












Community Collaborative Insights



This summary report reflects the community voices of Dayton and Montgomery County, OH. Residents came together to identify the local issues impacting human rights and proposed solutions to create a stronger community where social justice thrives.

 <p>Fair & Just Economy</p>	 <p>Environment</p>	 <p>Education</p>
 <p>Healthcare Access</p>	 <p>Safety & Privacy</p>	
<p>Go to DaytonUnitedForHumanRights.org for more information</p> <p>SCAN HERE</p> 	 <p>Equality & Equity</p>	 <p>Legal Issues</p>
 <p>Housing & Property</p>	 <p>Transparent Democratic Governing</p>	

IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES

2025

Recommendations for Montgomery County

HOUSING

- Restructure & expand rapid rehousing program
- Restrict number of out-of-state landlords and Airbnb rentals in local neighborhoods
- Increase funding support for rehab of homes and vacant properties
- Ban proof of income and application fees for those receiving Section 8 and vouchers

"13.7% of the population in Montgomery County live with "severe housing problems" (DataUSA)

HEALTH

- Assist in funding a hospital and more mental health services in West Dayton with providers reflecting the populations served
- Expand free health clinics including mental health
- Require additional cultural competency requirements for health care providers based on populations served to address disparities in health outcomes and infant mortality rates in marginalized groups

"Infant mortality rate in Montgomery County is about 9.8 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2023. When broken down by race, Black infants face ~16.3 deaths per 1,000 live births vs ~6.5 for white infants—more than twice as high." (Dayton Daily News)

JUSTICE

- Decrease reliance on policing and carceral systems by increasing use and support of conflict mediation and transformative justice
- Ensure more humane conditions in jails and enact bail reform
- Reallocate criminal justice funds for alternatives to incarceration
- Increase transparency of economic decisions and diversify development beyond Dept of Defense/military applications
- Increase use of multi-lingual materials and translation services by police and civil servants

Ohio civil-rights lawyers and organizers highlight how jails and prisons statewide rely on extremely low-paid inmate labor while private vendors profit from commissary, phone, and other contracts, which Dayton activists connect to local facilities and contracts. (WYSO)

OTHER

- Push for an increase in minimum wage to \$15/hr
- Provide free school breakfast and lunches for all students
- Modernize and expand public transit
- Increase application assistance for Job and Family Services resources including SNAP and the Job Center
- Create more resources and information in languages other than English
- Open candidate nominations for elections with ranked voting
- Implement proactive measures to assist the county auditor in collecting outstanding taxes, prioritizing access for city residents to purchase properties and limiting bulk purchases by outside entities

The PBS documentary following Dayton workers shows families who are working but still relying on food pantries, with organizers describing part-time, low-wage service work as "the new normal" after GM and other plants closed. Fuyao's glass plant at the old GM site is profiled as paying roughly half of former union wages, with workers interviewed about struggling to get by on about 15 dollars an hour. (Left Behind America Documentary)

Recommendations for Dayton

HOUSING

- Create restrictions on high application and security-deposit fees in Dayton
- Restrict the number of out-of-state landlords and Airbnb rentals in local neighborhoods
- Support for Dayton Tenant Union to act as a clearinghouse for rental application process
- Reserve properties for purchase by low-income Daytonians with financial support for updates and repairs
- Form a commission, including community members, to create a plan for repairing multigenerational harm caused by redlining, including innovative reparations such as property, higher-education funding, and investments in small businesses

The tax-incentive/CRA example in Dayton shows large-scale property tax abatements that may shift burden away from neighborhoods / schools and raise questions about whether existing housing/investment in older neighborhoods is being adequately addressed" (mclandbank.com)

HEALTH

- Assist in funding a hospital and more mental health services in West Dayton with providers reflecting the populations served
- Create more full-service, trauma-informed birthing centers focused on reducing infant-mortality rates in BIPOC communities; include doulas and alternative/holistic options
- Increase translation services and language access at hospitals

"A local program by Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County (FIMR – Fetal & Infant Mortality Review) highlights that infant mortality "continues to be a significant problem" (PHCDM)

JUSTICE

- Ban the box requiring disclosure of felonies for employment and housing
- Decrease reliance on policing and carceral systems by increasing use and support of conflict mediation and transformative justice
- Increase awareness and education about surveillance technologies being used on residents
- Increase use of multi-lingual materials and translation services by police and civil servants

Local reentry organizations and legal-aid advocates working in Dayton describe how criminal-record screening shuts people with felonies out of jobs and apartments, pushing them into unstable work and housing and back toward the justice system. (WYSO)

GOVERNMENT

- Improve transparency and increase community voices in allocation of funds
- Institute community advocates on the city commission
- Create a community oversight board for each department
- Create mentor programs for involvement in local government and economic development
- Incentivize neighborhood-based initiatives
- Require neighborhood associations to report back to the commission and the community
- Open candidate nominations for elections with ranked voting

"In the city of Dayton, Ohio, there are 17 designated Community Reinvestment Areas (CRAs) that allow up to 100% property-tax abatements for 15 years for new/renovated structures—but critics argue that these kinds of incentives may drain school-funding and local services" (Bricker Graydon)

ENVIRONMENT & TRANSIT

- Increase recycling and compost bins across the city and increase access for businesses
- Institute a city-wide plastic shopping-bag ban
- Increase the number of bus stops and build sheltered bus stops

"The sustainability website for Dayton lists green-debris drop-off services, but the fact that this is drop-off only (rather than full curbside composting city-wide) signals a gap in access to comprehensive composting services" (Dayton, OH Website)

Recommendations for Community

COMMUNITY BUILDING

- **Support more neighborhood-led groups and community trade swaps for safety, community gardens, food and clothing exchanges, childcare, youth programs, house repairs, and painting**
- **Foster trust and accountability through block parties, neighborhood watches, priority boards, and regular community gatherings that invite people from diverse backgrounds to participate**
- **Identify neighborhood skills and resources, organize rapid-response efforts for crises, and build co-ops and community fridges/pantries to address food deserts and basic needs**
- **Create mentorship and apprenticeship programs, workshops on how to run for local office, and community education on civic engagement, legal rights, and financial literacy**

Dayton has long-standing gaps in neighborhood-level services such as childcare, elder support, and safe youth activities, especially in redlined areas where commercial services and nonprofits are sparse. Residents often rely on informal help for child-watching, transportation, and house repairs, but these efforts are fragmented and under-resourced. (udayton)

GOVERNMENT

- **Start a ballot initiative to explore different forms of city governance**
- **Engage with and support grassroots candidates for county and city commission**
- **Mobilize voters and civic engagement in events such as commission meetings; bring along friends and family and encourage others to have a voice in their city**
- **Evaluate the city budget and speak up about where tax dollars should go**
- **Organize people's assemblies and a community commission board**
- **Advocate for public community record-keeping of all city meetings**
- **Advocate for healthier civic spaces for community input beyond commission meetings**
- **Organize community lobbying**

Public-comment segments, ballot-measure organizing (such as on qualified immunity), and legal challenges like the DPS busing lawsuit all show residents using every available democratic channel to assert their rights and shape policy. (WYSO)

EDUCATION

- **Increase community education on a variety of topics (civics, financial literacy, etc.)**
- **Develop programs to reactivate a village mentality for safety, accountability, and connectivity**
- **Increase the number of after-school programs and volunteer programs**
- **Create community after-school programs with local history**
- **Assist in mobilizing youth in advocacy regarding education and student representation at school-board meetings**
- **Advocate for prevention education in schools and community centers**
- **Promote, support, and fund Know Your Rights and Responsibilities education, such as immigration rights, tenant rights, and police-interaction guidance**

Community groups in Dayton's Black neighborhoods and around Wright-Patterson Air Force Base push for more honest teaching of racial segregation, redlining, and labor history, linking present-day inequities to what students learn about the city's past. (PBS News)