

**Willary Foundation, March 2018** – The creation of an asset matrix allowed the Institute to inform the Willary Foundation not only of the region’s social service agencies, but also to explore best practices and case studies that identify residual needs and the potential for collaboration. Furthermore, the research is the foundation on which to build a community task force of providers qualified to produce and implement cutting-edge social solutions.

**United Way Child Well Being Index, December 2017 and August 2018** – This index consists of indicators that assess child vitality. They cover education, health insurance coverage, family income, etc. The Institute used the data to score measures of youth well-being throughout Wyoming Valley, resulting in insights that underline local challenges and progress alongside statewide and national benchmarks.

**The Sardoni Family Foundation, August 2017** – The Sardoni Family Foundation commissioned The Institute to develop a database of charitable organizations in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. The charities were classified based on their services to the environment, arts and culture, healthcare and social services, and education. Information on budget and growth rate was also provided. Coupled with regional socioeconomic data, these insights assist the foundation in its grant-making priorities.

### **The Indicators Initiative**

**The Indicators Report** is an annual and regionally-focused publication that provides baseline data and trends on more than 125 benchmarks in 12 major categories. In addition to conducting follow-up research as needed, The Institute fills the role of convener – presenting the insights at a forum attended by representatives from the public, private, and nonprofit spheres.

### **Indicator Task Forces**

The Indicators Initiative led to the development of seven task forces focusing on jobs, economy, and economic development; education and workforce development; housing; planning, land use, transportation, and infrastructure; health and health care; energy; and public safety. These groups meet during the year to work toward attendee goals and objectives, with the vision of regional social and economic enrichment. The task forces are chaired by community volunteers representing public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

### **Public Safety Index**

Eight public safety measures – ranging from crime-related indicators to accidental deaths and school security – illustrate a snapshot of community safety in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. The Institute calculated these scores and evaluated them alongside other Pennsylvania counties that contain metropolitan areas.

### **Community Pillars**

The Pillars of a Strong Community tool measures overall community strength. The four pillars represent a diverse and resilient economy, healthy and prosperous families, investment in physical assets and the environment, as well as civic engagement and community ties. The Institute implemented this framework and regularly analyzes the score for Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties.