



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Homelessness in Greene County, Indiana

CENTER FOR RURAL ENGAGEMENT &
O'NEILL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC
AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

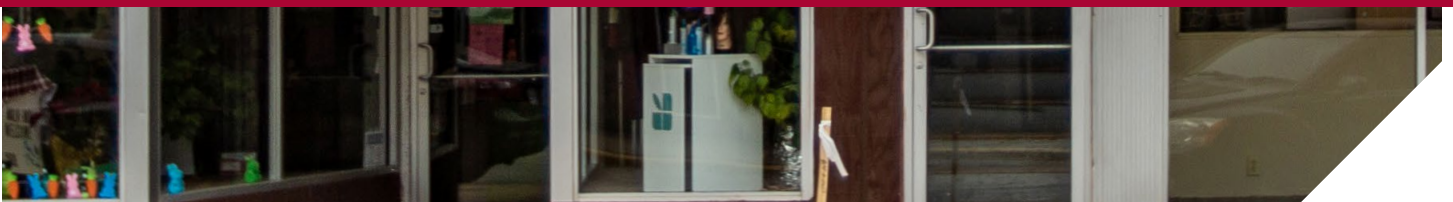


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Acknowledgements

Author: Laura Littlepage, Clinical Associate Professor, Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs | llittlep@iu.edu

Research Assistants: Emily Buuck, Samantha Felman, Kulsoom Tapal and Daniela Vidaurri, Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs

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About the Center for Rural Engagement

The IU Center for Rural Engagement improves the lives of Hoosiers through collaborative initiatives that discover and deploy scalable and flexible solutions to common challenges facing rural communities. Working in full-spectrum community innovation through research, community-engaged teaching and student service, the center builds vision, harnesses assets and cultivates sustainable leadership structures within the communities with which it engages to ensure long-term success.

About the Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs

The Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs aims to serve communities by educating individuals to be thoughtful public servants, whether serving in governments, nonprofits, or the private sector. We bring together a diverse set of students, faculty, and community leaders to engage in innovative learning and student experiences to connect cutting edge research to practical workforce skills.

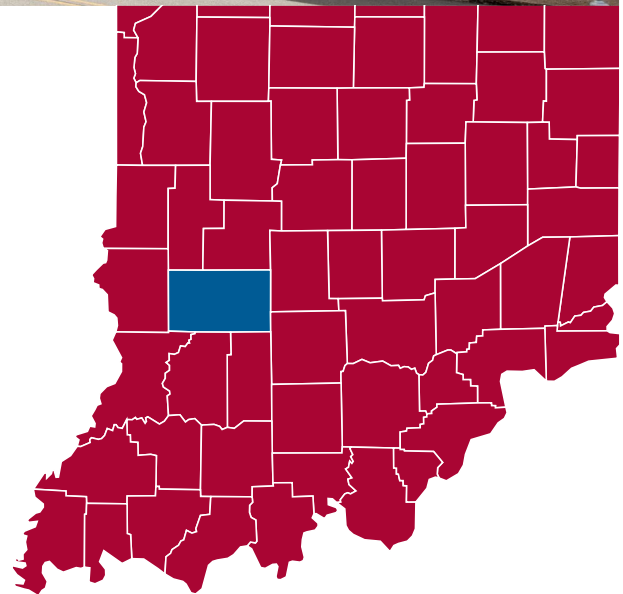




Introduction and Background

As part of Indiana University’s Center for Rural Engagement community impact process, several people and organizations in Greene County, Indiana, indicated that people experiencing homelessness is an issue in their community. There are no shelters for people experiencing homelessness in Greene County, but service providers have indicated that people experiencing homelessness are living in buildings with tarps for roofs, missing floors, and no utilities as well as in tents, cars, and campers.

In order to suggest new policy and program directions appropriate for addressing homelessness in Greene County, we need data. Reliable measurement is integral to defining a public policy problem, and while measurement of people experiencing homelessness is challenging, it is even more difficult in rural areas. Unlike in urban areas, people who experience homelessness in rural areas often are unseen; they are doubling up, sleeping in wooded areas, campgrounds, cars, abandoned buildings or other substandard accommodations (Rural Homelessness, 2018). For this reason, rural homelessness is often referred to as “hidden.” Those who experience homelessness or housing insecurity in rural areas are not as obvious as people who are sleeping on the streets in urban areas. Due to lower population densities and some people living in areas that are geographically isolated, it can be difficult for rural communities to notice or consider that people are homeless (Rollinson & Pardeck, 2019; Samudra & Yousey, 2018).



This research used several sources of data—primary data including surveys of individuals receiving services from local nonprofits, interviews of key stakeholders, as well as secondary data from several sources—to provide an overview of homelessness and poverty in Greene County.

Greene County

According to the U.S. Census Bureau (2019), there are 32,261 people who live in Greene County, with a total of 15,319 housing units of which 10,175 (79.8%) are owner occupied, which is higher than the 69.1% rate for Indiana. While people in Greene County are more likely to live in owner-occupied housing, they are also more

likely to have lower income, be below the poverty rate, and be less likely to have at least a bachelor's degree than the state as whole. Per capita income in Greene County was \$41,747 compared to Indiana's \$48,678, while the poverty rate was 13.5% compared to 11.9% for the state, and the poverty rate for children was 19.9% compared to 15.1% for the state. The percent of residents with at least a bachelor's degree in Greene County is 14.9%, lower than Indiana which is 26.5%.

Literature Review

Rural communities comprise 72% of the total land mass in the United States, but account for only 19% of the total U.S. population (Strengthening Systems, 2018). The U.S. Census Bureau's definition of "rural" relies on its definition of "urban." The Census Bureau identifies two types of urban areas: Urbanized Areas (UAs) of 50,000 or more people, and Urban Clusters (UCs) of at least 2,500 but less than 50,000 people. Its definition of "rural" encompasses all population, housing, and territory not included within an urban area. Most of Greene County is considered rural. A recent study from the Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness (Student Homelessness in Rural America, 2019) suggests that while the federal government has reduced homelessness in many urban areas, homelessness in rural America is getting worse.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban development (HUD), defines homelessness as "those who are literally homeless, at imminent risk of homelessness, homeless under federal statutes, and fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence situations." One of the challenges of using HUD's definition of homelessness is that the definition is influenced by the perceived urban nature of homelessness. Homelessness in rural areas is considerably less visible and can be experienced as unstable housing conditions, such as moving from one overcrowded and extremely substandard housing situation to another (Rural Homelessness, 2018). The most common definition of homelessness, which HUD uses, includes people living in shelters or transitional housing and unsheltered people living in places not meant for human habitation, such as vehicles, tents, abandoned buildings, and buildings without utilities or in need of significant structural repairs (holes in the roof

or walls, etc.). The U.S. Department of Education counts children in the above situations, as well as children who are living in doubled-up situations or sharing the housing of other persons, as experiencing homelessness.

The relative burden of the homeless that rural communities face is higher than that faced in metropolitan areas. While the number of people experiencing homelessness is larger in urban areas, the prevalence of homelessness has been estimated to be higher in rural areas than in urban areas (AHAR 2018). This higher incidence in rural areas can present more of a challenge than in urban areas as the scale, density, and resources available to provide services to the homeless of such rural communities is much more limited than in their urban counterparts (Lawrence, 1995)

Those experiencing homelessness in rural areas also have different experiences with being homeless. They typically are experiencing homelessness for the first time and experience shorter and fewer episodes of homelessness during their lifetime (NACRHHS, 2014). Because of this, those experiencing homelessness in rural areas are less likely to stay on the streets, but are more likely to sleep in their vehicles, in state or federal campground areas, or in substandard housing (NACRHHS, 2014). They are also two to four times more likely to live temporarily in private housing with friends or family (NACRHHS, 2014).

One of the challenges in rural areas, including Greene County, is limited affordable housing. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), "the same structural factors that contribute to urban homelessness—lack of affordable housing and inadequate income—also lead to rural homelessness. Historically, the greatest housing concern for rural Americans has been poor housing quality" (State of Homelessness, 2020). Although homeownership rates tend to be high in rural areas, properties are often older and more deteriorated. These factors, combined with a short supply of rental opportunities, lead many people in rural areas to have "worst case housing needs" (Strengthening Systems, 2018).

A 2019 study by Regional Opportunity Initiatives (ROI) examined the housing market in Greene County in the context of population growth, employment, income,

and other factors. They show that Greene County has a current vacancy of 17%, which is high, attributed primarily to what the Census calls “Other Vacant” structures. These units are likely sitting vacant due to poor maintenance or lack of utilities. ROI recommends that an effort be made to replace homes sitting vacant due to structural issues or those past the point of repair. Anecdotally, we have heard that some people experiencing homelessness will live in these “vacant” structures, without utilities.

The Regional Opportunity Initiatives (2021) report also indicates that frequently there is a perception that housing should cost less in smaller communities or rural areas. However, the cost of construction and maintenance is often the same or even higher than in larger cities. In larger communities, bulk production and access to supplies and labor can help control costs. Traditionally, new construction of rental housing can only be supported by minimum rental rates of \$1 per square foot. Lower rental rates, as found throughout the region, mean that there are very few rental rates comparable to new construction. Financing institutions often look for comparables when funding projects as one sign that a project will be able to repay any debt.

Research indicates that compared to the urban homeless, people experiencing homelessness in rural areas have less access to shelters and supportive services and are rarely counted, making them all but invisible to policymakers (Bittle, 2019). “Rural residents are less concentrated and more spread out, making it harder to count and serve

them” (Demographic Data Project, 2019), especially with the lack of public transportation options. As stated in the *Indianapolis Star* (Caravana, 2017):

“...People experiencing homelessness in rural areas have less access to shelters and supportive services and are rarely counted, making them all but invisible to policymakers.”

“In many rural towns in Indiana, a homeless person must walk, hitchhike, or drive more than 40 miles to find a shelter for the night...In Indiana, the paucity of dollars and beds hits rural areas the hardest. Most shelters are in cities, where the population is more concentrated and where local governments will pay some of the cost. Rural areas have fewer resources to help those without a home, forcing people either out into the streets or to live with friends or family, sleeping on couches.”

In rural areas, “group representation within homelessness closely mirrors group representation within the general population” (Demographic Data Project, 2019), though women do make up a larger percentage of the homeless population than in other areas (2019). While people in urban and rural areas who are experiencing homelessness are equally likely to have faced mental illness, substance use, and domestic violence, those experiencing homelessness in rural areas are less likely to have health insurance and access to medical care (2019).



Methodology

We did not attempt a complete census or point-in-time count of those experiencing homelessness in Greene County. According to the National Coalition for the Homeless' Fact Sheet: How Many People Experience Homelessness (2011):

"There is another important methodological issue that should be considered. Regardless of the time period over which the study was conducted, many people will not be counted because they are not in places researchers can easily find. This group of people, often referred to as 'the unsheltered' or 'hidden' homeless, frequently stay in automobiles, campgrounds, or other places that researchers cannot effectively search. For instance, a national study of formerly homeless people found that the most common places people who had been homeless stayed were vehicles (59.2%) and makeshift housing, such as tents, boxes, caves, or boxcars (24.6%) (Link et al., 1995). This suggests that homeless counts may miss significant numbers of people who are homeless, including those living in doubled-up situations."

To address the issue of the "hidden" homeless in rural areas, we attempted to find people experiencing homelessness through two local social service providers in Greene County: Family Life Center (FLC) and Open Arms Christian Ministries. The Family Life Center of Greene County Indiana, Incorporated, is a 501c3 organization with a mission to provide all the members of a family with the support required to enhance the emotional, social, mental, spiritual, and physical balance in their lives. In doing this, the FLC serves their community by teaching, training, and supporting them. They have a food pantry and a clothes pantry.

Open Arms Christian Ministries is a nonprofit organization committed to serving neglected, abused, and troubled youth by providing homes and education to those who need hope in a desperate time in their lives. Because of COVID restrictions we did not reach out to them this year until after their classes had ended. We had hoped to survey the students after class. Open Arms shared contact information with us and we reached out but were able to complete only one survey, even with a \$25 gift card as an incentive.

Our other partner, South Central Indiana Housing Opportunities (SCIHO), a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding housing options for low- and moderate-income households in Bloomington, Monroe County, and in Brown, Greene, Lawrence, Owen, and Morgan counties in South Central Indiana, ceased operations effective September 1, 2020.

At FLC, we surveyed clients during June and July of 2021 after they accessed services, usually outside of the premises. When we surveyed someone, we would first introduce ourselves, explain what we were doing, and ask if they were willing to participate. Then, we would go through our survey with them and thank them for their time, and provide an O'Neill School tumbler with a straw and a lid. The instrument, which was approved by IU's IRB, is attached as Appendix A. It should be noted that all data collected is self-reported and not verified independently. In general, self-report, particularly in response to questions about personal situations, tends to lead to under-reporting.

We also conducted informational interviews with local government officials and key nonprofits, a list of which is included as Appendix B.

Triangulation in research is the use of more than one approach to researching a question to increase confidence in the findings. To accomplish this, we also collected secondary data from the Indiana Department of Education (McKinney-Vento data) on the number of students experiencing homelessness in Greene County schools, as well as students eligible for free and reduced lunch as well as data from 211 calls (a free and confidential helpline for social services) for help with housing situations in Greene County.

Secondary Data

Secondary data is data that has already been collected through primary sources and made readily available for other researchers. Below we examine the aforementioned secondary data from the Indiana Department of Education (McKinney-Vento data) and data from calls to 211 related to housing.

Table 1. Students Experiencing Homelessness in Greene County by School District

Source: Indiana Department of Education

School District	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2020-2021	Total Enrollment
Bloomfield School District	0	18	16	46	27	15	843
Eastern Greene Schools	3	0	1	11	11	13	1,161
Linton – Stockton School Corporation	0	19	31	24	18	19	1,361
MSD Shakamak Schools	0	0	0	1	0	1	718
White River Valley School District	0	0	0	0	1	0	887
TOTALS	3	37	48	82	57	48	4,970

Table 2: Students in Greene County Receiving Free and Reduced Lunch

Source: Indiana Department of Education

Free/Reduced Lunch Count	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	Total Enrollment
School District						
Bloomfield School District	274 / 81	314 / 94	273 / 81	260 / 89	312 / 59	843
Eastern Greene Schools	460 / 95	440 / 117	501 / 83	424 / 106	458 / 97	1,161
Linton – Stockton School Corporation	622 / 92	596 / 90	586 / 112	502 / 132	537 / 126	1,361
MSD Shakamak Schools	362 / 101	345 / 95	403 / 63	351 / 87	364 / 61	718
White River Valley School District	358 / 68	338 / 63	384 / 50	350 / 69	378 / 47	887
TOTALS	2,076 / 437	2,033 / 459	2,147 / 389	1,887 / 483	2,049 / 390	4,970

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (1987) is a federal law that aims to ensure that homeless youth and children receive educational opportunities equal to housed youth and children through funding assistance for school registration and transportation. The McKinney-Vento data represent the U.S. Department of Education’s (DOE) definition of homelessness, which includes youth lacking safe, regular, and adequate housing. Included in this definition are youth and children who are “doubled-up,” or living in shared housing with friends or family members other than their parents. This data does not include families with children not of school age or families with school-aged children who do not report their homelessness to the school. Therefore, the data does not capture the full extent of the number of families experiencing homelessness in Greene County.

As **Table 1** indicates, Bloomfield School District and Linton-Stockton School Corporation have the highest number of students experiencing homelessness. In the 2020-2021 school year there were 48 students experiencing homelessness in Greene County, as defined by DOE. Almost all of these students have at least one parent and possibly have siblings under school age, meaning that an estimate of 100 people experiencing homelessness is not unreasonable.

We include summary data for students receiving free and reduced lunch in Greene County Schools (**Table 2**) to provide context for the McKinney-Vento data and to illustrate that in some townships almost half of the families are potentially at risk of homelessness, due to financial circumstances.

As **Table 3** illustrates, most of the housing-related calls to 211 were for assistance with payment of utilities (gas, heating fuel, water, and electric). In addition, there were 66 calls for assistance with rent. Most rentals have a policy of eviction if utilities are disconnected—usually due to fear of fire from heating or lighting using free standing stoves and candles—which can lead to homelessness.

In Indiana there is a system—previously termed “poor relief”—where elected officials (township trustees) may distribute funds to help with shelter or housing costs and utility bills. Each trustee may have a different standard

Table 3. Calls to 211 for Housing-Related Assistance in 2020

Source: Indiana 2-1-1 Data Dashboard

Purpose of 211 Call	Number of Calls Made in 2020
Gas Service Payment Assistance	7
Housing Search and Information	8
Heating Fuel Payment Assistance	9
Water Service Payment Assistance	10
Utility Service Payment Assistance	15
Rent Payment Assistance	48
Electric Service Payment Assistance	66
Other 211 Calls	101
TOTAL 211 CALLS	264

of eligibility, and some campaign on disbursing as few funds as possible. As **Table 4** (page 10) indicates, in 2020 over half of the townships in Greene County did not provide assistance to anyone. Of those that did, most helped only a few people overall and even fewer provided housing assistance and at a low level. In the 2021 legislative session, the Indiana General Assembly passed a bill that requires township trustees within a county to create and publish an online list of resources for those seeking aid, including criteria for eligibility, office location, hours, published phone number, and the application process. Perhaps this legislation will change the level of assistance from township trustees in Greene County in future years.



Table 4: Housing Assistance from Township Trustees in Greene County, 2020

Source: Indiana Gateway

Township Name	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2020-2021
Beech Creek	0	0	0	-	-	-
Cass	0	0	0	-	-	-
Center	0	0	0	-	-	-
Fairplay	4	2	0	\$600	-	\$600
Grant	3	1	1	\$600	\$50	\$650
Highland	0	0	0	-	-	-
Jackson	0	0	0	-	-	-
Jefferson	21	11	0	\$2,271	-	\$2,271
Richland	9	4	1	\$1,600	-	\$1,600
Smith	0	0	0	-	-	-
Stafford	0	0	0	-	-	-
Stockton	9	3	12	\$750	\$556	\$1,306
Taylor	0	0	0	-	-	-
Washington	5	2	1	\$500	\$300	\$800
Wright	2	1	0	\$110	-	\$110
TOTALS	53	24	15	\$6,431	\$906	\$7,337

Key Survey Facts

- 52 total participants
- Ages ranged from 19 to 68
- Total of 27 children among those under 40
- One-third of women were a victim of domestic violence
- 30% reported living conditions meeting HUD's definition of homelessness
- An additional 10% reported they were couch surfing
- A total of 40% of participants were experiencing homelessness under the Department of Education's definition

Results of Survey

In June and July of 2021, we surveyed 52 clients of FLC and one client of Open Arms. Of those surveyed, 30% reported living in conditions that meet HUD's definition of homelessness and another 10% indicated that they were staying temporarily with friends, relatives, or other (couch surfing), for a total of 21 people or 40% of respondents experiencing homelessness, using the U.S. Department of Education's definition. In addition, we asked if they had lived in any of the situations in the past year and an additional 7.4% (now housed) would have been considered to be experiencing homelessness:



two couch surfing, one in a car, and one in a temporary shelter. It should be noted that the actual rates may be higher, due to the data being self-reported.

Of the 30% who met HUD's definition, one was living in an abandoned building, another in a garden shed, and another in a garage. One was living in a camper and another in a van in a church parking lot. Several others indicated they were living in their own homes, but that those homes had "no flooring or electricity," "[a] roof with holes and broken windows," or their home was a trailer in a ditch.

Of those experiencing homelessness, three were veterans (one woman and two men). Six people indicated that they had been told they have a mental illness, physical disability, or substance abuse problem. Over half had a high school education or less. The youngest was 19 and the oldest was 68. There were four people under 30 and four over 65. Of those experiencing homelessness who were under 40, they had a total of 27 children between them, with a few having no children and one having seven children.

One-third of women experiencing homelessness at the time of the survey indicated that they were a victim of domestic violence. One of those women raised an interesting point: "They need a women's/addiction shelter. Some women can't leave the county because of their felony records so they're forced to go back to abusive partners or become homeless." While Middle Way House has an outreach worker for Greene County, the actual placement is in Monroe County.

Summary of Key Informant Interviews in Greene County

In 2020, we conducted 18 interviews with key stakeholders in Greene County. Interviewees are listed in Appendix B, and include social service providers and other nonprofits, local elected officials, local government officials, local educators, and religious leaders. Questions were open-ended and asked about homelessness in their community, if they see it as an issue, does their office serve anyone experiencing homelessness, and who serves people experiencing homelessness in Greene County. While many indicated that homelessness is an issue

in Greene County, both those who indicated it was a problem and those who indicated it wasn't a problem mentioned that people (including families) are doubled-up, living in cars or abandoned buildings or trailers with structural issues—all of which qualify as experiencing homelessness, using DOE's definition. In addition, it was mentioned that some people are living in sheds/gazebos in backyards with car batteries, sometimes without the homeowner's knowledge/permission. Also mentioned was living in tents in the woods and in campgrounds.

Several people indicated that mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence are issues that are not well addressed, leading to homelessness. Often, people are sent to Bloomington or Terre Haute if they need counseling or addiction treatment. Middle Way House (MWH) indicated that if someone in Greene County needs to access domestic violence services, they need to go to Bloomington, which may hinder them from accessing services. MWH serves over 200 people in Greene County each year.

Others indicated that for families, poverty is the main issue. Churches and the trustee's office will pay for a few nights in a hotel, but that usually doesn't address the issue. Other groups will provide free meals, food, clothes, and laundry, but there is no shelter or transitional housing located in Greene County.

A local education professional indicated that they have dozens of students per year who qualify for McKinney-Vento services who are often in foster care or are unattached youth. HUD defines unattached or unaccompanied youth as youth who are not in physical custody of a parent or court-appointed guardian, including young people who have either run away from home or been forced to leave their homes.

Many indicated that while there is low-income housing available for the elderly and disabled in public housing, there are very few rentals and/or low-income housing options available to young or middle-aged people. Greene County has limited numbers of Section 8 vouchers available (through Bloomfield and Linton Housing Authorities and Hoosier Uplands), but some find it difficult to locate landlords willing or able to accept the vouchers.

Conclusion

The data gathered, both primary and secondary, indicate that homelessness is more of an issue in Greene County than recognized by stakeholders, with at least 51 people experiencing homelessness as indicated by the survey (24 adults and 27 children), and at least 100 by McKinney-Vento data. It should be noted that the surveys were conducted over two months, while the McKinney-Vento data is collected by school year, leading to differences.

While the issues described above make addressing homelessness in Greene County difficult, it should also be noted that, “rural communities also possess many strengths that make them uniquely positioned to take on the challenge of ending homelessness, including strong social networks; a commitment to taking care of kin and neighbors; and innovation and flexibility in their approaches to solving housing crises” (Strengthening Systems, 2018). The NAEH (2010) asserts that the most effective way to address rural homelessness is through prevention. By providing at-risk populations with preventative services, communities can significantly decrease homelessness with far fewer resources than are needed to address homelessness once it occurs.

Recommendations

To accomplish prevention and address the needs of those already experiencing homelessness in Greene County, one recommendation is to create a task force of key community partners who are committed to addressing homelessness and housing insecurity in Greene County. Complex problems such as homelessness are not often solved or addressed by a single entity. Potential members would include representatives of government agencies, nonprofits, churches and schools. This task force could consider the suggested actions below:

One stakeholder recommended creating a preventative volunteer program to provide repairs to make homes habitable or prevent them from becoming uninhabitable. For larger repairs as well as for weatherization, there are funds available from the Rural Development, HUD, and community action agencies.

Another suggestion is to utilize the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), which provides a tax incentive to construct or rehabilitate affordable rental housing for low-income households. Many types of rental properties are LIHTC eligible, including apartment buildings, single family homes, townhouses and duplexes. Owners or developers of LIHTC projects agree to meet an income test for tenants and a gross rent test (Scally et al., 2018).

A third suggestion is the creation of what is called a Help Hub in some communities. Help Hubs can range from information hubs to co-location of services to a care-coordination model. As a beginning step, an informational Help Hub is recommended. For an informational Help Hub, a government official or nonprofit consolidates a list of all current service providers in the community and either establishes a website and/or an information call line and/or physical location that makes referrals to current independent providers. A continually updated list of service providers would identify potential gaps in available care options and streamline the referral process between care providers. Additionally, a monthly meeting of community partners who are part of the task force would increase awareness of intersecting issues. This list of service providers could be advertised in community spaces such as the public library, and at community events such as the Bloomfield or Linton farmer’s market. This outreach expands community awareness of housing insecurity and available resources. An information hub is the least expensive Help Hub option because it has the fewest startup costs. An informational hub may require a website and standard office materials to distribute information on paper flyers or brochures, as well as staff time to assemble, update, and disseminate the information.



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Appendix A—Survey: Greene County Housing Situations

Forward

Hi, I'm _____, a student at IU. We are doing research on housing in Greene County and would like to ask you a few questions. We will not ask for any identifying information and everything that you provide will be combined with data from other people who completed the survey when it is reported. The information will be reported to policymakers in Greene County. If you complete the survey, you will receive (a water bottle or a \$25 Walmart gift card).

Would you like to participate?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No *Skip to End of Survey if "no"*

Q1. Currently, where do you live? *Do not read out the responses.*

- 1. In a home that I rent or own *Indicate apartment, house, trailer, other: _____*
- 2. Staying temporarily with friends, relatives or others ("couch-surfing")
- 3. Staying long-term with friends, relatives or others
- 4. At a temporary shelter
- 5. In transitional housing or an independent living program
- 6. At a motel or hotel
- 7. In a camper or in a 5th wheel
- 8. In a car
- 9. Tent or park
- 10. Bus/Train station
- 11. Abandoned building
- 12. Other public space
- 13. Other: _____
- 14. Prefer not to say

Q2. Does your current residence have any of the following?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Heat | <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Electricity | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Working sink and toilet | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Complete kitchen facilities | |

Q3. Do you have any physical issues in your home that you would like to see improved?

- 1. Roof with holes or sagging sections
- 2. Broken or boarded up windows
- 3. Other: _____
- 4. None
- 5. Prefer not to say

Q4. Over the past 12 months, have you slept anywhere besides where you live now (not counting for recreation/fun)?

- 1. In a home that I rent or own *Indicate apartment, house, trailer, other: _____*
- 2. Staying temporarily with friends, relatives or others (“couch-surfing”)
- 3. Staying long-term with friends, relatives or others
- 4. At a temporary shelter
- 5. In transitional housing or an independent living program
- 6. At a motel or hotel
- 7. In a camper or in a 5th wheel
- 8. In a car
- 9. Tent or park
- 10. Bus/Train station
- 11. Abandoned building
- 12. Other public space
- 13. Other: _____
- 14. Haven't lived anywhere else *Skip to Q7 if true*
- 15. Prefer not to say

Q5. If you have stayed in any other residences in the past year (besides your current situation), did they have any of the following...?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Heat | <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Electricity | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Working sink and toilet | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Complete kitchen facilities | |



Q6. In the other residence(s) you stayed in, were there any physical issues in your home that you would have liked to see improved?

- 1. Roof with holes or sagging sections
- 2. Broken or boarded up windows
- 3. Other: _____
- 4. None
- 5. Prefer not to say

Q7. Are you satisfied with your current housing?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No *Skip to Q8 if true*
- 3. Prefer not to say *Skip to Q8 if true*

Q7b. Why are you not satisfied?

Q8. Are you currently looking for housing?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No *Skip to Q9 if true*
- 3. Prefer not to say *Skip to Q9 if true*

Q8b. Have you had any difficulties looking for housing?

Q9. Have you used any agencies to help with housing?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No *Skip to Q10 if true*
- 3. Prefer not to say *Skip to Q10 if true*

Q9b. Were these agencies helpful? Please explain.

Q10. Have you ever been told that you have...?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. A mental illness | <input type="checkbox"/> 3. A substance use disorder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. A physical disability | <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Prefer not to say |



Q11. Do you have a felony record?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Prefer not to say

Q12. Have you ever been the victim of domestic violence?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Prefer not to say

Q13. What is your ZIP Code?

Q14. What is your age?

Q15. What is your gender?

- 1. Woman
- 2. Man
- 3. Nonbinary
- 4. Genderfluid
- 5. Trans man
- 6. Trans female
- 7. Other: _____
- 8. Prefer not to say

Q16. What is your veteran status?

- 1. A veteran
- 2. Not a veteran
- 3. Prefer not to say

Q17. What is your marital status?

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Single | <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Long-term partner (5+ years) | <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Widowed/Divorced | <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Married | <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Short-term partern (0-5 years) | <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Other: _____ | |



Q18. How many children do you have?

Q19. What is your employment status? Are you...?

- 1. Working full-time
- 2. Working part-time
- 3. On disability
- 4. Unemployed in the past 6 months
- 5. Unemployed in the past 12 months
- 6. A student
- 7. Retired
- 8. Other: _____
- 9. Prefer not to say

Q20. What is the highest level of schooling you have completed?

- 1. Less than high-school
- 2. High school
- 3. Some college
- 4. College graduate
- 5. Currently in school
- 6. Other: _____
- 7. Prefer not to say

Q21. Do you know of any other agencies where we could talk to people about their housing situation?

Q22. Is there anything else you'd like to share about the housing situation in Greene County, either personally or in general?



Q23. Interviewer: Note anything here that needs explanation/provides context:

Appendix B: List of Key Informant Interviews

Warren Shake, Linton First Christian Church

Brian Patterson, Rebuild

Terry Blanton, Smith Township Trustee

Seth Wagner, Jackson Township Trustee

Risa Dyar, Jefferson Township Trustee

Mike Pate, Probation Office

Nicole Noel, Dept. of Health, Dept. of Alcohol and Drug Services

Melissa Blake, Section 8 Housing

Sean McBride, Indiana Department of Child Services, Greene County

Dianne Langer, Family Life Ministries

Christine Turpin, Middle Way House

Richard Nichols, County Commissioners Office, Veterans Service

Bob Hacker, White River Valley School District

Stacy Burris, Greene Co. Hospital, Greene County Alliance

Cheryl Hamilton, Linton Chamber of Commerce

Sophie Haywood, local resident

Brianne Jerrells, Economic Development Corporation

John Wilkes, Mayor of Linton

Lisa Abbott, Regional Opportunity Initiatives

CENTER FOR RURAL ENGAGEMENT &
O'NEILL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC
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rural.indiana.edu | oneill.indiana.edu
(812) 855-0568 | (812) 855-7802

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