

Granite State Futures: People Envisioning the Future of their Communities

UNH Cooperative Extension is working with the state's 9 Regional Planning Commissions and the Carsey Institute on *Granite State Future*, a project to engage people in discussion about they want for the future of their communities and the state.

As part of the project, the **Community Development Team** - with support from Youth, Families & Communities Team - conducted over 20 focus groups with underrepresented populations across the state. The Team is now working with the Carsey Institute to implement a series of regional forums, the first of which was held in Claremont, New Hampshire on February 26th, 2013. The process will result in updated regional plans in NH's nine planning regions and will help to identify key statewide needs that Extension can address.



A commonly-identified concern has been the lack of things to do for young adults. Young mothers in one focus group said that without a recreation center, sustainable employment, or educational opportunities, the next choice would be drugs and alcohol. Any effort to get young adults off the streets and contributing to their community should be a priority.

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