



In the Summer of 2022, the Westside Outreach Team connected with residents who live on Charleston’s Westside to see how they’re doing, and to share information about resources available right here on the Westside.

**Not just another survey**

Building on previous outreach efforts, the goal was to gain a deeper understanding of the current needs and overall well-being of residents, to better connect residents to existing resources and to drive real change and future investments in the community based directly on resident input.

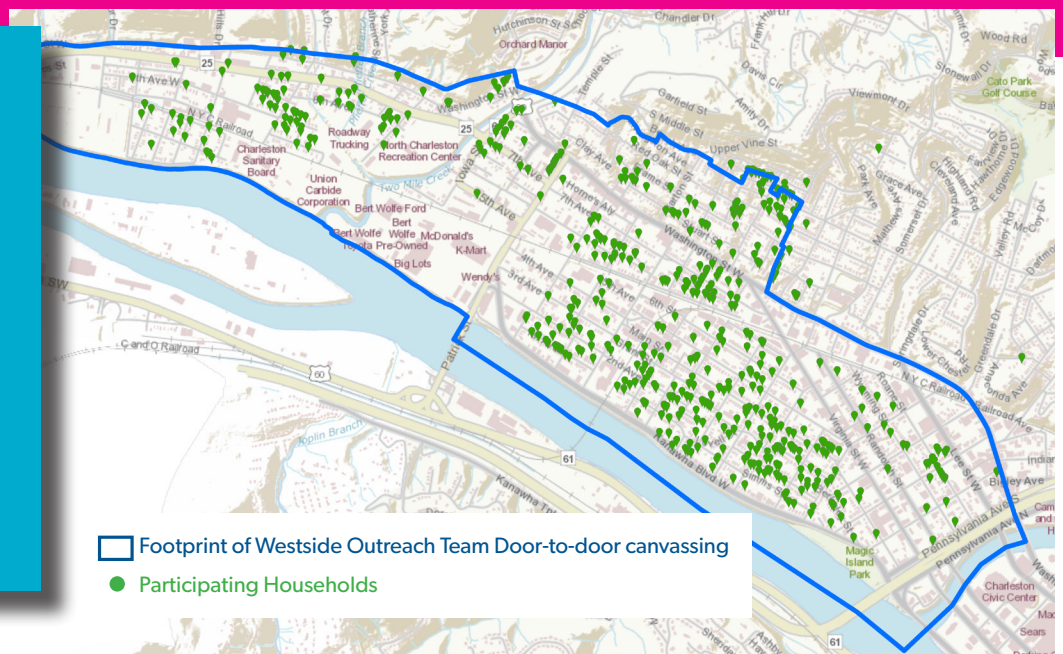
**Neighbors connecting with neighbors**

The Outreach Team included Westsiders who are passionate about the community and dedicated to supporting positive change on the Westside. The team was hired and trained to reach out and hear what other residents have to say and to listen to neighbors’ needs, concerns, and vision for a better community.

**The Westside Outreach Team canvassed 3,304 households and connected directly with 580 Westside residents.**

**Where did the outreach take place?**

Door-to door outreach took place with all households in the “Flats” section of the Westside—U.S. Census tracts 1, 7 & 8—as well as some sections of the Hill. Westside residents could also participate online via [westsidetogether.org](http://westsidetogether.org).



Number of addresses in area canvassed	3,304
<b>Number of addresses canvassed</b>	<b>3,304 100%</b>
Vacant / Inaccessible properties found	509 15%
<b>Occupied Households</b>	<b>2,795</b>
<b>Households that participated via canvassing</b>	<b>580 21%</b>
Households that participated on-line	35
<b>Total number of participating households</b>	<b>615</b>
<b>Number of households that want to be connected to community resources as a result of their participation</b>	<b>335 64%</b>



### HOME IMPROVEMENTS

**Assistance with home improvements was most common need shared**

- 46% say need for home improvements is most pressing issue for their household
- 39% willing to improve their home if funds were available
- 37% would like to apply for energy efficiency programs

### NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

**Safety and vacancies are the top things residents would work to change in their neighborhood**

- 46% say safety is most pressing issue on their block

Resident suggestions to improve safety: security cameras, community policing, patrols & street lights

### OWNERSHIP & FINANCES

**Finances expressed as biggest barrier to achieving success & wealth**

- 24% interested in purchasing property on the Westside

Financing help, down payment assistance and credit repair biggest things holding folks back from buying a home or property.

### RESIDENT PARTICIPATION

- 1/3 of participants would be willing to volunteer to support the Westside**
- 49% interested in joining a block watch or group
- 299 households shared phone numbers and 205 emails for follow-up connections

**A Shared Community Framework**  
Westiders shared a whole host of information about their current needs, access to resources and hopes for their families. Information collected by the Outreach Team has been organized using the 7 Vital Conditions for Well Being framework, a national model brought to the Westside by partners at Wild Wonderful Healthy West Virginia.

**About the Households (HHs)**

- 58% HHs are Homeowners
- 41% HHs are Renters
- 46% have a Senior in the home
- 17% have a student in the home
- 13% have trouble affording necessities
- 67% use Facebook to network

**About Employment**

- 30% working more than one job
- 14% unemployed
- 20% aren't adequately supported by their job(s)
- 26% of unemployed have been looking for more than a year
- 43% have someone who is retired in the home

**About the Neighborhood**

- 79% plan to stay on the Westside
- 36% use neighborhood parks
- 54% feel the neighborhood has stayed the same or improved
- 45% like living on the Westside because it's accessible & convenient
- 87% feel their neighbors will help each other
- 27% are aware of or participate in Westside activities
- 10% experiencing loneliness or isolation

**About Health & Healthcare**

- 96% have health insurance
- 86% report having no untreated health issues
- 85% report no trouble seeing a doctor in past year
- 71% report being vaccinated for Covid 19
- 10% would like support to quit smoking
- 5% use ER/Hospital for primary medical care

**About Early Childhood, K-12 & Out-of school Time**

- 69% of students attend public school on the Westside
- 77% feel supported by their child's school/teachers
- 48% don't participate in out of/after school activities
- 61% of pre-school aged children not in pre-K
- 12% families want support enrolling in pre-K

**About Transportation & Access to Resources**

- 75% don't require assistance with transportation
- 20% need transportation assistance shopping for food & basics
- 65% never use public transit
- 58% of students are driven to school

# Scan the QR code on the right to access full outreach outcomes.

Download & use the information at anytime to help support your work on the Westside!

SCAN ME

FOR OUTREACH OUTCOMES



The info included in this snapshot is just a small sample of what was shared. Residents responded to more than **73 questions**—and even more for households with children!

## Put the information to work!

Full outreach outcomes are available for use by all Westside partners and champions as a way to plan, advocate and implement positive change on the Westside.

**You are encouraged to use the information in anyway that supports your own programming and collaborative work on the Westside!**



FOR DATA REQUEST FORM

SCAN ME

## Keep residents informed!

335 Households signed up to be connected with partners serving the Westside.

**If you have programming or host community events that serve Westside residents and would like to connect directly with those households, fill out a data request form using the QR code on the left.**

