

# 2022 Florida Needs Assessment 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## INITIATIVE 7: PREPARING YOUTH TO BE RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS AND PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF THE WORKFORCE

A statewide survey of 1,728 Florida residents was conducted May-June 2022. Participants were asked to indicate the level of effort they believed UF/IFAS Extension should apply to various issues. A factor analysis of the 2022 results revealed four distinct constructs for the 43 needs measured, which means the needs can be discussed as distinct categories. The mean (M) and standard deviation (SD) for each construct are based on scale of 1 = no effort to 5 = very high effort. Residents tended to perceive *high effort* was needed for all categories.

Category	M	SD
Healthy Environments	4.00	.78
Healthy Food Systems	3.98	.71
Healthy People	3.67	.87
Healthy Communities	3.58	.77

Note. 1 = No effort, 2 = Low effort, 3 = Moderate effort, 4 = High effort, 5 = Very high effort.

### Percentage of survey respondents who felt UF/IFAS Extension should spend a high or very high effort on...

#### Life Skills



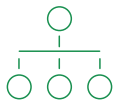
**68.2%**

Helping communities be better prepared for natural disasters



**57.7%**

Strengthening workforce readiness



**63.6%**

Helping youth develop leadership, citizenship, and other life skills



**56.7%**

Teaching healthy relationship skills to teens



**56.9%**

Getting more adults involved in mentoring youth

#### Environment



**84.7%**

Protecting water quality



**60.6%**

Composting, reducing, and recycling consumer goods



**77.8%**

Protecting air quality

## Health and Wellness



**68.5%**

Addressing mental health



**55.9%**

Reducing obesity through educational programs



**57.7%**

Building healthy families



**53.4%**

Providing physical fitness education



**57.2%**

Helping consumers make healthy food choices

### Key Findings:

- “Helping youth develop leadership, citizenship, and other life skills” was a top youth-related need among all residents, especially among Black residents (72% high or very high effort), those under 35 (71%), and those residing in the northern region of the state (71%). These residents were also more supportive than their counterparts of putting effort toward “strengthening workforce readiness.”
- “Addressing mental health” received high support from Hispanic residents (81% high or very high effort), those age 35 and younger (79%), nonwhite residents (76%), and those living in urban areas (73%). “Building healthy families” also received a lot of support from these residents.
- Environmental needs receive high marks from all residents, particularly water and air quality.

## 2022 4-H Workload Indicators by Needs Identified in Survey

Helping youth develop leadership, citizenship, and other life skills/Strengthening workforce readiness	
Indicator	Priority Work Group
Number of youth who demonstrate improvement in communication skills	4-H Youth Development
Number of youth who demonstrate improvement in appreciation of differences	4-H Youth Development
Number of youth who demonstrate improvement in higher order thinking skills (e.g., decision making, critical thinking, goal setting)	4-H Youth Development
Number of youth demonstrating engagement beyond six hours in 4-H.	4-H Organizations/Volunteers
Number of youth demonstrating engagement beyond their club program.	4-H Organizations/Volunteers

Getting more adults involved in mentoring youth	
Indicator	Priority Work Group
Number of volunteers who adopt best practices/behaviors that provide youth with a safe and inclusive environment (sense of belonging); a characteristic of a high quality positive youth development (PYD) program.	4-H Organizations/Volunteers
Number of volunteers who adopt one or more best practices/behaviors of positive developmental relationships (express care, challenge growth, provide support, share power, and expand possibilities).	4-H Organizations/Volunteers

<b>Addressing mental health</b>	
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Priority Work Group</b>
Number of youth reporting evidence of a safe and inclusive environment (sense of belonging); a characteristic of a high quality PYD program.	4-H Organizations/Volunteers
Number of youth reporting the presence of one or more best practice of positive developmental relationships (express care, challenge growth, provide support, share power, and expand possibilities) during 4-H programs.	4-H Organizations/Volunteers

<b>Teaching healthy relationship skills to teens/Reducing obesity through educational programs/Helping consumers make healthier food choices/Providing physical fitness education/Protecting water quality/Protecting air quality/Composting, reducing, and recycling consumer goods/ Building healthy families</b>	
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Priority Work Group</b>
Number of youth demonstrating knowledge gain in a subject matter	All who work with youth
Number of youth who demonstrated behavior change in a subject matter (i.e., adoption of best practices, attained a new skill)	All who work with youth

