

# Will County Community Themes & Strengths Assessment Focus Group Report



March 31, 2010

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## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction: Community Themes and Strengths Assessment Focus Group Report .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Focus Group Methodology.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Aggregate Analysis of Focus Groups.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Demographics.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Quality of Life Ratings.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Summary .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Analysis of Individual Focus Groups .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Key Findings from Focus Group Populations .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Mexican-American Coalition.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Daybreak Shelter .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Special Needs Population .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Youth.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Braidwood /Wilmington/ Southern Will County.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Bolingbrook/ Northern Will County .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Spanish Community Center .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Senior Services Center/ Eastern Will County.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Mt. Zion Baptist Church.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Area Service Providers.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Appendix 1: Focus Group Questions.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Appendix 2: Chart of Focus Groups .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Appendix 3: Focus Group Demographic, Quality of Life and Community Assets Tables .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Appendix 4: Focus Group Notes .....</b>	<b>43</b>

## **Introduction:**

The following report provides a summary of the results from focus groups to enrich the findings from the Will County Community Themes and Strengths Assessment. The Will County Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA) was conducted as one of the four assessments in the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) process. The Community Themes and Strengths Assessment provides an understanding of the issues residents feel are important. It identifies issues that interest the community, perceptions about quality of life, and community assets. MAPP provides the framework for a comprehensive public health system assessment and plan, which is led and developed by public health system partners.

This report begins with an analysis of the aggregate findings from all focus groups, comparing the focus group population to those of the original Assessment. The remaining portion of this report provides an analysis of the findings from each focus group to help flesh out the perceptions of the targeted focus group participants. The summary of each focus group concentrates on issues or themes raised throughout the focus group; it is an attempt to synthesize a great deal of information and is not meant to be a comprehensive summary of every issue raised. The Appendix provides notes and a listing of every issue raised for each question asked at each focus group. This supplemental information aims to provide a more rich understanding of the concerns of Will County residents.

## **Focus Group Methodology:**

The Community Themes & Strengths Assessment County Survey provided a solid foundation for understanding the issues in Will County. However, the demographic profile of the survey respondents was not completely representative of Will County residents. The survey respondent pool tended to be White, older, more educated, English-speaking residents of Will County. As a means to supplement findings from a community survey of almost 500 residents in Will County, the Will County Public Health Department held 10 focus groups. The focus groups were used to verify representation and gather input from residents under-sampled in the Survey. It also helps explore how various community concerns are viewed from populations often under-represented in similar community surveys. By concentrating the participant pool on people of color, younger residents, and those with less education, these findings can enrich the findings from the survey on the diverse issues and concerns of Will County as a whole.

The location and demographic composition of the focus group participants was intentionally selected to include the previously under-represented population. The focus groups were also conducted to capture input from areas outside of the immediate Joliet area, namely Eastern, Northern and Southern Will counties. Youth, Homeless and

Special Needs populations were also selected because they are not traditionally represented in the survey sampling.

Members of the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA) committee served as coordinators to organize and set up the groups. The focus group coordinators identified agencies that serviced the targeted populations; recruitment letters were sent to these agencies, asking the agencies to facilitate the focus groups and identify individuals for participation. Locations for the groups were based on the availability of the site and accessibility.

Members of the CTSA committee or volunteers from member organizations served as group facilitators. In order to establish consistency in conducting the focus groups, a facilitators' training was held to review the purpose, process and questions.

An additional focus group was held for service providers for the above populations in order to collect additional information on the perception of strengths and needs from their clients and agencies. The CTSA chairperson and MAPP staff identified organizations for participation. Letters of invitations were sent out to several organizations, inviting them to participate in the service provider focus group.

## **Aggregate Analysis of Focus Groups:**

### Demographics:

The focus groups intentionally oversampled Will County residents who were younger than 65 years, Hispanic/Latino, African American, and less well educated. As such, the focus group participants were 20% Latino and 32.2% Black/African American. Nearly three-fifths (56.7%) of the participants were under 55 years old. Additionally, the majority of participants had less than a college education.

The majority of the participants came from the following areas: Joliet, Monee, Bolingbrook, University Park and Wilmington.

	Focus Group Participants:
<b>Age</b>	
24 yrs or younger	9.3%
25 to 34 yrs	9.3%
35 to 44 yrs	13.4%
45 to 54 yrs	24.7%
55 to 64 yrs	20.6%
65 yrs or older	22.7%
<b>Educational Attainment</b>	
< High School	4.2%
High School Diploma/GED	24.0%
Some College	32.3%
Four-year/ Bachelors Degree	20.8%
Post-graduate Degree	18.8%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	
White, Non-Hispanic	47.8%
Black/African-American	32.2%
Hispanic/Latino	20.0%
<b>Gender</b>	
Female	69.1%
Male	30.9%
Transgender	0%

Quality of Life Ratings:

Much like the survey respondents, the focus group participants believed Will County and their surrounding community (city, town or village) provided them with a high quality of life. The majority of focus group participants rated Will County (57.5%) and their community (58.1%) a “7” or above on the rating scale. No participants (0%) rated the quality of life in Will County or their community a “1” – the lowest possible rating.

Overall quality of life rating in participants' community (city, town, or village):										
Participant Group	1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Highest)
Focus Group Participants:	0.0%	1.0%	5.1%	8.2%	15.3%	12.2%	16.3%	21.4%	17.3%	3.1%
Survey Participants:	0.6%	0.4%	2.3%	4.4%	8.7%	7.7%	17.6%	32.0%	16.0%	10.4%

Overall quality of life rating in Will County:										
Participant Group	1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Highest)
Focus Group Participants:	0.0%	1.0%	4.0%	7.1%	16.2%	14.1%	23.2%	24.2%	8.1%	2.0%
Survey Participants:	0.6%	0.8%	1.7%	4.4%	12.1%	13.5%	23.3%	26.5%	11.3%	5.8%

There were several important factors that contributed to a healthy community for the focus group participants:

- Safety,
- Good place to raise children,
- Strong economy and good jobs, and
- High performing schools.

This is very similar to the factors indicated by the survey respondents as indicative of a healthy community – low crime, good schools, and a good place to raise children.

In responding to the types of services or programs improving the quality of life in the community, focus group participants noted:

- After-school/ recreational activities for children,
- Access to health care services, and
- Public/ recreational spaces, including parks.

The focus group participants, however, also had a variety of concerns with their community, including the following:

- Need for affordable housing,
- Access to mental health and social welfare/ human services,
- High tax rates, and
- Need for more job opportunities.

It should also be noted that transportation was an issue for focus group participants. Several participants also indicated that 24 hour bus service was a need for county residents. Unlike the survey respondents, the focus group participants did not mention traffic congestion or street disrepair. In fact, not one participant indicated these as a problem in their community.

There were several factors that focus group participants indicated were important assets in their community:

- Schools, park and recreational activities,
- Churches, and
- Health care access.



The “schools” factor was composed of responses favoring the quality and availability of elementary and secondary schools as well as the access to institutions of higher education. The “parks & recreational activities” factor included sports functions, access and availability of parks, and other public spaces that allow for recreation. Participants simply mentioned “churches” without much explanation as to how they contributed to their community. The “health care access” factor included issues of availability and access to services and institutions for health care treatment.

<b>In the following list, what do you think are the three most important factors for a "Healthy Community" (those factors that would most improve the quality of life in this county)?</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>% Selected</b>	<b># Selected</b>
<b>Good place to raise children</b>	36.0%	36
<b>Low crime/safe neighborhoods</b>	49.0%	49
<b>Low level of child abuse</b>	2.0%	2
<b>High performing schools</b>	30.0%	30
<b>Safe schools</b>	23.0%	23
<b>Access to primary health care (i.e. family doctor)</b>	23.0%	23
<b>Access to mental health services (i.e. counselor, substance abuse treatment program, psychiatrist)</b>	9.0%	9
<b>Parks and recreations</b>	18.0%	18
<b>Clean environment</b>	15.0%	15
<b>Affordable housing</b>	20.0%	20
<b>Arts and cultural events</b>	2.0%	2
<b>Good race relations</b>	7.0%	7
<b>Good jobs and healthy economy</b>	34.0%	34
<b>Strong family life</b>	5.0%	5
<b>Healthy behaviors and lifestyles</b>	7.0%	7
<b>Low infant deaths</b>	0.0%	0
<b>Religious and spiritual values</b>	16.0%	16

Summary:

While focus group participants had concerns about their community’s economy, public transportation access, access to social welfare/ human services, and housing affordability, they strongly believed their community was a positive place for them and their families. This is evident in the positive ratings of the quality of life in their community and the responses indicate that factors such as health care services, recreational activities, and access to excellent educational opportunities were present in Will County.



## **Analysis of Individual Focus Groups:**

### Key Findings from Focus Group Populations:

The participants from each focus group represented a diverse population of Will County residents. Three focus groups were conducted in different regions of the county; two focus groups were held with Latino residents; one was held at an African-American church. The other focus groups were conducted with youth, homeless residents, human service providers, and a special needs (i.e. disabled) population. This provided the opportunity to examine similarities and differences between the focus groups to understand how the assets and needs of Will County's communities are viewed by these populations. A chart of each focus group, the primary demographic group, and the major issues discussed is in Appendix 2.

#### Regional:

There was not a great deal of variation in the assets and needs of the focus group participants across the three regions. All mentioned the factors of high performing schools and low crime/ safe neighborhoods as contributing to a high quality of life in their communities. The important community assets for these participants included schools, parks and recreational resources, and faith-based organizations. Participants in the northern and eastern focus groups mentioned access to major roadways as an important community asset. Participants of all the focus groups mentioned crime; however, crime was discussed in different contexts at each focus group. The northern focus group participants discussed crime generally as a problem. The eastern focus group participants discussed crime in the context of truck stops attracting crime to the area. The southern focus group participants were concerned with the lack of parental control for youth, a limited and slow response by police to their concerns, and inadequate and uncoordinated plans to combat substance abuse problems in the community.

#### Race/ Ethnicity:

The focus groups with Latino/ Hispanic participants followed some of the findings of the general population. The participants mentioned important assets in their community such as school quality, public parks and recreational spaces, faith-based organizations, and after-school activities. They also found that there was a need for more public spaces and recreational activities in their community. The participants also raised some important issues that were not discussed in other focus groups; language barriers and lack of comfort in accessing health care and other important services were raised as concerns. Reliable public transportation - especially that which runs 24 hours a day - was noted as an important issue for this population. Additionally, Latino/ Hispanic participants mentioned the need to address discriminatory practices of the police and the judicial system toward Latinos/Hispanics.

The participants at several of the focus groups were African-American, providing for an understanding of the community assets and needs from this population. Much like other groups, participants mentioned community assets like school quality, faith-based organizations, and after-school activities. The African-American participants raised concerns about the lack of and location of affordable housing in their communities; they felt any housing designated for lower-income residents was isolated and inaccessible to the resources that produce high quality of life for residents.

#### Age:

While only one of the focus groups intentionally targeted a specific age group (youth) there were some distinctions that came from these participants that should be noted. School quality was mentioned as an important asset to the community for the youth; this mirrors the response of the other focus groups. However, the youth participants were felt there was a need for more youth-centered programming that would give them additional extra-curricular activities. The youth participants noted concerns with a lack of activities for them outside of school. They mentioned the lack of facilities and infrastructures – parks, pools, gyms – that could provide for youth-centered activities. This is notable to mention, because many of the other focus group participants – all of which were adults – noted the presence of parks and recreational resources as contributions to the quality of life in their community. There could be a disconnect between the perception of adults about the availability of activities for youth in the community and the perception of youth about these same activities..

In addition, it is important to note that the issue of quality, consistent public transportation and affordable housing were raised by Latino/Hispanic, African-American, and the Special Needs (disabled) participants in the focus groups. All three participant groups felt that there needed to be more public transportation services to facilitate employment and mobility for their population. Unlike the focus groups with seniors and findings in the survey, quality roads and the problems of traffic congestion were not discussed. They also believed that there was a lack of affordable housing for their populations; an increase in quality affordable housing was noted as something that could increase the quality of life for these residents. These issues were not raised by other participants of the focus groups.

The following summaries of each individual focus group provide insight into the various concerns each of the various populations. The summaries provide a brief demographic profile for the focus group and list the topics or issues that seemed to be a concern by the participants. Tables and charts of some of the finds are in Appendix 3. Detailed notes from each focus group are a part of the Appendix 4.

## Mexican-American Coalition Focus Group:

### Demographics:

The Mexican-American Coalition Focus Group included a total of 13 participants from Joliet, Lockport, and Rockdale. The participants were all Hispanic/Latino, with one resident indicating “Mexican” as her racial category. The majority of the participants were male (66.6%), with a minority of female participants (33.3%). Eighty percent (80%) of the participants were over 45 years old; the remaining 20% were between 25 and 34 years old. The participants were educated; 90% of the participants had at least a high school education or GED.

### Quality of Life Ratings:

The Mexican-American Coalition Focus Group participants believed the quality of life in Will County was high. The majority of focus group participants (69.2%) rated Will County’s quality life a “6” or above on a 10 point scale.

However, participants’ feelings about the quality of life in their community (city, town, village) was less consistent. A slim majority of participants (53.8%) ranked the quality of life in their community a “6” or above; 46.2% ranked the quality of life a “5” or below.

The factors that were cited as most important in contributing to the quality of life of the participants included:

- Safe schools
- Access to primary health care (i.e. family doctor)
- Good place to raise children
- Low crime/safe neighborhoods

Participants cited the following as benefits or assets to their community that could be expanded to improve the quality of life of their community:

- After-school/ recreational activities for children
- Access to health care services
- Faith-based organizations/ churches
- Public/ recreational spaces
- Affordable housing

The following is a list of needs or concerns the participants raised:

- Cost of health care services/ access based on insurance
- Comfort with using health care services
- Language barriers in accessing health care services
- Inconsistent/ discriminatory treatment of Hispanics by police/ judicial system
- Increased public/ recreational space

## Daybreak Shelter Focus Group:

### Demographics:

The Daybreak Shelter Focus Group included a total of 8 participants from the Joliet area. Many of these participants stated they were homeless. The participants were predominately African-American (50%), with others being White, and Hispanic/Latino. One resident indicated “American Indian” as her racial category. The majority of the participants were female (75%), with a minority of males (25%). Eighty-seven and a half percent of the participants were between 35 and 54 years old; the remaining 12.5% were between 55 and 64 years old. The participants were educated; 62.5% of the participants had at least some college education.

### Quality of Life Ratings:

The Daybreak Shelter Focus Group participants believed the quality of life in Will County was low. The majority of focus group participants (62.5%) rated Will County’s quality life a “5” or below on a 10 point scale. It was clear in the responses from participants that many were not familiar with Will County, thus the ranking needs to be qualified with this information.

Participants’ feelings about the quality of life in their community (city, town, village) was higher. Half of the participants (50%) ranked the quality of life in their community as “6” or above.

The factors that were cited as most important in contributing to the quality of life of the participants included:

- Clean environment
- Affordable housing
- Good place to raise children
- Good jobs and healthy economy
- Religious and spiritual values

Participants cited the following as benefits or assets to their community that could be expanded to improve the quality of life of their community:

- Quality programs for the homeless – food pantries, addiction programs
- Libraries
- Churches
- Schools

The following is a list of needs or concerns the participants raised:

- Improved economy – better jobs

- Public transportation that runs 24hrs/day, 7 days/week
- More comprehensive shelter system that supports paths toward economic stability/ integration for individuals and their families
- Affordable housing

Special Needs Population Focus Group:

Demographics:

The Special Needs Population Focus Group included a total of 11 participants from the Joliet and Bolingbrook area. The participants were predominately White (72.75%), with others being African-American. One participant indicated “other” but did not list a race/ethnicity. The majority of the participants were female (63.6%), with a minority of males (36.4%). Sixty-three percent (63.7%) of the participants were between 35 and 54 years old; the remaining 36.3% were 55 years or older. The participants were educated; 81.9% of the participants had at least some college education – 54.6% had a college degree or more.

Quality of Life Ratings:

The Special Needs Population Focus Group participants believed the quality of life in Will County was high. The majority of focus group participants (80%) rated Will County’s quality life a “6” or above on a 10 point scale.

Participants’ feelings about the quality of life in their community (city, town, village) was consistent, if not higher than their feelings about Will County. All of the participants (100%) ranked the quality of life in their community as “6” or above.

The factors that were cited as most important in contributing to the quality of life of the participants included:

- Low crime/ safe neighborhoods
- Good place to raise children
- High performing schools
- Access to health care services
- Access to mental health services
- Affordable housing

Participants cited the following as benefits or assets to their community that could be expanded to improve the quality of life of their community:

- Programs and services that promote interaction among community residents and community cohesion
- Feeling of safety in the community
- Variety of human services that provide access and support for all residents



- Quality school systems

The following is a list of needs or concerns the participants raised:

- Public transportation that runs 24hrs/day, 7 days/week and is on-time and convenient for those with special needs
- Improved infrastructure that allows for inclusion of those in wheelchairs
- Interpreting services for those needing support when they access health care services
- Affordable housing

### Youth Focus Group:

#### Demographics:

The Youth Focus Group included a total of 8 participants from the Plainfield, Romeoville and Wilmington area. The participants were predominately White (85.7%), with others being Hispanic/Latino. The participants were split evenly between males and females. All of the participants were under 24 years of age and all the participants had a high school degree or GED.

#### Quality of Life Ratings:

The Youth Focus Group participants believed the quality of life in Will County was high. All of focus group participants rated Will County's quality life a "7" or above on a 10 point scale.

Participants' feelings about the quality of life in their community (city, town, village) was consistent with their feelings about Will County. All of the participants (100%) ranked the quality of life in their community as "6" or above. Issues mentioned in supporting a high quality of life in Will County and their community included opportunities for education and other activities, safety, positive relationships with law enforcement, and community cohesion.

The three factors that were cited as most important in contributing to the quality of life of the participants included:

- Good place to raise children
- Safe schools
- Low crime/ safe neighborhoods

Participants cited the following as benefits or assets to their community that could be expanded to improve the quality of life of their community:

- Quality school experiences – positive friends, safety, availability of extracurricular activities, parks and other resources to engage in activities

- DARE and TATU programs
- School programs that support youth – counseling, tutoring, free lunch programs
- Religious programs

The following is a list of needs or concerns the participants raised:

- Lack of youth-focused activities outside of school
- Public infrastructure providing youth-centered activities – bike paths, pools, gyms
- Influence of drugs on youth
- Job opportunities

Braidwood/ Wilmington/ Southern Focus Group:

Demographics:

The Braidwood/ Wilmington Focus Group included a total of 9 participants from the Braidwood and Wilmington area. The participants were predominately White (77.8%), with others being Hispanic/Latino. The participants were split almost evenly between males (44.4%) and females (55.6%). All of the participants were over 25 years old, with the majority (77.7%) between 35 and 54 years old. All the participants had at least a high school degree or GED, with a majority (55.6%) having achieved some college.

Quality of Life Ratings:

The Braidwood/ Wilmington Focus Group participants believed the quality of life in Will County was high. A majority (88.8%) of focus group participants rated Will County’s quality life a “7” or above on a 10 point scale.

Participants’ feelings about the quality of life in their community (city, town, village) was consistent with their feelings about Will County. A majority of the participants (77.7%) ranked the quality of life in their community as “8” or above. Issues mentioned in supporting a high quality of life in Will County and their community included safety, a close-knit community, quality schools, and a familiarity with other residents.

The factors that were cited as most important in contributing to the quality of life of the participants included:

- Low crime/ safe neighborhoods
- High performing schools
- Good jobs and healthy economy

Participants cited the following as benefits or assets to their community that could be expanded to improve the quality of life of their community:

- Schools



- Community residents
- Faith-based organizations
- Civic organizations

The following is a list of needs or concerns the participants raised:

- Lack of a responsive police department
- Substance abuse issues – lack of treatment services and proper plan for detection and elimination
- Lack of parental guidance/ other services for youth

#### Bolingbrook/ Northern Will County Focus Group:

##### Demographics:

The Bolingbrook/ Northern Will County Focus Group included a total of 12 participants from the Bolingbrook area. The participants were split evenly between White (50%) and African-American (50%). There were more female (75%) participants than males (25%). All of the participants were over 25 years of age, with the majority (58.3%) between 45 and 64 years old. All the participants had at least some college education, with a majority (58.3%) having achieved a college degree or more.

##### Quality of Life Ratings:

The Bolingbrook/ Northern Will County Focus Group participants believed the quality of life in Will County was high. A majority (91.78%) of focus group participants rated Will County's quality life a "6" or above on a 10 point scale.

Participants' feelings about the quality of life in their community (city, town, village) was slightly less favorable. A majority of the participants (83.3%) ranked the quality of life in their community as "6" or above; however, 16.7% of the participants gave their community a rating of "4." Issues mentioned in supporting a high quality of life in Will County and their community included growth regarding hospitals and recreational activities, good place to raise children, abundance of parks, diversity and overall community cohesion. Those who rated their community a "4" cited current economic hardships – unemployment and foreclosure – as barriers to high quality of life.

The factors that were cited as most important in contributing to the quality of life of the participants seemed to be scattered across several factors, including:

- High performing schools
- Good jobs and healthy economy
- Low crime/ safe neighborhoods
- Safe schools
- Access to primary health care

- Parks and recreation
- Affordable housing
- Good race relations
- Religious and spiritual values

Participants cited the following as benefits or assets to their community that could be expanded to improve the quality of life of their community:

- Quality health care staff and facilities
- Faith-based organizations
- Access to major roads
- Transportation
- Education
- Retail shops

The following is a list of needs or concerns the participants raised:

- Services for those pushed out of the workforce through layoffs and early retirement
- Lack of services for the disabled, especially housing
- Lack of events to unite the community
- Programs for teen – need programming to keep them out of trouble
- Crime
- Unemployment

#### Spanish Community Center Focus Group:

##### Demographics:

The Spanish Community Center Focus Group included a total of 6 participants from the Joliet area. The participants were Hispanic/Latino (100%), females (100%). All of the participants were under 35 years old, with the majority (80%) between 25 and 34 years old. The educational attainment level varied for each participant.

##### Quality of Life Ratings:

The Spanish Community Center Focus Group participants believed the quality of life in Will County was high. All participants rated Will County's quality life a "6" or above on a 10 point scale.

Participants' feelings about the quality of life in their community (city, town, village) was slightly less favorable. A majority of the participants (60%) ranked the quality of life in their community as "7" or above; however, 40% of the participants gave their community a rating of "3." Issues mentioned in supporting a high quality of life in Will County and their community included better opportunities (this was not qualified



further). Those who rated their community a “3” cited the lack of recreational facilities and safety as barriers to a better quality of life.

The factors that were cited as most important in contributing to the quality of life of the participants seemed to be scattered across several factors, including:

- Low crime/ safe neighborhoods
- Safe schools
- Parks and recreation
- Strong family life

Participants cited the following as benefits or assets to their community that could be expanded to improve the quality of life of their community:

- Clean streets
- Faith-based organizations
- Public transportation
- After-school programs
- Retail shops

The following is a list of needs or concerns the participants raised:

- Need for more police presence in public recreational areas
- Children’s exposure to violence
- Safer streets – free from fierce dogs and well-lit
- Parenting programs

#### Senior Services Center/ Eastern Will County Focus Group:

##### Demographics:

The Senior Services Center/ Eastern Will County Focus Group included a total of 19 participants from Peotone, University Park, Crete, Monee, Frankfort and Beecher. The participants were predominately White (73.7%) or African-American (15.8%). One participant noted their race/ethnicity as other, but did not specify it. All of the participants were 35 years or older, with the majority (79%) 55 years and older. A majority of the participants were female (55.6%). The educational attainment level varied for each participant with a slight majority (52.6%) holding at least a college degree.

##### Quality of Life Ratings:

The Senior Services Center/ Eastern Will County Focus Group participants had wide variability in their beliefs on the quality of life in Will County. More participants chose “5” on the 10 point scale than any other response. There were 47.1% of participants



that ranked Will County quality of life a “6” or above and 21.1% that ranked it a “4” or less.

Participants’ feelings about the quality of life in their community (city, town, village) was slightly less favorable, but still had wide variability. The ranking of “5” was most chosen by participants. A slight majority of the participants (52.6%) ranked the quality of life in their community as “6” or above.

The factors that were cited as most important in contributing to the quality of life of the participants seemed to be scattered across several factors, including:

- Low crime/ safe neighborhoods
- High performing schools
- Access to primary health care
- Parks and recreation

Participants cited the following as benefits or assets to their community that could be expanded to improve the quality of life of their community:

- Access to transportation and road construction
- Services available at Governor’s State University
- Cable television public access programming

The following is a list of needs or concerns the participants raised:

- High taxes
- Truck stops and the crime they attract
- Lack of access to quality grocery stores
- Lack of recreational activities for children
- Limited restaurants with healthy food

#### Mt. Zion Baptist Church Focus Group:

##### Demographics:

The Mt. Zion Baptist Church Focus Group included a total of 13 participants from Bolingbrook, Crest Hill, Fairmont, Joliet, Parkwood, Shorewood and Sugar Creek. The participants were African-American females. All of the participants were 45 years or older, with the majority (53.9%) between 45 and 64 years old. The educational attainment level was high; all participants had at least some college education, with a majority (61.6%) holding at least a college degree.

## Quality of Life Ratings:

The Mt. Zion Baptist Church Focus Group participants believed Will County offered a high quality of life. A majority (53.9%) of the participants ranked Will County a “6” or above on the 10 point scale. The remaining (42.1%) ranked Will County a “4” or “5.”

Participants’ feelings about the quality of life in their community (city, town, village) was slightly more favorable. The ranking of “5” was most chosen by participants (30.8%), but a majority (79.2%) of participants ranked the quality of life in their community as “6” or above.

The factors that were cited as most important in contributing to the quality of life of the participants seemed to be scattered across several factors, including:

- Good jobs and healthy economy
- Low crime/ safe neighborhoods
- High performing schools
- Access to primary health care
- Good place to raise children

Participants cited the following as benefits or assets to their community that could be expanded to improve the quality of life of their community:

- Good schools, community involvement.
- Recreation activities
- Health care services
- Access to basic services (grocery, healthcare, education, churches)

The following is a list of needs or concerns the participants raised:

- Public transportation
- Need for improved roadways
- Lack of shopping, grocery stores
- Location of low income housing

## Area Service Providers Focus Group:

This focus group was conducted with human service providers in Will County to understand the issues and concerns of those they serve. As such, the demographic information and quality of life ratings pertain not to those participating in the focus group, but the clients served by the participating human service providers.

## Demographics:

The Area Service Providers Focus Group included a total of 11 participants from the Joliet area. The participants represented the following populations, of which they

served: children/ families, faith-based communities, homeless, seniors, special needs and low-income residents.

#### Quality of Life Ratings:

The Area Service Providers Focus Group participants rated their community a “5” or higher, with four participants rating their community a “7” or higher. Issues contributing to the high quality of life include the diversity of services for those in need. Some barriers to improved quality of life include access to the services, especially regarding transportation and ability to pay. Additionally, quality retail and grocery stores and recreational facilities decreased the quality of living.

Participants cited the following as benefits or assets to their community that could be expanded to improve the quality of life of their community:

- Variety of services available to those in need
- Quality and concern of those working to provide services
- Government agencies working to provide and improve services

The following is a list of needs or concerns the participants raised:

- Familial problems
- Economic resources – jobs and money
- Interpreting/ translation services
- Educational opportunities
- Child care services



## APPENDIX 1: Focus Group Questions

1. Thinking about Will County overall, how do you rate the quality of life in Will County, on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest possible quality of life? (Circle one.)
2. Which Will County community do you live in or near? (Please name the city, town, village or unincorporated area and zip code.)
3. How do you rate the overall quality of life in the community (city, town, or village) where you live? Rate the quality of life from 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest and 1 being the lowest. (Circle one.)
4. In the following list, what do you think are the three most important factors for a “Healthy Community” (those factors that would most improve the quality of life in this country)?
5. What services or programs do you feel improves the quality of life in your community?
6. Please list some of the needs or problems you see in your community.
7. List the most important assets in your community.
8. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your community?
9. Demographic information
  - a. What is your gender?
  - b. What is your age?
  - c. What is your highest level of educational attainment?
  - d. What is your race/ ethnicity

## Appendix 2: Chart of Focus Groups

Focus Group	Population	Location	Factors Contributing to Quality of Life	Benefits & Assets to be Expanded	Needs & Concerns within the Community
Mexican-American Coalition	Mexican-American, mostly male, over 45 years old	Joliet, Lockport, and Rockdale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe schools</li> <li>• Access to primary health care (i.e. family doctor)</li> <li>• Good place to raise children</li> <li>• Low crime/safe neighborhoods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After-school/ recreational activities for children</li> <li>• Access to health care services</li> <li>• Faith-based organizations/ churches</li> <li>• Public/ recreational spaces</li> <li>• Affordable housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of health care services/ access based on insurance</li> <li>• Comfort with using health care services</li> <li>• Language barriers in accessing health care services</li> <li>• Inconsistent/ discriminatory treatment of Hispanics by police/ judicial system</li> <li>• More diverse retail options</li> <li>• Increased public/ recreational space</li> </ul>
Daybreak Shelter	predominately African-American females between 35-54 years old, residents of a homeless shelter	Joliet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean environment</li> <li>• Affordable housing</li> <li>• Good place to raise children</li> <li>• Good jobs and healthy economy</li> <li>• Religious and spiritual values</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality programs for the homeless – food pantries, addiction programs</li> <li>• Libraries</li> <li>• Churches</li> <li>• Schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved economy – better jobs</li> <li>• Public transportation that runs 24hrs/day, 7 days/week</li> <li>• More comprehensive shelter system that supports paths toward economic stability/ integration for individuals and their families</li> <li>• Affordable housing</li> </ul>
Special Needs Population	Predominately white females between 35-54 years old	Joliet and Bolingbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low crime/ safe neighborhoods</li> <li>• Good place to raise children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programs and services that promote interaction among community residents and community cohesion</li> <li>• Feeling of safety in the community</li> <li>• Variety of human services that provide access and support for all residents</li> <li>• Quality school systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public transportation that runs 24hrs/day, 7 days/week and is on-time and convenient for those with special needs</li> <li>• Improved infrastructure that allows for inclusion of those in wheelchairs</li> <li>• Interpreting services for those needing support when they access health care services</li> <li>• Affordable housing</li> </ul>



Youth	Predominately white, evenly split between males and females, all under the age of 24 years old	Plainfield, Romeoville and Wilmington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good place to raise children</li> <li>• Safe schools</li> <li>• Low crime/ safe neighborhoods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality school experiences – positive friends, safety, availability of extracurricular activities, parks and other resources to engage in activities</li> <li>• DARE and TATU programs</li> <li>• School programs that support youth – counseling, tutoring, free lunch programs</li> <li>• Religious programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of youth-focused activities outside of school</li> <li>• Public infrastructure providing youth-centered activities – bike paths, pools, gyms</li> <li>• Influence of drugs on youth</li> <li>• Job opportunities</li> </ul>
Braidwood/ Wilmington/ Southern Will County	Predominately white, evenly split between males and females, most between 34 and 54 years old	Braidwood and Wilmington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low crime/ safe neighborhoods</li> <li>• High performing schools</li> <li>• Good jobs and healthy economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools</li> <li>• Community residents</li> <li>• Faith-based organizations</li> <li>• Civic organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of a responsive police department</li> <li>• Substance abuse issues – lack of treatment services and proper plan for detection and elimination</li> <li>• Lack of parental guidance/ other services for youth</li> </ul>
Bolingbrook/ Northern Will County	Both White & African-American participant, predominately female, between 45 and 64 years old	Bolingbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High performing schools</li> <li>• Good jobs and healthy economy</li> <li>• Low crime/ safe neighborhoods</li> <li>• Safe schools</li> <li>• Access to primary health care</li> <li>• Parks and recreation</li> <li>• Affordable housing</li> <li>• Good race relations</li> <li>• Religious and spiritual values</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality health care staff and facilities</li> <li>• Faith-based organizations</li> <li>• Access to major roads</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Retail shops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services for those pushed out of the workforce through layoffs and early retirement</li> <li>• Lack of services for the disabled, especially housing</li> <li>• Lack of events to unite the community</li> <li>• Programs for teen – need programming to keep them out of trouble</li> <li>• Crime</li> <li>• Unemployment</li> </ul>
Spanish Community Center	Latino females under the age of 34 years old	Joliet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low crime/ safe neighborhoods</li> <li>• Safe schools</li> <li>• Parks and recreation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean streets</li> <li>• Faith-based organizations</li> <li>• After-school programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for more police presence in public recreational areas</li> <li>• Children’s exposure to violence</li> </ul>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong family life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retail shops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safer streets – free from fierce dogs and well-lit</li> <li>• Parenting programs</li> </ul>
Senior Services Center/ Eastern Will County	Predominately white, over 55 years old	Peotone, University Park, Crete, Monee, Frankfort and Beecher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low crime/ safe neighborhoods</li> <li>• High performing schools</li> <li>• Access to primary health care</li> <li>• Parks and recreation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to transportation and road construction</li> <li>• Services available at Governor’s State University</li> <li>• Cable television public access programming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High taxes</li> <li>• Truck stops and the crime they attract</li> <li>• Lack of access to quality grocery stores</li> <li>• Lack of recreational activities for children</li> <li>• Limited restaurants with healthy food</li> </ul>
Mt. Zion Baptist Church	African-American females over 45 years old	Bolingbrook, Crest Hill, Fairmont, Joliet, Parkwood, Shorewood and Sugar Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good jobs and healthy economy</li> <li>• Low crime/ safe neighborhoods</li> <li>• High performing schools</li> <li>• Access to primary health care</li> <li>• Good place to raise children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good schools, community involvement.</li> <li>• Recreation activities</li> <li>• Health care services</li> <li>• Access to basic services (grocery, healthcare, education, churches)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public transportation</li> <li>• Need for improved roadways</li> <li>• Lack of shopping, grocery stores</li> <li>• Location of low income housing</li> </ul>
Area Service Providers	Represented the following populations, of which they served: children/ families, faith-based communities, homeless, seniors, special needs and low-income residents			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variety of services available to those in need</li> <li>• Quality and concern of those working to provide services</li> <li>• Government agencies working to provide and improve services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Familial problems</li> <li>• Economic resources – jobs and money</li> <li>• Interpreting/ translation services</li> <li>• Educational opportunities</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Child care services</li> </ul>



### APPENDIX 3: Focus Group Demographic, Quality of Life and Community Assets Tables

#### Mexican-American Coalition Focus Group:

Focus Group Participants:		% of Response
<b>Age</b>		
	Under 18 yrs of age	0.0%
	18 to 24 yrs	0.0%
	25 to 34 yrs	20.0%
	35 to 44 yrs	0.0%
	45 to 54 yrs	20.0%
	55 to 64 yrs	20.0%
	65 yrs or older	40.0%
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
	< High School	10.0%
	High School Diploma/GED	30.0%
	Some College	20.0%
	Four-year/ Bachelors Degree	20.0%
	Post-graduate Degree	20.0%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
	White, Non-Hispanic	0.0%
	Black/African-American	0.0%
	Hispanic/Latino	90.0%
	Other	10.0%
<b>Gender</b>		
	Female	33.3%
	Male	66.6%
	Transgender	0%

Overall quality of life rating in Will County:									
1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Highest)
0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	7.7%	15.4%	23.1%	23.1%	15.4%	7.7%	0.0%

Overall quality of life rating in participants' community (city, town, or village):									
1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Highest)
0.0%	0.0%	15.4%	7.7%	23.1%	7.7%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	0.0%



<b>In the following list, what do you think are the three most important factors for a "Healthy Community" (those factors that would most improve the quality of life in this county)?</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>% Selected</b>	<b># Selected</b>
Good place to raise children	12.82%	5
Low crime/safe neighborhoods	12.82%	5
Low level of child abuse	0.00%	0
High performing schools	7.69%	3
Safe schools	15.38%	6
Access to primary health care (i.e. family doctor)	15.38%	6
Access to mental health services (i.e. counselor, substance abuse treatment program, psychiatrist)	2.56%	1
Parks and recreations	0.00%	0
Clean environment	5.13%	2
Affordable housing	0.00%	0
Arts and cultural events	2.56%	1
Good race relations	5.13%	2
Good jobs and healthy economy	10.26%	4
Strong family life	2.56%	1
Healthy behaviors and lifestyles	0.00%	0
Low infant deaths	0.00%	0
Religious and spiritual values	7.69%	3



Daybreak Shelter Focus Group:

	<b>Focus Group Participants:</b>
<b>Age</b>	
Under 18 yrs of age	0.00%
18 to 24 yrs	0.00%
25 to 34 yrs	0.00%
35 to 44 yrs	50.00%
45 to 54 yrs	37.50%
55 to 64 yrs	12.50%
65 yrs or older	0.00%
<b>Educational Attainment</b>	
< High School	12.50%
High School Diploma/GED	25.00%
Some College	50.00%
Four-year/ Bachelors Degree	12.50%
Post-graduate Degree	0.00%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	
White, Non-Hispanic	12.50%
Black/African-American	50.00%
Hispanic/Latino	12.50%
Other	12.50%
<b>Gender</b>	
Female	75.00%
Male	25.00%
Transgender	0%

<b>Overall quality of life rating in Will County:</b>									
<b>1 (Lowest)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10 (Highest)</b>
0.0%	0.0%	25.0%	12.5%	25.0%	1.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

<b>Overall quality of life rating in participants' community (city, town, or village):</b>									
<b>1 (Lowest)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10 (Highest)</b>
0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	25.0%	12.5%	12.5%	0.0%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%



<b>In the following list, what do you think are the three most important factors for a "Healthy Community" (those factors that would most improve the quality of life in this county)?</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>% Selected</b>	<b># Selected</b>
Good place to raise children	12.50%	3
Low crime/safe neighborhoods	8.30%	2
Low level of child abuse	4.20%	1
High performing schools	0.0%	0
Safe schools	0.0%	0
Access to primary health care (i.e. family doctor)	0.0%	0
Access to mental health services (i.e. counselor, substance abuse treatment program, psychiatrist)	8.30%	2
Parks and recreations	4.20%	1
Clean environment	16.70%	4
Affordable housing	12.50%	3
Arts and cultural events	0.00%	0
Good race relations	0.00%	0
Good jobs and healthy economy	12.50%	3
Strong family life	0.0%	0
Healthy behaviors and lifestyles	8.30%	2
Low infant deaths	0.0%	0
Religious and spiritual values	12.50%	3



Special Needs Population Focus Group:

		<b>Focus Group Participants:</b>
<b>Age</b>		
	Under 18 yrs of age	0.0%
	18 to 24 yrs	0.0%
	25 to 34 yrs	18.2%
	35 to 44 yrs	18.2%
	45 to 54 yrs	27.3%
	55 to 64 yrs	27.3%
	65 yrs or older	9.1%
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
	< High School	9.1%
	High School Diploma/GED	27.3%
	Some College	27.3%
	Four-year/ Bachelors Degree	36.4%
	Post-graduate Degree	18.2%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
	White, Non-Hispanic	72.7%
	Black/African-American	18.2%
	Hispanic/Latino	0.0%
	Other	8.1%
<b>Gender</b>		
	Female	63.6%
	Male	36.4%
	Transgender	0%

<b>Overall quality of life rating in Will County:</b>									
1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Highest)
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	40.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%

<b>Overall quality of life rating in participants' community (city, town, or village):</b>									
1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Highest)
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	33.3%	33.3%	11.1%	11.1%



**In the following list, what do you think are the three most important factors for a "Healthy Community" (those factors that would most improve the quality of life in this county)?**

<b>Factor</b>	<b>% Selected</b>	<b># Selected</b>
Good place to raise children	15.63%	5
Low crime/safe neighborhoods	21.88%	7
Low level of child abuse	0.00%	0
High performing schools	9.38%	3
Safe schools	6.25%	2
Access to primary health care (i.e. family doctor)	9.38%	3
Access to mental health services (i.e. counselor, substance abuse treatment program, psychiatrist)	9.38%	3
Parks and recreations	3.13%	1
Clean environment	3.13%	1
Affordable housing	9.38%	3
Arts and cultural events	0.00%	0
Good race relations	0.00%	0
Good jobs and healthy economy	9.38%	3
Strong family life	0.00%	0
Healthy behaviors and lifestyles	0.00%	0
Low infant deaths	0.00%	0
Religious and spiritual values	3.13%	1



Youth Focus Group:

		<b>Focus Group Participants:</b>
<b>Age</b>		
	Under 18 yrs of age	87.5%
	18 to 24 yrs	12.5%
	25 to 34 yrs	0.0%
	35 to 44 yrs	0.0%
	45 to 54 yrs	0.0%
	55 to 64 yrs	0.0%
	65 yrs or older	0.0%
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
	< High School	0.0%
	High School Diploma/GED	100.0%
	Some College	0.0%
	Four-year/ Bachelors Degree	0.0%
	Post-graduate Degree	0.0%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
	White, Non-Hispanic	85.7%
	Black/African-American	0.0%
	Hispanic/Latino	14.3%
	Other	0.0%
<b>Gender</b>		
	Female	50.0%
	Male	50.0%
	Transgender	0%

<b>Overall quality of life rating in Will County:</b>									
1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Highest)
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	37.5%	50.0%	12.5%	0.0%

<b>Overall quality of life rating in participants' community (city, town, or village):</b>									
1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Highest)
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	25.0%	12.5%	50.0%	0.0%



**In the following list, what do you think are the three most important factors for a "Healthy Community" (those factors that would most improve the quality of life in this county)?**

<b>Factor</b>	<b>% Selected</b>	<b># Selected</b>
Good place to raise children	33.33%	8
Low crime/safe neighborhoods	16.67%	4
Low level of child abuse	4.17%	1
High performing schools	0.00%	0
Safe schools	25.00%	6
Access to primary health care (i.e. family doctor)	4.17%	1
Access to mental health services (i.e. counselor, substance abuse treatment program, psychiatrist)	0.00%	0
Parks and recreations	0.00%	0
Clean environment	4.17%	1
Affordable housing	0.00%	0
Arts and cultural events	0.00%	0
Good race relations	0.00%	0
Good jobs and healthy economy	8.33%	2
Strong family life	0.00%	0
Healthy behaviors and lifestyles	4.17%	1
Low infant deaths	0.00%	0
Religious and spiritual values	0.00%	0



Braidwood/ Wilmington Focus Group:

		<b>Focus Group Participants:</b>
<b>Age</b>		
	Under 18 yrs of age	0.0%
	18 to 24 yrs	0.0%
	25 to 34 yrs	0.0%
	35 to 44 yrs	33.3%
	45 to 54 yrs	44.4%
	55 to 64 yrs	11.1%
	65 yrs or older	11.1%
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
	< High School	0.0%
	High School Diploma/GED	33.3%
	Some College	55.6%
	Four-year/ Bachelors Degree	0.0%
	Post-graduate Degree	11.1%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
	White, Non-Hispanic	77.8%
	Black/African-American	0.0%
	Hispanic/Latino	22.2%
	Other	0.0%
<b>Gender</b>		
	Female	55.6%
	Male	44.4%
	Transgender	0.0%

<b>Overall quality of life rating in Will County:</b>									
1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Highest)
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	22.2%	33.3%	22.2%	11.1%

<b>Overall quality of life rating in participants' community (city, town, or village):</b>									
1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Highest)
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	11.1%	0.0%	44.4%	33.3%	0.0%



**In the following list, what do you think are the three most important factors for a "Healthy Community" (those factors that would most improve the quality of life in this county)?**

<b>Factor</b>	<b>% Selected</b>	<b># Selected</b>
Good place to raise children	7.41%	2
Low crime/safe neighborhoods	22.22%	6
Low level of child abuse	0.00%	0
High performing schools	18.52%	5
Safe schools	7.41%	2
Access to primary health care (i.e. family doctor)	3.70%	1
Access to mental health services (i.e. counselor, substance abuse treatment program, psychiatrist)	7.41%	2
Parks and recreations	7.41%	2
Clean environment	3.70%	1
Affordable housing	3.70%	1
Arts and cultural events	0.00%	0
Good race relations	0.00%	0
Good jobs and healthy economy	14.81%	4
Strong family life	0.00%	0
Healthy behaviors and lifestyles	3.70%	1
Low infant deaths	0.00%	0
Religious and spiritual values	0.00%	0



Bolingbrook/ Northern Will County Focus Group:

		<b>Focus Group Participants:</b>
<b>Age</b>		
	Under 18 yrs of age	0.0%
	18 to 24 yrs	0.0%
	25 to 34 yrs	8.3%
	35 to 44 yrs	8.3%
	45 to 54 yrs	33.3%
	55 to 64 yrs	25.0%
	65 yrs or older	25.0%
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
	< High School	0.0%
	High School Diploma/GED	0.0%
	Some College	41.7%
	Four-year/ Bachelors Degree	33.3%
	Post-graduate Degree	25.0%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
	White, Non-Hispanic	50.0%
	Black/African-American	50.0%
	Hispanic/Latino	0.0%
	Other	0.0%
<b>Gender</b>		
	Female	75.0%
	Male	25.0%
	Transgender	0%

<b>Overall quality of life rating in Will County:</b>									
1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Highest)
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%	25.0%	16.7%	41.7%	8.3%	0.0%

<b>Overall quality of life rating in participants' community (city, town, or village):</b>									
1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Highest)
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	8.3%	16.7%	41.7%	16.7%	0.0%



<b>In the following list, what do you think are the three most important factors for a "Healthy Community" (those factors that would most improve the quality of life in this county)?</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>% Selected</b>	<b># Selected</b>
Good place to raise children	8.57%	3
Low crime/safe neighborhoods	8.57%	3
Low level of child abuse	0.00%	0
High performing schools	11.43%	4
Safe schools	8.57%	3
Access to primary health care (i.e. family doctor)	8.57%	3
Access to mental health services (i.e. counselor, substance abuse treatment program, psychiatrist)	0.00%	0
Parks and recreations	8.57%	3
Clean environment	5.71%	2
Affordable housing	8.57%	3
Arts and cultural events	0.00%	0
Good race relations	8.57%	3
Good jobs and healthy economy	8.57%	3
Strong family life	2.86%	1
Healthy behaviors and lifestyles	2.86%	1
Low infant deaths	0.00%	0
Religious and spiritual values	8.57%	3



Spanish Center Focus Group:

		<b>Focus Group Participants:</b>
<b>Age</b>		
	Under 18 yrs of age	0.0%
	18 to 24 yrs	20.0%
	25 to 34 yrs	80.0%
	35 to 44 yrs	0.0%
	45 to 54 yrs	0.0%
	55 to 64 yrs	0.0%
	65 yrs or older	0.0%
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
	< High School	20.0%
	High School Diploma/GED	20.0%
	Some College	20.0%
	Four-year/ Bachelors Degree	20.0%
	Post-graduate Degree	20.0%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
	White, Non-Hispanic	0.0%
	Black/African-American	0.0%
	Hispanic/Latino	100.0%
	Other	0.0%
<b>Gender</b>		
	Female	100.0%
	Male	0.0%
	Transgender	0%

<b>Overall quality of life rating in Will County:</b>									
1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Highest)
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	40.0%	40.0%	0.0%	0.0%

<b>Overall quality of life rating in participants' community (city, town, or village):</b>									
1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Highest)
0.0%	0.0%	40.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	40.0%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%



<b>In the following list, what do you think are the three most important factors for a "Healthy Community" (those factors that would most improve the quality of life in this county)?</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>% Selected</b>	<b># Selected</b>
Good place to raise children	11.76%	2
Low crime/safe neighborhoods	29.41%	5
Low level of child abuse	0.00%	0
High performing schools	0.00%	0
Safe schools	23.53%	4
Access to primary health care (i.e. family doctor)	0.00%	0
Access to mental health services (i.e. counselor, substance abuse treatment program, psychiatrist)	0.00%	0
Parks and recreations	23.53%	4
Clean environment	0.00%	0
Affordable housing	0.00%	0
Arts and cultural events	0.00%	0
Good race relations	0.00%	0
Good jobs and healthy economy	0.00%	0
Strong family life	11.76%	2
Healthy behaviors and lifestyles	0.00%	0
Low infant deaths	0.00%	0
Religious and spiritual values	0.00%	0



Senior Services Center/ Eastern Will County Focus Group:

		Focus Group Participants:
<b>Age</b>		
	Under 18 yrs of age	0.0%
	18 to 24 yrs	0.0%
	25 to 34 yrs	0.0%
	35 to 44 yrs	5.3%
	45 to 54 yrs	15.8%
	55 to 64 yrs	31.6%
	65 yrs or older	47.4%
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
	< High School	0.0%
	High School Diploma/GED	10.5%
	Some College	42.1%
	Four-year/ Bachelors Degree	26.3%
	Post-graduate Degree	26.3%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
	White, Non-Hispanic	73.7%
	Black/African-American	15.8%
	Hispanic/Latino	0.0%
	Other	5.3%
<b>Gender</b>		
	Female	55.6%
	Male	44.4%
	Transgender	0%

Overall quality of life rating in Will County:									
1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Highest)
0.0%	5.3%	5.3%	10.5%	31.6%	5.3%	10.5%	26.3%	5.3%	0.0%

Overall quality of life rating in participants' community (city, town, or village):									
1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Highest)
0.0%	5.3%	5.3%	15.8%	31.6%	5.3%	15.8%	10.5%	10.5%	0.0%



**In the following list, what do you think are the three most important factors for a "Healthy Community" (those factors that would most improve the quality of life in this county)?**

<b>Factor</b>	<b>% Selected</b>	<b># Selected</b>
Good place to raise children	7.41%	4
Low crime/safe neighborhoods	18.52%	10
Low level of child abuse	0.00%	0
High performing schools	14.81%	8
Safe schools	0.00%	0
Access to primary health care (i.e. family doctor)	11.11%	6
Access to mental health services (i.e. counselor, substance abuse treatment program, psychiatrist)	0.00%	0
Parks and recreations	11.11%	6
Clean environment	5.56%	3
Affordable housing	9.26%	5
Arts and cultural events	1.85%	1
Good race relations	3.70%	2
Good jobs and healthy economy	5.56%	3
Strong family life	1.85%	1
Healthy behaviors and lifestyles	1.85%	1
Low infant deaths	0.00%	0
Religious and spiritual values	7.41%	4



Mt. Zion Baptist Church Focus Group:

		Focus Group Participants:
<b>Age</b>		
	Under 18 yrs of age	0.0%
	18 to 24 yrs	0.0%
	25 to 34 yrs	0.0%
	35 to 44 yrs	0.0%
	45 to 54 yrs	30.8%
	55 to 64 yrs	23.1%
	65 yrs or older	46.2%
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
	< High School	0.0%
	High School Diploma/GED	0.0%
	Some College	38.5%
	Four-year/ Bachelors Degree	30.8%
	Post-graduate Degree	30.8%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
	White, Non-Hispanic	0.0%
	Black/African-American	100.0%
	Hispanic/Latino	0.0%
	Other	0.0%
<b>Gender</b>		
	Female	100.0%
	Male	0.0%
	Transgender	0%

Overall quality of life rating in Will County:									
1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Highest)
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	15.4%	30.8%	15.4%	23.1%	7.7%	7.7%	0.0%

Overall quality of life rating in participants' community (city, town, or village):									
1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Highest)
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	30.8%	23.1%	15.4%	23.1%	0.0%	7.7%



**In the following list, what do you think are the three most important factors for a "Healthy Community" (those factors that would most improve the quality of life in this county)?**

<b>Factor</b>	<b>% Selected</b>	<b># Selected</b>
Good place to raise children	10.26%	4
Low crime/safe neighborhoods	17.95%	7
Low level of child abuse	0.00%	0
High performing schools	17.95%	7
Safe schools	0.00%	0
Access to primary health care (i.e. family doctor)	10.26%	4
Access to mental health services (i.e. counselor, substance abuse treatment program, psychiatrist)	0.00%	0
Parks and recreations	2.56%	1
Clean environment	2.56%	1
Affordable housing	7.69%	3
Arts and cultural events	0.00%	0
Good race relations	0.00%	0
Good jobs and healthy economy	28.21%	11
Strong family life	0.00%	0
Healthy behaviors and lifestyles	0.00%	0
Low infant deaths	0.00%	0
Religious and spiritual values	2.56%	1

