



## Key Issue Form:

**Instructions:** Each county, program area and specialists as a whole are to identify key issues that their programming activities currently address, or should address. For each issue, craft a 2-3 sentence issue statement that outlines, in brief, what the issue at hand is and why it is important or relevant. The issue statements should be crafted based on objective data, as well as input from Specialists, County Educators, Advisory Councils, and input from other key stakeholders.

**1. In a few words, please come up with a title that succinctly defines the issue:**

Economic insecurity of citizens due to a variety of factors including language, rising costs of necessities and a slowing economy.

**2. Please describe the issue in 2-3 sentences** (i.e. craft an issue statement that describes what the issue at hand is and why it is a significant issue):

Hillsborough County has a great many citizens that are first generation immigrants and are limited by language and cultural acclimation. In an environment of rising food and fuel costs, combined with job loss, the most vulnerable people economically are those on fixed incomes and new immigrants because they have the fewest options.

**3. In 2-3 sentences, please describe what the public value for Extension to address this issue is/would be.** (The term public value refers to not only the value of our outreach activities to community *participants*, but, more importantly, the value of these activities to those who do not *directly* benefit from these activities. The purpose of the Public Value approach is to secure support for activities with strong public value and identify those activities that do not have strong public value. The following is an example of a public value statement that addresses the issue of loss of rural landscape to development and other growth-related pressures

Helping Hillsborough County's most vulnerable citizens have more economic opportunities will benefit every community by letting the citizens continue to be independent of government aid and benefits. New immigrants who can be productive will benefit their own home economy as well as the community in which they live. Fixed income folks who can remain economically independent will also benefit the community.

**4. Identify and summarize key data that help make the case that this is a key issue** (key Newspaper headlines, economic data

**5. How does/would addressing this issue tie into UNH Cooperative Extension's Mission?**

Research based education would enhance the ability of these citizens to make informed decisions that strengthen their personal economic conditions and therefore the economic conditions of the community.

**6. What Extension programs/activities, if any, currently address this issue? For each, please succinctly describe how the program/activity addresses the issue.**

Family and Consumer science – Financial Literacy and Money management classes

**7. What other organizations/agencies are currently addressing this issue?**

Rural Development

DRED

Department of Agriculture

NH Food Bank

Social Service agencies

Asset Building Coalitions

**8. If Extension does not currently address this issue, how might we address this issue in the future? (consider staff capacity, financial resources, volunteer capacity, and what other agencies/organizations might address this issue, etc.).**