

Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties

2026-2028 Plan of Work



October 1, 2025-September 30, 2028

Based on our 2025 needs assessment and current capacity, the following strategic priorities and focus areas will guide our work for Program Years 2026–2028.

Community: *Support Strong and Resilient Youth, Families, and Communities*

Thriving Youth- Support youth to increase a sense of belonging, build skills through hands-on learning, and grow into capable, caring, and contributing members of their communities.

Skilled Leaders- Build youth leadership to strengthen the future workforce, particularly in rural areas.

Economy: *Grow a prosperous economy through lifelong learning and development*

Workforce Readiness & Development- Strengthen local workforce pipelines and career readiness.

Environment: *Sustain and Restore Natural Resources*

Healthy Plants and Landscapes- Promote home gardening, sustainable plant care, and pollinator-friendly practices.

Thriving Natural Resources and Environment- Address soil health, water quality, invasive species, and climate-related concerns.

Food & Agriculture: *Maintain a Safe and Accessible Food Supply*

Food Access- Support food security and local resilience through home gardening and nutrition education.

Food Safety- Increase knowledge of safe food handling, storage, and preservation.

Health: *Maximize Health Equity and Support Health Promotion*

Physical Health and Safety- Address chronic diseases and promote healthy lifestyles.

Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing- Support stress reduction, family engagement, and screen-time awareness.

Quality of Life and Aging- Reduce isolation and support aging populations.