

Basic Needs

2015 Assessment of Needs and Priorities in Clark and Floyd Counties

The Community Foundation of Southern Indiana surveyed Clark and Floyd county residents, nonprofit community service organizations, business and community leaders, and our own fund holders to develop strategic community goals based on needs and priorities. Information from the needs assessment report will be used to guide the Community Foundation in its grant making to support the community's greatest needs and highest priorities. Basic human needs, education and workforce development, healthful living, economy, arts and culture, and community building were the areas highlighted in the report. While respondents shared that they are proud of this community, its history and culture and they feel safe and enjoy opportunities to engage in the community, they also recognize that more needs to be done to better meet the needs of local residents and build an educated workforce and a strong economy.

Basic human needs include food, clothing and shelter, but residents' ability to meet those needs is tied to other factors such as ability to maintain a paying job, pay utility bills and access affordable housing. The area has resources to help residents meet basic needs, but many continue to struggle.

Perceptions of Community Needs and Priorities

Priorities for Meeting Basic Human Needs in Southern Indiana

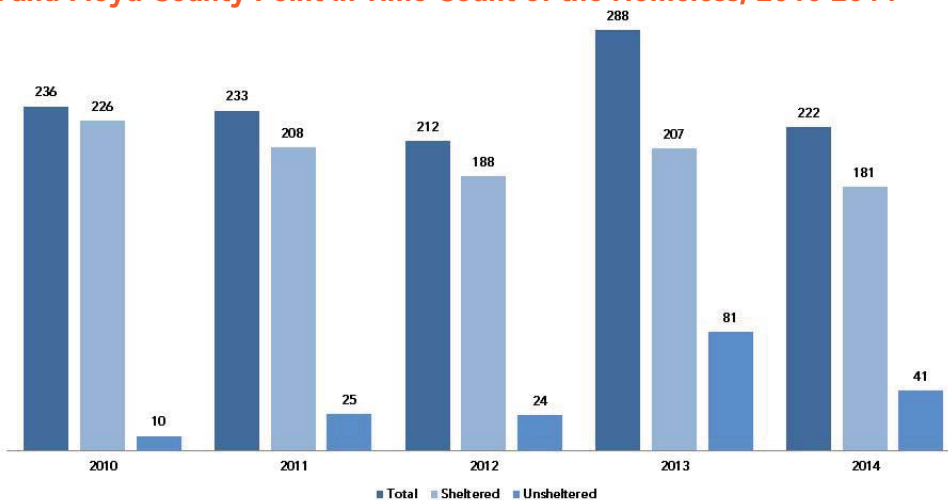
- 1 – Homeless shelter (including shelters for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, veterans, pregnant women families, and the general population)
- 2 – Assistance in finding or returning to paid work
- 3 – Affordable housing
- 4 – Food pantries
- 5 – Homeless shelter for children and youth

Shelter and Homelessness

Over the last five years, Point-in-Time (PIT) counts of the homeless in the two county region have documented between two and three hundred sheltered and unsheltered homeless, 15-20% of whom were children.

- Support for prioritizing homeless shelter for adults and families is overwhelming.
- Among those earning less than \$10,000, the largest number of respondents selected homeless shelter, help in finding paid work, and food pantries as top priorities.
- The majority of respondents do not agree that our community does a good job taking care of the homeless (58.6%) and the mentally ill (54.3%).

Clark and Floyd County Point-in-Time Count of the Homeless, 2010-2014



Source: 2010-2014 PIT Count Totals provided by Wendy Helterbran, Region 13 PIT Count Coordinator 2010-2014.

- School counts of students experiencing housing instability suggest the area has a larger number of individuals and families who are couch surfing or doubling up and are not included in the Point In Time count of the homeless.

Food Security and Health

According to the study, 14% of the population (nearly 26,000 people) in each of the two counties is food insecure.

- Of those 14%, 35% in Clark County and 40% in Floyd County do not qualify for assistance.
- Of those 14%, an estimated 9,140 are children.
- An estimated 10,416 area residents may find it difficult to access healthy food.

	Clark County	Floyd County	Indiana
Number Experiencing Food Insecurity	15,640	10,630	1,012,970
Percent Food Insecure	14.1%	14.2%	15.4%
Number with Limited Access to Healthy Food	7,316	3,100	409,497
Percent with Limited Access to Healthy Food	6.6%	4.2%	6.3%

Source: Feeding America. 2015. Map the Meal Gap 2015: Overall Food Insecurity in Indiana by County in 2013 (based on 2009-2013 ACS data); County Health Rankings. <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/rankings/data/IN>.

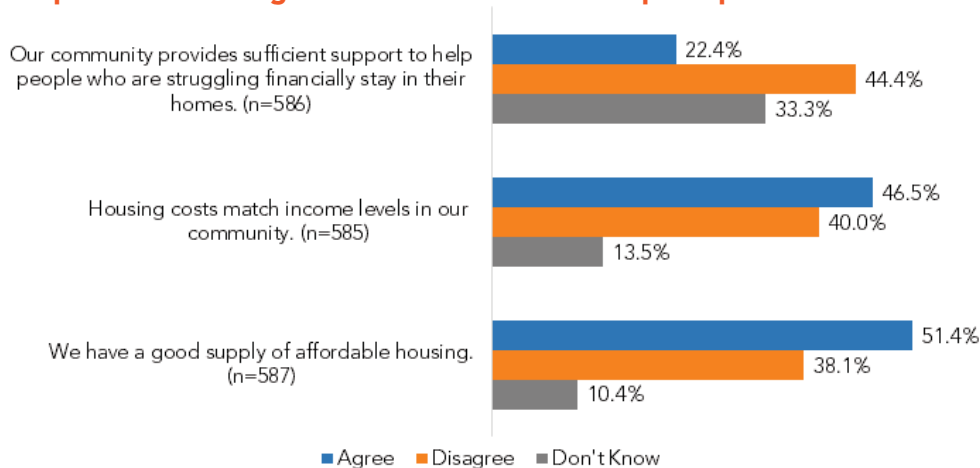
Housing Affordability in Clark and Floyd Counties

- Roughly 1168 low-income renters in Clark and Floyd counties are vulnerable to loss of housing, doubling up, or homelessness.

	Efficiency (Studio)	One Bedroom	Two Bedroom	Three Bedroom	Four Bedroom
FY 2014 Fair Market Rent (FMR)	\$485	\$567	\$705	\$976	\$1,104
Number of hours of minimum wage (\$7.25/hr.) work per week needed for this to be affordable (does not include utilities).	56	65	81	112	127
Hourly wage required for one income	\$10.10	\$11.81	\$14.69	\$20.33	\$23.00
Monthly income	\$1,617	\$1,890	\$2,350	\$3,253	\$3,680
Annual income	\$19,400	\$22,680	\$28,200	\$39,036	\$44,160

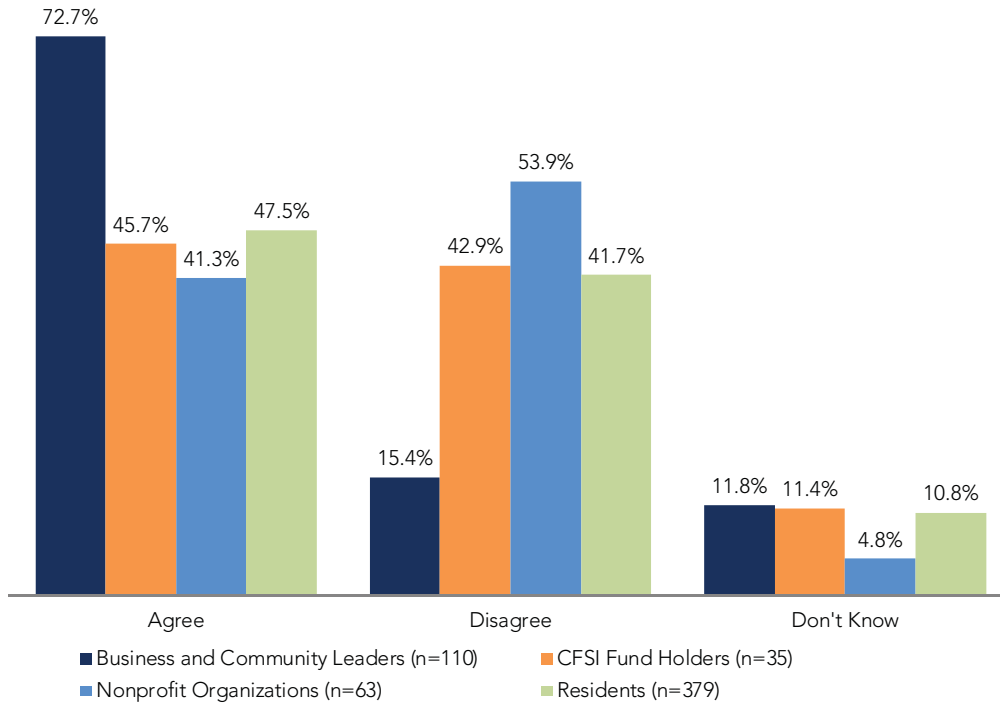
Source: Fair Market Rent Figures come from The Urban Institute. 2014. "Mapping America's Rental Housing Crisis." Housing Assistance Matters Initiative. Retrieved 4-2-15 (<http://urban.org/housingaffordability/>). Table taken from Vision 2025: A Strategic Plan to End Homelessness in Clark and Floyd Counties.

Perceptions of Housing Costs and Services to Keep People Housed



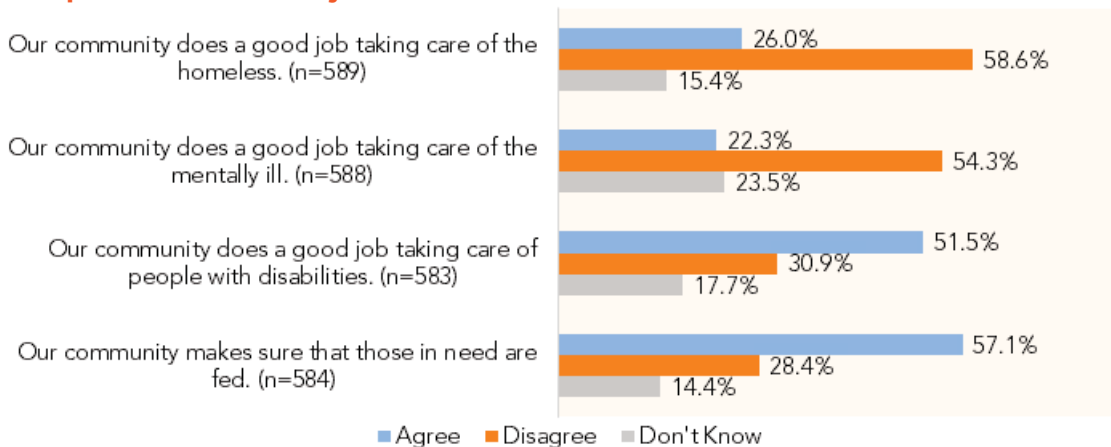
- 44.4% disagreed with the statement, "Our community provides sufficient support to help people who are struggling financially stay in their homes."
- A third of respondents did not know whether our community provides sufficient support to help people who are struggling to remain housed.

Group Differences in Response to the Statement "We have a good supply of affordable housing."



- A closer look indicates that low-income people and the community service organizations who work with them perceive a need for more affordable housing and a mismatch between incomes and housing costs.
- These findings suggest that the owner occupied housing stock is affordable for a large share of the population and the rental market, particularly for low-income renters, is not.

Perceptions of Community Efforts to Meet Basic Needs



Community members clearly identify services for the homeless and the mentally ill as priorities that need attention. Comments across respondent groups and in the "service gaps" section of the nonprofit organization survey indicate that the community needs to do more to respond to substance abuse as part of greater attention to mental illness. Access to safe affordable housing and assistance in returning to paid work are essential to meeting the basic needs of the community, returning people to stability, and ensuring quality of life for all residents.



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