



Thank you for taking the time to participate in our Community Assessment. The insights that you provide will help us refine how we best structure our economic and community development efforts. Unless you choose otherwise, the responses will be anonymous, so please answer honestly. We sincerely thank you for taking 10 minutes to share your thoughts with us. If you are under 18, please confirm that you have permission from a parent or legal guardian to complete this survey.

With which community do you identify most strongly?

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| • Abbyville | • Partridge |
| • Arlington | • Plevna |
| • Buhler | • Pretty Prairie |
| • Castleton | • South Hutchinson |
| • Haven | • Sylvia |
| • Hutchinson | • The Highlands |
| • Langdon | • Turon |
| • Nickerson | • Yoder |

I. Our Local Community Perceptions

What makes your community special? What are your community's unique strengths?

Please use the following scale to indicate how you feel about your community and leadership.

1 = Strongly Disagree

2 = Disagree

3 = Somewhat Disagree

4 = Neutral

5 = Somewhat Agree

6 = Agree

7 = Strongly Agree

n/a = If you are unsure or do not want to respond, please use the following option:

- _____ 1. I would be happy to spend the rest of my life in this community.
- _____ 2. This community deserves my loyalty.
- _____ 3. I feel as if this community's problems are my own.
- _____ 4. I feel a sense of "belonging" to my community.
- _____ 5. This community is personally meaningful to me.
- _____ 6. I owe a great deal to this community.
- _____ 7. Our community is able to work well together.
- _____ 8. I understand where our community is headed in the next 5-10 years.
- _____ 9. Our community has a history of overcoming tough challenges.
- _____ 10. Our community has a documented plan of where we are headed.
- _____ 11. People in our community have come to rely on each other.
- _____ 12. Newcomers are welcomed in our community.
- _____ 13. Our community celebrates people achieving their best.
- _____ 14. Decisions made by leadership reflect the needs of community residents.
- _____ 15. I feel comfortable speaking to our community leaders about my concerns.
- _____ 16. Based on the challenges we face; our community has a clear path forward.
- _____ 17. Our community has pathways for people to get involved in leadership positions.
- _____ 18. Our community leaders make decisions that serve the broader interests of our community.
- _____ 19. I am proud of what our community has accomplished so far.
- _____ 20. I am confident in the direction that our community is headed.

Community leaders that I most admire (please list names here):

II. Our Local Economic Perceptions

With regard to your community, how would you assess **current** economic conditions?

Current Income Opportunities: (Select one)

- ☐ High (Many options to earn competitive income, with potential for financial growth)
- ☐ High to Moderate
- ☐ Moderate (Enough opportunities to earn a stable income, but limited growth potential)
- ☐ Moderate to Low
- ☐ Low (Few options for income, with low earning potential and minimal financial security)

Current Conditions for Business Owners: (Select one)

- ☐ Favorable (Supportive policies, good customer demand, and access to resources; easy to thrive)
- ☐ Favorable to Moderate
- ☐ Moderate (Business operations are manageable, but growth and support may be limited)
- ☐ Moderate to Challenging
- ☐ Challenging (Limited support, low demand, obstacles; difficult to sustain and grow a business)

Current Employment Opportunities: (Select one)

- ☐ Strong (There are ample job options, competitive wages, and career growth.)
- ☐ Strong to Sufficient
- ☐ Sufficient (Jobs are available but may not fully meet wage or growth expectations)
- ☐ Sufficient to Limited
- ☐ Limited (Few jobs are available, with low wages and minimal career advancement options)

With regard to your community, how would you assess **future** economic conditions?

Future Income Opportunities: (Select one)

- ☐ Promising (Strong potential for higher income and growth in various industries)
- ☐ Promising to Steady
- ☐ Steady (Income prospects are stable but may lack significant growth potential)
- ☐ Steady to Uncertain
- ☐ Uncertain (Limited or declining opportunities, with low prospects for income growth)

Future Conditions for Business Owners: (Select one)

- ☐ Optimistic (Anticipated improvements in support, demand, and resources for business growth)
- ☐ Optimistic to Stable
- ☐ Stable (Business environment expected to remain steady, with moderate support and growth opportunities)
- ☐ Stable to Unfavorable
- ☐ Unfavorable (Challenges ahead, with limited support, declining demand, and obstacles to growth)

Future Employment Opportunities: (Select one)

- ☐ Expanding (Growth in job availability, with diverse roles and career advancement prospects)
- ☐ Expanding to Stable
- ☐ Stable (Employment levels are expected to remain steady, with limited expansion in roles)
- ☐ Stable to Declining
- ☐ Declining (Anticipated reduction in job availability; fewer roles and limited growth potential)

How likely are you (or your business) to invest in your community in the next 1-2 years? (investing in your home, local business investments, etc.) (Select one)

- ☐ Very Likely (Strong interest in investing locally, whether in home improvements, business growth, or community projects)
- ☐ Very Likely to Somewhat
- ☐ Somewhat (Considering local investments but may depend on available resources or market conditions)
- ☐ Somewhat to Unlikely
- ☐ Unlikely (Little to no plans for local investment due to financial, market, or other constraints)

What business or services are most critically missing in our town?

III. Our Local Community Priorities

Understanding your community's economic and community development priorities.

Which community priorities should we focus on? (Select up to 5).

- ☐ (Resilient Economy) Attract new businesses
- ☐ (Resilient Economy) Expand local businesses
- ☐ (Resilient Economy) Develop local entrepreneurship support programming
- ☐ (Resilient Economy) Create funding support for business startups and growth
- ☐ (Vibrant Place) Remove/renovate run-down properties
- ☐ (Vibrant Place) Improve public infrastructure (sidewalks, roads, utilities, etc.)
- ☐ (Vibrant Place) Beautify our public areas
- ☐ (Vibrant Place) Restore our town center and main street
- ☐ (Engaged Residents) Create and refine programs to improve student engagement in the community
- ☐ (Engaged Residents) Develop education, training and certification programs to support income growth for youth and adults
- ☐ (Engaged Residents) Develop community pride through public events and programming
- ☐ (Engaged Residents) Develop more effective low-income family support programs
- ☐ (Healthy Residents) Expand access to quality and affordable (monthly payments <30% of household income) housing
- ☐ (Healthy Residents) Expand access to quality and affordable childcare support services
- ☐ (Healthy Residents) Address access and affordability of local Physical Health services
- ☐ (Healthy Residents) Address access and affordability of local Mental Health services
- ☐ (Healthy Residents) Improve the quality of safety and emergency services (Police, Fire,...)

In a span of 1-3 years, which community metrics would you hope to improve upon?

Check up to 3.

- _____ (Resilient Economy) Number of new businesses launched in the community
- _____ (Resilient Economy) Number of new businesses that pay above-average wages
- _____ (Resilient Economy) Average household income
- _____ (Resilient Economy) Local tax base (wages, sales, property)
- _____ (Resilient Economy) Childhood poverty rate
- _____ (Vibrant Place) Number of homes, buildings, and properties that are in an acute state of blight
- _____ (Vibrant Place) Miles of roads that are in acute distress
- _____ (Vibrant Place) Miles of sidewalks that are in good condition and ADA accessible
- _____ (Vibrant Place) Acres of public grounds (parks, gardens, etc.) that are poorly maintained
- _____ (Engaged Residents) Population size
- _____ (Engaged Residents) Community confidence and enthusiasm
- _____ (Engaged Residents) Student community volunteer hours
- _____ (Engaged Residents) Number of people actively (>5 hours/month) engaged in community development
- _____ (Healthy Residents) % of the local population who has some health care coverage
- _____ (Healthy Residents) Number of Mental Health Providers available locally
- _____ (Healthy Residents) Number of Primary Health Providers available locally
- _____ (Healthy Residents) Number of deaths caused by suicide
- _____ (Healthy Residents) Individuals who face food insecurity

For the following questions, think further on the priorities you highlighted above.

**What project should be undertaken locally if money, time, or skills were not a constraint?
What outcome would this create in the next 2-3 years?**

If we could only invest \$15k in a program each year for the next 3 years, what project should we work on? What outcome would this create in the next 2-3 years?

V. Tell us a little bit about yourself

How long have you lived in your community (number of years)? ☐ Less than 5 years ☐ 5-20 years ☐ Moved here more than 20 years ago ☐ Born and raised here ☐ Only work here ☐ Other	What is your age: ☐ Less than 20 ☐ 20-39 ☐ 40-59 ☐ 60 and older
Level of formal education received: ☐ Currently in middle/high school ☐ High School Diploma or GED ☐ Did not graduate high school ☐ Some Higher Education ☐ Technical Degree ☐ Associate's Degree ☐ Bachelor's Degree ☐ Graduate Degree ☐ Other	Occupation/Profession (select all that apply): ☐ Student ☐ Local business owner ☐ Employed (full or part time) - Private Sector ☐ Employed (full or part time) - Public Sector ☐ Actively seeking new or better job ☐ Unemployed ☐ Retired
Our home: ☐ I/we rent ☐ I/we own ☐ Other	Sex/Gender (please select one) ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Other

Ethnicity (please check all that apply)

- _____ Hispanic or Latino — A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race
- _____ White (not Hispanic or Latino) — A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East
- _____ Black or African American (not Hispanic or Latino) — A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa
- _____ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (not Hispanic or Latino) — A person having origins in any of the peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Island
- _____ Asian (not Hispanic or Latino) — A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia or the Indian Subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam
- _____ American Indian or Alaskan Native (not Hispanic or Latino) — A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community recognition
- _____ Two or More Races (not Hispanic or Latino) — All person who identify with more than one of the above five races

V. Interest In Serving (Optional)

Let us work together to better our community.

Would you like to lend a hand to help better our community (Your time, creativity, or your unique skills)?

Your Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

How do you serve your community today?

How would you like to serve your community in the future?

Thank you for taking our survey! Responses received are compiled to create community and county priority benchmark reports. These reports are shared with elected and appointed community officials, residents, business owners, and volunteers to aid in local project identification. Hutchinson Community Foundation also uses this data to inform our priorities and initiatives to make progress on issues residents are paying most attention to. The data forms our leadership development efforts, guides our Fund for Reno County grant cycles, assists us in building nonprofit capacity-building training and tools through our Nonprofit Strength Initiative, and helps us understand how best to support Reno County communities.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with your community, please contact Jan Steen at jan@hutchcf.org for more information.