



Virginia Cooperative Extension

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Situation Analysis Report



City of Richmond

2013

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Introduction

The Richmond City Virginia Cooperative Extension office conducted a comprehensive situation analysis during the fall of the 2013 calendar year. The Situation Analysis is designed as a mechanism to compile information on concerns, issues and needs of the citizens of the City of Richmond. The situation analysis process was led by the Unit Coordinator and FCS Agent, Twandra Lomax-Brown with the assistance of the Unit Administrative Assistant, Barbara Howlett. The office 4-H Agent, Sarah Morton and the Extension Leadership Council were involved in the evaluation process of gathering community and resident perspectives on issues and concerns in the City. The ELC was instrumental in interpreting the data, results of surveys and interviews. During the dialogue with the ELC, priorities were identified based on the review of survey results.

The ELC representatives assisted in analyzing the key informant information and identifying priority issues. The FCS Agent, 4-H Agent and FNP staff also worked in collaboration with the ELC on this endeavor. The discussion served as a format to identify the importance of demographics as it relates to the problems confronting our residents in the Richmond community.

There were several goals of this project, which are as follows:

1. To survey key leaders in the community to gather information on problems, issues and concerns in the City of Richmond.
2. To use the results of the surveys and interviews to determine what are the top priority issues.
3. To determine if these issues are currently being addressed by Richmond City VCE and if the Richmond City VCE is able address the remaining issues by utilization of the services and educational resources provided by the programs offered by our office.

The initial phase of this process involved developing a survey using the Qualtrics system. The survey allowed those participating to identify issues of concern in the City of Richmond. The survey was sent to numerous stakeholders in the City. In the interim, a Unit Profile was developed using data obtained from the US Census Bureau, Richmond Public Schools, Richmond City Health Department and the Situation Analysis site developed for retrieval of the Richmond City Unit Profile. This site categorized information in a demographic summary, agricultural summary, health summary, education summary, business and employment summary. Thus, the organization process was implemented to analyze data and create the Unit Profile. The surveys, key informant interviews and unit profile garnered results which reflected the top issues in the City of Richmond. These findings were presented and discussed. The top priority issues were identified, all of which are either currently being addressed or can be addressed using the resources provided by Richmond City VCE.

Unit Profile

The City of Richmond is the Capitol of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The City of Richmond, like all Virginia municipalities, is an independent city. The City is surrounded by Henrico County and Chesterfield County, located at the intersection of interstates 95 and 64, surrounded by interstate 295 and route 288 in Central Virginia. The economy of the Richmond is primarily driven by law, finance and government agencies, with several notable legal and banking firms, as well as federal, state and local governmental agencies located in the Downtown region of the City. Richmond is one of twelve cities in the United States to be home to a Federal Reserve Bank. Six of the twenty-three Fortune 500 companies in Virginia have headquarters in Richmond as well as ten Fortune 1000 companies. The Fortune 1000 companies collectively employ approximately 174,000 individuals in the region. Tourism is another essentially important industry in the City, and includes many sites within or in close proximity of the city limits.

The City is governed by an elected mayor, currently Dwight C. Jones, a City Council comprised of nine council persons. The school board has nine board members representing the nine school districts in the City. These governing bodies have identified the following initiatives for the City of Richmond.

- Family and Community Strengthening
- Unique and Inclusive Communities
- Youth Development
- Educational Achievement
- Education and Workforce Development
- Economic Growth
- Family Relationships
- Sustainability and the Natural Environment
- Child and Adolescent Health and Safety
- Community Health

Basic Demographics

The resources used for data are the US Census, US Census Quick Track, USDA Agriculture Census, County Health Rankings and Kids Count Data Center.

Population

The current population reflects an estimation of 210,309 based on the 2012 demographic and US Census Quick Facts information. The 2011 population summary includes information relative to the population by sex. The male population is 96,489 which is 47.49% of the total City population. The female population is 106,676 which is 52.51% of the total population. The 2012 population by race shows that the City's highest race population is black 50.40% and the white population is 44.2%. The other populations are as follows: Hispanic 6.4% American

Indian 0.36%, Asian 2.28%, Pacific Islander 0.03%, other races 1.33%, and two or more races 3.04%.

Household

This summary listed the median household income as \$39,201 and mean income as \$60,887. Approximately, 35% of Richmond residents live below the poverty level. This is a result of these included in this summary citing total households 97,929, 85.4% is occupied, 14.6% is vacant.

Agricultural

The data in this summary was reflective of 2007 data. The 2012 census of Agriculture data is anticipated to be released spring of 2014.

Health

The 2013 statistics show the mortality total is 10,902. Premature death (years lost before age 75 per 100,000. Morbidity poor or fair health, 15.0%. Low birth weight is 11.9%. Thirty-one percent of the City's adults are obese. Twenty-eight percent of the City is inactive physically. Drinking in excess is 18.0%. Sexually transmitted diseases are 1200 per 100k. Death by motor vehicle is 11 per 100k. Teen birth rate is 49 per 1k. Twenty percent of the City is uninsured. Eighty-two percent receive diabetes screening and 66% have mammograms.

Social and Economic

The graduation rate is 74.0%, those with some college is at 63.0%, unemployment is 9.3%, children living in poverty is 36.0%, the percentage of children in single parent households is 65.0%, violent crimes are 796 per 100k.

Environment

The number of residents with access to recreational facilities is 5 per 100K. Eight percent of the City population has limited access to healthy foods. Forty-four percent of the City frequent fast food restaurants.

Education

The educational summary based on 2011 statistics shows that 100% of those three years plus are enrolled in school, 4.8% in nursery or pre-school, 4.26% in kindergarten, 26.76% in elementary school (grades 1-8), 14.33% in high school (grades 9-12), 49.81% college or grad school. The population 25 and over is 128,776 of this population 7.15% have less than a ninth grade education, those that attended 9th-12th grades with no diploma is 12.34%, 23.34% have graduated from high school, 18.63% have some college, but no degree, 4.98% have an associate's degree, 20.07% have a bachelor's degree, 12.87% have graduate or professional degrees.

Business and Employment

Based on the US Census, the following totals are 2012 results. The total of businesses is 13,782 and total employees are 160,381. The retail businesses make up 14.1% of the businesses in the City and employees 8.7% of the population. Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate are responsible for employing 5.9% and are 8.7% of the businesses in the City. The service industry is responsible for employing 47.3% of individuals in Richmond and is 56.3% of City businesses. The entity of government employs 17.2% of the population and is 3.0% of the total business statistic.

Community and Citizen Perspectives

Below are some of the topics that generated dialogue between the Richmond City ELC, VCE Staff and Agents during a review of the submitted survey and interview information.

1. Parenting was a hot topic of discussion. Surveys indicated that parenting skills need to be developed to help parents to understand how to raise their children in a positive manner.
2. The group also indicated that early childhood development was an area needing to be addressed due to the loss of programs providing this type of education.
3. The poor performance of students in the City on the SOL testing. Education is an issue.
4. Financial management is an issue because of the loss of jobs in the community.
5. Youth activities and leadership development opportunities.
6. The decline in accreditation of area schools.
7. Agriculture as a means of economic development.
8. Workforce Development because of the closure of area business and opening of new businesses a need of skill enhancement is important for marketability.
9. Any areas to promote positive youth development.
10. A focus on diabetes.
11. Good health, good life.
12. Resources for chronic disease management.
13. Youth dropping out of school for various reasons.
14. Health and wellness because of obesity and diabetes among our citizens.
15. Leadership development for youth and adults. To help in organizing volunteers and giving back to the community.
16. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), STEAM (Arts and Humanities), STREAM (Robotics) should be a focus for the youth of the community.
17. A focus on early childhood development (pre-school) to ensure that children are learning early and are school ready to develop a strong foundation of academic ethics.
18. Youth violence was discussed and was a concern that went back to positive parenting and education.
19. Financial management and good credit for home buying and economical reasons.
20. Financial management/education for youth as well as adults.
21. Job training for urban students and define professional expectations.
22. The VCE staff needs to collaborate more with civic/community organizations, senior groups, government agencies, RDSS in order to have its name recognized throughout the

community.

23. The need for water quality. The group was surprised to see that there was a great interest in this topic.

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Demographic Summary

	2007 Richmond City		2011 Richmond City		2011 Virginia		2011 National	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Population	198,869	100.0%	203,165	100.0%	8,015,502	100.0%	309,231,244	100.0%
Population by Age								
0-4	14,692	7.39%	13,125	6.46%	506,682	6.3%	20,153,302	6.5%
5-9	12,184	6.13%	11,021	5.42%	510,960	6.4%	20,330,929	6.6%
10-14	10,520	5.29%	9,012	4.44%	514,603	6.4%	20,674,598	6.7%
15-19	15,288	7.69%	15,597	7.68%	553,666	6.9%	21,996,593	7.1%
20-24	16,286	8.19%	25,634	12.62%	575,314	7.2%	21,727,353	7.0%
25-34	29,503	14.84%	34,354	16.91%	1,088,710	13.6%	41,140,692	13.3%
35-44	28,381	14.27%	24,322	11.97%	1,113,311	13.9%	41,133,976	13.3%
45-54	25,922	13.03%	25,854	12.73%	1,207,710	15.1%	44,830,605	14.5%
55-59	10,642	5.35%	11,820	5.82%	508,647	6.3%	19,680,965	6.4%
60-64	7,675	3.86%	9,735	4.79%	453,332	5.7%	17,072,816	5.5%
65-74	12,325	6.20%	11,446	5.63%	554,405	6.9%	21,859,086	7.1%
75-84	10,898	5.48%	7,808	3.84%	306,553	3.8%	13,105,684	4.2%
85+	4,553	2.29%	3,437	1.69%	121,609	1.5%	5,524,645	1.8%
Population by Sex								
Male	92,786	46.66%	96,489	47.49%	3,935,903	49.1%	152,046,577	49.2%
Female	106,083	53.34%	106,676	52.51%	4,079,599	50.9%	157,184,667	50.8%
Population by Race								
White	82,780	41.63%	86,686	42.67%	5,575,503	69.6%	229,339,928	74.2%
Black or African American	103,932	52.26%	102,187	50.30%	1,563,201	19.5%	38,826,443	12.6%
American Indian	698	0.35%	723	0.36%	25,822	0.3%	2,529,104	0.8%
Asian	3,221	1.62%	4,631	2.28%	443,169	5.5%	14,804,436	4.8%
Pacific Islander	77	0.04%	61	0.03%	5,059	0.1%	510,490	0.2%
Some other race	3,391	1.71%	2,694	1.33%	183,974	2.3%	14,945,745	4.8%
Two or More Races	4,770	2.40%	6,183	3.04%	218,774	2.7%	8,275,098	2.7%
Hispanic	11,932	6.00%	9,654	4.75%	482,719	6.0%	44,019,880	14.2%
Households by Income								
Total Households	81,611	100.0%	83,615	100.0%	2,996,312	100.0%	114,931,864	100.0%
<\$10,000	10,111	12.39%	10,779	12.89%	174,487	5.8%	8,529,677	7.4%
\$10,000-\$14,999	6,748	8.27%	6,745	8.07%	128,915	4.3%	6,472,374	5.6%
\$15,000-\$24,999	10,717	13.13%	11,237	13.44%	258,000	8.6%	12,655,735	11.0%
\$25,000-\$34,999	11,008	13.49%	9,455	11.31%	266,132	8.9%	12,136,499	10.6%
\$35,000-\$49,999	12,604	15.44%	12,311	14.72%	379,987	12.7%	15,964,063	13.9%
\$50,000-\$74,999	13,875	17.00%	13,455	16.09%	539,623	18.0%	20,987,130	18.3%
\$75,000-\$99,999	6,038	7.40%	7,699	9.21%	388,501	13.0%	13,829,482	12.0%
\$100,000-\$149,999	5,433	6.66%	6,262	7.49%	452,499	15.1%	14,188,747	12.3%
\$150,000-\$199,999	2,345	2.87%	2,434	2.91%	201,590	6.7%	5,214,111	4.5%
\$200,000+	2,732	3.35%	3,238	3.87%	206,578	6.9%	4,954,046	4.3%
Median household income	37,442	-	39,201	-	62,391	-	51,484	-
Mean household income	57,474	-	60,887	-	84,353	-	70,909	-
# of Housing Units								
Total	103,730	100.0%	97,929	100.0%	3,369,495	100.0%	131,826,591	100.0%
Occupied	91,611	88.3%	83,615	85.4%	2,996,312	88.9%	114,931,864	87.2%
Vacant	12,119	11.7%	14,314	14.6%	373,183	11.1%	16,894,727	12.8%

For additional information visit <http://www.census.gov>

Health Summary

2010 Richmond City 2013 Richmond City 2013 Virginia 2013 National

	2010 Richmond City	2013 Richmond City	2013 Virginia	2013 National
Total Population	203,165	207,923	8,185,867	313,914,040
Mortality				
Premature death (yrs lost before age 75 per 100k)	12,822	10,902	6,362	5,317
Morbidity				
Poor or fair health	15.0%	15.0%	14.0%	10.0%
Poor physical health days	2.9	3.5	3.2	2.6
Poor mental health days	3.4	3.5	3.1	2.3
Low birthweight	12.5%	11.9%	8.3%	6.0%
Health Behaviors				
Adult obesity	29.0%	31.0%	28.0%	25.0%
Physical inactivity	-	28.0%	24.0%	21.0%
Excessive drinking	17.0%	18.0%	16.0%	7.0%
Motor vehicle crash death rate (per 100k)	12	11	11	10
Sexually transmitted infections (per 100k)	1183	1200	385	92
Teen birth rate (per 1k female age 15-19)	63	49	32	21
Clinical Care				
Uninsured	12.0%	20.0%	15.0%	11.0%
Primary care physicians	-	1,309:1	1,356:1	1,067:1
Diabetic screening	78.0%	82.0%	86.0%	90.0%
Mammography screening	-	62.0%	66.0%	73.0%
Social & Economic Factors				
High school graduation	51%	74.0%	88.0%	
Some college	32%	63.0%	67.0%	70.0%
Unemployment	6%	9.3%	6.2%	5.0%
Children in poverty	32%	36.0%	16.0%	14.0%
Children in single-parent households	-	65.0%	30.0%	20.0%
Violent crime rate (per 100k)	-	796	233	66
Physical Environment				
Daily fine particulate matter (avg daily micrograms per cubic meter)	-	12.3	12.5	8.8
Access to recreational facilities (per 100k)	-	5	10	16
Limited access to healthy foods	-	8.0%	4.0%	1.0%
Fast food restaurants	-	44.0%	50.0%	27.0%

For additional information visit <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

Educational Summary

	2007 Richmond City		2011 Richmond City		2011 Virginia		2011 National	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT								
Population 3+ yrs enrolled	55,357	100.0%	56,263	100.0%	2,125,044	100.0%	82,440,699	100.0%
Nursery school, preschool	3230	5.83%	2727	4.85%	128,231	6.0%	4,985,508	6.0%
Kindergarten	3353	6.06%	2398	4.26%	107,297	5.0%	4,181,473	5.1%
Elementary (grades 1-8)	17,851	32.25%	15,055	26.76%	813,514	38.3%	32,786,553	39.8%
High School (grades 9-12)	9,166	16.56%	8,060	14.33%	428,033	20.1%	17,285,045	21.0%
College or grad school	21,757	39.30%	28,023	49.81%	647,969	30.5%	23,202,120	28.1%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT								
Population 25 years and over	129,899	100.0%	128,776	100.0%	5,354,277	100.0%	204,348,469	100.0%
Less than 9th grade	8,309	6.40%	9,210	7.15%	280,468	5.2%	12,460,325	6.1%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	18,122	13.95%	15,889	12.34%	417,028	7.8%	16,955,944	8.3%
High school grad	34,215	26.34%	30,861	23.96%	1,364,973	25.5%	58,087,777	28.4%
Some college, no degree	22,015	16.95%	23,994	18.63%	1,084,992	20.3%	43,509,774	21.3%
Associate's	5,693	4.38%	6,410	4.98%	363,207	6.8%	15,622,961	7.6%
Bachelor's	24,680	19.00%	25,843	20.07%	1,079,041	20.2%	36,263,152	17.7%
Graduate or professional	16,865	12.98%	16,569	12.87%	764,568	14.3%	21,448,536	10.5%
% high school grad or higher	-	79.7%	-	80.5%	-	87.0%	-	85.6%
% bachelor's or higher	-	32.0%	-	32.9%	-	34.4%	-	28.2%

PERCENT OF AGE GROUP ENROLLED

	Total	Public	Total	Public	Total	Public	Total	Public
3 and 4 yrs	44.40%	57.20%	42.60%	53.50%	49.0%	42.2%	47.8%	55.8%
5 to 9 yrs	94.60%	79.50%	91.70%	85.60%	95.2%	86.6%	95.7%	87.5%
10 to 14 yrs	98.90%	84.30%	92.40%	86.40%	98.2%	93.0%	98.4%	89.9%
15 to 17 yrs	96.80%	85.50%	93.90%	86.00%	97.0%	91.7%	96.4%	90.7%
18 to 19 yrs	80.20%	65.90%	76.50%	82.90%	76.6%	84.8%	74.3%	81.8%
20 to 24 yrs	49.50%	67.10%	52.10%	77.40%	41.9%	80.4%	42.3%	77.3%
25 to 34 yrs	17.80%	73.30%	16.90%	81.20%	14.6%	73.2%	13.7%	73.1%
35 yrs and over	4.00%	65.90%	3.60%	70.80%	3.3%	69.1%	2.9%	70.5%

For additional information visit <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>
<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

Business and Employment Summary

	2012 Richmond City				2012 National Average				
Population					207,923				313,914,040
Total Businesses					13,782				12,239,616
Total Employees					160,381				
	Businesses		Employees		Businesses		Employees		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
SIC Codes									
Ag & Mining	206	1.5%	544	0.3%	333,257	2.7%	2,308,466	1.6%	
Construction	844	6.1%	6,262	3.9%	970,434	7.9%	6,853,199	4.7%	
Manufacturing	409	3.0%	7,089	4.4%	431,635	3.5%	13,233,356	9.0%	
Transportation	359	2.6%	5,031	3.1%	373,510	3.1%	4,431,017	3.0%	
Communication	122	0.9%	1,375	0.9%	98,688	0.8%	1,397,750	1.0%	
Utility	38	0.3%	9,230	5.8%	49,201	0.4%	862,689	0.6%	
Wholesale	509	3.7%	3,998	2.5%	585,649	4.8%	7,036,452	4.8%	
Retail Summary	1,941	14.1%	14,012	8.7%	2,577,695	21.1%	30,443,930	20.8%	
Home Improvement	58	0.4%	508	0.3%	168,231	1.4%	1,972,921	1.3%	
Merchandise	28	0.2%	999	0.6%	77,323	0.6%	3,144,175	2.2%	
Food Stores	259	1.9%	3,245	2.0%	275,290	2.2%	3,920,116	2.7%	
Auto Sale & Gas	191	1.4%	1,101	0.7%	295,975	2.4%	3,100,262	2.1%	
Apparel Stores	173	1.3%	838	0.5%	180,508	1.5%	1,379,682	0.9%	
Furniture Stores	133	1.0%	624	0.4%	244,447	2.0%	1,889,312	1.3%	
Eating & Drinking	588	4.3%	4,329	2.7%	686,614	5.6%	10,643,986	7.3%	
Misc	511	3.7%	2,368	1.5%	649,307	5.3%	4,392,476	3.0%	
Finance, Insurance, Estate Summary	1,194	8.7%	9,497	5.9%	1,206,304	9.9%	10,025,223	6.9%	
Banks, Savings, Lendings	153	1.1%	3,424	2.1%	281,020	2.3%	2,569,152	1.8%	
Securities Exchange	82	0.6%	1,327	0.8%	128,794	1.1%	1,071,883	0.7%	
Insurance Carriers	147	1.1%	972	0.6%	255,833	2.1%	2,469,066	1.7%	
Real Estate, Other Invest.	812	5.9%	3,774	2.4%	540,657	4.4%	3,915,122	2.7%	
Service Summary	7,753	56.3%	75,789	47.3%	4,866,159	39.8%	58,829,454	40.2%	
Hotels & Lodging	66	0.5%	1,249	0.8%	112,500	0.9%	2,440,746	1.7%	
Automotive Services	281	2.0%	1,482	0.9%	383,861	3.1%	1,813,175	1.2%	
Movie theatres and arcades	301	2.2%	1,706	1.1%	325,006	2.7%	3,383,518	2.3%	
Health Services	662	4.8%	5,797	3.6%	619,100	5.1%	14,697,895	10.1%	
Legal Services	832	6.0%	5,767	3.6%	213,656	1.7%	1,659,617	1.1%	
Education Institutions	332	2.4%	22,217	13.9%	273,162	2.2%	12,233,107	8.4%	
Other Services	5,279	38.3%	37,571	23.4%	2,938,874	24.0%	22,601,396	15.5%	
Government	407	3.0%	27,554	17.2%	445,131	3.6%	9,600,333	6.6%	
Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	301,953	2.5%	1,213,829	0.8%	
Total	13,782	100.0%	160,381	100.0%	12,239,616	100.0%	146,234,698	100.0%	

For additional information visit <http://www.census.gov/econ/susb/>

Per the review, there were 14 topics that ranked highest on our survey and discussions with community members. These topics are listed in priority order.

- Career and Workforce Development 4.58
- Chronic Disease Management 4.50
- Food, Safety and Preservation 4.45
- Health 4.45
- Nutrition and Wellness 4.45
- Obesity 4.45
- Parenting and Child Development Education 4.45
- Teen Pregnancy 4.45
- Youth Activities 4.42
- STEM 4.36
- Water Quality 4.27
- Environmental Education 4.25
- Teen Involvement 4.25
- School Drop Out 4.20

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Community and Resident Perspectives

Below are some of the topics that generated dialogue between the Richmond City ELC, VCE Staff and Agents during a review of the submitted survey and interview information.

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14. Health and wellness because of obesity and diabetes among our citizens.
15. Leadership development for youth and adults. To help in organizing volunteers and giving back to the community.
16. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), STEAM (Arts and Humanities), STREAM (Robotics) should be a focus for the youth of the community.
17. A focus on early childhood development (pre-school) to ensure that children are learning early and are school ready to develop a strong foundation of academic ethics.
18. Youth violence was discussed and was a concern that went back to positive parenting and education.
19. Financial management and good credit for home buying and economical reasons.
20. Financial management/education for youth as well as adults.
21. Job training for urban students and define professional expectations.
22. The VCE staff needs to collaborate more with civic/community organizations, senior groups, government agencies, RDSS in order to have its name recognized throughout the community.
23. The need for water quality. The group was surprised to see that there was a great interest in this topic.

Priority Issues

It was decided that since there were some areas that were ranked relatively close and fell under similar categories, the final priorities would be grouped and addressed in collective category groups vs. the 14 separate topics. Thus, the result is as follows.

Issue 1: Career and Workforce Development

Based on the results of the surveys and interviews with individuals, workforce development is a key issue and top priority of both the community and city government. The comments reflected a general consensus that workforce development is essential for adults as well as youth. Most seem to think that the economy has played a big part in the displacement of employees due to the major corporations and numerous other business entities that have closed. Because of this, some citizens may need to be trained to acquire additional skills to be more marketable in the job search. Others may need to enhance their skills, such as interviewing, basic customer service and business etiquette as well as updating and modification of their resume. A few remarks were made relevant to career and workforce development and the connection of financial management which was rated 4.18 based on the responses. The comments were that individuals needed education on how to manage less of an income than they are accustomed to having. Especially, with the rising cost of products that are necessities and the decrease of income. Responses also reflected the importance of life skills as it relates to both workforce development and financial planning. The concern adult and youth workforce development and workforce readiness continues to be addressed by the Richmond VCE Office through programs developed by the Family Consumer Science Agent using the resource of the Virginia Tech Career Website along with collaboration of community partners and community resources. Through 4-H programming youth are being exposed to career and workforce development skills through VCE programming in Richmond Public Schools, afterschool programs along with other community and faith based programs.

Issue 2: Health

To include: Chronic Disease Management, Obesity, Nutrition and Wellness, Food Preservation and Safety, Parenting Education, Teen Age Pregnancy. More than seventy-five percent of the responses indicated that health was an important issue. Healthy Richmond is also an initiative put forth by the Mayor, Dwight C. Jones, who has had many forums and events centered around the "Healthy Richmond" focus. Those that commented on their survey priority issues identified the aforementioned areas of health as issues that need to be addressed in the City of Richmond. Many of them said that your health affects many aspects of your everyday life and that residents should be aware of healthy choices in both food and exercise to improve their lifestyle. The effort to improve health will also reflect in a community with fewer chronic health concerns. The responses relative to parenting were that healthy parents, both physically and mentally can contribute to successfully raising a child who is healthy physically, mentally and will have a better chance of performing more positively academically. Teenage pregnancy was identified as a health issue due to the need for nutrition and wellness before, during and after the pregnancy. I was also noted that lack of the practice

of safe sex is a contributor to the teenage pregnancy rate. It was indicated that VCE needed a greater presence in the community to address health related issues. Many of the health related issues are being addressed by VCE programming delivered by FCS Agent, 4-H Agent and FNP Associates. However, the safe sex concern has not been addressed because it is out of the scope of VCE services.

Issue 3: Education

Education with emphasis on teen involvement, innovative youth activities, STEM programming was identified as priority three for Richmond City. While it is easier to target densely populated, poor urban areas for solutions, concentrated poverty is not an advantage for the poor living in cities. Studies consistently show that concentrated poverty exacerbates the challenges of being poor, as residents face poor literacy, underserved youth, higher crime rates, underperforming schools, poor health outcomes, and substandard housing options. The effects are particularly hard on children, who face increased levels of stress that can lead to emotional and behavioral problems thus trending to higher dropout rates and decrease in graduation rates. According to a study by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, two-thirds of children living in concentrated poverty reside in cities.

Education and poverty is a problem that is not limited by geography, but rather is impacted by it. As we reassess how to approach place-based responses to poverty and under-performing youth, it is important to acknowledge not only that poverty is, in fact, urban problem, but also that the unique challenges of suburban poverty persist. Changing demographics, advances in technology, and a globalized economy require us to rethink how we address link between under-performing youth and poverty in our communities and schools.

This crisis won't be solved by one program or organization, but instead requires a new way of working that breaks down silos and acknowledges the interconnected nature of issues. By supporting multijurisdictional program planning efforts to integrate formal and informal education such as; schools, higher education institutions, parks and recreation, boys and girls clubs, museums, 4-H positive youth organization, housing communities, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments, these communities are challenged to work together by leveraging resources, aligning policy goals, and solving problems together.

We have yet to win the war on underserved youth, urban poverty, and several challenges persist for poor city residents, including concentrated poverty, crime, affordable-housing shortages, and lack of investment in good public-transit systems, innovative public education, job loss, and segregation.

As we continue to address underserved youth and poverty, we can't turn our back on cities while searching for solution. Cities are still the engines of the U.S. economy and have the potential to create opportunities for people throughout their communities and regions. Policymakers must think/look beyond the headlines and take this analysis as a renewed call to address poverty in comprehensive ways across all jurisdictions.

Issue 4: Environmental Education

Water Quality, Green Initiatives and Sustainability

Environment Education and Sustainability was the fourth priority issue for Richmond City. The central theme from the community was environment, water quality, environmental education, and sustainability. The communities want space for the sharing of ideas, experiences and to build knowledge through a collaborative and democratic process that promotes equity and respect? The urban garden program provides educational opportunities for youth, families and the community. Specifically, it supplements life sciences standards while promoting sustainable agriculture in school and community settings. The master gardener program provides educational training and resources to eliminate food deserts and promote healthy communities.

A number of critical human health issues are unique to cities. These include environmental legacies like water contamination, limited access to fresh foods, exposure to harmful pollutants, urban community disparities stemming from both social and physical factors, inadequate access to quality health care due to safety and transportation realities, poor alignment of community resources and social structure to promote healthy lifestyles, and future threats including climate change impacts in cities.

This crisis won't be solved by one program or organization, but instead requires a new way of working that breaks down silos and acknowledges the interconnected nature of issues. By supporting multijurisdictional program planning efforts to integrate formal and informal education such as; schools, higher education institutions, Virginia Cooperative Extension, parks and recreation, Alliance Chesapeake bay, James River Parks, master naturalist, James River Watershed, sierra club, 4-H positive youth organization, AREC, housing communities, land use, soil conservation services, economic and workforce development, and infrastructure investments, these communities are challenged to work together by leveraging resources, aligning policy goals, and solving problems together.

Developing multijurisdictional collaborations would provide opportunities to develop outdoor learning for youth and adults. Student learners can be taught more about science and mathematics by experiencing hands on lesson first hand. Learners have real-life experiences with materials through discovery learning while saving energy by using outdoor resources.