

# OSU EXTENSION LISTENS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Findings From A Regional Community  
Engagement Forum Hosted In Tulsa County



Tulsa County

# OSU EXTENSION LISTENS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

## Tulsa 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 Tulsa County

### Children, Youth and Families

#### **Promote Development of Strong Social Skills for Families**

- Provide parenting workshops with food and childcare to incentivize participation
- Offer mentorship opportunities

#### **Reduce Food Insecurity and Hunger**

- Provide education and training on nutrition and food preparation
- Offer training on how to grow and preserve own foods
- Educate the community about food banks
- Create opportunities for gardeners to donate extra crops to address hunger

#### **Strengthen Employment Skills**

- Offer classes on the Do's and Don'ts of job skills
- Offer parent and family educational classes

#### **Address Mental Health and Trauma in the Community**

- Provide resources for communicating with and educating the community

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

#### **Diversify Outlets for Sharing Farming Knowledge**

- Market with potential access to TSET funds for sharing information
- Distribute newsletters from OSU-Extension

#### **Increase Natural Resources Management and Conservation Education**

- Educate the community on the limited supply of resources
- Promote soil and water stewardship
- Highlight the importance of understanding native ecosystems

#### **Promote Agritourism to Support Natural Resources and Communities**

- Create a layered Agritourism map that includes natural resources, tourism opportunities, etc.
- Partner these maps with schools and send out to the public
- Offer more events that include family or are for educational purposes at state parks
- Provide more marketing opportunities
- Establish a partnership between businesses and tourism industry

#### **Strengthen Local Food Systems**

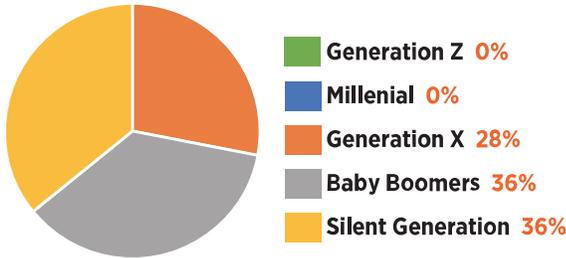
- Provide more advertisement and improve communication in the community
- Increase transportation opportunities for food access
- Partner with housing authority to improve access to food
- Promote farm to table businesses



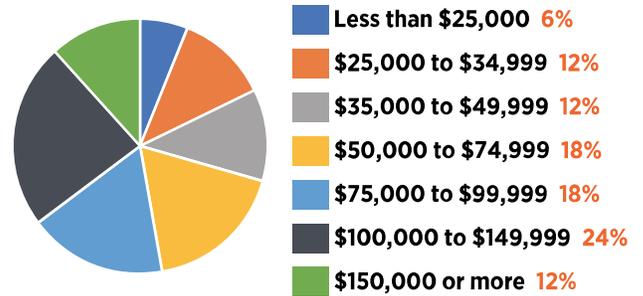
## Responses from Regional Forum Hosted by Tulsa County

Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

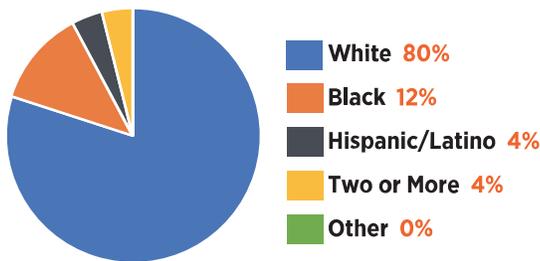
### Age Range



### Income Range



### Race/Ethnicity



### Gender



### Military Veteran



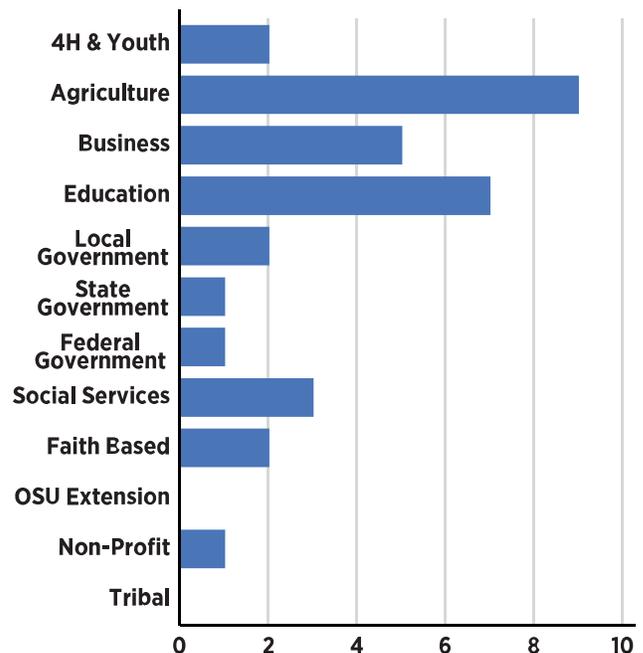
### Have a Disability



### Attended OSU Extension Program Previously



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