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## **HCCF Announces 2025 Community Needs Assessment Report**

The Hendricks County Community Foundation (HCCF) has officially completed its 2025 Community Needs Assessment, marking the third major data-driven deep dive into the priorities, challenges, and strengths of Hendricks County. Following up on the inaugural 2019 study and the 2022 assessment, this 2025 update provides a clear, statistically valid look at what it means to live, work, and play in Hendricks County today. The final dataset accurately reflects Hendricks County's key demographic groups, allowing the findings to be projected across the actual population with 99% accuracy (with a 3% margin of error).

A focus of the 2025 assessment was improving outreach to diverse communities. In 2019, participation from people of color was just 4.5%. That representation rose to 12% in 2022 and climbed again to 17% in 2025. While this tracking slightly trails the county's 20% Census benchmark, HCCF leadership views it as a significant step forward and a clear indicator of the Foundation's commitment to deeper community engagement.

While the county's core assets remained stable, the 2025 data revealed significant shifts in community urgency:

- **Affordable Housing:** Rose four spots to become the No. 2 overall need in the county.
- **Child & Family Pressures:** "Affordable, high-quality childcare" and the "Effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)" both climbed two spots since 2022, and 10 spots since 2019.
- **Areas of Progress:** Concerns over "Unhealthy addictions" and "Lack of communication vehicles" both dropped eight spots since 2019.

The 2025 assessment also asked clarifying questions to isolate specific local pain points. Respondents decisively prioritized traffic over public transit (72% vs. 28%), a raw need for childcare over early education (72% vs. 28%), and mental health services over general wellness (55% vs. 26%). When evaluating local leadership challenges, 66% felt leaders were self-interested, while 34% felt they lacked knowledge.

These assessment findings served as an immediate blueprint for HCCF's latest funding round. Supported by a \$3 million GIFT IX grant from Lilly Endowment, the Foundation recently channeled \$777,775 in proactive Community Support Grants to five local partner organizations tackling these critical needs.

HCCF will continue to use these findings to direct its upcoming grantmaking strategies and community partnerships. This follows the model of the previous assessments, which successfully translated public feedback into a \$200,000 Lilly Endowment grant to fund local civic engagement, mental health planning, and community unity initiatives.

"As the third iteration of our assessment, the 2025 report demonstrates clear shifts in what our neighbors need," said Eric Hessel, HCCF's Vice President of Programs. "Our goal is to ensure that the Foundation's resources—and those of our community partners—are directed exactly where they can do the most good."

The full 2025 Community Needs Assessment report is available on the HCCF website at [www.hendrickscountycf.org](http://www.hendrickscountycf.org).

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The Mission of the Hendricks County Community Foundation: To be a trusted community partner in understanding needs, aligning resources, and empowering people to address today's priorities and create lasting impact. Our vision is Hendricks County as a place where everyone has the opportunity to have a fulfilling life and the tools they need to build a stronger future together. The Community Foundation manages assets of over \$40 million in a collection of funds created by individuals, families, businesses and organizations for charitable purposes. In 2025 the Community Foundation gave over \$2.35M in grants to charitable organizations and scholarships to local students. For more information, call 317-268-6240 or visit [www.hendrickscountycf.org](http://www.hendrickscountycf.org).

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