

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

Building Resilient and Inclusive Communities
Listening Session Deep Dive



ACTIVITY



WHAT HAPPENED?



WHY DID IT HAPPEN?

About The Community Listening Sessions

- **181** people participated in the BRIC Community Listening Sessions across the four counties
- Community listening sessions were conducted in different settings
 - *Community Center, Churches, Partner Organizations*
 - *Community Listening sessions conducted in collaboration with a partner organization during established meeting times had the greatest results*
- Community members want to **TALK AND BE HEARD.**
 - *Many desire to participate in community conversation and have a follow-up conversation*
- The demographic least represented during listening sessions was **youth.**

Dillon

August 15, 2023 Dillon Hamer, Little Rock, Dillon 29536, 29563, 29565, 29547, 29567

August 23, 2023 Latta Henry Street, Zone 2, Blossom Court, Town of Latta 29565

Lee

June 19, 2023 Bishopville Lynchburg Bishopville, St. Mark, Indiantown, Fountain Hill, Lucknow, 29080, 29069, 29010, 29020, 29532, 29046,
Ashwood, Cedar Creek, Johnsonville (Florence County), Darlington 29555, 29161, 29104
(Darlington County), St. Charles (Sumter County)

June 19, 2023 Bishopville Cousar Branch Community (Town Limits), Bishopville, Lynchburg 29010, 29532, 29020, 29080

July 24, 2023 Cypress St. Mark, Oswego, Turkey Creek, Cedar Creek, Ionia, Cypress, Brown 29010, 29032, 29020, 29069
Town, Lucknow

Marlboro

August 3, 2023 Bennettsville City of Bennettsville, Clio, Blenheim, Wallace, "Down West", Shady 29512, 29501, 29525, 29536, 29510, 29512,
Rest, Brightsville, Richardson Park, Norwood Acres 29516

August 7, 2023 Clio Clio, Hebron Community 29525

Williamsburg

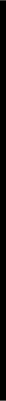
June 15, 2023 Kingstree Nesmith, Sumter Highway, Salters Hemingway, Greeleyville, Cades, 29580, 29556, 29590, 29554, 29056, 29518,
Kingstree, Earles, Battery Park 29510

July 31, 2023 Donnelly Donnelly, Hemmingway, Hemmingway Town Limits, Stuckey, Poplar 29554
Hill

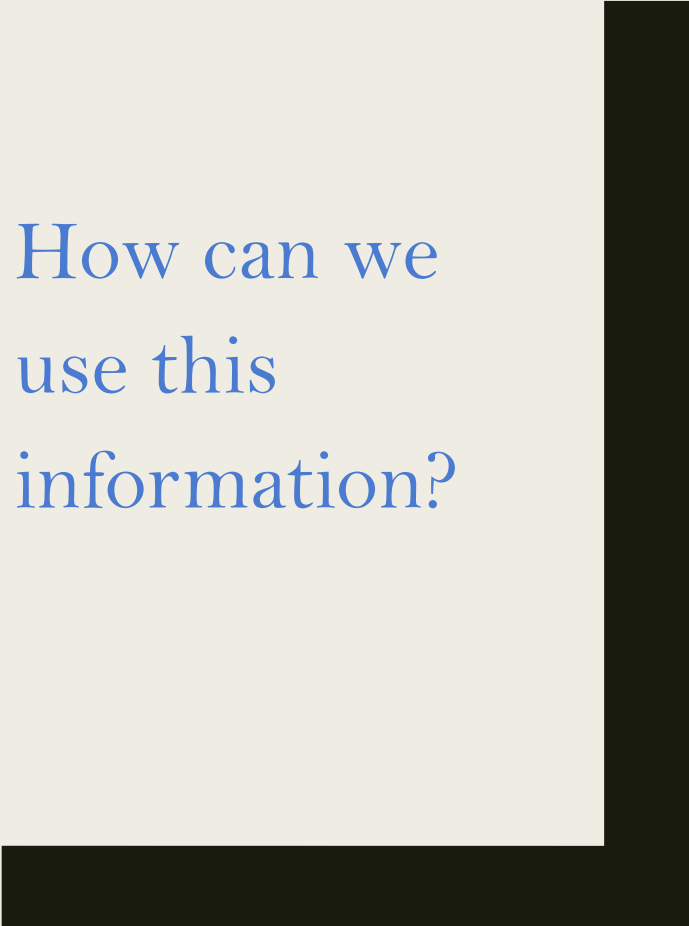
August 22, 2023 Lane Lane, Town of Lane, Chapel Street 29564



FRAMING



How can we
use this
information?



Social Connectedness specific to older adults

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graph TD; A[Social Connectedness specific to older adults] --> B[Physical Activity and Safe Spaces]; B --> C[Food and Nutrition Security]; C --> D[Equity Lens];
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Physical Activity and Safe Spaces

Food and Nutrition Security

Equity Lens

What Did We Hear?

- Messaging and information dissemination is important.
- Intergenerational programming across all topic areas is recommended.
- Attendees would like to remain aware of the actions and outcomes based on providing feedback through the listening sessions.
- There are assets such as churches and vacant schools that could house interventions and programming for smaller communities of the county, but these spaces require upfitting and infrastructure improvements.
- Transportation and affordability are barriers to accessing services across all domains in every county. Church vans are also mentioned as an opportunity for transportation.
- Accessibility must be in the conversation of equity.



SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS FOR
OLDER ADULTS



Key Points – Across All Communities

- Every county has at least one older adult-supported program
- Formal vs. informal programs
- Churches are mentioned across all counties as locations to establish hubs for programs and resources for older adults in rural communities.
- For older adults, specifically in outlying rural areas, a census or registry to establish coordinated wellness checks, visitations, social connections, and other needs would be beneficial.
- The pandemic has halted many programs that cater to older adults, with many currently not resuming operations.
- Information dissemination is a challenge for the older adult population.
- Ensuring equity requires considering older adults who are also homebound.



Unique Findings and Opportunities

- Identify a representative from each small community to serve as “Little Mayors” who are a direct line to that community—providing information about programs, resources, and services.
- Develop programs for “Seniors to help other Seniors.”
- Provide safety awareness “hotline” to inform older adults of safety concerns/fraudulent behavior within communities.
- Develop a program focused on older adult connections while adding specific family components for those who still have loved ones.
- Develop a companionship program that trains interested volunteers in rural communities for connection and support with older adults.

THINK, PAIR, SHARE



WHAT DID I HEAR?



**WHAT DID MY
NEIGHBOR HEAR?**



**HOW DO THEY
COMPARE?**



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SAFE SPACES



Key Points – Across All Communities

The greatest concern of smaller outlying communities to accessing physical activity is safety.

There are existing outdoor areas, such as parks and walking trails, within all counties; however, many need maintenance or upgrades.

Churches and closed-area schools are consistently mentioned as opportunities for physical activity.

Update outdoor places and spaces to have equipment for all ages to promote intergenerational physical activity.

Sidewalks for some areas are not well-kept and/or nonexistent.

In some areas, residents are maintaining the community parks.

Unique Findings and Opportunities

- Develop a “buddy system” meet up walking program so residents can feel safe walking together instead of alone.
- Incorporate physical activity during existing programs/social gatherings for older adults – combine social connection programming with physical activity.
- Purchase outdoor exercise equipment for parks in outlying communities to serve as “open gym” concept.
- Provide legal information about open use access for community members/liabilities.
- Identify community organizations in outlying rural areas to receive direct funding for local outdoor space maintenance and improvements.
- Develop an escort service for older adults who want to leave their homes and participate in physical activity safely without risk.

THINK, PAIR, SHARE



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**WHAT DID MY
NEIGHBOR HEAR?**



**HOW DO THEY
COMPARE?**



FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY



Key Points – Across All Communities

- Farmers' markets and gardening are critical to food and nutrition equity in rural counties.
- Community gardening is a tool many are interested in for increasing the amount of healthy food in rural areas.
- Education and workshops to develop personal gardens/home gardens
- More farmers are needed to participate in local, rural farmers' markets.
- Many residents travel to the next county over for farmers' markets and/or other services. Florence County farmers' market was mentioned in multiple listening sessions across multiple counties.
- Community members discussed having the ability to access food and nutrition programs and resources through an occasional popup event/clinic model in more areas of the county.

Unique Findings and Opportunities

- Identify nontraditional partners in rural communities (libraries, Chamber of Commerce) to serve as food hubs or pop-up farmers' market.
- Partner with churches to develop a program where churches grow on their existing land; utilize members who have garden expertise to cultivate and plant, and provide the fruits and vegetables within the congregation and the community.
- Community members are interested in developing a roadside fruit stand in the outlying communities.
- Invite farmers to be a part of the conversation within the community and identify more farmers to participate who are eligible to receive federal benefits.
- Implement a fresh fruit and vegetable truck to visit the outlying/rural communities and surrounding areas so residents can purchase healthy foods, "like the ice cream truck model."

THINK, PAIR, SHARE



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**WHAT DID MY
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**HOW DO THEY
COMPARE?**



WRAP UP/GROUP SHARE