

ReCAST Robeson County, NC
Community Needs and Resources Assessment

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Table of Contents

Key Players	3
Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Process & Phases	5
Primary Data Collection Methodology	7
Participation: Description of demographics and number of individuals represented in the data collected	9
Strengths and Limitations	9
Data and Key Findings	10
Summary of Primary Data Collection	24
Secondary Data Collection Results: Community Context	25
Recommendations and Next Steps	28
Appendix 1: ROAR Coalition Community Needs Assessment 2024	29
Appendix 2 Open-Ended Questions from Quantitative Survey: Qualitative Adolescent Interview Data	36
Appendix 3: Robeson County Community Needs Assessment 2023	67
Appendix 4: ROAR Coalition Environmental Scan	131

ReCAST Robeson Community Needs and Resources Assessment

1. Key Players: Overview of assessment participants and program partners.

A. Program Partners. The North Carolina Youth Violence Prevention Center (NC-YVPC; www.ncyvpc.org) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agency that coordinates violence prevention programming, parent training, services for victims of crime, behavioral health therapy, restorative justice, and other community- and evidenced-based services. The NC-YVPC team began working in Robeson County in 2010 with a \$6.5 million cooperative agreement between the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control and UNC Chapel Hill. At that time, this site was the only one of the CDC's youth violence prevention centers focused on rural youth. The center's mission was to reduce rates of youth violence in Robeson County. Similar to the ReCAST Robeson initiative, the NC-YVPC team facilitated the creation of: 1) a Community Violence Prevention Advisory Council consisting of key community leaders; 2) a Violence Prevention Community Coalition that included all interested community stakeholders and cross-sector agency representatives; and 3) a faith-based initiative for clergy, community resource guides, newsletters describing project activities and milestones, websites, and a community-based office for information dissemination and activities. Many of these resources remain active due to strong sustainability planning.

A primary example was the development of a Teen Court to serve the County that remains highly active twelve years later. In 2014, we created a nonprofit agency (NC-YVPC) in Robeson County for sustainability. This nonprofit has its own Board of Directors, administrative core, and portfolio of federal, state, and foundation funding. Since 2014, NC-YVPC has tripled in size and budget. There are 18 employees with an annual budget of \$2 million, supporting the development, implementation, and evaluation of community-based services.

NC-YVPC implemented and evaluated a multi-level youth violence prevention initiative that combined evidence-based programs together into a comprehensive package. This multi-level initiative consisted of primary prevention in all middle schools within Robeson County (i.e., SAVE clubs and the Positive Action SEL program), secondary prevention for high-risk parents (i.e., Parenting Wisely program for developing skills in child behavior management), and juvenile justice diversion for first offenders (i.e., Teen Court). Each program was evaluated individually and together as a package on county-level crime and violence outcomes. From 2010 to 2016 when CDC-funded interventions were withdrawn, Robeson County had an 8.4% reduction in juvenile arrests, a 47.37% decrease in juvenile arrests for aggravated assault, a 20.47% decrease in long-term suspensions, a 13.67% decrease in school-based offenses, and a 31.21% reduction in non-school based offenses. From 2010-2014, our work was associated with a 30% decrease in delinquent complaints and a 32% reduction in undisciplined and delinquent complaints. NC-YVPC became a 2019 Community-Based Crime Reduction (CBCR) site with a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. In 2022, this Community Violence Intervention (CVI) work was expanded with another Bureau of Justice Assistance extension and enhancement grant and a Children Exposed to Violence grant. These CVI initiatives are the foundation for the ReCAST project. From NC-YVPC, Dr. Martica Bacallao serves as ReCAST Project Director and Dr. Paul Smokowski serves as Project Coordinator. They both led the design and implementation of the Community Needs Assessment (CNA).

NC-YVPC facilitates a Cross-Sector Crime Reduction Partnership of criminal justice, community, school system, and human service agency partners to reduce community violence.

Drs. Smokowski and Bacallao coordinate partnerships that include law enforcement, criminal justice partners, service providers, and community stakeholders. This includes the Robeson County Sheriff Office and Lumberton Police Department, District and juvenile courts, the Public Health Department, Department of Social Services, Rape Crisis Center, the University of North Carolina – Pembroke, Robeson House transitional housing for youth, the Public Schools, Robeson Partnership for Children, County Commissioners, community members, and others. We used this extensive network when we collected data for the CNA.

Partnering organization(s). Robeson County Partnership for Children (RP4C) facilitates the Robeson Overcoming Adversity through Resilience (ROAR) initiative. As Robeson County’s Smart Start operator, Partnership for Children has experience providing culturally competent and trauma-informed services with high-risk youth. For ReCAST, Stacie Kinlaw, RP4C Community Engagement Manager and Rhiannon Chavis-Wanson, RP4C Program Director, assist with the community coalition, the needs/resources assessment, and the Community Action Plan (ReCAST Objectives 1 a-d). Ms. Kinlaw and Ms. Chavis-Wanson assisted with the development and implementation of the Community Needs Assessment.

ROAR Coalition. Robeson Partnership for Children is funded by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust and NC DHHS to facilitate a community coalition called Robeson Overcoming Adversity through Resilience (R.O.A.R.) ROAR was created in 2021 to counter collective trauma and build safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for children and families in Robeson County to prevent child abuse and neglect. The ROAR mission is to educate, empower, and support communities in implementing effective prevention strategies to eliminate child abuse and neglect. ROAR is a committed group of stakeholders that meets regularly to build awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences and promote resilience in the community by focusing on five protective factors known to buffer the effects of ACEs (i.e., 1. Social and emotional competence, 2. Knowledge of parenting and child development, 3. Resilience, 4. Concrete support, and 5. Social connections). ROAR stakeholders already include: Communities in Schools Robeson County, Healthy Start, First Baptist Church, Legal Aid of NC, Burnt Swamp Baptist Association, City of Lumberton Parks & Recreation, Guardian Ad Litem, DSS, Public Schools, Robeson Health Care Corporation, and numerous other agencies. The ReCAST Robeson initiative expands ROAR’s focus on child abuse and neglect prevention in young children to include addressing ACEs and promoting resilience for youth of all ages in Robeson County. For the CNA, we leveraged the strengths of the ROAR Coalition by sending the needs assessment survey out on the ROAR membership listserv. We asked partnering agencies to complete the survey and encourage their community stakeholders to do so as well.

Robeson County Health Department, UNC Health Southeastern, and Healthy Robeson. In 2023, the leading health care agencies in Robeson County collaborated in an effort to address the ranking of Robeson County as the least healthy county in North Carolina for health outcomes (Source: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>). Every three years, Robeson County conducts a comprehensive community examination through a process known as the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). In 2023, the assessment process was a collaborative effort between the Robeson County Health Department and UNC Health Southeastern. The result of an extensive community data collection effort was a report titled “Robeson County Community Health Needs Assessment 2023”. This report is in Appendix A and formed the foundation of our Needs Assessment 2024 update for ReCAST Robeson. We will refer to these complementary needs assessments as the Health Care report and the ROAR Coalition supplement.

2. Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Process & Phases

The North Carolina CHNA process engages communities in eight phases, which are designed to encourage a systematic approach to assess health problems and strategize solutions. This latest CHNA included collecting information from citizen opinion surveys and the analysis of statistical data to identify community health needs and resources. The eight phases shown in Figure 1 are as follows:

Phase 1: Establish a CHNA Team

The first step is to establish a CHNA team to lead the community assessment process. This group consists of individuals who act as advocates for a broad range of community members and represents the concerns of various populations within the community.

Phase 2: Collect Primary Data

In this phase, the CHNA team collects local data to discover residents' viewpoints and concerns about life in the community, health concerns, and other issues important to the people. Community interests and concerns extend beyond the statistical information readily available to organizations involved in conducting the assessment. The primary method of collecting primary data is conducting the CHNA survey. The Team works with other organizations and the public to make the survey accessible to as many residents as possible.

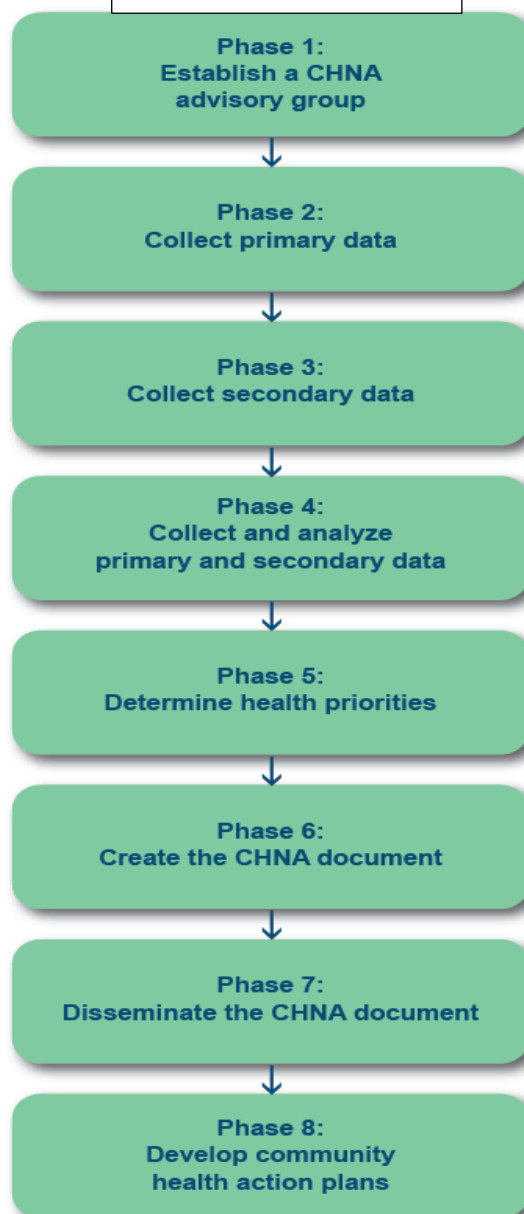
Phase 3: Collect Secondary Data

In this phase, the CHNA team compares the local health statistics with those of the state and nation and previous years to identify possible health problems in the community. Local data is often included in the analysis. Compiling this information provides a clearer picture of what is happening in the community.

Phase 4: Analyze and Interpret County Data

In this phase, the CHNA team reviews the data from Phases 2 and 3 in detail. By the end of this phase, the team has obtained a general understanding of the community's major health issues.

Figure 1: CHNA Phases



Phase 5: Determine Health Priorities

The CHNA Team reports the results of the assessment to other stakeholders who assist in determining health priorities.

Phase 6: Create the Community Health Assessment Document

In this phase, the CHNA team develops a report to document the process, as well as the findings, of the entire assessment effort. The purpose of this report is to share assessment results and plans with the entire community and other interested stakeholders.

Phase 7: Disseminate the Community Health Assessment Document

In this phase, the CHNA team informs the community of the assessment findings. Results are shared through a variety of approaches including the use of local media, website postings and public presentations.

Phase 8: Develop Community Health Action Plans

In this phase, the CHNA team develops a plan of action for addressing the health issues deemed as priorities in Phase 5. Community Health Action Plans feature strategies for developing intervention and prevention activities.

The result from all these Phases is the Robeson County Community Health Needs Assessment 2023 found in Appendix 3. In addition, specifically for the ReCAST Robeson project, the NC Youth Violence Prevention Center, Robeson County Partnership for Children, and the ROAR Coalition replicated Phases 1 to 6 with a stronger focus on youth and families.

The ROAR Coalition Supplement – ReCAST Community Needs Assessment for youth and families, focused on child and adolescent well-being.

ReCAST CNA Phase 1: Establish a CNA Team

Core leaders from the NC Youth Violence Prevention Center (Smokowski and Bacallao) and from Partnership for Children (Kinlaw and Chavis-Wanson) led the ReCAST CNA team with input from the ROAR Coalition and staff from these agencies.

ReCAST CNA Phase 2: Collect Primary Data

Paralleling the process above from health leaders, the primary method of collecting primary data was conducting the CNA survey throughout the county. The ReCAST CNA team created a new survey with both quantitative and qualitative components. The new survey complemented the previous one by focusing on adolescent health and programming. The ReCAST Robeson CNA team worked with the ROAR Coalition, other organizations, and the public to make the survey accessible to as many residents as possible.

ReCAST CNA Phase 3: Collect Secondary Data

In this phase, the ReCAST CNA team compared the local health statistics with those of the state and nation. Local data that is publicly available does not vary much from 2023 to 2024. Consequently, we examined the public health, demographic, poverty, and social data included in

the previous report (see Appendix 3). We also focused more intensively on violence and crime data because violence was interconnected with the community trauma at the heart of our ReCAST Robeson initiative.

ReCAST CNA Phase 4: Analyze and Interpret County Data

In this phase, the CNA Team reviewed the data from Phases 2 and 3 in detail. We also compared themes that surfaced in our surveys with what was found in the 2023 report.

ReCAST CNA Phase 5: Determine Health Priorities

After reviewing data, the CNA team discussed results and determined major health priorities that surfaced from the data.

ReCAST CNA Phase 6: Create the Community Needs Assessment Document

The ReCAST CNA team developed this report for SAMHSA to document the process, and results of the CNA assessment effort. The purpose of this report is to share assessment results, along with the 2023 report, and plans with the ROAR Coalition, the Robeson County community, and other interested stakeholders such as SAMHSA.

ReCAST CNA Phase 7: Disseminate the Community Needs Assessment Document

In this phase, the CNA Team informs the ROAR Coalition and the community of the assessment findings. Results will be shared through a variety of approaches including during ROAR Coalition meetings, local media, website postings and a public presentation.

ReCAST CHNA Phase 8: Develop Community Action Plans

In this phase, we will develop a plan of action for addressing the health issues deemed as priorities in Phase 5. The ReCAST Action Plan strategies for developing intervention and prevention activities will be submitted to SAMHSA by June 30, 2024.

3. Primary Data Collection Methodology

The ReCAST CNA team designed a variety of ways to collect primary data. After reviewing examples such as the CDC's Community Health and Needs Assessment Guidance, we created a quantitative Community Needs Assessment and a qualitative Adolescent Interview & Focus Group protocol. The quantitative Community Needs Assessment used questions from the 2023 CHNA survey (see Appendix 3, page 78), from the CDC, and from other examples of needs assessments that were available online. The final survey form is provided in Appendix 1, page 29. It is designed for a wide range of community stakeholders, including youth, adults, and service providers. Respondents are asked to rate the importance of a variety of programs for youth. The CNA team entered the quantitative survey into Qualtrics and created a QR code for respondents to scan with their phones. Data collectors also handed out the surveys printed on paper for participants without internet access.

A qualitative Adolescent Interview & Focus Group protocol was also developed, particularly for younger teenagers who might struggle with the quantitative survey. The Interview Protocol asked 11 open-ended qualitative questions that focused on challenges, barriers, strengths, goals for the future, perceptions of the community, and programs that would be helpful. We directly

asked youth “If you were given \$1,000,000 to help youth in Robeson County, how would you use the money?”

The CNA team thought that we would hand out these qualitative interviews to adolescents and have them write answers. However, when interviewers visited school classrooms and handed out the interviews, they found that many students struggled with writing. Subsequently, when necessary to accommodate youth with lower literacy levels, data collectors read the questions and wrote down how the youth responded. In some cases, the interviews were completed as a focus group with 6 to 8 adolescents discussing each question. Data collectors wrote their answers.

In addition to these surveys and interviews, we also attended community events and listened to residents, adults and youth, voice their concerns. For example, the town of Fairmont, NC held a Youth Summit in February 2024. A panel of speakers consisting of clergy, community organizers, teachers, and the Mayor of Fairmont briefly spoke and then held a listening session for stakeholders to express their views. Youth generated ideas for services and supports that they believed would improve their community. Community listening sessions were also held in Pembroke, NC and in Red Springs, NC. Dr. Smokowski from NC-YVPC attended each of these events and spoke about the ROAR Coalition. Finally, the ROAR Coalition completed an Environmental Scan to document agencies in the target community (see Appendix 5).

Table 1: Methodology Summary	Robeson County Public Health CHNA 2023	ReCAST Robeson CNA 2024
Mission	Identify community needs and gaps in health services	Identify community needs and gaps in services for youth and families
Time Completed	January to September 2023	January to March 2024
Primary Data Collection	Health survey distributed in a hard copy format via partnering agencies. Also available electronically. QR codes shared via websites and social media.	Quantitative survey distributed hard copy, QR code for Qualtrics online, shared on social media. Youth interviews and focus groups completed in schools and at events.
Survey description	Quantitative survey included 25 questions: 14 questions relevant to health and human services, 1 concerning emergency preparedness, 2 pertained to Adverse Childhood Experiences, and 8 were demographics.	Quantitative Survey was 34 questions: 6 demographics, 20 on youth services, 8 on needs and gaps. Qualitative Interview was 11 open ended questions on challenges, barriers, safety, goals, and ideas for new services.
Sample Size for Participants	662 participants, 76% females, 97% adults, 22 youth under 21 (3%) Native American – 35.2%, Caucasian – 34.4%, African American – 24.3%. 15% do not have health insurance.	Quantitative Survey: 121 respondents, 74% female, 33% youth under 18. By Race 24% Caucasian, 27% African American, 38% Native American, 5% LatinX. Qualitative interview: 208 youth growing up in Robeson County

4. Participation: Description of demographics and number of individuals represented in the data collected.

Table 2	Robeson County CHNA 2023	ReCAST Robeson CNA 2024
Sample Size for Participants	662 participants, 76% females, 97% adults 22 youth under 21 (3%) Native American 35%, Caucasian 34%, African American 24%. 15% do not have health insurance.	Quantitative Survey: 121 respondents, 74% female, 33% youth under 18, 61% adults over 30. By Race 24% Caucasian, 27% African American, 38% Native American, 5% LatinX. Qualitative interview: 208 youth growing up in Robeson County
Survey and Interview Implementation	Online survey.	Online survey; hard copy survey on paper; qualitative interviews one on one; 15 focus groups; community events across county

5. Strengths and Limitations

The strengths of our Community Needs Assessment process included having two rounds of quantitative surveys in 2023 and 2024 that together included many participants (N= 783). These quantitative surveys assessed the opinions of an exceptionally culturally diverse sample of adult community members. To capture the voices of youth more fully, qualitative interviews with more than 200 youth and community listening sessions were another strength in our CNA. Overall, more than one thousand community members participated in the data collection in diverse ways. We were challenged by low literacy levels in implementation and made accommodations, having interviewers read the questions and write adolescents’ answers. Although adults were well represented in both the 2023 and 2024 surveys, it is always challenging to reach low-income parents who are often juggling multiple jobs and childcare responsibilities. Despite these challenges, we believe that multiple surveys over two years and supplementary interviews provide an excellent picture of community needs in Robeson County.



3rd grade class after conflict resolution workshop called SEE-IT – Student Expression and Empowerment using Interactive Theater

6. Data and Key Findings

Primary Data Collection Results

Robeson County CHNA 2023 Results – Health Care Report (Appendix 3, page 67)

The Robeson County CHNA consisted of several public health questions about exercise, diet, preventative health screenings, and perceptions of diseases. There were, however, several questions that spoke to themes for ReCAST. The tables below show the percentage of survey participants who reported on what they think are the most important needs for their community. When asked the question “Which of the following most affects the quality of life in your county?”, half of respondents said **low income/poverty** and another 19% said **crime** (murder, assault, theft, rape/sexual assault). All the other options had response rates below 5%.

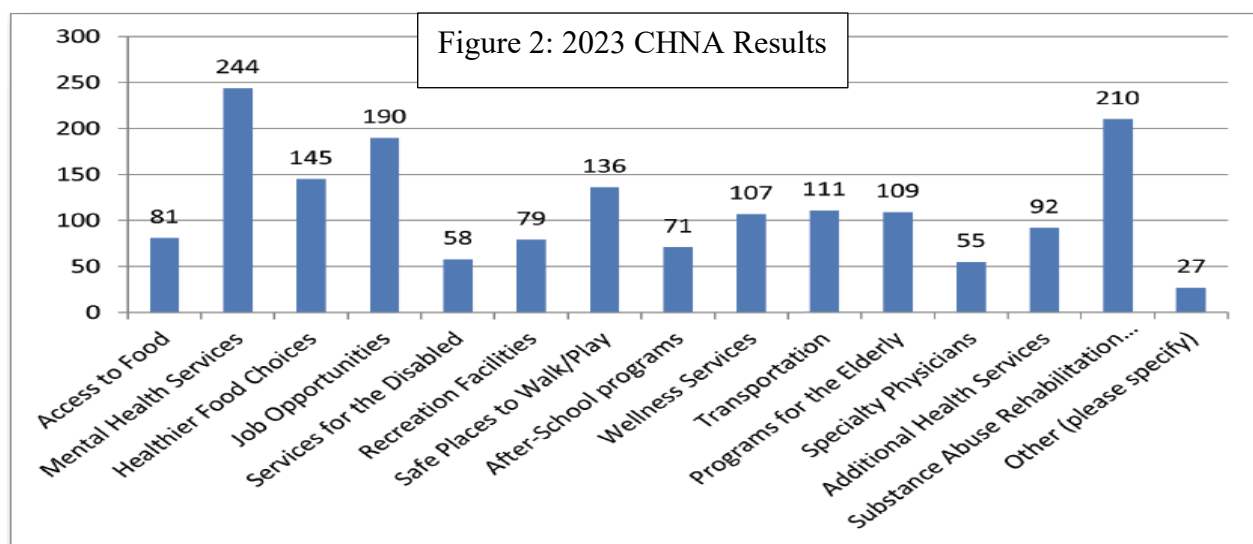
Chart 8: Question 8 - Which of the following most affects the quality of life in your county?

Response Percentage

Table 3: 2023 CHNA Results

Pollution (air, water, land)	0.7%
Dropping out of school	2.8%
Low income/poverty	49.7%
Homelessness	2.8%
Lack of/inadequate health insurance	5.9%
Lack of hope	4.7%
Discrimination/racism	2.1%
Lack of community support	4.7%
Neglect and abuse	1.4%
Domestic violence	1.6%
Crime (murder, assault, theft, rape/sexual assault)	18.6%
None	2.4%
Other	2.9%
Total responses: 580	

When asked “What does your community need to improve the health of your family, friends, and neighbors?” the highest response rate was “**mental health services**” across all racial groups (40% White, 41% African American, and 42% Native American). **Substance abuse rehabilitation** services was highly chosen across racial groups as a critical need (31% White, 30% African American, and 45% Native American) and so was **job opportunities** (28% White, 36% African American, and 27% Native American). These were the top three critical needs identified by the 608 survey respondents. Mental Health Services increased over 10% since a 2020 CHNA survey was conducted, showing this area to be a growing concern. While “job opportunities” was among the highest responses in 2023, it dropped to third place after being top choice since 2011 in CHNA surveys. This shows potential economic improvement in Robeson County. Figure 2 below shows the frequency distribution in responses to the question on community needs.



Shown in Table 4 below. There were some disparities among the racial groups. “Transportation” was seen as a critical factor for both African Americans and Native Americans. White respondents showed a statistically higher percentage for “Safe places to walk/play” and the African American response shows a higher desire for “Recreational Facilities.” Overall, the respondents in this community survey, who were predominantly female adults, seem to be requesting more mental health assistance, substance misuse treatment options, and job opportunities.

Chart 9: Question 9 - What does your community need to improve the health of your family, friends, and neighbors?
Racial Disparity

Table 4: 2023 CHNA Results: Disparities

	White/ Caucasian	Black/ African American	Native American
Access to food	11.3%	15.1%	13.7%
Mental health services	39.9%	41.1%	42.6%
Healthier food choices	24.6%	23.3%	23.9%
Job opportunities	28.1%	36.3%	27.4%
Services for the disabled	9.4%	8.9%	9.6%
Recreation facilities	12.8%	19.9%	8.1%
Safe places to walk/play	31.5%	13.7%	20.3%
After-school programs	9.9%	10.3%	13.7%
Wellness services	15.8%	21.9%	16.8%
Transportation	9.9%	21.9%	21.3%
Programs for the elderly	20.7%	18.5%	16.8%
Specialty physicians	12.8%	6.2%	7.1%
Additional health services	14.8%	16.4%	14.2%
Substance abuse rehabilitation services	30.5%	30.1%	44.7%

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) were asked about in the survey with two questions. When asked “During your first 18 years of life, did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or who used street drugs?” Twenty-six percent of Robeson County survey respondents answered yes with no significant disparities among racial groups. Similarly, when asked “During your first 18 years of life, was a household member depressed or mentally ill, or did a household member attempt suicide?” 21% answered yes with no disparities among racial groups.

ReCAST CNA Supplement Focused on Youth and Families

121 community stakeholders (74% female) who live or work in Robeson County answered our ReCAST CNA quantitative survey. Thirty-three percent of respondents were youth under 18. Respondents were racially diverse, reflecting the minority/majority status of the County.

<u>Age</u>		<u>Race</u>	
<14	<u>1%</u>	White	<u>24%</u>
14-18	<u>32%</u>	Black	<u>27%</u>
19-30	<u>6%</u>	Native American	<u>38%</u>
30>	<u>61%</u>	LatinX	<u>5%</u>
		Other/Unknown	<u>6%</u>

Survey respondents played a variety of roles in Robeson County. The largest percentage (30%) were youth under 18 with strong representation of service providers (17%) and community organization partners (17%).

	%	Count
Agency Service Provider	17%	20
Educational Institution Faculty/Staff (community college, schools)	10%	12
Faith Based Organization (Church/Faith Based groups, etc)	3%	4
Community Member (for profit, small business, private citizen, etc.)	4%	5
Community Organization/Partner (local service provider and non-profits)	17%	21
Community Member	7%	8
Parent with Children under 18	12%	15
Youth under 18	30%	36

Respondents had children in their households. Sixty-nine percent of respondents had children under 14 in their households. The adult survey respondents were answering the survey questions as residents, service providers, and/or parents with youth growing up in Robeson County.

	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Under age 5	1.17	1.00	2.00	23
Ages 5 – 9	1.13	1.00	3.00	30
Ages 10 – 14	1.30	1.00	3.00	30
Ages 15 – 19	1.27	1.00	3.00	71
Ages 20 – 34	1.41	1.00	4.00	39
Ages 35 – 64	1.40	1.00	2.00	96
Ages 65+	1.13	1.00	2.00	15

Survey questions asked about the needs Robeson County families were experiencing. According to survey respondents, the most pressing needs they endorsed were: **1) Planning for the future/goal setting; 2) Quality after school or summer programs for youth; 3) Indoor and outdoor recreation; 4) Depression; and 5) Job training.** Many respondents (43%) said “None of these”. We believe that the frequency of this response was because the question asked about their family’s specific needs rather than needs of Robeson County youth more generally.

Table 8: Q9 - Are you or your family members in need of help with any of the following things? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY	Percentage	Count
Alcohol and drug use	8%	9
Anger control	10%	11
Family Conflicts	10%	11
Depression	17%	19
Job training	15%	17
Trauma	8%	9
Bullying/Victimization	3%	4
Gang Violence	3%	4
Quality after school or summer programs for youth	22%	25
Access to mental health services	14%	16
Access to safe outdoor spaces	15%	17
Access to outdoor programs	17%	19
Access to indoor recreation programs	19%	22
Making decisions/problem solving	12%	14
Planning for future/goal setting	30%	34
NONE OF THESE	43%	49
Other please provide description	2%	2

We provided a list of youth programs and asked respondents “Please mark how important you think each of these needs are for youth and their families in Robeson County”. The table below shows the percentage of respondents who answered that the type of program was “Important or Very Important”. Respondents thought many of the program types were very important, but the top 5 were: **1) mental health services for youth, 2) sexual/emotional/physical abuse services, 3) bullying and gang prevention, 4) substance abuse resources, and 5) assistance for domestic violence victims.**

Table 9: Perceive Importance of Program Types	Very Important	Important
Job Training	74%	22%
Substance Abuse Resources	76%	18%
Mental Health Services for Youth	82%	14%
Assistance for Domestic Violence Victims	76%	19%
Sexual/Emotional/Physical Abuse Services	79%	19%
Increase knowledge of ACEs	73%	23%
Early childhood programs	66%	28%

Youth Athletics programs	65%	32%
Internships to start career	65%	28%
Career Coaching	56%	37%
Positive Youth Development programs	64%	29%
After school programs	64%	29%
Tutoring	74%	24%
Life Skills programs	71%	25%
Bullying and Gang Prevention programs	76%	15%
Conflict resolution, mediation, restorative justice programs	67%	28%

Next, the quantitative survey included several open-ended questions with space to write unique responses. Full data from open-ended qualitative questions is provided in Appendix 2, page 36. Answers both highlighted a broad range of perspectives and allowed us to identify common themes. The most common themes in community needs for high risk youth that we identified from survey responses were: **mental health and substance use services; positive youth development and prevention programs, jobs training or internships; and gang prevention.**

Community Need	Response	Response
Access to mental health services, substance abuse resources, housing	Positive youth activities and resources	More programs, sports based and educational based.
Affordable access to programming facilitated by respectful caregivers	Job training, work force development, conflict resolution, gang and crime prevention	We need more providers who can help provide quality treatment and preventative services
Support Systems, family support	Peer relations	Substance abuse/Mental Health
Mental health, substance abuse, programs for extracurricular activities.	Help with and/or education on Adverse Childhood Experiences.	Mentorship, family counseling, addressing ACE's and building resilience.
Adequate supervision, counseling, drug prevention	Anything and Everything that helps our youth thrive.	Anything that will help our youth make better decisions.
Knowledge; outside resources; voice when they do not know what to say	Mental health, keeping kids off the streets, drug abuse prevention.	Mental health and substance use disorders, positive coping mechanisms, and healthy lifestyle education (i.e., healthy eating/exercise).
Gang violence is out of control.	Some program for the child that won't go to college.	Career development
Mental Health Services, more church (Jesus)	Mental Health Programs	Food/shelter for families with children
Drug Prevention and Life Skills	Jesus	Drug use. They need more activities and resources.
Guidance and a positive role model.	Abusive Families, drug addiction, low in money	Drug Resources, Education.

Access to mental health services	Making sure people know about help.	Mental Health Programs
Educating them on things they need to know.	Abusive families, drug addiction, low in money, struggling with putting food on the table.	activities to show them right, how to lead, be a normal civilian without gang or depending on violence
Programs that helps the youth go down the right path in life.	They need something to do to keep them off the streets.	Career programs and youth programs.
school supplies, more emotional support	Money	Job training career coaching and substance abuse prevention
I think training makes sure they get better help	water and somewhere to stay	Free counseling and healthcare
help these kids stop smoking and doing drugs	Gang prevention	More people to help families that are going through tough times
Mental Health and physical health programs to help youth with their feelings	Any services that has to with their problems	DSS, therapy, safer transportation
Alcohol, drug use, Anger control, trauma, depression service programs	Availability of resources (food, water, shelter)	Drug addiction centers and mental health programs for all ages
More positive outlets for the children	I think that many people do not know the resources that are available to help.	Education, Domestic & Sexual Violence, prevention services, career coaching, life training
Having a safe place to go when out of school for extra curricula or just for fun, where to go for "help" of any kind personal or non-personal.	Programs for at risk youth. Positive groups, coaches to train the teens.	There is a great need for more accessible transportation services throughout the county!
-Community Outlets for Children 1-19 (Resources and things for children to do...after school programs).	Stability at home	-Mental Health Services (Children whose parents have mental health and substance abuse issues).
Programs to Balance Literacy and Encourage Reading and Learning Aside from School and Home.	Affordable housing, food security, healthcare	Positive Role Models to interactive with
Resources to address chronic poverty and lack of enrichment opportunities.	Substance abuse education/resources, domestic violence, and homelessness	Substance Abuse and Mental Health treatment, Youth engagement programs, trauma informed car programs (more)
Prevention Seminar, Breaking trends/Barriers	Safe places for kids to have fun.	Resources for furthering education and careers.
Exposure to what the world has to offer outside of our community.	Counseling services (behavioral and family)	- TRANSPORTATION - ACEs education

Healthcare and education. Access to mental health services, affordable housing	- Positive youth development programs, Positive activities and programs for youth and families.	- Access to quality mental health, substance use resources, domestic violence/interpersonal violence resources, and food insecurity resources
Access to substance use treatment	Conflict resolution, Bullying & Gang prevention	Substance abuse and misuse, trauma, mental health well-being and lack of dependable transportation to access resources
Addressing violence. The children in Robeson County need more positive and structured programs. They need someone that will give them direction.	Life skills and gang/bullying prevention	Gang prevention, crime prevention, more activities and programs for them to participate in, mentoring programs.
Bullying prevention and mental health resources.	Education needs, social, mental, well-being of families. Youth Programs	Mental Health services, access to arts and recreation for youth, parenting education
Counseling, Mentoring, Youth Opportunity Programs within the Community, Infrastructure-indoor swimming and county community rec centers.	Substance abuse and misuse, trauma, mental health well-being and lack of dependable transportation to access resources.	Awareness of and access to quality mental health services. Also, accessible, positive programming for youth to combat ACEs.

Some survey respondents wrote longer responses:

I work as the McKinney-Vento Liaison for the Public Schools of Robeson County. We have about 275 kids identified as homeless so far this school year. We ended the last school year with about 340 students. We continue to need affordable housing for families. We also need a family shelter. Our homeless families experience basic needs insecurities. They lack access to food, shelter, clothing, utilities, childcare, and security (both financial and physical).

"That they feel heard.. seen... Not judged. UNHEALED TRAUMA LED ME TO ESCAPISM. DRUGS.. ALCOHOL.. MENTAL ISSUES GALORE... FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE... FOOD.. LIGHTS BILLS . RENT US SO HIGH YET HOMES NOT SAFE HERE . SCHOOLS SHUD UNDERSTAND MAKING KIDS FEEL DUMB IN TUTORING MAKES THEM WANT TO QUIT . HELLO TUTORS.. YES IT HAPPENS... AS WE ALL SEE .. WAT IS IN THE DARK COMES TO THE LIGHT...

Programs like Build Youth Inc, that provide apprenticeship programs for civic-social economic disadvantaged youth that teach and provide hands on and on the job training in the construction industry with emphasis on Brick masonry, Carpentry, Electrical HVAC, and plumbing.

Summer camp involvement to continue building social relationships and keeping a connection with trusted adults while school is out. Limits possibility of getting into trouble.

Gang and Bullying prevention, as Robeson County being the highest in youth gang affiliation. The youth are our next generation, and they need assistance to prevent them from going in the future being active as a gang member, and another crisis that needs to be improved is substance, as the youth are following the adults around as in smoking and drinking. They watch adults do what they are pleasing them and see that it's "cool" so they follow into their footsteps. With a program that can help prevent the substance abuse would be a great and positive impact.

Job training, opportunities to volunteer in different vocations to gain knowledge and experience, conflict resolution, regulating emotions & utilizing healthy emotional outlets, forming healthy habits instead of unhealthy addictions, professionalism.

We have programs available, but the needs seem to outweigh the available resources. For example, there are only so many slots available for a program or only a certain amount of funding. That seems to be why people fall through the cracks.

The next open-ended question asked respondents what agencies they knew that were working with high-risk youth and families. Respondents were able to list a number of service providers. The most cited agencies were NC Youth Violence Prevention Center, Robeson County Partnership for Children, Robeson County Health Department, UNC-Southeastern, Colors of Life Gang Prevention, DSS, and churches. It is important to note that numerous respondents did not know any community agencies working with high-risk youth and families. There is an important need for better communication and building awareness of available community resources.

When given a list and asked to check places or programs where Robeson County families access services, the most common responses were: 1) the Public Schools of Robeson County (72%); 2) church facilities (53%); 3) public libraries (46%); 4) town recreation centers (33%); and 5) after school athletics (30%). The overwhelming reliance on the public schools is evident, as is the strong investment in churches, in the responses. Yet, when asked if these organizations met their household needs, only 51% of respondents said Yes. Nearly half (49%) of respondents said that their needs were not being met. High-risk families need more awareness and engagement with community-based programs. Table 11 shows the types of media respondents use to learn about community programs and activities. To learn about programs and activities, Robeson County residents use social media like Facebook most frequently (78%), followed by communications with neighbors (63%), and email (45%). This makes spreading information about a program or event challenging because only those residents following the agency on Facebook or signed up for a listserv for email would hear about the new event. The information would not be easily accessible to many high-risk families. It would be

Table 11: Q17 - Please CHECK ALL the ways your household learns about community programs and activities. [Check all that apply] - Selected Choice	%
Conversations with neighbors	63%
Email notifications	45%
Newspaper (Robesonian) articles	31%
Public Meetings	21%
Community Agency Website	20%
Social Media, like Facebook	78%
Online Town Hall Meetings	5%
Zoom meetings or other online meeting platforms	8%
Other:	6%

worthwhile for community agencies to discuss how to expand program communications broadly and effectively.

Table 12: Q15 - Please CHECK ALL of the places you or the members of your household use to access services or participate in programs. Selected Choice	Percentage	Count
Public Schools of Robeson County	72%	81
Boys and Girls Club	12%	14
Lumberton, Fairmont, Rowland, Red Springs, Pembroke Recreation centers	33%	37
Public libraries	46%	52
After school athletics programs	30%	34
Church facilities	53%	60
Local agencies	18%	20
Early Childhood Programs	14%	16
NC Pre-K	15%	17
Neighborhood parks	29%	33
Summer camps	20%	23
After school programs	6%	7
Other:	4%	5
None of these	9%	10
Q16 - Do these organizations meet ALL of your household's needs?	Percentage	Count
Yes	51%	62
No	49%	59



Resiliency Summit
Held October 2023

Qualitative Interviews and Focus Groups with Robeson County Youth

ReCAST team members conducted 208 interviews with youth across Robeson County. These youth interviews were completely anonymous and occurred one-on-one or in small groups. The interviews were completed in homeroom period at school, in after school programs, in the youth's home, or in other community settings. Interviewers first handed out the interview questions on paper with space for youth to write their answers. This format worked poorly for Robeson County youth who often struggle with reading and writing. The team made necessary accommodations by reading the interview questions and writing the youth's responses for them. This worked much better. The interview protocol consisted of 11 open-ended questions.

1. What are the biggest challenges you face in your daily life?
2. What do you need to feel safe and supported?
3. What are your goals for the future, and what kind of help do you need to achieve them?
4. What are some of the biggest barriers you face in support?
5. What types of programs or services would be most helpful to you and your family?
6. If you needed counseling related to stress or other concerns, where would you go for help?
7. Would you recommend the available mental health services to a friend or family member?
8. If you have used the mental health services in Robeson County before, on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the most satisfied, how satisfied were you with the services?
9. What are some of the community's strengths?
10. What actions would you recommend improving current services and supports? (How can we make things better?)
11. If you were given \$1,000,000 to help youth in Robeson County, how would you use the money?

We conducted thematic analyses on the interview data, identifying salient themes for each question. Full data on each question is available for review in Appendix 2, page 36.

1. What are the biggest challenges you face in your daily life?

Major Themes:

School (e.g., bullying, bullies and racism, ignoring drama, getting good grades, getting to school on time, trying to learn in a loud class, School, because many people talk bad about me. People disrespecting teachers. People talking about you behind your back. Fake friends.)

Family Problems and Separation/Loss (e.g., my mom, being away from my brother, waking up without my dad, losing my family member, death of my dad, when my aunt died, Being away from my brothers and boyfriend since they are all away at college. Worrying about family, My unstable relationship with mom. Unsupportive mom, Bad relationship with stepfather. Not being accepted by my parents because of my sexuality.)

Trying not to fight (e.g., People trying to make me fight them., People trying to make me fight, ignoring drama, being a good child, to not fight or get in drama)

Basic needs and responsibilities (e.g., waking up, staying awake at school, food, my grades, finding a job, taking care of my Nanna and momma, finishing the semester, hunger, need money, no wifi, financial hardships)

Anxiety and stress (e.g., Not being able to trust people at school and in town. Anxiety, Depression, waking up, ADHD, hard to concentrate, Being focused, I'm always zoned out. Not feeling as connected to my culture as I should be. Nervousness in public areas. Gun violence. Weapons, Bad self-esteem.)

2. What do you need to feel safe and supported?

Major themes:

Family (e.g., my Dad, my mama, my Mom and Dad, my big brother, my family)

Police (e.g., police to protect us, more police, more police at school, good police, more protection from police)

Guns (e.g., having guns, a weapon at home, gun laws, less access to guns)

Phones (e.g., To have a phone just in case of a code red or some other code, my phone connects me to family and friends)

Extra-curricular activities (e.g., gym, band, sports) and **Creative Expression** (e.g., art, journaling, music, a notebook and pens to write my feelings and draw)

Basic needs (e.g., home, food, water, shelter, money)

School safety (e.g., more surveillance, more police, end bullying, search students, more police, teachers to pay more focused on kids bullying, people to stop bullying me, If bullying would stop at Littlefield middle, that'd make me feel safe. They should search people in school more often. Half of the kids are doing drugs and bringing weapons. They should check people. More control on drugs and gang violence)

Support system (e.g., friends, caring adults, good home life, support and encouragement, someone to talk to, More acceptance and letting me be me without saying stuff or hurting me. I'm scared living in St. Pauls. Living close to my grandparents. A friend group in my town that are also part of the LGBTQ+ community (all my friends are online). Friends checking in on me. People who care.)

3. What are your goals for the future, and what kind of help do you need to achieve them?

Major Themes:

Future jobs – broke into high status professions (e.g., heart doctor, veterinarian, lawyer, own a business, become a billionaire), **professional sports** (NBA, NFL, boxing), and **more attainable** (e.g., helping people, beautician, nail tech, work at dog shelter, handyman).

Shorter term goals (e.g., being in school, good grades, going to 9th grade, finishing school, work hard, be a better me)

Many youth were able to say what they needed to achieve their future goals (e.g., good education, go to college, good coach for sports, good grades, read and do math better). **And**

some youth identified specific current needs (tutoring, a list of classes, internships, work experience, loans, support from family and friends)

4. What are some of the biggest barriers you face in support?

Major Themes:

Interpersonal (e.g., trying not to get in trouble, problems with bad people, teachers, keeping distance from people, people not believing me, controlling anger, asking for help, unsupportive family, getting bullied, lack of people to help me, not knowing who to trust, Most of the time being told that the things that i say is wrong or like i don't really get heard. Not being able to trust people at school and in town. Not knowing who will really help.)

Low expectations (e.g., my aunt because she thinks im going to go nowhere, negativity, thinking I'm going to fail, limited opportunities, people doubting me, not getting attention, feeling like a "thug", feeling emotionally down, not wanting to ask for help)

Lack of resources (e.g., don't know resources in town, lack of funding, being in rural area, lack of information and resources, treated different because of race, lack of programs and services, lack of communication, not enough resources, no car, not knowing what is available)

5. What types of programs or services would be most helpful to you and your family?

Major Themes:

Therapy, Counseling, Mental Health (e.g., anger management, grief counseling, someone to talk to about my family problems, talking about our problems, talk session, Could help my mom understand me more. LGBTQ+ support group)

Positive Youth Development (e.g., better activities for teenagers, teen connection time, classes in finances, social skills, how to get a good job, community events to bond with family, Indigenous culture classes, more fun places to go.)

School-related assistance (e.g., tutoring and help finding job, A program that would remove bullies from school and make school safe, no one fighting you for no reason. FAFSA numerous times)

Basic needs (e.g., food, clothes mentioned numerous times)

Sports (e.g., football, softball, soccer, volleyball)

6. If you needed counseling related to stress or other concerns, where would you go for help?

Major Themes:

Go to Parent, Family (e.g., my mom, my dad, my sister, my brother, my auntie)

Go to Professional (e.g., my doctor, my therapist (several named VEEP therapist Martica, Ashley), a specific coach or teacher)

Go to friend (e.g., my best friend, talk to a few of my friends I've known since 2nd grade.)

Other coping strategies (e.g., go to church (God, Jesus), meditate, go to bed, listen to music, go to myself, notebook)

Go to Nobody (e.g., many youth did not know where to go or had no one to go to)

7. **Would you recommend the available mental health services to a friend or family member?**

208 responses - Yes – 85%; No – 9%; Maybe – 6%

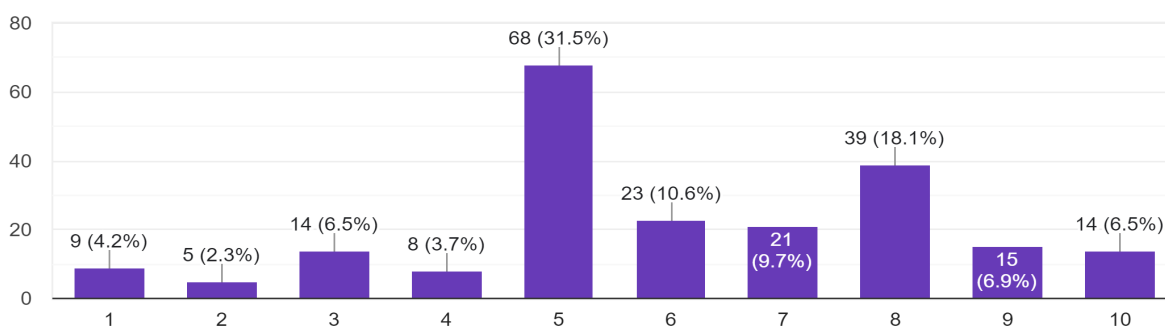
8. **If you have used the mental health services in Robeson County before, on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the most satisfied, how satisfied were you with the services?**

The ratings of mental health services in Robeson County ranged from 1 to 10 with an average of 6.2.

Figure 3: Mental Health Services Ratings

8. If you have used the mental health services in Robeson County before, on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the most satisfied, how satisfied were you with the services?

216 responses



9. What are some of the community's strengths?

Major Themes:

No answer, nothing, or did not know

Food (e.g., fast food, food at events)

Culture and Diversity (e.g., Lumbee Homecoming, Pow Wows, culture classes and events)

Community support (e.g., helping each other, people coming together, small town feel, everyone knows each other, people have your back, some did not agree)



Therapeutic Summer Camp for youth with ACEs run by NC-YVPC and Colors of Life.

10. What actions would you recommend improving current services and supports?

(How can we make things better?)

Major Themes:

Don't Know

Increase Opportunities (e.g., more parks, more activities, more hands-on opportunities, more places for teenagers to go with great supervision, more fun places to go, More programs for youth After school programs)

Interpersonal (e.g., be kind, put better people in services, nicer people, more help, more therapists, police)

Communication (e.g., make everyone aware of programs, faster response time, more outreach)

Service Provision (e.g., Talking about mental health more. More outreach in the schools. Crime reduction, less violence. Financial literacy. do something to stop the bullying, the fights and threats at school. provide services to be accepting of queer people, free outdoor activities for kids. We get bored a lot.)

11. If you were given \$1,000,000 to help youth in Robeson County, how would you use the money?

Major Themes:

Empathic Response (e.g., give it to needy, help the homeless, donate it, basic needs for food, clothes, and shelter, help foster care, help drug addicts)

Keep the Money (help my family, give it to my mom, buy my mom anything, Make sure my family is okay. I will give some to my dad and mom and I will get a truck. I would keep it for my family, they need it more.)

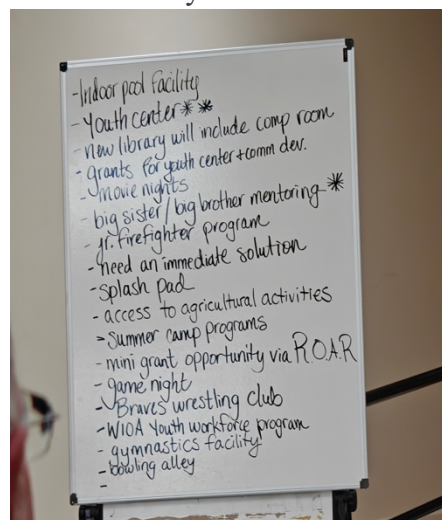
New Programs/Facilities (e.g., make a program for them to go to so they could get away and be friends and have fun. build something for the kids to stay in. Build a building for them to go to to spend time with other kids, fix old homes and build a big center for everyone to come and play and have fun. Build a fun zone for teenagers, free therapy, Places so that people would have something to do. build a boys and girls club, Build a place where children could come and stay if they didn't have a home. Start sports programs. gaming van so kids have something to look forward too. Funding after school programs for youth. I would build fun places. An indoor jump park. Therapy dog for every school. I would use some of it to get more fun things to do in Robeson County. I'd open a business or a home to help kids deal with stress or mental health. Program that gives sex talks and other body functions, Create a business for teens and children.)

Summary of qualitative interviews

The 208 adolescents interviewed described life challenges with basic needs (e.g., food, shelter, money), school (bullying, fighting, low expectations, lack of safety), and family (separation from loved ones, loss, grief, lack of support). Anxiety and stress were constant with adolescents trying hard not to fight or get into trouble, which was very common in their environment. To feel safe and supported, adolescents mostly turned to parents and other family members and used their

phones to stay connected. Guns were cited both as a source of comfort for protection and a source of fear. Adolescents said they would feel more supported if school was safer (i.e., less bullying and fighting), if they had more supportive adults, and if there were more extra-curricular activities for fun and socializing. Many youths had goals to join high status professions or professional sports. However, they struggled with basic needs, concentration and focus, low expectations, lack of resources to assist them, and in some cases lack of support from adults.

Youth who were interviewed suggested programs for mental health, therapy and counseling, positive youth development, such as extra-curricular activities, arts, sports, and recreation, and school assistance (i.e., tutoring, job training, FAFSA assistance, internships) would be most useful. Eighty-five percent of adolescent interviewees would refer a family member or friend to mental health services. The average rating for current mental health services on a scale of 1 to 10 was a 6.2, showing some satisfaction but substantial room for improvement. Many youths could not identify any community strengths. Some praised the availability of fast food, high levels of diversity and culture, fun events and parties during the year, and a small town feeling of support. If given one million dollars to help youth in Robeson County, adolescents said they would give it to the homeless or those in most need, keep it for their families or themselves, or create new programs and facilities (i.e., free therapy, a fun zone for teenagers, sports opportunities, fun events to have something to look forward to). The sense was that youth are bored a lot and have few alternatives for positive engagement with other youth or with supportive adults.



Program suggestions at Youth Summit in Fairmont, February 2024

Summary of Primary Data Collection

The 2023 CHNA of 608 participants (97% adults) indicated that the highest response rates for community needs were **mental health services** across all racial groups (40% White, 41% African American, and 42% Native American), **substance abuse rehabilitation** services across racial groups (31% White, 30% African American, and 45% Native American) and **job opportunities** (28% White, 36% African American, and 27% Native American). Half of respondents said **low income/poverty** and another 19% said **crime** (murder, assault, theft, rape/sexual assault) were the factors that most affected quality of life in the community. This CHNA revealed that many respondents had Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): 26% said they lived with a problem drinker or someone who used street drugs during childhood and 21% lived with a household member who was depressed or mentally ill, or attempted suicide during childhood. There were no significant disparities among racial groups on exposure to these ACEs.

The ROAR Coalition supplement CNA surveyed 121 youth and adults and interviewed 208 adolescents. The most pressing needs they endorsed were: **1) Planning for the future/goal setting; 2) Quality after school or summer programs for youth; 3) Indoor and outdoor recreation; 4) Depression; and 5) Job training.** Respondents thought many of the program

types were very important, but the top 5 were: **1) mental health services for youth, 2) sexual/emotional/physical abuse services, 3) bullying and gang prevention, 4) substance abuse resources, and 5) assistance for domestic violence victims.** In open-ended survey questions and in qualitative interviews, the most common themes in community needs for high risk youth that we identified were: **mental health and substance use services; positive youth development or preventive programs, jobs training or internships; and gang prevention.**

Table 13: Summary of Primary Data Collection

Method Used: Primary data collection with 2023 quantitative survey (adults), 2024 quantitative survey (youth and adults), and qualitative interviews (youth), nearly 1,000 community participants.	Information Obtained: Key risk factors were poverty and crime//violence. Adults and youth called for enhanced mental health services, positive youth development activities, crime reduction, basic needs, and job training programs.	Trauma-Informed Principles used in CNA development: Safety, Trustworthiness, Choice and Voice, Collaboration and Mutuality, Empowerment, Equity and Cultural Attunement
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Secondary Data Collection Results: Community Context

Robeson County NC (population 126,848) is a low income, rural county spanning 949 square miles in southeastern North Carolina; it is rated as a Tier 1 county (highest poverty). The poverty rate is 31.5%, the highest rate of all 100 counties in NC and the median income is \$33,679, which is just over half the national median income of \$62,843 (U.S. Census Bureau, n.d.). The American Community Survey ranked Robeson 3,054 out of 3,143 U.S. counties for per capita income in 2009-2013, suggesting that this area is severely disadvantaged with average income among the lowest in the country. The County has 7 Census tracts, all designated “Low Income Communities” (QOZs). Robeson is the most diverse county in NC (Diversity Index (DI) = 73.5% out of 100) and one of the most diverse in the U.S.; only 14 U.S. counties had higher DI scores in 2020. Less than one third of the County is White (31%) while 42% is American Indian (AI), 24% is Black, and 9% is Latinx (U.S. Census Bureau, n.d.). Poverty rates by race are: AI 28%; Latinx 42%; Black 33%; Other 43%; and White 17%, showing profound inequalities.

Table 14: Hot Spots in Robeson County by Police Department				
2020 data per 1,000 residents	Violent Crime	Homicide	Property Crime	2020 Population
Fairmont PD	11.57	0	33.91	2,507
Lumberton PD	18.13	0.05	76.06	19,025
Pembroke PD	4.85	0.35	65.86	2,885
Red Springs PD	10.29	0.31	86.01	3,206
Robeson County Sheriff Office	8.88	0.30	20.70	116,530
Rowland PD	9.30	0	39.26	968
North Carolina	3.82	0.07	20.82	10,439,388
United States	1.95	0.03	10.39	329,500,000

In 2020, Robeson County led NC in violent crime and had the third highest overall crime rate in the state (4,779 per 100,000, a 25% increase from the previous year; FBI, 2020a; NC SBI, 2020). Robeson County’s 2020 violent crime rate of 1,190 per 100,000 people increased 35% when compared to the 767.6 rate reported in 2019.

Shown in Table 14, Robeson County hotspots have homicide and violent/property crime rates that are 2 to 10 times

higher than other areas in NC and the U.S. Property crime and drug overdose deaths increased 17% and 22% in the County from 2019 to 2020. Murders in the county rose 30% from 20 in 2020 to 26 in 2021. The County rate of juvenile delinquency (19.1) is almost double the U.S. juvenile crime rate of 10.2 (Hockenberry & Puzanhera, 2020). The high rates of violent and property crimes, homicide, juvenile crime, and social problems highlight that a ReCAST initiative is needed.

Hot spots within the County are in dire need of support. For example, Pembroke NC has a poverty rate of 45.9% (60.6% for Lumbee Indians) is 55% Lumbee, 21% Black, and 16% White. The median household income is \$24,034, compared to \$62,843 for the US. The homicide rate of 0.35 per 1,000 is 10 times the US rate of .032 per 1,000. Red Springs, NC has a poverty rate of 39%, is 52% Black, has a median household income of \$26,829, a homicide rate 10 times the national rate, a violent crime rate 5 times the national rate, and a property crime rate 8 times the US rate. Lumberton, a small metropolitan area in Robeson County (population 21,000), struggles with violent crime rates approximately 9x higher than NC or national rates, making Lumberton one of the most dangerous places in the U.S. (see Table 15). Lumberton's property crime rate was extraordinarily high; 2-4x higher than Baltimore or Chicago (12,318 Lumberton vs 4,928 Baltimore and 2,946.2 Chicago). These underserved areas receive little attention or federal support and have profound social inequities to address with ReCAST initiatives to promote resilience, trauma-informed approaches, and equity.

According to Dr. Asa Revels (Appendix 3, page 116), In Robeson County, substance use disorder (SUD) has represented one of the primary issues impacting the health and well-being of its residents for several decades. Since 2011, issues related to substance use have been identified as a primary health concern by residents of the county in the Community Health Needs Assessment. Data published on the Opioid and Substance Use Data Dashboard by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services indicate that in 2022 the rate of drug overdose deaths in the county was more than double the state average (78.9 versus 36.9 per 100,000). Similar trends could be found with overdose emergency department visits (466.2 versus 161.5 per 100,000) and newborns affected by substance use (13.9% versus 3.7% of live births). Dispensation data from the North Carolina Controlled Substance Reporting System also indicate that in 2021 county residents were dispensed more opioids (19.8 versus 14.5 per 100 residents), had more prescriptions (107.4 versus 58.8 per 100 residents), and more pills (64.5 versus 34.4 per 100 residents) per resident than the state average. This data also reveals that county residents are dispensed stronger opioids (i.e., higher morphine milligram equivalents) than the state average (1 versus 0.8 per 100 residents).

The Public Schools of Robeson County (PSRC) LEA has 41 public schools, including 8 middle schools, 11 schools with both elementary and middle school grades (i.e., K-6, K-8, Grades 4-8), 7 high schools (i.e., Grades 9-12), and 1 career academy. There are 22,799 students with 15,029 juveniles ages 10 to 17 in this county. PSRC is one of the largest school systems in NC. Such large enrollment requires 2,100 certified employees including teachers, principals, assistant principals, and counselors. The racial/ethnic diversity of PSRC students is extraordinary (39% American Indian, 23% African American, 17% mixed race/other, 10% Caucasian, and 9%

Table 15: Most Dangerous Places in U.S. Police Department	2020 Violent Crime Per 1,000
Monroe, LA	29.4
Memphis, TN	24.2
Saginaw, MI	23.8
Detroit, MI	22.6
St. Louis, MO	20.0
Alexandria, LA	18.8
Lumberton, NC	18.1
Pine Bluff, AR	18.1
Little Rock, AR	18.1
Albany, GA	17.7
South Bend, IN	17.1
Cleveland, OH	16.9

Latinx). According to NC School Report Cards, almost three quarters of Robeson schools were rated as D (54%) or F (20%) with a small minority rated as A (2%), B (7%), or C (17%). Having 74% of PSRC schools receive D or F on state standards indicates that most schools are struggling and need assistance. NC Report Card data shows the PSRC has elevated rates of short-term suspensions, bullying and harassment, and criminal acts compared to the NC average. In addition, there are disproportionalities with males, African American, American Indian, biracial, low income, and students with disabilities enduring much higher rates of discipline, bullying and harassment, and criminal acts. With toxic stress from community violence, collective trauma from COVID, and civil unrest due to lack of services and severe inequities pervasive in the schools, opportunities for positive youth development are scarce.

According to the Health Resource Services Administration (HRSA.gov), Robeson County is designated as a rural Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) of highest need with a HPSA score of 19-21 out of 26 (worst possible) for both primary care and mental health. Skilled therapists trained in trauma-focused evidence-based interventions are in short supply and cannot meet the severe levels of need. The shortage of behavioral health professionals limits access to care and undermines the quality of services for consumers who have been affected by the exceptionally high rates of community violence and trauma. In addition to the dearth of providers, transportation is a major barrier in a sprawling rural area with no public transportation or ride share coverage (i.e., Uber, Lyft). Our ReCAST initiative will emphasize telehealth and sponsor the development of skilled behavioral health professionals to address trauma and promote resilience. Culturally competent services in Spanish and English are critically needed.

Each year the Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Foundation ranks the health of nearly every county in the United States. In 2023, Robeson County ranks 100 out of the 100 counties in North Carolina (100 being the lowest). Robeson has ranked 100 since 2016. In a recent needs assessment, 52% of Robeson youth displayed serious behavior problems in school and 49% were rejected by peers, compared to 45% and 39% respectively for NC (JCPC, n.d.).

Table 16		Robeson County	NC	US
High school completion		78%	89%	89%
Some college		47%	69%	67%
Unemployment		7.6%	4.8%	5.4%
Children in poverty		36%	18%	17%

Source: County Health Rankings



Dilapidated buildings show the longstanding poverty in Robeson County. Bullet holes mark crime scenes.

9. Recommendations and Next Steps

To summarize, secondary data clearly show that Robeson County, NC is severely disadvantaged, exceptionally diverse (69% minority), with marginalized populations (42% Lumbee Indian), has a significant shortage of mental health and primary care providers, has poorly functioning schools, and rates of community violence and crime that are among the highest in the U.S., fostering civil unrest and collective trauma.

Primary data collection of Community Health Needs Assessments collected in 2023 by Healthy Robeson and in 2024 by the ROAR Coalition gathered the perspectives of more than 750 survey respondents and 208 adolescent interviewees. These CNAs confirmed what is seen in secondary data, that community residents consider low income/poverty, lack of job opportunities, and crime/violence to be severe concerns associated with trauma and youth mental health problems. The most common themes across all types of data collection that we identified were: **the need for enhanced mental health and substance use services; positive youth development or preventive programs, jobs training or internships; and gang prevention.** Consequently, we have the following recommendations:

- Strengthen mental health services for youth. This includes making well-trained, trauma focused therapists accessible to the community and schools. Increase communications about services and consider offering open groups and/or workshops on key topics such as bullying, gangs, and gun violence.
- Engage teens in positive youth development activities and new programs. Consider cultural programs, arts, sports, recreation, and field trips. Robeson County youth need venues to socialize in healthy, prosocial, and safe activities. Positive youth development programming and supportive adult relationships can go far in countering the toxic environment many Robeson County youth are experiencing.
- Create new avenues that youth can utilize for tutoring, career coaching, job training, crafting resumes, completing an internship, and experiencing mentoring from supportive adults. This resource should be within a “safe space” youth center in the community and not within the school system where many teens report bullying and fighting with a mix of supportive and unresponsive adults.

The next steps for this work include disseminating this report to the ROAR Coalition and to community stakeholders. After dissemination and feedback, the ReCAST leadership team will work with the ROAR Coalition to create an Action Plan that will be submitted to SAMHSA by June 30th, 2024. This plan will guide resource allocation and focus for the coming project years.



Left: Youth engaged in a bullying prevention workshop. Right: Families in a paint party.

Appendix 1:
ROAR Coalition
Community Health Needs Assessment Supplement

Quantitative Survey
Qualitative Interview Protocol

Presented by:
North Carolina Youth Violence Prevention Center and
Robeson County Partnership for Children
In partnership with
Robeson Overcoming Adversity through Resilience (ROAR)
Coalition

**ReCAST Robeson
Community Needs Assessment Survey**

ReCAST Robeson is a grant from the U.S. Substance Use and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to the North Carolina Youth Violence Prevention Center (N-YVPC: www.nc-yvpc.org). In collaboration with Robeson County Partnership for Children, the purpose of ReCAST Robeson is to promote resilience, trauma-informed approaches, and equity in Robeson County, NC; and assist high-risk youth and families using evidence-based violence prevention, and community youth engagement programs. The following survey will only take a few minutes to complete, and it will assist in helping people, meeting the community needs, and providing hope. All information will be kept confidential, and your name is not required on the questionnaire. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!

1. What is your role in the community? (Please select the best choice which fits your role in the Robeson County community)

Agency Client/Robeson County Resident Receiving Services _____
 Agency Service Provider _____
 Educational Institution Faculty/Staff (community college, schools) _____
 Faith Based Organization Representative (Church/Faith Based groups, etc.) _____
 Community Member (for profit, small business, private citizen, etc.) _____
 Community Organization/Partner (local service provider and non-profits) _____
 Community Member _____
 Parent with Children under 18 _____
 Youth under 18 _____

2. Do you live or work in Robeson County? Yes _____ No _____

3. What is your gender? Male _____ Female _____ Other _____

4. What is your age? _____

5. What is your race? _____

6. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are:

Under age 5: ___ Ages 5-9: ___ Ages 10-14: ___ Ages 15-19: ___ Ages 20-34: ___

Ages 35-64: ___ Ages 65+: ___

7. Are you or your family members in need of help with any of these things? (Check all that apply)

Alcohol and drug use _____	Quality after school or summer programs for youth _____
Anger control _____	Access to mental health services _____
Family Conflicts _____	Access to safe outdoor spaces _____
Depression _____	Access to outdoor programs _____
Job training _____	Access to indoor recreation programs _____
Trauma _____	Making decisions/problem solving _____
Bullying/Victimization _____	Planning for future/goal setting _____
Gangs/Violence _____	
None _____	Other: _____

Please mark how important are each of the needs below.

8. Job training/workforce development programs

_____ Very Important. _____ Important. _____ Not Important. _____ Don't know/Don't Care

9. Internships to start on a career path

_____ Very Important. _____ Important. _____ Not Important. _____ Don't know/Don't Care

10. Career coaching/career counseling

_____ Very Important. _____ Important. _____ Not Important. _____ Don't know/Don't Care

11. Positive Youth Development Programs (creative arts, drama, music)

_____ Very Important. _____ Important. _____ Not Important. _____ Don't know/Don't Care

12. After school programs

_____ Very Important. _____ Important. _____ Not Important. _____ Don't know/Don't Care

13. Tutoring

_____ Very Important. _____ Important. _____ Not Important. _____ Don't know/Don't Care

14. Life Skills Programs and Services for Teenagers

_____ Very Important. _____ Important. _____ Not Important. _____ Don't know/Don't Care

15. Bullying and Gang Prevention Services

_____ Very Important. _____ Important. _____ Not Important. _____ Don't know/Don't Care

16. Conflict Resolution, Mediation, and Restorative Justice Services

_____ Very Important. _____ Important. _____ Not Important. _____ Don't know/Don't Care

17. Substance Abuse Resources

_____ Very Important. _____ Important. _____ Not Important. _____ Don't know/Don't Care

18. Mental Health services for youth

_____ Very Important. _____ Important. _____ Not Important. _____ Don't know/Don't Care

19. More assistance and resources for victims of domestic violence

_____ Very Important. _____ Important. _____ Not Important. _____ Don't know/Don't Care

20. Sexual/Emotional/Physical Abuse Services

_____ Very Important. _____ Important. _____ Not Important. _____ Don't know/Don't Care

21. Increasing the community's knowledge of Adverse Childhood Experiences and resources to increase resilience and reduce stress and trauma.

_____ Very Important. _____ Important. _____ Not Important. _____ Don't know/Don't Care

22. More emphasis on early childhood programs for children under 5 years old.

_____ Very Important. _____ Important. _____ Not Important. _____ Don't know/Don't Care

23. Youth Athletics programs

_____ Very Important. _____ Important. _____ Not Important. _____ Don't know/Don't Care

24. Other (please explain)

25. What do you think are the most important needs in the Robeson County community for high risk youth and their families?

26. What needs of families and youth are going unmet?

27. What agencies and community partners are currently working with high risk youth and families to increase resilience and decrease trauma?

28. What available programs, supports, and services are designed to meet these needs?

29. Are there any major problems not being addressed by a service, program, or activity?

30. Are families and youth at greatest risk receiving trauma-focused services, prevention programs, and support? If not, why do you think it is not available?

31. Please CHECK ALL of the places you or the members of your household use to access services or participate in programs. [Check all that apply]

- (01) Public Schools of Robeson County
- (02) Boys and Girls Club
- (03) City of Lumberton, Fairmont, Rowland, Red Springs, Pembroke Recreation centers
- (04) Public libraries
- (05) After school athletics programs
- (06) Church facilities
- (07) Local agencies
- (10) Neighborhood parks
- (11) Summer camps: _____
- (12) After school programs: _____
- (14) Other: _____
- (15) None of these

32. Do these organizations meet ALL of your household's needs?

- (1) Yes (2) No

33. Please CHECK ALL the ways your household learns about community programs and activities. [Check all that apply]

- (01) Conversations with neighbors
- (02) Email notifications
- (03) Newspaper (Robesonian) articles
- (04) Public Meetings
- (06) Community Agency Website
- (07) Social Media, like Facebook
- (08) Online Town Hall Meetings
- (09) Zoom meetings or other online meeting platforms
- (10) Other: _____

34. Please include any additional comments below.

This concludes the survey – Thank you for your time.

ReCAST Adolescent Interview / Focus Group Protocol

1. What are the biggest challenges you face in your daily life?

2. What resources do you need to feel safe and supported?

3. What are your goals for the future, and what kind of help do you need to achieve them?

4. What are some of the biggest barriers you face in accessing resources and support?

5. What types of programs or services would be most helpful to you and your family?

6. If you needed counseling related to stress or other concerns, where would you go for help?

7. Would you recommend the available mental health services to a friend or family member?

8. If you have used the mental health services in Robeson County before, on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the most satisfied, how satisfied were you with the services?

1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9-----10

9. What are some of the community's strengths?

10. What actions would you recommend to improve current services and supports?

11. If you were given \$1,000,000 to help youth in Robeson County, how would you use the money?

Thank you for participating in this interview!

If you have any questions about this interview, please contact Wendy Locklear at Wendy.Locklear@ncyvpc.org

Appendix 2:

Open-Ended Questions from Quantitative Survey

Qualitative Adolescent Interview Data

Full data from open-end questions from ROAR Coalition quantitative survey

What do you think are the most important needs in the Robeson County community for high-risk youth and their families?

Access to mental health services, substance abuse resources, housing	Positive youth activities and resources	More programs, sports based and educational based.
Affordable access to programming facilitated by respectful caregivers	Job training, work force development, conflict resolution, gang and crime prevention	We need more providers who can help provide quality treatment and preventative services
Support Systems, family support	Peer relations	Substance abuse/Mental Health
Mental health, substance abuse, programs for extracurricular activities.	Help with and/or education on Adverse Childhood Experiences.	Mentorship, family counseling, addressing ACE's and building resilience.
Adequate supervision, counseling, drug prevention	Anything and Everything that helps our youth thrive.	Anything that will help our youth make better decisions.
Knowledge; outside resources; voice when they do not know what to say	Mental health, keeping kids off the streets, drug abuse prevention.	Mental health and substance use disorders, positive coping mechanisms, and healthy lifestyle education (i.e., healthy eating/exercise).
Gang violence is out of control.	Some program for the child that won't go to college.	Career development
Mental Health Services, more church (Jesus)	Mental Health Programs	Food/shelter for families with children
Drug Prevention and Life Skills	Jesus	Drug use. They need more activities and resources.
Guidance and a positive role model.	Abusive Families, drug addiction, low in money	Drug Resources, Education.
Access to mental health services	Making sure people know about help.	Mental Health Programs
Educating them on things they need to know.	Abusive families, drug addiction, low in money, struggling with putting food on the table.	activities to show them right, how to lead, be a normal civilian without gang or depending on violence
Programs that helps the youth go down the right path in life.	They need something to do to keep them off the streets.	Career programs and youth programs.
school supplies, more emotional support	Money	Job training career coaching and substance abuse prevention
I think training makes sure they get better help	water and somewhere to stay	Free counseling and healthcare

help these kids stop smoking and doing drugs	Gang prevention	More people to help families that are going through tough times
Mental Health and physical health programs to help youth with their feelings	Any services that has to with their problems	DSS, therapy, safer transportation
Alcohol, drug use, Anger control, trauma, depression service programs	Availability of resources (food, water, shelter)	Drug addiction centers and mental health programs for all ages
More positive outlets for the children	I think that many people do not know the resources that are available to help.	Education, Domestic & Sexual Violence, prevention services, career coaching, life training
Having a safe place to go when out of school for extra curricula or just for fun, where to go for "help" of any kind personal or non-personal.	Programs for at risk youth. Positive groups, coaches to train the teens.	There is a great need for more accessible transportation services throughout the county!
-Community Outlets for Children 1-19 (Resources and things for children to do...after school programs).	Stability at home	-Mental Health Services (Children whose parents have mental health and substance abuse issues).
Programs to Balance Literacy and Encourage Reading and Learning Aside from School and Home.	Affordable housing, food security, healthcare	Positive Role Models to interactive with
Resources to address chronic poverty and lack of enrichment opportunities.	Substance abuse education/resources, domestic violence, and homelessness	Substance Abuse and Mental Health treatment, Youth engagement programs, trauma informed car programs (more)
Prevention Seminar, Breaking trends/Barriers	Safe places for kids to have fun.	Resources for furthering education and careers.
Exposure to what the world has to offer outside of our community.	Counseling services (behavioral and family)	- TRANSPORTATION - ACEs education
Healthcare and education. Access to mental health services, affordable housing	- Positive youth development programs, Positive activities and programs for youth and families.	- Access to quality mental health, substance use resources, domestic violence/interpersonal violence resources, and food insecurity resources
Access to substance use treatment	Conflict resolution, Bullying & Gang prevention	Substance abuse and misuse, trauma, mental health well-being and lack of dependable transportation to access resources
Addressing violence. The children in Robeson County need more positive and structured programs. They need	Life skills and gang/bullying prevention	Gang prevention, crime prevention, more activities and programs for them to participate in, mentoring programs.

someone that will give them direction.		
Bullying prevention and mental health resources.	Education needs, social, mental, well being of families. Youth Programs	Mental Health services, access to arts and recreation for youth, parenting education
Counseling, Mentoring, Youth Opportunity Programs within the Community, Infrastructure-indoor swimming and county community rec centers.	Substance abuse and misuse, trauma, mental health well-being and lack of dependable transportation to access resources.	Awareness of and access to quality mental health services. Also, accessible, positive programming for youth to combat ACEs.

Q13 - What agencies and community partners are currently working with high-risk youth and families to increase resilience and decrease trauma?

Not sure	group homes	Unite, Connect Community
Partnership for children, NC Youth Violence Prevention Center	Mentoring Programs	I am not sure
Don't know.	BUILD Youth, Inc of Robeson County, city of Lumberton	NCYVPC Colors of Life Rape Crisis Center Robeson Community College
We have a great network of child serving agencies that are doing their best to work together to provide these basic needs. United Way, Partnership for Children, Church and Community Center, Lumberton Christian Care Center, Public Schools of Robeson County and a lot of community, civic and religious organizations.	-Coastal Southeastern United Care -Robeson Overcoming Adversity through Resilience -Robeson County DSS -Healthy Start, Robeson Healthcare & UNCP -Parents As Teachers - Nurse Family Partnerships -Child Development Services Agency (CDSA)	Schools, teen court, Robeson county partnership for children - ROAR, Connect Community, Communities in Schools
NC Youth Violence Prevention Center Victim Empowerment and Education Program	N/A	NC youth violence prevention center, VEEP victim education & empowerment program Robeson county DSS
ReCAST Robeson	rehab places	Colors of Life, Lumberton Rec. Dept.
Juvenile Justice, law enforcement, Robeson County DSS,	CPS	churches, small community groups, social services,
I don't know	I know a place called Trinity and it is for all ages. It helps with drug use, mental issues, and behavioral issues. (RED Ribbon Week)	Smart Start, DOJJ, GAL, DSS, LINKS, PSRC, Family Treatment Court, etc.

NCYVPC	CPS	mental health agencies, DSS
Colors of Life, Teen Court, NC Crime Prev Counsel	Colors of life	ROAR: Robeson Overcoming Adversity through Resilience, Community care for children
Juvenile Services DPS, RCDSS, NCYVPC, Parenting Wisely	N/A	VEEP
Hopefully, mental providers	Housing	Youth Violence Prevention, R.O.A.R., Eastpoint
Colors of Life, NDVPC, Partnership for Children, Connect	shelters, rehab, and therapy	None that I am aware of.
Palmer Prevention, Colors of Life, Methodist Children's Home	Mental Health Providers	Not sure of any
UNC Health Southeastern Eastpointe, and the Robeson County Health Department	I don't know	Partnership for Children, RC Health Department, ROAR (Robeson Overcoming Adversity through Resilience)
JCPC; JJBH; (Palmer Prevention Southeastern Integrated; Primary Health; Multi purpose Group Homes	haven't seen any trying	RCPC, Healthy Start, Health Dept.
Robeson Healthcare Corporation, Pembroke Housing Authority	I'm not sure but I appreciate them for it	L.I.F.E. Mentoring Program
I have no idea. Lumberton cares a lot about sports so that's helpful.	Robeson County partnership for Children and NC Youth Violence Prevention Center	Lumbee Tribe Boys and Girls Club, MCO-Eastpointe, Robeson County Health Depart, and Southeastern Health
RCCRC, Youth Violence Center, Southeastern Family Violence Center	families that have problems	RHCC, UNCP, Mental Health, DSS, Robeson County Health Department, SAFE KIDS, PSRC, Churches, Individuals
Colors of Life, Juvenile Justice	I don't know	NCYVPC
I don't know	Boys & Girls Club	ROAR, RCPC, and some others.
Not familiar with any.	Rape Crisis Center of Robeson County	Don't know.
I don't know	Not Sure	Safe Kids, Healthy Start, Parents As Teachers, DSS, CDSA
US substance use and mental health services	I'm not aware of our current areas	Public Schools of Robeson County, CIS, Robeson County Health Department

NC Youth Violence Prevention Center Victim Empowerment and Education Program	Rehab Apartments	N/A
Colors of Life, The Village, Lumberton Rec. Dept.	Lumberton RCC	Educational & prevention, help getting away from domestic situations, Lumbee Tribal building boys and girls club
Teen Court, Therapy, Mentors, Group Connection, School Connection with commonly partners provided by Youth Violence Prevention Center	NC youth violence prevention center VEEP victim education & empowerment program Robeson county DSS	Colors of Life Summer Camp Paint Parties- NCYVPC SEE-IT- NCYVPC No cost therapeutic services for trauma- Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
SFVPC, Rape Crisis, monarch, RHA, East pointe	Drug abuse programs, childcare etc....	Colors of Life, Palmer Prevention, Methodist Children's Home
Guidance counselors. Resilience and trauma education, teen mental health counseling, paint parties	I'm not sure. I feel like many people aren't very informed in things available for them in the community.	Safe Kids, Healthy Start, Parents As Teachers, DSS, CDSA, Adolescent Parenting Program, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention
ReCAST, ROAR, Healthy Start, Parents as Teachers, Nurse Family Partnership, CONNECT Girls, Healthy Robeson	I'm not sure right now	Specialized tutoring and after- school programs, mental healthcare support groups, and other Medicaid expansion or grant-funded behavioral services
NC Youth Violence Prevention Center, Robeson County Partnership for Children, Robeson County Health Department, UNCP, UNC-Southeastern, CONNECT Community, Inc., Robeson County Church and Community Center, Communities in Schools		

Please include any additional comments below

We have wonderful resources in our county, however, we need more funding for those organizations to expand and grow so that they may strengthen their reach!	We are losing our kids daily for lack of opportunities for youth. Exploration Station is a great place in the county for younger kids to play but some may not have transportation to get to these places.	Robeson County is growing! In order to meet the growing needs of the community it is crucial that we address the current problems efficiently. Thanks for taking the necessary steps for meeting the need. The Robeson Overcoming Adversity through Resilience page is written in English. Is there a way to change the language??? Also, I noted that there were no outlets, partnering agencies or programs for the Hispanic population.
PRAYERS	More access to internships would help many people	Good Start-Good Luck

<p>Include faith-based organizations/leaders more when needed for support services.</p>	<p>They need to make sure kids dont be acting up</p>	<p>Thank you for recognizing there is an unmet need, and assisting to help to rectify the issues.</p>
<p>Addressed lot of needs in the county.</p>	<p>Thank you for helping the youth community</p>	<p>Connecting with the juvenile detention centers</p>
<p>We need less assessing and more obtaining with free public transportation and a community calendar that houses all dates for available resources in one place.</p>	<p>I pray that our nonprofit BUILD Youth, Inc will be availed the opportunity to join and copartner in the R.O.A.R. Coalition</p>	<p>I am opening a business in downtown Fairmont. It will be an Event Venue for private and community events. This can help by providing an indoor facility for many types of events.</p>

Qualitative Interviews with 208 Youth

1. What are the biggest challenges you face in your daily life?

Major Themes:

School (e.g., bullying, bullies and racism, ignoring drama, getting good grades, getting to school on time, trying to learn in a loud class, School, because many people talk bad about me. People disrespecting teachers. People talking about you behind your back. Fake friends.)

Family Problems and Separation/Loss (e.g., my mom, being away from my brother, waking up without my dad, losing my family member, death of my dad, when my aunt died, Being away from my brothers and boyfriend since they are all away at college. Worrying about family, My unstable relationship with mom. Unsupportive mom, Bad relationship with stepfather. Not being accepted by my parents because of my sexuality.)

Trying not to fight (e.g., People trying to make me fight them., People trying to make me fight, ignoring drama, being a good child, to not fight or get in drama)

Basic needs and responsibilities (e.g., waking up, staying awake at school, food, my grades, finding a job, taking care of my Nanna and momma, finishing the semester, hunger, need money, no wifi, financial hardships)

Anxiety and stress (e.g., Not being able to trust people at school and in town. Anxiety, Depression, waking up, ADHD, hard to concentrate, Being focused, I'm always zoned out. Not feeling as connected to my culture as I should be. Nervousness in public areas. Gun violence. Weapons, Bad self esteem.)

Sleep	Everything and anything	having no pencils
A video game called rust	some of my classes	get good grades
Getting to school on time	I dont know	my mom
Waking up without my dad	Being away from my brother	Ignoring drama
trying not to fight	being bullied	Bullying
People getting shot in the arm in front of someone	n/a	Bullying
People trying to make me fight them	Dancing	trying to learn in a loud class
Racism	when my aunt died	School
People typing to me to make	School and work	my grades
School	School	trying to convince myself to be a good girl for my mother
Math	Bullying	School work
Ignoring drama	losing my family member	waking up early
Nothing	to face your daily life and challenges	school work
People	School	Getting bullied
to be up and ready for school in the morning	Bullying	being bullied
Not answered	coming to school	chores and waking up early
having to wake up early and do difficult work	coming to school	None

Nothing	School work and test	Waking up
Staying focused	being a good child	going to school
math class	going to school	Bullies and racism
coming to school, math	Anxiety	come to school
school, math	People who are weirdos	school because its hard to stay awake
Feeling too lazy to do task correctly	School	School
The death of my dad	Recreation activities	School
to not fight or get in drama	School	Waking up on time
my grades	Brother	Coming to school
Nothing	School	School math
studying English	Being late for school	Getting good grades
School	To not fight or get in trouble, to get up for school on time	Inflation
"dealing with kids that trying me", teachers	juggling school	rising food prices
access to a computer	juggling school and school hardships	rising food prices
school work	completing homework	complete homework, studying, work
my grades, finding a job, taking care of my Nanna and momma, finishing the semester	procrastinating, knowing how to make friends	school, not enough sleep, need more money
walking and hunger	no wifi	Money, time management
transportation, looking for jobs	stop eating	Inflation
managing school	trying to mutitask	waking up for school
Work life balance.	paying attention	waking up early for school
Racism	Racism	not enough sleep
getting out of bed	waking up	Teachers
Money	School	getting out of bed
getting to school on time	not working like im supposed to	getting out of bed in the morning
nicotine addiction	The biggest challenges that face everyday would be dealing with stress.	going to school
- Being talked about - Experiencing bullying - Seeing vaping in bathrooms - See other kids upset (emotionally)	not enough time to finish homework, study habits, financial hardships, keep going to school	Not being able to trust people at school and in town.
Worrying about my family	Getting homework	Bullying

I don not have any at the moment	- Maintaining relationships - Making friends at school	Being away from my brothers and boyfriend since they are all away at college
Waking up early	- My thoughts	Stress
Too much homework. There are bullies at my school.	- Being a black woman in America	Coming to school
Coach and school counselor, my family.	- My unstable relationship with mom	- Anxiety - Depression
Keeping good grades in school	- Unsupportive mom - Bad relationship with stepfather	Navigating adult life
- Anxiety - Depression - Long distance from my sister	Distance between classes Class start time Childish people People disrespecting teachers	The cost of living
Lack of transportation	Nothing	School, because many people talk bad about me
ADHD/ hard to concentrate	Mental health	Waking up early
- Fake friends - Tight budgeting	Staying at school all day	Waking up and getting ready
Being a minority in America	Being an A+ student	Getting up to go to school
- Maintaining good grades in school, Staying focused in school	People talking about you behind your back	Coming to school
- Not being accepted by my parents because of my sexuality	School work, Babysitting Sleeping	Being focused, I'm always zoned out
Working while in school	Bills, Financial issues like everyone else	Less help with school problems
- Not feeling as connected to my culture as I should be - Nervousness in public areas	Coming to school and waking up early	Being on time
- Test anxiety - Scoring poorly on tests	Being sleepy	Stressing over school work
Bad self-esteem	Lack of energy	Getting up to get ready
Talking to people	Gun violence	Weapons

2. What do you need to feel safe and supported?

Major themes:

Family (e.g., my Dad, my mama, my Mom and Dad, my big brother, my family)

Police (e.g., police to protect us, more police, more police at school, good police, more protection from police)

Guns (e.g., having guns, a weapon at home, gun laws, less access to guns)

Phones (e.g., To have a phone just in case of a code red or some other code, my phone connects me to family and friends)

Extra-curricular activities (e.g., gym, band, sports) and **Creative Expression** (e.g., art, journaling, music, a note book and pens to write my feelings and draw)

Basic needs (e.g., home, food, water, shelter, money)

School safety (e.g., more surveillance, more police, end bullying, search students, more police, teachers to pay more focused on kids bullying, people to stop bullying me, If bullying would stop at Littlefield middle, that'd make me feel safe. They should search people in school more often. Half of the kids are doing drugs and bringing weapons. They should check people. More control on drugs and gang violence)

Support system (e.g., friends, caring adults, good home life, support and encouragement, someone to talk to, More acceptance and letting me be me without saying stuff or hurting me. I'm scared living in St. Pauls. Living close to my grandparents. A friend group in my town that are also part of the LGBTQ+ community (all my friends are online). Friends checking in on me. People who care.)

my dad	band	anything
My xbox	I dont know if I feel safe in my resources	none
My family	No adult supervision	Computer Science
my mom and gun	good police	room
polices to protect all of us	art	lunch, money, breakfast, friends
my phone, police, adult supervision	band and choir and gym	soccer, food, money, friends
my phone and mom	My phone	None
my phone	a note book and pens to write my feelings and draw	family
PE	I dont know	family
more police	PE	People to stop bullying
more work on ourself	none	just being able to ask questions
nothing really	I don't know	I dont know
police	my family	Gym
teachers to pay more focused on kids bullying	friends and family	gym
more adult vision	More police on campus	God
more police	stop bullying me and parents to make them stop	Nothing
I dont know	parents	food and water
gym so I can practice more to be the best of the best	None	Police
people to talk to	my big brother	better schools
gun		To have a phone just in case of a code red or some other code

My phone and my	Playing soccer	money, shelter, friends
band	Gym	help with homework. my phone because im connected to friends and family
ask questions without feeling dumb	more security, parents doing more discipline	support and encouragement
None	more protection from police	music
being able to ask questions	access to social workers	water
cousins	more police and good police who actually help people, family, my moms job to pay the rent	book bag and pencils
Guns	food	phone and entertainment
my phone or dad	tutoring, dont talk back	phone, food, water
gym	friends, counseling, good home life,	phone, headphones, bag, sketch book
gym	more police, more cameras public areas, how to study	phone
soccer	shelter, food	police
gym	money	police
Fortnite, parents, brothers	money	police
nothing	friends, family	home and food
mom and dad	friends	police
mom and dad	my friends	police
home	home safety	cops
home	go to my friends and family	police
My family, phone, and basketball	shelter, food	police
My mama and my phone	money	games
More free time	Just someone to talk to	police, my dad
Being able to ask for help	Strong support system	police
Just someone to talk to	A weapon at home. At school, I just tell my teachers if something happens	- Support from my family members - A friend or group of friends I can rely on
Strong support system	People who listen and make it better. Stop cyberbullying. Stop fights by bullies at school.	- More surveillance
stress balls	My family, my friends, my neighbors	- More respondent police and campus police
People to ask me if I'm okay.	More acceptance and letting me be me without saying stuff or hurting me. I'm scared living in St. Pauls	- Law enforcements presence around town
Money. Safe people to protect us. Not sure really.	Living close to my grand parents not crowded. If bullying would stop at Littlefield middle, that'd make me feel safe.	- My friends checking up on me
Coping skills	- More security - Cameras - More cops	- Having a police department and fire department near me - A neighborhood watch - A good support system
My family. A few friends	- "They should search people in school more often. Half of the kids are doing drugs and bringing weapons. They should check people." - Get safer principals who take care	Better gun laws

	of violence - Get more cops with better training	
Just someone to talk to	- More control on drugs and gang violence - Limiting people that have access to guns	Live in a safe/guarded neighborhood
Strong support system	- Better gun control on campus - Quicker response from campus safety (fire alarms, shootings)	- Better/more supportive friend group - More security in my community
stress balls	A weapon at home. At school, I tell my teachers if something happens	Better gun laws
People to ask me if I'm okay.	People who listen and make it better. Stop cyberbullying. Stop fights by bullies at school.	Live in a safe/guarded neighborhood
- More police at school - Metal detectors at school	Police presence (trained) at school Strong people	2nd amendment
- A friend group in my town that are also part of the LGBTQ+ community (all my friends are online) - For my parents to accept me as I am	More police officers	Have more people looking around town for criminals
- Fire department - Police department - Community watch	Metal detectors	Cameras around the house
- Family - A nice, safe home	2nd amendment	More police officers to help with drug related issues
- A gated school with police officers - Protection at home	Friends The police	I am not sure
A community group that communicates often	Family members, Police Doctors	Breathable schedules Police protection
- My family	Friends, Family, My phone	I already feel safe
Someone they can talk to and trust	Family The people around town	More fun things to do
- To be with my family - Money	Friends 2nd amendment	People I know around me
A community group that communicates often	Cops Family members	More police
- My family	Cops	Jesus
Someone they can talk to and trust	More money. Peace of mind.	Family
people I can trust	People who care.	go to my room and listen to music
Someone that I can trust with my problems	someone to listen to me and help me get back to my parents	a safe place
Shelter and food and family	someone to help me when I need it	Safe environment
a place to live	a way to live and not put so much on my grandma	someone to talk to that I can trust
Someone I can talk to	someone to tell how I feel	friends
go to my room and listen to music	Friends	someone to talk to that I can trust
a safe place	some way to pay the bill	friends
Safe environment	My doctor	someone to talk to
I feel safer with my mama.	I feel safer with my mama.	Someone I can trust to tell my problems to
Someone I can talk to	Someone I can talk to	Family

3. What are your goals for the future, and what kind of help do you need to achieve them?

Major Themes:

Future jobs – broke into high status professions (e.g., heart doctor, veterinarian, lawyer, own a business, become a billionaire), **professional sports** (NBA, NFL, boxing), and **more attainable** (e.g., helping people, beautician, nail tech, work at dog shelter, handyman).

Shorter term goals (e.g., being in school, good grades, going to 9th grade, finishing school, work hard, be a better me)

Many youth were able to say what they needed to achieve their future goals (e.g., good education, go to college, good coach for sports, good grades, read and do math better). **And some youth identified specific current needs** (tutoring, a list of classes, internships, work experience, loans, support from family and friends)

Go to 9th grade	To be in the WNBA	real estate agent
To get a good job, good teachers	to be a immigrant lawyer	being in soccer
To be in school	finish school	pro football player
	Going to my dream college and getting my dream car	play in the NFL
to box and just box everyday	nurse, take more classes	get money
I want to finish school and do great	nurse or baker, work hard	soccer
To be a dancer or be a track star. Learning how to run without stopping and control my breathing.	I don't know	To be a heart doctor
to be a great person	big sister	To be a RN or real estate agent
	NFL	Being a therapist
to play football	work hard	Police
being an architect	NBA, a good coach	To play soccer professionally
to become a better me	My goal is to be a great gamer	To be in the NBA
be a NBA player I need education to be a NBA player	to be successful	get money, a money making job
I want to be millionaire and I have to study to achieve my dream	My goal is to become a pediatrician	make good grades, I need a computer
Be more focused being rich	NFL player	go to a university and then med school
being rich, getting a job, going to college	To graduate	get a good job, getting out of Robeson County, finish school
to be a cop	Volleyball and having more time to play	real estate agent, good education
to become a nail tech	leave NC	graduation, 4 year University, get a good job, leave the town
make it to the NBA	nurse	stable job, get through college, build a good family in a safe part of town, car that runs
I want to be a lawyer	go pro in soccer	own my own business, have a healthy family, finish college
to make my own company and I need to be good at math	My goal is to go to school to study psychology.	become a pediatrician
Want to run my own business	get a job and become a marine biologist	dental hygienist, I would appreciate financial support
to get out of school	To be a streamer, I need money	become a nurse or doctor
get out of school	my grades	become a billionaire

I want to help people	To be a pro-gamers or a pro-drummer	finishing school, having a good job
I want to go into the NFL	become a therapist	become a doctor
go to TSU on student loan	I want to be an engineer and build a restaurant	healthcare worker, good education
to have good grades	firefighter	go to college
nursing	zoo keeper or biologist to discover animals	having a good job
to be successful	To own my own business and work at NASA	study engineering
I wanna be famous	Either architect or artist. Keep going to school and finish college, I need a car to get to college and I need money to buy a car and pay for college	loving family and lasting career
get into a good college and get my masters in the medical unit	Finish H.S Do early college. How to get into college in a city.	Finish school.
football	Be a veterinarian. Get good grades, not get kicked off Beta club, go to college, get a job.	to be a judge
to read and do math better	- Ultrasound technician (job shadowing, career fairs)	baseball player
	- Work at a dog shelter (dog shelters with volunteerism, more people who are passionate about animal rights)	a nurse
become chess IM	- Handyman (more resources, more places to practice like a trade school)	to be a social worker
become anything medical related	- Medical social worker	have a good job
PHD in psychology	- Veterinarian (volunteer opportunities at animal shelters)	I want to be a teacher
NFL or NBA player	- Veterinary technician or Wildlife Biologist (internships and career help)	help people
master chef	- School social worker (graduating undergraduate and graduate school, completing internships, working with a career counselor)	I want to be a nurse
play football	Finish H.S Do early college. How to get into college in a city.	I want to help people like me
make good money	Be a veterinarian. Get good grades, not get kicked off Beta club, go to college, get a job.	Become a real estate agent
to be rich, go to school	- Ultrasound technician (job shadowing, career fairs)	Childcare worker (high school diploma)
be a streamer	Go to college (needs to finish high school, tutoring)	Police officer (internship) Army
get rich	Join coast guard (pass ASVAB without calculator) Join navy (be motivated)	Plumber (job)
getting a job, college	Real estate agent (high school diploma)	Construction/ Engineering (take wood class)
ultrasound tech	Retire and travel (more money and opportunities)	Continue to better myself (praying)

stop vaping	Have a good education and be financially stable (a job, support from family and friends)	I want to work at a vet (I need money to go to college)
making It to the NFL	Diesel mechanic (license to be a mechanic)	A labor and delivery doctor (do good in school)
military, wife, kids	Go to college (I need to start working and start paying attention)	Judge (high school degree, income)
finish baseball	If sports don't workout, I would like to go to school for engineering (football coach)	An EMT (job help)
Live life to the fullest and be successful in life.	A certificate or degree for something I want (better job, more money)	NFL (coaches)
Continue to go grow in all aspects of my life. Support from family, friends, and community.	Be successful. I want to be a nurse.	Nurse (do good in school)
My future goals are to get better grades and I will achieve them by studying.	be a nurse	Army
- To make it out of school - To not end up on the streets - Joining the Air Force (staying in school, education, JROTC)	Work hard, I want to go to college.	Preschool teacher (want to work in a daycare, advice from teachers, good GPA)
I want to be a nurse. Maybe someone to talk to me about what I can do to be a nurse.	I want to be hair stylist	Firefighter (better grades, tutoring, preparation for graduation)
To get better grades, and I can pay attention	I want to be a lineman	Go to medical school and become a radiologist (graduating, clinicals, shadowing, get my bachelor's degree, and graduating from medical school)
Join the NFL. Great coaches	basketball player	- Entrepreneur (tutoring so I can make better grades)
I'm not sure yet	I want to be a science engineer or a veterinarian	Work in the psych field (further education)
Ba a fashion designer. Finish school and go to Charlotte and get a job in fashion design	I want to be a RN.	Vet (a list of classes I need to take for that role)
- FBI agent (internships)	be successful	Work for my dads business (graduate college, be around successful people)
- Teacher (a degree)	work in the medical field	Librarian (graduate, tutoring)
- I want to join the military because I have always wanted to explore the world. The Army will give me a great opportunity to do so (internships, career coaches, job help)	To do good in school and have a good job	- Finishing school (job help)
A beautician/ Hairdresser (money to go to school and complete program)	be a police man	be a police man
Accountant	Anything with sports or whatever God wants me to be	lawyer
Prosecutor (graduate, career fairs)	OB-GYN (shadowing opportunities, conversations with people in the field)	Criminal investigator (field experience, graduate, better grades)

4. What are some of the biggest barriers you face in support?

Major Themes:

Interpersonal (e.g., trying not to get in trouble, problems with bad people, teachers, keeping distance from people, people not believing me, controlling anger, asking for help, unsupportive family, getting bullied, lack of people to help me, not knowing who to trust, Most of the time being told that the things that i say is wrong or like i don't really get heard. Not being able to trust people at school and in town. Not knowing who will really help.)

Low expectations (e.g., my aunt because she thinks im going to go nowhere, negativity, thinking I'm going to fail, limited opportunities, people doubting me, not getting attention, feeling like a "thug", feeling emotionally down, not wanting to ask for help)

Lack of resources (e.g., don't know resources in town, lack of funding, being in rural area, lack of information and resources, treated different because of race, lack of programs and services, lack of communication, not enough resources, no car, not knowing what is available)

when they make you run on the field	lack of knowledge	I good
Everything	controlling my anger, getting on the bus	problems with bad people
Reading	people not believing me	Lifting weights
Math	Hard work	Anxiety
Keeping my distance from people	Teachers, and trying not to get in trouble	Teachers, and trying not to get in trouble
Me	recourses and support	Trying not to get in trouble
how to be social	following instructions	Helping
Everything	Trying not to get in trouble	getting off track
getting off track	people wanna fight me	School
following instructions	Life	NC tests
Not knowing what resources I need	People	my mind
Injuries	thinking im going to fail	Asking for help
My mind	Homework	Money
Money	Grades	Negativity
My mom	People	No computer
my aunt because she thinks im going to go nowhere	asking for help	dont have time in the day, need tutoring, more help in STEM classes
not asking for help	trying to succeed in early college	limited opportunities
limited resources	Time (3)	People doubting me
Money	money problems and social anxiety	lack of wifi
non supportive environment	I dont like asking for things	forgetting to get things
looking like a "thug" because of dreads	really nothing other than being black	adults and government
Transportation	lack of knowledge (3)	Math

Concerns of confidentiality and trust.	Not getting attention	Feeling emotionally down. Not asking for help
I am not sure what the resources are here in town.	Getting bullied at school. It makes me want to stop going to school.	Family drama.
Money and funding	Unsupportive family figures	No friends to depend on while I'm at school
Myself, because I have a lot on my plate	Fear of being treated differently because of my race	Unsupportive mom
Being in a rural area	Coming from a low-income family	Being a minority woman (limits my opportunities)
Money, Lack of knowledge about resources	Lack of information and resources	Judgement, people, my age
Not enough resources	Awareness of what is available	Not having a male figure in the house
Lack of programs and services	Myself	Lack of communication
What people think of me	The lack of people that want to help me	Parents
Hanging with the wrong people	Not knowing who I can trust.	
motivation to finish college, need a decent job, find a person who isn't violent to women or on drugs		
self doubt, afraid to fail, lack of money, not taking risks, not listening		
Most of the time being told that the things that i say is wrong or like i don't really get heard.		
If the police are good, when the teachers are mean and not fair.		
Not being able to trust people at school and in town.		
I don't know who to go to if I need help, I mean like someone who'll really help.		
- My parents usually stop me from reaching out - If I do talk to someone, the people wouldn't really help me anyways		
I don't have a car and a lot of places are too far to drive too, so lack of public transportation.		
I have no close family members, so I lack that support in my life		
- Teachers are not that supportive of me in school because I have bad grades (lack of support in the school system)		
- No supportive people to turn to when I am at home, besides my sister - Not being openly accepted within the community because queer people are shunned upon		
Nothing that I know of, I'm self-sufficient.		
I am my biggest barrier, because sometimes I do not support myself the way I should.		
There is a lack of teachers that reach out and directly help students		
Not being heard out because I'm the youngest in the family		
People who stop you, force you not to do it. Not asking for it		
People only seem be able to get help when they don't work at all		
Students doing things that shouldn't be done (classroom clown)		
Nothing stops me from getting help		

5. What types of programs or services would be most helpful to you and your family?		
Major Themes:		
Therapy, Counseling, Mental Health (e.g., anger management, grief counseling, someone to talk to about my family problems, talking about our problems, talk session, Could help my mom understand me more. LGBTQ+ support group)		
Positive Youth Development (e.g., better activities for teenagers, teen connection time, classes in finances, social skills, how to get a good job, community events to bond with family, Indigenous culture classes, more fun places to go.)		
School-related assistance (e.g., tutoring and help finding job, A program that would remove bullies from school and make school safe, no one fighting you for no reason. FAFSA numerous times)		
Basic needs (e.g., food, clothes mentioned numerous times)		
Sports (e.g., football, softball, soccer, volleyball)		
Not sure	Something to do in the summer	Therapy
Not Sure	something to help people who are poor	Therapy
Drug programs	I don't know	Therapy
anger management	something to help my parents get me back	I'm not sure
	A car	Better activities for teenagers
The fundraiser to get money and help other people	Something to help pay bills.	- More teen connection time - Make friends outside of school
track profile, tutoring	classes in finances, social skills, how to get a good job	- Free community events where I can bond with my family
a doctor	Paying bills sometimes	- Grief counseling
outside programs	talking about our problems	Financial aid
A program for finding jobs, like good jobs. Tutoring for STEM classes.	Someone to talk to about my family problems.	Therapy and EBT
tutoring and help finding job	someone for us to talk to	911, coping skills
programs to help	Really don't need a program	Church
money, food, clothes		Donation
a place that keeps the contained	Financial workshops and therapy.	More health programs
talking session	Therapy, Church, ROTC, learn electricity, how to fix things	Could help my mom understand me more
clean services	therapy	Criminal Justice programs for teens
Never was in one	help us pay stuff	- Support group for LGBTQ+ people - Family counseling
food (3), food assistance	resources to pay for things	Parent to child support
A new doctor so I have someone to talk to about my ADHD	mental health, A program that would remove bullies from school and make school safe, no one fighting you for no reason	- More Indigenous culture classes (traditional dances, languages, history, clothing)
Maybe just therapy	Jobs that pay more.	Family therapy
Money, cars, clothes, food	for me I pick my coach	Financial help, scholarships, federal programs helping to pay for college
scholarships programs	Therapy. My teachers need therapy	An after-school program (2)
your family, a new home and a truck	- More healthy restaurants	More fun places to go
cheaper mobile data	- Cheerleading programs	Money, Help with school for people who can't speak English

Money, cars, clothes, food	- Interest clubs where you can make friends	Lumbee Tribe, helping my aunt at her coffee shop
- More groups for kids - Have more education on bad families and relationships	Food Stamps. Food is so expensive, my mom's food budget doesn't go as far as it used to.	More chances for middle class people to receive food stamps
Continuing education, life skills, healthy living, and mental wellbeing services.	- The supplemental nutrition assistance program would be helpful for me and my family	More tutoring programs, buses to get kids home from after school programs and practice
- Therapy - Food drives - Boxes of food at school - Suicide hotline - Self-harm hotline	- If somebody went over some things to be careful of while living in Robeson County More tutoring programs, buses to get kids home from after school programs and practice	- Classes that go in depth about the process of becoming a doctor - More opportunities for youth who are interested in becoming a doctor for shadowing and hands-on experience
Money, cars, clothes, and food	- Therapy services	Criminal Justice programs for teens
a soccer field with bleachers so people can see us play	Mental Health	- Support group for LGBTQ+ people - Family counseling
Money, cars, clothes and food	I don't know	scholarships, fafsa
Weekend programs for kids and during the summer.	more accessible mental health programs	job training, how to find a job, anger issues
no programs	Helping get what we need	College, Technology
Getting rich or moving out of Lumberton	more jobs to help my parents get money for other things	health programs, keeping up with homework
Good police that would keep people like me safe at school and in town.	volleyball programs for flag football, indoor soccer	counseling, a support group, mental health
money, roller skating rink, parks	a mini goal in the gym	food stamps, money services and counseling
Science and Math	Soccer, volleyball, softball programs (2)	financial support, food stamps
counselor, anger management classes	trash around the town	food stamps, better insurance
Money, Fafsa (2), tutoring	sports (2), Football, Volleyball	

6. If you needed counseling related to stress or other concerns, where would you go for help?

Major Themes:

Go to Parent, Family (e.g., my mom, my dad, my sister, my brother, my auntie)

Go to Professional (e.g., my doctor, my therapist (several named VEEP therapist Martica, Ashley), a specific coach or teacher)

Go to friend (e.g., my best friend, talk to a few of my friends I've known since 2nd grade.)

Other coping strategies (e.g., go to church (God, Jesus), meditate, go to bed, listen to music, go to myself, notebook)

Go to Nobody (e.g., many youth did not know where to go or had no one to go to)

My dad	Friend	Family, Friends, Church
Church or my dad	My mom	A counselor
Home	Family	
church, school counselor	Parents	Family
the teacher	My dad	A therapist
I will go to my sister and brother for help	parents and friends	My parents
my mom, auntie	Doctor	My teacher
If I need counseling would go with my mom or a friend	Nobody	Jesus, Parents
None	Parent	Just meditate
coach Gor	Not answered	God, Church family
Teachers	Therapist	Parents
to myself because no one gets me more than me	find a therapist	VEEP
my mom	A friend	Mother, Someone I trust
yes because I know how they feel so of course im going to help them :)	Teachers, My mom, Dr. Martica, I also talk to a few of my friends I've known since 2nd grade.	My mom or dad
my mom	Dad	My best friend
my parents and church	teacher, mom	- My mom - My brother
my parent	A therapist	- My parents - My siblings - My boyfriend
someone in my family, a friend	Friends	Don't know
my dad	stress counseling	My sister
Don't know	Guidance Counselor	My grandpa
trusted adult	Friend	Therapist
Don't know	Sister	My teacher
My mother or nobody	Family	I am not sure
to my family	Sister	My school counselor
to my family	Therapist	My mom or dad
my family or somebody	anyone who can help	My best friend
My mother	My aunt	My best friend, Therapist
Counselor	Dad	Someone I trust /understands me

Friend	The office and guidance	My four wheeler
nurse or counseling	Therapist	My parents, My brother
	Mr. Terry	- My friends
my room	notebook, a friend, cousin	- Significant other - Sister - Parents
Nobody	My parents	Therapy, Listening to music outside
a trusted adult	Friends	Parents, Teachers
dad and mom	cousins or parents	My mom, Fiancée, Professional help
to my aunt	My mom	- Friends – Myself
- My therapist - Friends	guidance counselor	Parents
Mom	Teacher	Ms. Ashley
my parents	None	- My friends - My mom
mom and dad	best friend	My parents
mom and dad	Mom	- My physician
my friends	parents, siblings, girlfriend	- Mom - Friends
My mother or cousin	probably go to bed	just listen to music
Ms. Tiffany	Haymount	school counselor
My mom	mom and dad	Therapist
Friends, - TikTok - My best friend - No one in town	I would go home and sleep	I would go to my room, listen to music
My mom	church, friends, family	I can go to my teachers.
My parents	guidance counselor	A therapist
Mr. Ashley	Church (4)	Therapy
school counselor, teacher	Sister, online friends	I go to my counselor
therapist, family, friends	my math teacher, mrs. Whitney	mom or friend
friends, counselor, teacher	therapist or church	Mom
"nowhere, Im a thug"	I would tell me mom	school counselor
Counseling	My older sister, you (VEEP therapist)	tell an adult
family, friends, teachers	friends and family	church, friends, family
we dont have places to help, we go to teachers or a sibling or a friend	Church, - My sorority sisters, My friends, Cheerleading coach	- My brother - My sister - My English teacher
school counselor	University's counseling department	guidance counselor
- Nowhere really to go - Not the school counselor - Other than you (therapist), nobody	Therapy, My mom, my brother, my therapist (Martica at VEEP)	My mom, my volleyball coach, school counselor, and my therapist.
- My mom - My dad - My boyfriend - My grandparents	- My dad - My cousin - Family member - Someone I trust	- My family - My girlfriend - My friends

9. What are some of the community's strengths?

Major Themes:

No answer, nothing, or did not know

Food (e.g., fast food, food at events)

Culture and Diversity (e.g., Lumbee Homecoming, Pow Wows, culture classes and events)

Community support (e.g., helping each other, people coming together, small town feel, everyone knows each other, people have your back, some did not agree)

Foods	I dont know	I don't know
Slim Chicken	I don't know	church
The food	kids playing	idk
dont know	Maxton	main plaza
fast food restaurants	Houses	job
Getting people to the hospital faster than they used to get them	work hard to keep community safe	food
teachers	Houses	Get-togethers and parties
idk	keep the community safe	Get together for parties
teachers	Smart	Coming together when we need to
homes	food	A plaza
being ghetto	food	I don't know
to be smart	food	I don't know
we all set goals	Supporting each other	cooking, pow wows
I dont know	stores	I dont know
nothing	Not answered	teamwork, diversity, manners
helping people in need	a plaza	Not sure
n/a	I dont know	good support
idk	diversity, indian culture, not crowded	free food at school, free education but its not that good
idk	idk	cultural engagement
people working together	trying to keep it safe	gossiping, small community
me	Nothing	diversity
No answer	good homes	mental health services
to help people	Nothing	diversity, friendliness
Violence	good homes	picking up trash
band	How nice some teachers are	when someone needs help
coming together	main plaza	diversity
community	Citizens	coming together helping people
working together	plaza	when we need to come together
Sports	jobs	diversity
large numbers	being racist	being a community
good advice	being one as a whole	finding a way to make people that are slightly different feel stupid

main plaza	communication	everybody knows each other
Sports	Fast food	- It's a nice and quiet place to live - Not far from other major cities (nice location)
idk	Rich culture. I know people that will give the shirt off their back.	- Constant business growth - Amenities offered in town
people, food	If I had to list something I guess I would say the teachers	- Powwows - Culture classes - Lumbee Homecoming - culture
restaurants	We come together for each other	- All the restaurants we have - Big elderly community
fast food	We stand by each other	It's interconnectedness
food	We are a team	influence of the cops around town
family and fast food	We help each other	- Being in a small community where everyone knows everyone is a great feeling knowing wherever you go there is someone there to have your back
food	They support us at our games	- Job opportunities - Friendly people
fast food	We show up	- A decent amount of parks - Close-knitted environment - Lots of land
being friendly	I dont know	- Beautiful landscape - A variety of things to do in town
fast food places	We stick together	- Plenty of job opportunities - Diversity
Close knit community	Street ministry Lumbee Homecoming	- Lots of crops - Local colleges
- Educators in the school system - Variety of events throughout the year	- The small-town nature makes everyone feel closer	- Sport events at UNCP - Events hosted by UNCP (Lighting Old Main, PAC after Dark)
N/A	Street ministries	Guidance Counseling
After school programing	There are cool things to do	It's people.
Good teachers	Cops	- The diversity on UNCP's campus
There are a lot of families.	The services for health	- The fast-food restaurants
Places to eat and shop.	The nice and helpful people	The community. The food places
This town is great. I don't agree	Lumbee Homecoming PowWow	Different organizations that are trying to make a difference in things and peoples lives
My friends but we don't have anywhere to go so we play games online.	Lumbee Homecoming	Community
I can't think of anything	Lumbee Homecoming	How the people care about each other
Roller rink, having my friends	The people. The togetherness of the community	The people in it
- Fellowship, churches, and religion - Culture, Powwow's, Lumbee Homecoming - Parks	Family Friends	The people in it Lumbee Homecoming
- Nothing	McDonalds	- Bowling alley - Movie theater

**10. What actions would you recommend improving current services and supports?
(How can we make things better?)**

Major Themes:

Don't Know

Increase Opportunities (e.g., more parks, more activities, more hands on opportunities, more places for teenagers to go with great supervision, more fun places to go, More programs for youth After school programs)

Interpersonal (e.g., be kind, put better people in services, nicer people, more help, more therapists, police)

Communication (e.g., make everyone aware of programs, faster response time, more outreach)

Service Provision (e.g., Talking about mental health more. More outreach in the schools. Crime reduction, less violence. Financial literacy. do something to stop the bullying, the fights and threats at school. provide services to be accepting of queer people, free outdoor activities for kids. We get bored a lot.)

Better prices	I dont know	I don't know
More food	Being nicer to people	more parks, more activities
dont know	n/a	I dont know
n/a	more police	getting more hands on opportunities
Be helpful to the people and get them food if they need it	I don't know	more resources
tell adults or parents	Not answered	therapy
be kind	make the town a better place	get rid of guns
idk	Hard work	putting better people in services
football	more creativity	food
fix old apartments	more help, money, games	nicer people and food
to redue everything	Raising money to help	bring down gas prices
the boys and girls club	Not answered	more safety
I dont know	none	deep breaths
more police	Don't know	therapist
positive mind set	nothing	healthy food
positive mindset	keep sick people from spreading	control my actions
my team	I don't know	- Improved education system (safer)
idk	better	Training and programs for youth
raise money	Stop bullying	People can pray
idk	better schools	I don't know
Crying or sleeping	Help out	Get more then what we have
nothing	None	People who are more understanding
nothing	dentists	Less judgy - Diversity amongst people who are providing services
More protection	A library	-Easier access
they need to understand people better	better community	- Promoting that services are for any and everyone who needs it.
dont know	Making sure everyone in town is aware of services offered.	- Accuracy and knowledge - Making themselves more known to community by building relationships
services to improve	nothing	More equipment Faster response time

working together	more jobs	More places for teenagers to go with great supervision
Flag football	play soccer	N/A
rebuilding broken down houses and have more homeless shelters	Not answered	More Christian related or church related places
basketball	Better community	It's already good
to like myself	Less violence	N/A
I don't know	More food	N/A
idk sorry	More soccer fields	Make them get more service
learn different languages, how to manage money	Coming to talk in the schools	N/A
spreading the word	More fun places to go	I don't know
more services and support in schools. help early college kids not drop out	Business (financial literacy) Help for lends after high school graduation	- More people who provide services to be accepting of queer people. More queer service providers
more help to super people, better schools	More programs for youth After school programs	More people for each service provided (very limited options in this county)
tell people to get jobs, too many people are homeless	Better opportunities for youth We need a bigger sports complex with more things to do	Doing more outreach to get connected with the community
more financial aide	More supportive people	- Getting out there more
receiving more financial aide	More therapists	- More outreach in the schools
more financial and medical aide	Giving back	Make programs very low cost or free
school, more teachers	Helping others	Better communication with the community
school improvement, more fafsa money	N/A	- More services targeted towards Indigenous mental health
receiving financial aide	Therapy	Showing up at the schools
being kinder to people who need help	I never needed it	Talking about mental health more
more meetings	I do not know. I have never needed them.	More people for each service provided (very limited options in this county)
more hands on opportunities in class	Crime reduction.	Doing more outreach to get connected with the community
higher funding for education and sex-education	Get more teachers so that our classes are not so full	- Getting out there more
- More things to do	Free stuff	- More outreach in the schools
There isn't any thing that needs to be improved but there's always going to be a time for improvement.	free service. More things to do	A park wit trees and tables to eat at, and a grill and a path to walk around the park
Offer resources to the community. Educate & empowerment .	Communication, Make programs very low cost or free	Make this town safe for LGBT. We shouldn't be scared out of our homes.
First I recommend moving, getting out of here. Second, I say do something to stop the bullying, the fights and threats at school.	A meeting to see. Kinder and more understanding adults - More accessible	Swimming pool in Lumberton, a place to play sports that's not school.
- More advertising on available ones	- I'm not very aware of the mental health services in my town and just practice on my own	- free outdoor activities for kids - "We get bored a lot and only get a little while to play outside at school. Sports and stuff costs money."

**11. If you were given \$1,000,000 to help youth in Robeson County,
how would you use the money?**

Major Themes:

Empathic Response (e.g., give it to needy, help the homeless, donate it, basic needs for food, clothes, and shelter, help foster care, help drug addicts)

Keep the Money (help my family, give it to my mom, buy my mom anything, Make sure my family is okay. I will give some to my dad and mom and I will get a truck. I would keep it for my family, they need it more.)

New Programs/Facilities (e.g., make a program for them to go to so they could get away and be friends and have fun. build something for the kids to stay in. Build a building for them to go to to spend time with other kids, fix old homes and build a big center for everyone to come and play and have fun. Build a fun zone for teenagers, free therapy, Places so that people would have something to do. build a boys and girls club Build a place where children could come and stay if they didn't have a home Start sports programs. gaming van so kids have something to look forward too. Funding after school programs for youth. I would build fun places. An indoor jump park. Therapy dog for every school I would use some of it to get more fun things to do in Robeson County. I'd open a business or a home to help kids deal with stress or mental health. program that gives sex talks and other body functions, create a business for teens and children.)

I would buy cars a house and food	I would get a lot of things they need and I would have a place where they felt safe if they needed it.
Id give it to my friends like Kale, Xander, Seth and Hastin. Id also buy a few V-bucks and give it to the community.	Give it to people in need
I would get shoes for people and get food for the people and also keep it for me.	I would buy them food and give them clothes
donate to charity, buy food, shelter	Spend it on education
I would give out to the homeless and I would buy them all food and buy them some support for them and I would donate it and give the rest to my mom	I would build something for the kids to stay in
I would save it but if I had to spend it I will help my family with their car and bills they need help with and I will buy them a bigger house	I would make a program for them to go to so they could get away and be friends and have fun
I would build an eye clinic for kids with glasses that make comfortable glasses, contacts for 11 and up	I would go buy them a lot of things and I would give it to them.
to help others	Build a building for them to go to to spend time with other kids
I would donate to people in need	I would buy them clothes and get them shelter
fix the water	I would give them shoes, food and what they needed
fix old homes and build a big center for everyone to come and play and have fun	child hunger
to help the un health, the unsafe, the hungry, the sad, the angry	I would help children get more food and shelter if they are poor
build more places	Buy food and water
better schools for little kids	Donate to the school
help the homeless and kids in need	Give them toys and food and clothes. I would help the poor.
help the homeless kid in need	Donate to the homeless

I would buy my mom anything and go to nba games	I would help kids that don't have anything
give it to the schools	Give it to the orphans
to buy resources for people in need	Help the school systems out and get better sports equipment
on me	Pay the teachers more money. Build a fun zone for teenagers
remodel buildings, houses, and roads, more places to have fun, more car lots and stores, help the homeless	Free therapy
keep it to myself	Make a day program from them to go to, to get what they need in life
keep it	I would create a program for people to use to meet their needs
give to family, friends and people who help me	A program to help kids in need
Upgrade it (the county)	Give it to the church
better schools	Give them a shelter
sports teams for schools	Give it to the homeless
for people to come together and be nice	I would put it in the hospital
donate to the school	Send it to foster care
Make sure my family is okay, and give the rest to the homeless	Somewhere for homeless people to stay Places so that people would have something to do
savings account and save for my college and I will donate to charities and schools	I would expand this town and add more businesses and opportunities to the people who are having a hard time getting a job
I will give some to my dad and mom and I will get a truck	More programs about drug rehabs Help with cleaning of Robeson County roadside
homes for people, shelters	More accessible healthcare (mental specifically) Public health education research. Food banks
give it to the community	Homeless shelter. Make health better than it is
Help the homeless get food	I would build a boys and girls club
to get more houses and a Walmart	Build a place where children could come and stay if they didn't have a home
start a soccer program	I would put a Target and then I would put a Wendy's and Waffle House
Helping the homeless and children	Help the homeless and drug addicts
get a house, car, help homeless	Fix roads. Clean up trash. Donate to charities
charity	Helping the homeless and drug addicts
Give it to the guys or family	I would help the homeless Clean the city up from trash. Fix buildings
a car, sister shoes, clothes	Help the homeless and make sure they all have food and a roof over their heads
Give back to the family	Would help the ones that needed help to make the town a better place
help people in need	Build a home for the homeless so you would not see them on the streets
Hellcat	Schools in general. Everyone needs a better education
New computers, lunches, and school buildings	Help the homeless people. Build homeless shelters

start sports programs, school lunches better	Shelters. Rehab centers
better school lunches	Create more jobs.
buy new school lunches, upgrade the school	- The schools in Robeson County - A big basketball court - Funding after school programs for youth
I would donate the money to the schools	Would build fun places
cheeseburgers	Give money to Purnell Swett, better teaching and resources Help the homeless, pay raises, better laws
Give it to my family and friends	More activities, Better school programs Have more stuff to help the elderly
help the school	Build more things for the youth to stay busy Something for our elderly
to help people	Help the people who are not able to provide for themselves. Make apartments for people who cannot financially provide for themselves or their family
To help people get the things they need in Roberson County	Help people get help. Build homeless shelters
new shoes	- A place for runaway kids/teens to go and stay for a while - An indoor jump park
more services	- Center for LGBTQ+ youth - LGBTQ+ studies course at schools or for an after-school program
soccer field	Donate the money to programs that support family structure in the community
I would help set up mental health services in person rather than online	- Create more culture classes for Indigenous youth to attend so they can learn more about who they are - Another Lumbee Museum (but more modern) - More scholarships for Indigenous youth
clothes and school	- Free school lunch for everybody - Free school materials - Therapy dog for every school
Giving them stuff they need	- Upgrades in roads/potholes and streetlights - Education system
schools	- Community centers so people could be more active - A museum - A stadium - More things to the local parks so it would be more interactive - A zoo
I would use some of it to get more fun things to do in Robeson County	- Housing for the homeless that provides food, clothes, and hygiene products
more accessible for kids, mental health programs	- More community functions - More recreational activities
Build better schools, houses, and shelters	Install a public pool and develop a scenic walking trail with a pond and canoes.
more soccer fields and food	Splash pad or a community pool
help family and save it for the community	I would build a nice outdoor place where you can workout and connect with nature at the same time
Invest it in stocks or crypto	- Make a bus that will transport youth around town for appointments - Make a play area strictly for teenagers (children already have their own parks)
give it to the homeless and community.	I'd build a shelter for all the cats without homes and try to get them in good homes. There's kids who don't have a pet and they're lonely. I'd want every kid get a cat if they want one. I'd teach them at the shelter how to take care of their pet and they could come help.
helping family	- More security, like cameras and stuff - Another park with more stuff to do

v-bucks	- Better police training - More DSS workers for kids - A go-kart place or ATV place
football programs and basketball	- More places to eat (less fast food) - More places to go (we need new bowling alley)
help the poor	- Improve the amenities in the mall - More after school programs for youth
start sports	- Increase in pay for educators - More funding for the schools and colleges
make school lunches better	- Build a hospital - More funding for the police
Help the homeless	- Make schools safer - Provide food and shelter to the homeless - Create a transportation center for people to go to appointments and job opportunities
Start a volleyball program	charity and orphans
Give to the homeless	give it to the schools
Build a soccer field	to the homeless, shelters, schools
Give it to my mom	I would help my fellow black people
I would buy a school, start a basketball program	fund food, mental health, good teachers
build another high school, better Pernel sweet, more support groups	help the homeless
have game nights	to help the homeless
invest half in education (sex ed, teachers, supplies), use the other half to support youth struggling with money at home	charity, animal shelter so kids can work with animals, better food, gaming van so kids have something to look forward too
nice park, bike paths, make schools better, athletics building	give out shoes and food
give back to the community	homeless shelters, schools, food places
counseling, extra activities, place to lay, more sports	create educational programs, invest in after school programs, establish scholarships
new phone, new house, new clothes	I would buy restaurant, homeless shelters, schools
mental health organization, suicide prevention	homeless
towards the schools	homeless
charity and homeless shelters	better education, public transportation, more jobs
money to the schools	my college, church, the homeless
schools and mental health	half to K-12 and the rest to unemployed
education, mental health	homeless, animal shelters, charities, schools
better schools	I would give it to charity
I would help schools and the environment	Pay for teachers that are nice
invest it into companies so I can get more money and help more people. donate to hospitals, youth services	I wouldn't give it to anyone, they can fend for themselves. I would keep it for my family, they need it more.
create a business for teens and children	I would build houses for the poor.
better sports equipment, homeless, better playgrounds	If I were older I'd open a business or a home to help kids deal with stress or mental health.
program that gives sex talks and other body functions	Build sports arenas, gyms, libraries, and leisure activities.

I would improve my school and get more school supplies because it's important and pay teachers.	I'd make schools better. Everyone could graduate and feel smart and go to college. If we go to college, we'll get good jobs and we can take care of our moms who will be old by then.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Buy a lot of food and give it out - Give money to the schools - Run a clothes drive - Toy drive for elementary school kids 	I'd put a big center for LGBTQ people where they could be together and do fun things and the town would know that there's LGBTQ kids here and learn to treat them like any other kid.
I'd get bullies out of the schools. I'd get a truck that would take bullies out of here and drive them to a desert where there'd be a special school for bullies. And if I could do this, maybe bullies would think twice about bullying, cuz they wouldn't want to leave their families and leave here.	I would give back to the community. I would help families that don't have a father in the home. I will give money to the homeless.

Appendix 3:

**Robeson County
Community Health Needs Assessment 2023**

**Presented by:
Robeson County
Health Department and
UNC Health Southeastern
in partnership with
Healthy Robeson**

Appendix 4:
ROAR Coalition Environmental Scan