

ANCHOR the Bayou Needs Assessment: Identified Priorities

The 2025 ANCHOR needs assessment used listening sessions, a community survey with 189 participants, and follow-up focus groups to understand priorities in South Terrebonne and South Lafourche. Together, these efforts provided a community-informed view of local needs and opportunities that directly shaped this plan.

Affordable and Safe Housing



Affordable and safe housing plays a critical role in community wellbeing. When survey respondents were asked to identify the most critical housing challenges facing their community, 66% cited housing insurance and 37% identified housing recovery. Concerns about insurance costs, rent and home prices, and the availability of safe housing options also came through strongly in the listening sessions and focus group conversations in both South Terrebonne and South Lafourche.

Education-to-Career Pathways



When education aligns with local workforce opportunities, individuals are better positioned to pursue long-term economic security. 28% of survey respondents identified workforce training and job placement as the most helpful economic and job stability strategy. These insights reflect the importance of strengthening and extending connections between education, training, and employment opportunities within the community.

Spaces and Programming for Youth and Families



Almost half (47%) of survey respondents shared that they considered strong family ties and networks to be a key strength of their community, and 55% identified “Creating safe spaces for youth and families” as the most helpful strategy to build resilience in their neighborhood. Access to safe spaces and quality programs helps young people stay active, build skills, and connect with others in their community. These responses highlight the ongoing need to expand and strengthen community spaces and programs so that all young people and families can benefit from safe places to learn, play, and connect.

Mental Health and Healthcare Services



Access to mental health and healthcare services is critical to individual wellbeing and overall community health. Survey respondents identified several challenges related to accessing care. The top four healthcare and behavioral health challenges were access to mental health care, access to substance use treatment, lack of health insurance, and food insecurity. These findings underscore the need for accessible and responsive services that meet community needs.

Disaster and Hazard Preparedness



Disaster and hazards preparedness helps communities reduce risk and recover more effectively when emergencies occur. Survey respondents most often reported rising insurance costs, damage to infrastructure, climate-related stress, increased utility costs, and housing loss as top hazard impacts. These responses point to opportunities to strengthen preparedness efforts to support community resilience.

Community Connection and Access



Reliable transportation and dependable internet service are essential to community connection and access. Compared to Louisiana overall, Lafourche Parish has lower computer access and a much higher share of adults 65+ without a household computer, while Terrebonne Parish closely mirrors the state average for computer access, but has a slightly higher share of older adults without a computer (ACS, 2024).

Frequently reported connection and access challenges among survey respondents were infrastructure issues and limited access to transportation. These barriers are especially consequential in the southern parts of Terrebonne and Lafourche because many essential services and resources are located just a few miles north or in neighboring parishes, making distance and limited transit options significant barriers to access.