



UACDC 2015 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Throughout the month of May, 2015, the University Area CDC conducted a needs assessment for the University Area Community (*see boundaries on map below*). The purpose of the needs assessment was to get in touch with our community and its needs, and to capture resident input regarding various community aspects, including:

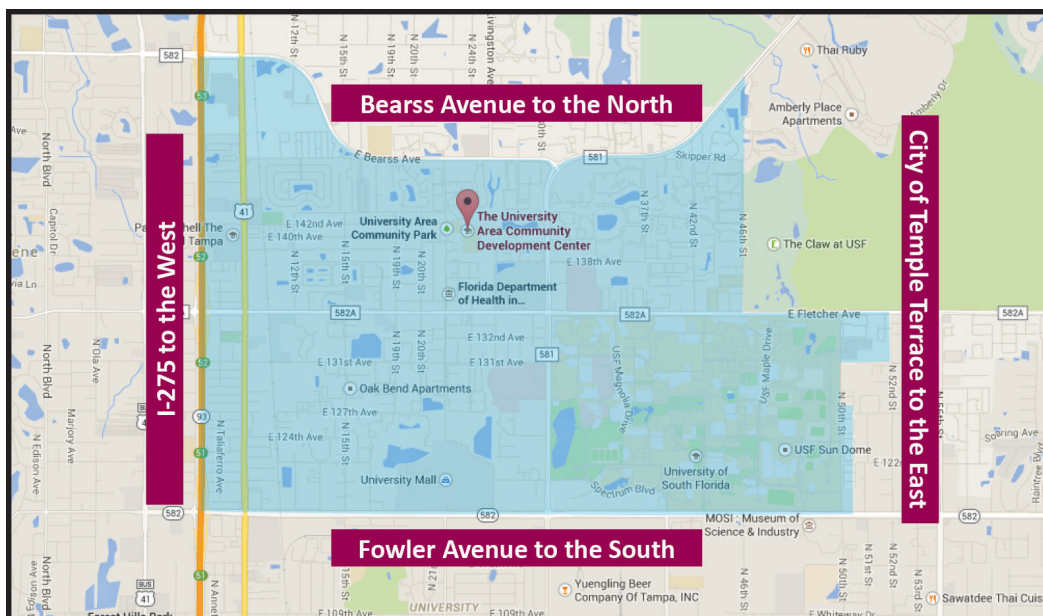
- Determining how we can work together to improve the community
- Identifying struggles and concerns of the community
- Identifying strengths of the community
- Distinguishing UACDC's role in the community
- Identifying programs and services that can help University Area individuals and families

This input was captured through the following mediums:

- **Community Surveys** (*focusing on education, employment, health/nutrition, housing & safety*):
 - Printed Surveys – Community residents were given a printed survey to complete and return (292 participants)
 - Online Surveys – Community Residents were urged to go to the UACDC website and complete an online survey (21 participants)
 - Walking Surveys – UACDC staff members took to the streets and engaged community members in questions and conversation to complete printed surveys (62 participants)
- **Community Conversations** – Community members gathered at the Community Center (on Wednesday, May 20th and Saturday, May 23rd) to participate in facilitator-led discussions on education, employment, health/nutrition, housing and safety (175 participants).

The information gathered from these surveys and conversations are in the pages that follow, and will serve as the basis for subsequent planning of University Area Community initiatives.

UNIVERSITY AREA COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES:



UACDC 2015 COMMUNITY SURVEY FINDINGS

There were a total of 375 responses via printed surveys, walking surveys and online surveys. The categories measured were: Education, Employment, Housing, Health & Well-Being, Crime & Safety. It is understood that the survey is a tool for information, not a perfect science, due to the fact that it is a sampling of residents who were willing to participate. The following are highlights of the most prevalent findings.

General Demographics

- Gender: Female (63.7%)
- Age: 25 – 34 years old (32.7%)
- Race: African American (51.1%), Hispanic (27.5%), Caucasian (15.7%)
- Primary Language: English (71.4%)
- Marital Status: Single (42.9%)
- Zip Code: 33613 (48.4%), 33612 (30.1%)

Education

- Highest Level Completed: #1 High School Diploma or GED (29.12%); #2 Some High School, but No Diploma or GED (21.7%)
- Community School Most Attended: Mort Elementary
- #1 Educational Service/Support Needed: Financial Aid (106 responses)
- Greatest Barrier to Education: Cost of School (101 responses)

Employment

- Current Employment Status: #1 Full Time (110 responses), #2 Unemployed (80 responses), #3 Retired or Disabled (71 responses)
- Current Household Income is Less Than \$15K: (50.8%) - #1 response
- Most Needed Improvement to Employment Situation: Better Pay (147 responses)
- Greatest Barrier to Employment: #1 Lack of Reliable Transportation (84 responses), #2 Lack of Reliable Childcare (55 responses), #3 Lack of Jobs Within the University Area (54 responses)

Housing

- #1 Residential Status: Renter (73.6%)
- Only 11.5% of participants were Home Owners
- 30.7% of participants reported that there are 4-6 people living in their household
- Current Rent/Mortgage Payment: #1 Response \$600-\$799 (30.8%), #2 Response \$400-\$599 (30%)
- Only 19% of participants have Public Housing Assistance
- Most Needed Housing Situation Improvement: #1 Prefer to Own v/s Rent (180 responses), #2 Condition of Home (70 responses)
- Greatest Barrier to Home Ownership: #1 Bad Credit (180 responses), #2 Unstable Income (103 responses), #3 Cost of Homes (101 responses)
- Biggest Fears Regarding Home Ownership: #1 Maintenance Costs (115 responses), #2 Repossession of Home (110 responses), #3 Cost of Utilities (90 responses)
- Greatest Benefits of Home Ownership: #1 Stable Family Environment (169 responses), #2 Privacy (94 responses), #3 Mortgage Payment More Stable than Rent (83 responses)

Health & Well-Being

- Has Health Insurance: Yes (60.4%), No (31.3%)
- Extracurricular Activities Involved In: #1 Fitness Classes/Gym Membership (86 responses), #2 Recreational Sports Leagues (56 responses)
- Amount of Children that Do Not Participate in After School Programming: 51.9% (those who do participate do so at UACDC, Mort Park Recreational Center and the YMCA)
- Preferred Recreational Sports: #1 Basketball (72 responses), #2 TIE for Football & Swimming (70 responses each)
- The Importance of Providing Healthy, Nutritious Meals for Participant Families: Very Important (77.8%) (this was the most overwhelming response to any question on the survey)
- Greatest Barriers Faced in Providing Healthy, Nutritious Meals: #1 Cost (100 responses), #2 Difficult to Get Children to Eat (52 responses), #3 Fresh Foods Expire Faster (52 responses)
- Most Needed Improvement to Overall/General Health: #1 Obesity (171 responses), #2 High Cholesterol (94 responses), #3 High Blood Pressure (91 responses)

Crime & Safety

- There were a total of 670 responses to what participants saw as the Largest Elements of Crime in the University Area: #1 Drugs, #2 Burglary, #3 Gang Activity, #4 Domestic Violence
- Participant feelings towards a Neighborhood Watch were overall positive: #1 Thinks It Would Help Deter Criminal Activity (161 responses), #2 Feels Comfortable Reporting Suspicious Activity (93 responses), #3 Would Participate (741 responses)
- Additionally, feelings towards Local Law Enforcement were overall positive as well: #1 Believes They Are Good Community Advocates (117 responses), #2 Believes They Are Helpful and Respectful to Community Residents (99 responses), #3 Believes They Respond Quickly When Called (86 responses)

Community

- 56% of participants reported they have never participated in UACDC programming.
- 69% of participants reported they do not know what the Tampa Innovation Alliance is or how it will positively affect the University Area.



RESULTS OF UACDC COMMUNITY SURVEY

Results reflect a total of 375 participants surveyed throughout the month of May 2015

GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS												
#1	What is your gender?	Male	Female									
	# of people who chose this response	136	239									
	% of total surveyed	36.27%	63.73%									
#2	What is your age?	17 Under	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 Older	No Answer		
	# of people who chose this response	5	45	119	73	48	64	14	3	3		
	% of total surveyed	1.37%	12.36%	32.69%	20.05%	13.19%	17.58%	3.85%	0.82%	0.82%		
#3	What is your ethnicity/origin/race?	African American/Black	Asian/Pacific Islander	Caucasian	Hispanic/Latino	Multi-Racial	Native American	Other				
	# of people who chose this response	186	6	57	100	13	5	8				
	% of total surveyed	51.10%	1.65%	15.66%	27.47%	3.57%	1.37%	2.20%				
	Other responses:	Arabic, Italian, Jamaican, Brazilian										
#4	What is your primary language?	English	Spanish	Creole	English/Spanish Equally	English/Creole Equally	Other	No Answer				
	# of people who chose this response	260	88	12	5	5	4	1				
	% of total surveyed	71.43%	24.18%	3.30%	1.37%	1.37%	1.10%	0.27%				
	Other responses:	Arabic, Islamic, Portuguese										
#5	What is your current marital status?	Married	Not Married, Living Together	Divorced	Separated	Widowed	Single	No Answer				
	# of people who chose this response	101	39	36	26	8	156	9				
	% of total surveyed	27.75%	10.71%	9.89%	7.14%	2.20%	42.86%	2.47%				

#6	What is your zip code?	33612	33613	Other	No Answer								
	# of people who chose this response	112	176	73	14								
	% of total surveyed	30.77%	48.35%	20.05%	3.85%								
	Other responses:	33547 (1), 33549 (5), 33559 (3), 33602 (1), 33604 (10), 33607 (2), 33610 (26), 33614 (2), 33615 (1), 33617 (11), 33619 (2), 33624 (1), 33647 (6), 33657 (1)											

EDUCATION													
#7	What is the highest level of education you completed?	K-8th	Some High School, No Diploma	High School Diploma/ GED	Some College, No Degree	Trade/ Technical Training	Associates	Bachelors	Masters	No Answer			
	# of people who chose this response	21	79	106	50	39	30	29	10	11			
	% of total surveyed	5.77%	21.70%	29.12%	13.74%	10.71%	8.24%	7.97%	2.75%	3.02%			

#8	Do you need, or would you use, any of the following educational services?	One-on-One Support Achieving Goals	GED Classes	Technical /Trade Classes	Community College/ University	Financial Aid	Literacy/ Reading Tutoring	ESOL Classes	No Answer				
	# of people who chose this response (more than one answer possible)	79	79	82	103	106	31	61	66				
	Results ranking	#5	#4	#3	#2	#1	#8	#7	#6				

#9	If you have school-aged children, which school do they attend?	Mort Elem.	Muller Elem.	Bowers Whitley	Head Start	Attend Outside Univ. Area	N/A (No school-aged children)	No Answer					
	# of people who chose this response (more than one answer possible)	65	30	12	25	57	162	44					
	Results ranking	#1	#3	#5	#4	#2							

#10	What are some of the barriers you feel that you face regarding education?	Lack of transportation	Lack of childcare	Previous difficulty in school	Lack of high school diploma /GED	Cost of school	Language issues	N/A - Don't feel that I have any barriers	Other	No Answer			
	# of people who chose this response (more than one answer possible)	81	52	23	39	101	32	107	14	42			
	Results ranking	#2	#3	#6	#4	#1	#5						
	Other responses:	Time, Need Social Security, Unaware of options, Have to work/clean house/take care of children, Family issues, Health issues											

EMPLOYMENT													
#11	Which of the following best describes your employment status?	Full Time	Full Time, but Less than Min Wage	Part Time	Retired	Disabled	Un-employed Less than 3 mos	Un-employed More than 3 mos	N/A; Student	No Answer			
	# of people who chose this response (more than one answer possible)	110	16	43	21	50	20	60	32	32			
	Results ranking	#1	#8	#4	#6	#3	#7	#2	#5				

#12	What is your current household income?	<\$14,999	\$15k-\$29,999	\$30k-\$44,999	\$45k-\$59,999	\$60k-\$74,999	>\$75,000	No Answer					
	# of people who chose this response	185	77	39	7	7	9	51					
	% of total surveyed	50.82%	21.15%	10.71%	1.92%	1.92%	2.47%	14.01%					

#13	If you could improve your current employment situation, what area(s) would you focus on?	More hours	Better Pay	Increased Benefits	Increased Responsibilities	Reduce Required Over Time	Change in Career/ Position	Job Stability	Job Location	Flexible Work Hours	N/A (Un-employed)	Other	No Answer
	# of people who chose this response (more than one answer possible)	77	147	71	19	14	45	53	48	58	71	16	63
	Results ranking	#2	#1	#3	#8	#9	#7	#5	#6	#4			
	Other responses:	Disabled, Student, Retired, Better work environment, Need a masters degree											

#14	What are some of the barriers you feel that you face regarding gainful employment?	Lack of Reliable Transportation	Lack of Reliable Childcare	Permanent Health/ Disability Problem	Temporary Health/ Disability Problem	Lack of High School Diploma/ GED	Pregnancy	Emotion-ally Unable to Work	Lack of Adult Dependent Care	Discrim-ination	Lack of Jobs w/in Univ. Area	Other	No Answer
	# of people who chose this response (more than one answer possible)	84	55	41	22	37	8	17	9	31	54	64	94
	Results ranking	#1	#2	#5	#7	#4	#10	#8	#9	#6	#3		
	Other responses:	Background, Lack of education; Lack of experience/training; Language barrier, Learning disability; No driver's license; No legal documents											

HOUSING													
#15	What is your current residential status?	Home Owner	Renter	Hotel/ Extended Stay	Temp Housing	Homeless /Shelter	Other	No Answer					
	# of people who chose this response	42	268	2	11	11	11	31					
	% of total surveyed	11.54%	73.63%	0.55%	3.02%	3.02%	3.02%	8.52%					
	Other responses:	Mobile home, Lives with family, Lives on campus											

#16	What is the total number of people in your household?	1	2-3	4-6	>7	No Answer							
	# of people who chose this response	63	148	112	15	38							
	% of total surveyed	17.31%	40.66%	30.77%	4.12%	10.44%							

#17	What is your current rent/mortgage payment?	\$400-\$599	\$600-\$799	\$800-\$999	\$1000-\$1299	>\$1300	No Answer						
	# of people who chose this response	109	112	63	25	10	57						
	% of total surveyed	29.95%	30.77%	17.31%	6.87%	2.75%	15.66%						

#18	Are you in Assisted or Public Housing (Section 8)?	Yes	No	No Answer									
	# of people who chose this response	69	266	41									
	% of total surveyed	18.96%	73.08%	11.26%									
	<i>If yes, what is your obligated portion of the rent?</i>	Rent amounts for Section 8 residents ranged from \$0 - \$815											

#19	If you could improve your current housing situation, what area(s) would you focus on?	Owning v/s Renting	Number of People in the Home	Condition of Home	Vacant Lots Surrounding Home	Condition of Homes Surrounding Home	Other	No Answer					
	# of people who chose this response (more than one answer possible)	180	32	70	15	36	35	77					
	Results ranking	#1	#4	#2	#5	#3							
	<i>Other responses:</i>	Cleaner home/surroundings, Gangs in neighborhood, Assistance paying rent, Assistance finding a home/apt, Living in a house v/s an apartment, Crime rate in the area, Better quality home, Code enforcement, Assistance getting Section 8 Housing, Lower monthly rent											

#20	What are some of the biggest barriers you face regarding home ownership?	Bad Credit (Can't get a loan)	Un-Stable Income	Cost of Homes	Lack of Desirable Home Inventory	N/A (I own my home)	Other	No Answer					
	# of people who chose this response (more than one answer possible)	115	103	101	21	47	21	68					
	Results ranking	#1	#2	#2	#5	#4							
	<i>Other responses:</i>	Tax lien on property, Not interested in owning, I'm a student, Need money for down payment, I'm single, I'm undocumented											

#21	What are some of the biggest fears you have regarding home ownership?	Losing the Home/ Having it Repossessed	Affecting Credit Due to Repossession	Not Being Able to Afford Utilities	Not Being Able to Afford Maintenance Costs	N/A (I own my home)	Other	No Answer					
	# of people who chose this response (more than one answer possible)	110	36	90	115	57	18	86					
	Results ranking	#2	#5	#3	#1	#4							
	Other responses:	Location of the home, Losing my income, Not being able to afford taxes, Fear I will never own a home; Job security											

#22	What are some of the biggest benefits you see regarding home ownership?	It's a Tax Benefit	Provides a Stable Family Environment	Can Affect Your Credit Positively	Mortgage Payment is More Stable than Rent	More Privacy	Other	No Answer					
	# of people who chose this response (more than one answer possible)	66	169	78	83	94	26	83					
	Results ranking	#5	#1	#4	#3	#2							
	Other responses:	Having something to pass on to family, A sense of security in your home, Achieving the American dream, Joy/happiness, Home equity, My children would be comfortable in their own rooms											

HEALTH & WELL-BEING													
#23	Do you currently have health insurance?	Yes	No	No Answer									
	# of people who chose this response	220	114	41									
	% of total surveyed	60.44%	31.32%	11.26%									

#24	Do you or your family members currently participate in any extracurricular activities?	Recreation Sports Leagues	Fitness Classes/ Gym Member- ship	Dance Classes/ Dance Group	Martial Arts	Art Classes	Music Lessons/ Band	Theatre/ Drama/ Acting	Other	No Answer			
	# of people who chose this response (more than one answer possible)	56	86	47	13	21	39	14	93	116			
	Results ranking	#2	#1	#3	#7	#5	#4	#6					
	Other responses:	Don't participate in any, Don't participate in any but would like to, Biking, YMCA activities, Fishing, Pro Football, Senior Center, Therapy, Church Gatherings, Gymnastics, Walking, Bar Matrix											

#25	Do your children currently participate in after school programming?	Yes	No	N/A	No Answer								
	# of people who chose this response	48	189	92	46								
	% of total surveyed	13.19%	51.92%	25.27%	12.64%								
	<i>If participant answered "yes", what do they participate in?</i>	Football, Music classes, Prodigy Cultural Arts Program, HOST Program, Art classes, Tampa Gym & Dance, Dance classes, YMCA programming											
	<i>If participant answered "yes", who provides it?</i>	UACDC, Mort Park Rec Center, YMCA											

#26	Which recreational sports would your children participate in?	Football	Basketball	Soccer	Baseball	Softball	Swimming	N/A	Other	No Answer			
	# of people who chose this response (more than one answer possible)	70	72	63	37	30	70	120	22	67			
	Results ranking	#2	#1	#4	#5	#6	#3						
	<i>Other:</i>	Cheerleading, Activities for small children, Running, Boxing, Drill Team, Martial Arts, Kickball, Hockey, Art Classes, Dance Classes											

#27	How important is it (to you) to provide healthy, nutritious meals to your family?	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important	N/A (No Spouse/Children)	No Answer							
	# of people who chose this response	2	20	283	30	41							
	% of total surveyed	0.55%	5.49%	77.75%	8.24%	11.26%							

#28	What are some of the barriers you face in trying to provide healthy, nutritious meals to your family?	Fresh Foods Aren't as Cost Effective	Fresh Foods Expire Faster	No Time to Cook Fresh Meals From Scratch	Don't Have Easy Access to Fresh Fruits/Veggies	Not Sure How to Prepare Fresh Meats/Veggies	Difficult to Get Children to Eat Fresh Fruits/Veggies	Healthy/Fresh Foods Aren't as Filling	N/A (No Spouse/Children)	Other	No Answer		
	# of people who chose this response (more than one answer possible)	100	52	38	19	23	52	19	97	14	69		
	Results ranking	#1	#3	#4	#7	#5	#2	#6					
	<i>Other:</i>	I don't have any barriers, Don't have proper utensils to prepare food, Would like education on different options to cook, I am homeless, Not enough emergency food stamps											

#29	If you could improve you & your family's overall/general health, what area(s) would you focus on?	Losing Weight	Lowering Cholesterol	Lowering Blood Pressure	Controlling Diabetes	Poor Dental Health	Poor Vision	N/A (I am /we are in good health)	Other	No Answer			
	# of people who chose this response (more than one answer possible)	171	94	91	48	83	66	83	15	50			
	Results ranking	#1	#2	#2	#5	#3	#4						
	Other:	Healthy diet, Hypothyroidism, Anxiety, Chronic Fatigue, Gout, Fibromyalgia, Lyme Disease											

CRIME & SAFETY													
#30	What do you see as the largest element(s) of crime in the University Area Community?	Drugs	Gang Activity	Burglar-ies	Vandal-ism	Domestic Violence	Child Abuse	Traffick-ing	Animal Abuse	Other	No Answer		
	# of people who chose this response (more than one answer possible)	203	103	114	80	96	48	52	36	42	86		
	Results ranking	#1	#3	#2	#5	#4	#7	#6	#8				
	Other:	None, Need more street lights, Police abuse, Public misconduct, Shootings, Homeless people, Poor community hygiene, Prostitution, Loittering											

#31	What are your feelings towards a neighborhood watch program in your area?	Think it Would Help Deter Criminal Activity	Would Particip-ate	Feel Comfort-able Reporting Suspicious Activity	Don't Think it Would Deter Criminal Activity	Would Not Particip-ate	Would Not Feel Comfort-able Reporting Suspicious Activity	No Answer					
	# of people who chose this response (more than one answer possible)	161	71	93	32	34	38	84					
	Results ranking	#1	#3	#2	#6	#5	#4						

#32	What are your feelings toward local law enforcement?	They are Good Community Advocates	They Care About the Community	They are Helpful/ Respectful to Community Residents	They Respond Quickly When Called	They Don't Have Enough Presence in the Community	I Am Fearful of Them	They Are Not Respectful to Community Residents	They Don't Respond Quickly to Calls	Other	No Answer		
	# of people who chose this response (more than one answer possible)	117	82	99	86	57	37	41	51	22	74		
	Results ranking	#1	#4	#2	#3	#5	#8	#7	#6				
	Other:	Every bit helps, They are no good, They act based on assumption, They arrest community members for pettiness v/s real crimes, They have a good relationship with the community, Need more cameras, Only respond quickly when there has been a shooting, They don't care, They are dirty											

COMMUNITY													
#33	Have you, your children, or your family members ever participated in programming or services administered at the University Area Community Center?	Yes	No	No Answer									
	# of people who chose this response	112	204	59									
	% of total surveyed	30.77%	56.04%	16.21%									
	If yes, which one(s)?	Prodigy, Computer Lab, Assistance with paying bills, ESOL classes, GED classes, Intramural sports leagues, Events/fairs, DreamCatchers Summer Camp, Fitness Center, Assistance finding a residence, Feeding America, Financial literacy workshop, Rec Center, Red Cross Blood Bus, Head Start, Faith Life Church Egg Hunt, Private event at facility, Street lights, Teen Council, Bar Matrix, After school programs, Early start, Tax return help											

#34	Do you know what the Tampa Innovation Alliance is and how it will positively affect the University Area Community?	Yes	No	No Answer									
	# of people who chose this response	56	251	68									
	% of total surveyed	15.38%	68.96%	18.68%									