



Situation Analysis Report



City of Newport News 2018

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Introduction

Newport News Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) Staff participated in a comprehensive Situation Analysis during the calendar year 2018. The Newport News Extension Office does not have an active Extension Leadership Council. Therefore, Newport News Extension Staff developed the survey tool used in this analysis. The staff also developed the most current unit profile using both statistical information and collecting input from community participants on perceived issues. Data was compiled and examined. Results obtained from this process were used to identify key issues facing the community- providing a roadmap for the expansion and development of Extension programs in Newport News.

The goals of this project were two-fold:

1. To provide a comprehensive survey for community leaders, residents, volunteers, and program partners and participants in order to gather information on fundamental issues facing local residents, uncover barriers and challenges which threaten quality of life, and outline additional concerns local residents would like to see addressed.
2. To use the findings of the situation analysis to determine which issues reflect local priorities and identify which issues can be addressed by utilizing Extension resources.

This situation analysis is the first component of the Extension Programming Model. It helps the organization provide needs-based programming which proactively evolves as community needs change. The process was led by the Newport News Extension Staff in adherence to guidelines and procedures outlined through a series of training sessions provided by Virginia Cooperative Extension personnel from Virginia Tech. Both quantitative data (which led to the development of a Unit Profile) and qualitative data gathered from community leaders, residents, volunteers, and program partners and participants provided the foundation for the outcome in this report.

Extension staff collected data from the general public primarily through the use of an online Qualtrics survey. The survey format and questions were adapted from survey templates provided by Virginia Cooperative Extension. The survey provided participants with a large degree of autonomy in identifying areas of top priority. Extension staff developed an extensive email list of community leaders, residents, volunteers, and program partners and participants to participate in the survey. This list included the communities in which we serve such as 4-H leaders and members, Master Gardeners, Master Financial Volunteers, Master Food Volunteers, Community Minority groups, public and private organizations, Newport News Human Services partners, Newport News Public School teachers, etc.

Links to the survey were distributed via email and were also made available on the Newport News Extension website and Facebook page. Our City liaisons at Human Services and program partners such as THRIVE Peninsula Foodbank and Newport News Public Schools assisted the office in distributing the survey to their staff, volunteers, and partners via their email list serves. The survey link was also provided in an article entry in the Newport News

Now Online Newsletter that is distributed weekly via email to residents all over Newport News; as well as on the local Newport News channel, NNTV, as a running slideshow for two months. Sixty days was allotted for participants to complete the survey.

During the month of February 2018, Extension staff compiled participant comments and survey results. Data was formatted and analyzed using the Qualtrics system. Additional data was gathered from existing sources such as the US Census Bureau's statistics, local government resources, and the VCE Situation Analysis Resource website. As Extension Staff met to discuss and review the data they generated a list of the top community priorities.

Key Identified Issues:

1. Youth and Adult Nutrition
2. Food Security/Anti-Hunger Efforts & Having Access to Healthy Foods
3. Affordable Cost of Living
4. Financial Literacy for Families
5. Youth Violence and Life Decision Skills
6. Water Quality Conservation
7. Home and Community Gardens

Priorities identified within this document only outline some of the key issues our community is facing. As emerging issues become more apparent and Newport News continues to grow and diversify, new priorities will arise. Understanding community is a dynamic process. Accordingly, Extension programs are poised to address new challenges with eagerness, commitment, and innovation.

Unit Profile

The city of Newport News can best be described as a diverse, thriving population in the heart of a sound metropolitan area. It ranks as the fourth largest city in Hampton Roads, VA, and is the sixth largest city in Virginia with a population estimated at 179,388 in 2017 (U.S. Census, 2017). Newport News sits on the southern end of the Virginia Peninsula formed by the James River and York River. The city has 69.2 square miles of land with a population density of 2,630 people per square mile (U.S. Census 2014). Newport News is an independent city because it is not affiliated with a county.

Demographically, Newport News is in many ways typical of metropolitan America. It contains within its boundaries an urban core, a ring of older, settled neighborhoods, and booming suburban developments. Its citizens' age, educational, occupational and socioeconomic characteristics by large reflect the typical American demographic profile.

Age, Sex, and Race Origin Data

Age distribution data from the 2017 U.S. Census shows the greatest percentage in population according to age are teens 18 years and under at 23.3% of the population. The census also shows that the female population rank highest in Newport News at 51.5%. The median age of

residents is 32.3 years, which is quite a bit lower than the U.S. median age of 43.4 years. Furthermore, 12.5 percent of the residents of Newport News are 65 years of age or older, compared to 15.6 percent of the population of U.S. as a whole. Veterans also make up a high percentage of the city's population with 19,697 veterans reported being residents of Newport News in 2017. Of these veterans, 7.3% are foreign-born persons.

The racial makeup (Race/ethnicity) of the city based on 2017 Census data was as follows:

White: 49%

Black or African American: 40.70%

Asian/ Pacific Islander: 3.20%

American Indian or Alaskan Native: 0.30%

Hispanic: 8.60%

Two or more races: 4.80%

The largest percentage of growth for a specific race was in the number of residents that reported being two or more races, increasing from 3.36% in 2013 to 4.80% in 2017. On the contrary, the White population has slightly decreased in the city, going from 50.8% in 2013 to 49% in 2017. The data indicated the rest of the population remained reasonably consistent, with not much increase or decrease from 2013 to now.

Education Data

Residents in the City of Newport News have the following education level reported for the population 25 years and over:

High school or higher: 89.3%

Bachelor's degree or higher: 24.8%

Housing, Families, and Living Arrangements Data

Fifty percent of Newport News residents own a home in the city averaging a value of \$189,300. Whereas those renting homes and housing units pay an average of \$985 a month. Data on household composition indicates a significant number of one-parent families with at least two children. The city of Newport News has 42% of all households as single family homes which exceeds both statewide and national averages of 30% (Virginia) and 20% (U.S.).

Since 2000, teenage pregnancy rates have declined in parallel with rates statewide. In 2004, there were 536 teenage pregnancies or 85 pregnancies per 1,000 women 15-19 years old in Newport News—a 9 percent decrease from the rate in 2000. Newport News, however, had a teen pregnancy rate 1.6 times that of Virginia and 1.25 times that for all jurisdictions in Hampton Roads.

Income and Poverty Data

Between 2013 and 2017, the Census reported that Newport News' per capita income was \$51,082, while the per capita income in the U.S. was \$57,652. Although Newport News residents' incomes seem to be keeping up with the U.S., the city holds a 16.4% poverty rate, compared to the 12.3% rate of the country. No recent data was acquired for total employment

establishments in the city. For workers aged 16 and up, Newport News holds an average time of 23 minutes of travel time to work. Noting that a majority of the city's poverty population live in Downtown Newport News with only public transportation as a consistent resource, the data leads to the assumption that 26 minutes of traveling can be inconvenient and unaffordable for most impoverished families. Therefore, availability or lack thereof, and convenience of employment opportunities in Newport News should be addressed when aiding the needs of the poverty population.

Health Data

The Census reports 11.6% (16,931 persons) of the City's population under the age of 65 lives with a disability. While 13.4% of the population under 65 lives without health insurance compared to 10.2% of U.S residents.

The Healthy Lifestyles in Newport News Factsheet reports that 35.4% of residents in the city are obese. Newport News ranks at 103 in country for adult obesity. Nine point five percent of adults in the city live with diabetes, while 13.4% of low-income preschoolers are obese. There are only 1.9 grocery stores in a one-mile distance per 10,000 people, compared to eight fast food restaurants in a one-mile distance per 10,000 people. Shockingly there is 0.1% of farmer's markets per 10,000 people. Thirty five percent of low-income families are receiving SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits in the city.

Community and Resident Perspectives

Issues identified in the Newport News VCE Situation Analysis were revealed using a citywide online survey that allowed participants to make statements about the issues they felt were most important. Key issues identified were: Youth and Adult Nutrition, Food Security/Anti-Hunger Efforts & Having Access to Healthy Foods, Affordable Cost of Living, Financial Literacy for Families, Youth Violence and Life Decision Skills, Water Quality Conservation, and Home and Community Gardens.

The following are some excerpts of resident perspectives that relate to our priority issues provided in the survey:

Youth and Adult Nutrition

"youth nutrition education--most of our country's most commonly diagnosed health problems are related to a poor diet. It is important to establish good eating habits from a young age. Schools should be given resources to include nutrition lessons into the curriculum, such as nutrition-related math lessons or discussions about the role of certain nutrients as they learn about the systems of the body. School administrators should be given guidance on how to ensure these things are consistently included in the curriculum in a way that does not put undue stress on teachers who may not feel well-prepared to teach these topics without additional training."

"Nutrition education for pregnant/first time parents: Provides parents education on what to expect. Could increase breastfeeding rates, which would decrease infant/childhood illness.

Refer to programs such as WIC, provide quality education classes to parents at schools, pediatrician offices, daycare facilities, etc.”

Food Security/Anti-Hunger Efforts & Having Access to Healthy Foods

” food safety/preservation—I regularly speak to people who have had a foodborne illnesses recently or are preparing or storing food in a way that puts them at risk in the future. I would like to see information booths or materials presented at grocery stores that focus on ways to store/prepare various foods in order to avoid food waste and foodborne illness. I think they should include a very basic scientific explanation of how storing/preparing food properly can prevent illness.”

“Having Easy Access to Healthy Foods: I can't imagine what it's like to have 7-11 as your go-to for snacks.”

“Access to Healthy Food - This issue goes hand in hand with poverty, and affects a significant amount of people in Newport News. There are a lot of people who don't even have access to grocery stores (food deserts), leaving them with severely limited options. Even when they do have access trying to feed families on a budget can be difficult. Many people are priced out of produce, fresh or frozen, which won't feed their families as efficiently as packaged meals, or expensive protein or dairy options. Access and affordability are economic issues that need to be addressed with local and state businesses and governments. But at least we can give people the information they need to make the best choices with what they have.”

Affordable Cost of Living

“Affordable Housing: 1) Stop building/do not approve zoning for any more "McMansion", high end developments. They are a waste of space and resources. Make more Section 8 housing available, and continue to rehab low income/handicapped housing.”

“Affordable childcare: the private child and day care are too pricey for the average parent(s) that have to work three jobs to pay for child care because their full time job is not enough for all the bills plus childcare. The working parents with an income that is too much for government assistant and yet too less to afford childcare need some help. The State should put in place some kind of expansion, (like they just did for medicaid) to help parents, who's income are too low so they don't have to work 2 and 3 jobs. They would be able to stay at home with their children more and raise them and train them properly. And they can also have time to get involve with their children's school and school work.”

Financial Literacy for Families

“Teaching Children/Youth About Money - while personal finance is taught at the high school level; I think there should be opportunities for young people to have exposure to this topic early on...economics, how to manage resources, cost of living, etc.”

“Budgeting and Saving--This would also include getting out of debt. I would like to see the wise use of credit cards, thrifty spending, knowing the difference between wants and needs, etc. Online classes and group classes.”

Youth Violence and Life Decision Skills for Youth

“Life skills/decision making for youth--a lot of young people we serve are in a difficult period of transition because they lack some of the life skills or decision making skills they need to be independent. It would be nice if we had a wide array of targeted resources we could refer participants to based on their specific need.”

“Youth Violence; the youth would like to work and earn money to themselves and their family. It will give them something to do with their free time and focus on positive growth and a means of reaching their dreams. Remove the gang members from the community and school - that you know are doing crime.”

Water Quality Conservation & Home and Community Gardens

“Home Gardening and community gardening -- By encouraging community members to learn how to grow a home garden we would help them to learn how to be independent rather than rely on someone else to just hand them food and or money. Most of our community does not even know where their food comes from other than cans and groceries stores. As well as learning how to grow good food they need to know how to prepare that food and which foods are best for their health.”

“CLEAN WATER: a very important health issue, if not observed, the community will suffer tremendously and long term”

” Water quality...we don't want to be like Flint, MI!”

“COMMUNITY GARDENS (HOME GARDENS & GROWING YOUR OWN FOOD) There are a lot of individuals in our area that just don't have the yard to gown a garden for food-a community garden would be wonderful, it would bring people together with a common interest and a know how! It would also help in feeling good about yourself in growing your own food and being in the fresh air, and meeting new and different people!”

Priority Issues

Based on the unit profile and resident perspective data, the following top priority issues were identified for the City of Newport News. Many of these issues can be addressed through Virginia Cooperative Extension resources. Others are outside the scope of VCE programming and should be referred to the appropriate government agencies.

Issue 1: Youth and Adult Nutrition

Description: Results of the community survey in Newport News showed that 66.67% of those who completed the survey rated youth nutrition education as “very important” and 51.31% of survey participants rated adult nutrition education as “very important”. Chronic illness, poor nutrition, declining levels of physical activity, and a seemingly lack of low- cost community resources leave residents desperately seeking guidance. Residents are concerned about the education provided to pregnant moms that promote healthy growing babies, and what children are being taught about nutrition in the schools. There was also major concern about chronic illness and diseases being prevented or reduced if residents receive proper, affordable education about healthy diets.

Virginia Cooperative Extension Response: Virginia Cooperative Extension offers nutrition education programs through Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS). FCS programming includes promoting healthy lifestyles through nutrition education and outreach. Residents are educated on topics such as knowing the food in the five food groups, how to create a healthy plate, the true amount of salt, sugar, and fat in our favorite junk foods, healthier substitutions to your favorite meals, etc. Through the partnership with the Virginia Family Nutrition Program (FNP), programs in nutrition education is delivered to limited income youth and adults who are SNAP-eligible. Program delivery occurs in both individual and group settings, including in-school or after-school programs, summer nutrition programs, community wide events, and partnership with the VA Peninsula Foodbank kids café sites. Youth and adult educators and Master Food Volunteers provide nutrition education programs using evidence-based curriculum for appropriate age groups.

The Family Nutrition Program offers adult and youth nutrition education classes to various entities in Newport News, including Newport News Public Schools, Newport News Drug Court, The Parents as Teachers Program, The Southeastern Family Project and The Warwick SRO. One-on-one education sessions are available for eligible families. Classes for young families as well as aging populations are also available. By continuing to form partnerships in the City of Newport News with various organizations, advertising for programs, and informing citizens of the services offered, it will aid in gaining more access to VCE services to reach more people in need of nutrition information. In addition, FNP and FCS offers train-the-trainer opportunities for volunteers. These community volunteers receive training to deliver evidence-based nutrition education programs to youth. This allows FNP and FCS programs to serve more youth and adults in Newport News each year. Through a partnership with Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP) Head Start, 44 volunteers were trained in the LEAP curriculum in 2018. This resulted in volunteers delivering youth nutrition programming to over 300 students

within eight head start centers. In addition, 11 schools in Newport News participated in the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program in 2018. A volunteer collaborator distributed nutrition education to over 5,000 students who received these fruits and vegetables in their school classrooms.

Issue 2: Food Security/Anti-Hunger Efforts & Having Access to Healthy Foods

Description: In Newport News, *Food Security* and *Access to Healthy Foods* are issues that are affecting the community. According to the results of the community survey, 68.18% of survey participants rated food security/anti-hunger efforts as “very important” and 71.21% of survey participants rated food security/anti-hunger efforts as “very important”. One survey participant explained the issue saying, “There are a lot of people who don’t even have access to grocery stores (food deserts), leaving them with severely limited options...and even when they do have access, trying to feed families on a budget can be difficult. Many people are priced out of produce, fresh or frozen, which won’t feed their families as efficiently as packaged meals, or expensive protein or dairy options.”

Virginia Cooperative Extension Response: The Family Nutrition Program’s SNAP-Ed agents are implementing policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) changes to help make the smart choice the easy choice when shopping for healthy foods in the community. PSE changes occur in schools, food retail stores, and farmers markets that accept SNAP. The Shop Smart, Eat Smart (SSES) program is designed so that SNAP-Ed Agents can partner with food stores in low-income areas or stores with high SNAP redemption. Strategies include in-store marketing, store layout design, healthy food demonstrations, and consumer engagement and education. The goal is to encourage purchases of healthy foods among SNAP participants, therefore increasing demand of healthy foods. Opportunities in Phase 2 of SSES will support inventory changes that add healthy food options to SNAP-authorized retail stores. Future efforts include collaborating with food retail stores in Newport News to promote healthy food access. Farmers markets that accept SNAP can participate in the VA Fresh Match program, allowing SNAP participants to double the amount of produce that they purchase at the farmers market. A goal is to increase the number of farmers markets that accept SNAP to help increase healthy food access for the citizens of Newport News. Other future PSE opportunities include working with food pantries, and recreation. The Family and Consumer Sciences program also provides education that offer tips for shopping on a budget, deliver grocery store tours, and financial management programs.

Issue 3: Affordable Cost of Living

Description: The cost of obtaining and maintaining affordable housing and a comfortable lifestyle can be a challenge for many in Newport News. Citizens desire to reside in safe, clean, healthy neighborhoods- a major factor in quality of life. They also desire to afford quality childcare and lower utility payments. Our survey shows that 75.76% of participants ranked affordable housing as “very important”, while 60.94% ranked affordable electric billing as “very important”. Affordable childcare was ranked “very important” by 69.70% of participants.

Virginia Cooperative Extension Response: The Family and Consumer Sciences program partners with the Newport News Housing Broker Team to provide financial education for low-income families that are awaiting housing assistance. Though our organization has the ability to provide first-time homebuyers education and first time renter's education, which informs residents on tips to acquire affordable housing, these topics were not ranked as important resources for the community. Only 38.46% of participants ranked first-time renter's education as "very important", and only 46.97% of participants ranked first time homebuyers education as "very important". Although we are unable to reduce costs of housing, childcare, and utilities, Virginia Cooperative Extension is happy to continue partnering with city agencies to educate residents on managing their money in various living situations. If Newport News residents illustrate a significant desire to participant in first time housing education, the Family and Consumer Sciences Program will provide it to the community in order to meet this need. Efforts to educate residents on managing their money and other financial literacy topics are outlined in issue 4.

Issue 4: Financial Literacy for Families

Description: Our needs assessment received some of the highest results for the importance of financial literacy for families in Newport News. Managing money was ranked as "very important" by 77.27% of participants. This was followed by the issue of poverty ranking "very important" to 76.12% of participants. Budgeting and savings was ranked "very important" to 74.64% of participants, and getting out of debt was the final highly ranked category with 73.13% of participants applying their focus here. Financial literacy goes hand in hand with affordable cost of living in Newport News. If families are unable to manage their money well, their ability to afford housing, childcare, and utility costs will be threatened. Teaching teens about money is just as vital for their future as they prepare to leave home. Teen financial education appealed to 75.76% of participants.

Virginia Cooperative Extension Response: Though Virginia Cooperative Extension is unable to solve affordable living costs, we are able to educate residents on financial literacy for all ages. The Family and Consumer Sciences program partners with several organizations in the city to provide financial literacy classes. Partners include the Newport News Housing Broker Team, Newport News Housing and Redevelopment Authority, South Morrison Family Education Center, JenCare Senior Medical Center, THRIVE Peninsula Foodbank, Liberty Baptist Church, Newport News Public Schools (Crittenden Middle School, Hines Middle School, Huntington Middle at Heritage School, and Passage Middle School), and more.

Financial literacy is provided to adults and families on topics such as basic budgeting and saving, creating a spending plan, understanding your credit score and credit report, building a debt repayment plan, grocery shopping on a budget, how to talk to your lenders, and talking to your family about money. Youth financial education consists of the importance of budgeting and saving, prioritizing your financial needs versus wants, the costs of living, and understanding your parents monthly expenses. It also includes two of our most successful

youth programs: Reality Store and Real Money, Real World. Both activities are real-life simulations geared towards middle and high school aged youth. The simulations provide students with real-life scenario that includes their occupation, monthly salary, and family make up. Students are then instructed to use their monthly salary and visit several booths to make one month's purchases/payments for housing, transportation, insurance, utilities, childcare, food, clothing, entertainment, and telecommunications. These simulations gives students a real-life outlook on what it is like to prioritize your expenses based on your income.

Issue 5: Youth Violence and Life Decision Making Skills

Description: For many youth, adolescence is a time of increased pressure for problem solving and personal decision. They are called upon to make many difficult decisions including choices regarding career, school involvement, and risky behaviors. Choices made at this time have the power to influence many aspects of their future. Therefore, it is essential that they are well aware of the potential impact of their decisions and learn effective decision-making skills. Learning life skills is equally important. Life skills are the essential abilities individuals can learn that will help them to be successful in living a productive and satisfying life. Life decision-making skills was rated "very important" by 72.73% of participants. In addition, youth violence was ranked "very important" to 78.46% of participants. The city of Newport News has placed youth violence as a top priority for many years. The city has received a federal grant to help reduce youth violence and gang activity in at-risk youth through services and case management. However, there are many more youth in need of prevention and early intervention services.

Virginia Cooperative Extension Response: Extension is addressing these issues through 4-H Youth Development Program. Developing life skills is a key element of Extension 4-H programming and has been shown to have measurable impacts. The goal of 4-H Youth programming is to provide developmentally appropriate opportunities for young people to experience life skills, to practice them until they are learned, and be able to use them as necessary throughout a lifetime. Through the experiential learning process, youth internalize the knowledge and gain the ability to apply the skills appropriately. Youth violence prevention is a serious concern and should be addressed using an interdisciplinary approach. Extension programs, through 4-H Youth Development offers several educational opportunities aimed at equipping youth with tools, resources, and skills needed to influence a positive outcome as an adult. These programs such as Character Counts, Guide to Bully Preventions, and Citizenship target the underlying issues of good decision making, problem solving, and conflict resolution. The Newport News Extension Office recently hired a 4-H Program Associate who can collaborate with community partners and on City initiatives to provide 4-H programming to youth around Newport News.

Issue 6: Water Quality Conservation

Description: Residents in Newport News are fairly concerned with the upkeep of water quality and conservation of the Chesapeake Bay. Water quality and quantity conservation was ranked “very important” by 66.67% participants. Residents expressed their concern about how much water Newport News citizens use on a regular basis and how it may limit the supply of water from the Chesapeake Bay. They also expressed concern with the cleanliness of the water, and how much effort is put into keeping the Bay clean by the surrounding cities.

Virginia Cooperative Extension Response: Newport News has dedicated Water Works and Storm Water offices that specifically focus on water quality conservation for the city. They provide tips and education on how residents can preserve water and help keep the Bay clean for future use. Although the city does major community education on this, the Agriculture and Natural Resources Program in Newport News holds regular Rain Barrel Workshops for residents. The Newport News Extension Master Gardeners work directly with Storm Water and Water Works divisions to promote rain barrel usage and their education workshops. For a fee, residents are able to sign up for the workshop and purchase a rain barrel to be educated on how to use rain water wisely right at home. Although the water collected in the barrels are not for drinking purposes, they aid residents in conserving fresh water supplies, which may one day be limited in our area. This water actually helps residents save money on their utility bill by using the rain barrel water for things like gardening instead of normal drinking water. It also prevents water run off that causes erosion and pollution, because the water is stored in the barrels; which aids in keeping the Chesapeake Bay clean for long-term use.

Issue 7: Home and Community Gardens

Description: Most of the public agricultural-related inquiries made to VCE Newport News are related to home gardens, lawn care, and community gardens. Environmental friendly education on home and community gardens was ranked “very important” to 65.15% of participants. 46.27% of these participants ranked home gardening as “very important” to them. Residents expressed interest in receiving education on the proper use of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and other potentially harmful chemicals. They are interested in making and maintain a positive environmental footprint for themselves and surrounding communities.

Virginia Cooperative Extension Response: The Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension program partners with its Master Gardener Volunteers to deliver adequate home and community garden education to residents and organizations in Newport News. Newport News is mainly a horticulture environment where most residents focus their community and home gardening on growing plants, flowers, vegetables, herbs, and fruits. Therefore, our educational workshops are generally geared towards healthy environmental stewardship and focus on topics such as: irrigation, pest management, raised-bed gardening, erosion control, healthy landscaping, horticulture therapy, rain barrels, and vegetable and fruit growth. The Extension office also provides in-depth consultations through the Master Gardener help desk. Residents are able to call the Newport News office with questions pertaining to growing plants and foods,

bug and insect identification, plant diagnostics, and more. The volunteers provide research based education to answer the client's questions to the best of their abilities. Virginia Tech also provides a free service of their diagnostics lab where volunteers can send plant samples to researchers that are able to diagnose plant problems if the issue can't be resolved locally. The office also provides soil sample kits that residents use to have their personal or commercial soil tested by Virginia Tech for a small fee.

Conclusion

There were many issues identified in our Situation Analysis needs assessment. However, the seven issues described in this report were the highest ranked and most important issues identified by residents of Newport News. Although we cannot resolve every issue, the Newport News Virginia Cooperative Extension office has various programs that can meet the needs of residents. We are currently providing education in several topic areas that assist local government in their initiatives to reduce unhealthy qualities of life for Newport News residents. Through partnerships, volunteers, and support from local government, the Newport News Extension office will continue to provide education on nutrition, food safety and accessibility, financial literacy, positive youth development, and environmentally friendly water use and gardening skills.