

# Families C.A.T. Driving Forces and SWOT Statements

## **Driving Forces**

1. Lakewood families face both real and perceived emotional stressors at every socioeconomic level, which is caused by the increase in the cost of living as well as worries about property values and concerns over school and neighborhood safety.
2. Lakewood families and children of all socioeconomic levels struggle to access and to become eligible for resources, services, programs, and education/training.
3. Lakewood families and children from all socioeconomic levels struggle to experience a sense of belonging and connectedness to the community.

## **Strengths**

1. Lakewood has a long history of financially supporting and developing strong public and parochial schools.
2. Lakewood is diversity-rich in people, opportunities, services, and programs.
3. Lakewood residents have a commitment of passion, energy, time and financial resources for the betterment of Lakewood.

## **Weaknesses**

1. The available resources are not widely known by members of the community.
2. The community is challenged by our inability to identify, engage, and provide support for our immigrant population.
3. The community is challenged by offering supportive services for populations that struggle economically, emotionally or with other special needs.

## **Opportunities**

1. Lakewood has an influx of new residents that bring new ideas, experiences and talents.
2. There are vehicles available to make information accessible.
3. Build upon new community facilities combined with existing strengths of Lakewood residents who have a longstanding commitment to the community.
4. Community involvement.

## **Threats**

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1. City and school employees and elected official can hurt the community by speaking negatively about the community itself or its members.
2. Negative perceptions that are not addressed can create a sense of fear or anxiety.
3. A lack of time to connect with others creates a sense of isolation.
4. A lack of positive male involvement erodes families and the community.