



More business friendly.



An amazing place for our youth.



The best place to live.



WE'RE ALLEN COUNTY

Uplifting Community.

THE PLACE TO LEARN.
THE PLACE TO WORK.
THE PLACE TO LIVE.
THE PLACE TO BE.



A family oriented area.



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Thrive
Allen County

WE'RE ALLEN COUNTY

THE PLACE TO LEARN. THE PLACE TO WORK. THE PLACE TO LIVE. THE PLACE TO BE.

Allen County, population of less than 13,000 is a rural community, full of vibrant and quaint small towns. Everywhere you look, you will find people joining together in strengthening our county as a whole. Our bustling communities are driven by a focus on quality of life and working towards our vision to make Allen County the healthiest rural county in the state of Kansas.



12,909

people live in Allen County.

41.5%

of people are at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

OUR VISION

VIBRANT SMALL TOWNS WITH ADEQUATE JOBS, EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES, AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES TO PROMOTE HEALTHY AND HAPPY LIFESTYLES.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OVER THE PAST YEAR, ALLEN COUNTY RESIDENTS HAVE LED AND DRIVEN AN INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH. IT STARTED WITH A MEETING WHERE RESIDENTS DISCUSSED THEIR COMMUNITY'S CHALLENGES AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS. THEY FOUND THAT THEY SHARED VALUES AND A COMMON VISION, BUT THEY WANTED TO MAKE CHANGE SO THEY CREATED A PLAN TO ACT. BY COMING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY, RESIDENTS ARE TELLING A STORY ABOUT ALLEN COUNTY AS IT IS AND HOW IT CAN BE IN THE FUTURE.

5.4%

of people are unemployed.

ALLEN COUNTY IS THRIVING!



WE'RE ALLEN COUNTY

WE ASKED THE PEOPLE. HERE IS WHAT THEY *THINK*....

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

55 percent feel knowledgeable, skilled and empowered to influence their community.*



61%

are aware that the problems in their community are serious.

CREATING OPPORTUNITY

Only 3 percent of residents perceived there to be good, high paying jobs in their community.



SUPPORTING CHILDREN

44 percent of residents believed that schools in the community provide a quality education to both high achieving and underachieving students.

25%

said they have access to quality produce.



91%

of residents believe it's important to be involved in community action and 90 percent are willing to be involved in community action.



*Residents represent those who completed the Community Perception Survey at a community meeting on August 10-11, 2015.

WE'RE ALLEN COUNTY

WE ASKED THE PEOPLE. HERE IS WHAT THEY *DREAMED*....

PRIORITY

OBJECTIVE

TASK



EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

By April 30, 2018, restore blighted downtown facades in lola and Humboldt to create a thriving downtown by increasing usable space for building development and jobs.

- * Connect with Downtown business owners to determine which buildings are in need of repair.
- * Coordinate volunteer group project to work on scraping, painting, reconstruction for facades.
- * Participate in Downtown Action Team- Humboldt, both Chambers, Humboldt Pride and Community Involvement Task Force meetings as needed.
- * Create training for new or existing business owners on building or maintaining a business.
- * Develop a process that starts with façade development and ends in a new business.



PUBLIC SAFETY

By April 30, 2018, increase the number of residents who perceive their community to be safe by adding detection/shelter from severe weather, razing of condemned houses, and clean-up of dangerous outdoor debris.

- * City of Elmore will have a storm warning system installed in their community.
- * City of Mildred, with the assistance of Allen County Public Works, will pour concrete to set a donated storm shelter underground.
- * The City of Laharpe will raze a condemned home and organize a large group project that will clean large debris from 5 resident homes.
- * Create a systems change with all city councils so that when a condemned house is occupied, the city will provide resources for housing opportunities in our county to give to evicted residents.



SAFE AND CLEAN GREEN SPACES

By April 30, 2018, decrease the community perception of a lack of safe, clean, accessible parks, trails, bike paths, and other infrastructure by improving the built environment.

- * Create environmental changes that increase pedestrian and bike friendly communities in Humboldt on 9th street and lola.
- * Update Laharpe Park by adding playground equipment through a community service project.
- * Construct a direct link between the Southwind Rail Trail and Lehigh Portland Trails.
- * Construct a pedestrian bridge crossing Elm Creek that connects the city of lola to Lehigh Portland Trails, Elm Creek Fishing Park, Connector trail to Southwind Rail Trail, and local employment opportunities.

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PRIORITY



COMPLETE STREETS

OBJECTIVE

By April 30, 2018, increase the number of Complete Streets policies in Allen County by obtaining City Council approval in Humboldt and Iola.

TASK

- * Educate officials and residents on Complete Streets policies by using national public health, planning, and transportation consultant, Mark Fenton and his individualized recommendations for Allen County.
- * Draft a Complete Streets policy specific to the needs of Iola.
- * The City of Iola Street and Alley Department will work with the Assistant City Administrator to adhere to the policy.
- * Draft a Complete Streets policy specific to the needs of Humboldt.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

By April 30, 2018, Pass join an open use agreement with 3 different facilities in Allen County that allow for more opportunities for physical activity for residents.

- * Schedule meeting with elementary principals to discuss the open use agreements.
- * Promote open use of elementary schools in the neighborhoods where the elementary schools exist by adding signage.
- * Support Moran's physical activities goals by writing HCF ADG grant for exercise equipment, provide TA throughout the grant, increase community engagement, locate a place for exercise equipment, and create MOU for participating partners.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

By April 30, 2018, improve student achievement by supporting the development of a comprehensive vocational technical center in Allen County for USD 256, 257, and 258.

- * Identify technical and financial needs of new vocational center.
- * Support Advisory Board with continued promotion and community engagement of upcoming classes as they develop.
- * Establish a student to workforce pathway by working with local businesses to determine certifications needed to secure job placement upon graduation.
- * Provide graduates with information on resources for business development and entrepreneurial opportunities.

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