

# OSU EXTENSION LISTENS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Findings From A Regional Community  
Engagement Forum Hosted In Garfield County



Garfield County

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## Garfield 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](https://extension.okstate.edu/communityforums).

## Top Issues and Action Ideas for Regional Forum Hosted by Garfield County

### Children, Youth and Families

#### **Support Family Cohesion and Stability**

- Provide mentorship opportunities to build intergenerational relationships
- Offer after school programming
- Provide educational opportunities for parenting and youth life skills

#### **Help Youth Become Successful, Productive Adults**

- Provide classes on financial literacy, parenting, and independence
- Bring 4-H programs into schools (cooking, health and fitness)
- Host intergenerational workshops

#### **Increase Access to Healthcare**

- Provide scholarships to practice in rural areas
- Hire school based social workers
- Use OSU-Extension to bring experts into local communities
- Compile local resources into a community guide and handout at schools
- Establish OSU medical student residencies

#### **Strengthen Employment Skills**

- Provide opportunities for non-traditional education
- Offer beginner/intermediate job skill training
- Establish open scholarships

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

#### **Support the Environment by Promoting Conservation and Reducing Human Impact**

- Obtain funding for a conservation district
- Hold public meetings and create info graphics to share
- Work more closely with policy makers

#### **Support Small Business and Local Retail**

- Improve internet access and broadband connectivity
- Offer business plan development training
- Provide incentives for shopping local

#### **Sustain and Support Family Farms**

- Offer transition planning for intergenerational farming
- Offer educational video conferences

#### **Improve Technology Infrastructure and Education on Responsible Use of Technology**

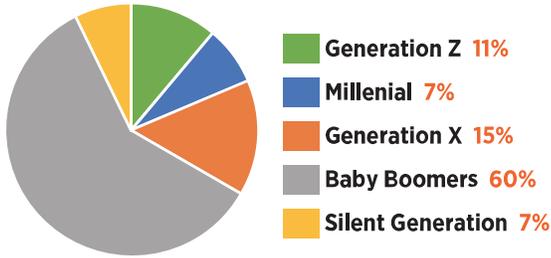
- Improve 911 location accuracy
- Expand access to the internet
- Provide education on scams and social media safety



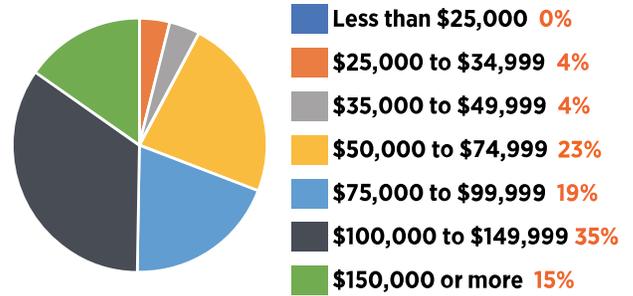
## Responses from Regional Forum Hosted by Garfield County

Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

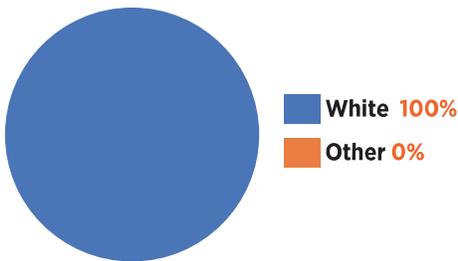
### Age Range



### Income Range



### Race/Ethnicity



### Gender



### Military Veteran



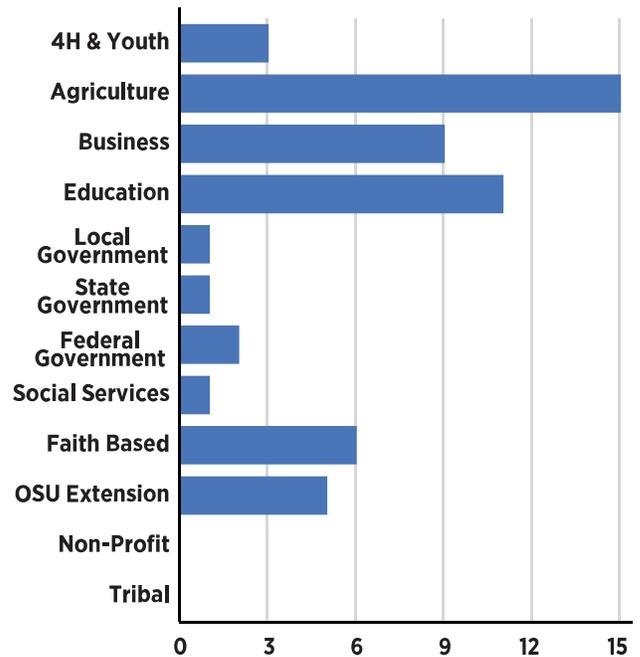
### Have a Disability



### Attended OSU Extension Program Previously



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