

Community Report Q&A

November 9, 2023



Q: In addition to all the work that PCCF already does, can the organization handle processing this information?

A: Yes. We are committed to completing a Community Needs Assessment every 4 years with the goal to convene our community's resources and seek lasting solutions. While we know we aren't going to be the ones to deliver services, we will partner with experts in the field and build collaborative efforts among them.

Q: Do the needs from this assessment differ from PCCF's 2019 assessment?

A: The data does not differ much from what we saw in 2019. However, the 2019 assessment was not nearly as comprehensive as the 2023 assessment.

Q: How did you confirm the validity and reliability of the data included in the assessment?

A: Our methodology is consistent with the standards used by demographers, social scientists, and other grantmaking organizations. We also worked with Transform Consulting Group, a third-party consultant with expertise in collecting and reviewing data, to confirm that our sample is representative and valid.

Q: Were there any other funding partners besides PCCF such as the Lilly Endowment?

A: No. We were the only funder for this project. In the past, PCCF has been grateful for support from the Lilly Endowment's GIFT program to support this type of work. However, there was no funding opportunity this year.

Q: Are there other communities that have addressed addiction and mental health needs that we can follow up with?

A: Yes. Other communities have moved the needle in this space. We are keeping a close eye on what they have done, especially how other community foundations have participated with support of Lilly Endowment's Gift VII program. We hope to learn from them and then meet with experts in our own community to share ideas.

Q: Can you address the small percentage of surveys from men?

A: Our county's population is nearly 52% male while our respondents were only 22.5% male. We did targeted advertising on social media in hopes of reaching more male respondents, especially in the last half of the survey period. We also used resources such as community partners and men's groups to attempt to reach more men. However, our results are not uncommon based on the trends from public surveys. This is a benchmark that we hope to correct in future assessments.

Q: You mentioned realigning grantmaking and programs. Have you considered how that may affect organizations funded by PCCF or organizations that may be funded in the future?

A: We are in the early stages of determining what changes we will make to our grantmaking programs, and we do not have specifics yet. However, we are considering how our resources might be more

effective if allocated to funding some of the issues that were raised in the needs assessment. We will not be making any changes to our programs that would affect our February 1 deadline which has already been announced. We will make our best effort to announce any future changes in such a way that our nonprofit partners will have time to react to the changes appropriately.

Q: When you mentioned reprioritizing grantmaking and other programs, what else will be included in those changes? Will you be convening groups together to address the issues we heard about today?

A: Outside of grantmaking, we plan to convene existing working groups as well as evaluate the need to convene new groups in the future to address the community's concerns. We also hope to provide resources and tools to educate the community in those issue areas. No specific plans have been made yet, though.

Q: Does PCCF have the ability to cross reference educational obtainment with working a living wage job?

A: Not at this time. The survey did not include a question regarding education level. This has already been noted for future assessment planning.

Q: What is PCCF's definition of a living wage?

A: We used information from the Brookings Institute report published in partnership with the Lilly Endowment in 2019 which states that for central Indiana, a living wage is \$18/hour plus benefits. While this report may be slightly outdated and is not specific to Putnam County, it was the most accurate benchmark PCCF could identify.

Q: Some of these needs are already being met but communication is lacking. Is the gap in what the community is already doing and how people responded to the survey perceived or is it real? For example, many local employers are struggling to fill positions, but the survey shows that many people are concerned about finding good jobs.

A: We heard feedback in every phase of the Community Needs Assessment that our community is lacking a centralized communications hub of information. We hope to share the data we discussed today and other publicly available data to begin to fill that gap.

Q: How does PCCF plan to measure impact rather than a change in perception?

A: PCCF does not have a framework in place right now. It is something that we've talked about internally, but we recognize that philanthropy is often a slow process. We are not seeking "band-aid" solutions. That is why we are committed to doing this type of assessment every four years. We will be able to track the community's concerns over time and can hopefully work with partners like the Lilly Endowment and United Way of Central Indiana, who are already developing impact metrics, to determine how to measure actual impact in the priority areas.

Q: How do the assessment results compare to assessments completed by peer community foundations?

A: Unfortunately, only one neighboring county has completed a similar assessment since 2019, so we don't have a strong frame of reference for comparison. We utilized Hendricks County Community Foundation's 2022 Community Needs Assessment in planning for our own assessment, but our communities vary too drastically to compare.

Q: How do we as a community get better data about mental health? It is hard to find data or statistics about drug overdoses for example. Is there a process in place to track drug arrests, drug-related hospital visits, etc.?

A: It can be challenging to find easily accessible data for Putnam County, especially related to addiction and recovery. There are several barriers that contribute to that issue. Our hope is to make the data we've collected through this assessment available to the public and to offer resources and education about how to access other publicly available data. Another part of PCCF's commitment is diving deeper into a few of these issues on the local level, likely including mental health and addiction.

Q: What will be the benchmarks going forward when looking at solutions?

A: A true benchmark framework does not exist yet. We are looking into working with a consultant to determine what an effective solution would entail and how to make sure our goals are measurable.

Additional Public Comments and Responses

C: It's important to remember that it isn't PCCF's job to address these issues. The Foundation has taken an important step, but now it is the community's responsibility to lead us to use this information.

R: PCCF is not committing to solving these issues on our own. We believe we can be the collaborator to bring our community's organizations, leaders, and resources together to work toward a common goal.

C: I appreciate you taking time and going through this process. When we do these needs assessments, they often result in passion projects that eventually go away when groups change. This assessment brings a great opportunity to bring shared resources together and to collaborate.

R: We are committed to collaborating with existing groups and evaluating the needs for additional groups. We know that there are some amazing resources in our community already that are perhaps underutilized, so we also hope to explore ways to better educate community members as well.

C: The city's Human Relations Board has been bringing people together to talk about how we can improve our community. We hope to continue to do so.

R: There are several good efforts in place currently with common goals related to community improvement. We hope to engage many of them over the coming months as we determine what our next steps will entail.