

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. 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.

Top Priority Areas - Priorities tend to be things that people value and think are important. The community's shared values may lead to very effective efforts to meet needs or provide a valued resource to the area. This means that some priority areas identified in the report may be adequately addressed and do not require additional attention; while other priority areas are not adequately addressed in our community and need attention.

1. Safety, security and civility
2. Meeting the basic needs of our community members
3. Opportunities for education and enrichment across the life course
4. Clean and safe environment
5. Meaningful work and broadly shared economic security

Top Needs - Needs are those areas where the largest number of respondents indicate that the community does not perform well, and more needs to be done to address these areas.

1. Financial security
2. Care for the homeless
3. Care for the mentally ill
4. Education and skills to build and attract strong businesses that provide living wage jobs
5. Living wage jobs

Three Overall Goals - The three overall goals (below) bring together the top priorities that need more attention. These goals reflect the highest overall priorities identified in the region combined with those areas where the largest number of respondents indicated the community does not perform well:

1. Meet the basic needs of community members, particularly the homeless and the mentally ill.
2. Build a qualified work force to attract good jobs by supporting education and enrichment across the life course.
3. Sustainably develop the economy to provide meaningful work and broadly shared economic security through living wage jobs and a clean and safe environment.

The 2015 Assessment of Needs and Priorities in Clark and Floyd Counties has highlighted our area's greatest needs, the highest priorities for funding, as well as the gaps and overlaps in services and in funding. This report will help the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana focus our grant making from the unrestricted Community Endowment Fund to directly address the greatest needs of our region as identified by our community's residents, businesses and community leaders, and nonprofit service providers.

For a breakdown of priorities by category assessed, and the top five focus areas within those categories, please see other side.



CONTACT US

4104 Charlestown Rd.

New Albany, IN 47150

(812) 948-4662

www.cfsouthernindiana.com



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

Priorities for Education and Workforce Development in Southern Indiana

- 1 – High school completion
- 2 – Early childhood education and care (birth to age five)
- 3 – Post high school certificates and associate's degree programs
- 4 – Educational opportunities targeting working adult learners
- 5 – College scholarships and financial assistance

Healthful Living Priorities for Southern Indiana

- 1 – Clean water in our streams and rivers
- 2 – Recreational space, including bike lanes and paths, parks and indoor recreational facilities
- 3 – Access to fresh local produce
- 4 – Air quality
- 5 – Health and wellness education and programs for youth

Economic Priorities for Southern Indiana

- 1 – Good jobs and living wages
- 2 – Skilled and qualified working age population
- 3 – Locally owned businesses
- 4 – Quality early childhood education and care
- 5 – Sustainable development strategies

Priorities for Arts and Culture in Southern Indiana

- 1 – Opportunities for people across income levels to engage in diverse art and cultural activities
- 2 – Availability of diverse art and cultural activities in Southern Indiana
- 3 – Attracting visitors with art and cultural activities
- 4 – Opportunities for adults to engage in creative self-expression
- 5 – Nurturing creativity in children and youth

Community Building Priorities for Southern Indiana

- 1 – Mentoring programs for adults to mentor children
- 2 – Opportunities for youth to engage in voluntary associations (for example: 4-H, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts)
- 3 – Neighborhood activities
- 4 – Peer mentoring programs for youth
- 5 – Group activities for seniors