

#WhatKenoshaNeeds2019

Community Needs Assessment Survey

About the Survey

From November 8, 2019 through December 8, 2019, the Kenosha Community Foundation in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin (UW) Extension in Kenosha County, conducted #WhatKenoshaNeeds2019 - an on-line Community Needs Assessment Survey.

The purpose of the survey was to identify the emerging needs of our region with the results to be used by the Foundation to help focus future grant making – the types of initiatives the Foundation should direct dollars to where they are needed the most. In addition to sharing these results with the public, the Foundation and the UW Extension will also discuss the survey with other public and private charitable organizations and community development groups in Kenosha County.

We wish to thank the 164 respondents who completed the survey.

Age ranges of respondents:

21–39	16
40-64	104
65 and over	32
Preferred not to answer	12

Zip Codes of respondents:

53140	24	53142	33
53143	31	53144	31
53158	13	53104	6
53168	5	53170	2
53179	3	53181	1
Other or no answer		10	

What are three things that you like about living in Kenosha County that you would not want to lose?

Respondents could choose up to three options—here are the responses:

Uniqueness of the urban/rural mix	54 responses	Family Life	51	City & County has much to offer	48
Arts and Culture	37	Convenience	37	Safety	33
Jobs and the economic climate	32	Recreation/Sports	28	School System	28
Ethnic diversity of the population	27	Restaurants	19	Health Care Options	16
Shopping	12	Others	16		

What do you think are the most significant social issues/challenges facing the communities of Kenosha County?

Respondents could choose up to three issues—here are the results:

Homelessness and Affordable Housing	63 responses	Mental Health	63
Crime	57	Public/Affordable Transportation options	45
Youth Concerns	45	Substance Abuse	44
Poverty	26	School Issues (attendance, graduation rates)	22

Other responses: Economic Development (15), Hunger (13), Employment Opportunities (12), Health Care Options (11), Child Abuse or Neglect (6), Early Childhood Education (6), Child Care (4), Elder Abuse or Neglect (2), Gender Issues (2), Sexual Violence (2), and Others not specified above (14).

Charitable and non-profit organizations in Kenosha County address many of the community's challenges.

Which types of organizations, if any, do you support via donations, volunteering or both?

Respondents could select up to three types of organizations—here are the results:

Human Services and Emergency Assistance programs	68 responses	Educational programs (schools, reading, literacy)	49
Religious organizations	45	Youth opportunities in sports	40
Charities (foundations, scholarship funds)	33	Animal welfare	31
Performing arts	29	Environment	28
Visual arts and humanities	24	Aid to physically/mentally challenged & their families	19
Child Welfare	18	Eldercare / hospice	18
Domestic Violence Prevention	15	HIV/AIDS	15
Health Care-related includes substance abuse support	13	Economic improvement or development	9
Transportation (Pick-up and Delivery) Services	8	Other	15

Which of the following issues concern you? Which issue require more attention by the community groups?

Respondents could select up to three options—here are the results:

Access to mental health services	57 responses	Need for basic assistance (food, shelter, paying bills etc.)	49
Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs by adults and youth	35	Access to affordable health insurance	31
Homelessness	28	Public transportation / lack of affordable options	25
Reduce violence in community	24	Affordable housing for low income seniors	21
Bullying and harassment	20	Ethnic/racial discrimination	19
Access to substance abuse services	18	Services senior citizens (housing, meals, at-home care, etc.)	18

Other responses: Hunger (15), Availability of counseling services (14), Availability of after-school activities (11), Availability of affordable child care (10), Adult job training (9), Services for disabled adults and children (9), Suicide at any age (8), Availability of summer activities (7), Child abuse and neglect (7), Quality of early childhood education (7), Underemployment (7), Loss of personal freedoms (6) Access to transportation for the elderly (5), Age discrimination (5), Gender discrimination (5), Unemployment (5), Access to early childhood education (4), Domestic abuse (4), Juvenile delinquency (4), Illiteracy (2), Access to nutritious meals for seniors (1), and Others not specified above (14).

If you could establish a fund that awards grants to local non-profit groups, what would be the area of focus?

Respondents could select one option.—here are the results:

Access to Medical and Mental Health Care and Support	19 responses
Housing, Shelter and Combating Homelessness	18
Arts and Culture	14
Children and Youth Support Services (recreational activities, anti-bullying, suicide prevention, etc.)	14
Community Safety and Violence Prevention	12
Education (K-12)	11

Other responses: Employment, Financial Literacy and Stability (8), Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Support Services (7), Transportation Support (6), Promote Human Rights, Equality, Personal Freedom (5), Support to Families in Need—e.g. prevention violence, reduce financial stress, etc. (4), Literacy and Adult Education (3) Strengthening Communities through Development/Engagement (3), Other not specified above (8).

More main stream shopping downtown.
 Less traffic, taxes were kept down so people can afford their homes.
 Program for public mental health services.
 That is known we will not tolerate bullying, discrimination, or violence against anyone.
 Jobs that pay enough to afford housing.
 To have other transportation options available for people that are not elderly or disabled.
 More attentiveness and action by the City/County for the needs and issues of taxpayers.
 More affordable housing.
 Better regional transportation options.
 Locals not interested in transplants. Not a very welcoming place.
 Invest resources in to increasing support of essential services - police, fire, and other emergency service.
 Greater commitment to sustainability.
 More family activities.
 The creation of an entertainment district in the downtown area...
 Better roads.
 Kenosha county could use a couple more restaurants.
 More off road trails and connecting sidewalks. Very unsafe to live west of I-94.
 Affordable housing in conjunction with elimination of food deserts.
 Make the Northside as nice as south side! More shops, restaurants.
 Stabilize neighborhoods with home ownership and assistance fixing up homes, neighborhood clean ups.
 More bus routes that run all week allowing low income individuals to get to and from work.
 We have good county and city government. Lots of local entertainment and two excellent universities.
 An improvement in education and a culture of literacy.
 I'd pay a few more dollars in taxes to have better roads and services.
 More affordable housing.
 Affordable health for all.
 Manufacturing of all biodegradable/recyclable products should be mandatory.
 Improve schools - better pay to retain well-qualified teachers. And, fix the roads.
 End the cycle of poverty.
 Stop the shootings and violent crimes with stiffer penalties.
 Tolerance/acceptance of our differences. Humility...need to truly listen to and respect another's point of view.
 More upscale restaurants and shopping. More employment opportunities and pay scale.
 Better roads.
 Affordable housing.
 Expanded services for senior citizens.
 For profit companies participating fully in supporting the community: giving to United Way, volunteering...
 More quality affordable access to skating rinks, and other places our children can go.
 Focus on transformative justice rather than punitive - abolish the school-to-prison pipeline.
 End of discrimination (racism, homophobia, sexism, ageism, and classism). Especially at KUSD.
 More affordable housing.
 Conservation of the environment and development planning friendly the environment.
 Legalize marijuana.
 More diversified entertainment.
 Affordability in Health care and housing.
 Less crime.
 Decreasing poverty by providing better access to jobs...
 Another homeless shelter so there are no waiting lists...
 More access to mental health services.
 Making services more accessible in the county.
 Fewer uncontrolled, loose barking dogs.
 Infrastructure changes for a future public transit system. Connect Kenosha with Milwaukee, Chicago by train.
 Safer neighborhoods in some sections of town.
 Downtown development/redevelopment with a focus on providing more housing options.

More interaction between various service agencies, including sharing of resources, information and services.
 More affordable housing options for individuals ...and families.
 Building up of current community gardens.
 Better more abundant workforce housing.
 Affordable housing.
 More gainful employment.
 Higher paying jobs.
 A more diverse school system!
 Kindness and understanding by its residents for its residents.
 A reorganization of the bus system/routes. A regional transportation authority.
 Human trafficking prevention education.
Kenosha county is a great place to live.
 There are a lot of Seniors that cannot afford the housing in Kenosha.
 More for housing.
 More jobs that pay a living wage.
 More support for police and sheriff's department. More coverage and employees on the road

We asked: "What one thing would make Kenosha and Kenosha County a better place to live?"
Here are the responses we received:

Better roads.
 More consequences in the schools. Give leaders/administrators back their power.
 Improve roads to handle the population increase.
 Less crime related to drug and alcohol abuse.
 Less crime and less bullying within KUSD-Or that KUSD would enforce punishments of bullies.
 Community center.
 Better communication between city officials and the citizens of Kenosha.
 Homelessness is one area that I am very concerned about, More community| neighborhood groups.
 Better jobs, better incomes, more jobs, and special schools for slow learners.
 More housing for disabled not disabled group home apartments.
 Better communications and more connections between all entities.
 A train stop in Kenosha that allows a train to stop and to take you to Racine and Milwaukee, and back.
 Affordable housing.
 Affordable housing for people with disabilities, lower cost... insurance families and individuals .
 More money put into mental health and shelter services.
 Better school system. Ours is terribly lacking. So much waste and attention given to wrong issues.
 More Diversity.
 Walkability - grocery stores in more communities, and a decent transit system.
 More tourism outreach.
 The City of Kenosha needs to work on being more LGBTQ inclusive.
 The elimination of racial discrimination, and equity among our KUSD schools.
 To have affordable transportation options available for those that are not on disability or elderly.



For full results of the survey, visit www.kenoshafoundation.org