Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Extension is committed to improving the health and well-being of individuals and families in Rowan 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 8,141 contacts with Rowan County individuals and families.

In Fleming County and Rowan County Extension Service FCS programs developed a six-week walking program to improve workforce wellness at local businesses. The “Go Lean” walking program was designed to improve the lives of those who work to support themselves and their families and who may not take the time to improve or maintain their own health and wellness. In Rowan County, 23 teams of 114 people walked a total of 13,455 miles during the program. Goals, such as losing weight and lowering blood pressure or cholesterol were met, but most of all, participants reported feeling better and enjoyed walking and the company of their team members.
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 Rowan County, there were…

- **3,062** renter households
- **5,802** homeowner households
- **341** vacant housing units for rent
- **131** vacant housing units for sale

According to the Kentucky Department of Education, in 2012-2013, **945** children were homeless or were precariously housed in Rowan County.

### Affordability

According to American Community Survey estimates for Rowan County, in 2008-2012...

- **48.0% (+/- 9.6)** of renter households paid 35% or more of their income for rent and utilities
- **19.7% (+/- 5.5)** of homeowner households with a mortgage and **11.5% (+/- 3.9)** of homeowner households without a mortgage paid 35% or more of their income for housing costs
- **44.6% (+/- 3.6)** of homeowner households did not have a mortgage
- **29.6% (+/- 4.0)** of all housing units were mobile homes

According to the most recent poverty estimates, in 2012, **28.2% (+/- 4.7)** of residents in the county were living below poverty.

In 2013, residents needed to earn **$11.04** an hour (or work **1.5** jobs at **$7.25** an hour**) to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent in Rowan County.

### Health and Safety

In Rowan County, it is estimated that in 2008-2012...

- half of all renter-occupied housing was built before **1988** (+/- 4 years)
- half of all owner-occupied housing was built before **1984** (+/- 3 years)

According to 2008-2012 American Community Survey estimates in Rowan County...

- **3.0% (+/- 1.7)** of all households had no landline or cell phone
- **17.6% (+/- 3.9)** of workers living in Rowan County worked in Kentucky but outside the county and **1.0% (+/- 0.6)** worked outside the state
- Half of all workers traveled **20.2 (+/- 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/progs/hec/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
7. Data refer to housing tenure (owner or renter).
8. **The current federal minimum wage**