

OSU EXTENSION LISTENS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Findings From A Regional Community
Engagement Forum Hosted In Cleveland County



Cleveland County

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Cleveland County One of 16 Community Engagement Forums Held Statewide

In spring and summer 2019, OSU Extension hosted community forums at sites across the state of Oklahoma. The forums sought to ensure that a wide range of community members were engaged so that their opinions and perspectives on important issues would be represented in OSU Extension's strategic planning.

About OSU Extension

Oklahoma State University Extension is a thriving, sought-out, science-based educational resource dedicated to improving the lives of all Oklahomans. With a presence in all 77 counties, OSU Extension has the knowledge and leadership to help the state's citizens solve local issues and concerns, promote leadership and manage resources wisely through programs focusing on agricultural enterprises; natural resources and environmental management; food, nutrition, health and safety education; and youth, family and community development.

OSU Extension Community Engagement Statewide Forums

Executive Summary

More than 400 people participated in one of the 16 OSU Extension community forums. They were asked to provide input on what they thought the most important issues facing their communities were going to be over the next 3 to 5 years. They were specifically asked about issues related to Families, Youth and Children, and about issues related to their Community, Economy (Farms and Businesses) and Natural/Environmental Resources. Based on the results of the community forums, researchers at OSU provided site hosts with results specific to their communities, as well as perspective on issues that came up as common themes statewide.

The forum results are summarized in a series of handouts and on the OSU Extension website. Extension educators will be using their results to engage the community in action planning around the identified issues and action ideas. Trainings for follow-up engagement activities are being offered to Extension educators so they will have an even greater ability to engage their communities authentically and effectively.

Results can be found online at extension.okstate.edu/communityforums.

Top Issues and Action Ideas for Regional Forum Hosted by Cleveland County

Children, Youth and Families

Support Family Cohesion and Stability

- Establish a community food bank
- Increase sports programming
- Establish mentorship programs
- Host family dinners at the library
- Provide a high school parenting class
- Establish family support groups
- Promote 4-H in schools

Promote Healthy Living

- Establish an OSU Extension YouTube channel
- Provide agricultural education in schools
- Offer cooking classes
- Promote healthy living through marketing campaign
- Look into new ways to disseminate information

Promote Development of Basic Life Skills for Families

- Provide monthly courses
- Provide more rounded educational opportunities
- Integrate into other programs already offered
- Offer online resources

Increase Substance Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Education

- Provide education on prevention
- Educate on intervention vs. punishment in the court system
- Educate community on recognizing signs of abuse

Community, Economy (Farms and Businesses) and Natural/Environmental Resources

Educate Communities and Increase Civic Engagement around Urban Sprawl

- Promote active citizenship
- Research zoning and building codes
- Promote stewardship of land

Provide Incentives and Support for Young Farmers

- Educate the community on food shortages
- Establish philanthropy to provide loans for farm land
- Promote youth farm mentorship as an alternative to prison
- Provide low interest loans

Support Farmers Markets and Small Ag Businesses

- Establish partnerships with local restaurants and local farmers
- Develop a business model to assist restaurants in marketing
- Offer marketing classes for small ag businesses
- Encourage volunteering as a way to earn food from farmers market

Promote and Incentivize Community to Support Local Businesses

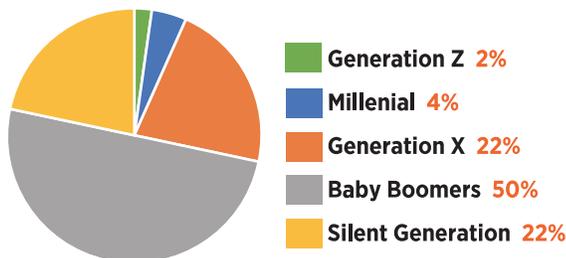
- Connect with the local chamber of commerce
- Educate consumers on importance of local shopping
- Establish a local discount card program
- Create a consumer directory



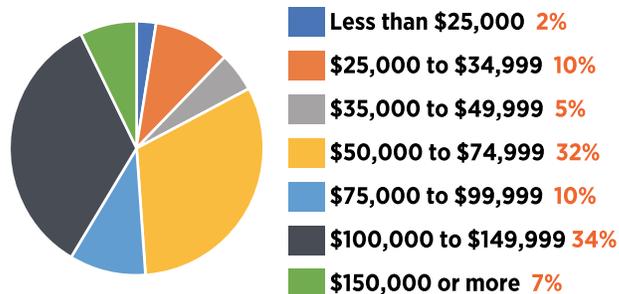
Responses from Regional Forum Hosted by Cleveland County

Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

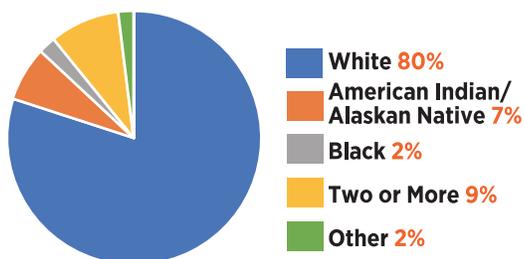
Age Range



Income Range



Race/Ethnicity



Gender



Military Veteran



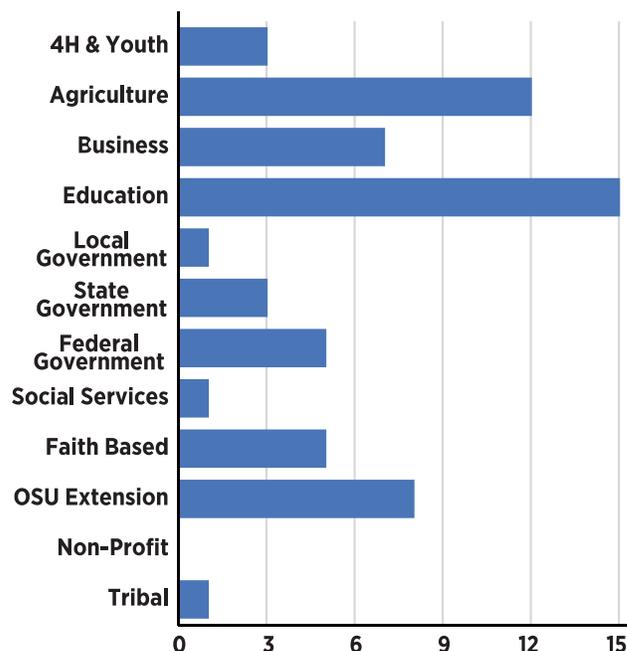
Have a Disability



Attended OSU Extension Program Previously



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