COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
Summary of Roundtable Responses

UTICA, NY

Employment
- ❖ Establish Internship and Mentorship Programs
- ❖ Provide Soft-Skills Pre-Employment Training
- ❖ Develop Solutions to Meet Subsidized Childcare and Transportation Needs
- ❖ Develop a Public/Private Sector Employment Advisory Council
- ❖ Develop Broader ESL/Cultural Job Training Initiatives
- ❖ Promote an Awareness and Understanding of Employment Barriers & Restrictions
- ❖ Implement a Community Marketing Campaign for Vocational Training Programs

Aging Infrastructure & Brownfields
- ❖ Campaign NYS State to Bring Back Successful Programs (i.e. NYS BOA, RESTORE)
- ❖ Prioritize and Implement Improvements in Critical Areas
- ❖ Provide Incentive Programs for Adaptive Reuse and Brownfield Redevelopment
- ❖ Update the City's GIS Program and Provide Staff Training
- ❖ Invest in Street Reconstructions
- ❖ Coordinate and Provide Building Procedures & Zoning Code Technical Assistance
- ❖ Update Utica's Zoning Code

Downtown Development
- ❖ Develop, Provide & Promote Urban Living Opportunities (Downtown Housing)
- ❖ Implement a Parking Strategy for Utica's Commercial Districts
- ❖ Focus on District Development Planning – Bagg's Square, Varick West, Bleecker East, Downtown and Uptown
- ❖ Connect the Districts through Signage and Multi-model Opportunities
- ❖ Focus on "LOCAL" Business Development (vs. Big Box - Corporate)
- ❖ Provide Technical Assistance to Developers (Funding Options, Proformas, Code Compliance, Design Support, etc.)
- ❖ Fill Vacant Buildings and Improve the Aesthetics in Downtown

Health & Healthcare
- ❖ Market Regional Quality of Life – Emphasize a Positive Image and Reassess Healthcare Professionals Recruitment Efforts to Include Spousal/Family Interests
- ❖ Re-assess "Behavioral" Health Programs – Improve Access and Education
- ❖ Provide Transportation Improvements and Improve Walkability for Access to Healthcare Services and Employment
- ❖ Collaborate and Consolidate Healthcare Services
- ❖ Enhance and Coordinate Substance Abuse Screening, Assessment, and Training
- ❖ Facilitate Communications between the Healthcare Industry, the Utica Community and the Region's Economic Development Organizations
- ❖ Help Residents Navigate the Healthcare System and Benefits – including Seniors, Individuals with Disabilities and Language and Cultural Barriers, and the Working Poor

Education & Vocational Training
- ❖ Support Mentorship, Internship, and Job Shadowing Programs that Provide Access to Experiences and Engagement with the Business Community
- ❖ Increase Literacy Programs that Include Reading Skills and Financial Literacy
- ❖ Support Soft Skills Development for Recent Graduates and Young Adults
- ❖ Support Education, Access, and Achievements Relating to High-tech Fields (STEM)
- ❖ Promote the Positives of Utica's Public Education System – Work to Improve Opportunities and Work with Real Estate Professionals to Attract New and Returning Residents
- ❖ Enhance Technology Infrastructure to Support Public Education
- ❖ Increase Employment Program Participation via Multi-media Community Outreach

Changing Demographics & Diversity
- ❖ Develop a Public-Private Diversity Committee
- ❖ Develop Effective Mechanisms to Address and Encourage Access and Inclusion
- ❖ Create an International /Bilingual Charter or Magnet School
- ❖ Open a Welcome Center to Connect New Arrivals to Area Resources and Information (Residential Assistance – Beyond Tourism)
- ❖ Promote Racial and Ethnic Minority Representation in Local Government, Law Enforcement and Other Organizations
- ❖ Enhance Multilingual and Interpretation Services and Programs - for All Ages
- ❖ Support Faith-Based Organizations to Help Reach Targeted Demographics

Housing
- ❖ Develop Market-rate Urban Housing Units/Rentals
- ❖ Increase the Number of Transitional and Emergency Housing Units and "Quality" Energy Efficient Affordable Housing
- ❖ Target Funding on "Neighborhood" Renewal for Real Impact
- ❖ Develop and Convene a Public/Private Housing Working Group – Real Estate Professionals, Affordable Housing and Neighborhood & District Organizations
- ❖ Evaluate Code Compliance Barriers & Provide Tools to Solve Issues - Focus on Multi-Family and Absentee Landlord Units
- ❖ Support Neighborhood Social Enterprises – Construction Trade Employment Training Programs for Youth, Underemployed and Unemployed Residents
- ❖ Enhance Housing Support Services – Focus on "PEOPLE" Needs

Public Safety & Environmental Design
- ❖ Improve Transportation Accessibility and Wayfinding Signage – (Not Language Dependent)
- ❖ Revive and Invest in Utica's Community Policing Unit via Innovative Methods
- ❖ Support Development of Neighborhood-Based Solutions for Address Race and Poverty Issues – Truly Inclusive Representation
- ❖ Improve Outreach and Promotion of Programs and Services - Show the Positive
- ❖ Support Mixed-use Authentic Neighborhoods - Connect People
- ❖ Support the Utica School District as a Community HUB – Expand Education Programs
- ❖ Invest in Cultural Assets (Ask Me App, Stanley, MWPAI, Historical Society, etc.)

Capacity Building
- ❖ Increase Funding for Capacity Building Training and Promote Membership Participation in Board Training
- ❖ Market Existing Programs - Create a Web-based "Bulletin Board" for Not-for-Profit Events, Programs, and Resources
- ❖ Provide Resources to "Archive" Webinars and Training for Future Use
- ❖ Provide Wi-Fi Access to All – Increase Public Computer Access
- ❖ Support Collaborative Partnerships to Acquire and Use Grant Funding
- ❖ Develop a Web-based Database of Services (*211) - Not-for-profit collaboration for families/individuals in need
- ❖ Outreach through the Council of Non-Profit Leaders (NYCON)

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