for the Kelly Autism Program, educating refugee groups about budgeting and US business ethics, providing business analysis for 13 small business ventures in the Bowling Green community, working with local middle schools on a City Market business management program, and assisting a women's cooperative in rural Kenya in developing sustainable economic ventures and US markets for their products.

During 2006-07, 12,398 community members/customers benefited from the 19 SIFE team projects. Student team members generated 6,337 delivery hours to community members/customers.

STRATEGIC AREAS ADDRESSED: Economic Development
 Education (Elementary and Secondary)

WKU Applied Research and Technology Program (ARTP)

The Applied Research and Technology Program (ARTP) is a multidisciplinary program consisting of 14 scientific and service-oriented centers. These centers provide unique opportunities for undergraduates and graduate students to transition from academia to the workplace or to graduate educational programs through participation in faculty-supervised, hands-on applied research and technological projects that help solve problems for the community, state and nation. ARTP promotes cost-effective scientific solutions through technological and environmental services, and serves as a catalyst for economic development in the region. Students and faculty are engaged in applied research activities on a year-round basis.

Examples of ARTP projects during 2006-2007 include involvement with Habitat for Humanity, restoration of American Chestnuts, dye trace studies were conducted for local agencies, engineering projects to help regional industries, and water quality analyses to address issues related to rural drinking water quality.

ARTP has networked with a number of agencies, These include Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Electronic Warfare Associates, Northwest Nuclear and NuSAFE, East Kentucky Power, Cinergy, Illinois Institute for Clean Coal, Dow Corning, Kentucky Division of Water, Kentucky Rural Water Association, Bowling Green Municipal Utilities, EPA Region IV, Kentucky Water Institute, USDA/ARS Animal Waste Management Unit, Natural Resources Conservation Services, Mammoth Cave National Park, and USAID.

ARTP has gained traction in economic development in partnership with the CRICC, the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce, the WKU Research and Development Center. The CRICC has developed a business accelerator currently occupied by 15 high tech start-up companies.

STRATEGIC AREAS ADDRESSED: Nurturing Communities (Environment)
 Economic Development
 Education (Higher)

WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships

The ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships, begun as a federally funded volunteer center, has evolved to serve as the coordinating unit for student volunteerism and service learning initiatives at WKU. It maintains an online list of volunteer opportunities, connects youth and adult volunteers to service organizations, matches faculty, staff and student interests with agency needs, maintains a directory of local service organizations and support groups, responds to inquiries regarding childcare, health, education, recreation, housing, monetary needs and other services, and works with faculty and students to develop service learning components and experiences in their courses.

ALIVE is staffed by a full-time Service Learning Coordinator, Faculty Engagement Coordinator, Community Engagement Coordinator, and Information/Marketing Coordinator. This team has been instrumental in providing links for WKU students with various volunteer opportunities in the local area. During the 2006-07 academic year, ALIVE personnel worked with WKU faculty to assist in the development of service learning components for their courses. Center staff educated 1163 WKU students about volunteerism opportunities in the area and about the services provided. The Center worked with 371 local nonprofit organizations to actively solicit agency needs and match those needs with WKU expertise. During 2006-07, 936 volunteer referrals generated 168 volunteer opportunities for WKU students.

Beginning in January, the role of ALIVE expanded to include coordination of the university's state-funded Regional Stewardship initiative. This initiative is helping develop regional priorities suitable for collaborative action on the part of the university, local governments, business and community leaders.

STRATEGIC AREA ADDRESSED: Nurturing Communities

WKU Potter College of Arts and Humanities & WKU the Women's Studies Program

Potter College of Arts and Humanities, along with the Women's Studies Program, pursues a broad-based initiative to enhance the opportunities and role of the arts in the local community. These programs serve the needs of public schools in the region, as well as enhance the education, skills, reflection and self-esteem of adults challenged by circumstance.

Notable programs within this initiative include a collaboration with 10 elementary schools to provide supplemental music instruction through the Pre-College Strings Program, development and

presentation of Children's Theatre and Dramatics workshops for fifth grade classes at 2 local elementary schools, development of the abilities of artistically talented youth through the Visual Arts Enrichment Program, and the Women and Kids Learning Together (WKLT) Summer Camp to aid in the education and well-being of low income families.

During 2006-2007, 300 public school students gained musical knowledge and skills through 24 pre-college lessons in the strings program. Approximately 75 fifth-graders learned about the dramatic process through production of a folk-tale based play in the drama workshops, over 100 K-12 students from multiple rural counties benefited from artistic mentoring through participation in the Visual Arts Enrichment Program, and 39 low-income mothers and children enhanced their artistic expression, communication, learning skills and emotional well-being through the WKLT program.

All of these programs benefited from the support and collaboration of local schools. In addition, the WKLT Summer Camp engaged community business leaders, service providers and governmental officials as instructors and camp counselors.

STRATEGIC AREAS ADDRESSED: Education (Elementary and Secondary)
Nurturing Communities

Kaleidoscope Youth Development Program

Kaleidoscope is a community based youth development program dedicated to a vision of a just and compassionate society that celebrates the value of young people and the transformative power of love; where, by participation in the arts and critical reflection, people better understand themselves and their responsibility to each other. Kaleidoscope pursues this vision by providing youth opportunities to explore the arts, develop supportive relationships and create positive contributions for individual and community change.

Kaleidoscope has two program initiatives: Youth in Arts and Community Connections. The Youth in Arts initiative seeks to engage young people in unique opportunities to explore the arts develop supportive relationships and connect with their community. The Community Connections initiative seeks to create opportunities for organizations that serve youth to work collaboratively to build positive youth-adult relationships, develop youth skills, and expand opportunities for youth participation and leadership in our community. Kaleidoscope seeks to partner with any organization that serves youth in order to expand services and opportunities through true collaboration.

Kaleidoscope carries out its youth development efforts in collaboration with the following community partners: Bowling Green City Government, Bowling Green International Festival, Bowling Green Parks & Recreation, Boys & Girls Club of Bowling Green, Capitol Arts Alliance, Human Rights Commission, NAACP, Day Treatment Center Alternative School, Eleventh Street Alternative School, Girls Inc., Housing Authority of Bowling Green, Martin Luther King Jr. Planning Committee (BG), Parker Bennett Community Center, Parker Bennett Curry Elementary School, Warren Regional Juvenile Detention Center, and a number of local businesses, churches and faith-based organizations.

STRATEGIC AREAS ADDRESSED: Education (Secondary)
 Nurturing Communities

WKU Clinical Education Complex (CEC)

The Clinical Education Complex (CEC) at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky, is a community-university partnership that helps individuals and families realize dignity, independence, and productivity by providing services in these areas: Kelly Autism Program (KAP), Early Childhood Center (ECC), Family Counseling Clinic (FCC), Acquired Brain Injury Resource Program (ABIRP), and the Communication Disorders Clinic (CDC). The CEC prepares pre-professionals across disciplines while conducting research to enhance education and service.

The Early Childhood Center (ECC) seeks to advance the development and learning potential of children of all abilities through early childhood services and hands-on training for students who will be future educators, therapists, and/or early childhood professionals. The ECC serves children with and without disabilities.

The Early Childhood Center provides opportunities for students to: work on interdisciplinary teams with trained health and educational professionals while providing services to young children in inclusive settings, increase community partnerships to address the needs of young children in our community, advance research to increase understanding of child development and effective educational practices for children with developmental delays and/or disabilities, and link community and university resources to address service gaps within our own community.

The CEC collaborates with a number of community partners including: Community Residents, Local Educational Association, First Steps; Kentucky Acquired Brain Injury Consortium; Area Churches; Head Start; TTAS partnership; Alive Center; Regional Child Development Clinics, and the Caveland Education Support Center.

STRATEGIC AREAS ADDRESSED: Healthcare
 Education (Early Childhood)
 Nurturing Communities

WKU South Central Kentucky Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

The AHEC seeks to promote health communities through innovative partnerships, by providing educational support services to health professions, students and health care providers, community health education, and programs that encourage health professions as a career choice. The South Central AHEC relies on many partnerships with other agencies to accomplish mutually beneficial goals. One of our partners is the South Central Kentucky Kids on the Block, Inc, (KOB). KOB uses Bunraku puppetry to provide educational programs to students on more than 20 different topics. Programs are offered in schools, churches, and civic groups on physical challenges, medical conditions, and social and safety issues. Kids on the Block (KOB) is a highly praised organization that teaches children how to accept differences in others and themselves and how to

make safer and healthier life choices. The South Central AHEC “adopts” or sponsors three programs of the KOB. These programs are problem solving, multiculturalism, and safety programs.

AHEC Collaborations include: University of Louisville Health Sciences Center, School of Medicine, dentistry, and Kent School of Social Work, University of Kentucky, Colleges of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health, Centro la Esperanza, Inc., Family Resources/Youth Services Centers in 22 counties, Barren River District Health Department TJ Sampson Community Hospital, Glasgow/Barren County Family Medicine Family Residency, GEAR Up, Drive SMART KY, Old Order Mennonite Community, Health Occupation Students of America, Louisville Water Company, KY Partnership for Farm Family health and Safety, Inc., 18 Hospitals, Cooperative Extensive Services, South-Central KY Kids on the Block; Bowling Green Housing Authority, KY Board of Nursing, U of L Continuing Ed. Office, KY Telehealth program, KY Public Health Association, Barren River Long-term care Ombudsman, Barren River Mental Health & Aging Coalition, South KY Critical Care Nursing Assoc., and UK Summer Series on Aging.

STRATEGIC AREAS ADDRESSED: Healthcare
 Nurturing Communities

WKU Center for Gerontology

Western Kentucky University’s Center for Gerontology is guided by the belief that healthy aging is attainable on both the individual and community level and requires implementing holistic strategies. Keys to successful healthy aging are increasing physical activity, improving eating habits, preventing disease, injury and disability, maximizing financial and physical independence and maintaining active participation with the community. Located within a historically rural environment, the Center recognizes the value of interdisciplinary and intergenerational collaboration in developing approaches that respect the needs of older adults and the rural communities that support them. Committed to balancing gerontological theory with practice, the Center nurtures dynamic partnerships between agencies working on aging issues, Western Kentucky University and the international community.

The Center for Gerontology collaborates with the following community partners: Barren River Area Development District, AARP (national, state and local), and the UK Gerontology Education Center.

STRATEGIC AREAS ADDRESSED: Healthcare
 Nurturing Communities

WKU Literacy Program

The Literacy Program at Western Kentucky University involves faculty, staff, and students in a variety of literacy development efforts including: KY Reading Project (KRP), KY Adult Educators

Literacy Institute (KAELI), Read to Achieve (RTA) Research Project, Early Reading Incentive Grant (ERIG) Research Project, and Adolescent Literacy Institute.

Western Kentucky University literacy faculty work with K-12 public school teachers to increase effective reading instruction in classrooms, research the impact of reading programs and instruction in K-5 classrooms, and report yearly to the Governor and state legislators. In addition WKU personnel work with adult educators to prepare them to meet the needs of adult learners, especially adults who struggle to read.

STRATEGIC AREAS ADDRESSED: Education (Elementary and Secondary)
Nurturing Communities

The *Just Think!* Initiative

Just Think! is a partnership initiative between Western Kentucky University and the Housing Authority of Bowling Green. The initiative allows for the development of nationally significant programs designed to improve the quality of education, assist students in meeting State content standards, and to contribute to the achievement of elementary and secondary students as outlined in the requirements for the Fund for the Improvement of Education grant program. Through the *Just Think!* initiative, Western Kentucky University faculty, undergraduates, and graduate students provide education, training, and enrichment to youth and caregivers from eight different ethnic groups (Armenian, African-American, Bosnian, Cambodian, Caucasian, Hispanic, Laotian, and Vietnamese).

Specifically, the goals of the *Just Think!* initiative allows Western Kentucky University in Partnership with the Housing Authority of Bowling Green to accomplish the following: (1) Increase critical thinking skills and creativity of youth in P-12 and out-of-school youth ages 18-21, thereby improving academic performance and ability to make healthy choices; (2) Increase refusal skills of youth in P-12 thereby decreasing involvement with drugs, gangs, and teen pregnancy; (3) Develop appropriate and necessary literacy, science and mathematics skills for in- and out-of-school youth so that they have the necessary skills for success in school, at work and in life; (4) Increase work-related skills, career awareness, and enrollment in two-year degree programs and four-year college programs by youth and non-traditional students so that they become productive members of the 21st Century workforce.

STRATEGIC AREAS ADDRESSED: Education (Elementary and Secondary)
Nurturing Communities

Appendix A

Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center Statewide Quality-of-Life Measures (2006)

Goal	Rank
Kentuckians envision:	2006
Vibrant, nurturing communities	
1. Safe and Caring Communities	3
2. Responsibility for Family Success	6
3. Decent, Safe, Affordable Housing	4
4. Accessible, Quality Health Care	1
5. Trust and Civic Pride	19
6. Value, Respect for All Individuals	23
Lifelong, quality educational opportunities	
7. Excellent System of Lifelong Learning	2
8. Internationally Competitive Education	12
9. Children Who Are Ready, Able to Learn	11
10. Safe, Stable Learning Environments	8
11. Partnerships to Promote Education	22
12. Arts Opportunities	25
A sustainable, prosperous economy	
13. End to Poverty and Its Effects	5
14. Broadly Beneficial Development	10
15. Beneficial Participation in a Global Economy	24
16. Strong Farm Economy	17
17. Physical Infrastructure to Support Development	14
18. State-of-the-Art Technological Infrastructure	15
19. Fiscal, Tax, and Regulatory Structure	16
20. Entrepreneurial Economy	20
A clean, beautiful environment	
21. Environmental Protection	18
22. Wise Use of Resources & Recycling	26
23. Environmental Awareness	13
Honest, participatory government at all levels	
24. Open, Responsive Government	7
25. Fair, Effective Justice System	9
26. Active Civic Participation	21

* Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center, *Visioning Kentucky's Future: Measures and Milestones 2006*, p. 3 (full document available online at <http://www.kltprc.net/>)

Appendix B

Kentucky, An Edge State with Numerous Opportunities Executive Summary

(Presented at the 2006 Kentucky Engagement Conference)

Prepared by: Ron Crouch, Director
Kentucky State Data Center
University of Louisville
426 West Bloom Street
Louisville, Kentucky 40208
(502) 852-2435
ron.crouch@louisville.edu

The Keys of Opportunity

The Northeast region of the United States is in decline, the Southeast will be the new economic engine and the Southwest will be the new Appalachia, poorly educated, poorly skilled and not prepared for the Twenty-first Century.

Encouraging Kentucky's growing diversity will be necessary for the state to experience growth and have a competitive future. Kentucky's workforce of the future will be much more diverse.

Kentucky, along with the entire United States, is experiencing a "middle aging" of its workforce with the majority of growth in the workforce, ages 40 to 59, since 1990.

Kentucky's younger citizens are much better educated than our older citizens. Kentucky's ranked 49th in persons 25+ with a high school degree, 74.1%, in the 2000 Census but when broken down by age Kentuckians, age 65+, were 15.1 % points below the United States, 50.4%, however for Kentuckians, ages 25 to 34, Kentuckians are 0.3 points above the United States, at 84.2%.

Kentucky's highest level of educational attainment compared to other states is at the Graduate/Professional level ranking 46th for Kentuckians, ages 65+, and improves to 30th for Kentuckians, ages 25 to 34.

Kentucky's population growth between 2000 and 2004 is mainly occurring in or near the "land between the 5's", I-65 and I-75 and along I-64, not just the "Golden Triangle".

A Major Demographic Revolution

Census Bureau population projections between 2000 and 2030 indicate the South's population will grow by 42.9% and experience more than half, 52.4%, of the entire population growth in the United States.

The Northeast and Midwest regions are projected to have limited growth in their populations between 2000 and 2030, 7.6% and 9.5% respectively. A number of states in the two regions are experiencing domestic migration to the Southeast.

Data from the 2000 Census revealed that over 50% of Kentucky's population growth between 1995 and 2000 was from in-migration and future growth will be even more dependent on attracting people to Kentucky. Natural increase, births exceeding death, will decline as Kentucky's population ages.

Between 1995 and 2000 Kentucky gained the most migrants, in order, from Ohio, Illinois, California, Michigan, and New York. Kentucky lost migrants, in order, to Tennessee, Florida, North Carolina, Louisiana, and South Carolina.

Kentucky is projected to grow between 2000 and 2030 by 12.7% and rank 30th in population growth with states just to our South growing significantly faster; Tennessee 29.7%, Virginia 38.8%, North Carolina 51.9%, and Georgia, 46.8%. Only three southern states; Alabama 9.5%, Mississippi 8.7%, and Louisiana 7.5% are projected to grow in single digits. Kentucky is on the edge of being a state of opportunity.

Diversity by Race and Age

In the 1990's, 80% of all population growth in the United States was minority, 26.3 million out of 32.7 million. All growth under age 45 was minority. The Non-Hispanic White population in the United States dropped from 16.1 million, ages 40 to 44, to 11.6 million, ages 20 to 24, a 28% drop.

In Kentucky, 64.5% of growth was Non-Hispanic White and 35.5% minority in a state that is 89.3% Non-Hispanic White. Black population growth was 12.6%, Asian population growth was 75.1% and Hispanic population growth was 172.6%. The Non-Hispanic White population in Kentucky dropped from 288,622, ages 40 to 44, to 244,764, ages 20 to 24, a 15% drop.

Kentucky's minority population is projected to continue to grow dramatically between 2000 and 2030; Kentucky's Black population growing by 63% to 487,053 persons, Kentucky's Hispanic population growing by 298% to 238,545, and Kentucky's Asian population growing by 279% to 121,445. Kentucky's Non-Hispanic White population is projected to grow around 10%.

Two-thirds of United States population growth in the 1990's was in the age cohorts, ages 35 to 54, the Baby Boomers. In Kentucky, 75% of population growth was in the age cohorts, ages 35 to 54. Both in the United States and Kentucky the younger population is becoming more minority and the older population is much more Non-Hispanic White.

Educational Attainment

Kentucky, along with other Southern states, experienced educational progress in the 1990's with the younger workforce age population, ages 25 to 34, having significantly higher educational levels than the mature workforce, ages 45 to 64. Kentucky's younger workforce age population has a high school graduation rate of 84.2% compared to 75.2% for the mature workforce age population.

Southwestern states experienced significant educational decline in the 1990's with their mature workforce, ages 45 to 64, being much better educated than their younger workforce population, ages 25 to 34. California ranks 50th with only 75.2% of their younger workforce age population with a high school degree. Texas ranks 49th at 77.4%, Nevada ranks 48th at 78.3% and Arizona ranks 47th at 79.2% of their younger workforce age population with a high school degree.

Young women are much more likely to have finished high school in 2000 than young men both in the United States and in Kentucky. The difference is 7.0 percentage points for those ages 18 to 24, and 4.0 percentage points for those ages 25 to 34. This educational disparity continues at the college Bachelor's degree level.

Edge Opportunities

Kentucky must continue to attract migrants to the state to experience growth.

Acceptance of Kentucky's growing diversity and outreach efforts to minority populations will significantly determine Kentucky's growth.

Educational progress must continue and the male/female educational attainment disparity gap will need to be closed.

A middle aging workforce will have to be "reinvented" and a minority/at risk population will require educational investment to attract jobs and opportunities.

Kentucky must make the investments for its future across the state of Kentucky, beyond the Golden Triangle.

Appendix C

Educational Needs Index

The Education Needs Index (ENI) is a county-level study of educational, economic, and population pressures that influence educational policy and planning at local, regional, and state levels. The index introduces an econometric model that assesses conditions and trends for all 3,140 U.S. counties or their equivalents and allows peer comparisons across a variety of indicators. The ENI offers a fresh opportunity and innovative approach to better understand the existing data and public policy challenges that face all states and their respective counties.

The Educational Needs Index includes fifteen county-level variables that directly impact participation rates in postsecondary education, educational attainment levels, employment patterns, and socioeconomic status. Through standardization of the data, the model combines these various statewide educational, demographic, and economic characteristics and allows for comparison across all of the respective counties in a given region and the nation as a whole. Counties are designated “most critical” when relatively poor conditions of under-education and economic challenges are compounded by population growth and shifting demographics toward youth or at-risk minority groups.

The ENI model evaluates the educational needs and demands of the 3,140 diverse counties of the nation, allowing for a series of economic, educational, demographic, and social variables to be included in the analysis. The model employs the fifteen unique indicators by folding all into four factor categories:

- Educational Factor - Indicators assess the educational capacity of a county’s adult population. Indicators measure the percent of the population with a high school degree, associate’s degree, and bachelor’s degree, and a measure of the educational attainment gap between younger and older members of the workforce.
- Economic Factor - Indicators in this category assess the degree of economic challenges facing counties. Indicators measure the percent of population in poverty, unemployment rates, the existing earnings capacity of residents, and dependence upon manufacturing jobs.
- Market Demand Factor - Indicators assess the present population growth issues facing the county and potential need for increased emphasis on human capital development to address changing demographics. Indicators measure recent and project population growth, population aged 19 and younger as a percent of the total population, population aged 20-44, and the relative size of a county’s at-risk population.
- Population Factor - Indicators serve as corrective variables to control for the population size of each respective county.

The Educational Needs Index places an emphasis on the transition between K-12 policy concerns and postsecondary opportunities. The data assists policymakers at state, regional, and local levels as they work to reach informed decisions on issues of adult education and postsecondary education access and attainment. Particular emphasis is placed on the role that training, certificate programs,

two-year degrees, and adult literacy initiatives play in forming foundations for more promising futures and stronger economies built upon a more versatile workforce. By identifying and offering intervention strategies for the most pressing issues facing critical regions, this research promotes a more informed and long-term debate about postsecondary access. The project focuses on the most disadvantaged rural and urban areas of the U.S. and promotes regional partnerships between education, business, and government.

