

Jackson County United Way hosted 15 community conversations throughout Jackson County, including senior citizens, young adults, students, those incarcerated, families, people in recovery, and people who are unhoused, just to name a few. These are the results of those conversations.

Our Community Vision

Residents shared a desire for a community that is:

- Safe and welcoming
- Inclusive and connected
- Affordable and stable
- Physically and mentally healthy
- Innovative and collaborative

Top Issues Identified

Housing & Cost of Living

- Rising rent and housing costs
- Limited affordable housing options
- Barriers to homeownership
- Concerns about homelessness and housing instability

Transportation

- Limited access to reliable transportation
- Inconvenient bus hours and routes
- Transportation barriers affecting employment, healthcare, and court access
- Limited access to countywide resources

Mental Health & Substance Use

- Growing concern about substance use disorder
- Need for additional recovery supports and recovery housing
- Mental health challenges impact families and community safety

Community Connection & Inclusion

- Desire for a greater sense of belonging and respect
- Concerns about stigma, discrimination, and isolation
- Need for stronger communication and collaboration across the community

What Community Members Said

“If you don’t invest in yourself, no one is going to.”

“Good mental health leads to safety.”

“It has become nearly impossible to rent a house in Jackson County.”

“We shouldn’t have to go 10+ miles to receive help.”

“It’s not that I don’t think people care; it’s a lack of resources.”

What Could Make a Difference

Residents suggested:

- Expanding affordable housing and rental assistance
- Investing in more transportation access
- Creating a hub to access community resources
- Increasing collaboration between organizations
- Supporting recovery and mental health services
- Building stronger volunteer and mentor opportunities
- Improving communication about available resources and services

Signs of Progress

Community members said success would look like:

- More collaboration and transparency
- New volunteer groups and partnerships
- Improved accessibility to services
- Safe neighborhoods and updated properties
- More people feeling welcomed and connected

Organizations and Groups Community Members Trust

- Jackson County United Way
- Healthy Jackson County
- Seymour Housing Authority
- Su Casa of Indiana
- 180 RCO
- Local Churches
- Jackson County Public Library
- Youth Leadership Groups