


## Muskegon Livability Framework

The Muskegon Livability Framework summarizes the community's goals related to creating a system that ensures livability for all Muskegon County residents. The Livability Elements (in blue) represent what people need to thrive and prosper in Muskegon County. The Community Conditions (in orange) represent what needs to be in place across the county to promote the Livability Elements and achieve the Vision.

 Throughout this document, the individual Livability Elements and Community Conditions are hyperlinked. Click on the text to be directed to a data resource related to that Element or Community Condition.




## Livability Elements



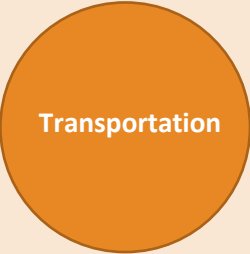
<p><b>Education</b></p>	<p>Residents of all ages have knowledge and skills needed to thrive.</p>	<p><b>Metrics to Track Progress on Education:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kindergarten Readiness</li> <li>• Reading and Math Proficiency - 3rd Grade</li> <li>• High School Graduation Rates</li> <li>• Students Not College Ready</li> <li>• Bachelor's Degree or Higher</li> <li>• Adult Illiteracy</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health</b></p>	<p>Residents are experiencing holistic health and well-being.</p>	<p><b>Metrics to Track Progress on Health:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Births With Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care</li> <li>• Low Birth Weights</li> <li>• Physical Inactivity</li> <li>• Life Expectancy</li> </ul>
<p><b>Economic Opportunity</b></p>	<p>Residents are prospering and financially stable.</p>	<p><b>Metrics to Track Progress on Economic Opportunity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty Rate</li> <li>• Unemployment</li> <li>• Asset Limited, Income Constrained Employed (ALICE)</li> <li>• Median Household Income</li> </ul>
<p><b>Safety and Security</b></p>	<p>Residents feel safe and secure at all times.</p>	<p><b>Metrics to Track Progress on Safety and Security:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Safety – School</li> <li>• Youth Safety – Neighborhood</li> <li>• Child Abuse</li> <li>• Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social Connections &amp; Trust</b></p>	<p>Residents and local settings have relationships that demonstrate a sense of belonging, loyalty, trust and responsibility.</p>	<p><b>Metrics to Track Progress on Social Connections and Trust:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Receiving Social Support at Home</li> <li>• Youth Receiving Social Support in Neighborhood</li> <li>• Adults Receiving Social/Emotional Support</li> <li>• Activity in Religious Congregation/Community</li> <li>• Voter Participation</li> </ul>

## Community Conditions

The Community Conditions and Root Causes listed below were identified from local conversations with 300+ individuals as well as local and national datasets/reports. Additional details are available in the individual Community Condition handouts. These lists are a starting place and do not include ALL potential root causes!

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Access to Learning Environments</b></p>	<p><b>High-quality learning environments within local schools, organizations, and families are accessible to all.</b></p>	<p><b>Root Causes Getting in the Way of Access to Learning Environments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Not enough quality preschool slots available in county</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> School funding not evenly distributed across the county</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> School of Choice policies unintentionally disadvantage some schools</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Some schools struggle to attract and retain quality, diverse teachers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Some schools lack capacity to meet needs of students experiencing trauma</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Some education settings not effectively engaging families</li> </ul>
 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Child and Dependent Care</b></p>	<p><b>Safe, trusted, affordable, dependable, high-quality child/dependent care is accessible to all who need it.</b></p>	<p><b>Root Causes Getting in the Way of Child and Dependent Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Some employers lack policies related to childcare and family time off to support workers with children</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient number of high quality child care slots available in community</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Child care is not affordable for many families</li> </ul>
 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Countywide Collaboration and Alignment</b></p>	<p><b>Local groups and settings are working together to ensure efforts are coordinated and integrated.</b></p>	<p><b>Root Causes Getting in the Way of Collaboration and Alignment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of a shared vision and goals for system coordination</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of processes and policies promoting coordination</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Many stakeholders lack awareness of continuum of local programs/services</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Need for more effective infrastructure to support coordination</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Need for more effective power sharing and inclusive decision-making</li> </ul>
 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Health Care Access</b></p>	<p><b>Affordable healthcare supports to meet all physical and behavioral health needs are accessible to all.</b></p>	<p><b>Root Causes Getting in the Way of Health Care Access</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare services and prescriptions not affordable and accessible for many residents</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Limited insurance coverage is a barrier to accessing healthcare</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Not enough local health/mental health providers &amp; substance use treatment options to meet demand</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Some local residents and organizations lack awareness of how to access health services</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Some local policies/practices prevent residents with addiction or mental health concerns from getting their needs met; leads to incarceration instead of treatment</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Local stigma around accessing needed substance use or mental health supports</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Many local residents, providers, and decision-makers lack understanding of trauma and how to address it</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Need for stronger community culture around promoting health</li> </ul>
 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Healthy Food</b></p>	<p><b>Affordable, healthy food that meets nutritional needs on a daily basis is accessible to all.</b></p>	<p><b>Root Causes Getting in the Way of Healthy Food</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Some communities in Muskegon County lack access to grocery stores/fresh food retailers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Current eligibility policies prevent many residents from accessing needed food assistance</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Many seniors have limited access to food</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Few opportunities for residents to learn how to improve eating habits</li> </ul>

## Community Conditions (cont'd)

 <p><b>Housing and Utilities</b></p>	<p><b>Affordable, safe, and healthy living environments are accessible to all.</b></p>	<p><b>Root Causes Impacting Access to Affordable, Safe Housing/Living Environments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Limited supply of affordable housing for low to moderate income residents</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of affordable housing located in safe neighborhoods</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Housing costs increasing faster than wages/income</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Long waiting lists for assisted housing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Affordable, subsidized housing is unevenly distributed across the county</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Some housing &amp; rental policies/practices disadvantage residents with temp jobs, eviction histories, limited financial capital, or other perceived “risk factors”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Limited incentive for housing developers to work in blighted areas or build affordable housing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Not all landlords held accountable for maintaining quality standards</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Livable Employment Opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Local employment opportunities adequate to meet basic quality of life standards are accessible to all.</b></p>	<p><b>Root Causes Getting in the Way of Livable Employment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Not enough local jobs in Muskegon</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Not enough available jobs provide sufficient income</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Some companies hire employees through temp agencies, reducing access to full time employment with benefits</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Some companies’ hiring policies not aligned with new laws legalizing recreational marijuana use in Michigan</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Neighborhood &amp; Natural Environments</b></p>	<p><b>Vibrant community spaces, high-quality infrastructure, and thriving outdoor landscapes and waterways are accessible and safe for all.</b></p>	<p><b>Root Causes Getting in the Way of Neighborhood and Natural Environments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Some neighborhoods experiencing high levels of prostitution and drug activity</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of adequate community-informed police presence in some neighborhoods</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Some neighborhoods experiencing blight, deteriorating roads, lack of street lights</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Many neighborhoods are highly segregated in Muskegon County</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Some neighborhoods lack safe, social gathering spaces to promote social connections</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Transportation</b></p>	<p><b>Affordable and dependable transportation is available at the right time and the right place, for all who need it.</b></p>	<p><b>Root Causes Getting in the Way of Transportation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation routes do not extend to all of Muskegon County</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation times not meeting the needs of all Muskegon County residents</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Workforce Development</b></p>	<p><b>Opportunities to secure skills and resources for economic and personal growth are accessible to all.</b></p>	<p><b>Root Causes Getting in the Way of Workforce Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Not enough diverse, quality training opportunities aligned with available jobs</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Some post-secondary/career training opportunities are available, but students not prepared</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Limited education and accessible loans to promote small business/entrepreneurship</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Limited education on financial literacy</li> </ul>