

III. QUALITY OF LIFE

VISION

Before 2020, Angelina County will become an innovative, energetic, and inclusive community with a common sense of pride and shared commitment to excellence.

STRATEGIES

A. Recreation, Arts, Culture and Entertainment

- 1. Develop and implement a cities/County recreation master plan that provides comprehensive passive and active recreational opportunities for all ages of Angelina County residents. Involve all age groups of our citizens in a needs assessment and in establishing levels of service requirements. A major focus should be on the recreational opportunities required to attract and retain young people and young families in Angelina County. Include facilities that will enhance Angelina County's regional attraction in the master plan. Recreational opportunities that should be considered include a central recreation complex, ball fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, arena, skate park, amphitheatre and multiple purpose trails for hiking, biking, running, etc. Increase opportunities for using Sam Rayburn Reservoir, etc. The master plan should include funding, improved maintenance and security plans. Ensure that all parts of the County have adequate parks and recreation levels of service.**
- 2. Enhance arts, culture and entertainment for our residents and for increased regional attraction, including the Ellen Trout Zoo and County museums.**
- 3. Increase access and use of Angelina National Forest, Davy Crockett National Forest, Neches River, Angelina River and Lake Sam Rayburn. Develop a plan that educates residents on the importance of waterways and forests to clean air and water.**
- 4. Encourage more child-oriented commercial establishments.**

B. Healthcare

- 1. Provide accessible, affordable, quality healthcare for all Angelina County residents. Options for improving service and/or limiting the growth in service cost include:
 - **Fiscal responsibility within Medicaid system.**
 - **Every adult and family will take "ownership" of his or her healthcare.**
 - Increase wellness and prevention programs****

- **Nutrition and health education, particularly for the poor**
- **Improve the availability of health insurance for employees, self-employed and small businesses.**
- **Provide opportunities to assist residents in understanding the health care system, insurance availability and the best way for each individual and family to insure availability of future health care.**
- **Increase assisted living for elderly.**
- **Increase VA healthcare.**
- **Coordinate prescription plan for the elderly.**
- **Include vision, dental and mental health services.**

C. Substance Abuse

- 1. Commit to prevent and reduce substance abuse through a three-step process;**
 - a. Commitment of the community to the prevention and eradication of substance abuse**
 - b. Commitment of the community to whole person rehabilitation of users including:**
 - Health**
 - Education**
 - Employment**
 - Residence**
 - Rehabilitation facilities**
 - c. Commitment of the community to an aggressive program by law enforcement and the justice system to identify and to imprison long-term the dealers and producers on the supply side. Reeducate drug dealers during their prison terms so they can return to productive lives in free society.**
- 2. Maintain the Drug Court program.**

D. Family and Youth

- 1. Make Angelina County a young person-friendly community with job opportunities, and an attractive life style and living environment**
2. Encourage faith-based institutions to network together to provide family restoration and preservation services.
3. Provide summer job opportunities for young people.
4. Provide mentoring programs for families that enhance life skills and family sustainability.

E. Public Safety

1. **Maintain a safe environment for our citizens, visitors, and businesses in all neighborhoods.**
2. Maintain constant cities/County preparation and vigilance to be prepared and to protect our residents from natural and man-made disasters.

F. Social Services & Welfare

1. **Provide Angelina County social services through a multi-disciplinary network with more collaboration and avoidance of duplication of services.**
2. Help children and families with parents in prison. Empower these children to help them believe they can pursue educational opportunities.