

**APPENDIX 5
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS**

One of the ways in which community feedback was collected was through five separate community conversations. These conversations were conducted in lieu of the focus groups that were conducted in the COMPASS NOW 2012 community needs assessment. These small group gatherings were a safe space in which community members could come together and share their thoughts and experiences about living in the Great Rivers Region. Below is information about these conversations, as well as the main topics discussed by participants.

** Indicates the most recurrently identified community asset or need by participants.*

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION #1

Date: May 14, 2015

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Southside Community Center, 1300 S. 6th St., La Crosse, WI 54601

Target Audience/Participant: African American Community

Identified Community Needs:

- Alcohol and drug use
- Children with no direction/guidance*
- Community Communication*
- Education*
- Racial Relations

Additional Feedback/Comments:

Participants recognized the need for more community outlets by youth and youth mentoring coming directly from positive peers within the neighborhoods vs. outsiders coming in to work with youth. Also, the group felt more faith-based, neighborhood-focused opportunities to keep youth on a positive path would be helpful.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION #2

Date: June 26, 2015

Time: 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater La Crosse, 811 8th St. S., La Crosse, WI 54601

Target Audience/Participant: Low-Income Adults

Identified Community Assets:

- Neighborhood
- Resources*
- School

Identified Community Needs:

- Bullying
- Crime
- Housing*
- Jobs*
- Parks
- Roads*
- Trains

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION #3

Date: June 26, 2015

Time: 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater La Crosse, 811 8th St. S., La Crosse, WI 54601

Target Audience/Participant: Youth At-Risk

Identified Community Assets:

- Activities*
- Environment
- Friends
- Safety*
- Schools*

Identified Community Needs:

- Activities
- Schools*
- Environment*
- Friends

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION #4

Date: October 1, 2015

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Lugar de Reunion, 201 E. Franklin St., Room B3, Sparta, WI 54656

Target Audience/Participant: Hispanic Community

Identified Community Assets:

- Healthy food choices/farmer's market
- Clean community
- Safe community
- Good education system for children
- Having a community center for the Hispanic community

Identified Community Needs:

- Child Care
- Transportation
- Safety
- Adult Education
- Health
- Respect
- The need for more interpreters
- Access to healthy food
- The need for more recreational activities

Additional Feedback/Comments:

- Abuse
- At-risk youth
- Food availability
- Jobs with adequate income
- Poverty
- Substance use, abuse, and dependency

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION #5

Date: October 2, 2015

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: Lugar de Reunion, 201 E. Franklin St., Room B3, Sparta, WI 54656

Target Audience/Participant: Hispanic Community

Identified Community Assets:

- Support for Hispanic community
- Work opportunities
- Children's education

Identified Community Needs:

- Child Care
- Access to driver's license
- Training for immigrants
- Discrimination (police and in the workforce)
- Education
- The need for more bilingual people and interpreters at places of business, clinics, and hospitals
- Accessible banks

Additional Feedback/Comments:

- At-risk youth
- Availability of quality housing
- Discrimination towards Hispanics
- Drivers licensing – limit barriers to obtaining
- Food availability
- Help with housing repairs
- Jobs with adequate income
- Medical health
- Need for more personal bilingual instructors in public hospitals
- Organization that helps pay medical bills for those who cannot pay
- Poverty
- Substance use, abuse and dependency