



COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT
for CHELAN-DOUGLAS COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL

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INTRODUCTION

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic's start in early 2020, the Chelan County and Douglas County region had witnessed improvements in several social determinants of health measurements, including employment, high school graduation rates, Latinos enrolled in higher education, and mortality rates.

Historically, the two-county region has lagged behind the state in income and wages, educational attainment, health care coverage and access, and poverty.

While not everyone has been impacted financially, physically or mentally by the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic and social disruptions resulting from the public health crisis has caused hardship for many residents' lives, including areas such as household finances, jobs, health care, housing, education, and caregiving. Federal and state legislation provided funding to address the health crisis and to provide economic support to low-income people struggling to make ends meet. COVID hospitalizations and deaths have declined in 2022, but the pandemic continues to affect the well-being of many residents of Chelan and Douglas counties — including members of marginalized and underrepresented groups.

As of October 2022, here is a look at several key indicators from federal, state and local sources:

- The two-county's unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in 2019. The rate increased to 8.4 percent in 2020 — the first year of the pandemic — and then dropped to 5.4 percent in 2021. However, the workforce participation rate fell from 70.2 percent in 2019 to 67.8 percent in 2021.
- The median household income rose 7.8 percent between 2019 and 2021 to \$65,606 in Chelan and Douglas counties. Statewide, it rose by 7.1 percent to \$84,247 during that same time period.
- The median home sales price in Chelan and Douglas counties increased by 59.9 percent between the second quarter of 2019 (\$356,000) and the second quarter of 2022 (\$569,132).
- Housing affordability index for first-time homebuyers fell sharply from a reading of 68.4 in the second quarter of 2019 to 42.5 in the second quarter of 2022.
- The number of homeless (sheltered and unsheltered) in Chelan/Douglas increased from 358 people in 2020 to 409 people in 2021, according to the annual point-in-time count.

- While home construction has picked up over the past few years, it still has not reached the level it was prior to the Great Recession. In 2019, the rate of residential building permits per 1,000 residents was 7.9. That increased to a rate of 8.1 in 2021. By comparison, the rate of residential building permits per 1,000 residents was 10.3 in 2007, right before the housing market collapsed.
- The rental vacancy rate for one- and two-bedroom apartments grew just slightly — from 2 to 2.5 percent — between 2019 and 2021. A 5-percent rate is considered a healthy rental market.
- The share of households in Chelan and Douglas with Internet access increased from 79.7 percent in 2019 to 87.7 percent in 2021. Statewide, the Internet household rate jumped from 91.4 percent in 2019 to 93.6 percent in 2021.
- The percentage of K-12 students enrolled in free and reduced price lunch programs at schools in the two-county region rose from 58.3 percent during the 2019-20 school year to 63.4 percent during the 2021-22 school year. That is the highest rate since at least the 1999-2000 school year. By comparison, the rate statewide for K-12 students during the 2021-22 school year was 46.6 percent.
- The obesity rate for 8th and 10th grade students in the two counties continues to go up. In 2018, the obesity rate for 8th graders was 29.5 percent. In 2021, it had risen to 37.1 percent. Likewise, the obesity rate for 10th graders has jumped from 27.0 percent in 2014 to 35.9 percent in 2021. All of those rates are lower than statewide rates for those students.
- The rate of high school students in the two counties who graduated on time rose from 81.2 percent during the 2018-19 school year to 88.4 percent during the 2020-21 school year.
- The number of homeless students in Chelan and Douglas totaled 935 during the 2021-22 school year compared with 755 students during the 2020-21 school year.
- In 2018, the rate of 8th grade students in the region who reported feeling sad or hopeless was 35.5 percent. That rate increased slightly in 2021 to 35.6 percent, but it still remains significantly higher than the 25 percent of students who were dealing with mental health issues in 2006. As for 10th grade students, 43.0 percent reported feeling sad or hopeless in 2021 compared with 39.4 percent in 2018 and 28.1 percent in 2006.
- The data for adults reporting poor mental health (defined as suffering for more than 14 days of the previous month) is more limited. In 2019, 9.8 percent of adults in Chelan and Douglas were said to be suffering from poor mental health. In 2020, the last year reported, that rate had grown to 12.4 percent.
- In 2018, 10.6 percent of Chelan and Douglas residents had no health care insurance. That figure rose to 12 percent in 2021. Statewide, just 6.4 percent of residents had no health insurance in 2021.
- Since the pandemic began, the state has yet to update the percentage of Chelan and Douglas residents who do not speak English at home. In 2019, it was 27.2 percent.

- The rate of property crimes per 1,000 Chelan/Douglas residents increased from 11.4 in 2019 to 14.5 in 2021. That is lower than the statewide rate in 2021 of 31.4 property crimes per 1,000 people. The rate of violent crimes per 1,000 Chelan/Douglas residents fell from 1.1 in 2019 to 0.9 in 2021. The statewide rate in 2021 was 3.3 crimes per 1,000 residents.
- Link Transit ridership fell 28 percent, from 1.03 million riders in 2019 to 745,000 in 2020. Figures that are more current are not yet available.
- In 2020, 26 percent of Chelan and Douglas residents held at least a bachelor’s degree, versus 37 percent statewide.

OUR VALLEY OUR FUTURE COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In January 2021 — in the midst of the pandemic — Our Valley Our Future / Nuestro Valle Nuestro Futuro launched a community outreach, visioning and planning project, leading to a new five-year Action Plan for the years 2022-26. The outreach phase was essentially a community needs assessment. The nonprofit organization’s first five-year Action Plan expired in December 2021.

To gauge the region’s strengths, weaknesses and challenges, and to collect ideas meant to solve those challenges, Our Valley Our Future (OVOF) engaged people through the following ways during its outreach phase (February through September 2021):

- Interviewed 50 diverse community leaders and elected officials
- Surveyed more than 1,500 residents of Chelan and Douglas counties
- Held “communities of interest” focus groups and panel discussions that attracted another 500 participants

These four key questions were asked of every participant during this phase:

- What is one thing you value most about living in our valley?
- How is one way you see our valley changing today?
- What is the biggest challenge for the future of our valley?
- What is one vision idea you have for the future of our valley?

OVOF also asked questions about the COVID-19 pandemic, racial and social equity, and the level of optimism about the future.

All of these information-gathering steps were offered in English and Spanish. Overall, about 26 percent of participants in the process self-identified as Latino.

This data, along with the release of the new OVOF Action Plan for the years 2022-26, are serving today as foundational pieces in the strategic plans of cities, counties, and other organizations, including the Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council.

COMMUNITY CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

In 2021, more than 2,000 residents provided their thoughts about the current state of the region and its

future to OVOF. Among the challenges and barriers identified from their input:

- Residents cite the lack of affordable and available housing as the biggest challenge facing the region. Many say the lingering housing crisis has priced people out of the market, in particular essential workers, young families and first-time homebuyers, and has been a factor in more unhoused people living on the streets. A construction boom has seen new market-rate homes and apartments come on the market but many have been quickly sold or rented or are not affordable for those with low or moderate incomes. Some blame short-term rentals for having reduced the supply of homes available to year-round residents.

Said one resident, “Often times when I look at the housing market and see the skyrocketing prices and compare that with the economy here, I think, ‘How sustainable are the two?’”

Said another resident: “My biggest concern is that the people who work here won't be able to live here.”

(In May 2022, OVOF conducted a regional housing survey. For the summary of those findings, please see the “2022 Regional Housing Survey” section below.)

- While some people and businesses have done quite well over the past few years, the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified many economic and social inequities in the region. Those living in poverty, including both whites and people of color, have been disproportionately impacted. The needs of Latino residents — who make up about 30 percent of the overall population — have increased exponentially since the pandemic began. Residents have perceived a marked increase in social services to assist those impacted.

(For more on this topic, please see the ‘Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic’ section below.)

- Residents point to the region’s relatively low-median household incomes and widening economic divides as big factors in people not being able to afford a home. They say better-paying jobs and a greater diversity of industries and jobs are needed. During OVOF’s collection of input in 2021, several elected officials and community leaders said they desire a local economy strong enough to keep the region’s young people from having to leave to pursue career opportunities elsewhere.
- While the region saw population growth during the pandemic from an influx of remote workers and others, longer-term residents say business opportunities can be fleeting for would-be entrepreneurs. Many lack capital or training in how to start and operate a business. Language is another barrier.
- The uninsured, people with low or fixed incomes, people who are not legal residents, and those who cannot speak English often forego visits to health care providers, community leaders say. Due to those factors, along with an insufficient number of behavioral health providers in the community, mental health is not being addressed satisfactorily, these same community leaders say.
- Community members believe jurisdictions need to add infrastructure to catch up and keep pace with growth. They also want better planning, coordination and collaboration among jurisdictions

and nonprofit organizations, including those providing social services.

- Citing a shortcoming exposed during the pandemic, residents say access to the internet is lacking in some communities and rural areas in the region. Some people also do not have possess electronic devices and/or lack the skills to access online services such as shopping, education, and health care.
- While recognizing collaboration within the education community is good, residents are calling for improvements in education, from pre-school through college and then into adulthood. Said one resident, “How do you expect our children to get high-wage jobs if they can't read at grade level?”
- Residents are taking note of orchards being converted into home sites and know of orchardists who cannot make a living anymore on small farms. Large fruit companies are increasingly turning to automation to do work previously done by people. That trend is expected to accelerate over the next 10 to 15 years.
- Disagreements among people about the pandemic response, national politics, influx of new residents and visitors, urban vs. rural lifestyles, and race and culture have played out in Chelan and Douglas counties. Residents say this deterioration in community cohesiveness is making it more difficult for the region to move forward, respond to challenges, and problem-solve. Some are concerned that community divisiveness will continue to fester into the foreseeable future.
- A significant number of residents cite racism as a problem, including some who label it as a growing problem. About 68 percent of those who completed a survey during OVOF’s outreach work in 2021 say they have experienced or witnessed racism here.
- Residents recognize the local education, health care and business sectors are becoming more culturally diverse. However, they say diversity has yet to reach community leadership positions, which are predominately held by white men. Some residents say the wider community does not fully understand the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion issue and tends to dismiss it. A lesser number of residents say the emphasis on equity is dividing rather than uniting people.
- Many Latinos cite the lack of community information in Spanish as a barrier to improving their lives. At present, there is little to no Spanish-language news media presence in the region.

IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic, which flared up locally in February 2020, has taken a heavy toll financially, emotionally and socially on residents. While many of the jobs lost by people in 2020 have since been restored, people continue to endure periods of income loss, isolation, lack of connection, stress and anxiety as the pandemic drags on. Some are abusing substances to cope.

In Chelan and Douglas counties, governments and organizations such as the Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council, the Chelan-Douglas Health District, Community for the Advancement of Family Education (CAFÉ), Parque Padrinos, Hand in Hand Immigration Services, Wenatchee for Immigrant

Justice, North Central Washington Equity Alliance, YMCA, YWCA, and others have stepped up to provide additional services and to advocate for residents most in need.

OVOF asked several questions in 2021 to gauge the impacts of the pandemic on the community and people's lives.

Residents cited people's physical, mental and spiritual health, the health care system itself, the education system, housing, employment, arts and culture, and community cohesiveness as areas most impacted by COVID.

In 2021, several community leaders told OVOF they favored emphasizing business assistance and economic development to help the region recover from the pandemic, followed by improvements to education, housing, public health, social services, greater funding for nonprofits, and community-building efforts. Some noted that many childcare providers shut down during the pandemic.

In May 2021, OVOF, in partnership with the Parque Padrinos organization, held a series of focus groups in Spanish over three days at Methow Park in south Wenatchee. More than 120 people attended and participated. One of the questions asked was:

Q: What have been the hardest things for you and your family and friends to overcome during the COVID pandemic?" (The responses were categorized and ranked based on the number of times mentioned by participants.)

Methow Park focus group participants:

1. Isolation, fear, deaths, depression
2. Loss of income/other financial issues
3. Educational difficulties
4. Conflicting and/or lack of information
5. Accessing resources
6. Work environment
6. Loss of sports and recreation
8. Food insecurity
8. COVID prevention steps
8. Community divisiveness

In interviews of the 50 community leaders and elected officials, the interviewees were offered an opportunity to share their own thoughts of how the pandemic was impacting the community. Here are a few of those responses:

- "The pandemic stressed where the fractures already were. Between our faith-based organizations and our government, trust is at an all-time low. Public health has been seen by the community as a tyrannical force that has people living their lives in ways they don't want to. It will take time and a huge effort to rebuild that trust. We need to engage the entire community."
- "I've seen how many of our Latinx members seeking food assistance and seeking help with housing. There have been too many who could not feed their families."

- “People are knocking on your door asking if you want to sell your house. People can work anywhere now, and infrastructure is not there to support that growth.”
- “I would hope there are some positive cultural outcomes from people being in self-isolation, that people's value systems were checked a little bit, and there are long-term outcomes that improve people's health and the community's health. Hopefully we don't return to normal in a lot of ways. And our treatment of each other needs to be better.”
- “If the Anglo business are hurting, the Latino businesses will be hurting deeper. The government has providing many services and money, but the Latino businesses don't understand that and are still very far behind.”
- “It's been devastating on our community, and all communities, but even more so in communities of color. In many ways, the Latino community has shut down emotionally, spiritually, culturally. It's been devastating to see that. We know with suffering comes spiritual growth. That is one of the gifts we can give to white America and that is our spirituality.”
- “Hearing all the stories from those who have kids in school and how inefficient the online schooling has been. That partly could be due to the rush to switch from in-person to online. I have a great deal of concern for the kids, not just the schooling aspect but also from a mental health standpoint.”
- “The mental health impacts have been bad. If you are poor, you don't have many opportunities. Kids' emotional stuff has been very impactful. For all the extroverts and all the kids, it has been a massively challenging and difficult time.”

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

The COVID-19 pandemic, runaway inflation in 2022, and global and national trends have combined to leave many marginalized and underrepresented groups even further behind, prompting responses in public, nonprofit and private sectors around the country.

In Chelan and Douglas counties, organizations such as the Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council, the Community for the Advancement of Family Education (CAFÉ), Parque Padrinos, Hand in Hand Immigration Services, Wenatchee for Immigrant Justice, North Central Washington Equity Alliance, YMCA, YWCA, and others have stepped up to provide additional services and to advocate for residents most in need.

In 2021, as part of its outreach and information gathering phase, OVOF included questions in its online survey that dealt with equity and inclusion. While it has not happened in Chelan and Douglas counties, other jurisdictions around the country have declared racism a public health crisis. Here are the results from the OVOF questions:

Q: Have you ever experienced or witnessed racial or cultural discrimination in our valley?

Overall survey respondents:

- Yes: 68.1

- No: 31.9

Latino survey respondents:

- Yes: 78.2
- No: 21.8

Q: What racial and social equity barriers exist in the region? (Respondents could select more than one answer.)

Overall survey respondents:

- Language: 64.1
- Housing: 58.0
- Culture: 50.2
- Education: 45.5
- Workplace: 37.1
- Criminal justice: 34.7
- Access to technology: 34.2
- Health care: 33.9
- Business opportunities: 31.7
- Child care: 30.1
- Job training: 25.4
- Access to loans: 24.3
- Transportation: 21.1
- There are no barriers: 8.6
- Other (please specify): 10.4

Latino survey respondents:

- Language: 73.2
- Culture: 63.0
- Housing: 50.4
- Education: 50.4
- Workplace: 50.4
- Health care: 43.3
- Criminal justice: 37.8
- Business opportunities: 33.9
- Job training: 33.9
- Access to loans: 29.9
- Access to technology: 29.1
- Child care: 27.6
- Transportation: 24.4
- There are no barriers: 5.5
- Other (please specify): 3.1

Q: What is the most important thing our community can do to address issues of racial and social equity? (The responses were categorized and ranked based on the number of times mentioned by survey respondents.)

Overall survey respondents:

1. Develop a better understanding of cultures and issues
2. Provide affordable housing and social services
3. Engage, communicate, and listen
4. Increase representation of minorities in leadership roles
5. Improve language fluency
6. Build and nurture relationships
7. Celebrate cultures, people and successes
8. Acknowledge there is an issue
9. Call out racism
10. Train and educate law enforcement

OVOF also asked community leaders and elected officials a similar question:

Q: In your view, what racial and social equity barriers exist today in the community? (The responses were categorized and ranked based on the number of times mentioned by community leaders/elected officials.)

Community leader/elected official interviewees:

1. Lack of understanding/awareness
2. Language/culture
2. Segregation
4. Racism and discrimination
5. Lack of representation
6. Equitable education
6. Systems
8. Poverty
9. Citizenship
9. Housing
9. Child care
9. Employment

2022 REGIONAL HOUSING SURVEY

The region's natural environment and outdoor assets, family-friendly towns, and abundant services have attracted new residents, including remote workers who arrived during the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet the shortage of available and affordable housing has persisted to the point where it has been a problem for nine years running now. The reasons are many and include continuing in-migration, newcomers paying cash for homes, wages not keeping pace with costs, lack of developable land in Chelan County, the rising cost of construction materials, land-use regulations, and the growth of short-term rentals. Those with low- and -middle-income households have been particularly vulnerable. Those who are severely cost-burdened are left with little or no disposable income after paying for housing. In some cases, people have become unhoused. Businesses have been unable to fill job openings because potential employees cannot afford to live in the community.

In May 2022, OVOF conducted a regional housing survey that was completed by more than 1,500

residents of Chelan and Douglas counties. About 90 percent of survey respondents cited housing availability and affordability as either an “extremely important” or an “important” issue for the community today. About one-third of respondents reported their households are currently spending more than 30 percent on housing. (A housing unit is considered unaffordable if a household has to spend more than 30 percent of its income on it.) Of note, since 2017, the median home sales price in Chelan and Douglas counties has risen by 66 percent, according to Pacific Appraisal’s monthly real estate reports. At the same time span, the median household income has risen by about 17 percent in the region, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

About 88 percent of respondents say there is a need for more diverse housing types in the region. In the survey, this was particularly an issue for those with low- and middle-incomes and those who do not desire a lot of living space, such as millennials and seniors.

To get a sense of how deeply the housing crisis is impacting people, the survey also asked residents if they have considered relocating to another city or area over the past two years due to housing issues. A significant majority (62 percent) say they have considered relocating. An even bigger share — 73 percent — of people aged 18 to 34 say they have considered relocating.

BUILDING GREATER COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

Likely spurred by the lack of community preparedness for the COVID pandemic, building greater resiliency in the region was among the main themes identified during OVOF’s engagement with residents in 2021. Building greater resiliency is defined as the ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from adverse situations, both natural and man-made. In particular, residents are calling for:

- Securing and protecting the region’s natural resources, such as water, for themselves and future generations
- Responding to climate change — and its connection to snowpack, drought, wildfires, people’s health, length of agricultural growing seasons, and power generation. In particular, residents say securing and protecting the region’s water for themselves and future generations is hugely important. Some residents say the region’s elected officials and community leaders have yet to tackle the issue publicly. Said one community leader: “If water uses and land uses go up, what does that mean for our area? What if the snowpack declines in Canada and there is less water coming down the Columbia River?”
- Preparing for the next pandemic or epidemic as COVID-19 will likely will not be the last public health emergency to inflict the region in the foreseeable future
- Developing a more interventionist “upstream” approach to health care, with a greater emphasis on well-being and prevention as a way of reducing the “downstream” health care burden
- Improving early learning, a significant challenge before the pandemic and one that is even more so now. Many children lost out on education, including on reading and math skills, in 2020 and 2021.
- Preparing for what is expected to be the loss of thousands of agricultural jobs to automation in

the coming years

- Bringing the overall community together to build and rebuild bridges and to heal community divisiveness

OVOF PROJECTS ADDRESSING COMMUNITY CHALLENGES

The information gathered from community leader interviews, the online survey, and the focus groups was utilized by OVOF to identify and prioritize the most effective actions to be taken to collaboratively support, stabilize and enhance the region. Six diverse citizen Action Teams — one for each area of focus — devoted more than 540 hours in further researching and crafting projects, programs and game-changer initiatives that make up the latest community OVOF Action Plan for the years 2022-26.

Below are a sampling of the 90 actions in the plan that address many of the community challenges and barriers identified by OVOF during its outreach work and mentioned in this report. To review the entire Action Plan, please visit <http://www.ourvalleyourfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/OVOF-Action-Plan-2022-26-single-pages.pdf>.

Game-changer Initiatives

Technology Ecosystem

Description: Build on the region’s ongoing efforts to establish a comprehensive technology “ecosystem” — an interconnected network of entities and individuals promoting tech-based innovation and enterprise, attracting private investment, enhancing economic diversity, and providing career opportunities and jobs.

Regional Housing Approach

Description: Identify issues and solutions leading to an adequate housing supply that meets the needs of residents throughout the region. Conduct this work with the help of regional housing groups.

Regional Wildfire Prevention, Preparedness and Recovery

Description: Form or identify a regional organization responsible for coordinating all stakeholders and identifying funding for the region’s wildfire prevention and preparedness efforts.

Post-Carbon Economy

Description: Transform Our Valley into a model for an innovative post-carbon economy that creates jobs, attracts businesses, improves the health and wellness of residents, retains the community’s natural environment, and builds regional resiliency by maximizing the value of hydropower, our principal renewable resource, along with other renewable energy resources.

Health Literacy & Outcomes

Description: Transform the region into a healthier and more vibrant community by conducting a multi-year campaign that educates and encourages individuals and organizations to enact system-level solutions that lead to greater well-being, additional economic growth, and a higher quality of life for our residents and communities.

Early Care & Education Programs

Description: Invest in high-quality early learning that builds a foundation for lifelong learning and well-being and that is responsive and inclusive in meeting the needs of the region’s children, families and diverse communities and to ensure continued economic growth and vitality. Draw on the resources and knowledge of broad stakeholder groups — including early learning providers, families, the business community, local leaders, public and private education institutions, social service and health providers, and community-based organizations — to develop innovative and collaborative strategies that ensure access to high-quality early learning programs.

Career Connected Learning

Description: Prepare both youth and adults for new and emerging workforce opportunities, creating upward mobility and career development throughout our lives. Create equal respect for and understanding of all career and credential programs and pathways. Ensure that everyone has access and resources to learn.

Many Voices, One Region

Description: Find common ground and address critical community issues by bringing together people from different backgrounds and perspectives to listen and be heard, to learn, to build and rebuild relationships and trust, to identify shared commonalities, and to bridge divides and heal community divisiveness.

Diverse Leadership

Description: Recruit and prepare people from underrepresented groups — such as people of color, indigenous people, people with disabilities, students, retirees, people from a lower socioeconomic status, and people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered — for leadership positions in the region, all with an end goal of creating a more authentic, inclusive, productive, and harmonious community.

Action Items (Projects and Programs)

Regional Diversion Facility

Description: Develop a regional diversion service model and facility that supports prevention, voluntary, civil and criminal commitment and post commitment support services for community members experiencing mental health and substance use disorder challenges.

Supportive Housing for the Homeless

Description: Develop permanent supportive housing for unhoused community members

Coordinated Social Services

Description: Increase the coordination of social services in the region and collaboration between social service providers to improve efficient delivery of such services as housing, food and health care. Integrate services where feasible, update Resource Directories, hold one-stop events, and utilize mobile services

Expanded Telehealth Access

Description: Expand ‘telehealth’ — the delivery of health care through technology — by making it more accessible in the region, including rural communities. Reduce barriers for people who live far away from

specialists or who have transportation or mobility issues by providing services through mobile units, telemedicine kiosks, or virtual appointments.

Home Care Support

Description: Encourage agencies to collaborate on in-home support and care to ensure patients and care givers are connected to social service and health care resources in a coordinated team approach

Spanish-Language Behavioral Health

Description: Recruit bilingual behavioral health counselors to the region that possess the skills needed to serve those who struggle with English. Develop pathways, such as identifying homegrown candidates and offering internships, to increase the number of bilingual counselors. Start a training program for volunteers who can assist vulnerable people who need immediate help.

Behavioral Health Response Team

Description: Develop behavioral health response teams to support and augment law enforcement in some emergency response calls, including mental health and drug overdose incidents

Community Health Needs

Description: Develop a multifaceted approach and process to collect, analyze and share local health data and better determine community health needs and solutions

Accessible Sports and Activities for Youth

Description: Provide sports and activities and facilities that are readily available and accessible for all children and teen-agers, regardless of their socio-economic status or culture

Outdoor Community Spaces

Description: Invest in more planned outdoor community spaces where people feel welcome to gather and connect, and where community events and cultural programs are accessible and available

New YMCA Facility

Description: Build a new YMCA in the Greater Wenatchee Area, featuring such amenities as pools, gymnasiums, indoor walking track, group exercise rooms, child care, and classroom and meeting spaces

Eastmont Recreation Center

Description: Design and develop a new Eastmont Community Recreation Center in East Wenatchee, serving the needs of a growing and more diverse population

Leavenworth Community Center

Description: Develop a community center in Leavenworth, or in the nearby communities of Peshastin and Dryden, to serve Upper Wenatchee Valley residents

Entiat Community Center

Description: Develop a community center in Entiat to serve area residents

Soccer Complex

Description: Develop a sports complex for use by local and visiting soccer teams for matches and tournaments

Regional Water Park & Indoor/Outdoor Aquatics Facility

Description: Plan and develop a water park, with slides and other activities, along with a large indoor/outdoor aquatics facility, to serve local youth and family activities as well as visitors and tourists

Access to 24-7 Social Services

Description: Expand 24-7 social services and resources in the community, including the 2-1-1 social services hotline

Gang Activity

Description: Enhance efforts to reduce area gangs and to provide alternatives to gang activity for vulnerable populations and potential gang members

Support for Housing Trusts

Description: Increase the inventory of homes available for purchase that sit on land owned by a community land trust. Collaborate with strategic partners to connect community members with housing opportunities. Encourage local governments, the private sector and nonprofit organizations to help fund and support community land trust organizations that are designed to provide homes affordable to low- and middle-income earners.

Affordable Housing

Description: Enhance and expand financial incentives, flexible standards, and other options to encourage builders and property owners to develop more affordable housing that benefits the end user — lower- and middle-income earners

Rental Housing

Description: Increase the rental housing inventory by introducing measures that encourage and support development of more affordable, long-term rental housing

South Wenatchee Improvements

Description: Implement major planned improvements of South Wenatchee neighborhoods and business districts, helping to revitalize the area, boost local businesses, and improve public safety

Latino Business & Cultural District

Description: Encourage the development of a Latino cultural district in the region, featuring Latino-themed businesses and shops that cater both to local residents and the region's visitors

Support for Smaller Farms

Description: Provide technical assistance to small orchards as a way to assist them with crop diversification, value-added products, improved operations 'scalability,' and compliance issues

Latino Small Business Growth

Description: Create pathways for Latino community members to become small business owners, including opening a Mercado, developing a commercial-quality kitchen, offering small business incubator sites, holding bilingual business classes, and offering technical assistance and a mentorship program

Regional Food System

Description: Connect community members with fresh locally grown foods by nurturing farmers markets and locally sourced food in establishments throughout the region, and by helping local small farms establish ordering, delivery and pickup systems for homes and businesses

After-School Programs

Description: Provide additional after-school programs to keep the region's children on a healthy path, including efforts to connect youths to retirees for mentoring and tutoring

More Accessible Tutoring

Description: Provide accessible, bilingual, multiple-subject tutoring for all students who need the help

Equity and Inclusion in Education

Description: Provide support to educational institutions (from pre-kindergarten to higher education) and to educational nonprofits as they develop a more equitable educational base

Parenting Classes

Description: Provide culturally sensitive classes that identify the challenges immigrant parents face in raising children in a different culture and that help them teach their children the skills to be successful while also taking pride in their cultural heritage

Intergenerational Education Opportunities

Description: Develop new opportunities to create stronger social and education connections between the region's youth and its elderly populations

Multicultural Resource Center

Description: Create a space that serves as a resource center and activities venue for the region and its diverse populations

Language Translation

Description: Provide language translation at public meetings and in public information. Develop a pool of translators, including languages other than Spanish

Responding to Racism

Description: Conduct a community awareness campaign, including forums and town halls, that exposes racism and its negative impacts and encourages community dialogue and resiliency

Community Leadership Training

Description: Institute in-depth training for community leaders around issues of cultural diversity and inclusion

Water Conservation

Description: Adopt additional water conservation measures, including the use of 'xeriscape' low water methods and more efficient irrigation practices in agriculture

New Water Sources

Description: Identify and determine a second water source for the Greater Wenatchee Area and additional water sources for communities throughout the region as needed

Interurban Pathways Expansion

Description: Identify locations and develop partnerships for paved trails in the Greater Wenatchee, Rock Island, Malaga, Cashmere, Leavenworth, Entiat, Chelan, and Manson areas with a long-term goal of a sustainable pathways system connecting communities in the region

Infrastructure Investment

Description: Explore financial opportunities to ensure that necessary infrastructure is in place to support a growing population and to maintain our quality of life. Encourage continued investment in infrastructure to support both new development and redevelopment projects

Active Transportation

Description: Prioritize development of a bike- and pedestrian-friendly transportation infrastructure, including building pathways that connect local communities and installing bike lanes and pedestrian sidewalks in urbanized areas