



NEWS RELEASE

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Residents Encouraged to Participate in Effort to Assess the Health and Well-Being of their Communities

It's time for Wake County's quality of life to get a check-up. An effort to identify Wake County's health and social needs, as well as measure its well-being, is underway, and residents are encouraged to participate. The 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment is now collecting data from the county's diverse population to help drive positive change in our community.

Responses will be used to generate a report that will help the county, the hospitals and our community partners create a strategic action plan. This plan will be used as the road map for improving the health and well-being of our community.

Wake County encourages residents to participate and make their voices heard. Getting involved is easy – residents can choose one or more of the following ways to share their input:

- **An online survey.** Wake County residents can go to wakegov.com/wellbeing to answer a series of questions on topics ranging from housing and education to access to health care. The survey will close on July 31;

- **Focus groups.** Trained representatives will conduct 10 focus group meetings. Eight of the focus groups will engage residents from each of Wake County Human Services' geographic service zones. The remaining two focus groups will include people from different ethnic populations, age groups and socioeconomic backgrounds. Participants will be sought via email and word of mouth; and
- **In-person interviews.** Interviewers will meet face-to-face with members of specific subpopulations in Wake County, such as non-English speakers, people experiencing homelessness, area youth, and those with mental and physical disabilities to ensure their insights are represented.

People with questions about focus groups, in-person interviews or the assessment in general may contact Lechelle Wardell at lwardell@wakegov.com or 919-212-7858.

The Community Health Needs Assessment is a collaborative effort among Wake County Human Services; WakeMed Health & Hospitals, Duke Raleigh Hospital and UNC Rex Healthcare; Advance Community Health; United Way of the Greater Triangle; Alliance Behavioral Healthcare; Youth Thrive and Wake County Medical Society Community Health Foundation. The assessment process is overseen by a steering committee made up of more than 60 community partners including local government, hospitals, schools, faith-based organizations, non-profit organizations, businesses and other stakeholders.

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