



2008 Key Issue Identification 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:

People are poor and getting poorer.

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):

Poverty has plagued Sullivan County for over 10 years, but recent increases in fuel costs, home heating oil and food prices have exacerbated the situation. Financial pressures are mounting and lead to many social problems including: obesity, drugs and alcohol, stress, lack of confidence and a lower quality of life.

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.)

Educate people to make wise financial decisions and live healthier lifestyles. This will reduce dependence on welfare, improve mental and physical health thereby reducing health care costs and increase self confidence which will help people realize their potential and increase the quality of life for all.

- 4. Identify and summarize key data that help make the case that this is a key issue** (key data might include demographic trend data, University priorities, issues identified in plans/policies of other agencies and organizations, stakeholder input, etc.).

Sullivan County is the second poorest county in New Hampshire. Food costs have increased 25 to 50% over the past year alone.

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

Help people make informed decisions that will strengthen NH's communities and improve our economy.

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

Strengthening families: improve communication, deal with peer pressure, reduce stress

Managing your money: provide education so people can make informed financial decisions

Inmate gardening project: grow your own food, save money, eat healthy, better communication

4-H: instill confidence in youth so they can be the leaders of tomorrow.

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

-Home less organization

-CAP agency

-After school programs

- 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 potential partnerships with other agencies/organizations, etc.).

Work with specialists to develop programs to these issues and implemented by county staff.

Please Complete and Email to Lisa Townson by October 23, 2008

Form Submitted by: (Name) Chuck Hersey

Date: (Date) 10/20/08

Representing: (Name of County, Program Area, UNHCE Team/Committee/Group, etc.)

Sullivan County