

Community Engagement Performance Measures

Community Engagement is devoted to empowering residents through education, neighborhood leadership development and resource tools in an effort to excel their quality of life. The team strives to increase dialog between local government and residents. Community Engagement provides opportunities for community members to contribute to public decision-making processes – and informing and educating our community on policy issues that impact their everyday lives. Building on the ideas of empowerment and participation, our neighbor’s well-being involves participating meaningfully in all aspects of one’s life. We, ensure that community members have access to valued social settings and activities and feel that they are able to contribute meaningfully to those activities. In addition, the establishment of long standing, effective partnerships with other governmental entities; social service organizations and community partners, resulting in a greater sense of community ownership and an improved uptake of services as they are tailored to the unique aspirations of our community is essential to our work.

The Division provides support to all Topeka neighborhoods with a special emphasis to the twenty-one Neighborhood Improvement Associations (NIA’s) and low-to-moderate (LMI) neighborhoods. Community Engagement administers the Anti-Blight Inmate Program; the Topeka Dreams Fund Program and the Neighborhood SORT grant program that improves public improvements; public accessibility; infrastructure; neighborhood beautification and community engagement in approximately 12 NIAs. The division also ensures that quality of life resource information is distributed into the community.

2021 Accomplishments:

- Established 28 community partnerships.
- Operation Hand Sanitizer – distributed 14,240 bottles of hand sanitizer into the community.
- Operation Resource Bags – distributed 7,532 into the community.
- Operation Food Secure – distribute 575 boxes of food into LMI neighborhoods.
- AmeriCorps NCCC Sun 3 team devoted 3,816 hours in our community. The team’s service strengthened the community primarily through slowing the spread of COVID-19 through screenings; contact tracing calls, and vaccination efforts. Sun 3 also facilitated Operation Hand Sanitizer pop-up events; Operation Food Secure pop-up events in LMI neighborhoods; administered COVID-19 community surveys; scheduled COVID-19 vaccination appointments for 60+ neighbors and served as screeners at the VA Eastern Health Care System.

2022 Goals:

- Establish 50 community partners.
- Assist neighborhoods in reconnecting with their neighbors.
- Assist in the establishment of a Digital Equity Inclusion program in Topeka.

2020 Performance Measures

Performance Measure	Goal	Actual
# of community partnerships related to education and community building	2	11
# of neighbors that received community resource information	2,500	10,000
# of Nextdoor post impressions	2,500	234,582
# of households that received NIA newsletters	4,130	16,523
# of Neighborhood Walk-n-Talk’s	0	1
# of community events	10	26
# of surveys completed by neighbors utilized to extract data to identify targeted programming and assistance needed in the community Neighborhood reports visibility of community issues and goals.	1,250	6,249
Increased attendance at NIA meetings and events	0	1,098
# of snow removal program participants	0	0
# of abated properties identified by Property Maintenance	0	270
# of mowed properties identified by Property Maintenance	0	741
# of anti-blight trash bags picked up in the R-O-W	0	726
# of illegal signs removed tha were erected in City R-O-W	500	1,421
# of tree limbs removed in NIA neighborhood alleys	0	0

2021 Performance Measures

Performance Measure	Goal	Actual
# of community partnerships related to education and community building	10	0
# of neighbors that received community resource information	10,000	0
# of Nextdoor post impressions	10,000	0
# of households that received NIA newsletters	16,523	0
# of Neighborhood Walk-n-Talk’s	40	0
# of community events	10	0
# of surveys completed by neighbors utilized to extract data to identify targeted programming and assistance needed in the community Neighborhood reports visibility of community issues and goals.	5,000	0
Increased attendance at NIA meetings and events	2,500	0
# of snow removal program participants	50	0
# of COT medians mowed/sprayed in NIA/LMI neighborhoods	500	0
/# of COT properties mowed in NIA/LMI neighborhoods	100	0
# of trailer loads of limbs/overgrowth brush removed in NIA/LMI neighborhood alleys	250	0
# anti-blight debris removed in NIA/LMI neighborhoods (tonnage)	1,344 tons	0
# of event set-up/tear down assistance to NIA/LMI neighborhoods	20	0
# of assistance provided to social service agency/community partner in NIA/LMI neighborhoods	10	0

**Community Engagement
Performance Measures**

Program	Performance Measure	Explanation
Inmate Program (2019)	OUTCOME: Blight removal in the low-to-moderate income neighborhoods.	The five inmate crews provided 26,057 labor hours in NIA neighborhoods.
Inmate Program (2020)	OUTCOME: Blight removal in the low-to-moderate income neighborhoods.	Due to the pandemic the Topeka Correctional Facility quarantined the inmates from <i>March 2020 – December 2020</i> . Therefore, our Inmate Crew Leaders functioned and performed the duties of an inmate crew.
Inmate Program (2021)	OUTCOME: Blight removal in the low-to-moderate income neighborhoods.	The purpose of the program is to ensure blight removal in the low-to-moderate income neighborhoods; mow COT properties in LMI neighborhoods; mow medians in the LMI neighborhoods; assist with set-up and tear-down with NIA/LMI events; assist social service agencies and community partners in NIA/LMI neighborhoods. The key indicator of program effectiveness is the amount of blight removed in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods; the amount of limb/overgrowth removal in alleys; assistance provided to social service agencies.