



HUMAN SERVICES, CULTURE, AND EDUCATION

This chapter recognizes the important role that social, cultural, and educational factors have on the physical development of the City and the quality of life in the community.

Human Services

The demand for human services has grown considerably with economic and social trends, and exceeds the available resources to provide these services. The current system for providing human services has many players: public, private, and nonprofit. It is a complicated system that is often difficult for clients and the larger community to understand. Often it is not clear to people how they can find the help they may need.

Increasingly local governments are becoming involved in human services. Longmont is no exception. As a community, Longmont has a stake in the quality of life of all residents. Everyone has a stake in helping each other.

The City responds to human service needs by either providing services directly, contracting for services with independent agencies, or developing collaborative community efforts and volunteerism among public, private, and nonprofit entities. The City uses five basic premises in guiding its efforts in providing human services to Longmont's residents:

- **Empowerment** focuses on building an individual's and/or family's strengths so that they can be the best they can be with minimum dependence on the human service delivery system.
- **Prevention, Early Intervention, and Education** focus on services and programs that address needs and prevent subsequent problems, that address conditions or issues before they develop into significant human problems, and that create educational opportunities so that knowledge is preserved and conveyed to present and future generations.
- **Community Catalyst** stimulates the community to address human service issues, organizes collaborative efforts to assess needs, and creates community responses.
- **Continuum of Services** provides residents access to a variety of services and programs that address varying levels of needs; e.g., to close the gaps in the human service delivery system.
- **Service Accessibility and Acceptability** focus on providing services and programs that are accessible to residents, that reflect cultural sensitivity, and that understand and appreciate the diversity of people, ideas, and values.



Culture

Longmont's diverse residents contribute to what makes this community special. People want Longmont to be a community where everyone receives respect and dignity and has opportunities to actively participate in community life. Developing an awareness and appreciation of differences, and then celebrating what each person brings to Longmont, can enrich everyone.

Welcoming and accepting people into the community are key to Longmont's preserving its small town atmosphere as it grows. As a community, Longmont wants to protect civil liberties and enhance the opportunity for all residents to live and enjoy life. Longmont will not tolerate discrimination against any of its residents.

Longmont residents enjoy a variety of cultural opportunities. Some opportunities the City provides directly. Other opportunities citizens provide themselves. These cultural opportunities enrich the lives of Longmont's residents. They make the community a great place in which to live and work.

Education

Lifelong learning can help individuals be independent and reach their full potential. The St. Vrain Valley School District is instrumental in achieving this goal. The City and the St. Vrain Valley School District cooperate on educational programs at the museum and library that benefit our residents. The City and the St. Vrain Valley School District need to work closely to coordinate in planning for and locating schools in new neighborhoods.

Front Range Community College also is instrumental in helping individuals on their journeys of lifelong learning. In cooperation with other members of the community, the City is promoting the development of a permanent Boulder County campus in Longmont for Front Range Community College.

The City also maintains a firm commitment to lifelong learning by providing educational programs through the museum, senior center, youth center, and recreation center. The Longmont Public Library provides information in various media for the lifelong education of St. Vrain Valley residents.



Human Services, Culture, and Education Goals, Policies, and Strategies

GOAL HS-1: Support and enhance a wide range of social, cultural, informational, and educational resources so that all Longmont residents have an equal opportunity to maximize their potential and enhance their quality of life.

POLICY HS-1.1: Promote human service programs that strengthen and support individuals, families, and neighborhoods.

Strategy HS-1.1(a): Participate in appropriate regional human services partnerships to determine more efficient and effective methods for delivering human services to Longmont's residents.

Strategy HS-1.1(b): Maximize public, private, and nonprofit agencies' coordination in providing human services.

Strategy HS-1.1(c): Identify areas for potential improvements in efficiency such as encouraging volunteerism, eliminating service duplication, reducing administrative overhead, and filling service gaps.

Strategy HS-1.1(d): Focus resources on a continuum of services and programs to assist residents with varying levels of need ranging from basic needs (food, shelter, clothing, and protection from abuse and neglect) to early intervention and prevention that address human conditions or issues before they develop into significant individual, family, and/or community issues.

Strategy HS-1.1(e): Evaluate community needs, and target available City funding based on those demonstrated needs.

Strategy HS-1.1(f): Explore options to provide increased technical assistance and indirect and administrative support to human service providers.

Strategy HS-1.1(g): Provide public facilities that families can use and enjoy such as establishing neighborhood-based centers and/or programs.

Strategy HS-1.1(h): Consider developing incentives for businesses to provide human services to their employees; e.g., health care benefits and day care.

Strategy HS-1.1(i): Consider the impacts new development may have on the community's ability to provide human services.



POLICY HS-1.2: Improve cultural opportunities, and foster an appreciation of diversity.

Strategy HS-1.2(a): Lead community efforts in developing programs for individuals and families that promote an understanding of, and appreciation for, Longmont residents' diversity.

Strategy HS-1.2(b): Encourage, support, and cooperate with community organizations in offering events and activities that actively involve and bring together diverse groups of residents and create a strong sense of community identity.

Strategy HS-1.2(c): Support cultural opportunities such as providing appropriate facilities, collections, resources, educational programs, and family activities at the museum, the senior and recreation centers, and at the library.

Strategy HS-1.2(d): Support community efforts in developing a visual arts center.

Strategy HS-1.2(e): Provide meeting rooms and performance locations at City facilities, when they are available, for a nominal fee.

Strategy HS-1.2(f): Encourage businesses to allow community organizations to use temporarily vacant building space.

Strategy HS-1.2(g): Provide spaces that families can use and enjoy for unprogrammed activities.

Strategy HS-1.2(h): Develop museum programs that educate residents and visitors on the history and culture of the Longmont area.

POLICY HS-1.3: Promote lifelong education.

Strategy HS-1.3(a): Work with other community leaders in improving and enhancing educational opportunities for Longmont's residents throughout their lives.

Strategy HS-1.3(b): Coordinate with the St. Vrain Valley School District in the review of new residential development and the designation of school sites based on the following minimum size requirements:

- A. *Provide at least 10 acres for elementary schools.*
- B. *Provide at least 25 acres for middle schools.*
- C. *Provide at least 50 acres for high schools.*

Strategy HS-1.3(c): Consider the impacts new residential development may have on the St. Vrain Valley School District's ability to serve additional students.



Strategy HS-1.3(d): Explore with the St. Vrain Valley School District methods that both the City and the St. Vrain Valley School District can use to mitigate the impact that additional students may place on the St. Vrain Valley School District's capital facilities.

Strategy HS-1.3(e): Encourage adult education providers to offer more, and a greater variety of, classes in Longmont.

Strategy HS-1.3(f): Support programs that increase literacy and that prepare people to pass the high school equivalency exam.

Strategy HS-1.3(g): Promote and encourage the expanded use of communication technologies for off-site educational and community informational purposes.

Strategy HS-1.3(h): Develop and strengthen museum, senior and recreation centers, and library resources, including technological resources, to provide community information, education, and cultural enrichment.

Strategy HS-1.3(i): Cooperate with educational providers in sharing information resources and applications of information technology.

Strategy HS-1.3(j): Coordinate efforts with educational providers and community leaders to offer educational opportunities in nontraditional media and/or in nontraditional settings.

Strategy HS-1.3(k): Promote the development of a permanent Boulder County campus for Front Range Community College in Longmont.

GOAL HS-2: Protect civil liberties and ensure that all residents have equal access to resources and opportunities to participate in the community and enjoy life.
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POLICY HS-2.1: Maintain an ongoing commitment and leadership role in promoting an understanding of, and appreciation for, Longmont residents' diversity.

Strategy HS-2.1(a): Target strategies to increase the involvement of diverse groups of residents in community issues and in City-sponsored activities.

Strategy HS-2.1(b): Offer programs and services that are culturally sensitive and encourage the participation of diverse residents.

Strategy HS-2.1(c): Periodically review the community mediation program that includes racial and other tolerance issues, and modify as appropriate.

Strategy HS-2.1(d): Sponsor leadership development training and mentoring programs for members of different cultures within Longmont.



Strategy HS-2.1(e): Sponsor and promote events and activities that celebrate diversity within Longmont.

Strategy HS-2.1(f): Develop resources, exhibits, and programs, through the museum and library that sensitively educate residents about the different cultures within Longmont.

Strategy HS-2.1(g): Develop ongoing opportunities for cultural education through Longmont’s sister city relationships.

Human Services, Culture, and Education Indicators

Policy Rationale: The quality of the local education system is a key factor in the community’s ability to meet the needs of children, reduce future demand for social services, provide a capable workforce, and attract quality employers. The community recognizes that providing quality schools is critical to its quality of life.

Benchmark standard: Meet minimum level of service standards for schools, as further defined in Section 15.05.150 of the *Land Development Code*.

Indicators:

- A. Number of development proposals and corresponding dwelling units that were denied, or placed on hold, based on this benchmark
- B. Number of acres of incorporated area in which new development is not possible due to development conditions that exceed this benchmark

Methods, Sources: A & B. City of Longmont Planning Division