

People want a **Connected and Supportive** community.

THEIR CONCERNS

- Certain groups of people feel forgotten and live in the shadows of the community, such as seniors, Hispanics, veterans and the homeless.
- The community has a significant Hispanic population, yet it has never adapted accordingly (as in issues of engagement, more diverse job opportunities, reducing language barriers, welcoming, etc.).
- Discrimination and racism
- Language barriers
- Lack of public transportation
- The large gap between classes of people

“My dad was at the fair... and he experienced racism because he was speaking Spanish to a buddy and he was told from another guy that he needed to speak English because he lives in America. My dad is a very hard worker and he is a supervisor at his job, and it makes me sad that he is treated like that.”

Clinton County Resident, 2019

Actions that would make a difference	Who is working on it?
<p>Community forums to understand issues faced by specific groups, such as Hispanic, LGBTQ, veterans and seniors</p>	<p><u>There is no specific outreach to the Veteran community</u>, but VFW buys and supplies goods and clothing for the veterans’ homes. There is assistance for heat and light bills if they are struggling. Additional support is provided with bereavement dinners. They also support the Soldier’s Home in Lafayette. They have had an increase in veteran members and younger vets are coming on board, but there is no outreach to general community about their services. They do a booth at the Annual Hot Dog Fair and at the Community Dinner but are mostly trying to reach veterans.</p>

TAKING EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY ACTION (TECA)

Community forums to understand issues faced by specific groups such as Hispanic, LGBTQ, veterans and seniors

There is no specific forum for Seniors. Paul Phillippe Center has an advisory group for programs to people who come for services but there are no public events specifically to educate the general public. Paul Phillippe staff attends the Health Fair, sponsored by radio station WIL0, but the primary audience is seniors.

There are Immigration Forums through Purdue Extension (Esmerelda). These are done as needed. In 2016/2017, they held 3 forums, but they don't necessarily have them every year. The goal is to educate the community that all immigrants are not undocumented.

Purdue Extension also held a forum for immigrant families to explain their rights in this county. One immigration forum, hosted by the Youth Worker Café about 2 years ago, (2 hours long) was to educate the public, non-immigrant community. They are currently in conversations about what else is needed. They also have included immigration stories. The various forums have been held at Wesley Manor, the Catholic Church, Youth Workers, and at Purdue (Lafayette), for future teachers. They try to work with the Logan Immigrant connection, as well.

Purdue Education (Lafayette) recently had "Conversations for Racial Understanding" which is a guided, open discussion and it is hoped that, with time, they can implement it in Clinton County. Also, there is a national program they could bring here, but not yet.

Have more gatherings within the community to connect people

Purdue Extension (Esmeralda) held the First Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival. They made sure it was bilingual and advertised in English and Spanish and had bilingual events and translations. They were very explicit about inviting the whole community. They had young, old, Hispanic and non-Hispanic participants. It was held on Oct. 5, 2019 in Veteran's Park.

TAKING EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY ACTION (TECA)

<p>Have more gatherings within the community to connect people</p>	<p><u>Purdue Extension (Esmeralda)</u> promotes <u>Bi-Literacy and Spanish</u> for kids. They offer English to Spanish program and vice versa. Parents introduce themselves in opposite of their native language. The program is in the schools and takes place for 5.5 months. They recruit kids from all five county schools but no kids from Central or Rossville yet (probably due to distance since the program starts at 3:30).</p> <p><u>The VFW</u> donates to groups, but they don't necessarily do programs. They are starting a new program, No Kids in Clinton Co. Sleep on Floors, with Mike Faust of Sleep in Heavenly Peace.</p> <p><u>General Community Events for all</u> include Veterans and Memorial Day programs, the Strawberry Festival, and the Holiday Fest.</p>
<p>Opportunities for all people to volunteer together</p>	<p>There is no intentional effort toward this action at this time.</p>
<p>More outreach to the diverse populations</p>	<p><u>Purdue Extension</u> hosts FAFSA/ 21st Century nights to reach first generation college students. They bring in HS students and adults and are attended by diverse peoples.</p> <p><u>The Senior Center</u> provides transport to the food pantry for all people.</p> <p><u>Purdue Extension</u> has information about education after HS: Reaching parents is the challenge, but once they heard about the parent event held in October, 50 people attended.</p>

TAKING EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY ACTION (TECA)

More outreach to the diverse populations

When Dawn at Paul Phillippe Center hears people don't know about or think there's inadequate transportation services here, she assumes people aren't aware of their transportation. They get a lot of veteran requests to transport veterans but are limited where they can go. Many veterans need to go to medical appointments outside the county. They are frustrated. They don't know why people don't know what they do. They make about 44,000 trips annually, 250 trips daily. They could start tracking how many vets they have to turn down. They were awarded a grant to expand their program to 3,000 more trips this year. They don't have a regular route right now. Riders must schedule ahead of time to be picked up and there is a small fee for use. They've been meeting with community leaders, but we are a rural community and can't get a fixed route. Clinton Co. lost their local dialysis unit so now there are even more patients who need transport.

People need transportation in the evenings to classes or second shift jobs. Phillippe has to have state approval to expand their program. Their hours of service used to be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and now are 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. If the community supports it, they could run later. They operate under federal funding restrictions, which is difficult.

Other Notes: There is lack of communication about what services are available to the people who need it most. Plus, pride is a barrier to asking for help. There used to be a community resource guide. How does it stay updated? And how is the data organized? The AmVets program used to have a bus, but it doesn't anymore.

TAKING EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY ACTION (TECA)

<p>More outreach to the diverse populations</p>	<p><u>2017 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services - Transportation Update - Region 5 - Identified Actions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Document and inform legislators for funding advocacy. 2. Identify joint funded vehicle purchase opportunities. 3. Establish transfer points at county borders to access out-of-county destinations, maintain communication links between providers. 4. Evaluate potential for expansion of service to weekends and 2nd/3rd shift worker needs; explore volunteer driver opportunities. 5. Work to inform human service agencies that there are no restrictions on joint use of vehicles and expand marketing to increase public awareness of services. 6. Explore potential to develop services in underserved areas and develop deviated fixed route services. Coordinate with hospitals/VA and volunteers for non-emergency transportation. 7. Update vehicles and replacement plan with mix of appropriate-size vehicles and work cooperatively with INDOT in acquiring vehicles. <p><u>The 2016 Strategic Plan for Area IV Agency</u> identified goals and actions to increase the awareness of their resources and delivery of their services.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focus on energy assistance, Medicaid waiver, public transportation, information and referral. 2. Raise awareness through REMC meetings, local organizations, coffee shops, food pantries. Share our success stories and educate on our services. 3. Build relationships with insurance companies, present to providers, send info to potential partners.
<p>Improve accessibility to services and resources, such as moving to a single community resource center for housing, transportation, medical needs, educational opportunities and classes.</p>	<p>No actions at this time.</p>

People and organizations they trust:

- Clinton County Community Foundation
- Purdue Extension (Esmeralda Figueroa)
- Mayor Chris McBarnes
- United Way for Clinton County
- Pastors
- St. Mary's Catholic Church
- The Frankfort Community Public Library
- COACH Kids of Clinton County
- Paul Phillippe Resource Center
- The American Legion
- The Veterans of Foreign Wars

We asked each member of the group where the community foundation could make the most impact regarding this aspiration?

- Senior Center: Support public transportation and/or a community resource guide.
- VFW: The biggest need is to feel accepted, but veterans feel Hispanics are getting more resources than they are (such as transportation). Most of our people need transportation to Indianapolis for medical appointments.
- Purdue Extension: They need to bring people (diverse) together to discuss and bridge those gaps of services and unity with a good facilitator that can navigate those sensitive topics and prejudices. They need a trusted entity to have those conversations ongoing, bringing the diverse groups together. They also need to figure out how to welcome (like the old welcome wagon) all peoples moving into Clinton County.
- Additional note from VFW: Kevin Evans is well-respected and involved in a lot of issues and always trying to help people fairly. He is also a good speaker.

Connected and Supportive community

Harwood stage of community life is

Undetermined

Discussion on what role the Community Foundation could play in this Aspiration:

- Engage with Hispanics and populate our board with an influential Hispanic presence. We don't know where that leadership is located. Esmeralda would be good. Pastor Leo?
- Help our veterans with transportation to VA in Indy, etc.
- Facilitate the Phillippe Center to see what is available and what we could do to address the issues. Can we facilitate assistance in accessing other resources? What does it take to get there? We are looking at other models. Find a transportation consultant to come in and look at the issue.
- Bring other people that deal with the city/county transportation together with Dawn and see what has been done or could be done.

The community foundation will focus on the following actions and this role:

- Communicator
- Catalyst
- Convener

Action Plan for **Connected and Supportive** Community

Action	Lead	Completion by
Share report results with Mayor McBarnes and discuss the transportation issue specifically.	Greg Aaron	Friday, December 6, 2019
Make a recommendation to the CF Board of Directors for at least two Hispanics to serve on the board or committees	Greg Aaron	January Board Meeting
Hold a meeting (conversation) with Dawn at Paul Phillippe Resource Center to let her know we are aware that transportation access is an issue for the county. Determine what she thinks we could do to help while also discovering what has been looked at and what may have already been explored.	Greg Aaron/Alicia Albertson	Before January Board Meeting
Speak to the board about considering setting aside funds that could support non-profit grant applications that address this aspiration.	Greg Aaron	January 31, 2020