

City of Fitchburg Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative – Indicators

Adopted: March 12, 2019

Pillar	Pillar Principle	Example Activities, Programs, and Services	Indicator	Why is this Indicator important?
Education	Work to build and maintain neighborhoods in which residents have an adequate foundational education	After-school homework clubs, and GED and English as a Second Language programs		
			<i>Growth and Proficiency</i> – Number of out-of-school educational-based activities, programs, and services, per Priority Neighborhood	Out-of-school educational-based activities, programs, and services offer flexible, creative, and individualized learning opportunities, and can lead to increased student growth and proficiency.
			<i>Achievement</i> – Percent of residents with high school degree, per Priority Neighborhood	The majority of employment opportunities in today's economy require a high school degree as a minimum educational requirement.
Life Skills	Work to build and maintain neighborhoods in which residents are engaged in civic affairs and have the opportunity to garner adequate employment	Financial literacy, mentoring, and employment programs/classes, and civic engagement/leadership courses	<i>Language</i> – Percent of residents proficient in English, per Priority Neighborhood	Common language is a "unifier", serving as a fundamental component to efficient and effective communication.
			<i>Employment</i> – Employment rates, per Priority Neighborhood	Low unemployment rates are vital to a stable economy.
			<i>Income</i> – Percent of households paying 50% or more of income for rent, per Priority Neighborhood	Households spending 30% or more of income on housing costs are considered "housing-cost burden", indicating potential difficulty affording basic necessities. "Severely housing-cost burden" indicates households spending 50% or more of income on housing costs.
			<i>Civic Engagement</i> – General election voter participation rate, per Priority Neighborhood	The City of Fitchburg operates to serve its residents. High voter participation ensures better representation of resident needs.

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Care	Work to build and maintain neighborhoods in which adequate care is available and accessible to residents	Child care, senior/invalid meal programs, and mobile health care		
			<i>Healthcare</i> – Access to and use of community health centers, or similar care options	Community health centers are federally-designated and provide comprehensive health care services to patients, regardless of income status. These centers also provide interpreter services, community resources and financial counselors.
			<i>Child care</i> – Ratio of children under age 5 to cumulative care capacity, per Priority Neighborhood	Access to child care is essential to a parent's ability to participate in the workforce or pursue educational opportunities.
Mobility	Work to build and maintain neighborhoods in which adequate means to travel to areas of everyday importance is available to residents	Car-sharing programs and volunteer ride services		
			<i>Mobility</i> – Cumulative transit, car-sharing, and ride service options, per Priority Neighborhood	In neighborhoods where auto ownership isn't prominent, access to transit, car-sharing, and ride services is essential to an individual's ability to participate in the workforce, pursue educational opportunities, fulfil basic "everyday" functions, and recreate.

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Healthy Lifestyles	Work to build and maintain safe neighborhoods that have a diverse, healthy resident demographic and opportunities for adequate social interaction	Outdoor recreational programs, cultural festivals, block parties, and senior citizen outings		
			<i>Safety</i> – Police calls by specific categories, per Priority Neighborhood	The City of Fitchburg strives to protect its residents and visitors, and create a safe environment to live, work, and play.
			<i>Childhood physical health</i> – Obesity rates, per Priority Neighborhood	Obese children have high risk of cardiovascular diseases, high blood pressure, and increased cholesterol levels. Childhood obesity also increases the risk of type 2 diabetes and may increase the risk of respiratory problems such as asthma.
			<i>Adult physical health</i> – Diabetes rates, per Priority Neighborhood	Diabetes is the 7th-leading cause of death in the United States, with an estimated cost of \$245 billion in 2012.
			<i>Social interaction</i> – Number of annual community or neighborhood-building events, per Priority Neighborhood	Social interaction can strengthen social fabric and build neighborhood bonds. Increased social relationships have also been shown to benefit physical and mental health.
			<i>Diversity</i> – Percent of households earning 50% or less, 50% to 100%, and 100% or more of area median income, per Priority Neighborhood	Resident diversity can encourage empathy and understanding, potentially leading to increased collaboration and cooperation to achieve shared interests and common goals.

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Healthy Landscapes	Work to build walkable neighborhoods that have diverse land uses, high-quality and diverse housing stock, and adequate gathering places	Human-scaled/mixed land use developments, mixed-income residential developments, housing maintenance/improvement programs, neighborhood beautification programs, and community gardens		
			<i>Food access</i> - Distance from any Priority Neighborhood residence to a food distribution outlet to include supermarket, hypermarket, or food pantry, via roads, trails, or paths	<p>Adequate access to fresh, healthy foods can contribute to better diets and lower levels of obesity and other diet-related diseases.</p>
			<i>Housing maintenance and improvements</i> - Number of complaints in specific "hotspots", per Priority Neighborhood	<p>Maintaining and improving housing stock can increase property values and create a more visually appealing neighborhood.</p>
			<i>Gathering/"Third" places</i> - Number of neighborhood hubs, per Priority Neighborhood	<p>First places are residences and second places are schools/workplaces. Gathering or "third" places can be viewed as "anchors" of community life, facilitating and fostering broader and more creative social interaction.</p>
			<i>Mixed land use</i> - Number of buildings containing a mix of residential and commercial uses, per Priority Neighborhood (NFH and VRW neighborhoods only)	<p>Mixed land uses reduce distances between housing, employment, commerce, and recreation, offering easier access between these uses and using less land for development.</p>
			<i>Mixed income housing</i> - Ratio of market-rate and workforce housing in new development, per Priority Neighborhood	<p>Mixed income housing offers an opportunity for a more diverse neighborhood resident demographic.</p>