



**Virginia Cooperative Extension**

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# Situation Analysis Report

## Chesterfield County

# 2013

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## Introduction

Chesterfield County Extension Leadership Council (ELC) conducted the 2013 Situation Analysis to update our previous Situation Analysis to strategically plan vital programs based on issues, problems and needs of people to determine what situations exist at local, regional and state levels. Surveys were sent to our mailing list serve, focus groups and community organizations and agencies. Our major objectives were developing a timeline, receiving stakeholder input, collecting data and then evaluating the results. Data was obtained through our VCE resource site, Chesterfield County Annual Report, Chesterfield County Demographic and Economic Profile and Chesterfield County Youth Planning and Development Youth and Family Indicators Report. Other sources of data included census information and statistics from the United States Department of Agriculture and Virginia Department of Health. This report is the result of our work.

## Unit Profile

Chesterfield County is located in Central Virginia, south and west of the city of Richmond. It is the third largest county in Virginia with a population of 323,856 compared to the 278,000 in 2003. The projected population for Chesterfield by 2015 is 342,220. This would represent a 1.3 percent population growth rate per year, which is slower than the current rate. Chesterfield is 446 square miles and is the second-largest in the Richmond Metropolitan Region.

## Agriculture

The county is in transition from being largely agriculture based and rural to a suburban county with the more densely populated areas adjacent to the City of Richmond. However, population growth and development continue to move into the more rural areas resulting in a decrease in the number of farms, a decrease in acreage under cultivation, and an increase in the number of farm-subdivision conflicts. Chesterfield has approximately 200 farms ranging in size from 1 acre to 1000+ acres.

## Demographics

Chesterfield County continues to evolve as a racially diverse community. Between 2000 and 2010, the county's minority population increased by 66 percent. In 2012, minorities made up about 32 percent of the county's population compared to about 23 percent in 2000. To allow people to indicate more than one race, multiple-races category was added in 2000. The racial makeup of the county based on the 2011 data was as follows: 225,361 White, 71,352 African American, 555 American Indian, 11,090 Asian, 772 Pacific Islander, 16,364 Hispanic, 3058 other race and 8089 two or more races. Since 2004, the White population decreased from 75 percent to 70.36 percent while the African-American population increased from 18 percent to 22.28 percent. The Hispanic had a 200% growth rate from 2010 to 2012. There was also a significant change in composition of growth percent in 2011. The total number of students enrolled in English for Speakers of Other Languages programs increased by 31 percent between 2010 and 2011. The trend of increasing numbers of immigrants and their need for programming presents a special challenge to the Extension Service to provide services.

The 2010 Census shows the median age of Chesterfield's population increased to 36.3 years, as compared to 35.7 years in 2000. This reflects a national trend toward an aging population, however a higher percent of people are under the age of 18 in the county (26.1 percent) as compared with the Commonwealth of Virginia (23.3 percent), and a lower percent of people over 65 (10.4 percent compared to 12.2 percent). Data also indicated a significant increase in those over age 70.

## Household

The makeup of the traditional family has undergone significant change from 2000 to 2010 with over 13,800 more households without children under 18 and more than 4,600 with children under 18. This trend of households without children has continued through 2010 with an increasing of two times the rate of household with children. There has been a 45 percent change in female headed households and 56 percent change in male-headed families. Twenty-six percent of children live in single-parent households.

Chesterfield has approximately 97,913 single family homes. This is less than one percent increase since 2008 where there were 97,049 homes. Of these, 86 percent are owner occupied. There are about 20,537 units of multifamily housings available in Chesterfield County in 2009. This represents 17 percent of the single family housing and multifamily housing. Some residents live in duplexes or mobile homes located in mobile home parks. County wide there are 533 duplexes and 1881 mobile homes located in mobile home parks.

Chesterfield County continues to be one of the most affluent counties in the Richmond-Petersburg metropolitan area. Median household income of Chesterfield county residents grew at a greater amount between 2007 and 2010 than the metro area and the state. The median household income is about \$71,110 compared to the state median household income of \$84,353 and the national median of \$51,484. Among race groups, Hispanic households in Chesterfield had the lowest median income at \$48,449 which is \$22,661 or 31 percent lower than the median household income for Chesterfield County. This group also had the highest poverty rate at 16.2 percent. This trend is unique to Chesterfield County, when compared to the state and nation where black or African Americans have both the lowest median income and highest poverty rate. These disturbing trends bear directly on major issues facing Extension; the increasing number of families living below the poverty line. According to the 2000 census, the percentage of families with income below poverty level was 3.3 percent compared to the 2012 percentage of 5.3. Female-headed families with income below poverty level remained the same for the decade with 14.2 percent. The 2010 under-18 poverty rate was 8.3 percent. The total households with children with income below poverty level increased from 40,877 to 45,515 for the decade 2000 to 2010. Ten percent of children are at poverty. Areas classified as "poverty areas" have poverty rates of 20 percent or more and exist in Chesterfield along the Chesterfield/City of Richmond border as well as the interstate 95/Route 1 corridor.

## Schools

During 2012-2013, approximately 58,859 students attended Chesterfield County's schools. The total number of students enrolled in the school system decreased for a second year. The 2012 enrollment was down 381 students from 2011 enrollment. The fall 2011 enrollment (58,355) represents about 18.4 percent of the county's population and showed a slight decrease of students from 2010. Chesterfield remains the fourth largest public school system in the state with 62 schools. Schools continue to become more diverse with White population in schools at 55.16 percent, Blacks 26.31 percent, Latino 10.76 percent and American Indian, Asian, Native American and two or more races account for 7.70 percent. Students are enrolled in the 38 elementary, 12 middle, and 11 high schools and Chesterfield Technical Center along with two regional schools, Maggie Walker Governor School in Richmond and Appomattox Governor School in Petersburg. The high school graduation rate is 89 percent. Within the boundaries of the county, there is also John Tyler Community College with 2 campuses and Virginia State University. Thirty-six percent of the county's population (age 25 and up) have bachelor's degrees or higher.

This profile pictures a county that is one of the largest in size and one of the fastest growing communities in the Commonwealth. It is relatively affluent, well-educated and contains a diverse population that continues to grow and change. Overall, it is an encouraging situation with many positive aspects but with a disturbing increase in the number of families living in poverty and number of at-risk children.

There are, however, major issues that arise with growth that we are currently witnessing. Many of the issues fall within the purview of Extension Service and ultimately become matters of educating the public in order to maintain a desirable quality of life and to protect the environment. Other issues can be better addressed through collaborations with agencies and community partnerships. Particular attention needs to be given to those struggling at the bottom of the economic ladder and to at-risk youth. Assistance can be offered on subjects such as nutrition, financial management, substance abuse, and language training. Increased efforts will insure that homeowners can make informed decisions regarding the use of pesticides and fertilizers to protect, among other things, water quality.

## Community and Resident Perspectives

Based on issue areas identified in the unit profile, and stakeholder input from surveys completed by county government agencies, organizations, community groups, county residents and Chesterfield Extension volunteer base, ELC, staff, and agents were able to determine which issues were of major concern and which issues will receive our time, energy and resources to best address the needs of our county. Some issues were also identified as needing to be explored further and form partnerships to better address the issues. Areas of major concern were identified across programming lines of 4-H Youth Development, Agriculture and Natural Resources and Family and Consumer Sciences.

## Priority Issues

Based on the unit profile, resident perspectives data and ELC interpretations, the following top priority issues were identified as being significant for Chesterfield County. Recommendations for addressing the identified issues are included under each priority along with Extension's role in addressing the issue.

### Priority 1 - Aging population

- Issues/topics identified by stakeholders
  - Day care services
  - Better medical care
  - Nutrition education and food safety
  - Long-term care
  - Senior activities
  - Preventing scams and ID theft
  - Caregiving
  - Obesity and chronic diseases
  - Senior communities and affordable housing
  - Finance and bankruptcy assistance
  - Transportation services
  
- Recommendations
  - Continue marketing extension programs to raise awareness
  - Collaborate with Chesterfield County senior advocate and other agencies, groups and organizations to further address this priority.

This issue is being addressed to some extent by Virginia Cooperative Extension resources. Because some of the issues identified are outside the scope of cooperative extension, additional efforts need to be explored in partnership with other agencies. 4-H and FCS present areas of programming to help in this effort.

### Priority 2 - Youth

- Issues/topics identified by stakeholders
  - Youth activities and community service opportunities
  - Life skills
  - Teen work skills and career development
  - Leadership skills
  - Obesity and nutrition
  - School drop-out prevention
  - Affordable before and after-school programs
  - Teen pregnancy
  - Financial management
  - Youth violence prevention, bullying and safe environments,
  - Drugs

- Lack of adult volunteers and mentors
- Recommendations
  - Continue collaboration with county agencies, schools, and involve more youth in 4-H and family and consumer science programs to better address these concerns.
  - Increase the use of volunteers and mentors to reach more youths and their families.
  - Fill the family nutrition program assistant position to support increased programming.
- The following are additional suggestions provided by survey respondents as the direction they think 4-H youth development programs should take in dealing with the identified issues:
  - Program to all children not just at-risk youth
  - Get children involved in food production
  - Add programs for children and families that get them outside
  - Start school garden programs
  - Teach youths life skills and financial management topics to prepare them to be on their own
  - Educate children on environmental problems
  - More 4-H clubs for youths

This issue is being addressed to some extent by Virginia Cooperative Extension resources. Additional efforts need to be explored in partnership with other agencies to better address this issue. 4-H, FCS and ANR present areas of programming to help in this effort.

### **Priority 3 – Agriculture and Natural Resources**

- Issues/topics identified by stakeholders
  - Farmland/farming
  - Horticulture
  - Water quality
  - Locally grown food
  - Riparian
  - Grass roots
  - Pesticide management
  - Community gardens
  - Wildlife
  - Landfill
  - Energy
- Recommendations
  - Add an agriculture extension agent position to provide additional support in addressing identified needs.
  - Several issues identified are beyond the scope of cooperative extension.

- The following are additional suggestions provided by survey respondents as the direction they think agriculture and natural resource programs should take in dealing with the identified issues:
  - Concentrate on suburban landscaping
  - Collaborate with the county's environmental engineering in their riparian landowner program
  - More emphasis on sustainability of water, land and agriculture, continue outreach to the community and work with small business in the county, with the Learn your Landscape program
  - Teach taking care of chickens and selling eggs

This issue is being addressed to some extent by Virginia Cooperative Extension resources. Because some of the issues identified are outside the scope of cooperative extension, additional efforts need to be explored in partnership with other agencies to address this issue. 4-H, FCS and ANR present areas of programming to help in this effort.

#### **Priority 4 – Health**

- Issues/topics identified by stakeholders
  - Healthy living, physical activity
  - Nutrition
  - Mental health
  - Environmental health
  - Obesity
  - Food safety
  - Water quality, chronic diseases
  - Quality of life
- Recommendations
  - Many of the issues identified in this area are also identified in the top three priorities.
  - Fill the family nutrition program assistant position to provide services for our limited income adult population.

This issue is being addressed to some extent by Virginia Cooperative Extension resources. Because some of the issues identified are outside the scope of cooperative extension, additional efforts need to be explored in partnership with other agencies to address this issue. 4-H, FCS and ANR present areas of programming to help in this effort.

#### **Priority 5 – Parenting**

- Issues/topics identified by stakeholders
  - Lack of parenting skills
  - Stigma attached to taking parenting classes through other agencies
  - School drop-out

- Unwed mothers
  - Lack of parental responsibility
  - Children at home alone for long periods while parents work
  - Lack knowledge of stages of child development
  - Lack of interaction with teens outside of sports.
- Recommendations
    - This issue presently is not being addressed by current VCE resources.
    - Explore other options to better address areas specific to this issue.

This issue is being addressed to some extent by Virginia Cooperative Extension resources. Because some of the issues identified are outside the scope of cooperative extension, additional efforts need to be explored in partnership with other agencies to address this issue. 4-H and FCS present areas of programming to help in this effort.

### **Overall Cooperative Extension suggestions from stakeholder surveys**

- Educate the public on existing programs – many are not aware of the existing resources available
- More publicizing of parenting, nutrition, cooking and financial volunteer opportunities
- Conduct financial management and small business seminars
- Continue budgeting, healthy living and nutrition classes, teach families with obesity to prepare affordable health snacks, focus on programs for senior/elderly, mature adult, young adult/teens, children and infants
- Establish learning clubs for adults
- Help those who need it most

Virginia Cooperative Extension is addressing the five priority issues to some extent and receives the recommendations from stakeholders as we increase our efforts and explore partnerships with other agencies in meeting the needs of our Chesterfield residents.