Statewide Needs Assessment for University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

University of Arizona Extension (UACE) is embarking on a statewide needs assessment process. The purpose of the needs assessment is to understand community needs and assets across the state as a basis for examining and prioritizing Extension activities to maximize our impact now and into the future. Michele Walsh (the UACE Evaluation Specialist) and the other Community Research, Evaluation, and Development (CRED) professionals are guiding this process.

Our statewide needs assessment will consist of the following main data elements:

a. **Demographic and secondary data** to identify state and county-specific needs and assets using existing data across topic areas (anticipated May-August 2022).

b. **Qualitative data** collected through key informant interviews and community conversations (anticipated July-October 2022).

c. **Quantitative data** collected through stakeholder surveys (anticipated August-October 2022).

This is a statewide effort and we are counting on participation from UACE faculty and staff across counties, units, and program areas to make this a successful process. This guide outlines what we need from you to kick things off!

A. Demographic and Secondary Data

Strategic collection and analysis of secondary data is key to understanding community issues at a deeper level and to identifying potential partnerships with other organizations working on the issues. The CRED team have begun collating some of these data.

**What we need from you:** Each county/unit is asked to contribute to this process by providing relevant, reputable local/regional and topical statewide secondary reports from reliable sources that help identify the needs in your area. See *Common Sources of Useful Secondary Data for UArizona Extension* at the end of this document for a description of the types of reports to consider including.

**Instructions:** A Box folder has been created to collect these secondary reports. The main folder includes sub-folders for each county, Arizona Tribal Nations, Arizona (which include reports on statewide, regional, and topical issues), and “Uploaded by Extension Staff and Faculty.”

View the Box folder: [https://arizona.box.com/s/6dsuke84uryjo2kthqgiij47n8ylzwpec](https://arizona.box.com/s/6dsuke84uryjo2kthqgiij47n8ylzwpec)

The CRED team have already identified and uploaded a number of relevant reports to the county, Arizona Tribal Nations, and Arizona folders. *Please review the folders to see what has already been identified; this will save you time and help reduce the number of duplications.*

We are asking you to email additional reports as attachments to the email address listed below; they will show up automatically in the “Uploaded by Extension Staff and Faculty” folder. To make sure we are including the most up-to-date information, please strive to include reports published in 2016 or later.

To upload reports, email them as attachments to this address: [Upload0c8wrectb8xt65g6@u.box.com](mailto:Upload0c8wrectb8xt65g6@u.box.com)

For technical support in uploading your files, contact the CRED team ([cred@arizona.edu](mailto:cred@arizona.edu))
B. Key Informant Contacts

We want to hear from key Extension partners, as well as from potential partners. We would like to know what they perceive as pressing issues and where they see Extension as best positioned to intervene to have an impact.

**What we need from you:** In order to do that, we would like to know who you think we should be talking to in your county or within your topical area in the state. These may be key people you are already working with (prominent members of agencies or stakeholder groups) or they may be people who have close contact with communities or populations you have had a hard time reaching, and who may be hard to survey directly (such as those who represent families impacted by substance abuse, or immigrant urban farmers).

**Instructions:** To help us begin interviews over the summer, please add your suggested key informants by 30 June 2022. Add the names of possible key informants in this Qualtrics survey: [Key Informants for UACE Needs Assessment 2022](#)

C. Stakeholder Survey

We are currently developing the stakeholder survey and the sampling plan for how it will be distributed across the state. More details on that process to come.

**Thank you for contributing to this important process!**

Questions? Contact the CRED team at cred@arizona.edu
Common Sources of Useful Secondary Data for UArizona Extension

*General sources* include reports from local governments and other agencies.

*Topical secondary data* include reports focused on natural resources, agriculture, health and wellness, economic circumstances, tourism, or other specific issues facing particular communities and/or populations.

Importantly, this includes results from any needs assessment that you may have performed in your county or with your stakeholders.

**General Sources**

- Local government needs assessments
- Local government strategic plans
- Local government budget documents
- Regional Council of Government reports

**Community & Economic Development**

- Arizona Department of Housing
- Arizona Department of Economic Security
- Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity
- Community Development Block Grant Needs Assessments
- County Economic Development Plans, Community Development Action Plans (from local Community and Economic Development Districts)
- Housing needs assessments
- Long-range/ Comprehensive Plans

**Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources**

- USDA Agricultural Statistics for Arizona (nass.usda.gov/az)
- Arizona County Agricultural Economy Profiles (https://economics.arizona.edu/arizona-county-agricultural-economy-profiles)
- UArizona Cooperative Extension agricultural needs assessments
- https://www.agweb.com/article/top_ten_political_issues_facing_agriculture
- Arizona Conservation Districts
- Sonoran Institute
- ENR2, AIRES Institute
- Western Resource Advocates

**Health & Well-Being**

- Community Health Needs Assessments, Community Health Improvement Plans (County Health Departments)
- Maternal and Child Health Needs Assessment
- County Health Rankings
- Arizona Center for Rural Health
- Area Agency on Aging
- Self-Sufficiency Standard for Arizona
- FINRA Investor Education Foundation- Financial Capacity Study (Arizona)
- Arizona Department of Health Services
- CDC Stats of the State of Arizona (https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/arizona/arizona.htm)