Family and Consumer Sciences Extension is committed to improving the health and well-being of individuals and families in Hickman County. To help families make wise decisions, our educational programs focus on:

- **Making Healthy Lifestyle Choices** that influence health and well-being
- **Nurturing Families** as they cope with fewer resources and more demands
- **Embracing Life as We Age** to live independently longer
- **Securing Financial Stability** in a turbulent economic period
- **Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities** that recycle, reduce waste, and protect our environment
- **Accessing Nutritious Food** that is affordable, available, and safe
- **Empowering Community Leaders** as we all work to sustain and improve our communities

In 2013-2014, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made 8,221 contacts with Hickman County individuals and families.

In an effort to improve school attendance and infection control, the Hickman County Cooperative Extension Office has partnered with Hickman County Pre-K and Elementary School and the KAPS Family Resource Youth Service Center to offer Germ Busters. This program has been presented to approximately 350 youth each year, reaching 1,400 in the past four years. Students receive instruction in proper hand-washing steps and learn when to wash hands and why hand washing is important in reducing illness. According to surveys, 100% of participants gained knowledge in correct hand washing steps. Six months after the program concluded, school staff reported that 85% of participants said they now practice correct hand washing at home and school.
Housing has long been recognized as a basic human need. Yet, because housing is often a family’s largest expense and largest debt, it can be a stumbling block for many. Safe, lower-cost housing options are often limited for struggling families, and this can lead them into crisis. Family and Consumer Sciences Extension helps people improve home safety, lessen their environmental footprint, and strengthen financial stability. It also helps communities promote healthy lifestyles throughout the lifespan by supporting strong family home environments. Please tell us ways you think we can do more.

### Availability

In 2010, in Hickman County, there were…
- 414 renter households
- 1,614 homeowner households
- 44 vacant housing units for rent
- 27 vacant housing units for sale

According to the Kentucky Department of Education, in 2012-2013, no children were homeless or were precariously housed in Hickman County.

### Affordability

According to American Community Survey estimates for Hickman County, in 2008-2012…
- 41.6% (+/- 14.6) of renter households paid 35% or more of their income for rent and utilities
- 18.7% (+/- 6.5) of homeowner households with a mortgage and 9.2% (+/- 4.7) of homeowner households without a mortgage paid 35% or more of their income for housing costs
- 51.6% (+/- 6.2) of homeowner households did not have a mortgage
- 14.0% (+/- 3.7) of all housing units were mobile homes

According to the most recent poverty estimates, in 2012, 20.3% (+/- 4.0) of residents in the county were living below poverty.

In 2013, residents needed to earn $10.87 an hour (or work 1.5 jobs at $7.25 an hour**) to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent in Hickman County.

### Health and Safety

In Hickman County, it is estimated that in 2008-2012…
- half of all renter-occupied housing was built before 1974 (+/- 6 years)
- half of all owner-occupied housing was built before 1972 (+/- 3 years)

According to 2008-2012 American Community Survey estimates in Hickman County…
- 5.4% (+/- 3.2) of all households had no landline or cell phone
- 29.7% (+/- 6.2) of workers living in Hickman County worked in Kentucky but outside the county and 14.5% (+/- 5.1) worked outside the state
- Half of all workers traveled 19.2 (+/- 2.0) or more minutes to work

### Sources:
1. Kentucky Cooperative Extension reporting. FY 2014
2. 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau
3. 2010 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau
4. Kentucky Dept. of Education http://education.ky.gov/federal/programs/Pages/TX-Docs.aspx (Data for school districts were combined to produce the county total.)
5. Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau
6. Out Of Reach 2014. National Low Income Housing Coalition
* Data refer to housing tenure (owner or renter).
** The current federal minimum wage