Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Extension is committed to improving the health and well-being of individuals and families in Robertson 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 14,616 contacts with Robertson County individuals and families.

To help those feeling the hardships of recent economic downturns, Robertson County Extension shared quarterly “Managing in Tough Times” newsletters with over 300 local families the past two years. The FCS agent’s radio program covered many financial management topics, including how to save money on housing and home environment. Robertson County students participated in a piggy bank design contest and learned about financial planning. Fifth-graders made posters to demonstrate how to compare prices to find the best deal. Several parents attended a financial workshop taught by the FCS agent. Participants in every financial education event reported knowledge gained. Workshop attendees reported they used more coupons, which resulted in considerable savings for their families.
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 Robertson County, there were…³
- 197 renter households
- 705 homeowner households
- 21 vacant housing units for rent
- 18 vacant housing units for sale

According to the Kentucky Department of Education, in 2012-2013, no children were homeless or were precariously housed in Robertson County.⁴

**AFFORDABILITY**

According to American Community Survey estimates for Robertson County, in 2008-2012…²
- 38.0% (+/- 19.9) of renter households paid 35% or more of their income for rent and utilities
- 19.7% (+/- 13.5) of homeowner households with a mortgage and 5.0% (+/- 4.6) of homeowner households without a mortgage paid 35% or more of their income for housing costs
- 60.5% (+/- 9.4) of homeowner households did not have a mortgage
- 17.2% (+/- 5.9) of all housing units were mobile homes

According to the most recent poverty estimates, in 2012, 23.8% (+/- 5.1) of residents in the county were living below poverty.⁵

In 2013, residents needed to earn $14.33 an hour (or work 2.0 jobs at $7.25 an hour**) to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent in Robertson County.⁶

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

In Robertson County, it is estimated that in 2008-2012…²
- half of all renter-occupied housing was built before 1969 (+/- 5 years)
- half of all owner-occupied housing was built before 1958 (+/- 18 years)

According to 2008-2012 American Community Survey² estimates in Robertson County…
- 8.0% (+/- 4.7) of all households had no landline or cell phone
- 57.4% (+/- 8.4) of workers living in Robertson County worked in Kentucky but outside the county and 5.6% (+/- 5.6) worked outside the state
- Half of all workers traveled 39.7 (+/- 10.4) or more minutes to work

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**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