



Focus Centre County - Project Overview

Overview

The Centre County Community Foundation (CCCF) has initiated a county-wide effort to gather community input regarding the most critical issues facing the county. This project involves multi-faceted needs assessment designed to provide all Centre County residents with an opportunity to contribute ideas and insights for addressing key issues in the next 18-24 months. The project, in partnership with Penn State Cooperative Extension and MindShift Consulting is scheduled to begin in June and be completed December 2007.

The 'Focus Centre County' Initiative has been established as the result of a generous John S. and James L. Knight Foundation grant awarded to the Centre County Community Foundation to identify the key community issue to which it can most effectively bring to bear its resources and expertise. Critical areas of concern to discuss include a) community and adult education; b) well-being of children and families; c) housing and community development; d) economic development; e) civic engagement and positive human relations; and f) vitality of civic life

Project Components

The project will involve a multi-pronged approach with components designed to gather the perspectives of a wide range of residents and local leaders and to prioritize and develop these issues into an effective implementation plan. Project components include:

- **Regional and County-Wide Focus Groups.** Six focus groups will be conducted across the County designed to gather the structured input of citizens, service providers, local government officials and others from each region of the county. Locations and dates include:
 - June 25th: Mt. Nittany Middle School, 7:00-9:00 pm
 - June 28th: Bald Eagle High School, 7:00-9:00 pm
 - July 16th: Philipsburg High School, 7:00-9:00 pm
 - July 30th: Bellefonte Middle School, 7:00-9:00 pm
 - July 31st: Penns Valley Middle School, 7:00-9:00 pmA culminating sixth focus group will be held on September 10th at the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology so that all County residents have a chance to help determine the key issue around which future planning and initiatives should be focused.
- **Stakeholder Survey.** A web-based survey will be conducted in July and August to assess the perspectives and priorities of local government officials, business leaders, services providers, economic development interests and non-profit organizations.
- **Strategic Planning Retreat** At the conclusion of the regional focus groups and leadership survey, an intensive strategic planning retreat will be held at Penn State's Team Decision Center with key community leaders and agencies in order to develop an effective implementation plan for addressing the issues identified during the input gathering phases of the project.
- **Final Report** All data from the public input process, secondary data sources and other relevant information will be compiled and analyzed. A final report and implementation plan will be released to the public no later than December 31, 2007.

Additional Information:

Contact the Centre County Community Foundation 814-237-6229, info@centrecountycf.org, or visit their website at: <http://www.centrecountycf.org>

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