



JOHNSON COUNTY  
*Stabilize. Strategize. Organize.*

American Rescue Plan Act  
**LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND**

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT



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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Objective

The objective of the public engagement process was to receive input from residents and stakeholders of Johnson County relative to community needs that can be supported by the \$29.3 Million allocation of American Rescue Plan Act Local Fiscal Recovery funds. The intent was to further the following:



- Understand the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Johnson County.
- Provide a variety of formats and opportunities to receive feedback to foster an inclusive, equitable, and transparent process.
- Collect and document public input in accordance with the U.S. Treasury requirements to set outcome goals and effectively inform and evaluate investment decisions.
- Provide a summary of findings to inform decision-making and promote long-term, sustainable fiscal recovery for the County and its stakeholders.

## Methodology and Process

The engagement process utilized in-person engagement sessions in a variety of formats and provided for opportunities to gather input through online and print surveys and questionnaires. All formats for collecting feedback were intended to provide consistent information gathering techniques focused on needs and projects that can be supported and funded by the types of allowable uses in accordance with the U.S. Treasury requirements. The process solicited comments from stakeholders in written format that could be provided throughout the process regardless of attendance at an in-person session and outside of the survey and questionnaire methods. Additionally, a meeting in a box option was provided to allow stakeholders to conduct their own small group discussions in a way that could also be considered in the context of allowable uses.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## In-Person Sessions

Engagement sessions were held based on a variety of topics and geographies within the county. Each session was intended to be independent of the others and not cumulative and based on previous meetings. Six in person sessions were held as part of this process. A roundtable discussion was held with non-profit service providers, an open house was held to receive information from the urban area of the county, a session was scheduled to specifically receive input about the negative economic impacts of the pandemic, a session was held in both the north and south portion of the county to receive input from the rural areas of the county and lastly a report of the findings and a town hall meeting was held.

At each of the sessions an overview presentation was held to provide an understanding of the types of uses that can be funded with the allocation of money to be received by the County and then the meeting format was facilitated. At each session comment forms were also provided to receive additional comments from stakeholders.

## Common Themes

Several themes emerged across all input formats. Many attendees of in-person sessions as well as survey formats indicated that they have experienced new or worsened mental health concerns, noting limited access to social services. Many households also reported challenges with childcare, transportation, and housing insecurity as well as lack of access to reliable broadband and internet services. At nearly every engagement event and all types of survey instruments there was support for essential workers and in many cases support for direct payments to excluded workers.

Other types of allowable uses receiving support or respondents providing suggested projects included: efforts to improve water quality, transportation, providing support to small businesses that were impacted by the on-going pandemic, providing assistance to households, and providing access to parks and recreation in disadvantaged communities.

A summary of each in person engagement session as well as the full responses to each survey, questionnaire, meeting in a box and general comments received are included in the report that follows.



# PROJECT BACKGROUND

# JOHNSON COUNTY APPROACH

The Board of Supervisors took steps to ensure Johnson County can act swiftly, responsibly, and equitably in the administration of our \$29.3 million ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Fund allocation. Planning and implementation reflects the importance of public input, transparency and accountability. The process involved engagement with residents, County departments and offices, surrounding public entities and community stakeholders.

It is the mission of the Johnson County Board of Supervisors to enhance the quality of life of residents by providing exceptional public services in a collaborative, responsive, and fiscally accountable manner. True to our mission, the Board is taking a three-pronged approach to investing Johnson County's ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Funding:

## Stabilize

Replace County budget deficits incurred as a result of COVID-19 closures and pandemic-related economic slowdown.

- Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector.
- Prioritize short-term investments with lasting impacts.
- Move quickly to stimulate recovery.

## Strategize

ARPA allows local governments to invest in infrastructure and launch programs to support economic recovery and growth, with additional flexibility for the hardest-hit communities and families.

- Immediacy
- Inclusivity
- Future Prosperity
- Complementarity

## Organize

- Build a collaborative team for effective and equitable deployment of funds.
- Explore Joint Entity committee for strategic investments and impact monitoring to avoid duplicated efforts.
- Conduct a series of public input sessions in varying formats to meet the people where they are.

# ARPA ALLOWABLE USES



## Support Public Health Response

Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts.



## Equity-Focused Services

Address health and educational disparities, invest in housing, and promote healthy childhood environments.



## Premium Pay for Essential Workers

Essential work is defined as regular in-person interactions or regular physical handling of items that are also handled by others. An individual who tele-worked from a residence may not receive premium pay.



## Address Negative Economic Impacts

Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, and the public sector.



## Broadband Infrastructure

Provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access.



## Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Improve access to clean drinking water and invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.

**Essential Worker:** A worker that has regular in-person interactions or regular physical handling of items that were also handled by others. Does not include work performed via telework from a residence.

**Impacted Industry:** Industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality that were disproportionately impacted by closures to reduce the spread of COVID-19.



# ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS



**Meetings-  
in-a-box**



**In-Person  
Engagement  
Meetings**



**General  
Comments**



**Digital  
Surveys**

# SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Special accommodations were made by request. These included translating content for non-English speakers. The County led survey was translated into Spanish, Arabic, French and Swahili. The negative economic impact questionnaires were translated into Spanish.

Interpretation for Spanish speakers was provided at the following input sessions:

- Negative Economic Impacts to households, families, workers and small business session
- Northern Rural Residents
- Southern Rural Residents
- Presentation of Public Input Findings/Town Hall

A Zoom connection option was provided for the Presentation of Public Input Findings/Town Hall meeting.

No additional accommodations were requested or provided.

## ENGAGEMENT SCHEDULE

<b>JULY</b> PROJECT KICK-OFF BRANDING/SURVEY	
	<b>AUGUST</b> INPUT SESSIONS
<b>SEPTEMBER</b> INPUT SESSIONS	
	<b>OCTOBER</b> PUBLIC INPUT FINDINGS AND TOWN HALL SESSION
<b>NOVEMBER</b> FINAL REPORT FINAL PRESENTATION	

# MEETING SCHEDULE

**Thursday, August 12, 1:30 to 3 p.m., Robert A. Lee Community Recreation Center,  
220 S. Gilbert Street, Iowa City**

Visioning session and roundtable discussion for Johnson County nonprofits and service providers

**Monday, August 16, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Robert A. Lee Community Recreation Center,  
220 S. Gilbert Street, Iowa City**

Open house for urban communities

(Iowa City, Coralville, North Liberty, Tiffin, and University Heights).

**Monday, September 13, 5:30-7 p.m., Coralville Public Library, Meeting Room A**

Addressing negative economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic (residents, workers, business owners, and impacted industries).

**Tuesday, September 28, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Solon Community Center, Cafeteria**

Facilitated session for rural residents and small communities in northern Johnson County (Oxford, Tiffin, Solon, Shueyville, Swisher, and unincorporated areas).

**Tuesday, October 12, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Lone Tree Community School, Cafeteria.  
Use Entrance S1**

Facilitated session for rural residents and small communities in southern Johnson County (Hills, Lone Tree and unincorporated areas).

**Wednesday, October 27, 6 to 8 p.m., Johnson County Administration Building,  
Board Room, 913 S. Dubuque Street, Iowa City**

Comprehensive town hall session (Zoom option available).



# ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS



# NON-PROFIT SERVICE PROVIDERS ROUNDTABLE MEETING



## OVERVIEW

A visioning session and roundtable discussion for Johnson County nonprofits and service providers was held on Thursday, August 12 at the Robert A. Lee Community Recreation Center in Iowa City. The room was set for four small groups of 10-12 individuals to engage in a roundtable discussion for open interaction and idea sharing. The roundtable discussion was focused on four questions for the group of stakeholders to share their knowledge, experiences, and familiarity with that subject matter. The goal in the focused roundtable discussion was to help gain a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges faced by stakeholders. When observed by the facilitators, it appeared the small groups had a reasonable number to allow for participation by all. A member of each group served as a reporter or secretary; capturing input and discussion notes from the roundtable discussion. Each group then reported key information and outcomes to the larger group of attendees at the conclusion of the meeting.

## INVITED ATTENDEES

- 4Cs Community Coordinated Child Care\*
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Johnson County
- North Liberty Community Pantry
- CommUnity Crisis Services – Food Bank\*
- Domestic Violence Intervention Program\*
- Iowa City Free Medical Clinic\*
- Hawkeye Area Community Action Program\*
- Prelude Behavioral Services\*
- Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County\*
- Rape Victims Advocacy Program
- Arc of Johnson County
- United Action for Youth
- Visiting Nurse Association
- Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County\*
- Shelter House\*
- Iowa Valley RC&D\*
- Horizons Elderly Services Agency
- Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity\*
- Free Lunch Program
- Table to Table\*
- Dream City
- Inside Out Reentry\*
- Iowa Legal Aid
- Coralville Community Pantry
- Center for Workers Justice\*
- Houses Into Homes\*
- Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority
- Field to Family Food Hub
- Bike Library
- City of Iowa City – Johnson County Senior Center\*
- The Workplace Learning Connection
- Iowa City Area Community Development Group
- UNESCP City of Literature
- Antelope Lending Library
- Johnson County Historical Society
- Johnson County Agricultural Association
- City of Iowa City Landfill – Solid Waste Disposal
- Lone Tree Community School Library
- Oxford Public Library
- Tiffin – Springmier Community Library
- Rural Health and Safety Clinic of Greater Johnson County

\*Attendee

In addition to those indicated on the above list, representatives from the following participated: Iowa Central School Bus, Teamsters 238, United Way, Healthy Kids Clinic, Johnson County Fairgrounds, CCI and SEIU Local 199, Iowa City Catholic Worker House, City of Iowa City, Access 2 Independence and The Arc of SEI.

# NON-PROFIT SERVICE PROVIDERS ROUND-TABLE MEETING

## SUMMARY/THEMES

- Support Public Health Prevention, Mitigation and Response
  - Support for vulnerable populations to access medical or public health services
    - Under-insured and uninsured
  - Challenges
    - Small building, limited space
    - Limited volunteer providers, number of appointments, and longer waiting lists
    - Large amount of uninsured patients
    - Patients not having accessible technology for tele-health
  - Mental health, loss, isolation, fear, and anxiety
  - Increase in domestic violence, substance abuse
- Premium Pay for Essential Workers
- Direct Payments to Excluded Workers
- Negative Economic Impacts and Equity-Focused Services
  - Assistance to households
  - Shortage of caregivers, isolation of people with disabilities
  - Small businesses struggle
  - Transportation
  - Aging populations experiencing social isolation
  - Childcare
    - Programs close, loss of income, staffing for programs
  - Non-profit human service infrastructure
    - Capital investments, shared working spaces for non-profits, technology
    - Difficulty finding staff and volunteers
    - Educational disparities and the need for skilled labor training
  - Loss of housing and the need for eviction prevention beyond the pandemic
- Broadband
  - Need quality high speed internet

# NON-PROFIT SERVICE PROVIDERS ROUND-TABLE MEETING

## WRITTEN COMMENTS RECEIVED

In 2012 the Center for Worker Justice was formed to empower immigrants and low-wage workers in Eastern Iowa to achieve social and economic justice. Governed by low the wage workers themselves, and skilled in many languages, CWJ has earned their trust. It serves the needs of the excluded, the undocumented, as well as the currently and formerly incarcerated. For nearly a decade, CWJ led campaigns through advocacy, action, and assistance. Since COVID came, CWJ had distributed over a half million dollars to those hit hardest. It's paid for rent, utilities, medical bills, and bought food. Over a quarter million low wage workers in Iowa face yet another epidemic. Wage theft costs workers in this state over 600 million dollars a year. It costs our state 60 million in lost revenues. Hard earned pay is continuously stolen through bogus deductions, confiscation of tips, braking of overtime rules, and false claims of independent contracting. Iowa employs just one person to investigate wage theft and enforce regulations statewide. Not much gets done at that level. CWJ has won many tens of thousands of dollars in stolen pay. No entity in Eastern Iowa better equipped to address this systemic and racist robbery.

Concerned with the lack of intent to reach out in unorthodox way to actually connect to the community members in need

Echoey room is hard to hear, well organized and run, good facilitation

None of this matters if you do not make a strong effort to connect directly with all of the people in need

It is critical that you do ambitious outreach to those in need of resources or have barriers. It's great to see the city of Iowa City and Johnston [sic] County collaborate. What about the ICCSD and other municipalities.

We need a comprehensive (this is awesome but we need more than one meeting) to determine the needs of the nonprofit human services continuum to provide public services to our entire community.

1. Comprehensive needs assessment of existing/available resources, commodities, differences, etc.
2. Comprehensive look at capacity, sustainability, network coordination to share resource to improve capacity, improvements, etc.
3. Prioritize needs
4. 10 ways to reduce barriers to be more welcoming and inclusive
5. 10 ways to improve communication and education and access to funding

1. Capital investments in acquisition of affordable housing targeted at 0-30% and 31-50% AML. And renovation and preservation of existing affordable housing stock for above income targets

2. Operating investments

- a. Funding supportive services
- b. Ongoing funding for eviction prevention and diversion with financial assistance to landlord and program staffing and administration.

c. Operating a long term risk mitigation fund

3. Project development

- a. Create targeted source of funds to be available for new construction and rehab project design and development with engineering and architecture

Concerned with the seeming lack of intent to reach out in unorthodox ways to actually connect to the community members in need.

# URBAN OPEN HOUSE



## OVERVIEW

Johnson County hosted an Open house for urban communities (Iowa City, Coralville, North Liberty, Tiffin and University Heights) on Monday, August 16 at the Robert A. Lee Community Recreation Center in Iowa City. The event type suited toward projects and/or processes that involve a wide variety of subject matter topics, or that include a large volume of subject matter are presented at informational stations throughout the designated meeting space. The event was intended to provide flexibility in attendance to interested stakeholders. The room was organized by the six allowable use categories. A station was established for each category, and included: example types, comment cards, and a facilitator to interact, answer questions and/or have one-on-one discussions. Attendees participated at any/all of the time of the event and visited as many of the subject matter stations as they chose. The open house was organized to have an overview presentation in the beginning with a little instruction. After the presentation, but before attendees visited the stations some attendees requested to provide a 3-5 minute testimonial(s). All comments were captured.

## SUMMARY/THEMES

- Support Public Health Prevention, Mitigation and Response
- Direct payments to excluded workers
- Premium Pay for Essential Workers
- Negative Economic Impacts and Equity-Focused Services
- Broadband
- Water and Sewer Infrastructure



# URBAN OPEN HOUSE

## VERBAL COMMENTS RECEIVED

During the facilitated event, 7 attendees provided the following verbal comments:

Speaker #1 – She has been living in Iowa City for 2 years from Honduras with husband and two children. Supports Excluded and Essential Workers Fund. Latinos has been negatively impacted the worse. Support essential workers. Each state received stimulus money, but they did not receive it. We were excluded. We had to work. Husband was deported in February so she became a single mother. Estimated that other families got \$12,000. In the meantime, bills keep coming. She has done door knocking to find work. Cleans rooms for people sick with COVID. Has PPE. Other restaurant jobs, she started working at McDonalds and would open the kitchen at 5 a.m. but had to leave her home at 4 a.m. to walk to work. Someone gave her a bike to ride, but someone stole it. We came to work to support the economy. Latinos got excluded. Applied for dental assistance and got \$800, but it wasn't enough. Can't go back to McDonald's for 90 days, which is a long time to wait for work. Can't live off of \$3,200. We do the hardest work. Most people are afraid. Work applications are complicated. Asking for stimulus. Look at the statistics because Latinos carry the US economy.

Speaker #2 – Since April 2019 she worked at a restaurant. Her husband washed dishes and she cleaned tables. When the restaurant closed, she worked to clean hotels. Then hotel closed. You don't know what it is like to buy diapers. Daughter is an American citizen, but they could not get the stimulus money. Worried about diapers and food. We work hard. Now works for fast food restaurant; getting paid \$10 per hour. Works 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Pays a babysitter \$2.50 per child an hour or \$7.50 per hour so there is not much left. They will never get ahead. Hard to tell the landlord that they cannot pay rent. Have to show all pay stubs. All information is in English, which is challenging. Received food help from the Iowa City Catholic Workers. Sick during COVID and now receiving collection calls. Does think they deserve a direct payment. Going to immigration court in Omaha soon.

Speaker #3 – Is here to support the excluded workers. He joined the coalition for Excluded Worker's. Money cannot be held back any longer. Emailed every Board of Supervisor and City Council member and got few responses. Believes the funds cannot be held out. Some can be given it faster. All excluded workers funds can be used. Workers are the backbone of the community. Take care of benefits. Businesses are getting PPE loans. Unless there is an explicit reason, why can't we get funding immediately. Being dragged out. Direct need and fit. Divert to nonprofits immediately. We are an overwhelming part of tonight's attendees because this is the group that actually cares.

Speaker #4 – Is a former incarcerated person. Worked through the shelter house and caregiver at home. His wife and three kids had COVID. He had to stay home so his wife could work. Unemployment stopped on June 12. Childcare is expensive. Proud of the Supervisors taking some initiative. Funding should not go to businesses that want to pay lower wages. People need \$20 million not \$2 million. Struggling with evictions. Crime will increase with evictions. Supervisors making comments. "How can she work at a hotel without a social security number?" He supports the human rights complaint.

Speaker #5 – Resident of Coralville. Interested in single stream recycling. Scott County has a well-run program to consider.

Speaker #6 – Systematic bias. Will submit a letter.

Speaker #7 – Is here in support of the Excluded Workers Fund. While it is a step in the right direction, the proposal for a \$2 million excluded worker's fund will not nearly be enough to create significant change. At least \$20 million will be needed to fully cover the loss of benefits of over 6,000 excluded workers. Also, it is sketchy that no further details were released in that internal assessment proposal about how these funds would be used. Please do not create barriers to receiving this payment for these workers. They need relief now. I support the human rights complaint filed against the city and the council. Supervisor Sullivan's 5 remarks on twitter were deplorable not just for an elected official but for anyone; I don't understand how anyone could read about the excluded workers fund and have that be their takeaway. I encourage Supervisor Sullivan to hear the stories of excluded workers, understand the struggles, and work to make sure they receive what they are owed.

# URBAN OPEN HOUSE

## WRITTEN COMMENTS RECEIVED

### Address Negative Economic Impacts

#### Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, and the public sector

Name: Laurie Goodrich

Organization/Business: City of Coralville

Email: lgoodrich@gmail.com

City of Residence: Coralville, IA

*In regard to the economic downturn and disproportionate impacts of certain populations (women, people of color, immigrants, economically disadvantaged, etc.), what programs and/or projects have been effective to date?*

Thank you Johnston [sic] County for Social Services.

*What additional innovative and collaborative ways can we provide community-wide COVID-19 response (Partnerships, funding, technical assistance, service navigation, data collection, analysis, and reporting, etc.)?*

Partnership funds to expand/build food pantry. Currently it is in the postal service office.

Name: Mohamed Traore

Organization/Business: City of Iowa City Ad Hoc Truth & Reconciliation Commission

Email: mo.traore3@gmail.com

City of Residence: Tiffin

*In regard to the economic downturn and disproportionate impacts of certain populations (women, people of color, immigrants, economically disadvantaged, etc.), what programs and/or projects have been effective to date?*

Increased funding to tackle food insecurity, Expansion of General Assistance funds, Stimulus checks

*What additional innovative and collaborative ways can we provide community-wide COVID-19 response (Partnerships, funding, technical assistance, service navigation, data collection, analysis, and reporting, etc.)?*

Partner with local and non-profits to expand access to funding, and ensure all in need are aware of opportunities for assistance, and have an equal chance to receive it. Increased funding to youth programs and early childhood education and childcare.

*To recover, what challenges and barriers can this funding be used to address these negative impacts in your community in a fair and equitable way?*

More funding for affordable housing. Assistance via news articles and money to the South District Neighborhood Association's efforts to pass a SSMID proposal.

*Other Thoughts and Ideas?*

Support the Excluded Workers Fund. More funding for outpatient mental health treatment and assistance to formerly incarcerated individuals with opportunities for upskilling; community college, and housing

# URBAN OPEN HOUSE

Name: Nicholas Theisen  
Organization/Business: Iowa Freedom Riders  
Email: uahsenaa@gmail.com  
City of Residence: Coralville, IA

*In regard to the economic downturn and disproportionate impacts of certain populations (women, people of color, immigrants, economically disadvantaged, etc.), what programs and/or projects have been effective to date?*

A fund to provide direct stimulus to workers who have been excluded from other forms of aid

*What additional innovative and collaborative ways can we provide community-wide COVID-19 response (Partnerships, funding, technical assistance, service navigation, data collection, analysis, and reporting, etc.)?*

Any system to provide aid will need to provide adequate translation services, so that migrant workers in particular get help

*To recover, what challenges and barriers can this funding be used to address these negative impacts in your community in a fair and equitable way?*

(Same as above) but also it needs to be target to low-income workers without any of the bureaucratic barriers typical of such aid programs.

## Premium Pay for Essential Workers

**Essential work is defined as regular in-person interactions or regular physical handling of items that are also handled by others. An individual who teleworked from a residence may not receive premium pay.**

Name: Ann Houlahan  
Business/Organization: Volunteer Catholic Worker  
Email: anntherese2000@gmail.com  
City of Residence: Coralville, IA

*In regard to the economic downturn and disproportionate impacts of certain populations (women, people of color, immigrants, economically disadvantaged, etc.), what programs and/or projects have been effective to date?*

I work with essential workers who have had decreased hours and/or lost jobs, their children did not have access to WiFi until late June in spite of schools shutting down in March. They relied on the assistance of charitable organizations to help get by.

*What additional innovative and collaborative ways can we provide community-wide COVID-19 response (Partnerships, funding, technical assistance, service navigation, data collection, analysis, and reporting, etc.)?*

An Excluded Workers Fund would provide some relief to these workers with renewed up tide in the pandemic. The need is great and it is now. If people lose their apartments, what chance will they have to collect enough money to get a new apartment?

*To recover, what challenges and barriers can this funding be used to address these negative impacts in your community in a fair and equitable way?*

These workers and ex-felons have as much need as those of who did obtain stimulus checks.

# URBAN OPEN HOUSE

## Support Public Health Response Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts

Name: Ann Houlahan

*In regard to the economic downturn and disproportionate impacts of certain populations (women, people of color, immigrants, economically disadvantaged, etc.), what programs and/or projects have been effective to date?*

I am disappointed that the governor of Iowa is the dispenser of public health information. I am pleased that the City of Iowa City requires masks in all city buildings. I am disappointed that masking isn't an across the board requirement. We are not taking it seriously enough.

Name: Laurie Goodrich

*In regard to the economic downturn and disproportionate impacts of certain populations (women, people of color, immigrants, economically disadvantaged, etc.), what programs and/or projects have been effective to date?*

Coralville Recreation Center- improvement to pools. Basketball courts for everyone to use.

## Broadband Infrastructure

**Provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access.**

Name: Ann Houlahan

*In regard to the economic downturn and disproportionate impacts of certain populations (women, people of color, immigrants, economically disadvantaged, etc.), what programs and/or projects have been effective to date?*

WiFi was not available to the children of an essential worker until late June. The children do not speak English and were cut off from schooling due to the pandemic. Even thereafter it was not always stable. Not a satisfying solution for the children or their parents.

Name: James Bechtel

Organization/Business:

Email:

City of Residence: Iowa City, IA

*In regard to the economic downturn and disproportionate impacts of certain populations (women, people of color, immigrants, economically disadvantaged, etc.), what programs and/or projects have been effective to date?*

Library hot spots for school aged students to enable connectivity

*What additional innovative and collaborative ways can we provide community-wide COVID-19 response (Partnerships, funding, technical assistance, service navigation, data collection, analysis, and reporting, etc.)?*

Municipal Internet

*To recover, what challenges and barriers can this funding be used to address these negative impacts in your community in a fair and equitable way?*

Effective monopolies on internet access continues to disproportionately impact those without a powerful voice.



# URBAN OPEN HOUSE

## Equity-Focused Services

Address health and educational disparities, invest in housing, and promote healthy childhood environments

Name: Noah Petersen  
Organization/Business: N/A  
Email: petersonnoah@yahoo.com  
City of Residence: Iowa City, IA

*To recover, what challenges and barriers can this funding be used to address these negative impacts in your community in a fair and equitable way?*

Provide cooling shelter/warm shelter and invest in public housing

*Other thoughts and Ideas?*

Stop having cops harass the homeless. Fund excluded workers.

Name: Jim Kringlen  
Organization/Business: Iowa Legal Aid  
Email: jkringlen@iowalaw.org  
City of Residence: Iowa City, IA

*In regard to the economic downturn and disproportionate impacts of certain populations (women, people of color, immigrants, economically disadvantaged, etc.), what programs and/or projects have been effective to date?*

Unemployment insurance and pandemic unemployment assistance benefits have been very slowly administered and dispersed. Once dispersed, they have been very effective to aid those who received them. Stimulus payments have been much more quickly dispersed and helpful to recipients. Many have been excluded, however.

*What additional innovative and collaborative ways can we provide community-wide COVID-19 response (Partnerships, funding, technical assistance, service navigation, data collection, analysis, and reporting, etc.)?*

Iowa Legal Aid has partnered with Shelter House to address the eviction crisis. More funding to assist all eviction defendants, regardless of current income, could mitigate much of this impending and current crisis.

*To recover, what challenges and barriers can this funding be used to address these negative impacts in your community in a fair and equitable way?*

Over 60% of defendants in Johnston [sic] County evictions include people of color in their households, an alarming and very inequitable disparity.

*Other Thoughts and Ideas?*

Iowa Legal Aid is the only provider of free legal assistance defending evictions. We stand ready to provide additional professional high quality legal services to Johnson County residents facing the threat and the reality of eviction and homelessness in an ongoing pandemic.

# URBAN OPEN HOUSE

Name: James Bechtel

*In regard to the economic downturn and disproportionate impacts of certain populations (women, people of color, immigrants, economically disadvantaged, etc.), what programs and/or projects have been effective to date?*

Extension and expansion of crisis stabilization could be considered effective, but there is no infrastructure to productively generate community insights into the impact (or value) of the investments. Data and performance systems are deficient and inaccessible to understand community status or trends.

*What additional innovative and collaborative ways can we provide community-wide COVID-19 response (Partnerships, funding, technical assistance, service navigation, data collection, analysis, and reporting, etc.)?*

Community data and open data (information exchanges)

*To recover, what challenges and barriers can this funding be used to address these negative impacts in your community in a fair and equitable way?*

The vast majority of NGO service providers do not have the capacity to conduct data improvements. Supporting these organizations through data infrastructure partnerships could enable an increase/improvement on the services they provide. Service improvement has the potential to directly connect with the service users.

*Other Thoughts and Ideas?*

Very little community performance data is built into existing and emergent funding (i.e. ARPA); this is the time to make significant investments into the infrastructure of our community for long term improvements.

Name: Eric Harris

Organization/Business: Excluded Worker Coalition

Email: Estone605@gmail.com

City of Residence: Iowa City, IA

*In regard to the economic downturn and disproportionate impacts of certain populations (women, people of color, immigrants, economically disadvantaged, etc.), what programs and/or projects have been effective to date?*

Direct assistance to affected people

*What additional innovative and collaborative ways can we provide community-wide COVID-19 response (Partnerships, funding, technical assistance, service navigation, data collection, analysis, and reporting, etc.)?*

Force employees in Johnston [sic] County to pay livable wages

*To recover, what challenges and barriers can this funding be used to address these negative impacts in your community in a fair and equitable way?*

Childcare, Wages, Help for people who lost (loved ones) during COVID-19

*Other Thoughts and Ideas?*

Rod Sullivan needs to apologize or resign

# URBAN OPEN HOUSE

## Water and Sewer Infrastructure

### Improve access to clean drinking water and invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure

Name: Bob Untiedt  
Organization/Business: TRAIL of Johnson County  
Email: bob@trailofjohnstonycounty.org  
City of Residence: Iowa City, IA

*In regard to the economic downturn and disproportionate impacts of certain populations (women, people of color, immigrants, economically disadvantaged, etc.), what programs and/or projects have been effective to date?*

Seniors have been significantly and negatively impacted. Obviously, those in nursing homes suffered enormously. Greater opportunities for connection, education, and social engagement have been critical to the fastest growing age demographic in Johnson County

*What additional innovative and collaborative ways can we provide community-wide COVID-19 response (Partnerships, funding, technical assistance, service navigation, data collection, analysis, and reporting, etc.)?*

TRAIL of Johnson County is growing in its subsidized memberships to low income seniors. We provide free rides to doctors' offices, social and educational opportunities, free/low-cost home maintenance. Support would help us help more of these most vulnerable population

Name: Silvia Quezada  
Business/Organization: UH  
Email: smg130@hotmail.com  
City of Residence: UH

*In regard to the economic downturn and disproportionate impacts of certain populations (women, people of color, immigrants, economically disadvantaged, etc.), what programs and/or projects have been effective to date?*

None. Best to discount/offset UH \$ to help IC on water improvement programs may benefit via downstream.

Name: Dhuha Tawil  
Business/Organization:  
Email: tawil.dhuha@gmail.com  
City of Residence: Coralville

*Other Thoughts and Ideas?*

To provide better recycling/sanitation infrastructure for long term economic growth and support similar to Scott County.

# URBAN OPEN HOUSE

## **Complaint of Discrimination in Public Accommodation, Retaliation, and Intimidation Against Johnson County Supervisor Rod Sullivan, the County of Johnson County, and the City of Iowa City**

Iowa City Human Rights Commission:

We are among the thousands of essential immigrant workers in Johnson County disproportionately impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic but excluded from pandemic relief, stimulus checks, and unemployment insurance.

Johnson County and Iowa City's delay in investing millions of dollars in American Rescue Plan money to address these inequalities is an unfair discriminatory practice and a potential violation of the Iowa City Human Rights Ordinance found in Title II of the City Code.

According to the March 2019 Inclusive Outreach and Public Engagement workshop delivered to Iowa City, the disregard for minority group expression of urgency for prioritized allocation of financial relief is an example of institutional systemic implicit bias for racial injustice.

The burdensome red tape restricting equal access to the city and county's general assistance programs are also a form of unfair discrimination against excluded workers who, because of our precarious placement in the shadows of society, do not always have written documents proving income, expenses, financial losses, and other mandated but unnecessary requirements. The city and county's delay removing these restrictive barriers to access is also a potential violation of the Title II Human Rights Ordinance.

Need-based aid is not a substitute for universal pandemic relief like stimulus checks, and unemployment insurance. The general assistance programs are not, themselves, a remedy for the on-going discrimination against excluded workers the city and the county is complicit in.

For the last four months, we have petitioned local governments for a redress of these grievances through the creation of an Excluded Workers Fund. The City Council continues to stall decision-making based on an artificially fixed timeline, as stated by City Manager Geoff Fruin, regardless of the urgent needs we have repeatedly Expressed.

Our financial struggles for the past 18 months without relief have yet to be recognized as urgent. We have nothing but urgency to keep working, to put food on the table and to keep a roof over our heads. We cannot be more clear about our challenges.

In the meantime, instead of actively listening to our voices, on August 13, 2021, Johnson County Supervisor Rod Sullivan appeared to retaliate against the immigrant community on social media by publicly questioning our immigration status and work history, another potential violation of Title II and the Iowa City Human Rights Ordinance.

Sullivan's comments ignore the reality of how undocumented immigrants and essential workers survive in this country. We will not allow elected officials to erase the lived experience of thousands of people who work, produce value, and pay taxes without being able to fully access earned benefits. According to an August 2020 report by the American Immigration Council, "undocumented immigrants in Iowa paid an estimated \$82.5 million in federal taxes and \$58.3 million in state and local taxes in 2018," without access to benefits. Nearly 28,000 U.S. citizens in Iowa live with at least one family member who is undocumented.

Mixed-status families lose out when even one of their loved ones is excluded from relief.

In a Spanish-language pandemic impact survey circulated by the Fund Excluded Workers Coalition, 78 percent of 249 respondents reported losing their job or income since March 1, 2020. 93 percent reported they did not receive unemployment insurance. 62 percent reported they did not receive a stimulus check. An additional 16 percent reported one or more of their family members received a stimulus check but that others in their household did not. 78 percent of respondents reported that not everyone in their household received a stimulus check.

In order to be made whole again, we call on the Iowa City Human Rights Commission to direct the leaders of Iowa City and Johnson County to stop their unfair discriminatory practices against essential immigrant workers and pass a fully-vested Excluded Workers Fund now, with no restrictions.

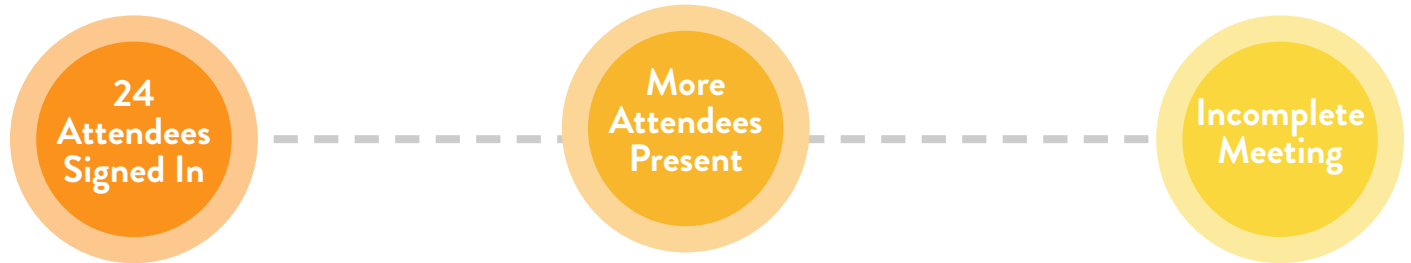
On behalf of the Fund Excluded Workers Coalition,

Ninoska Campos  
Cindy Zapata  
Manny Galvez  
Dr. Kathy Lee-Son  
Dr. Kevo Rivera  
Dr. Emily Sinnwell  
Mohamed Traore  
Eric Harris

Barb Stanerson  
Katie Biechler  
Maureen Vasile  
Ann Houlahan  
Pat Bowen  
Kenn Bowen  
David Sterling

# NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS MEETING

## OVERVIEW



Johnson County held an input session focused on the negative economic impacts experienced by households, families, workers and small businesses on Monday, September 13 at the Public Library in Coralville. Live audience polling questions were utilized because it was expected that there would be a wide variety of subject matter topics and a many different stakeholders. The session was organized to have an overview presentation in the beginning with instruction on how the live polling would take place. After the presentation, a significant number of attendees entered the room and demanded to provide testimonials in support of excluded workers. Polling was started but could not be completed because of significant disruption in the meeting room. The meeting was ended and no polling information was collected.



# NORTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS SURVEY RESPONSES



Johnson County hosted an input session for stakeholders in the northern area of the County on Monday, September 28 at the Community School District cafeteria in Solan. Living audience polling questions were utilized because it was expected that there would be a wide variety of subject matter topics and a many different stakeholders. The session was organized to have an overview presentation in the beginning with instruction on how the live polling would take place. All comments were captured.

## SUMMARY/THEMES

- Premium Pay for Essential Workers
  - Support for essential workers
- Broadband
  - Expand availability and reliability of broadband
- Support Public Health Prevention, Mitigation and Response
  - Support and expand mental health services
- Negative Economic Impacts and Equity-Focused Services
  - Reduction in work
  - Transportation challenges
  - Job retraining needs
- Housing and services for people with disabilities

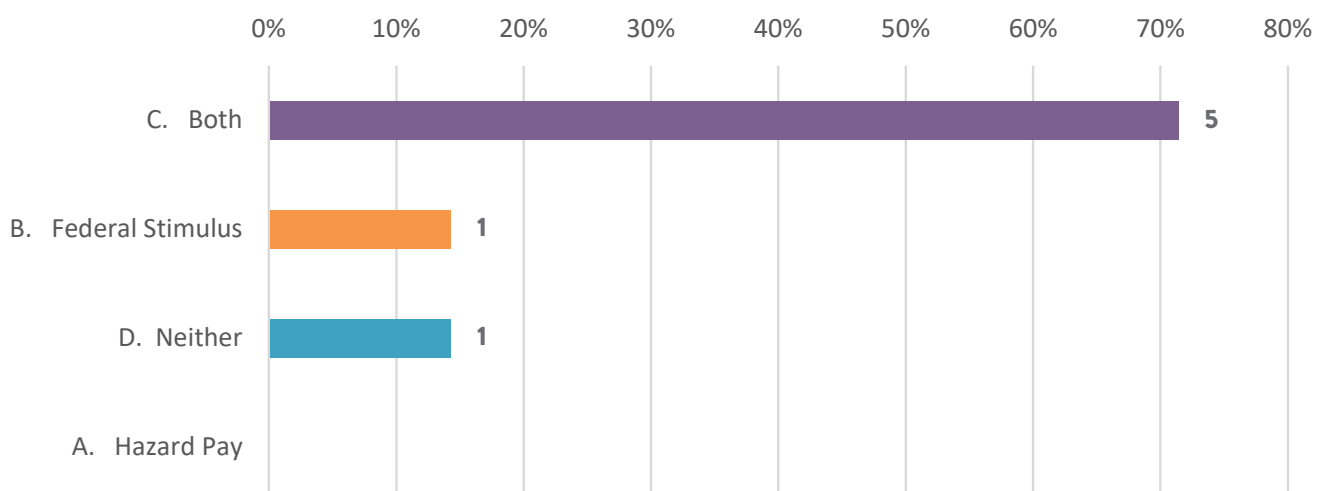
**LONE TREE**  4 Residents

**SWISHER**  2 Residents

**CORAVILLE, NORTH LIBERTY  
OR UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS**  1 Resident

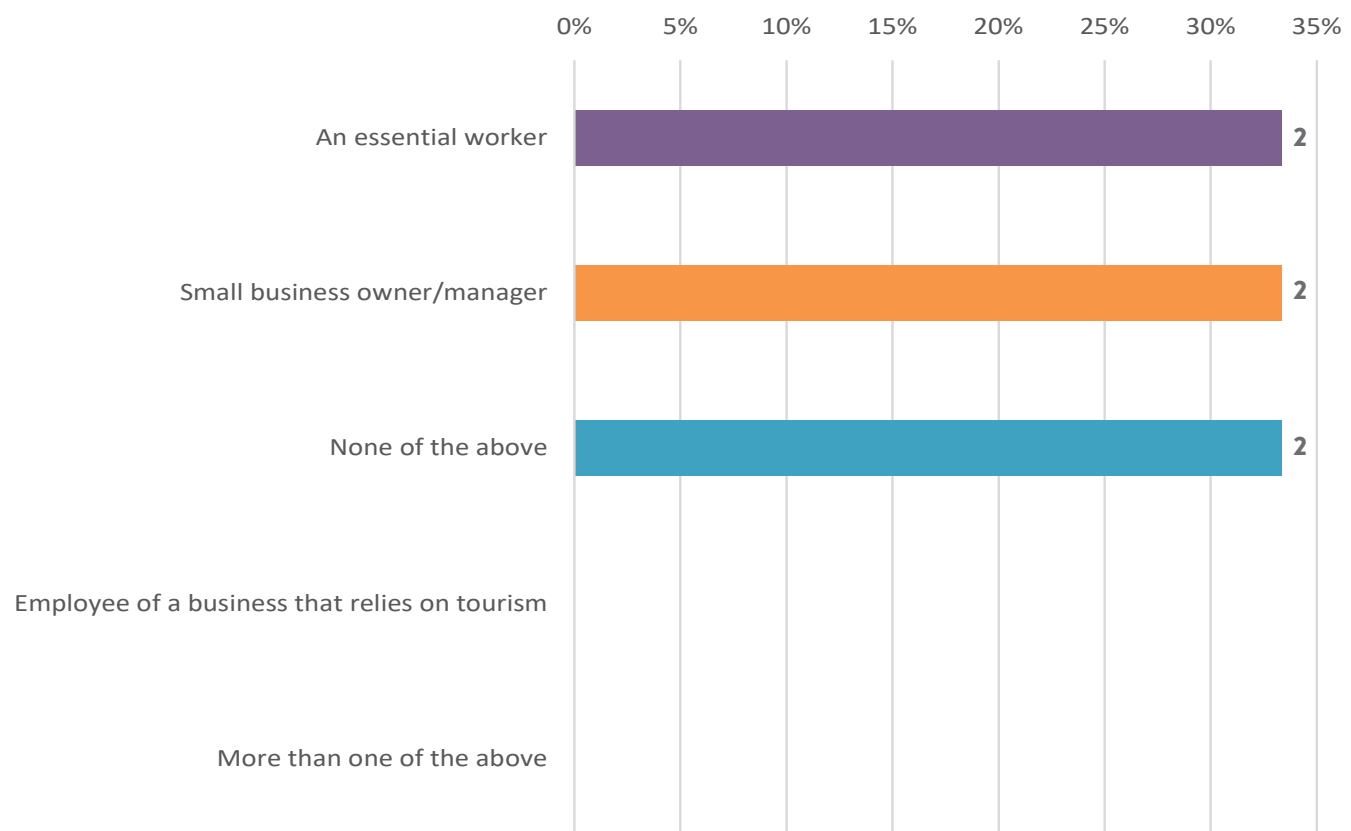
The following are results from respondents of the questionnaire for northern rural residents.

Did you receive hazard pay from your employer or stimulus payments from the federal government? (Multiple Choice)

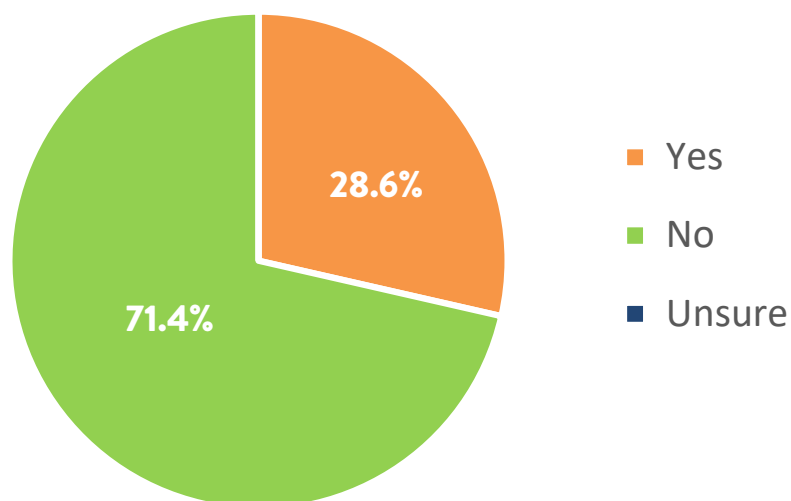


# NORTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS

Do you identify as: (Multiple Choice)

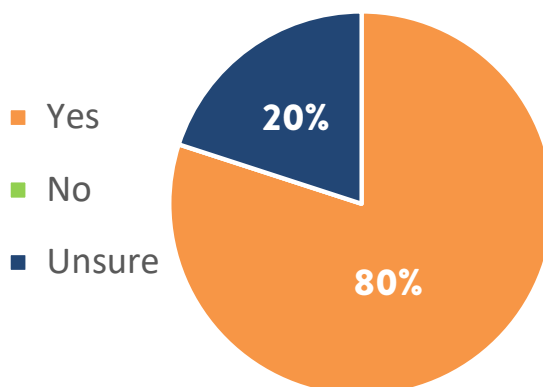


Did someone in your household participate in on-line and/or hybrid education: (Multiple Choice)

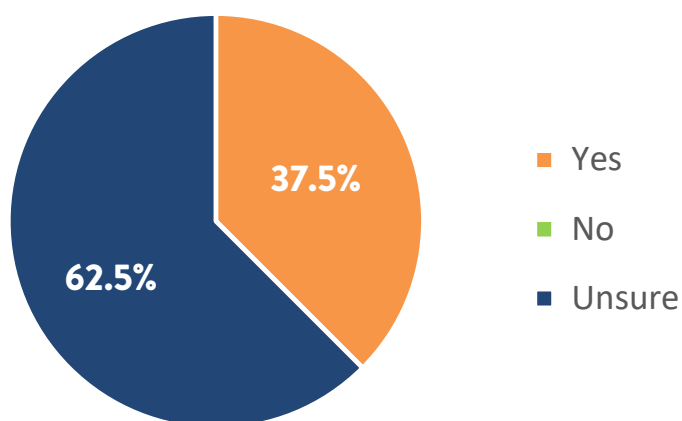


# NORTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS

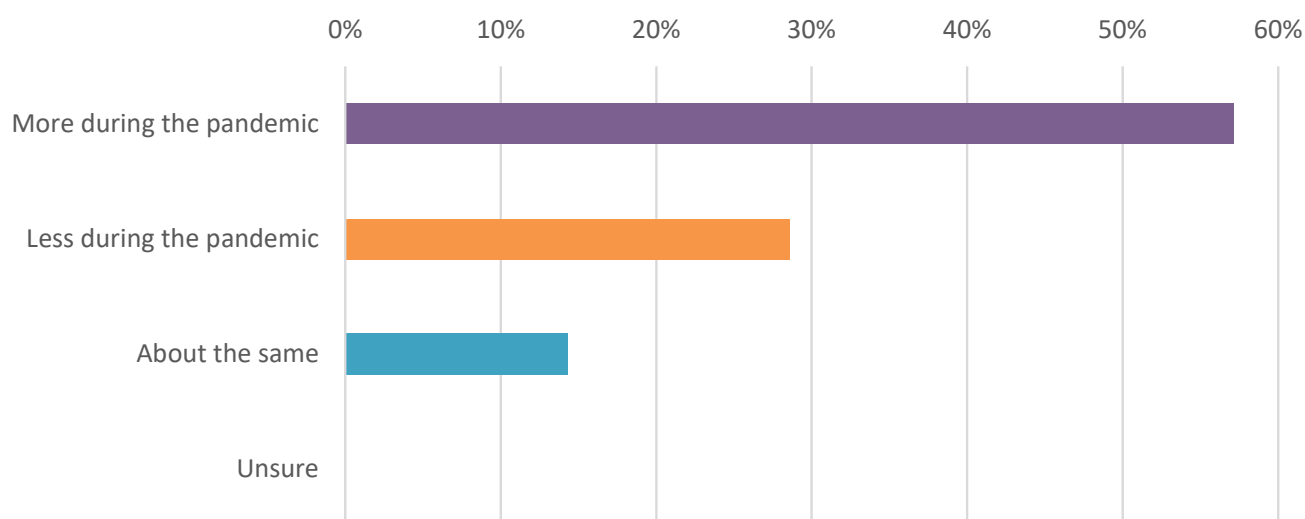
Did the person/people referenced in the previous question have the equipment that was necessary? (Multiple Choice)



Do you know of a small business that has closed because of the pandemic? (Multiple Choice)

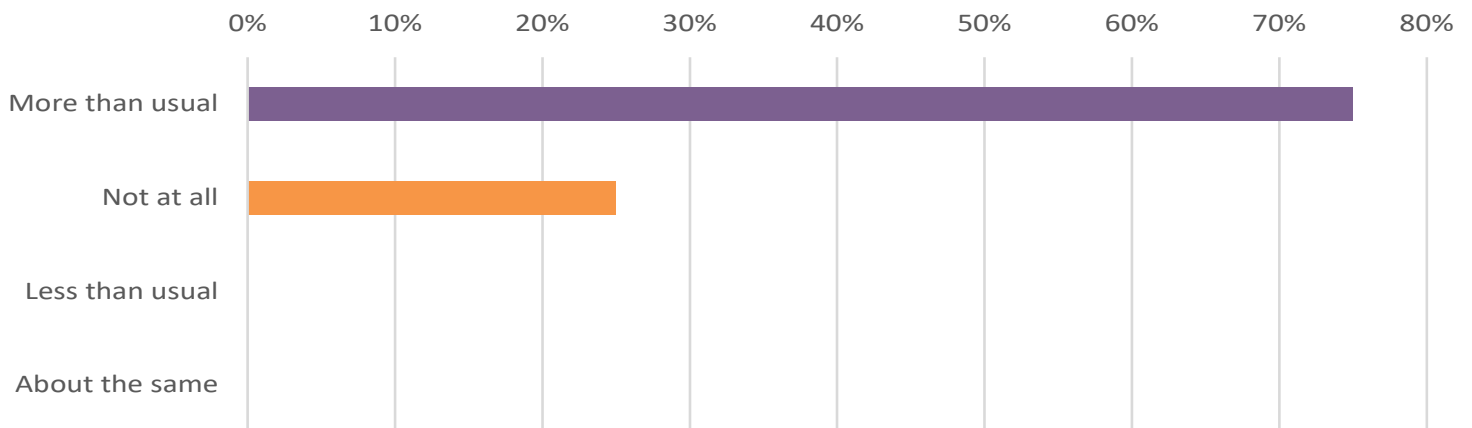


If you are employed outside of your place of residence and had a change of employment, do you earn: (Multiple Choice)

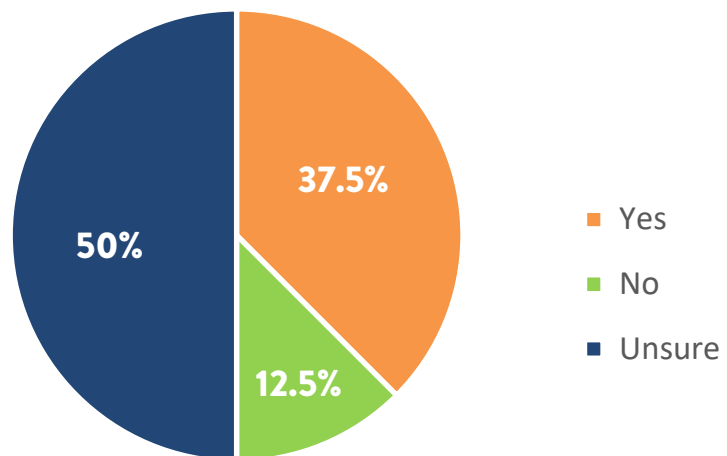


# NORTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS

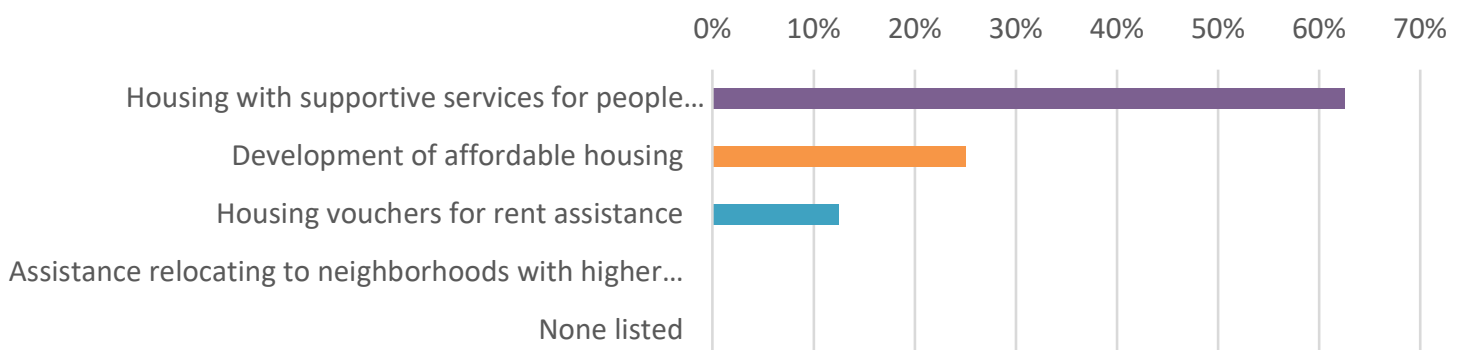
During the pandemic did you utilize a delivery service and or curbside pick-up service: (Multiple Choice)



Could you or someone you know benefit from job training/retraining? (Multiple Choice)

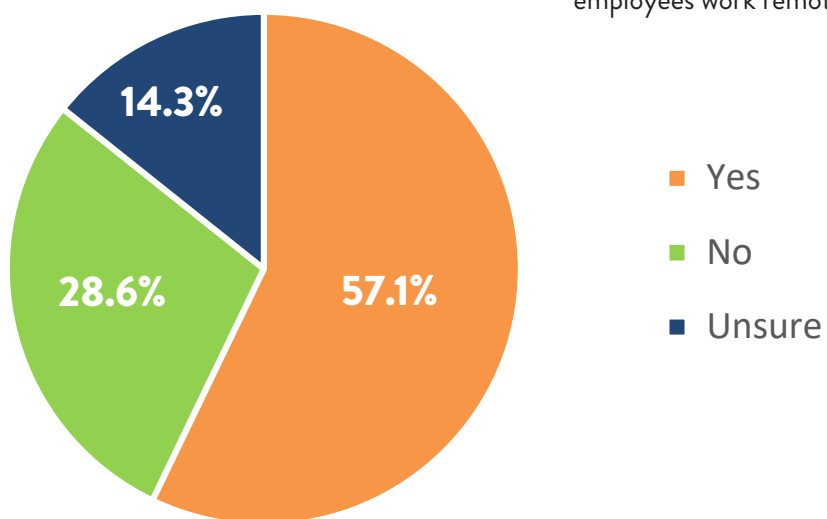


Which of the following do you believe is the most important type of housing assistance that could be provided? (Multiple Choice)

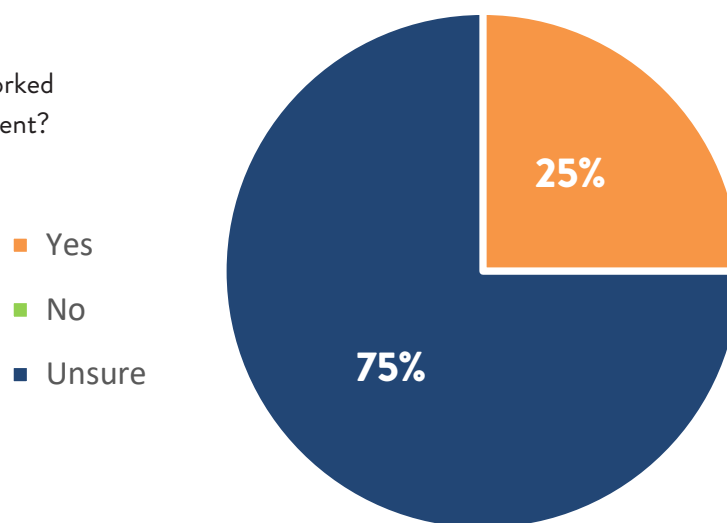


# NORTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS

During the COVID-19 pandemic, did you work remotely or did your employees work remotely? (Multiple Choice)

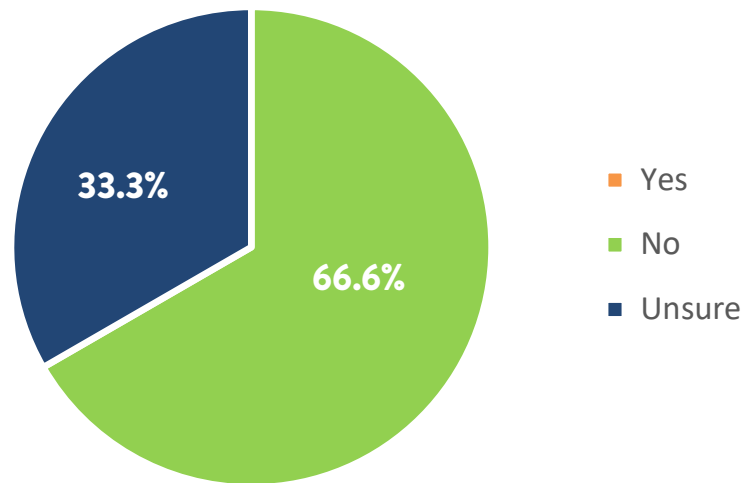


If you worked remotely, or if your employees worked remotely, did you provide the necessary equipment? (Multiple Choice)

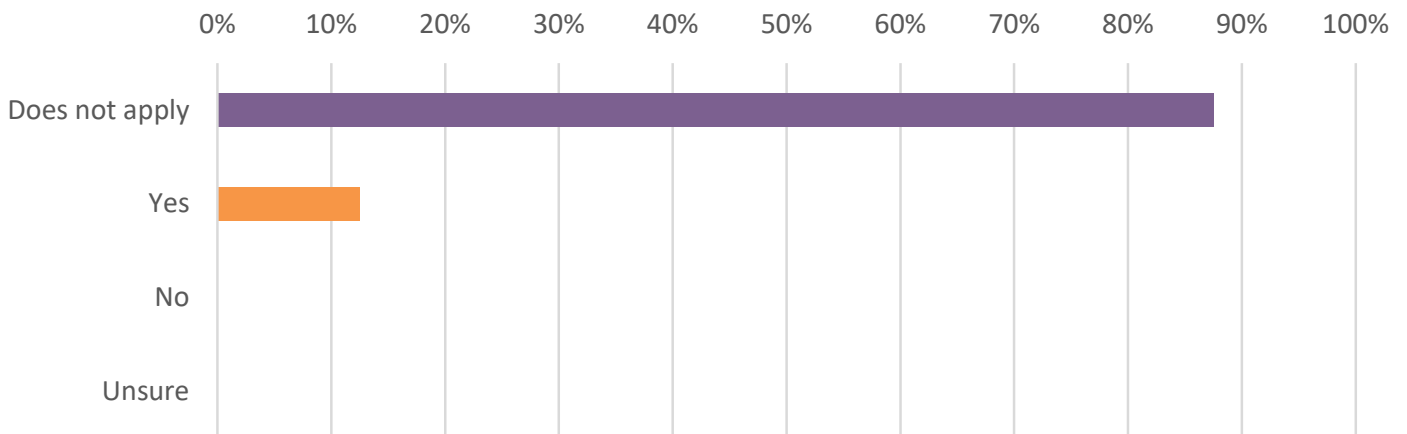


# NORTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS

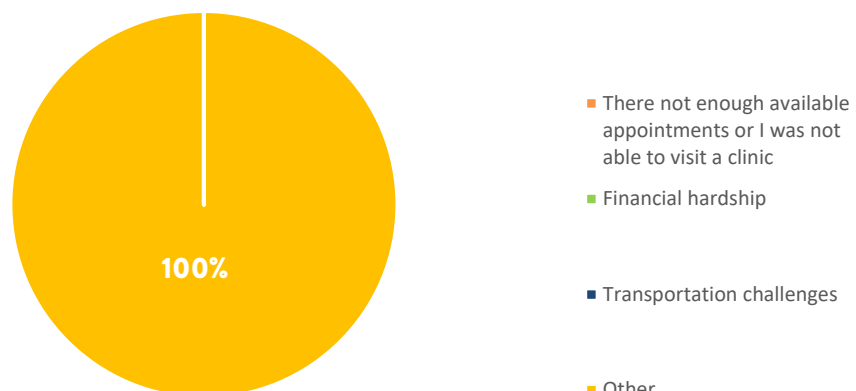
If you worked remotely, or if your employees worked remotely, did you provide the reimbursement for the cost of internet access? (Multiple Choice)



Were you, or someone that you know able to hire and retain the necessary number of employees for your business during the pandemic? (Multiple Choice)



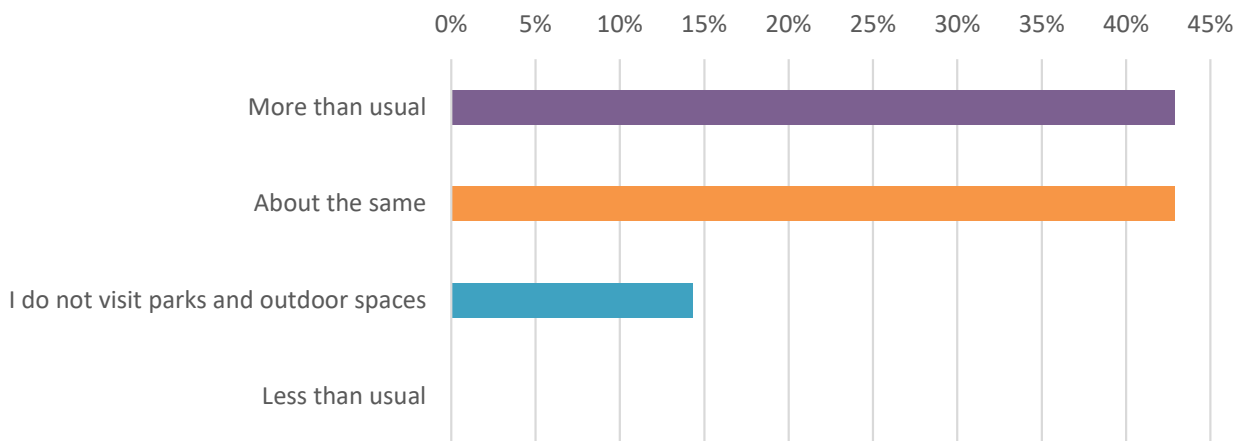
If you were not able to receive healthcare during the pandemic, why? (Multiple Choice)



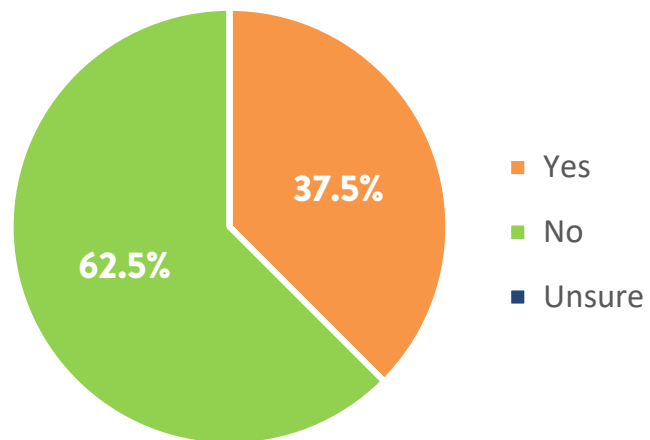


# NORTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS

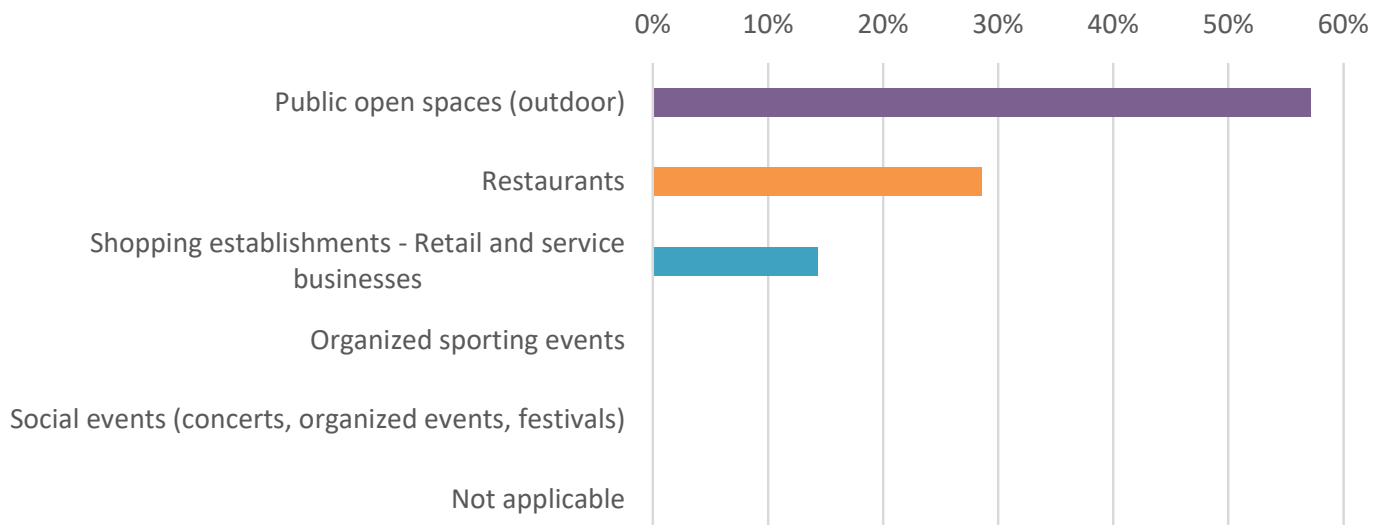
If you did work remotely, what was the greatest technology challenge that you faced? Select all that apply. (Multiple Choice)



During the pandemic (and when state/local restrictions allowed) did you visit places outside your home for non-work purposes? (Multiple Choice)



During the pandemic did you utilize a delivery service and or curbside pick-up service: (Multiple Choice)



See appendix for additional survey questions.

# SOUTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS SURVEY RESPONSES



Johnson County hosted an input session for stakeholders in the southern area of the County on Tuesday, October 12 at the Community School District cafeteria in Lone Tree. Living audience polling questions were utilized because it was expected that there would be a wide variety of subject matter topics and a many different stakeholders. The session was organized to have an overview presentation in the beginning with instruction on how the live polling would take place. At the conclusion of the live polling there was time to obtain statements and hear comments and concerns from attendees. All comments were captured.

## SUMMARY

Attendees indicated that there are many housing and local needs in the small community. They noted that it is difficult to attract and retain educators. It is difficult to attract new residents when there is not housing available. They also discussed the need to have services available in the community as a 20 minute drive is often required to shop for daily goods such as groceries. They stress the need to keep the smaller communities vibrant by encouraging economic development.

Attendees also indicated that public transportation has been expanded to rural areas, but that many may not be aware of the services that area available.

## THEMES

- Premium Pay for Essential Workers
  - Support for essential workers
- Broadband
  - Expand availability and reliability of broadband
- Support Public Health Prevention, Mitigation and Response
  - Support and expand mental health services
- Negative Economic Impacts and Equity-Focused Services
  - Reduction in work
  - Transportation challenges
  - Job retraining needs
- Housing and services for people with disabilities

## SOUTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS SURVEY RESPONSE

LONE TREE OR HILLS  5 Residents

IOWA CITY  4 Residents

UNINCORPORATED  
JOHNSON COUNTY  1 Resident

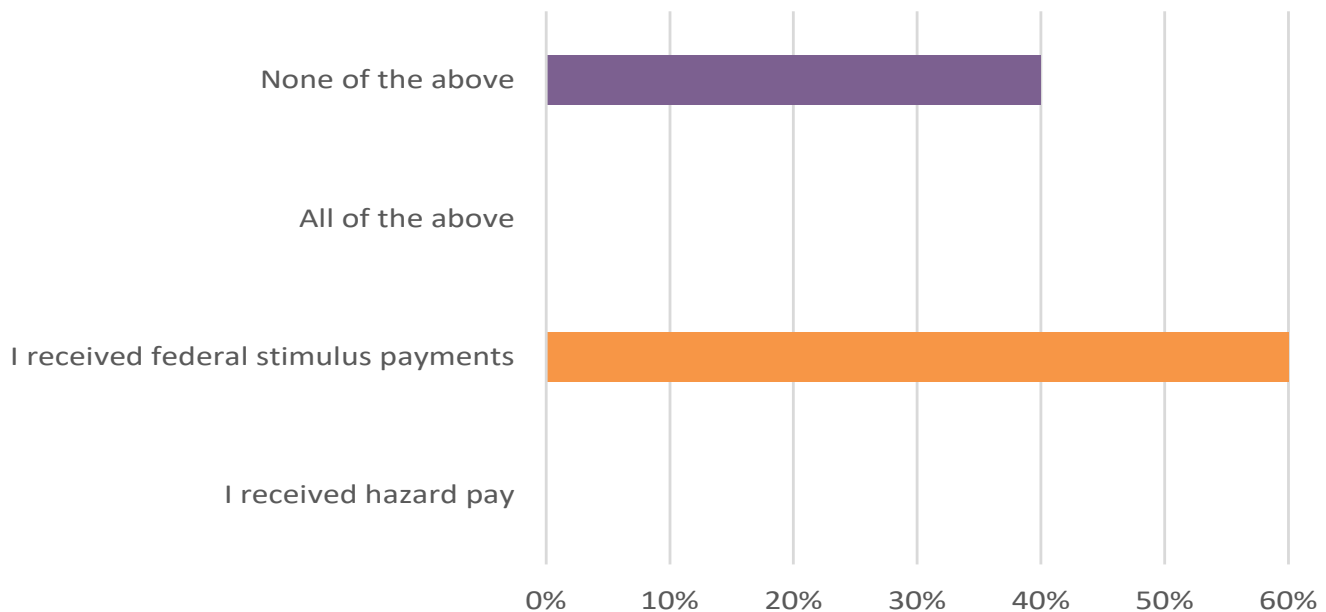
# SOUTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS SURVEY RESPONSES

One written comment was received.

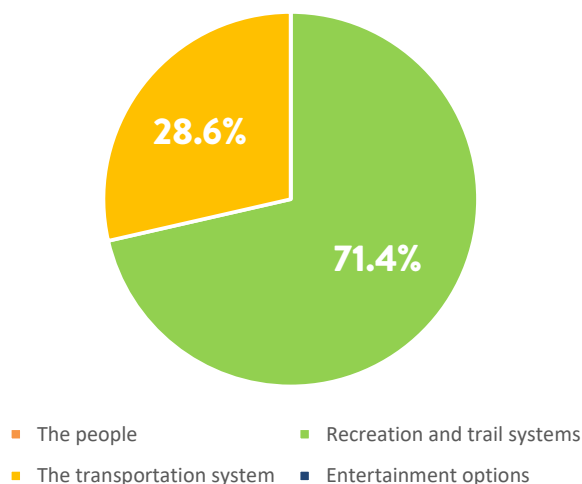
Covid 19 impact on the Lone Tree Historic Museum was great. We were not able to be open or staffed. The staff members are all older and not able or wanted to be in the public. This also effected the donations which the museum run on. We are looking at building upgrades like windows to keep the heating costs down. We would like to put on programs or have speakers come to the museum to encourage more attendance. This would also encourage travel to Lone Tree from other towns to do research of family history.

The following are results from respondents of the questionnaire for southern rural residents.

Did you receive hazard pay and/or federal stimulus payments? (Multiple Choice)

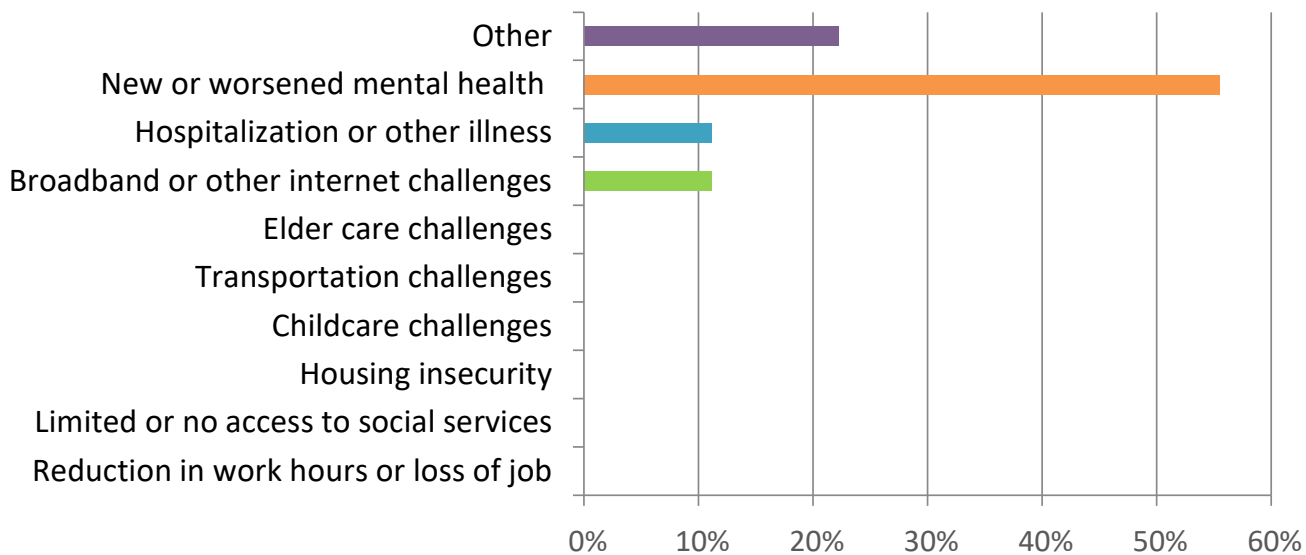


What do you value the most about living in Johnson County? (Multiple Choice)

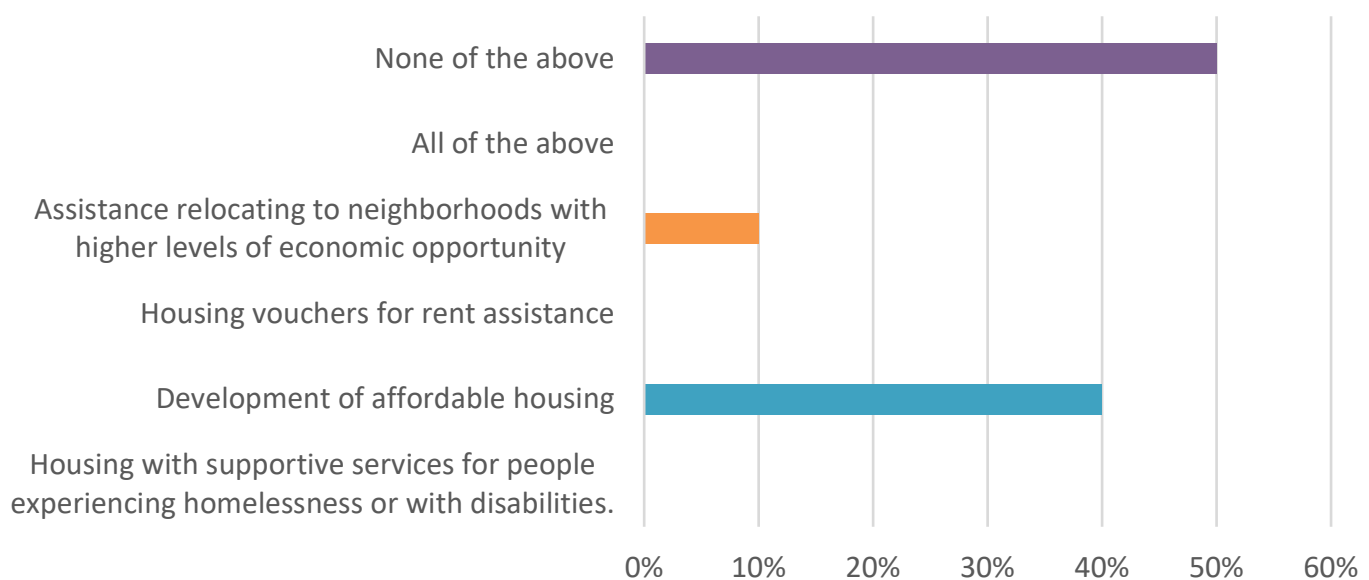


# SOUTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS

Which economic impacts do your household experience as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic? Select the largest challenge. (Multiple Choice)

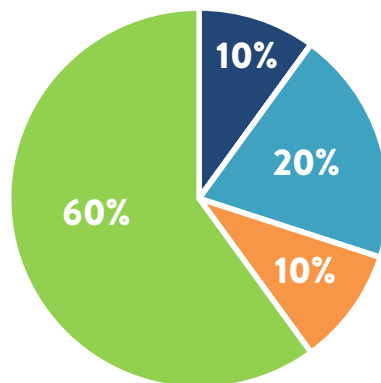


Which of the following programs best describes the housing needs that your household could benefit from as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic? Select the highest priority. (Multiple Choice)



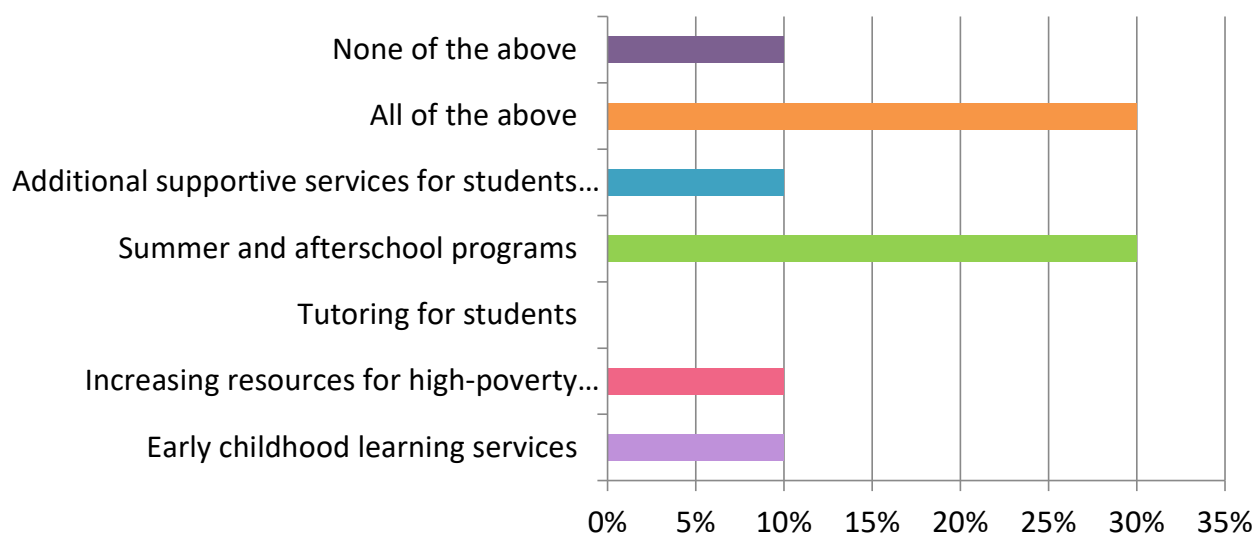
# SOUTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS

Which of the following does your household need at this time? Select the highest priority. (Multiple Choice)



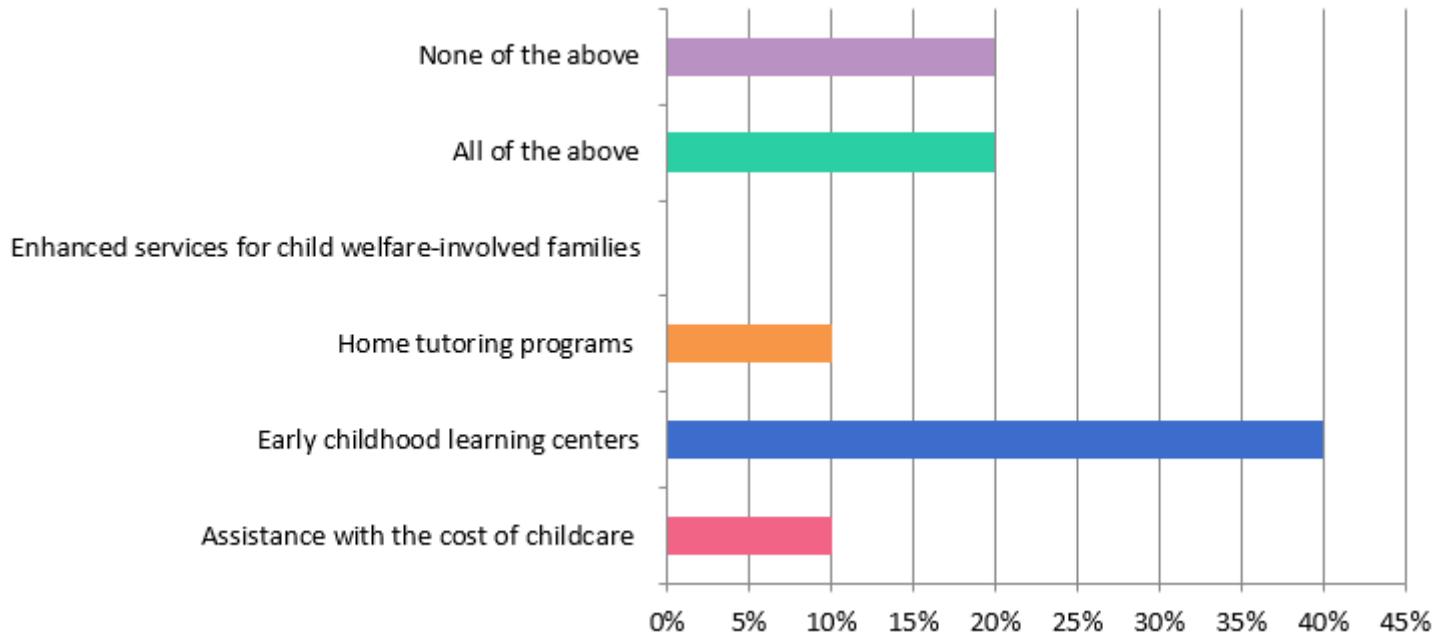
- Food assistance
- Financial assistance with mortgage or rent
- Financial assistance for transportation costs
- Access to transportation
- All of the above
- Increased availability of affordable housing
- Financial assistance for utilities payments
- Direct cash transfers
- Other
- None of the above

9. Which of the following educational services would you and/or your household benefit from as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic? Select the highest priority. (Multiple Choice)

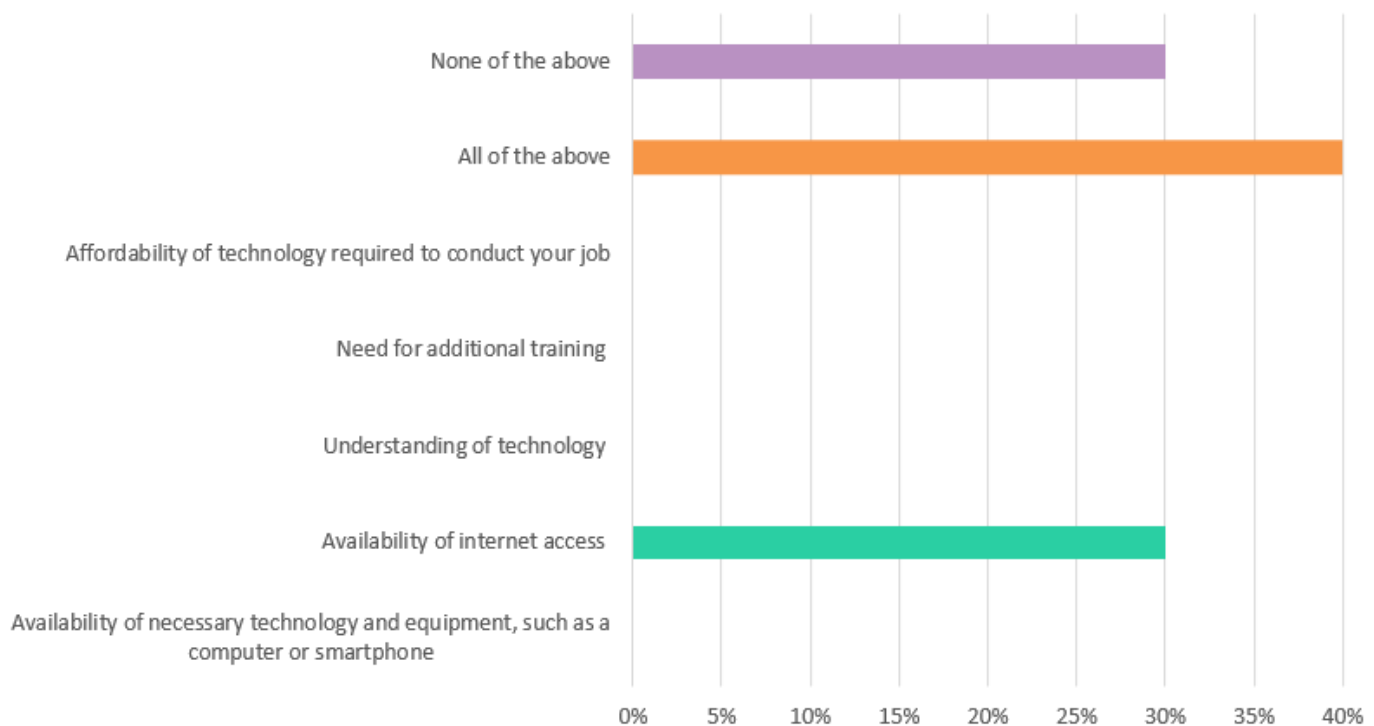


# SOUTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS

Which of the following childcare supports would assist your family as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic? Select the highest priority. (Multiple Choice)



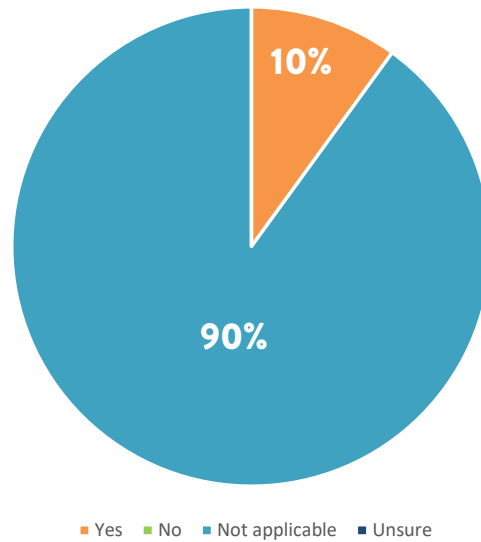
Which technological barriers do you face? Select the highest priority. (Multiple Choice)



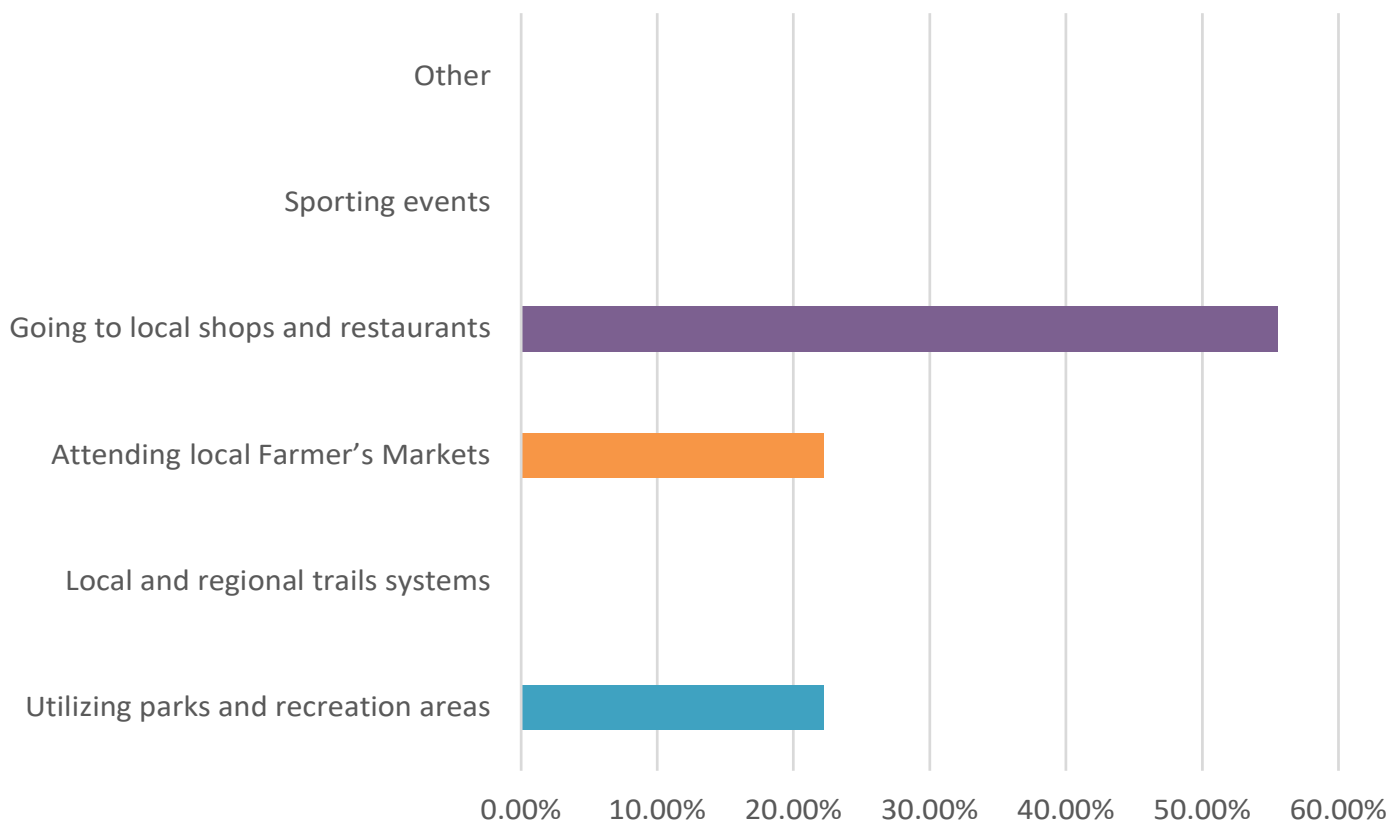


# SOUTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS

Has the public transportation system (including SEATS Paratransit) met your needs during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic?  
(Multiple Choice)

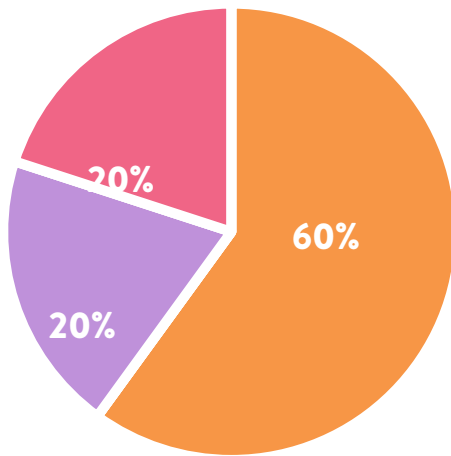


Which of the following leisure activities and public spaces does your household value? Select the highest priority.  
(Multiple Choice)



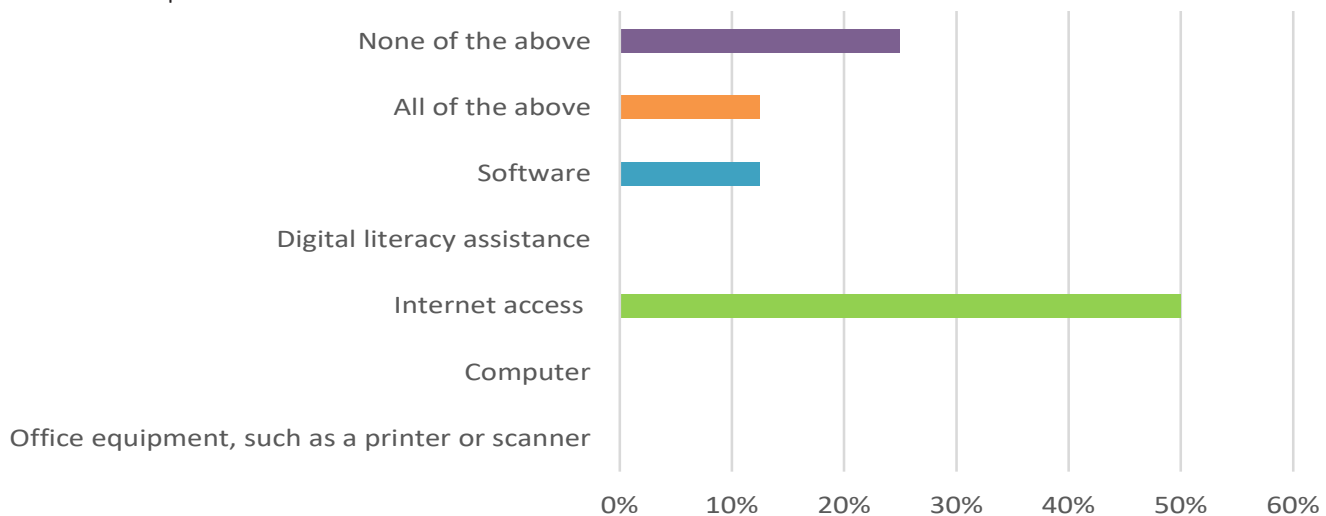
# SOUTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS

How has the pandemic affected your employment since March 2020?  
(Multiple Choice)

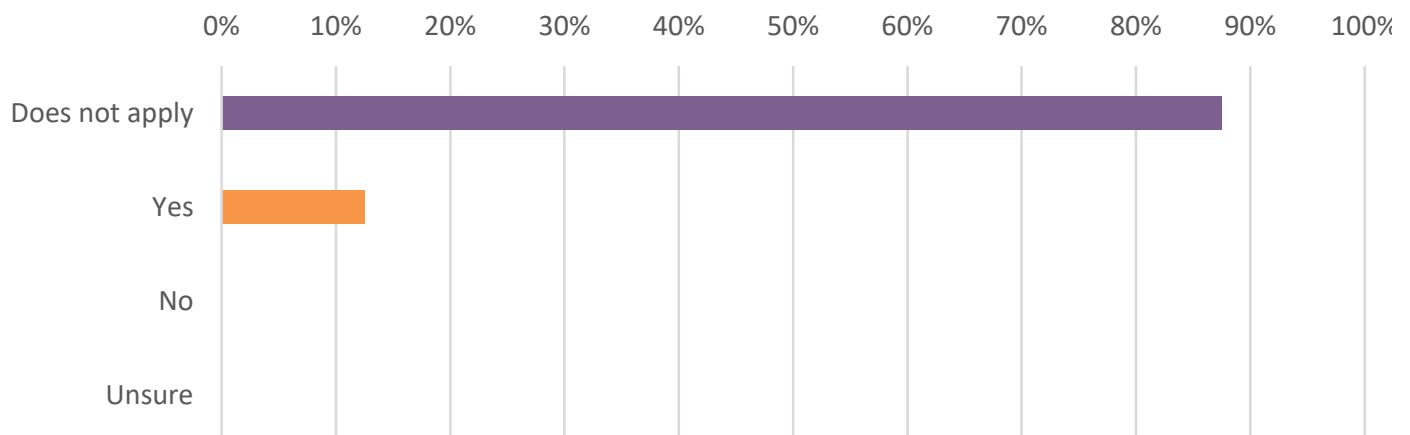


- The pandemic has not impacted by employment
- I worked from home, or remotely from my primary place of employment
- I worked fewer hours
- I worked longer hours
- I lost employment
- I left a position
- All of the above

If you worked remotely, or if your employees worked remotely, did you provide the reimbursement for the cost of internet access? (Multiple Choice)

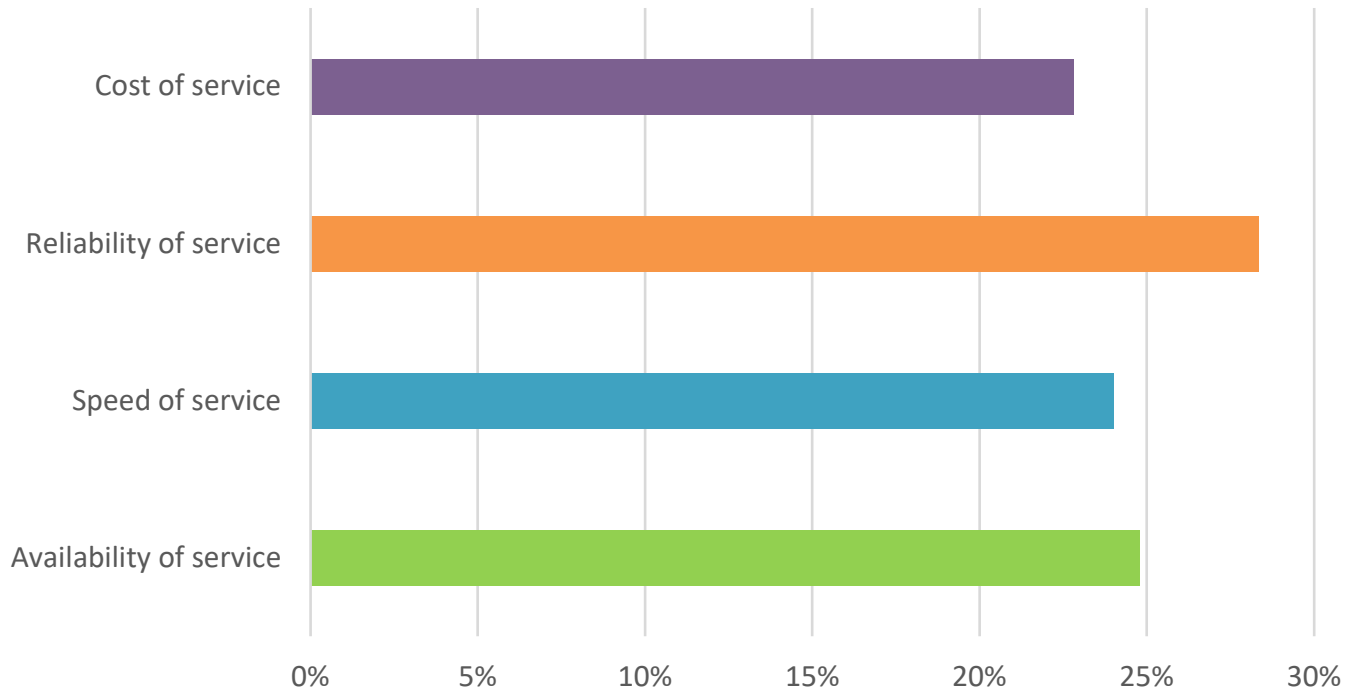


If you are working at your primary place of employment, what would make you feel safe in your work environment? Select the highest priority. (Multiple Choice)

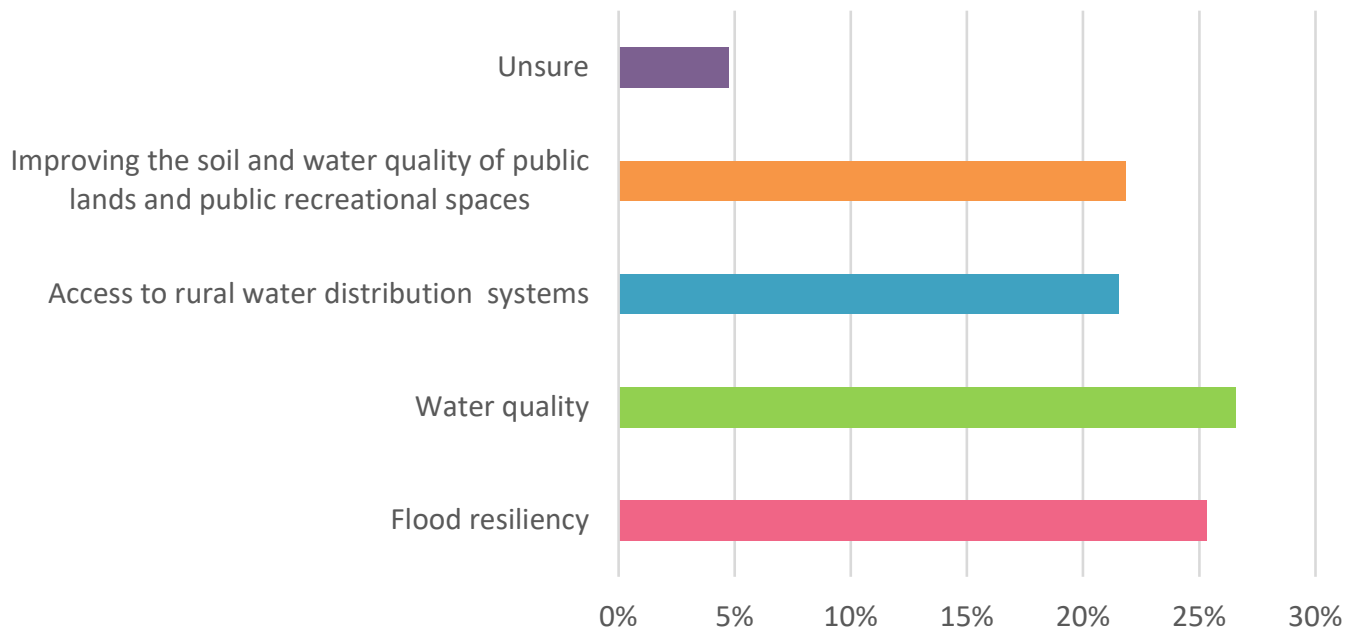


# SOUTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS

If you did work remotely, what was the greatest technology challenge that you faced? Select all that apply. (Multiple Choice)



Rank the following types of infrastructure improvements from most important to least important. (Priority Ranking)



*See appendix for additional survey questions.*


# TOWN HALL MEETING AND PRESENTATION OF ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

On Wednesday, October 27, a presentation was made at the town hall meeting summarizing the public input findings, and the process used to invite public input, regarding Johnson County's needs for the pandemic relief funds distributed under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). A total of 28 public comments were made following the presentation of findings. Comments were received by the Board following the presentation.

The Johnson County Board of Supervisors meeting minutes are located in the appendix.



Speakers provided comments in support of the essential and excluded workers.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a black pen, ready to write on a piece of paper. The background is blurred, showing a desk and some papers. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent white box containing the title.

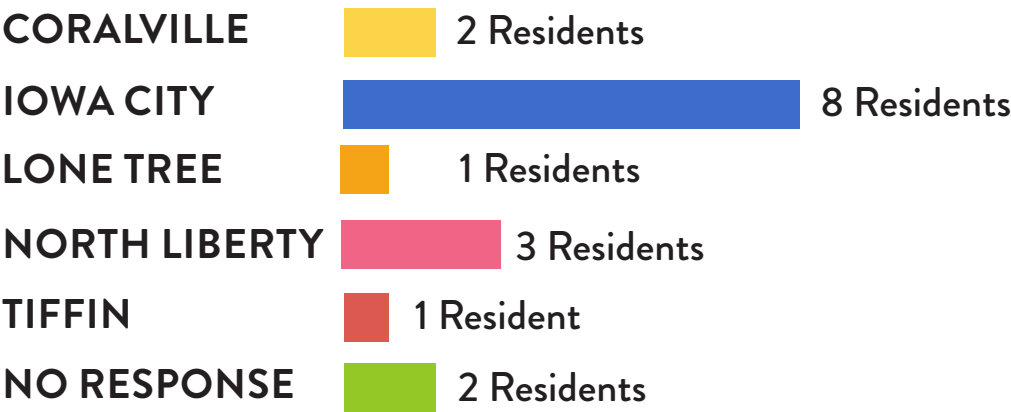
# **QUESTIONNAIRE AND SURVEY**

# NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT QUESTIONNAIRE

## NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS QUESTIONNAIRE(S): HOUSEHOLDS, FAMILIES & WORKERS

Two questionnaires were developed to gain an understanding of the impacts experienced by:

- 1) Households, families and workers
- 2) Small businesses.

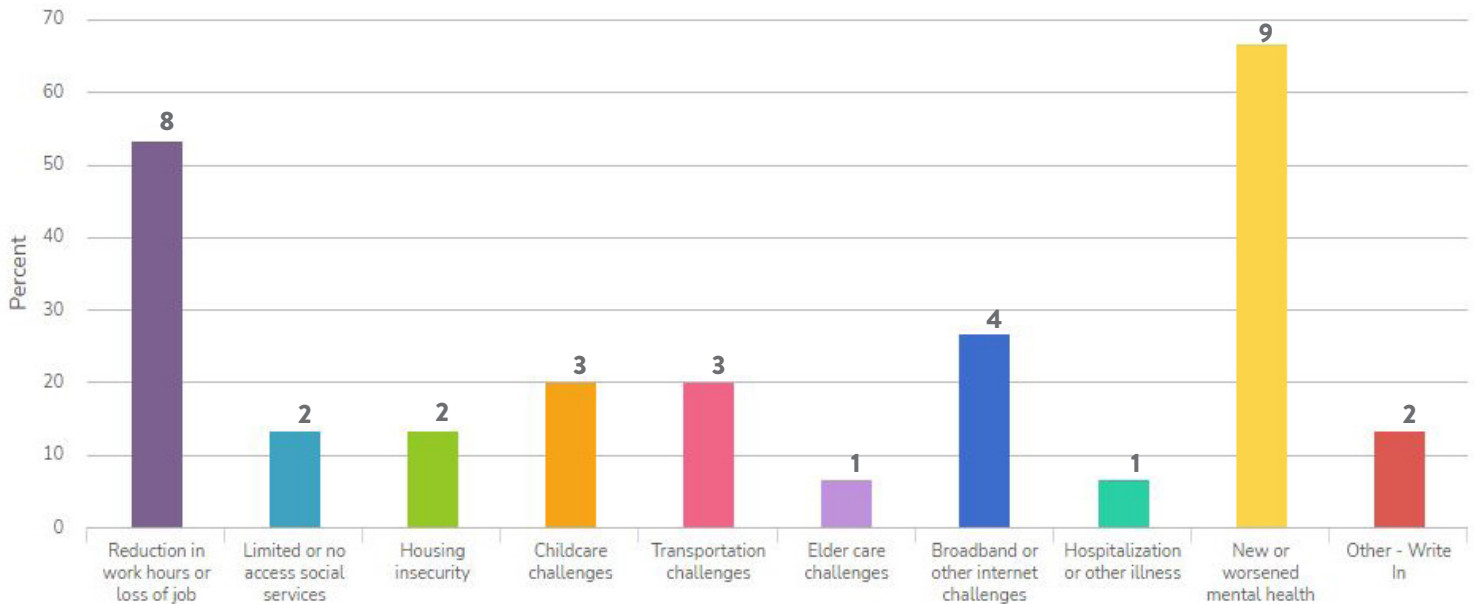




# NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT QUESTIONNAIRE

The following are results from respondents of the questionnaire from households, families and workers.

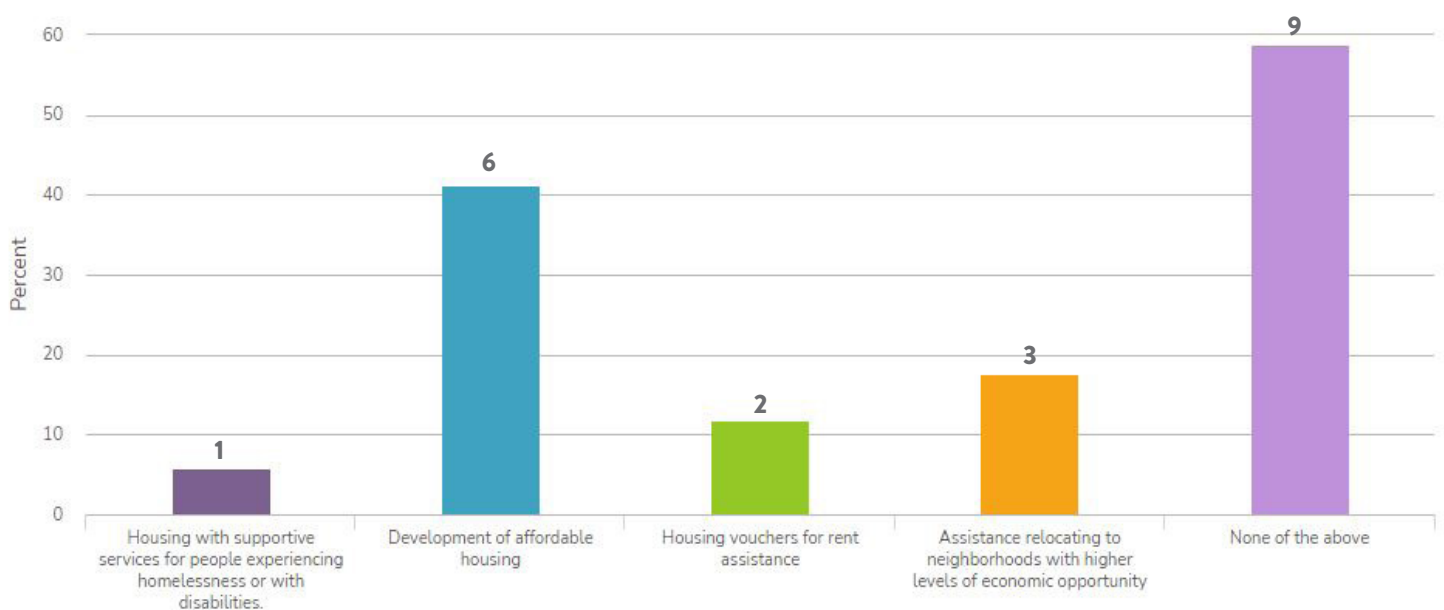
Which economic impacts did your household experience as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? Select all that apply.



Write-in responses:

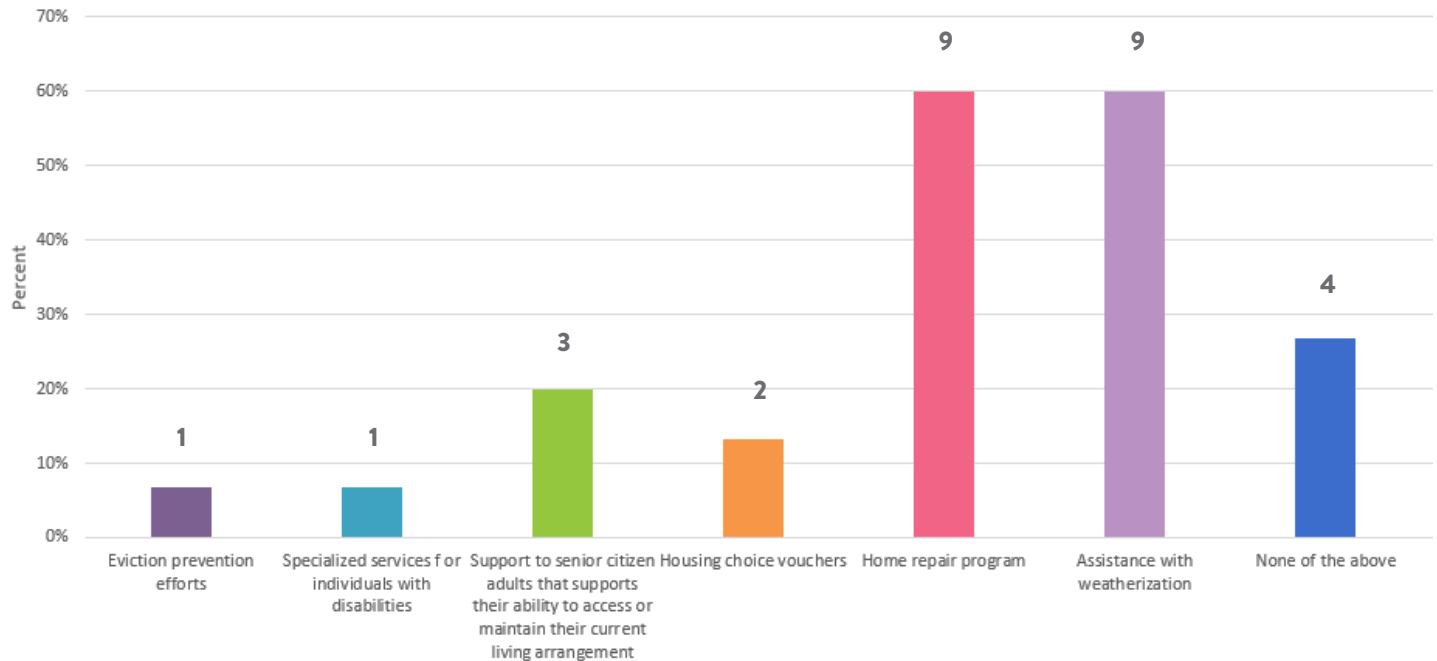
- Expenses and inflation
- Including PPE
- No hazard pay increase

Which of the following programs best describes the housing needs you and your family could benefit from as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? Select all that apply.

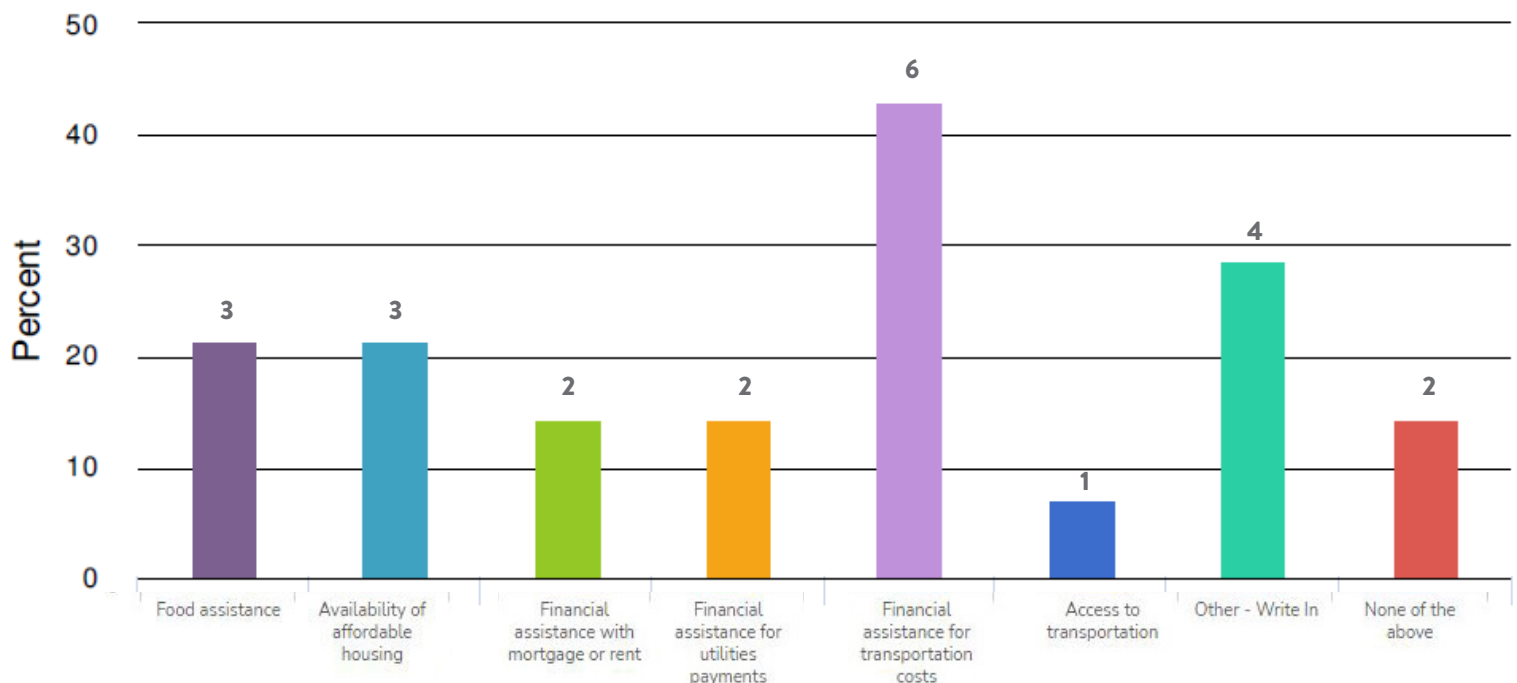


# NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT QUESTIONNAIRE

Which of the following housing assistance programs does your household currently need? Select all that apply.



Which of the following does your household need at this time? Select all that apply.

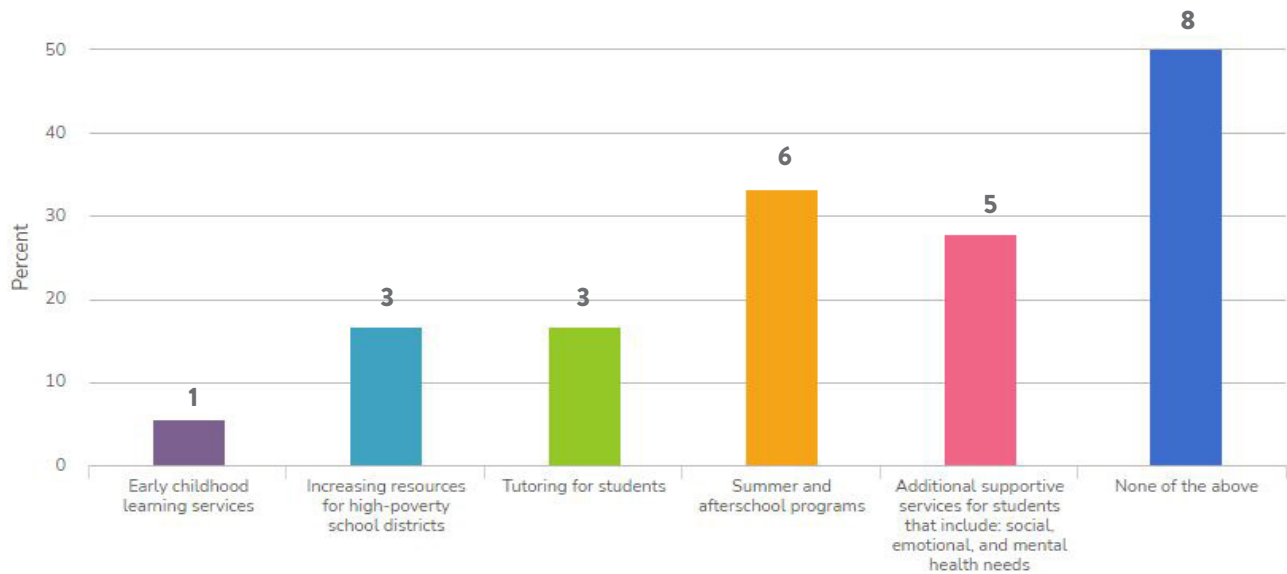


Write-in responses:

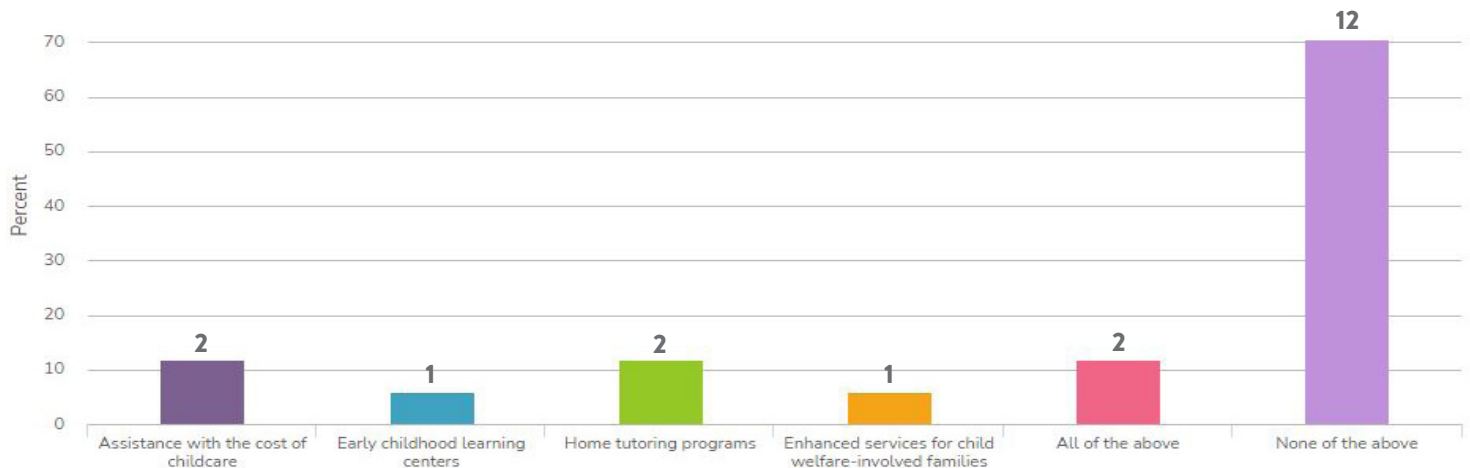
- Direct stimulus checks
- Student loan forgiveness
- Neighborhood safety
- Home repair grants
- Minimum wage increase or hazard pay for essential workers

# NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT QUESTIONNAIRE

Which of the following educational needs would you and/or your household benefit from as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

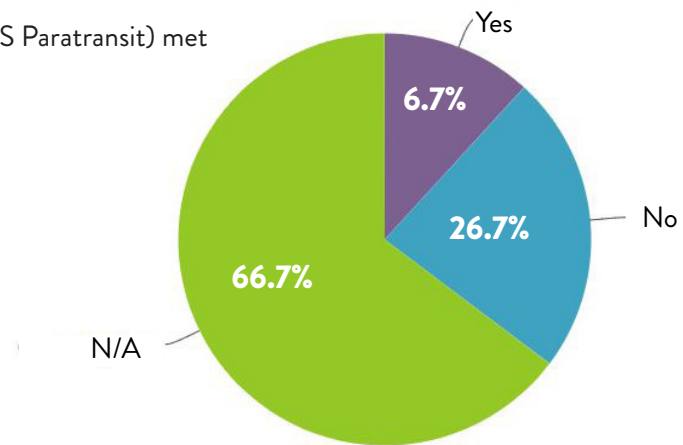


Which of the following childcare supports would assist your family as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? Select all that apply.

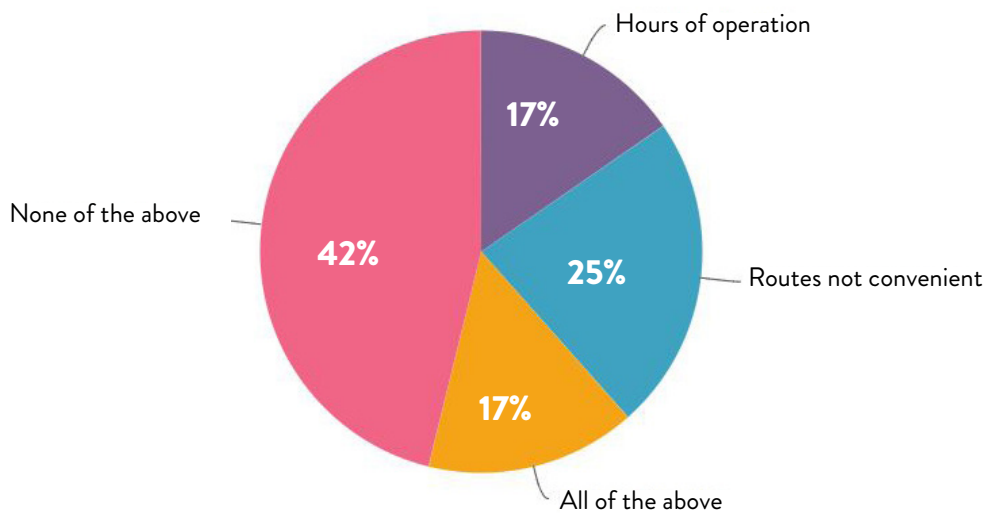


# NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT QUESTIONNAIRE

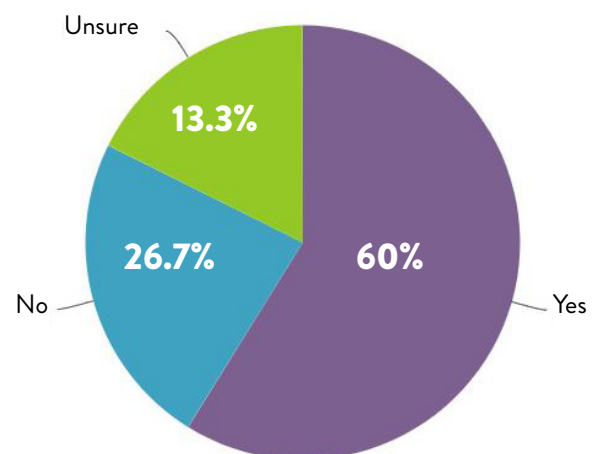
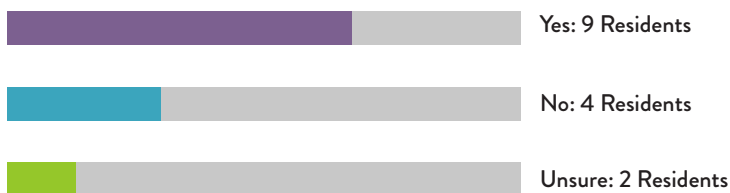
Has the public transportation system (including SEATS Paratransit) met your needs during the pandemic?



If your public transportation needs were not met, what was the primary issue?

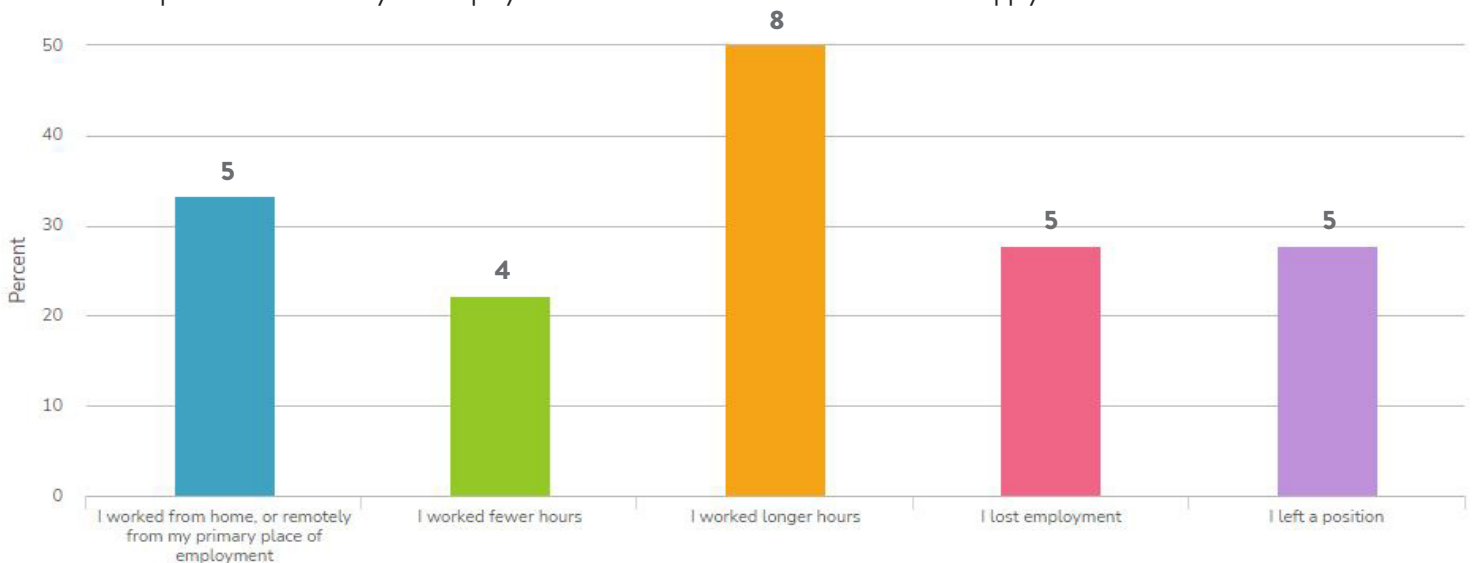


Are you an essential worker?

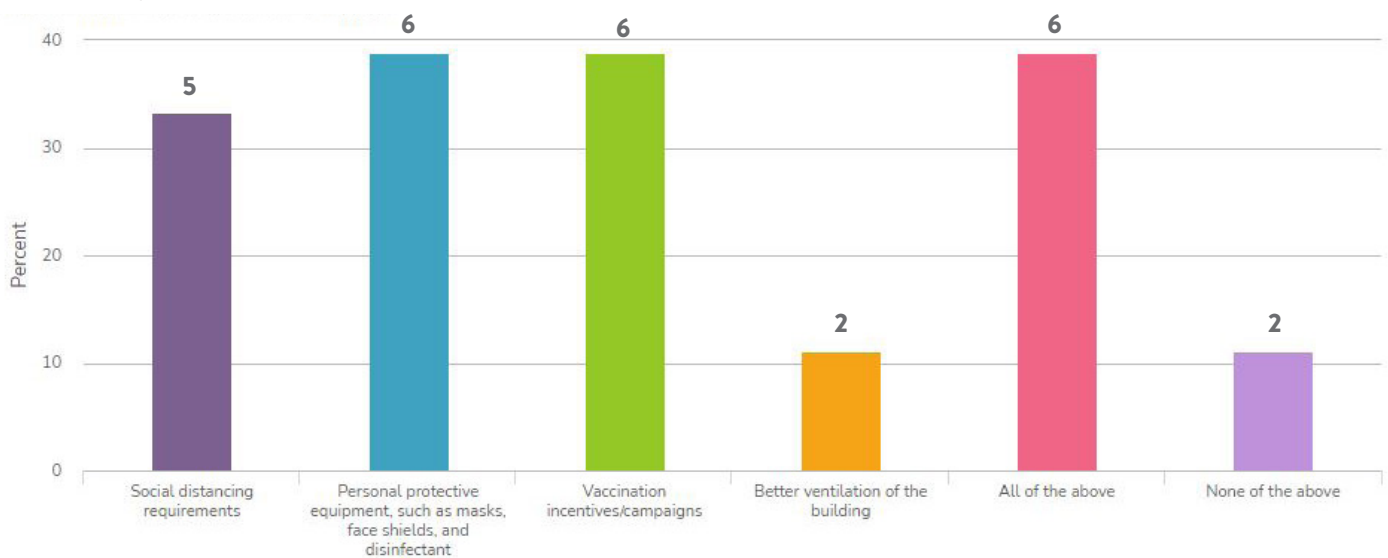


# NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT QUESTIONNAIRE

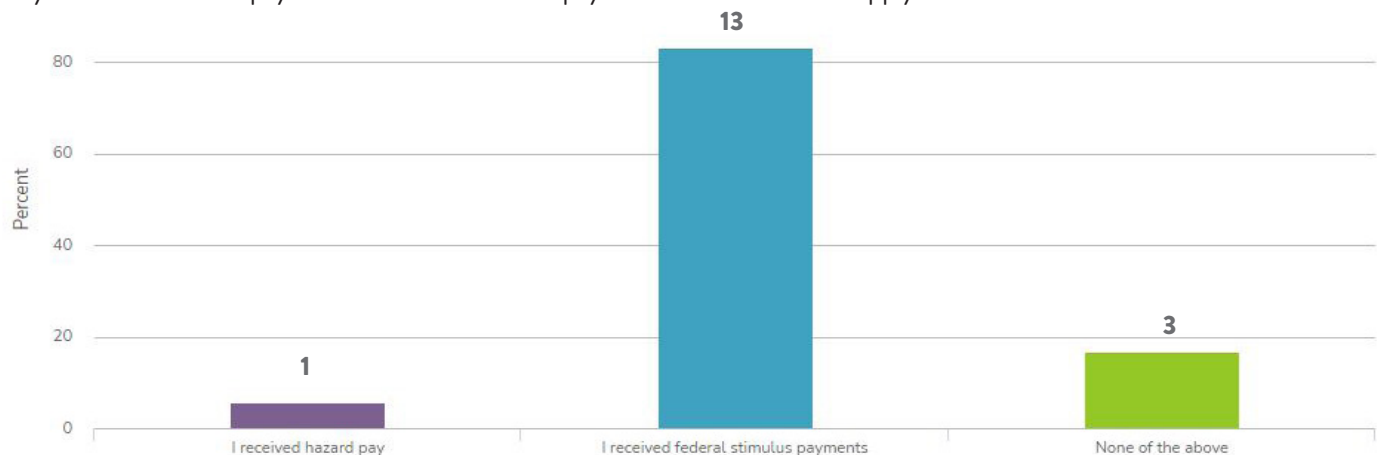
How has the pandemic affected your employment since March 2020? Select all that apply.



If you are working at your primary place of employment, what would make you feel safe in your work environment?

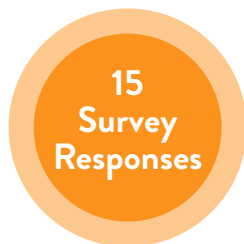


Did you receive hazard pay and/or federal stimulus payments? Select all that apply.



# NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT QUESTIONNAIRE

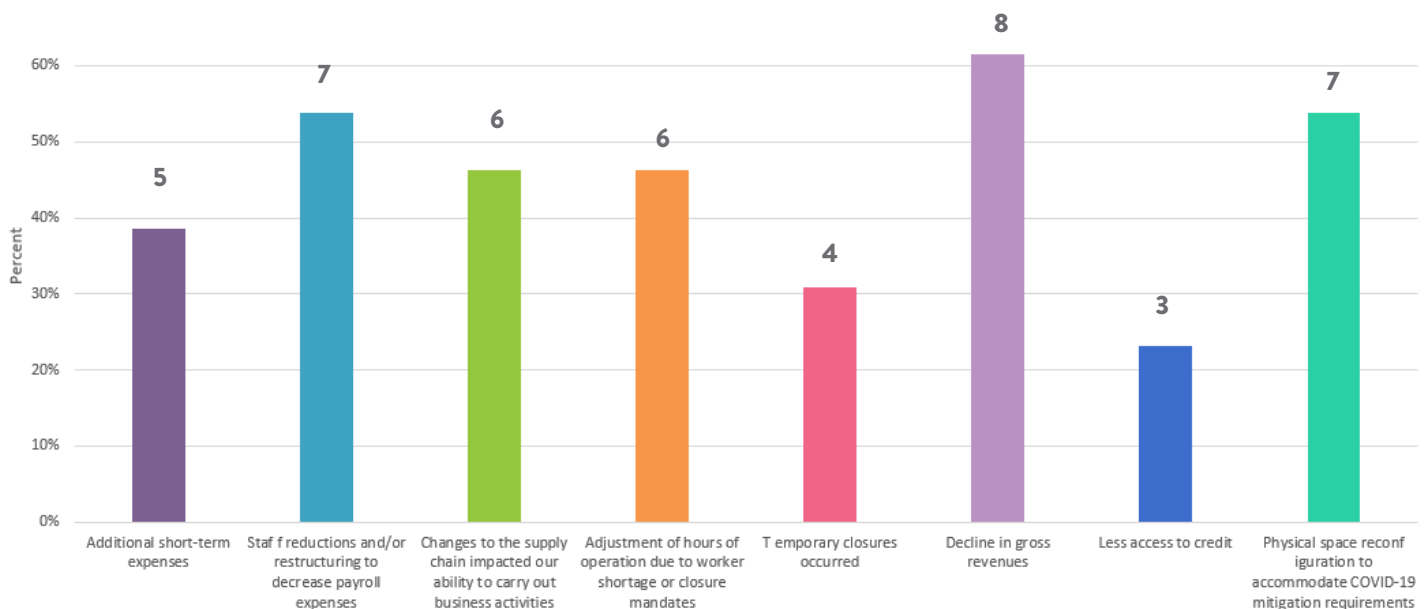
## NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS SURVEY: BUSINESS IMPACTS



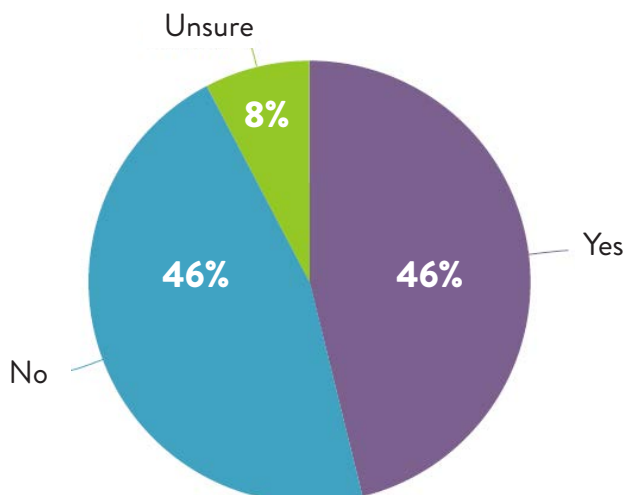
CORALVILLE	2 Business
IOWA CITY	10 Businesses
NORTH LIBERTY	1 Business
NO RESPONSE	2 Businesses

The following are responses received from the questionnaire for small business.

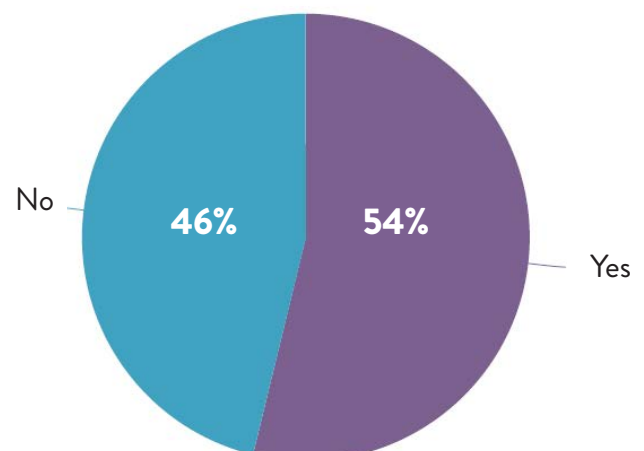
How have your business operations changed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? Select all that apply.



Have you received COVID-19 response funding assistance for your business?

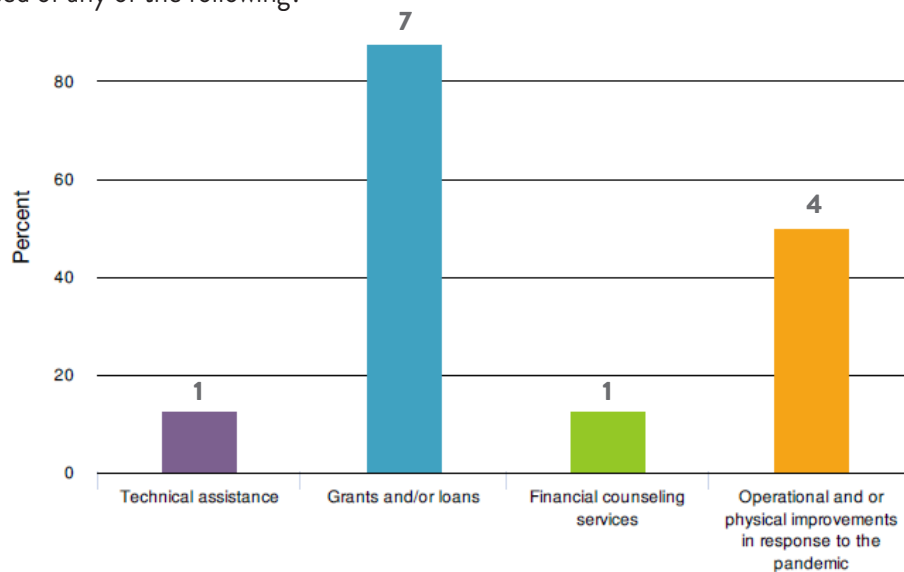


Has your business changed delivery service models, for example transitioned to online sales/service?

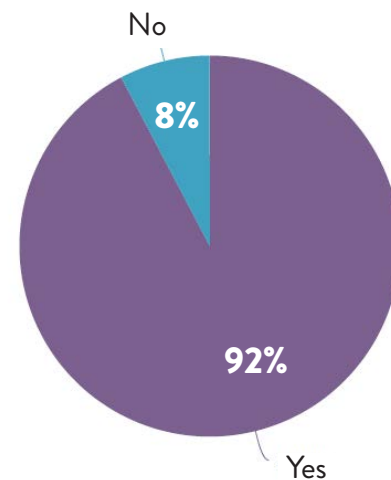


# NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT QUESTIONNAIRE

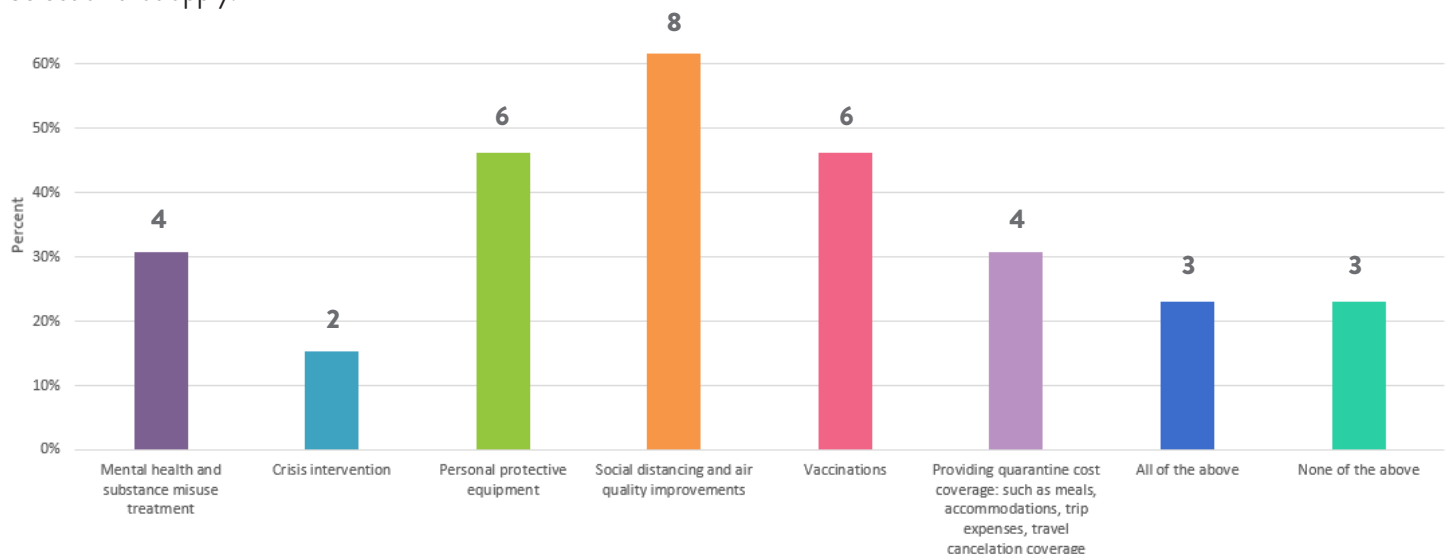
Is your business in need of any of the following?



Do you believe the County would benefit from an economic development plan that focuses on strong, equitable recovery and growth?



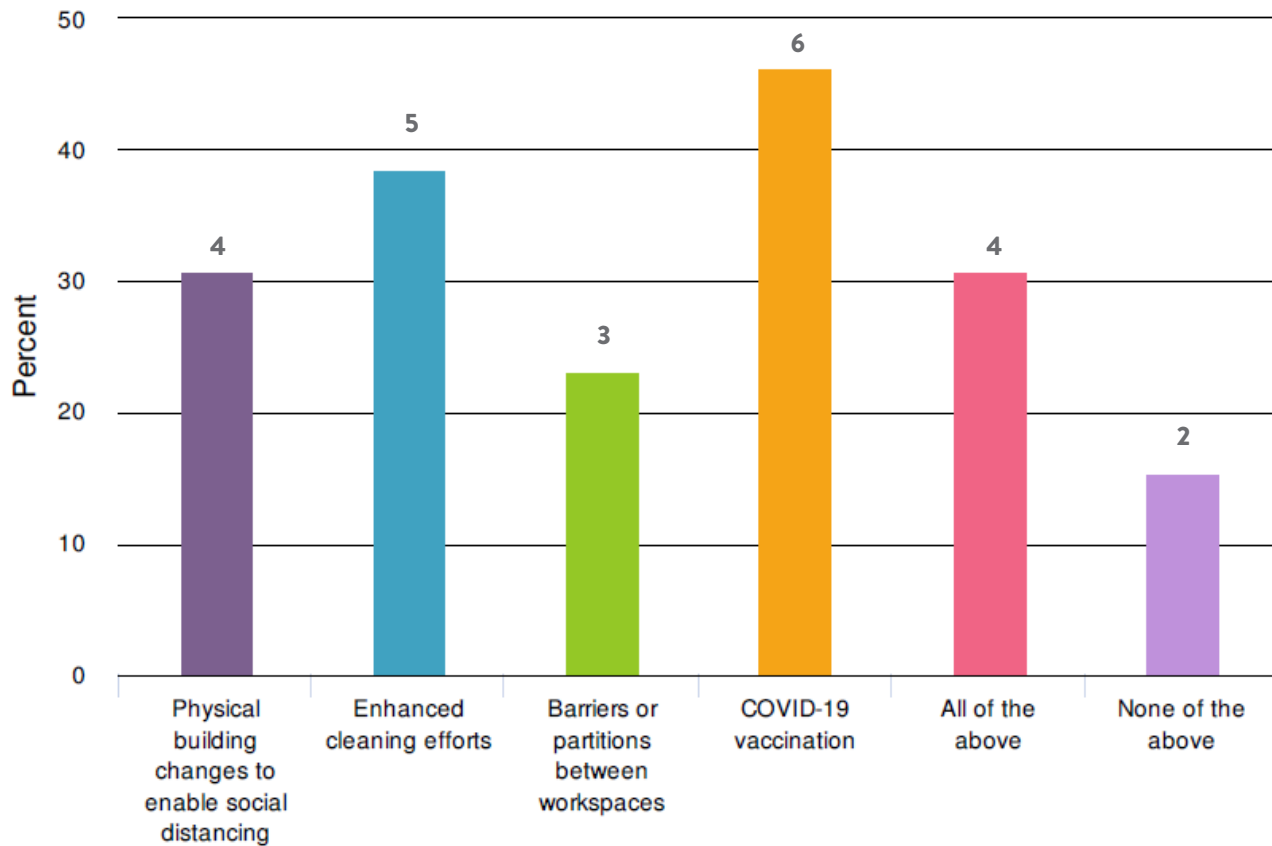
What resources are necessary for the wellbeing of your employees to ensure their health and safety in the workplace?  
Select all that apply.





# NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT QUESTIONNAIRE

Which of the following COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics are you most likely to implement at your business if funding was available? Select all that apply.



*See appendix for additional questionnaire questions.*



# PROCESS RESULTS

# PROCESS RESULTS SUMMARY

## County-Led General Survey

Johnson County conducted a general survey for residents. The survey focused on the pros and cons of living in the county, how the pandemic has affected residents, specifics on programs that need funding and any additional comments.

Respondents overwhelmingly expressed praise for Johnson County's community, diversity and high quality of life, while criticizing the lack of affordable housing, need for more community investment in businesses, infrastructure and people, while also highlighting sizable property tax rates. Johnson County residents expressed difficulty dealing with loneliness, childcare, stress and death associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Recurring responses on how to allocate these funds were to finance the excluded workers fund, support affordable housing, small businesses and to increase the quality and access to broadband.

### COMMON THEMES



High quality  
of life



Positive  
community



Lacks affordable  
housing



Mental health  
concerns



More support for  
small businesses



# GENERAL RESPONSE SURVEY

## COMMON THEMES

Many common themes and topics were shared throughout the survey. Below is a list of these general themes and thoughts respondents had.

### Community and Diversity

People feel that the community within Johnson County is what makes them great. Neighbors and family are around every corner to assist one another when major and minor issues appear. Local organizations, a collective spirit and openness of the citizens make people feel welcome and apart of the community. Citizens praised the diversity of Johnson County and how the complex history and cultures that intertwine within the County to create community. There is an overall feeling of inclusion and openness within the County.



### Parks/Outdoors and Quality of Life



Johnson County has a unique balance of both urban amenities of wonderful. People are close to both nature, jobs, and community. There are a variety of quality nearby state and local parks, lakes, and trails that have interesting programming at them. People praise Johnson County for giving them a high quality of life due to the different amenities listed. There are many nearby biking trails they people use for recreation. Closeness to nature is one of the many reasons people said they enjoy living in Johnson County. They want the county to continue investment in the parks and green spaces.

### College/University of Iowa

The University of Iowa brings in a wide range of people from around the state and the world. Citizens enjoy the diversity the university brings along with the well-paying jobs.



### Childcare/Schools and Libraries



People believe that many of the schools in the area provide high quality education to their children. The libraries in Johnson County are clean and well kept. It is a nice place for children to explore and for people and organizations to meet. The cost of childcare has been increasing and many parents are having difficulty finding ways to pay for it. People are worried about the amount of teachers and early childcare workers along with their pay. There are also concerns that the current education system is not equitable.

### Small Business

Respondents love the small businesses spread around Johnson County. They have many high-quality products and people enjoy supporting their neighbors. Residents know the small businesses are struggling on staying in business, retaining employees, and changes in the global economy. Finding ways to assist them to weather the storm are many people's top priority. Suggestions include helping pay rent, advertising grants, web support, and helping cover increases costs of employees.



### Hospital/Medical Facility



The hospitals in the County provide good paying jobs and give many people a piece of mind being so close to high quality healthcare.



# GENERAL RESPONSE SURVEY

## COMMON THEMES

### Housing

This is a large area of concern as there were more than double the responses as the second most submitted topic. Many feel that housing not just a problem with the cities, but throughout the County. There are many advocates for affordable housing, with many voicing concern for the most vulnerable and low income households. The current type of housing options leaves many people with difficult decisions such as being forced to share single family homes with non-family members.



### High Taxes

Taxes were brought up many times. Many believe that taxes are too high, but also praise the amenities that the current tax money provide. A portion of this group believe that taxes need to be rebalanced with less coming from property taxes.

### Transportation



The current public transportation system is very inflexible and infrequent. The current regional transportation system for Johnson County does not meet the needs of many of its residents. Many advocate for SEATS to add routes, expand hours and increase frequency on many of the lines in its system. The current system has been reduced from before the pandemic started and there are fears that cuts will continue. Expansion of active transportation, frequency and routes of public transit are greatly needed.

### Broadband/Internet

People reiterate that internet in the County are subpar and need intervention so that people can have access to education, job opportunities, leisure, and family connection. Most respondents expressed concerns that they only have one option for internet within the County and advocated for finding ways to increase competition. Repeated solutions were for government to build infrastructure itself or for the government to partner with wireless companies to build infrastructure. There was also support for a county owned internet service provider or creating a countywide co-op. Additionally, people asked for portable hotspots.



### Direct Payments



There was also a small amount of people who explicitly expressed that they were against stimulus funding for only those that the federal government missed, and it should instead be given to all residents in Johnson County. There was also a small amount of people who explicitly expressed that they were against stimulus funding for only those that the federal government missed, and it should instead be given to all residents in Johnson County.

### Roads/Infrastructure

There are many complaints about the current quality of roads. Many believe that roads need to be repaved and that gravel roads should be turned into paved roads. A small subset of the respondents would rather abandon under used roads and instead of higher quality roads that see more use.



### Loneliness/Socialization

People feel isolated due to the pandemic. Without consistent internet accessibility, citizens of Johnson County feel cut off from family and friends. Many haven't found easy ways to socialize with others during the pandemic.

# GENERAL RESPONSE SURVEY

## COMMON THEMES

### Community Investment/Supporting Businesses

Investment in people, not institutions was a common theme in free responses. Respondents want funding to go towards education of workers, job creation, and make it easier for people to start businesses. Many talked about how the County should leverage having the University of Iowa within the County to increase the education of the workforce and to help workers transition jobs. People want the barriers of entry for jobs to be lowered and for possibility of advancement.



### Water

Respondents praise the open space within Johnson County, but many have increasing concerns about water quality. Many blame lax regulations on agri-businesses for polluting waterbodies and would like the natural beauty restored. Other point to increases water and sewer infrastructure as the solution. Water quality and present sewer infrastructure within the county are below many people's standards. People also recommended working on stream bank stabilization and reducing farm runoff.



### Bicycle



Respondents have a wide range of types of bicycling infrastructure requests, with the most repeated being on-street and trail infrastructure connecting communities. Many wished that there were safe options for recreational travel and for daily trips such as going to work. There were also requests for bike sharing, updating of existing trails, and bike parking.

### Homelessness

With the increased concern of housing, there was also an undercurrent of a growing homeless population. Respondents don't believe that there are enough safety nets, and due to the lack of affordable housing, people have no choice but to either leave or become homeless if they can't afford to leave.

### More Diversity



There was a theme of making sure that Johnson County stay open and welcoming to all communities. Some explain being marginalized and feel left out of public discourse. Respondents would like more outreach from the government and to make sure that immigrants and people of color are fairly helped with the funding.

### Excluded Workers

A majority of discussion around direct payments to workers and families endorsed the idea. From that majority many advocated for the payments to be directed toward residents that were missed by the federal stimulus funding such as undocumented immigrants, previously incarcerated people, and cash economy workers.

### Mental Health

The current staffing of mental health services are below what people need. Of the mental health services that are available, many are too expensive. Respondents want an increase of mental health facilities and reimbursement for out-of-pocket medical care.

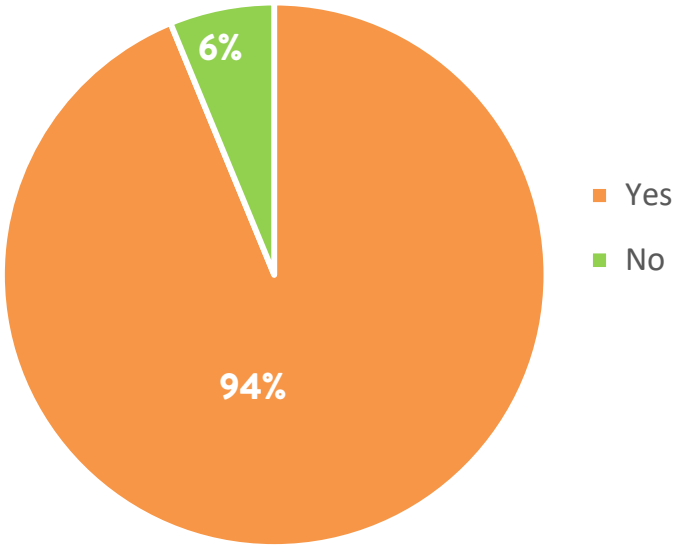
# GENERAL RESPONSE SURVEY

## COUNTY-LED SURVEY RESPONSES

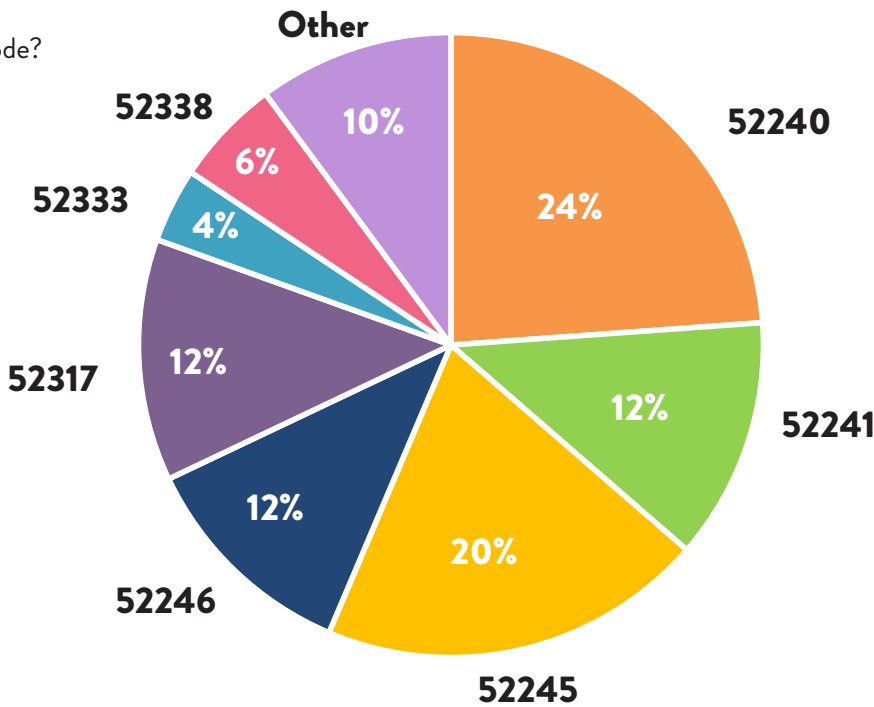


The County released a survey to stakeholders summary findings are included below. The full results are included in the appendix.

Are you a Johnson County Resident?

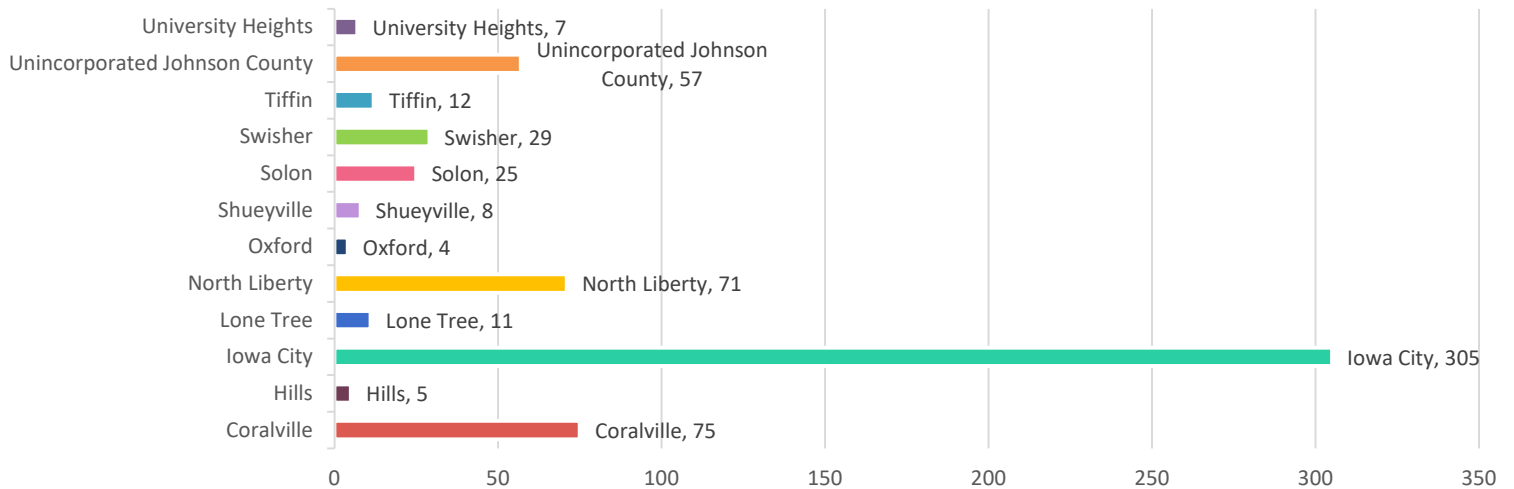


What is your ZIP code?

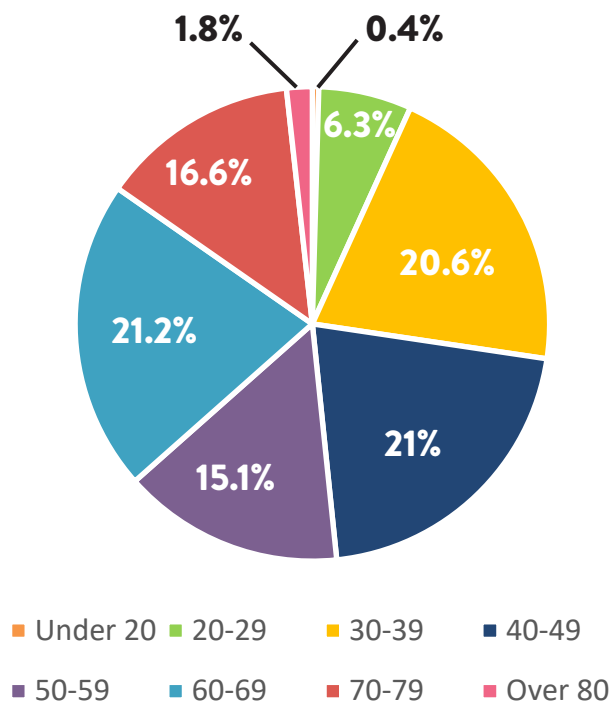


# GENERAL RESPONSE SURVEY

Where do you live?



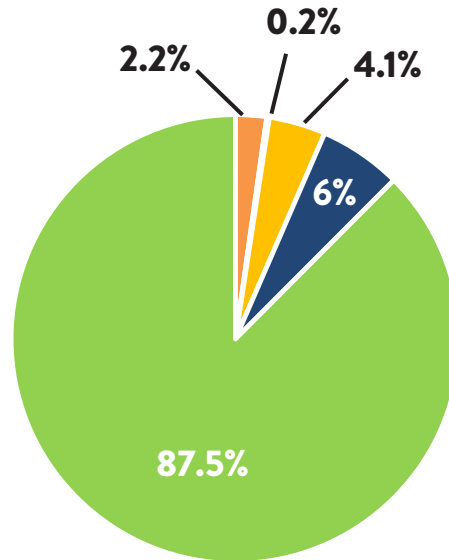
What is your age?





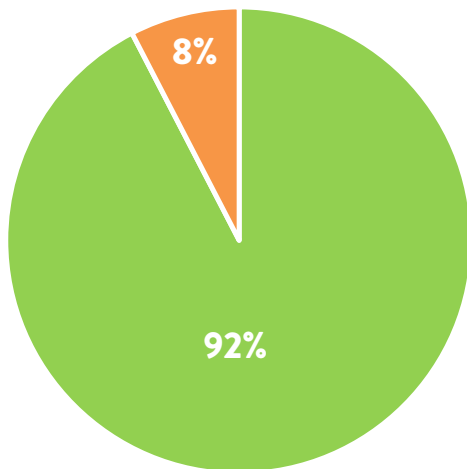
# GENERAL RESPONSE SURVEY

What is your race?



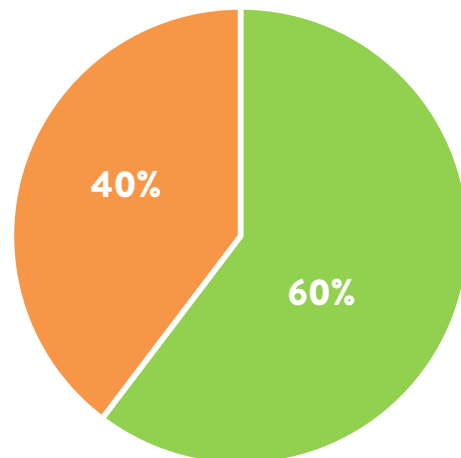
Asian American Indian Black Other White

Are you of Hispanic or Latin descent?



No Yes

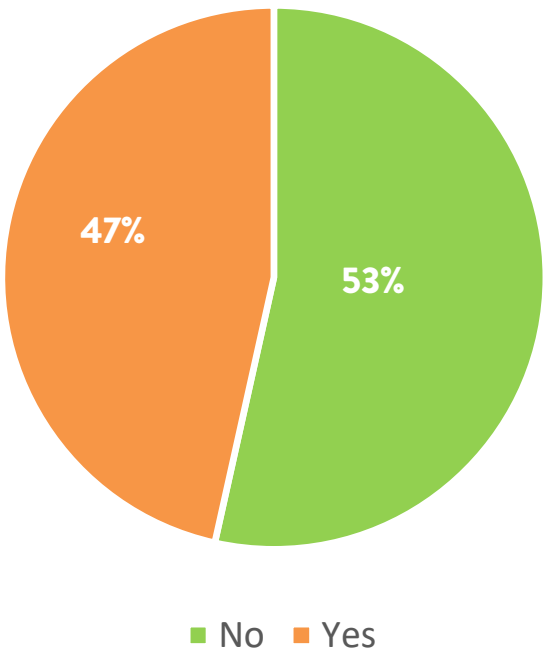
Do you have dependents currently living in your household?



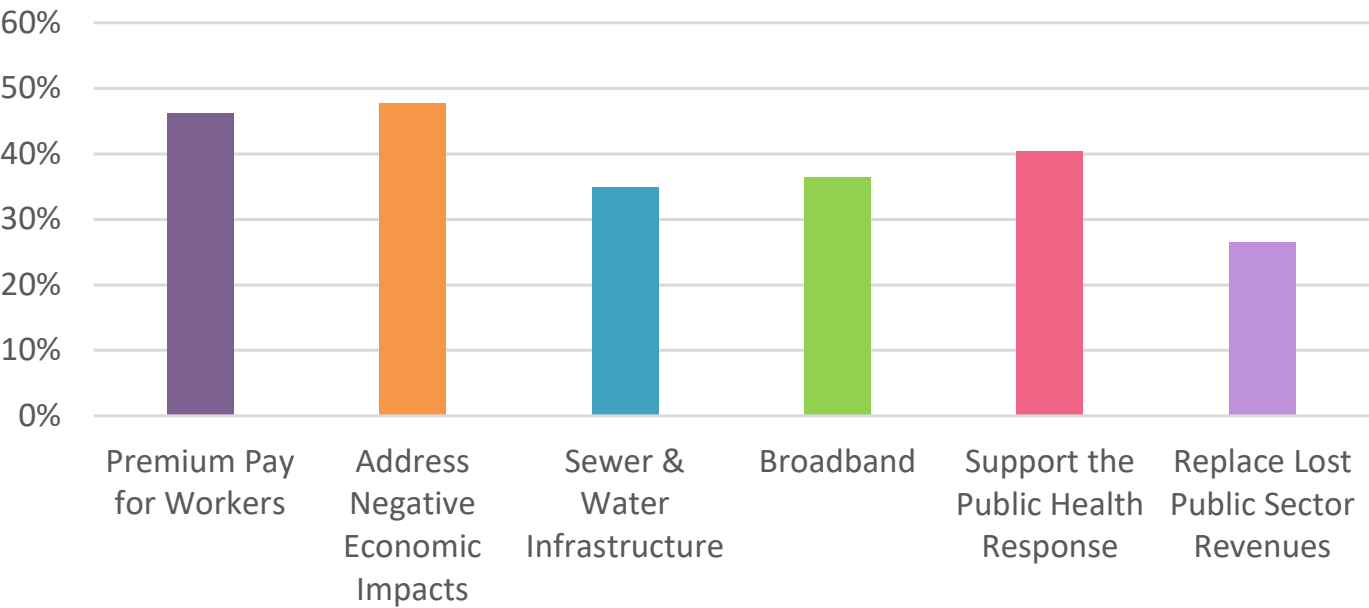
No Yes

# GENERAL RESPONSE SURVEY

Are you an essential worker?

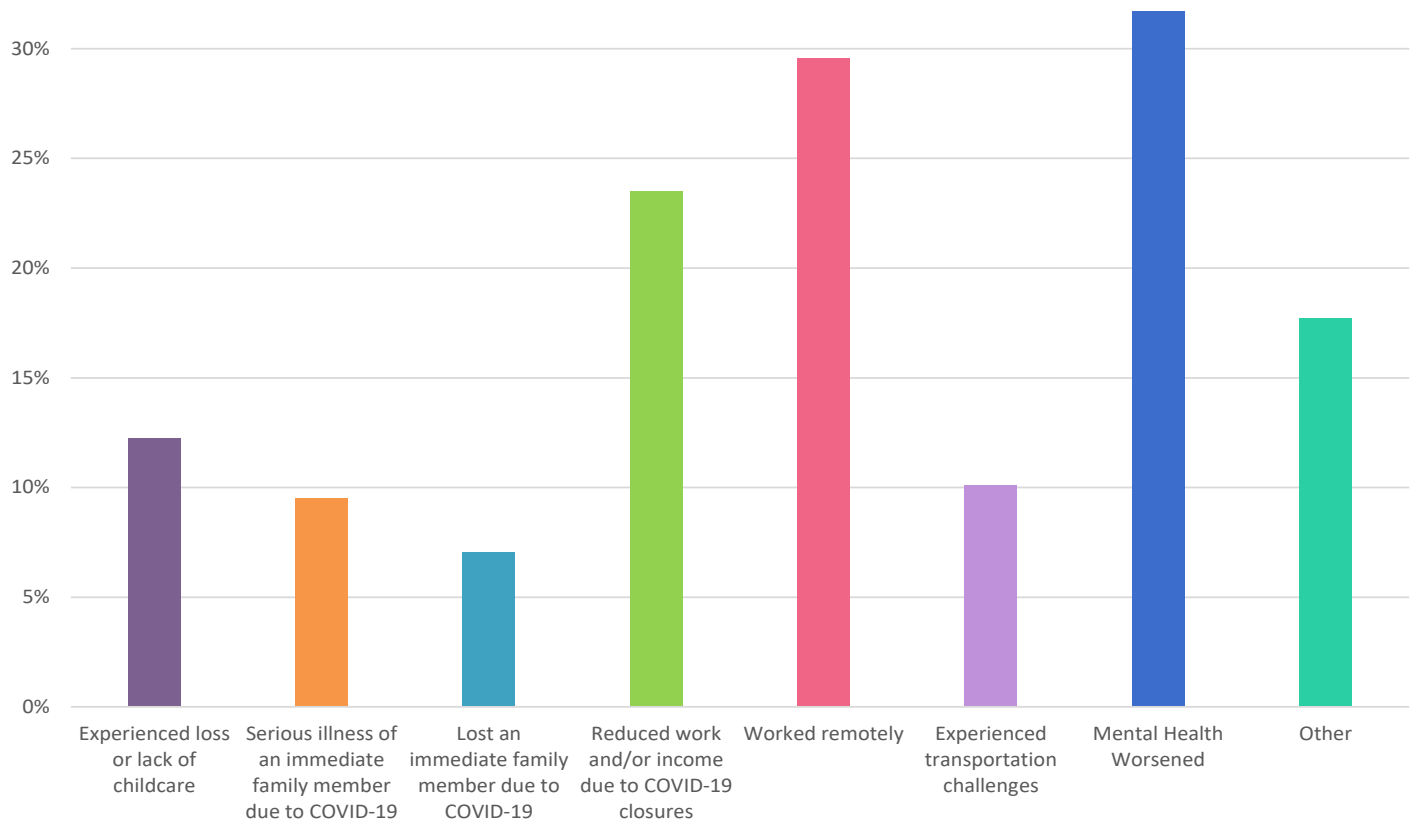


Which of the Allowable Uses do you Support? (Select all that apply)



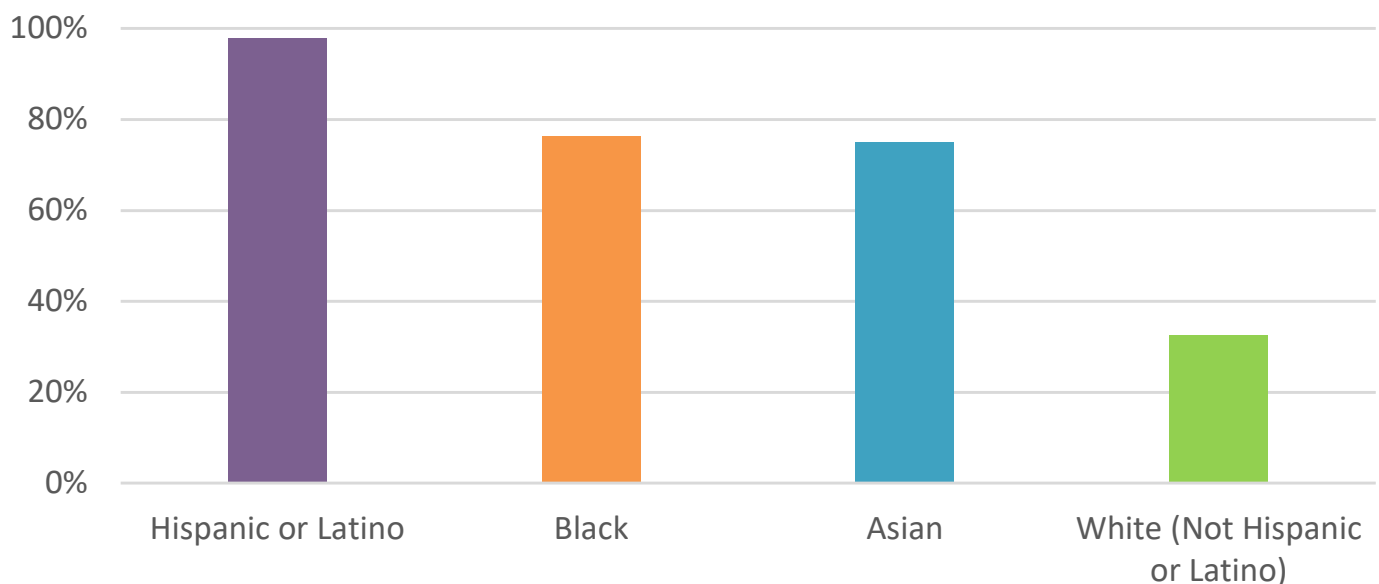
# GENERAL RESPONSE SURVEY

How have you been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?



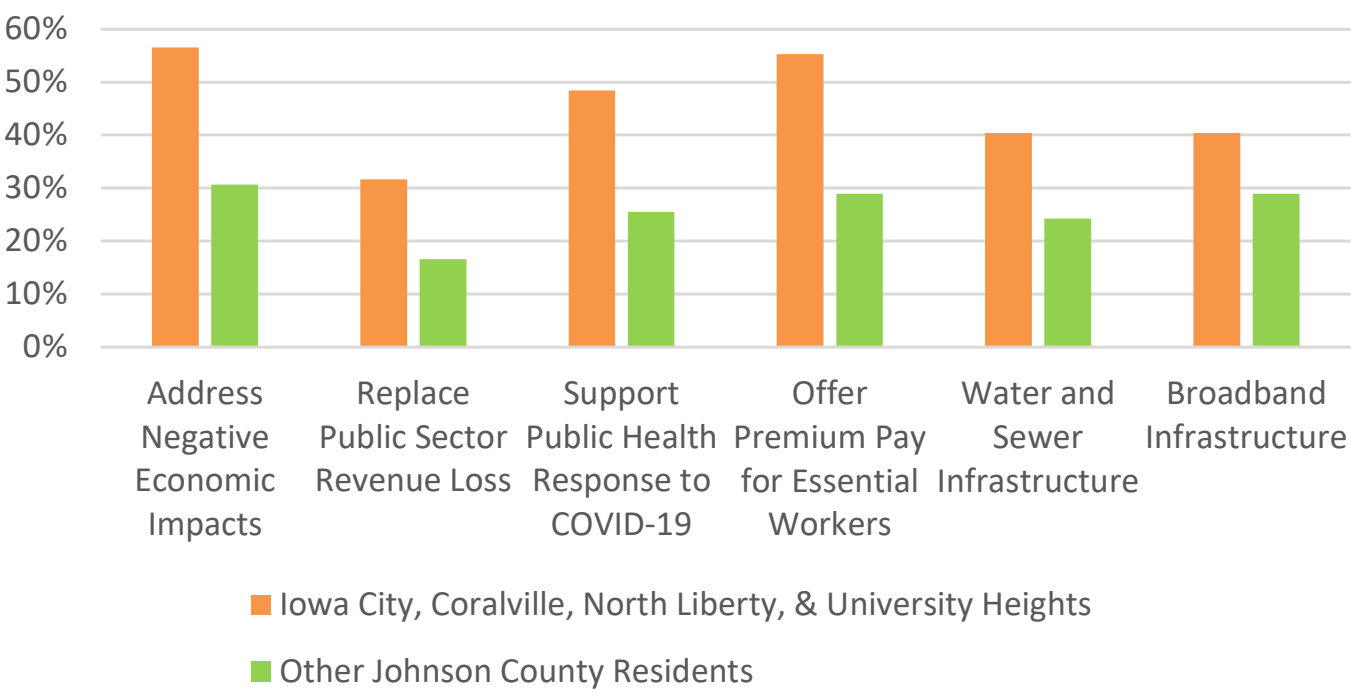
## GENERAL RESPONSE DEMOGRAPHICS

Percent that are essential workers

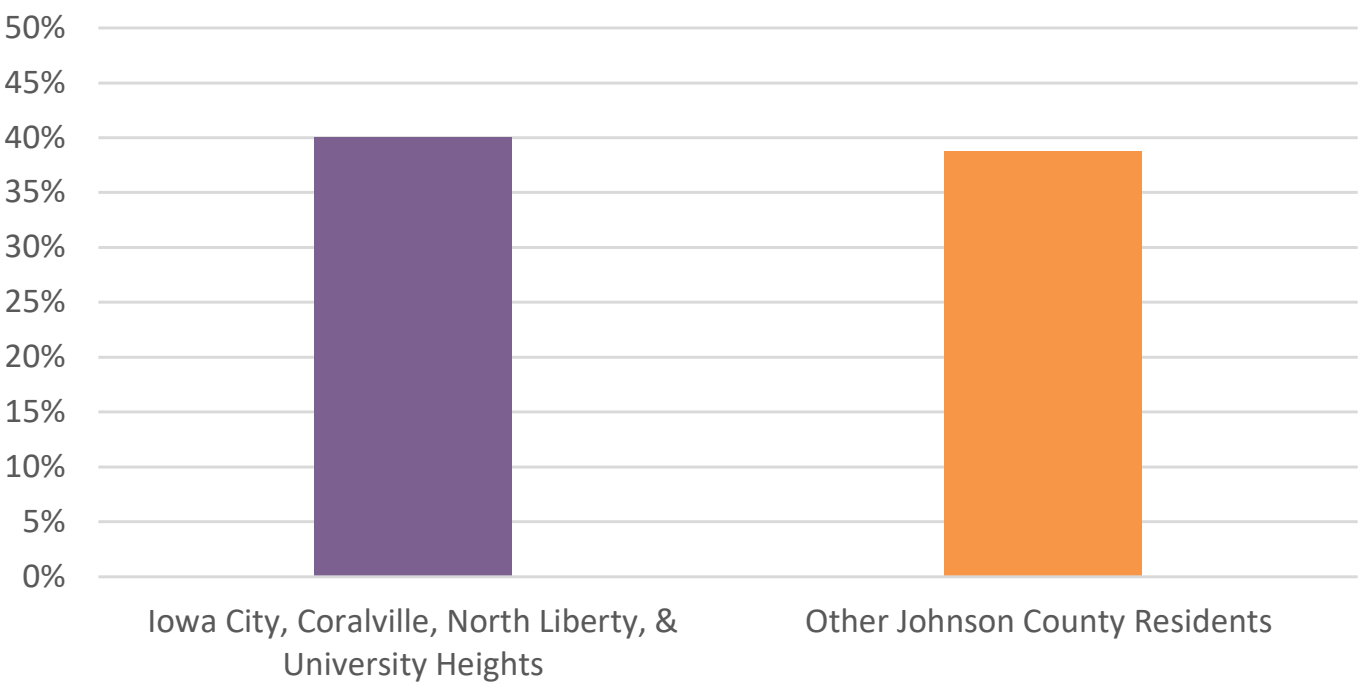


# GENERAL RESPONSE SURVEY

Support for Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Options

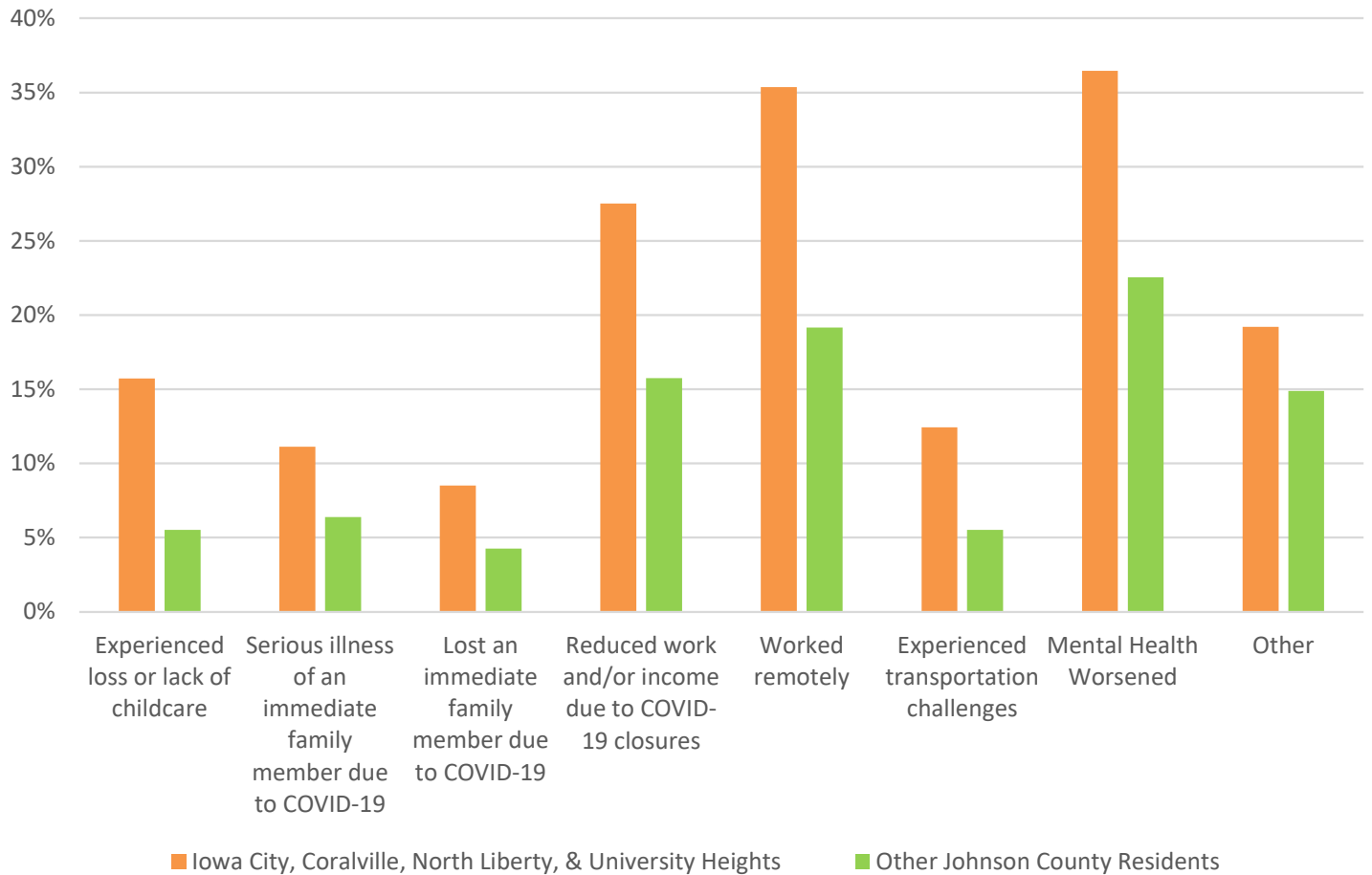


Percent that have dependents



# GENERAL RESPONSE SURVEY

How have you been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?



# MEETING IN A BOX

## OVERVIEW

The purpose of Meeting in a Box is to generate conversation and feedback from the community. Anyone can host or facilitate a meeting—from an informal group of friends to a regularly scheduled meeting of a community institution. A guidebook was provided and resources to help facilitate the discussion. The host can change or adapt the approach as needed to best fit the needs of the group. This is a more flexible and accessible format than the traditional public meeting. It also offers the safety and nimbleness required for the current public health emergency. Commonly the ‘meetings’ are made available at a specified location where they are both picked up and where the results are returned. Alternatively, the meeting materials can be provided in electronic format for ease of emailing and distribution.



## RESPONSE #1

This response is provided by representatives of business and development organizations located within Iowa City.

1. What kind of economic impacts did your household business community experience as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Loss of revenue
- Loss of workforce
- Supply chain disruption
- See attached surveys for data on our local community

2. How can community-wide COVID-19 response be better supported? For example: technical assistance, services to help connect people to programs, expanded public messaging.

- Additional funding to support underserved businesses (those that did not receive PPP, those that were more adversely affected by COVID-19, etc.)
  - Technical assistance would be very helpful – e.g., through forgivable loans/grants – to support the purchase of new equipment, repairs, marketing/promotion, IT/HR/Legal/Financial services, etc.
  - Additional outreach is needed to reach these businesses
  - Coaching/programming to further develop these businesses
  - Fund existing community/economic development organizations to operationalize the things listed above (e.g. Iowa City Area Business Partnership, Iowa City Area Development Group, Iowa City Downtown District, Think Iowa City, RE | Connect (Racial Equity Collective) as they already have some of these vehicles in place
- Support for our arts and culture organizations that were significantly impacted by the pandemic and are critical to our local economy
- Support and incentivize buy local campaign efforts to continue encouraging local shopping
  - E.g., continue to fund Project Better Together’s gift card campaign
- The biggest challenge businesses are facing right now is lack of needed workforce to sustain and grow their business – both in terms of sheer quantity as well as skill alignment.
  - Invest in talent attraction marketing campaigns
  - Invest in upskilling/reskilling programs
  - Invest in ESL services

# MEETING IN A BOX

3. What would an equitable recovery look like? What systemic challenges can this funding be used to address?
  - Through the Better Together 2030 initiative, we are in the process of developing a long-term vision for our community that is meant to be inclusive, equitable, and address systemic challenges. We have convened a broad stakeholder group to lead the effort (including public, private, and non-profit representation as well as including groups that have not been at decision making tables and need to be). The goal is to have the vision complete by early next year and begin execution. We anticipate funding needs and this would be a great use of ARPA dollars – to drive significant, forward-looking, and lasting impact.
4. What barriers to support services exist? How can they be reduced? What programs and/or projects have been effective to date?
  - Lack of child care options (quantity, quality, and affordability)
    - Recommend funding the WAGES program to start
  - Lack of affordable housing
    - Explore investing in 3D printing of houses and other creative solutions
  - Lack of bank financial support for certain businesses
    - Explore creation of a Community Development Financial Institution in our community
5. What type(s) of housing programs could you or your community benefit from as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?
  - a) Housing with supportive services for people experiencing homelessness or with disabilities
  - b) Development of affordable housing
  - c) Housing vouchers for rent assistance
  - d) Assistance relocating to neighborhoods with higher levels of economic opportunity
  - e) Housing rehabilitation assistance including things like lead abatement or improvements for people with mobility limitations.
  - f) Other
    - All of the above
    - Would suggest option d be reversed – invest in those neighborhoods vs moving people out
    - Extend the UniverCity housing program county wide
6. What types of childcare could you or your community benefit from? Select all that apply.
  - a) Assistance with the cost of childcare
  - b) Early childhood learning centers
  - c) Home tutoring programs
  - d) Enhanced services for child welfare-involved families
  - e) All of the above
  - f) None of the above
  - h) All of the above.
    - Provide more support for child care providers
      - Invest in WAGE\$ program and other benefits and incentives
    - Support immigrant child care workers and providers
      - Create an immigrant early childhood educator pipeline
    - Attract and develop people who want to enter the profession
      - Launch a high school CDA certificate program modeled after the Davenport School District program

# MEETING IN A BOX

- Engage employers in the solution
  - Design a public/private partnership to increase employer-sponsored initiatives
- Universal Pre-K!
- Invest in the Johnson County Child Care Coalition, comprised of over 40 community stakeholders, which is advocating for and creating solutions to address the previously listed bullets.

7. What types of services for aging adults could you or your community benefit from?

8. What types of public transportation services could benefit you or your community?

- Having a single county-wide system
- Passenger rail

9. What types of broadband or internet services could benefit you and your community? (availability, speed, reliability, cost)

- Conduct a comprehensive study to understand local broadband issues and needs
- Invest in Johnson County High Speed Broadband Initiative

10. What type of water or sewer infrastructure could benefit you or your community? Does your community need investment in a rural water system or wastewater infrastructure to expand services for development or for water quality purposes?

- a) Flood resiliency
- b) Water quality improvement
- c) Rural water access or infrastructure
- d) Preserving or improving soil and water quality of public land or recreation space
  - Water quality improvement would be good from a placemaking standpoint

11. What types of violence prevention programs could benefit your community? Select all that apply.

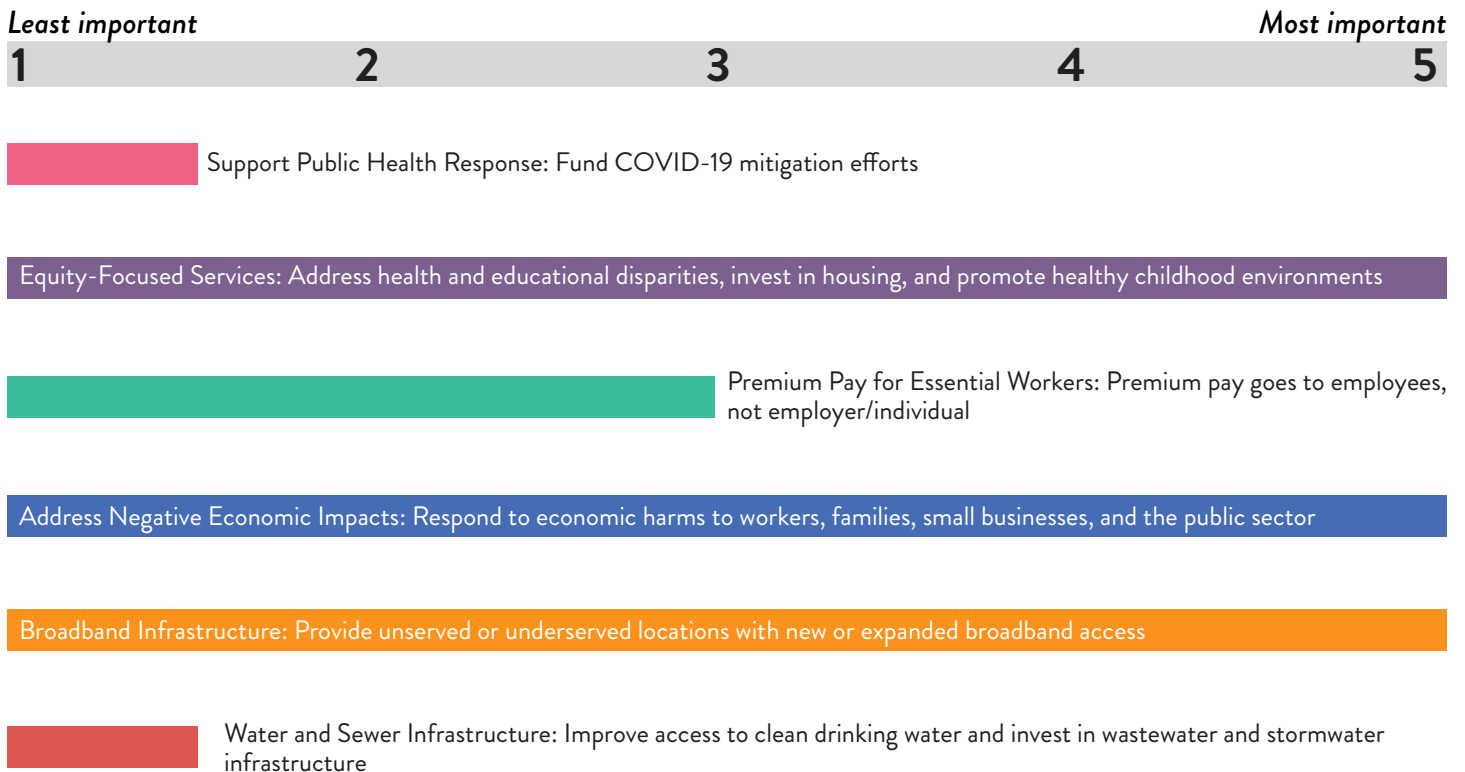
- a) Summer programming for youth
- b) Job training programs
- c) Reentry programs for people returning from incarceration
- d) Community outreach and mentorship programs
- e) Trauma-informed care
- f) Other:
  - Invest in MENTAL HEALTH organizations and programs



## MEETING IN A BOX

The ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Act identifies six categories of allowable uses. Rate each value from 1 (least important) to 5 (most important).

1. Support Public Health Response: Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts. (1)
2. Equity-Focused Services: Address health and educational disparities, invest in housing, and promote healthy childhood environments. (5)
3. Premium Pay for Essential Workers: Premium pay goes to employees, not employer/individual. (3)
4. Address Negative Economic Impacts: Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, and the public sector. (5)
5. Broadband Infrastructure: Provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access. (5)
6. Water and Sewer Infrastructure: Improve access to clean drinking water and invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. (1)



General Comments:

- We answered these questions from our perspective as community and economic developers.
- We believe that the Better Together 2030 visioning process aligns nicely with the ARPA process and would like to see the county engaged in this effort through both participation and funding.

# GENERAL COMMENTS RECEIVED

## RESPONSE #2

This response summary was provided by the Johnson County Food Policy Council

The Johnson County Food Policy Council members are appointed to give advice to the Board of Supervisors on opportunities concerning food and agriculture, and the council has indicated several opportunities for use of ARPA funding to strengthen our community-based food system.

The council invited community members, businesses, and organizations to offer comments or recommendations on funding recommendations via email, phone or attending a Food Policy Council Meeting. The Food Policy Council recognizes that the following ideas are part of on-going conversations and intersectional ideas supporting local food systems could emerge in future discussion. A few community organizations were able to join the Council discussion and provide context for budget estimates including Field to Family, Sustainable Iowa Land Trust, Racial Equity Connect Collective, Iowa Valley RC&D, and Table to Table.

Goals for Johnson County Food Policy Council Funding Response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Support a resilient, equitable, community-based food system that addresses socioeconomic barriers and mitigates the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic,
- Increase the capacity of our community-based food system to strengthen supply chains and develop our community to meet local food needs,
- Reduce barriers to thriving food and farm businesses through equitable technical assistance and service support.

Opportunities for Funding Support: Food Supply Chain Infrastructure

- Investing in our community-based food system storage, aggregation, and distribution infrastructure will increase resiliency of our food system and decrease ability for disruption from public health crises.
- Our community demand for processing and value-added food business start-ups exceeds our current shared infrastructure, 1105 Project kitchen.

Access to Food and Bridging the Gap

- Locally grown and produced foods provide needed resources for many folks in the community impacted by the pandemic.
- Support is needed to build capacity for wholesale purchases and bridge the cost of production gap.

Equitable Access for Food and Farm Businesses

- Underserved members of the community need support to create and sustain food system businesses: Food safety application and training fees, navigating local, state, and federal regulations and funding, Business development (legal, accounting, marketing), and translation services.
- Support pathways to healthcare for farm and food system workers.

Farmland Access and Sustainable Land Management

- In order to increase local food supply, farmers need access to land, on-farm infrastructure and equipment.
- Reduce nonpoint pollution sources by transitioning farmland to sustainable, regenerative farming practices.

# GENERAL COMMENTS RECEIVED

The following general comments were received by the County during the engagement process.

Johnson County Board of Supervisors received a letter from the Community Transportation Committee date October 29, 2021. The letter is included below. The survey referenced in the letter is located in the Appendix of this report.

Johnson County Board of Supervisors,

The purpose of this letter is to encourage Johnson County to enhance transportation services for all citizens of Johnson County. In the Community Transportation Committee's 2015 study of community transportation gaps, we learned that low-income and BIPOC workers have an unmet need for late-night and Sunday service. In 2015, one-third of the workers we surveyed had lost a job or given up looking for a job they wanted due to transportation difficulties. Therefore, we request ARPA funds be utilized to fund both traditional and innovative transit services that serve 2nd shift workers and Sunday workers.

Night Service

Johnson County transportation systems must serve the needs of 2nd shift workers. It is not always safe to walk at night and the current service could deprive someone of maintaining employment far from their home if there is not adequate transportation during their shifts. In our 2015 survey, we learned that among residents who had lost, turned down, or given up looking for employment due to transportation, 11 pm was the most common time that their shift started.

Options for Sunday Transportation

The current bus schedule does not adequately cover the needs of workers who work on Sundays. Our workers deserve better. In our May 2018 Employer Survey, in which 53 Johnson County employers were surveyed, employers with Sunday shifts were more likely to be dissatisfied with their employee's access to transportation options. ARPA funding for worker transportation options would have a huge impact on our community and we ask that you include these changes in any implementations taking place this year.

Thank you,  
Community Transportation Committee

Dear Supervisors,

I regret that I was unable to participate in the public input meetings for the ARPA funding but wanted to share an idea that I've been talking to other small business owners about. I currently own and operate two food service establishments in Iowa City, one of which has been around since 2011 and the other since 2017.

While many of us received some amount of funding to help us through the pandemic, it has not been nearly enough. For most of us, the PPP money we received was exhausted in less than 10 weeks, and the other funding is quickly evaporating given increased operating costs and the sheer length of time this pandemic has rattled us all. Everything from paper supplies, food costs, labor, and commissions we pay to third-party delivery services (20-30% of the bill, which is greater than the profit margin on most food items) means that our business models are not sustainable in a pandemic. I am likely going to have to close one of my businesses by the end of the year because of these conditions. This business employs 12 FTE workers who I pay a living wage. The prospect of closing this business is truly terrifying, as it will have financial and legal implications for me personally since I have several more years left of a commercial lease (all commercial leases I've seen require a personal guarantee, which is the case of my businesses).

My other business resides in a building that is being sold. My lease for the building is set to expire next month, and the proposed rent increase is 65% + NNN. Property taxes on this building are upwards of \$900 per month. The unfortunate reality is that the capital improvements I've made on this building over my 10 years of renting the space not only increased the building value significantly, but the taxes on the building have also gone up.

I know others are facing their own versions of hardships, and the future of many beloved local businesses is uncertain. Property tax relief for commercial tenants would be a tangible way to help small businesses when we need it most. I am grateful for your service to Johnson County and appreciate your time and consideration.

Warm regards, Veronica



# APPENDIX

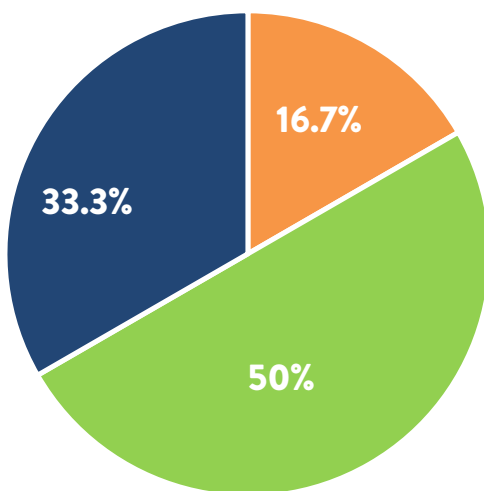
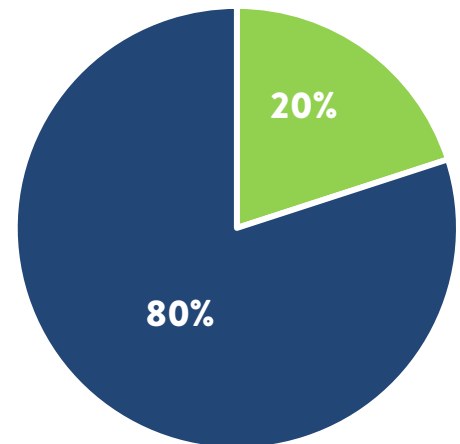
# NORTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS SESSION

## LIVE POLLING

The following are the full response results of the audience live polling during the session held in the northern portion of the County.

If you are employed outside of your place of residence and had a change of employment, do you earn:  
(Multiple Choice)

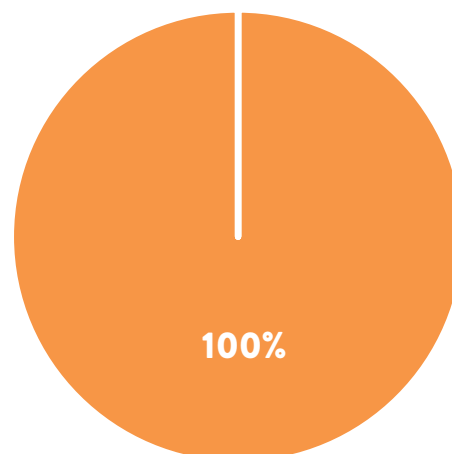
- More
- Less
- About the same



Did that person/people need assistance utilizing the technology?  
(Multiple Choice)

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

During the pandemic did local business(es) that you utilize offer alternative services or change their operations for example: delivery, curbside pick, online ordering, etc.? (Multiple Choice)

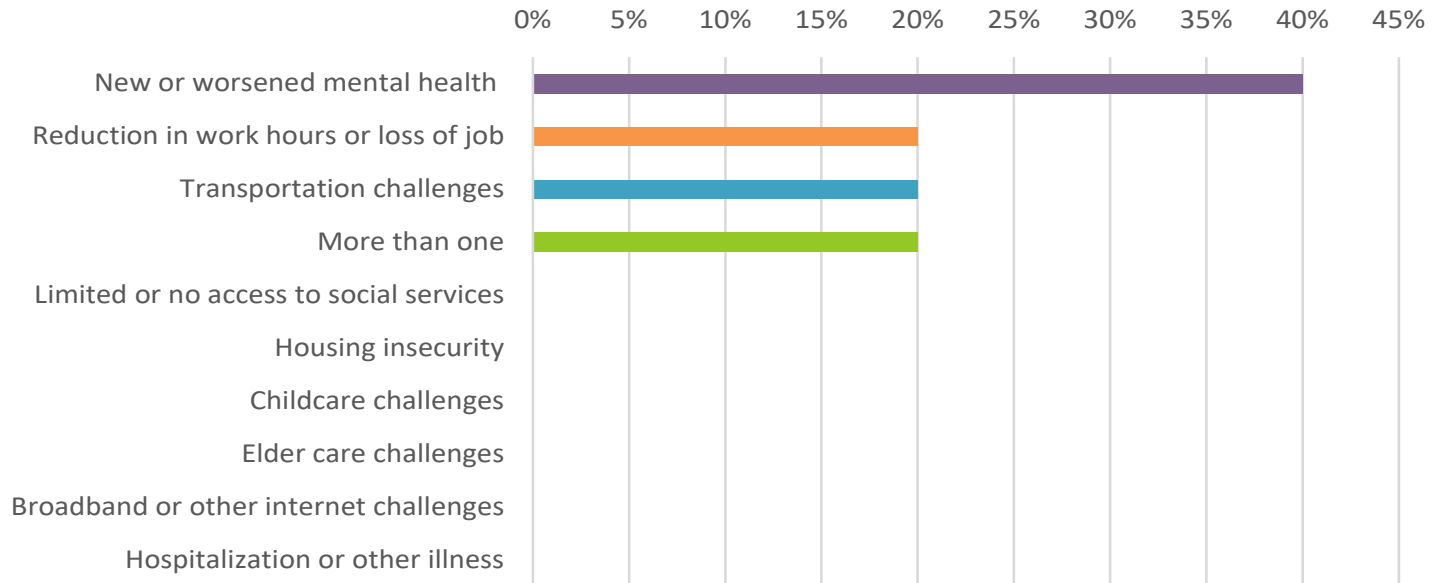


- Yes
- No
- Unsure

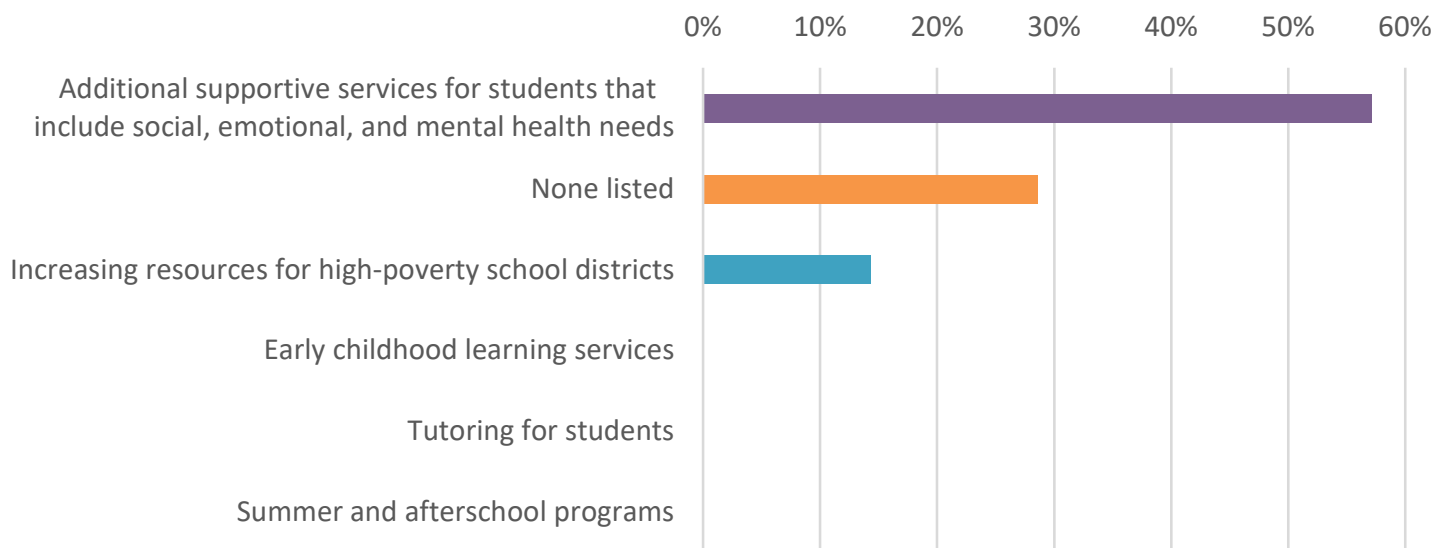
# NORTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS SESSION

## LIVE POLLING

During the pandemic did you utilize a delivery service and or curbside pick-up service: (Multiple Choice)



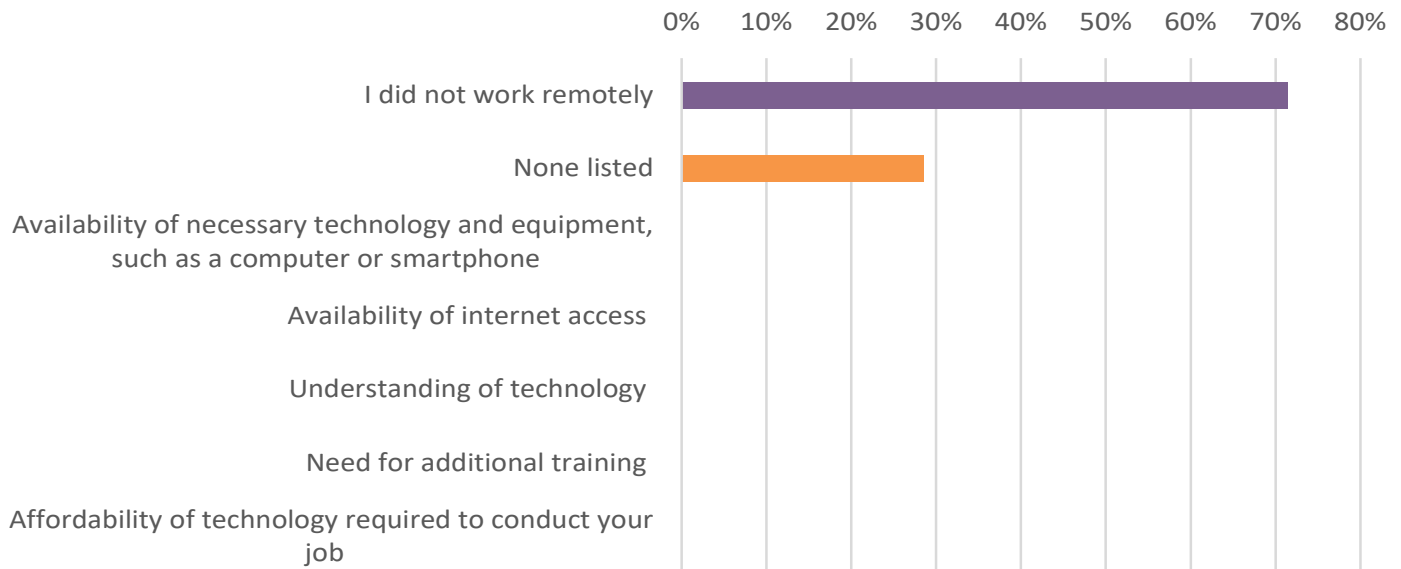
Which of the following educational services is the most important to you because of the COVID-19 pandemic? (Multiple Choice)



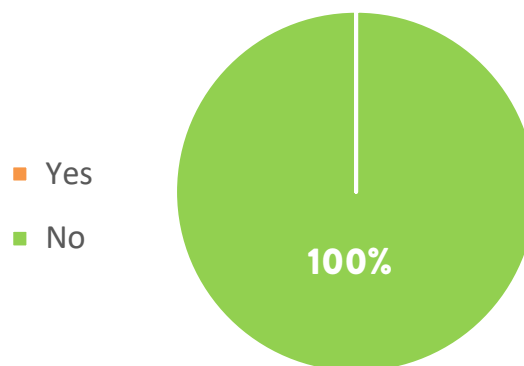
# NORTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS SESSION

## LIVE POLLING

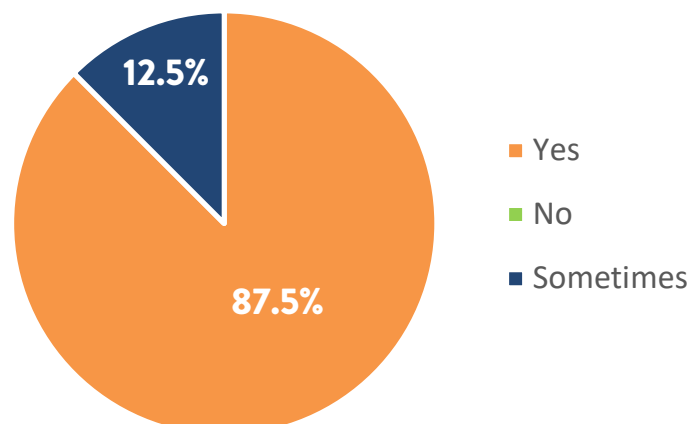
If you did work remotely, what was the greatest technology challenge that you faced? Select all that apply. (Multiple Choice)



Did you move (residences) during the pandemic? (Multiple Choice)



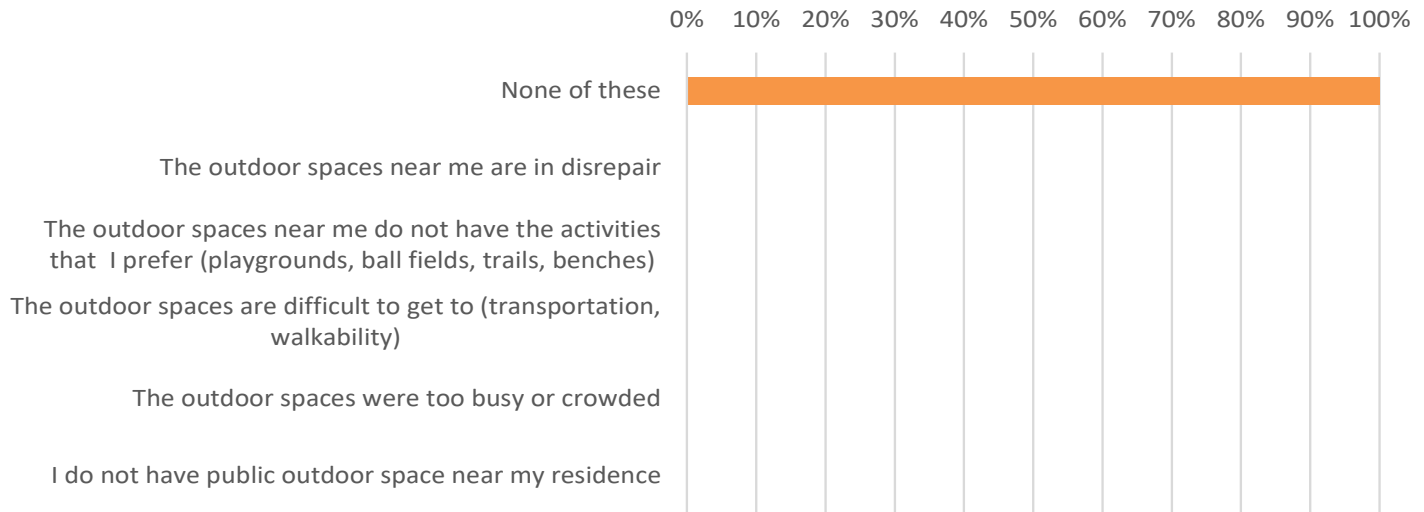
Were you able to receive health care services during the pandemic when necessary? (Multiple Choice)



# NORTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS SESSION

## LIVE POLLING

If you did not visit public outdoor spaces during the pandemic, but would like to visit them which of the statements below is the primary reason: (Multiple Choice)

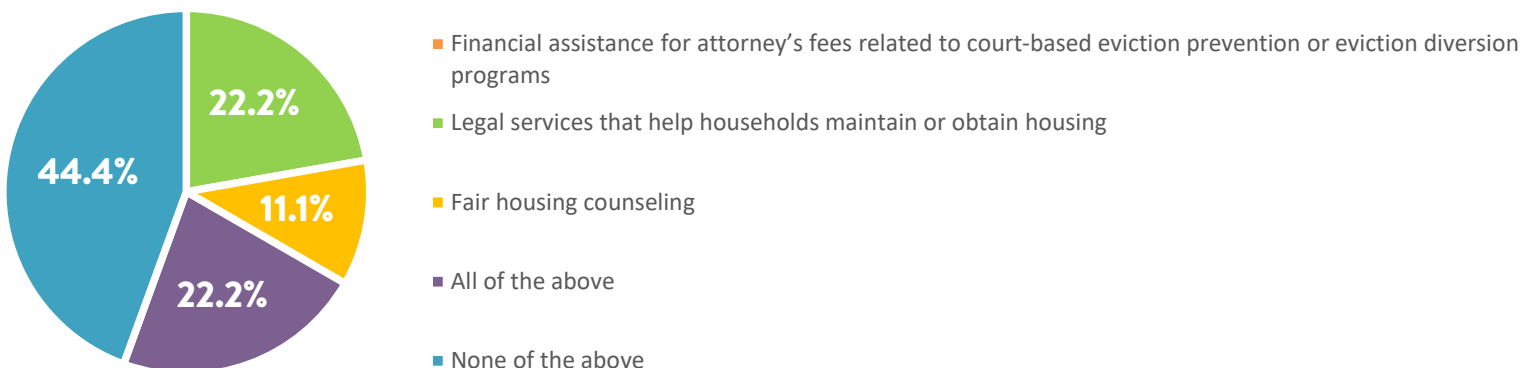


# SOUTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS SESSION

## LIVE POLLING

The following are the full response results of the audience live polling during the session held in the southern portion of the County.

What eviction prevention assistance is most necessary, if any? Select the highest priority. (Multiple Choice)

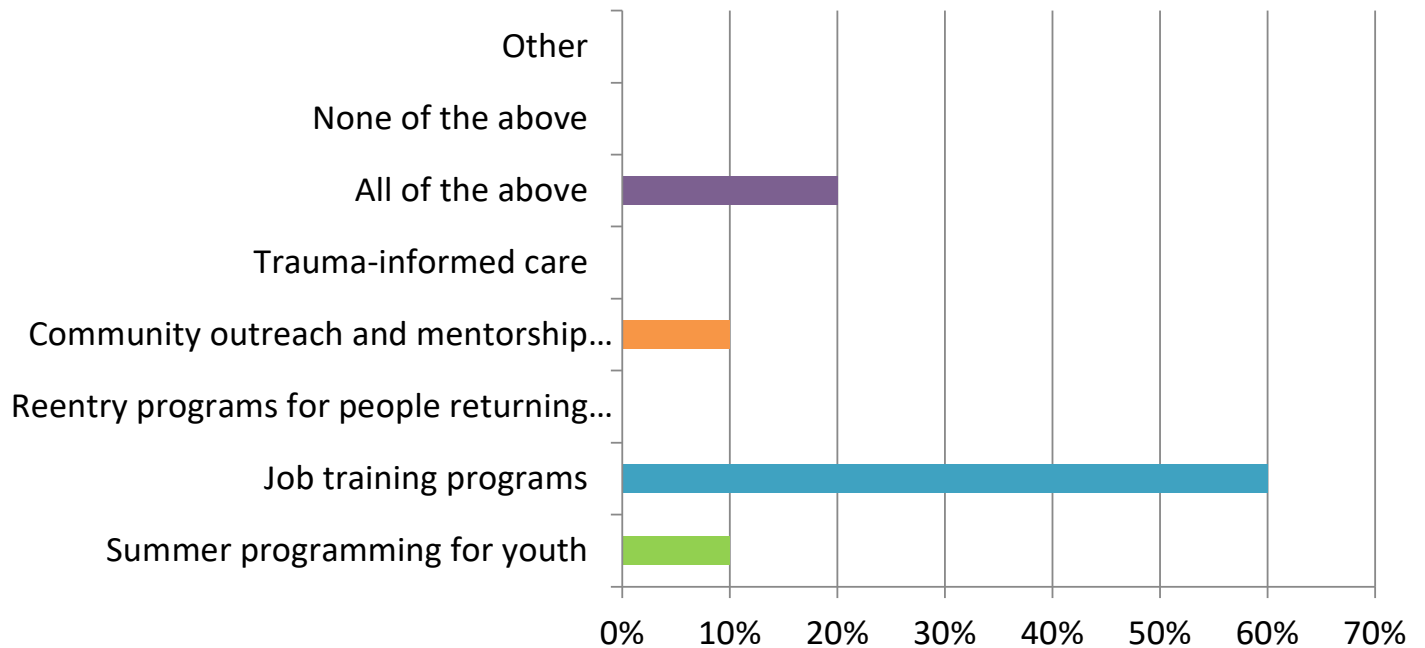




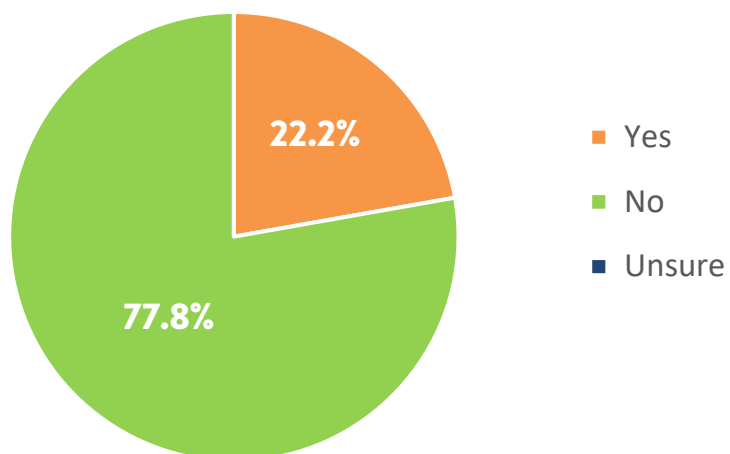
# SOUTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS SESSION

## LIVE POLLING

Which of the following community violence prevention programs do you support? Select the highest priority. (Multiple Choice)



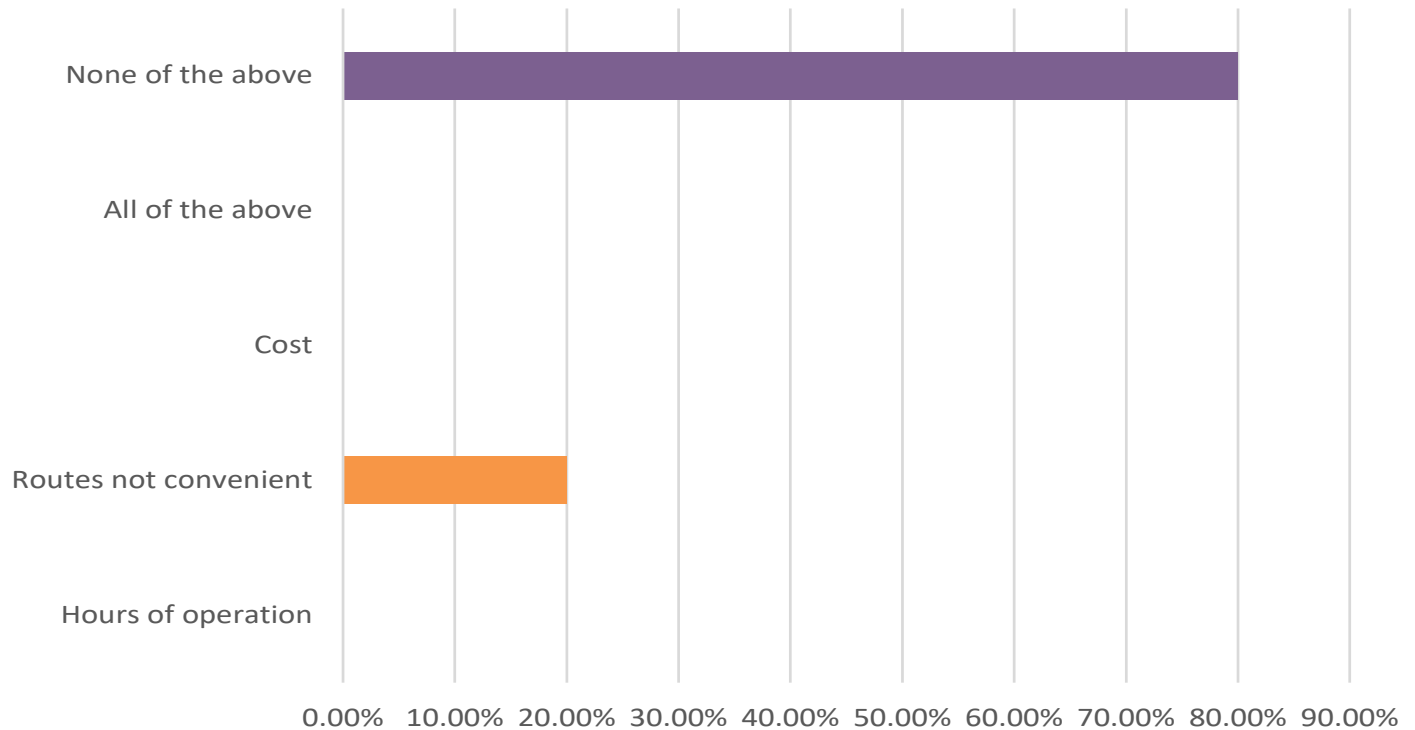
During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, have you, or do you work remotely? (Multiple Choice)



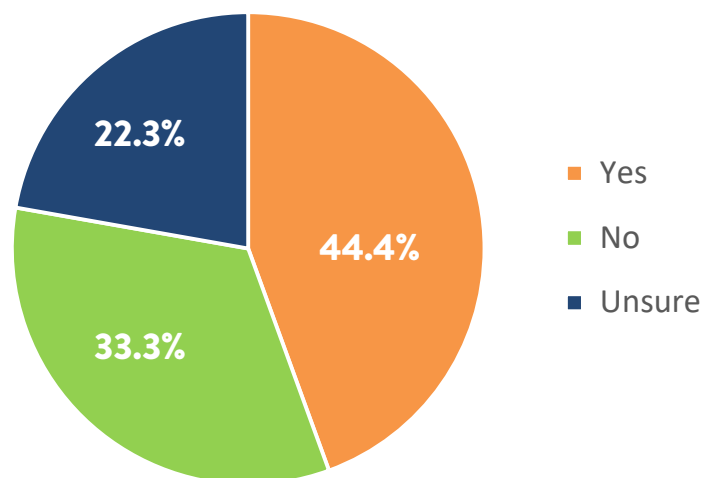
# SOUTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS SESSION

## LIVE POLLING

If your public transportation needs are not met, what is the primary issue? Select the highest priority. (Multiple Choice)



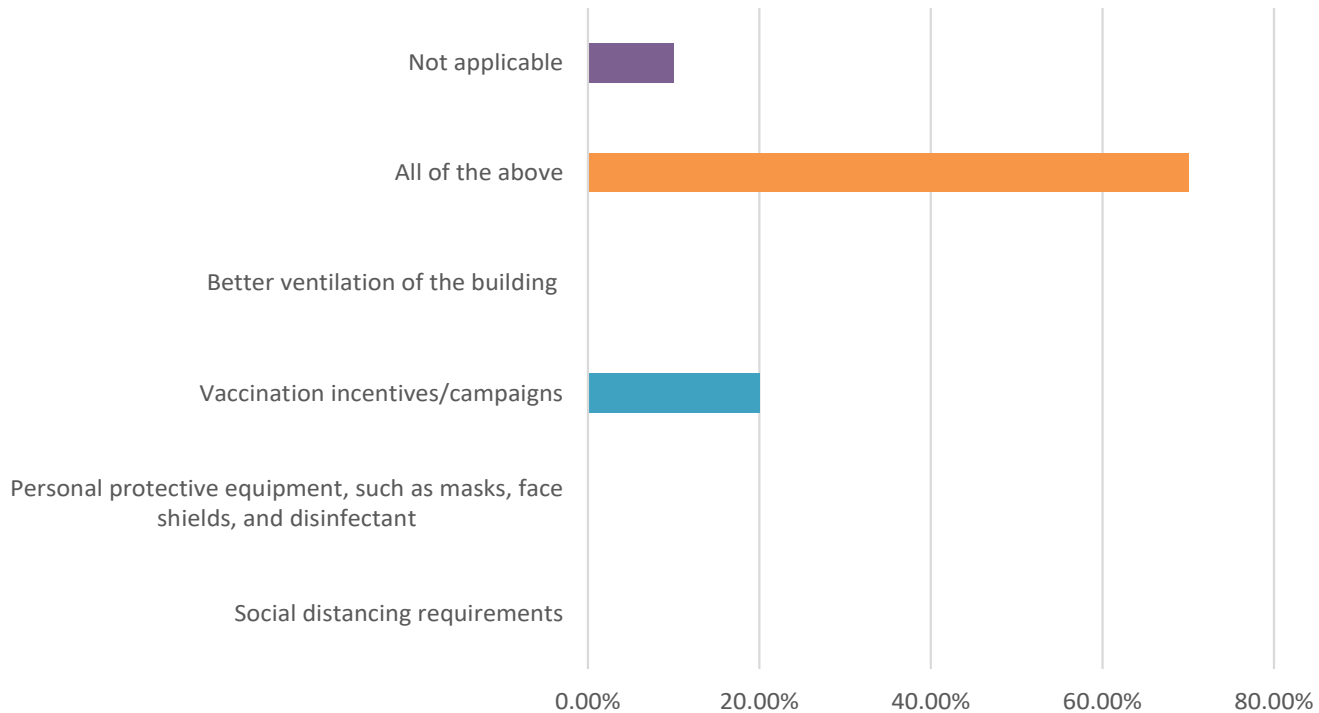
Are you an essential worker? (Multiple Choice)



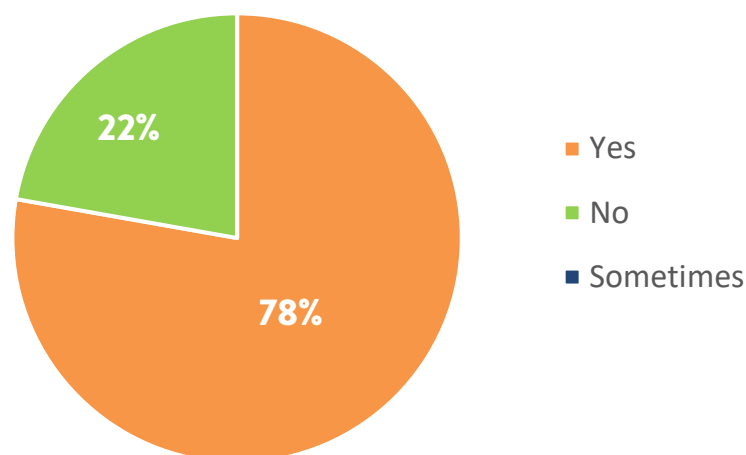
# SOUTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS SESSION

## LIVE POLLING

During the pandemic did you utilize a delivery service and or curbside pick-up service: (Multiple Choice)



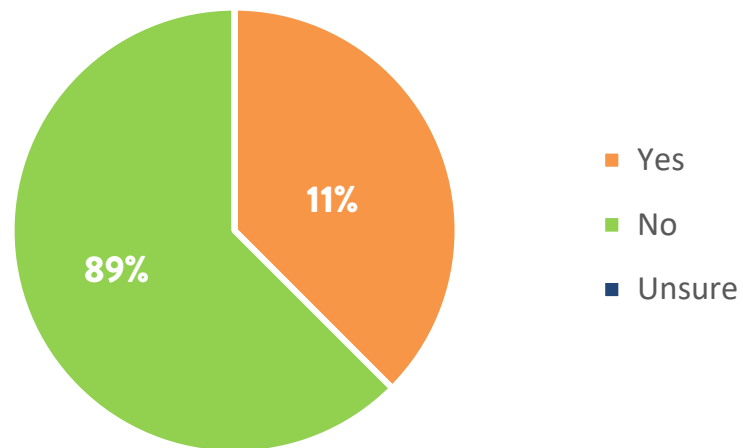
Can you or your household benefit from enhanced broadband (Internet) services? (Multiple Choice)



# SOUTHERN RURAL RESIDENTS SESSION

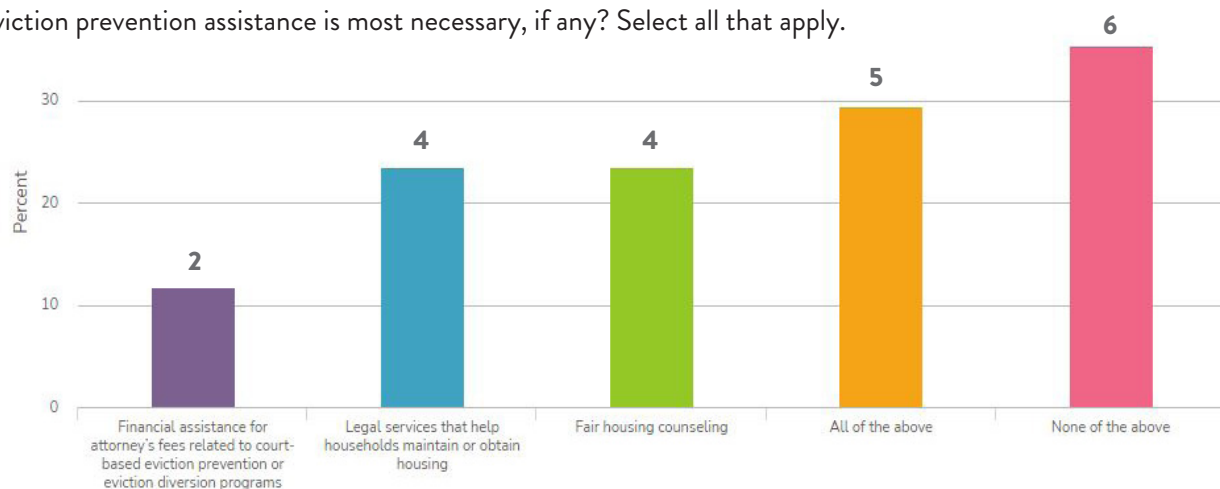
## LIVE POLLING

Do you believe that your community would benefit from water and sanitary sewer infrastructure improvements?  
(Multiple Choice)



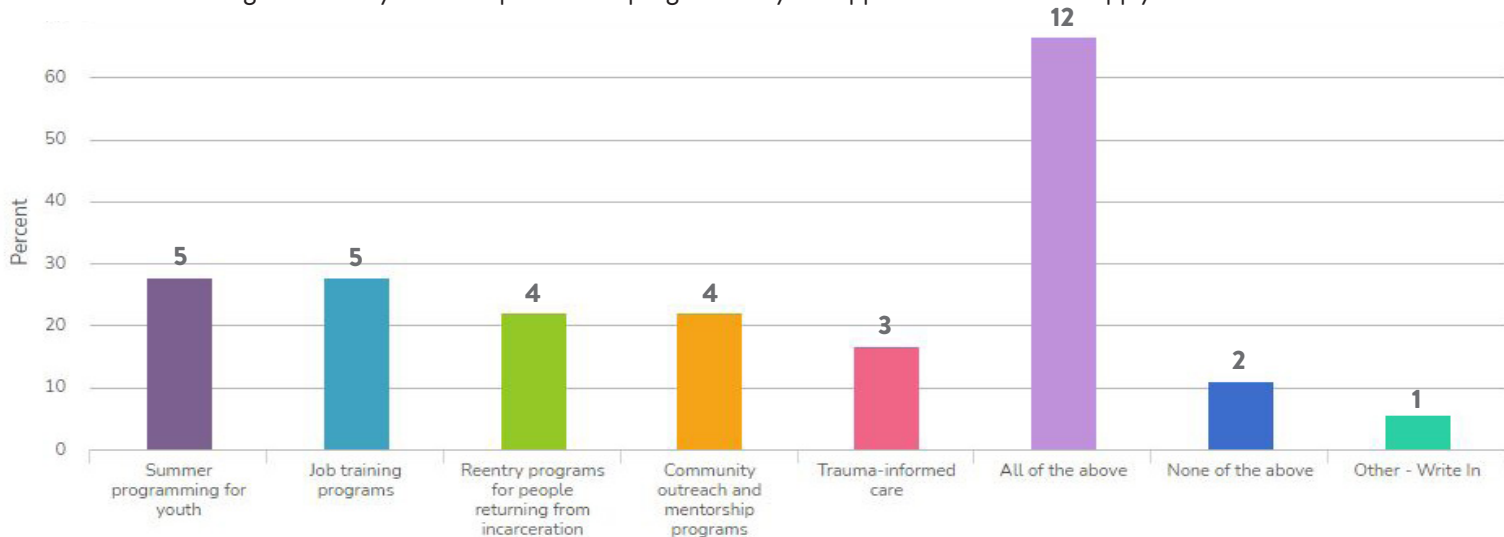
## NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT QUESTIONNAIRE

What eviction prevention assistance is most necessary, if any? Select all that apply.

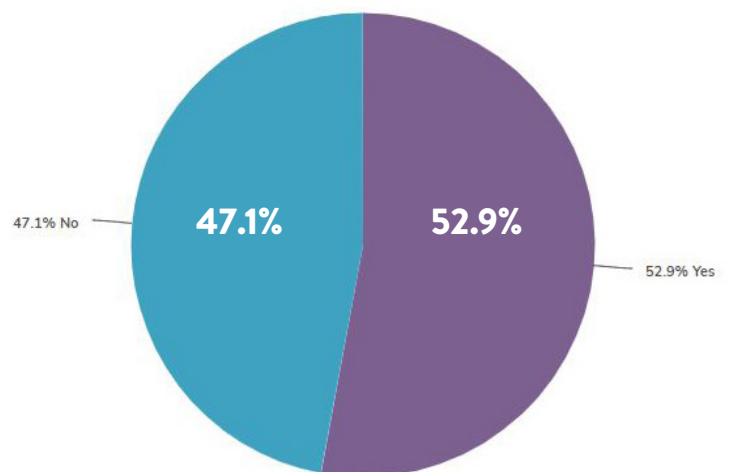


# NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT QUESTIONNAIRE

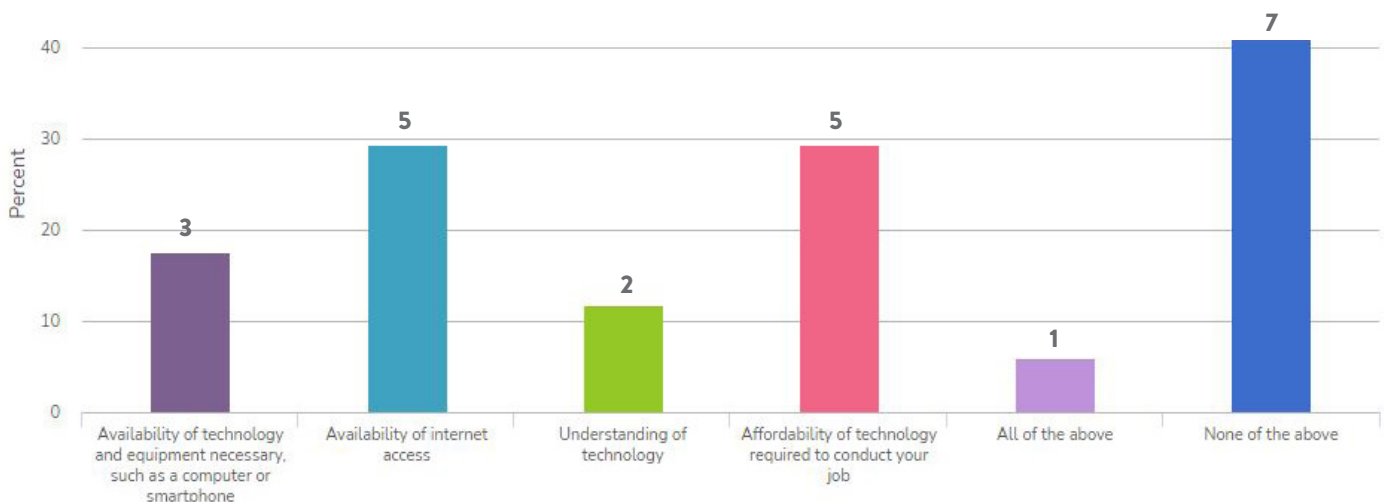
Which of the following community violence prevention programs do you support? Select all that apply.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, did you work remotely?



Which technological barriers do you face? Select all that apply.



# NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT QUESTIONNAIRE

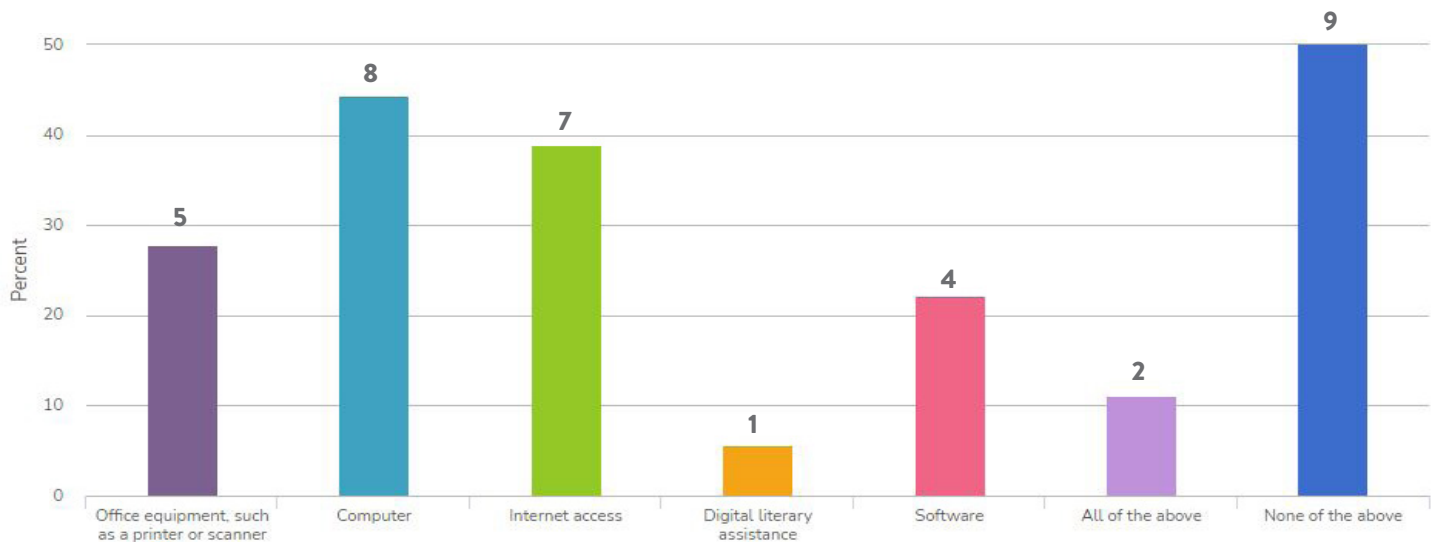
Which of the following leisure activities and public spaces does your household value?



Write-in responses:

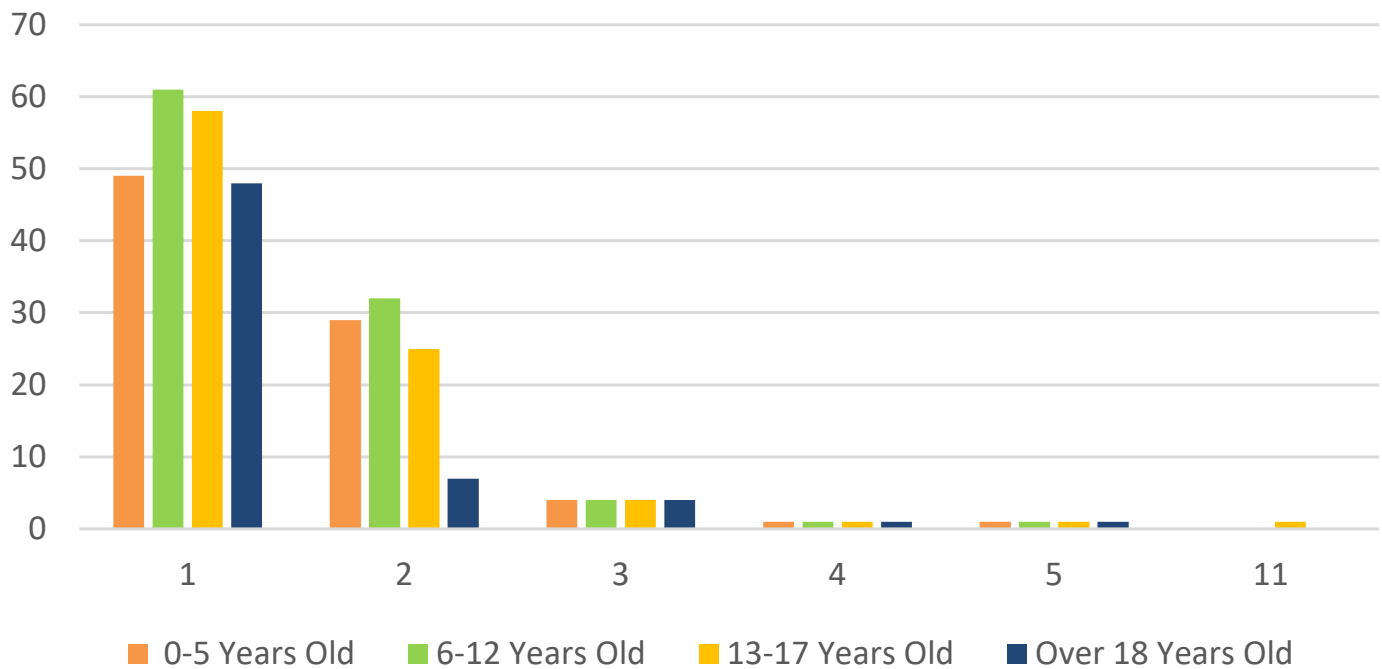
- Dog parks
- Access to rental canoes
- Movies
- Concerts
- Theater

If you worked or are working remotely, what do you need to do your job effectively? Select all that apply.

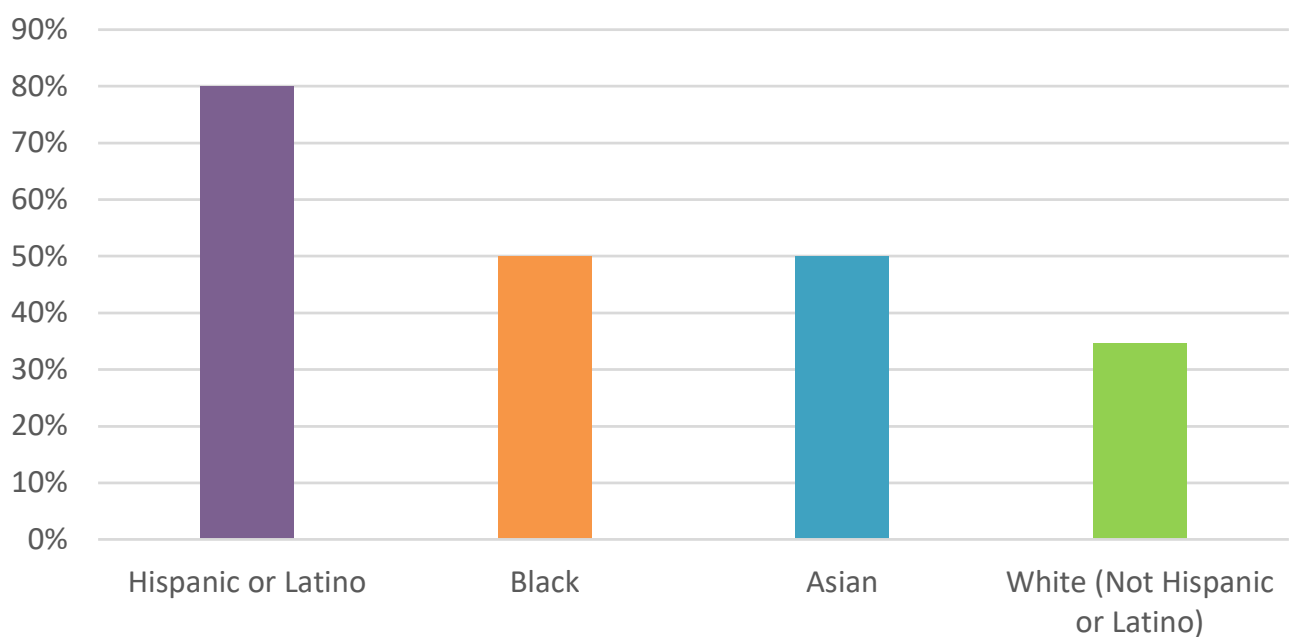


# GENERAL RESPONSE SURVEY

How many dependents do you have?



Percent that have dependents



# GENERAL RESPONSE SURVEY





# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
Diversity, range of opportunities for education, healthcare, recreation, art, and culture.	Fix our polluted waters. Make it more bikeable. Work on bridging the rural/urban perception problems.
Technology, fine medical facilities, ease of traffic,,multicultural community	Lower property taxes
Great school system. Great neighbors.	Add a roundabout at Forever Green rd. And Jones blvd.
Public health leadership Diversity Open mindedness of many residents Policy that support social needs	More support from state government
Good neighborhoods. Many activities for all ages and interests. Multicultural with people from all over the world. Good healthcare.	Better and more bus routes so less cars and parking lots. My husband use to use the bus at our block to go to work at UIHC but routes are being reduced. Updated infrastructure so no water main breaks in winter. Repaired bridges and roads. Forget small prairies and make a big one at the Iowa City landfill site. Stop expanding housing into good farm land. Provide more shelters or small homes scattered around town so nobody begging on the streets or living in cars.
I love that Johnson County is a progressive beacon of light in a grim looking Iowa.	Sometimes we could do a better job of encouraging business owners and entrepreneurs to start and grow here.
The open minded people that populate the county, the breadth and depth of experiences, the cultural opportunities, and the health care facilities.	I would encourage the county to host more open sessions to educate the populace about the diversity of experiences that reside within the community. I'd like to see more sessions such as those held last summer that acquainted many of us with the stories, the lived experiences of immigrants, minorities, and marginalized people.
Schools and job opportunities	No answer
Medical facilities	Property taxes are outrageous!!!
The diversity of the population and progressive ideals.	Nothing. Johnson County evolves on it's own.
Natural resources	Better enforcement of speed limits. I would like to see more use of the electronic signs that flash the speed that you are traveling at to "wake up" drivers that are not paying attention to their speed.
Coralville Reservoir, all the green space, the progressive people, the farmland mixed with urban	965 through North Liberty,
The general culture of inclusion.	Racial disparities, especially in policing and housing.
The fact that our community is diversifying rapidly. The opportunities for community engagement and support.	Unlock the center of society to include the marginalized populations of the area. If you live in downtown Iowa City you may have no idea about the 3000+ and growing Sudanese population here. That should not be the case!
Essential services	No answer
It's home.	Diversity of thought
Diverse population, clean roads and air, all the parks	Better snow removal, safer road, cleaned water
Access to clear air/natural resources, cultural diversity/events, access to healthcare.	I would like immigrants to be supported in starting and maintaining their businesses as I feel the community only stands to benefit from a plurality of business owners from a diverse background. Immigrants bring their culture with them, and we are all so much the better for being allowed to experience it.  I would also like greater access and investment in parks/trails, and other natural resources.

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
Community, amenities, culture	No answer
The people. The strong sense of community and kindness of the residents.	The property taxes should be lower. Eliminate the red tape and regulations of personal property.
Quality of life, fair governance, cost of living, diversity, Iowa City Public Library.	More racial diversity, better public transit, more affordable housing.
The interplay between rural and urban settings, and the way this interplay leads to intellectual rural folks and caring urban folks.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reimbursement for out-of-pocket medical care costs for people who have had confirmed cases of COVID-19.</li> <li>2. Improved at-home services for older and disabled residents so they can live at home longer.</li> <li>3. Subsidies for improved quality of workers at nursing homes.</li> <li>4. Reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses resulting from the 2020 derecho.</li> <li>5. Incentives for replanting trees and crops destroyed in the 2020 derecho.</li> <li>6. Improved care of gravel roadways, especially in the winter.</li> <li>7. Incentives to encourage mental health workers and social workers to move to the area.</li> <li>8. Provide property and sales tax holidays to make more funds available for investment in local businesses and/or recovery for farmers.</li> </ol>
The people, the parks and open spaces, the cultural offerings. I also appreciate the open communication from Iowa City mayor and councilors.	<p>Too much construction. I wish that years ago the county had developed a master plan for green space. I am very sorry to see all the development just north of I-80 along Highway One, and still wish the county had preserved at least some of the rolling land north and east of Brown Deer Golf course.</p> <p>Also, the roads in Iowa City are just dreadful. I travel a lot, and our streets are among the worst, regardless of weather damage. County roads seem a bit better, although those also are deteriorating.</p>
No answer	No answer
I like living in a college town and a progressive community.	There is too much focus on rich and powerful people and not enough focus on people who need the most help. Also, the county should get rid of the MRAP vehicle.
I like how Johnson County is like a caring area	Continue with accepting all people
Our progressive bend. The values that create a desire to improve things.	More visible long-term planning? Like a "Johnson County 2030" that provides a basic values blueprint for future decisions. We decide now how we want Johnson County to look in 2030 and work towards it.
Multitude of opportunities for work, recreation, good education	No answer
Nice place to live in general.	Safer, DO NOT defund police! Do not politicize education in schools. More funds to schools/daycares that remained open during the pandemic, especially those private schools when the public schools were online. Lower property tax, better roads.
Educational opportunities, diversity, friendliness	Lower taxes
Ease of living Ability to bike to work	Broadband Inequity Housing that is Inter generational
Love the small business community and Arts access	Would like to see more small business support.
The Growth and Development of Iowa City, Tiffin, Coralville and North Liberty. The push for bike friendly county. Connecting and improving paths and trails allowing accessibility thought out Johnson County for commuting and recreational bikers.	Improve and allow bigger developments to further Johnson County's growth.
No answer	More fiscal responsibility by lowering taxes

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
Johnson County has a fierce commitment to social justice and it has so many organizations that cater to the different needs of a community. The school system is excellent. I was impressed that the Board considers what's good for the kids and pushes for it regardless of the politics. My kids have been exposed to so many opportunities to learn. The churches here are welcoming and also play a large role in social justice. Being close to a Level I Trauma Center, University Hospitals, is very reassuring.	It would be great if Johnson County was more diverse and sophisticated about other cultures. More shopping and dining options would be welcome.
Diversity and access to the arts	No answer
running and biking trails, public parks and dog parks, safe place to live.	road maintenance. pot holes and cracks in most streets and sidewalks. More bike trails. Improvements to the dog parks. add a pond at the scott blvd dog park and obstacle training items to both parks. Plant more trees in the dog parks and reseed and fill in holes. Overall update is needed. trim the trees and weeds along bike trails. repave willow creek bike trail. fix pedestrian bridges along the iowa river trail. the wood bridges have gaps and missing planks.
Access to outdoor recreation and trails.	No answer
Quality of life. Vibrancy of college town. Small city feel, but nice rural areas too.	I don't understand why we pay 5 people so much to be county supervisors. We have real managers leading all the county depts and being paid to do so. I think the governance model should be more like city council or school paid. Supervisors should be elected volunteers- with no or very minimal compensation.
Diversity, education	High cost of living
Safety, Community minded-ness, arts	Find ways of increasing public awareness of poverty and increase public involvement in assisting with safety and alleviating poverty.
I value the diversity of Johnson county and acceptance of those including myself who have been marginalized and increasingly left out of public discourse, and discriminated against at the state level.	Increase wages; provide economic relief (direct payments) to those who have been excluded thus far; increase affordable housing; increase mental health care; increase safety of marginalized communities; increase environmental protections and initiatives. Try new measures to address these issues. Stand up to the state!
That the local government reaches out with surveys like these to get public input on decisions.	Improve broadband access, introduce a county wide internet co-op.
Close-knit community, residents looking out for each other.	Inequality, police presence, violence and intimidation by people in power.
Its diversity and the community here working to create change to systemic oppression.	Defund and abolish UIPD, ICPD, and other police departments. Get rid of MRAP.
Strong conservative values on the north side of the County.	The ultraliberal population around the rest of Johnson County.
I like the people here and that there are a lot of trees.	More investment into public infrastructure and public spaces, not just downtown or near campus but throughout the county. No more luxury condos, we need affordable housing.
The amazing trail system for running and biking	More trails and also safer roads to bike on where trails are not available (i.e. share the road signs, road paint to indicate bikes are welcome, etc)
Resources Diversity, for Iowa Tolerance Progressive values	Transportation systems IC-centric attitude (I get that IC is the county seat, but...)
high level of area activity	better government, more transparency in government, less noise about BIPOC, responsible spending, more economic development, forget about the climate change hysteria, get real

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
No answer	Johnson County needs to do more to aid low-wage essential workers and not politically-connected businesses.
I value most that Johnson County is still a refuge in a state whose policies move more and more into inhumane and undemocratic territory. Concern for the poor, both working and not, is nonexistent if not punitive.	Johnson County needs truly affordable housing for all residents. Sure there are good agencies, etc. that help, but we need more critical and creative thinking to build a sustainable plan that allows all residents to live in a safe and healthy environment. My hope is that some of the recovery funds are used to creatively look at long-term solutions to what I see as the county's biggest problem.
Diversity, beauty (it's a pretty place to live), lively and busy community with lots of activities and public programs, great community recreation events, the university and all it brings, SCHOOL SYSTEMS, and investments happening in area (new, updated, nice)	Update some roads and place infrastructure like electrical and high speed internet underground - no more storms and floods should effect these necessities
The people are open-minded and willing to listen and support others. They value the arts and education. They care about their fellow humans and want to improve their lives, ie immigrants, homeless, food insecure.	Keep the above, and make more effort.
Healthcare, jobs, safety, police	Services for the poor, volunteer opportunities, attitude that the police are bad
Inclusivity, support for education and health care for everyone	More affordable housing/mixed housing. More funding for dental and health care for everyone. We need to focus on reducing health care disparities.
Local officials seem a lot more competent than state leaders. Good job!	I've lived here for almost a year and have seen very little investment in communities of color and assisting houseless people. I have seen more support come from local non-profits that provide mutual aid for community members, which is amazing, but this should be work that should be supported by local leaders too who do have the funds to do this work.
Los recursos educativos y sociales; las bibliotecas; la proximidad a lugares naturales; la falta de tráfico	Más tránsito; más diversidad racial; menos enfoque en IC y más igualdad entre todas las áreas del condado
Medical care	Property taxes. Term limits
Diversity	Lack of attention & funds for towns south of Iowa City
The broad sense of community, the ease of relationships with neighbors and its commitment to try and accommodate the needs of its residents. I appreciate the focus and concern for social issues and equality of opportunity.	I would like us to be more aware of the needs of those with material and physical issues such as food insecurity, no health insurance, mental health issues, housing needs, etc.
Community organizations, residents, hospital systems, parks, trails, businesses	increase public health funding
1. The high level of education and engagement of the populace. 2. The competence and responsive nature of the governance. 3. The breadth of services for such essentials as health care and for such activities as entertainment and recreation.	I would like to see much greater attention to the preservation and restoration of the wild and/or natural landscapes that bless this county. This requires constant attention to zoning with changes to limit any further encroachment of civic development on such areas.
It's inclusive - people try to make it a better place - or at least have the best intentions It has a heavy focus on climate change - that's important to understand those impacts Wage/salary is higher than rural areas - but so is cost of living Good healthcare - access to care could be better downtown district is great - lots of entertainment and food	housing costs; homelessness; access to healthcare and education
Community organizations like CCI and Catholic Workers	The hypocritical liberal Democratic establishment and the non-profit industrial complex
The work related to progressive and equitable use of resources; the maintenance of parks and trails.	Maybe this is the purview of cities, but working on more affordable housing initiatives.

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
Diversity, Healthcare, Education	Fewer tax incentives for business, more economic assistance for people who need it the most, more awareness of how inaccessible Iowa City is for people with disabilities, better public transportation!!!! Stop channeling money to Farm Bureau and JOCO Agricultural Committee, get rid of university coal plant. We need competition for Mediacom.
its diversity	more affordable housing
The response of the community residents and businesses to masking mandates. I feel our community took safety guidelines seriously compared to other counties i visited. I also appreciate the "self-proclaimed" progressive values of the community. It seemed that lots of employers were able to offer employees work from home opportunities. This meant a lot to me as a single mother.	Affordable housing options that meet the needs of our most vulnerable residents. There seems to be a lack of this still - not sure that the efforts to date are fulfilling the need of our community. It is also frustrating for low income residents that need transportation beyond what our current options can provide. Late night, out of service area, - it limits financial stability when you cannot get around.
Strong sense of community Lots of public amenities diverse population	More affordable housing
The University's Hospital has done amazing things for several close personal friends.	I'd make it Cyclone Nation!
The low traffic levels.	A more cohesive and interconnected public transport system.
We moved to Iowa City 42 years ago and put three daughters in Hoover Elementary, when I joined the Accounting Dept of the College of Business. Later we moved to rural Johnson County. While I am long retired I still appreciate the excellent public schools, cultural environment and responsive county that recognizes problems and finds solutions.	As I will write below a major problem is the lack of broadband internet service to rural areas. Given today's educational environment this is also a multi racial and low income level issue. Today's economic situation has and will force many of these folks into rural areas where their school age children will be seriously handicap without broadband service.
Community and culture and University	More affordable housing
I value the competency of the county government and the fact that I can contact them whenever I feel there is a problem	I would put an emphasis on public health. We need a viable sustaining public health system that will deal with ongoing communicable diseases, climate change, violence and education about gun control I think we need to improve the internet access because it has now become a utility. Everyone needs it at the lowest possible cost.
Forward thinking, inclusive political perspectives; quality of life-entertainment, social aspects. Fine public educational system, excellent health care facilities provide a counter balance to living in the mid-west	housing affordability, homeless population needs to be addressed and assisted, more options for people to retire in Johnson County (including more affordable, accessible housing options and transition housing).
I value the caring helpful your neighbors that Johnson County residents are and the ease and convenience of most things	I would advocate for fair distribution of community government utility services for all residents not just the residents in the brand new development houses. Currently the county is not advocating for broadband services for all it's residents.
I like the community events	More public transportation routes
Diversity of our population Ability to work together to address problems	Better housing and mass transit for people in need
maintaining a balance between rural and urban needs	No answer
progressive government	eliminate poverty and food insecurity
Diversity of the population and diversity of thought. School system.	Better police / community interaction.
Forward thinking	More initiatives for organizations to move forward - ex: funding It is great to think and to plan, but if you do not take action which usually takes funding, then you keep hitting the roadblocks.

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
Grew up in Johnson County and return frequently to visit my parents. Value the education, community, bike trails and public lands.	And increasingly aware of challenges for my aging parents including difficulties they've had navigating the internet and phone service.
A spirit of collective responsibility; support for services/needs of the whole community.	Create more opportunities to interact and learn from one another. Reduce the anger dividing rural and urban communities.
It provides a welcoming & supportive environment.	Promote a living wage, increase affordable housing, and better address food scarcity.
The progressiveness	Less divide amongst rural and urban citizens.
A place to grow and support our neighbors. An abundance of connections with nature.	At this time nothing.
Influx of culture and creativity from University of Iowa, recent immigrants, and new residents. The community has a great foundation for supporting local, community-based food systems.	I would love to see more investment in community-based food systems, more dismantling of systemic racism, and more investment in a culture of living wages, and accessibility for all.
It is a safe and vibrant community and strives to be inclusive to every one.	It seems like it is growing too fast, and it will be difficult to manage the traffic with the roads we have. Coralville takes on too much debt, and has poor water quality. I am also concerned about the health effects of 5G.
The quality of life	Not much really
Diversity of people and places, range of public programming, and that most elected officials seem to have their hearts in the right place and be open to community feedback.	The development of more direct service infrastructure such as public housing, internet, and utilities. Also, if the county could stop usage and maintenance of their MRAP, that would save money and prevent harm to local communities by municipal police departments.
I appreciate that, by and large, our county and municipal leaders accept facts and science, and are focused on progressive agendas, especially as compared to most of the rest of Iowa.	Affordable housing and social services need much more investment. Our lack of affordable quality housing is harmful for so many people who already do and who want to live and work in this area. This requires a large investment that will pay dividends in so many ways for all of our communities.
The plethora of grassroots movements for community-wide improvement.	Increased stock of and better access to affordable housing. Increased resources for low-income residents and marginalized and vulnerable populations. Increased funding for social services and decreased funding for police.
In general, progressive government that values residents and quality of life issues. Also, a high concentration of culinary and cultural resources plus greater diversity relative to Iowa as a whole enhance the overall living experience in Johnson County.	More strongly denounce property damage and defacement of property arising from civil justice demonstrations rather than validating it.
Todo	Nada
Walkability of my town, plethora of parks, good cycling roads	Internet service providers and cleaner water
Everything	Nothing
Republicans.	All the [obscenity] liberals and your anti-white racist agenda.
Bike trails, parks	More bike trails, upgrades at parks
As a long-time resident of Johnson County, I value access to its extensive UI healthcare system, a strong public transportation system as well as educational, arts, intellectual offerings and others. This includes events at Englert Theater, access to city garden plots for growing veggies, a host of services for residents in need of social services such as CommUnity, formerly The Crisis Center, as well as the weekly farmers market.	It would be nice to see a smaller downtown post office hub as there was in the past. Sunday bus service would also be great, and I am aware and have been following the city's Transit Study, so I'm waiting for the outcome.
Sense of community- friendliness	I'm not sure. I just heard about this survey on the news, otherwise I wouldn't have known about it.
Thus far retaining a smaller, right-sized population.	More barbecue restaurants for a start.



# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
the early decision by the supervisors to adopt the \$15 minimum wage	less development in wooded and farmland areas
Safe place to live, variety of activities for all ages, kinda pretty	I would love to see more money for non-legacy nonprofits who are doing great work for marginalized folks. And get some established socks service agencies in North Liberty; not everyone can get to Iowa City. It would be nice to have regular transit services through JoCo, connecting North Liberty and other more rural towns to Coralville/IC.
We are a diverse city and especially in the Iowa City area we celebrate that as much as possible.	We need more resources/programs to help those who need it most
People, moral compass, diversity	More robust services
Healthcare Education Free community events Libraries	Crime rates Better countywide public transportation
Vibrant community, generosity/care/sharing by residents, care and stewardship of county	There is always room to improve on the above.
Safe, diverse community with great schools and both urban and rural areas	Need More connection between urban and rural Parts of the county both. Geographically and ideologically
I value the community minded aspect of Johnson County. I like that it is rural AND urban.	I would like to see more action and less talk. I would like to see Johnson County implement more of what they talk about especially when it comes to the environment. I am worried about our water, air and public services.
I like the smallness or the towns in Johnson County.	I would change having easier access to decisions makers. sometimes I feel like they don't really listen to people
The amenities of larger metropolitan areas without the large size and the great rural parts of the county.	More practical regulations that take into account real world functioning.
Urban benefits with rural/ag beauty. Diversity of residents	more ease in navigating regulations....zoning and small business in rural areas
NAtural beauty, amazing farms and farmers, proximity to services and the arts	I'd make it easier to take a great idea and run with it
Living in Iowa City provides good access to healthcare, education, cultural events, and restaurants while still being a relatively small and affordable city. It has a lot of natural resources like parks and prairies that are close to where people live and accessible to anyone.	Rural Johnson County is still dominated by traditional agriculture, which negatively impacts everything from water quality to biodiversity. Switching from traditional row-crop agriculture, which generates products that generally are not eaten, to more sustainable options like CSAs or restored prairie, would be a benefit to everyone in the area. This would also provide a path to developing an ecotourism and agrotourism economy for the county.
Employment, culture, safety, governmental services	Higher incomes
I appreciate that our county has a commitment to the value of equity and attempts progressive interventions to support our disenfranchised citizens.	If I could, I'd like to see more collaboration among local governments, as well as more true collaboration among service providers. On going eviction prevention is needed, having federal money has allowed many families to remain housed.
I value the diverse community that I am able to see and engage with each and every day.	I believe that our public officials talk a lot about "listening to the community" and "caring about our opinions", however, I think there is a lot of room for improvement in actually implementing the voice of the people.
That the people are starting to resist corporate greed and police violence.	1. Get rid of the sherrifs military vehicle he uses to terrorize black communities (no substitutes!) 2. Our unhoused neighbors are treated like animals routinely.
The social options available ( Hancher, high school and college sports, plays and dining choices)	Need more safety in the county. Too many people being hurt or stolen from.

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
The diversity of opinions and ideas along with the fact that law enforcement in the county is extremely friendly.	Some more deputies would be nice, I hear that some of the smaller towns have trouble with lack of law enforcement
That we are generally on the side of progress in a state that is falling the other way	Just encourage the supervisors to keep advocating for social justice and way to make our county more welcoming, livable and accessible.
Good roads, the landfill, bicycle and hiking trails.	Lower property taxes.
I value the diversity and imagination of Johnson County.	I want Johnson County to be a safer sanctuary for everyone, included the growing unhoused population and those who are undocumented.
It's generally liberal, progressive attitudes to government.	No answer
Diversity, a highly educated, liberal population. Decent cultural and outdoor entertainment options. Better job opportunities than most of Iowa.	Spend a bit less on roads/abandon more of them. Improve our water quality dramatically. Stop building CAFOs We don't really sell our knowledge economy and assets. Better cycling and recreational paths, linear parks and connections for the resources we have. Lift up our underserved neighbors.
Environment, people, and justice.	I would replace every public official elected or hired prior to the pandemic and derecho that was in a position of authority. I would also eliminate unmarked police vehicles. I would confiscate all farmland not using sustainable environmental practices and grow prairie grass on said land.
My wife is here.	Add a functional commercial airport. Elect me as county attorney. Fire [redacted].
Focus on education; regulations against CAFOs; cultural opportunities.	Bus service should be expanded and free, preferably for everyone, but especially for K-12 students, and folks living below the poverty line.
Community and concern for others.	The leadership, which does not embody the values above.
I think this county contains a lot of people who want to see everyone lifted up, not just themselves and their closest circle.	I think we still have a lot of work to do to ensure everyone can access quality housing, health care, transportation.
I love my neighbors, our local food pantry and library, and the mutual aid organizations in our community.	Local officials suck at communicating with constituents.
No answer	can we move it out of the rest of the state?
La Casa de Obrero Catolico	los empresarios y el gobierno
The essential workers who make day-to-day life possible for the rest of us	poverty
At its best, Johnson County does have many admirable qualities. We're first in the state for COVID vaccine rates. We have artists and scientists from all over the world.  While most of the rest of Iowa becomes more conservative by the day, Johnson County has positioned itself as a progressive island in a the rising, reddening sea. (But often, this is just rhetoric, and progressive actions don't result even when progressive speeches are given)	There is a lot of emphasis on how progressive we are, and how the University of Iowa attracts talent, resources, ideas, people etc from all over the world. But what is the point of being a "progressive university community" if all those resources, talent, and progressive talking points aren't actually reflected in country policy?  (Step One: get rid of the MRAP, the Sherriff's Department does not need a tank and *especially* does not need to recklessly drive it through BIPOC neighborhoods, terrorizing kids.)
Some of my favorite parts of Johnson County include: the natural spaces, trailways, and walkability of many of our parks and rec areas; the focus on and support for small businesses and local efforts; our robust nonprofit organizations who do so much for our communities.	I would like to see some increased walkability and accessibility in our more rural areas and main streets. I would also appreciate better signage on our trails and nature areas. I would love to see the cities work more collectively and collaboratively on initiatives and projects County-wide.



# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
Not a lot, this just happens to be where are farm is located, I would really like to succeed from the County.	We need to have more industry in our County. The County is very dependent on the University of Iowa, Proctor & Gamble and a few other larger employers. We need to assist the country in being self sufficient. We are dealing with all sorts of shortages of supplies right now, this should not be happening, evidently we did not learn from the flood of 2008, just how close we were to be shut off from the world.
Quality of life, parks, trail, opportunity for free/ low cost entertainmen't easy active transportation, quality health care	Not much. Primarily increase quality of life, see above, for everyone
We are welcoming to newcomers	Social and financial inequality
diversity and open-ness	More diverse housing across the area
Hospitals	No answer
La Casa del Obrero Catolico	todo lo demas
The diversity	Nothing
Its inclusivity, fairness, diversity, and local businessee	In my opinion the university treats its workers unfairly sometimes but I know this may not be something Johnson county itself has any say in
I value the progressive nature of the community	more affordable housing
Johnson County Supervisors!	More aggressive action on Clean water... we have terrible water and air quality due to pesticides and fertilizers applied to lawns and agricultural farming. There needs to be a moratorium on Factory Farms.... Ban plastic bags and other plastics....( i realize this was a state law that cities could not ban bags)
Diversity, educational opportunities, public services, and excellent health care.	Housing costs for low income and increased mental health offered
Johnson County individuals, organizations and businesses work hard to create an environment that is welcoming to everyone. I sincerely appreciate the County's recognition of and commitment to supporting non-profits. I also value the arts, the restaurants, the downtown stores.	No answer
Diversity	Bring more arts
Liberal educated population. Environmentally conscious.	Weather
community organizations like Iowa CCI, SEIU, and the Catholic Worker House	The fake progressives serving in elected office
The way the community takes care of its residents.	No answer
community events, safety, open mindedness,	No answer
Not too big. Balance of rural and urban.	Things that need to change everywhere: health care for all, clean water that doesn't turn toxic in the summer, living wage. The volunteerism and charitable willingness to give is amazing here but the need keeps growing. How do we stop the underlying inequities?

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
I have lived in Johnson County all my life, I guess I like the community.	I don't like all the multi plex buildings in for homes. I think they become run down to quickly and become an undesirable neighborhood, with that said I also know we need areas for people that are lower income. But when I see all these high rise with vacancies and we still continue to build a person has to wonder why? I also think when it comes to building for yourself not a company, there are some weird rules. I also would like to see them pave more county roads, Iowa County started that years ago. If you look at the surrounding states, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Nebraska they hardly have any gravel roads. They don't have to be fancy, Missouri and Illinois have black top roads and the farmers farm almost to the roads but yet they are nice to drive on. But Iowa seems to like to tear up black top roads and make into gravel roads. I would think that for air quality control it would better to get rid of more gravel roads. I also think gravel can be dangerous because of all the dust thrown up, the visibility is limited and you can't see who is coming and where there vehicle is driving. My Dad always said only good roads lead to Iowa City, I am beginning to think he is right.
We live close to city conveniences and culture without having to live in town living in a rural atmosphere.	We live right next to Tiffin. Town growth is too rapid. Progress for some does not necessarily mean progress for all. Like many people I am resistant to change, especially at such a fast pace.
Progressive sense of community and inclusiveness	Cost of living and high property tax rate
Medical facilities.	Lower property taxes. Expand Senior Center with satellite services. Increase law enforcement--traffic and compliance with federal law
la gente, la iglesia, y el trabajo	Los inmigrantes que hacen todo el trabajo no reciben ningún apoyo
todo es un condado hermoso	más apoyo a los inmigrantes que hacen todo el trabajo
peace and quiet	it's racist
it's a good place to raise children	It's only a good place for middle-class white people. It is not so great of a place for immigrants, refugees, poor and homeless people, and people of color
The University of Iowa	More help for the poor and homeless
health care is available	Lower residential property taxes; create satellite senior center in Coralville, promote law enforcement, i.e., drugs, traffic, compliance with federal laws including immigration enforcement
I value our liberal angle (at least in urban areas), I value that it is a relatively safe and affordable for my family to live in	Johnson County should be safe and affordable for every family.
I value the highly engaged citizenry in Johnson County that gives legs to local democracy	I would change the institutional racism, especially in the police departments
Historically, the county has been a leader in championing basic human rights and is home to host of really strong and effective social service organizations.	Many decisions made are pretty Iowa City-centric and tend to benefit those with resources more than those who are underrepresented.
Our community open-mindedness.	Access to mental health resources and treatment and funding for the working poor.
Diverse neighborhoods- landscapes city and country, workforce variety. people from many backgrounds, young to aged, educational opportunities.	More medical and farm industries.
health care	No answer
The education system, jobs, rec	How liberal it is
Inclusivity, intellect, welcoming people, college-towns, diversity.	No answer

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
Most Johnson residents are open minded, tolerant of all peoples, and willing to examine thoughtfully diverse views. They are usually civil, albeit sometimes vociferously, in expressing their views. I usually feel safe walking alone in downtown and nearby neighborhoods.	The cost of renting and purchasing residences. People should not feel as though they should “bunk up” or share housing with non-family members. I am saddened by the surge of high rises in the downtown area. It detracts from the previous small-town feeling and harms small businesses.
A community that values education and a commitment to helping others be that through work, volunteering, or general social interactions.	Increase true equality in access to basic human rights, such as food, affordable housing, free healthcare, better education, And increased opportunities for all people.
1^ASASDADA	DASDASDASDA
that it i a livable community for successful aging in place	add resources for the elderly population including affordable housing that is aging accessible - need to subsidize building requirements for aging needs
Quality - health care, academic and art center	Increase its diversity - improve social justice - close the economic gap -
engaged community, opportunities for culture, sports, physical activity, health care access	reduced crime, lower housing costs, higher wages, make I-380 6 lane to reduce traffic crashes
Healthy living in both town and rural setting. Focus on improving quality of life for all.	A minimum wage that supports a family. Critical thinking before randomly paving over good farmland. Preserving trees/forest. Clean waterways.
State parks and nature areas. Lots of green spaces and trees. The university is a big draw to the area. Great restaurants.	Increase materials that can be recycled. Extend the bike lane on mahaffey bridge and add one on hwy 1. More support for electric cars.
We're inclusive (or aspire to be!) and actively trying to make our community a safe, welcoming, place for all.	Affordable housing, increased services for those who have the least among us.
Services offered	No answer
Cleanliness and low crime	Hand-outs to illegal immigrants More people for a more urban culture
I value a sense of community that is warmly welcoming, non-judgmental and not tied to regressive notions of social status based on income, education, professional identity or family identity.	First, our BIPOC communities, including LatinX, need to be welcomed and protected. Undocumented people and their families, who add both culture and economic value to Johnson County, need economic and social support, especially during COVID. “WELCOME THE STRANGER” could be our Johnson County motto.  Second, It's my impression that Lone Tree, Hills and North Liberty have their own distinct community identities. Is there a way to help these communities flourish while making them feel welcome to participate in Iowa City's culture as well? I wish we could nurture open communication among all 4 towns.
Diversity	No answer
small towns and rural area	na
I love how people-oriented our county is, how inclusive and progressive Johnson County is and our art and artist population.	More funding and housing resources for the homeless and mentally ill who need help. More resources for the police to channel calls to social networks of helpers to free them up for other, more suitable work, and to include more extensive training for officers. I would like to see free, strong wifi all over the county.
I value the diversity of people and places. A balance of rural life and city amenities and events is appealing. The people are kind (Iowa Nice). It's a great place to raise a family and work.	Cost of living is high. Continued work to reach and serve the underrepresented population. More affordable childcare.

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
Diversity, beauty, support for the vulnerable, arts, education, not being a [redacted] clone on such matters as minimum wages and pandemic response	Even more support of the vulnerable, especially in the area of affordable housing and increased day care slots for all those who must work but are forced to have their children looked after by less than desirable people for price and availability issues.
La Casa de Obrero Catolico	el racismo
The rural areas	No answer
education, walkability	racism, discrimination,
No answer	barriers to access aid
No answer	Denial of services
The culture and community from Hispanic immigrants	The political leadership who puts their party before people
Our faith communities and rural way of life	No answer
bike paths, the bike library	discrimination against people of color
Values align with my own- family, service, compassion.	More equitable opportunities for those without resources.
rural living less traffic	too many new homes and apartments are being added.
Health care ...education	Transportation..fir school..medical..groceries
Education, arts availability	Less kowtowing to minorities and giving away tax dollars to illegal immigrants. Illegal is illegal no matter how much you want to sugar-coat it. Empathy only goes so far.
being in a fairly well educated, tolerant community which is also more small town than big city	the university running roughshod over community safety and evading paying its fair share of taxes (e.g., now I guess they're going to basically privatize the former marching band field, as they did with the university Athletic Club, and yet the university will hold the leases and won't pay taxes)
Diverse, progressive community offering high quality amenities, excellent educational opportunities, and university events.	Elected leaders acting to advance the interests of those screaming the loudest, instead of those respectfully arguing their points.
the weather	the increasingly divisive nature of people. The self righteousness and the feeling of entitlement that is rampant.
Combination of great metro and rural residents	More focus outside of Iowa City. Seems the county spending and efforts are greatly skewed away from the rural areas and residents in favor of perceived city necessities
Diversity	Affordable housing

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
Agriculture, rural settings (for now) and convenience to amenities found in urban areas.	From my family's experience living in rural Johnson county for the last 20 years, there is a lack of positive county focus, resources and effort outside of the city limits of Iowa City or any county town. Resources, programs and dollars are overwhelmingly for Iowa City/urban county residents. Pressure on area agriculture and a lack of responsibility by the county to get a handle on the development of rural areas for housing developments without the improvement in or support for the infrastructure needed to support their approvals is obvious. The county seems to want/votes for rural development and increased housing development at the county level (usually in agricultural areas) but they don't support it with their policies. There are no county supervisors who are from an area outside of the city limits of any Johnson county town to accurately represent rural Johnson county. Those on the supervisor roster claim to 'be from the farm having grown up on one', or 'appreciate agriculture' but this appears to be a thinly veiled stance. Could we have a least one seat on the supervisor's group to be required to be from outside of an incorporated Johnson county city? This seems to be a minority perspective and usually the minority perspective is what gets the attention from the supervisors, but for some reason, not the rural minority.
That it's generally educated and not conspiracy-centric.	Sometimes the county is too "bleeding heart" and not practical enough.
Quality schools, medical care, restaurants, and activities in close proximity	More careful spending
I value the fact the Johnson County is a blend of rural and urban areas. I value the fun experiences that are provided in downtown Iowa City but also outside of Iowa City at outdoor recreation areas and argitourism destinations. I value the community's passion and support for local foods as well as local farmers' dedication to feed residents of Johnson County. I value the strong sense of place and community that I feel here.	I would make our natural bodies of water cleaner, land easier to access, local meat processing more widespread, housing more affordable, and starting a business more affordable. I would decrease the rate of food insecurity and increase diversity.
Just the right size. Variety of people. Sense of community	Decrease cost of housing. Improve law enforcement-relations.
Diversity, Safety, Cost of living, Midwest culture	Better rural roads
The Diversity, The openness of the community, The Friendliness	I would work to limit govt subsidized housing--how long you could stay on it, how soon you can go in it once you we are here
in general, ease of getting around/lack of traffic; bike trails, parks	more public transport in general--train to CR for commuters, north-south bus routes, lower property taxes #1; spread out affordable housing and emergency/crisis shelter options
It is a nice place to live, There's great value place on education	Nothing
Education, U of I Hospital/Mercy Hospital, Entertainment, Rural Area	Liberal B.S., Protesting/Looting
I like watching the Hawkeye foot Ball gams	What they spend their money on.
equal 4 seasons, GOOD SUPPORT SYSTEMS, HOSPITALS, Good Shopping	Get Homeless off Streets, Get the gangs out of town
County Fair	Better roads, Fix HHH, Fix road to IC landfill
Acceptance of liberal values, Kent Park	train to Chicago, More support for parks
No answer	more walking trails and keep green space
Great health care	Winters, Summers
The openness, the connection to the arts, the diversity	we need more mental health services
It's a Liberal stronghold within the state of Iowa	The roads
diversity, lots of community activities	trash/pollution

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
Been here 51 yrs, like the community, great size, Rural lifestyle	not sure
Liberal family friendly area	affordable housing, cost of living, preserving land for conservation and parks
na	na
diversity, cultural and artistic opportunities, safety	improve housing for low income persons
The variety of cultural and art events — Hancher, Filmscene, Coralville Performing arts. The variety of restaurants, the downtown businesses, the health services, and the university community. And, the new arena in Coralville is an asset.	As a food bank volunteer I've had my eyes opened with regard to the great need in our community. I believe we need a higher minimum wage and affordable housing. And, I'd like to see a forum that would allow diverse populations to talk to one another. I'm also a proponent of busing as a strategy to provide equity across the ICCSD.
Safe. People are involved and active in the community. It is culturally rich in activities. People are "Iowa Nice". Community welcomes immigrants, refugees and foreign scholars. Good schools. Good medical facilities. Community works to help with homelessness and food insecurity. The gently scenic rural landscape....beautiful!	Iowa City streets need repair. Small businesses such as restaurants currently need support. Expansion of low income housing, Expansion of parks, bike trails, safe play equipment in parks.
Community, Arts, Diversity (age, interest, background, etc.), Intellectual Engagement, Balance of Urban & Rural Experience	So many things are done to provide opportunities to those who are able to enjoy them (people with cars, people with money, people with M-F 8-5 schedules, people with childcare), and I'd like to see more of the County efforts working to create walkable opportunities that reach people where they are, and working to make sure people *know* what is available to them rather than making people look for these opportunities that they often don't even know exist.
Focus on caring	More balance with rural needs
The Health Care availability, The Presence of the University of Iowa and the efforts to provide low income housing and preserving our parks and recreation areas	Provide more low income housing opportunities and supportive services for low income persons.
General concern for neighbors and community health and well being	More housing for poor More public transportation
I value living in a community with educated, progressive people. I value that our community cares about environmental issues, and is trying to make improvements that will help to mitigate climate change in the future. I value our parks and trails immensely. I value our Farmer's Market, Mercer swimming pool, our public library, our Senior Center, and all of our educational opportunities. I value our cultural opportunities such as Hancher, Riverside Theater, ICCommunity Theater, Film Scene, the Englert, Coralville Center for the Arts, and more. I value having good local restaurants with interesting and healthy food choices. I value Prairie Lights and having book readings.	I would like the downtown to have more venues that appeal to people of my age, and fewer bars. I would appreciate more art shops, and a variety of stores downtown. I appreciate the restaurants that are downtown, and try to patronize them as much as possible. I also patronize Sycamore Mall some, as I want it to survive. Having more bike trail options is important to me.
Diversity of residents and Johnson County Conservation's service and properties.	Residents sometimes forget they are part of an agricultural state and their interests and priorities may not be the same as other residents of the state. Bigger emphasis on cleaner water and sustainable energy and decreased use of chemicals in all settings. Also more appreciation by the University of Iowa that there is a surrounding community that at times is forced to deal with negative consequences of the University's actions.
open meetings the ability to listen and respond to needs/complaints dedication of elected officials	inclusion of more minority peoples in leadership roles

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
The Board of Supervisors and Zoning and Planning have always been approachable and focus on public input	More environmental strategies. Keep pushing for moratorium for factory farms, work with city on providing help to minorities food/housing/job opportunities/healthcare, more water testing, continue widening Co.. roads to encourage biking to work or recreation, encouraging more land practices that replenish the soil and protect streams,
Eating establishments, retail mall	Veteran Services, including mental health, housing, and jobs, Senior Housing, Internet, Why are you even thinking about giving my hard earned tax dollars to Illegal Immigrants? So they can send the money back to their country and not use it in the USA?
Community diversity.	Reckless activist government, overspending, lack of representation of rural residents by elected officials.
Safe place to work and live.	Community leaders needs to listen to all residents - not just those who are the loudest. The silent majority need more ways to express their priorities.
Quality of life	Too many Woke AF [obscenity]
Progressive, future forward policies, public resources, inclusion of citizen input, balanced with pragmatism.	Not all municipalities in Johnson County share or collaborate in addressing common issues like homelessness, social services, affordable housing, urban sprawl, etc. it seems that Iowa City is primarily left to deal with these concerns. I want to see Coralville, North Liberty, Tiffin, assume more responsibility for solving these problems.
Always trying to be better; social service/DEI initiatives, green space, commitment to library and parks services.	More affordable housing, more racially diverse neighborhoods, no fines at the library, free transit. Better public transit between towns.
The University of Iowa	Increase money spent to bring in new business & factories
The fact I found a beautiful piece of property to build my dream house on.	I would take away the Sanctuary County designation. If people come to the US and Johnson County by not following the laws of the land, I believe they should be held accountable for their actions and be subject to deportation. How can we as a society disregard some laws, but expect compliance with others? This is a recipe for chaos. Now the county is being sued by a non US citizen for not assisting them more in continuing to live illegally in this country and county. Who picks up the tab for this? The tax payer. So I guess the bottom line the one thing I would change about the county would be to have elected officials that look out for the taxpayers interest vice the elected official's own personal world views. Manage the money you take from taxpayers for the benefit of the taxpayers.
Community	No answer
Community investment and uplift.	Increase access for non English speaking aid seekers.
Climate. Sports university. Hospitals	Get rid of undocumented immigrants
Nearness to an airport University Hospital Restaurants	Need more policing to stop violent crime. Need to arrest protesters who are defacing public property. My house has been robbed. Lost items that were never recovered and were not replaced due to insurance deductible.
The focus on equity	Increase access for BIPOC residents to educational, business, vocational and EVERY opportunity where equity is not the national norm
That it's a safe and welcoming community	Make it more livable for people of limited means
Their ability to do the right thing and pay their essential workers for the extra work and stress they've been through throughout 2020 and 2021.	Make it easier for new businesses to open up. (Iowa City) and stop the pan handling around town.



# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
I value the Iowa City Public Library, Mercer Oak pool, any and all public parks and trails and human service agencies. Public festivals also.	Johnson County can't do this alone but improve water quality in all the water ways, more affordable and mixed use housing.
No answer	We are allowing too much of the farm land to get converted to non-farming use (such as more single family homes and more business). Only so much food can be produced from one acre of land.
Strong community ties and high standard of living.	I wish it had more parks.
Its investment in its people and the community overall. The acceptance of people of differing ideas, backgrounds, orientations, etc. The prominence of education and opportunities for advancement and investment in the arts.	Fewer strip malls. Strip malls are ugly and stupid and the parking lots are ALWAYS horrible (awkward, too small), especially if there's a restaurant in one of the spaces. It would be amazing if the areas outside of downtown Iowa City would also engineer the towns to be more walkable, starting with centralizing the businesses into, say, a "square" area and making them not ugly strip malls.
Progressiveness, accepting, concerned about social, economic and health equity, diverse entertainment events	A bit less liberal, better integration of social, healthcare and public health services
Community values and spirit.	Recycling policy to allow glass recycling curbside pickup.
The people. The county health department trying to do what's right for the people despite political pressure to do otherwise.	We need more bike paths that connect the whole county.
Variety of things to do.	Improve infrastructure. Street repair, sewer, water, aquatic center in Solon.
University of Iowa Healthcare	Lower Taxes, take better care of infrastructure.
Liberal views	Improve public transportation
Family-owned, local businesses And Businesses that provide quality entertainment for families	I would like to see more investment in helping residents and businesses access and invest in renewable resources (particularly renters and low-income families). These programs usually take considerable finances upfront, but provide a financial advantage in the long run.
Progressiveness.	Find a more feasible tax structure. if our growth bubble bursts like it has in so many communities across the country when the taxes get too high we are in big trouble.
Excellent Healthcare	No answer
Outdoor recreation opportunities; entertainment, healthcare, academics- provided by the university of Iowa	Improved internet bandwidth across all of Johnson county; continued efforts to maintain parks and prairies; lower property taxes
Closeness to a university and all that it offers. A more liberal atmosphere for thoughts and politics.	Need more low cost housing. Buses should run 7 days a week.
Quality of life	Improve public transportation with railway, or elevated electric tram system
Commitment to supporting all residents.	No answer
Diversity in the culture	Cost of living
It's home to me, born and raised. Moved away and came back. Beautiful parks, Iowa City and surrounding communities are fun to explore. Farmers Market, public art, local festivals. Change of seasons.	More diversity, affordable housing, more and better public transportation, less catering to the University of Iowa, \$15 min wage, homeless population is mistreated, too many tall buildings without store front residents. Landlords are not held accountable, taking advantage of college kids and immigrants and low-income. Better recycle program including glass.
Clean, environmentally friendly	We need more businesses. I hate having to drive to Coralville for everything



# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
Cultural, education, and recreational amenities and the entire range provided by Johnson County governments and schools.	More emphasis on economic development and greater housing affordability.
Diversity	No answer
No answer	Facilitate communication between rural and urban folks at all age levels, all intersections of identity.
Commitment to public education	Allocation of county IDOT funds generally. Several specific things
The rich cultural diversity. The numerous human resource non-profits. People truly care about one another.	The structural racism that places barriers for BLIAPOC community members from accessing resources and opportunities so they can thrive. Flip the tables and provide direct resources to communities in need through the organizations that are best serving them.
Safety, natural resources	Lower property tax. Keep the community safe. Do not defund police. Better basic facilities such as improving the road conditions.
No answer	Support farming through grants for use to improve runoff control and environmental friendly livestock production. Too much farm land which is producing food is being built on.
Great Shopping, different foods, near My Sister	Better food distribution to areas in southern Johnson Country Many Food Deserts!
No answer	I'd like to see a more diverse political landscape.
The University of Iowa and the U of I Hospital. The rural communities and farmers.	The politics
Safe,available medical services.	more affordable housing that is scattered .
Vibrant community that prioritizes livability	Make livability accessible to all and be sure that basic needs are met for our citizens
Community, infrastructure, local foods, education, health care, employment, culture	Better bike paths, land access for farmers, more local food support, better help to homeless population,
Opportunities to collaborate with other businesses and organizations to help improve our community; educational opportunities	More inclusion / awareness of BIPOC communities.
Our area is relatively safe, great mix of country values with benefit of nearby city.	Make sure there is an organized plan of development along I380.
Unique small businesses; progressive values; people; recreation.	No answer
Community, local foods, infrastructure, education	More local foods, bike infrastructure, land access affordability, equity and inclusion work
The sense of community. Access to open spaces. Cultural opportunities. Good schools. Progressive values.	Continue to enhance what is already good (see above) and make sure thoughtful, sustainable and equitable development is a priority.
There's a general majority consensus on inclusive and helpful values, generally progressive political profile, generally high level of education, a good number of artists and musicians live here and even more people who support the arts. Even in the larger towns there is a good amount of greenspace.	Outside of the major population centers the county is largely (but not entirely!) racially homogenous. Within those more diverse population centers there is a high degree of geographic segregation along both racial and socioeconomic lines.
Vibrant, diverse community with lots to do and many committed community-engaged people	More access to affordable housing More arts funding More work towards racial justice More resources/work around climate change
Variety of opportunities for public engagement; access to the arts; strong sense of community.	Streamlined and easier access to funding for nonprofits.
I value our diversity, our robust arts and cultural offerings, and downtown Iowa City.	I would like to see more opportunities to bring rural residents as patrons of the arts.

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
I like the accessibility to Interstate and other major roads, the ample availability to stores, services, and health care availability. The University with it's renowned academic brands, sports brands, and regional health care brands both from UIHC and the VA are strong plusses. The amazing wealth of talent in the performing arts offers us a very high level of cultivation. Hancher Auditorium and the Voxman Music Building are world class assets here.	I think taxes are established rather cavalierly and have grown far too high. Presently, the county is contemplating the establishment of a new Department 13 to administer the ARPA funds. I think such a proposal should be couched with the goal of making this a temporary department, with the intention of setting solid objectives and a realistic date for achieving the objectives and dissolving the department. Another approach could be to consolidate existing staff resources to administer the ARPA funds. The administrative entity should be held to firm results-oriented results. There should be no disruptions from unqualified or disorganized special interest groups participating in the process. Bright minds should be running the store, resisting the temptations of doling out feel-good pieces of the pie, and instead using funds toward results that can keep providing returns to the effort. Orientation and re-training of "marginalized" members could be good, provided the recipients perform in some way in order to receive benefits. Streets, intersections, water mains, etc. could be earmarked. In addition to climate change events, the epidemic, economic fluctuations, we may have to face an effort to assimilate large migrations who have fled economic or political conditions around the world and who are now at our doorstep. A few years ago, the Johnson County Board of Supervisors proclaimed Johnson County a sanctuary county. That kind of Public Relations action could quickly become expensive. Could it be accommodated and sustained?
Openness for all people. .	Need to add 1 more homeless housing ( total 3) Improve opportunities for lower income children such as after school clubs. ie teach financial awareness, communication, soccer, chess , math. Improve downtown so everyone will shop here. Target was/is a great store. We need a shoe store, and something similar to Yonkers, JC Penny. Encourage rehabbing downtown and near the neighborhoods . Enough with new construction.
Johnson County is an amazing mix of rural, small towns, and small cities. There is SO MUCH to do.	I would like the rural population to feel invited and welcome to cultural events in Iowa City.
I think we're fairly progressive and want to help the unserved/ underserved. The State decision makers make that difficult when they remove local control - particularly our governor. I love that the new we lean toward focusing on mental health and not criminalizing people with the new Guidelink Center. Appreciate forward thinking.	More services in outlying communities like North Liberty - hopefully this will be coming with office space at Ranshaw House. Countywide shared transportation system would be so beneficial for low income people to increase mobility and allow folks to get to work but also to get to businesses, healthcare access, etc., which would also benefit the economy.
I value the diversity in individuals and communities within Johnson County.	Johnson County has a reputation in the state of overregulation in both city and county government.
The generally peaceful nature combined with access to many levels of a huge variety of cultures.	Communication. It seems like notices of events and functions quite often are only presented to specifically targeted citizens. It's not always possible to participate in something when somebody else decides who should be included.
I deeply value the outdoor recreational areas like Coralville Lake, Lake Macbride, as well as county, city, and state parks. I also value the literary and cultural opportunities that are accessible to folks at low or no cost in our area like Local Libraries LIT, UNESCO City of Literature Book Festival, Juneteenth recognition, and Latino Fest.	Public transportation is very inflexible/near impossible particularly in North Liberty and between NL and Coralville/Iowa City. Affordable housing is also a huge issue in our county in my experience.
Common sense use of tax payer dollars. I value good moral judgements when deciding on policies affecting the people of this town. I value the Arts & Cultural life in Iowa City. I value good solid businesses in Iowa City.	Property taxes. They are twice as much as what I paid in California. Lower taxes and eliminate wasteful spending. ie Truth & Reconciliation Commission given \$1 Mil. Clean up Downtown, the sidewalks, streets & alleys are filthy!! Put in proper irrigation for Chauncey park and other flower beds in downtown area. Beautiful flowering hanging baskets would be beautiful but must be watered

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
No answer	the way that organization work in assist the immigrant in the community, what has been working for Iowa is not working for us as immigrants. many Barries that no one care about.
Johnson County is populated with a high proportion of people who worked hard in their career and work hard to care for the community through shopping, enjoying the leisure activities and entertainment, and volunteering generously.	I think Johnson County taxes are driving many retired people to move to Texas, Florida, and Arizona as soon as various career, family, and health matters can be adjusted.
Employees are compensated well and have great benefits.	The board's attempt to micromanage the different departments and the people within
Freedom to decide for ourselves. There is a nice mix of rural and city amenities to choose from.	More support for small businesses. Return of community events.
The diversity, compassion, and education of the community. The complex beauty of the ecosystems. The history and traditions of the region and communities.	Increase diversity, compassion, and education in the community. Cultivate a higher awareness, appreciation, and protection for the complex beauty of our ecosystems. Celebrate more the history and traditions of the region and communities.
The community at large, the University and health care systems, the progressive values, strong non -profit sector, bikes and trail systems, local business culture, diverse population, quality of life.	Investment in solar, agri-tourism, address water quality, expand opportunities for small local farms, continued investment in quality of life amenities, 1 transportation system, passenger rail, child care support, innovative ways to address affordable housing. (tiny houses, etc.) Rethink fair grounds - outdoor amphitheater.
commitment to working with underserved populations	No answer
Ample jobs, pretty good public transit, colleges, health care facilities, shopping, safe streets, entertainment.	Taxes are too high.
Diversity	Property taxes
The ICCSD and UI--academic opportunities, and health care; arts programming; historical architecture	Create more lower affordable and middle end housing (fewer luxury condos); make public transit available as a county-wide service.
Responsible citizenship, strong work ethics of our various cultures, and thoughtful participation and volunteerism in the communities.	High taxes are a hardship for many in the county.
I value the creative nature of the people, it's dedication to the arts, and forward thinking culture!	I would give artists more priority in terms of funding, housing, and health care. The US does a terrible job at supporting people who are the backbone of our cultural wealth and I think Johnson County should do better than that sad status quo.
Easy access to other parts of eastern Iowa via I-380 and I-80.	We need to slow down county spending to keep property taxes low for people on fixed incomes and retirees.
Almost anything you could ever need within 30 minute drive.	The gullibility of the populace. A "pandemic" does not exist. Constantly hearing about it for nearly 2 years now is beyond ridiculous and Johnson County is at the height of the problem. Wake up, please, before it is too late.
Community values; inclusiveness; immigrant populations; arts.	Too much focus on development and building.
The land & quality of outdoor life.	The one-sided political nature of county government & affairs. Representation should be by geographic area.
Clean environment; well maintained roads.	Not 100% sure, but concerned about funds for illegal residents when the county has other projects in need of money.
Educational opportunities, protection of historic buildings and sites, lack of sprawl and overpriced development.	Racial and social inequality that puts minority kids five steps back from every white child. Not just education, but treatment by a few law enforcement in towns and the county. Finding out what residents want and need rather than imposing cookie cutter solutions
Diversity, cultural events and political atmosphere.	More welcoming of diversity and more affordable housing.

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
Great schools, Healthcare, shopping	Rural JC needs more access to food products! "Food Deserts" Allow more refrigerated trucks in JC
My job.	Better infrastructure and schools.
Education, entertainment and recreation opportunities, the attempts at integrating people from different races, religions and countries	More integration. More day care that is affordable
Opportunities	Iowa city
It is actually trying to improve the lives of its residents.	Diversity. The perception that all resources go to Iowa City/ Coralville instead of the small towns.
Diversity,	No answer
Leave me and my business alone to do it how we want to	Let us make our own decisions about our healthcare
Location	property taxes are too high
Small towns and the farming community.	I would like families to continue to be able to KEEP family farms without interference from the city/county government. They need to stop taking farmland and making it into housing. We need to help save farmland for future generations!!
Smaller communities	Nothing
I love the diversity and the (mostly) welcoming atmosphere to all.	The high cost of living here.
Climate and environmental respect as well, common sense regard for citizens,	Lower property taxes
The ability of residents to continue to ignore the drastic increase in violent crime.	New building for the sheriff's office, it is the most used and most run down building in the county.
It's inclusivity, how we value our community and support and promote it.	No answer
Quality of life, schools systems, and our infrastructure.	No answer
This is such an amazing area. I value the parks and family locations. I value the infrastructure and ease of getting around.	I wouldn't change anything, but i would just keep improving on what we are already doing. Continue on this path.
Relative diversity, progressive values	Better support clean environment
I value having access to high quality health care, walking/biking trails, a variety of locally owned businesses, diverse people and neighborhoods, UI and the opportunities it offers, nature areas and parks, and cultural opportunities such as the Englert Theatre and Hancher and annual festivals.	We need more affordable housing for a wide range of incomes and less development of high-end homes and subdivisions.
Liberal communities	No answer
Location	Less restrictive
Has bodies of water that I enjoy. i like that it is a little more liberal than other counties.	IDK
Diversity	Conditions of rural roads
No answer	I live just outside Iowa City. I would like to see better maintenance of busy county roads (shoulders for heavily traveled roads with bikes, repainted lines, better snow removal.)
Kindness, community engagement, support of others	Taxes are very high and continue to grow

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
That it values each person as a whole: a person's livelihood, safety/security, mental health, optional supports, access, amenities, entertainment, connection to nature, contributions & achievements... today and for their future self.	I would want to reach people in the rural areas with messaging on how living proximate to the urban area benefits them, so they stop taking it for granted. As well as education on what the U.S. Constitution ACTUALLY says and basic economic concepts, like how spending on social programs benefits EVERYONE (i.e., so homeless people aren't living in their yard) and that poor people are often working & not poor by choice, because it is clear that the Don't Tread on Me people are unable to grasp these without simpler explanation (think, elementary words and short sentences in meme form). I think the educated people who live in the urban area are sheltered from the vast ignorance of the rural area, which clouds the urbanites' perspective on how close we are to being like the rest of Iowa... rude, exclusionary, naïve.
Nothing the county is horrible and gives privillage to those who do not earn it.	Make it more politically diverse and more balanced. Kiowa city has to much power in the county.
I value living in a community that is progressive.	We need to value diversity and pay more people a living wage.
Peaceful safe Clean Good operations and management Libraries	No answer
safe quiet friendly	high taxes
University of Iowa. Hiking Trail	1. Improve roads in Iowa City. 2. During the pandemic allowing citizens to freely decide to mask their children or themselves and not imposing mandates that were not supported by a single mask study performed before 2020.
The location, for the most part the people, neighbors, and am from this area.	The political shift that has always been in the agenda but that has gotten more skewed over the last few years.
The nature trails and community activities. It feels safer here than in other places.	I'd add more bike trails, parks, and places for people to get outside. Also, some more swimming pools!
Diverse people, small towns	Lower property taxes, No party County Supervisors
The rural aspect.	ALLOW OFF-ROAD VEHICLES FOR CHRIST SAKE!
Education systems; early childhood through secondary	Lack of diversity
No answer	Spread the wealth. We pay high taxes but get less from it because we are out of town
No answer	Johnson County needs to Increase accessibility for people with disabilities. Johnson county leaders and residents often view the community as "liberal minded," yet many downtown businesses are not accessible to people with disabilities.
My grandchildren, i am conservative, most of my ideas don't seem to matter much. I have been criticized for voting conservatively since moving here.	It's ultra liberal ideas.
Good schools, jobs, access to healthcare, green spaces	Better access to affordable housing for lower income individuals.
Iowa nice. Country living. Decent roads.	Lack of supervisors with differing political slants. Property taxes are too high.
It's our home. Provides array of entertainment, walking paths, restaurants, shopping, educational opportunities	More acceptance of others who vote differently. More spiritual growth
Good healthcare, great education, Democrats, master gardeners, caring people, Lake Macbride, awesome birding, bald eagles. So many things.	Implement a requirement that any/all new building must set aside 1/3 of the total lot for planting trees and native pollinator plants.
Where i live, i value the conservative nature of this community. I value the MacBride park area.	The extreme liberal perspective. I would like to see people who are on LIHEAP assistance helped by insulating their homes, LED lighting, efficient furnaces

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
There are some great communities in Johnson County	No answer
Beauty of area	Too liberal
The diversity, things to do	Racism/biased in our police department
Family friendly, entertainment, good schools	Decrease property taxes
The sense of community, the variety of people, cleanliness, forward-thinking initiatives.	No answer
No answer	Less emphasis on life in the metro areas and their needs, more attention paid to services and support for rural residents.
Arts programming, outdoor spaces / activities, well maintained infrastructure, school system.	Better parks in Coralville.
The great people and public institutions.	I would restore local control and local democracy that has been systematically curtailed by the state.
JC Public Health Dept, Center for Worker Justice, schools, Mercy and UIHC, parks, library, music a lot of entertainment venues. I miss the Mill.	I would raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. Provide more mental health services Expand UAY More affordable housing
I value the smallness of the community and the fact that I can call/email my representatives when I need to talk about an issue.	Transparency needs to happen. I would change hiring outside consultants. Our own community members know what we need, we should not have to pay outsiders.
I value the openness to new people and new ideas; a willingness to acknowledge people, places and things are important in that specific order.	I would increase the amount of transparency of county representatives, officials and staff exponentially.
It's a beautiful clean community that I feel safe living in.	Obviously how the board wants to give millions to undocumented aliens!
Most everything in the rural community. Other than that Johnson County has no value.	Create fair voting districts to give rural residents a voice. Remove every supervisor from the board except [redacted]. Relieve the county from any responsibilities within the major cities, cities can take care of their own problems.
I love that the leadership excels at doing the wrong thing. Without fail. Everytime	Nothing. It's a little utopia in a sea of malfeasance.
No answer	Better support of first responders, veterans and teachers.
Strong sense of community	Nothing, really
Sense of community	Care of essential workers
Arts, diverse cultural opportunities, events, restaurants/bars	No answer
Police, fire department, and hospitals. As well as locally owned restaurants and businesses	Road conditions
No answer	It seems in trying to be diverse and inclusive, we are very exclusive
Nothing you guys have way too much power.	Lower our property taxes and take away your ability to tell us what we can and can't do on our property
Quality of life.	Provide more bus shelters
Safe community with great education options.	Continue to work on homeless migrant increase.
I value the sense of community	Nothing
Access to nature, support for racial/ethnic/ability/economic/LGBTQ diversity, access to recreation, employment opportunities, current political leadership	Provide more accessible low-cost housing for people with disabilities, more trees and access to nature, Amtrak station, more services for autistic people (appropriate housing, employment, support at college, social skills classes), increase wages for Direct Service Providers
Generally a county that is liberal and forward thinking.	I wish homes in the county, but right next to the city, were not allowed to do burns.

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

What do you value about Johnson County?	What would you change about Johnson County?
Its creative and intelligent people from distant places.	The weather!
Its creative and intelligent people from distant places.	The weather!
No answer	Reduce property taxes
Not much honestly	An entirely new BOS
Very good industries and employment, high literacy and educational attainment. Diverse cultures and cultural outlets, performing arts, etc. Iowa City and Coralville are excellent at taking care of their cities, city government is pretty responsive and responsible.	Taxes are too high. Property taxes really spiked after the huge Iowa City School Bond issue (151 Million \$) a few years ago, along with some spending with questionable value such as restoring the Historic Poor Farm.
The small town life.	The board of supervisors. Small towns and the rural communities have no representation on the board.

Please provide any specific project/program ideas that you would like to recommend for consideration.
Water and sewer issues instead of continued building
Do not accept one cent of this money!! Send it back!
Offer premium pay to frontline healthcare workers and other essential workers who were not able to stay home and collect other government compensation. And please include teachers in this group.
Direct payments to undocumented immigrants. Utility forgiveness to all residents w outstanding balances dating back to Mar 2020. Grant opportunities for folks trying to rebuild businesses/orgs. Mandatory acceptance of social subsidies for housing and childcare.
I think Johnson county has been so fortunate compared to the rest of the state in terms of vaccination rates, but if we are going to secure a solid economic recovery in the long term we must do better. I support recovery dollars being used to incentivize people to get vaccinated.
You can't possibly fill the holes of the financial impact of COVID-19, so I would focus on moving forward. Broadband infrastructure will serve everyone, including youth in schools, working adults, and seniors.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reimbursement for out-of-pocket medical care costs for people who have had confirmed cases of COVID-19.</li> <li>2. Improved at-home services for older and disabled residents so they can live at home longer.</li> <li>3. Subsidies for improved quality of workers at nursing homes.</li> <li>4. Reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses resulting from the 2020 derecho.</li> <li>5. Incentives for replanting trees and crops destroyed in the 2020 derecho.</li> <li>6. Improved care of gravel roadways, especially in the winter.</li> <li>7. Incentives to encourage mental health workers and social workers to move to the area.</li> <li>8. Provide property and sales tax holidays to make more funds available for investment in local businesses and/or recovery for farmers.</li> </ol> Any program that helps people to work together (regardless of race, gender religion or political part) to help more county residents seek vaccinations.
I would like to see more green space set aside in the county.
I don't have any good ideas, but I would like good internet access available as close to 100% as possible for education and commercial purposes.
All schools need to have proper ventilation systems, where 100% of the air is filtered and replaced on a regular basis.
I would like to see some of the funds used to move Johnson County toward more sustainable energy, such as wind and solar.
Fund mentorship programs in Black churches ( kingdom center)  Provide incentives to nursing homes for low paid workers to have educational opportunities and advancement. Partnership with Kirkwood. Same with nurses/therapists.  Provide some mechanism for undocumented workers to be paid and advance.  Invest in bike infrastructure and bike borrow system



# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

Please provide any specific project/program ideas that you would like to recommend for consideration.

To support small businesses that where negatively affected by Covid-19 I would like to see advertising grants that businesses could use to try to get back customers. Also a grant to help support web hosting and web development for small businesses since they are now expected to be online too. A grant to help offset higher costs of compostable or more green packaging for local stores and restaurants would benefit the business and the greater Johnson county community as less waste is produced.

Focus on the increased Gun violence with Technology and human resources (Police and Sheriff)

we need more competition for internet. Mediacom owns all of Iowa city. I am at the mercy of a monopoly. Bring South Slope in, expand Imon and Century link. Give us more options!!!

These funds are going to be spent after the pandemic has receded. Investing in longer term projects to help the county should be priority. Keeping our local shops and restaurants alive should be looked at. It would a shame if they "survive" only to be put out of business later because of back rent or debt they accumulated.

UIHC, grocery, utility, first responders, gas station employees.

Direct payments first to workers and families who were not eligible for previous relief payments, next to low wage workers still in need . Funds provided to businesses should include increases in wages to essential workers. I believe the county is familiar with groups that could help distribute these funds, but could include CWJ, IC Compassion, Catholic Worker House, Shelter House, Free Lunch. These should keep paperwork to a minimum and provide staff to assist with these effort. In addition, the county could have outreach workers, community members to assist. Transportation for those in need could include free bus passes, and increased hours. Funds to property owners should include lower rents, increases in upkeep and more affordable housing. Stipends for rents directly to low income residents would be helpful as well.

Introduce a county wide fiber internet co-op to compete with private companies which are expensive and have poor service. This would allow all families to have affordable, reliable internet access and increase local jobs, as well as the ability to work from home for people who currently have no internet or bad internet access.

More funding for already existing local aid groups, including those that address housing, poverty, sexual violence, etc.

Direct cash payments to all essential workers who worked during the pandemic. All essential worker payments and other essential worker initiatives must include undocumented workers. Public broadband infrastructure permanently installed in low income neighborhoods in Iowa City.

It should go to the underrepresented populations in Johnson County, specifically conservatives with conservative values.

1. Support PH Response to COVID-19; 2. Offer premium pay for essential workers; 3. Address negative economic impacts; 4. Broadband infrastructure; 5. Water & sewer infrastructure; 6. Replace public sector revenue loss

lower property taxes, rein in the Iowa City School System, help fund charter schools

The most effective way to address poverty and help recovery is directly financially returning money to essential and excluded workers who need it the most but received the least support. This is what addressing negative economic impacts means. Addressing negative economic impacts is NOT giving even more handouts to politically-connected businesses.

Guidelink Center Staff

The Center for Worker Justice/Catholic Worker programs for funding to people economically disadvantaged by the pandemic, and as of yet, no payments which other people got. Thanks

Public health, UIHC-they lost millions and are the Iowa safety net for the poor

End the Section 8 waiting list.

Un sistema comprensiva de cuidado de niños  
Un sistema regional de tránsito  
Más opciones aquesibles para vivienda

Work through existing non-profit agencies who already have a good idea of those in the population who have experienced major negative economic impacts from the pandemic. Use money primarily for essential needs.

Fund public health data systems

I am a wheelchair-bound long-time resident of Woodfield Lane (east of Liberty High School) living alone in an unincorporated area and dependent on an obsolete DSL-landline telephone linkage for internet service. The frequent breakdowns in my phone service also break my internet link. I welcome any means to help me meet the formidable cost of getting modern high-speed internet .service. I am sure many other rural County residents find themselves in my position, as do the other 5 residents of Woodfield Lane. Thus, the use of these funds for this purpose seems to me here in rural Johnson County to be a matter of high priority.



# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

Please provide any specific project/program ideas that you would like to recommend for consideration.

The Excluded Workers' Fund

water and sewer infrastructure - checking lead service line inventories at munis would be good and finish those off; looking at older housing stock and replacing windows (both lead paint and for better heating/cooling); consider looking at those historical red lined areas; broadband would be great in general, not just rural, but also consider lower income areas - please consider short term goals for starting up the economy, quick injects of money and could be paying people (essential works, low income low wage) so they can spend it; and then long term - plan for climate change, take care of quantitative issues that have plagued the community for decades, put a nail in that coffin - utilize college of public health, health department, economists, and urban planners - consider standing up a ad hoc committee to do research and explore - no authority or power just advisement from an unbiased perspective (as best as possible) - please ensure the vendor asks good questions to the community

Fondo de trabajadores excluidos

Quiero un Fondo de Trabajadores Excluidos para inmigrantes indocumentados

2,500 undocumented immigrants in Johnson County did not receive \$3,200 in federal stimulus that legal residents and citizens all received with no questions asked. Hundreds of previously incarcerated people were released to a shut-down economy but did not qualify for unemployment. Up to 1,200 workers on unemployment will lose their benefits this week. We need an Excluded Workers Fund that gives money directly to people who need it most, with no strings attached, and no pass-through groups or third parties.

Somos trabajadores esenciales y excluidos. Necesitamos alivio de Covid

I agree with the Catholic Worker immigrants and refugees calling for an Excluded Workers Fund. The ARP money needs to go to the workers who kept our way of life going but did not receive pandemic relief. Nobody asked me to prove I had a financial need before I got a stimulus check.

Public money should be used for the common good, help the most amount of people, and go to those who risked and suffered the most but were left out of previous rounds of pandemic relief. I support an Excluded Workers Fund.

Excluded Workers Fund, like in New York, Denver and New Jersey

Vaccination incentive program like Polk and Black Hawk Counties have initiated.

Financial assistance for essential workers and those who need it the most. Stop giving tax incentives to developers. We need solar farms, public transportation, and a ban on pesticides and single use plastic bags.

Program that supports housing and transportation needs for low-income essential workers 300% below FPL. Eligible occupations could include: delivery drivers, food service, janitorial, education, healthcare, etc. Programs supports could include child care options, housing placement or rental/ownership assistance, vouchers for unmet transportation needs.

I will write below about our lack of broadband services and it wider implications, Here are a few details. South Slope estimated that five of us would have to pay \$23,000 to bring broadband service part way to us. There would then be one to two thousand individual hookup fees. Further, Mediacom has not responded to our requests for a proposal in spite of two office visits and follow up emails. .

During the pandemic working in psychiatry we were forced to float and be replaced with medical staff to sit in Covid positive patients rooms that also had a mental health diagnosis. During sitting for 4-12 hours with the covid patients (who weren't wearing masks) we were denied N95 mask and told we were fine with a regular surgical mask. During sitting with these patients we'd never see a nurse until it was time for them to pass a medication so a lot of us never got breaks during our time sitting. Several of us we're diagnosed with Covid only days after sitting with Covid positive patients. Our Covid unit nursing staff got bonus of \$3,000 for Nursing Assistants and \$5,000 for Nurses, but psych nursing staff didn't receive anything from UIHC for risking our lives and our families.

On top of all of that we were to do furloughs and because of this our unit would be short at times. I am thankful to still have been working, but I felt UIHC was exploiting their staff and we were not "In this together."

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

Please provide any specific project/program ideas that you would like to recommend for consideration.

Over the course of this pandemic, the psychiatric nursing assistants (PNAs) were called to care for patients who had both contracted the virus and had been diagnosed with mental illnesses. The PNA spends 7 ½ hours sitting beside inside the patient's room by themselves, a staff duress alarm, and a specialized hospital phone to make requests with. It's the job of the PNA to promote a safe environment of patient-centered care and de-escalate violent or otherwise situationally unsuitable behavior should it arise. However, patients may not always in a state where they are receptive to language or can be otherwise redirected verbally, and may instead attempt to physically interact with staff. In one example, I've had to care for a patient whose condition prevented them from fully understanding that they could transmit the virus. This patient was unrestrained and allowed to move throughout the room. After ensuring they had enough water and establishing good rapport, the patient reached over and touched my shoulder. The patient was reminded not to do that and they stopped accordingly. Other times I'd watch over geriatric patients diagnosed with late-stage dementia, which can mean that they are not orientated to time/place and may reach out to touch the face of what they believe is a family member, strike out at what they perceive to be an intruder in their home, reach for an object that isn't there, and many other possibilities. Additionally, many have lost the ability to walk and cannot ambulate to the restroom by themselves, requiring the PNA to physically help them up, take them to the toilet, and change the incontinent if briefs are soiled. As the result of the unique circumstances and challenges that increase the likelihood of exposure to PNAs, several psychiatric staff members and myself have been infected with COVID and our units exposed to hospital-acquired infection. The psychiatric nursing assistants at UIHC are low paid frontline healthcare workers who did not receive any hazard pay during the pandemic. But we were forced to work in hazardous conditions. For this reason, I support the Excluded Worker Fund

Improve all broadband communication, both urban and rural.

Any program that helps those who are less fortunate and focuses on those living pay check to pay check.

As a caregiver providing support to my elderly parents in Iowa, I am frustrated by the inability to work remotely when I am in the North Liberty area. The brand new North Liberty High School is literally around the corner, but still I can't do any remote work as I help my aging parents because the Internet is substandard. It takes 5-10 minutes to open an image on email and that is on a good day. I would advocate for utilizing the ARP resources allocated to upgrade the internet for all Johnson County residents that are in this situation.

Would like to see those who were overlooked in other programs get support from these funds

The survey wouldn't let me rank the above categories

Many local farmers lost revenue which could have been from the pandemic and/or derecho. This has a domino effect on our community. Local restaurants no longer buying local foods as the restaurants are shut down. Local food pricing goes up in order to keep the farmer in business. Local farming has very little in shared resources and it would be great to structure a plan that would provide 1. Ground/Garden for local farming entrepreneurs to grow crops to sell. Continue with the rest of the plan to provide a property to share storage such as coolers, dry storage and freezers. Continue to have in this same facility an area for processing their locally grown products. This could be expanded to include meat processing and other complex processing services. This could be cooperatively owned by all producers and processors. And the cherry on top would be a shared market space designed similar to the NewBo market that the local farm community could have a source to sell their items and rent space as needed or available. Literally putting this in a Farm to Table or Farm to Market atmosphere for Johnson County. What farming entrepreneur wouldn't want to move to Johnson County for such an opportunity! Support local farming, support local foods, support local business, support local tourism and so much more!

Broadband is increasingly viewed as an essential utility. I would very much advocate that areas of Johnson County without access be considered for support of broadband -- as a way to support medical care, community and safety for older folks. Especially for those on fixed incomes or in smaller subsections, commercial broadband cannot offer access that is not cost prohibitive. In particular I am concerned about my parents neighborhood outside of North Liberty (Woodfield Lane)

Addressing negative economic impacts means putting money directly into the back pockets of the essential and excluded workers who need it most but who received the least support. It's the right thing to do and the most effective way to address poverty and aid the recovery. Addressing negative economic impacts and disparities does not mean giving even more handouts to politically-connected businesses.

For low income housing, I would like to see a grant to Johnson County Habitat for Humanity to help build up to ten homes. The money would go to with land purchases and help cover cost of materials. Also, build in a cost sharing. For every \$2 Johnson County provides, Habitat has to provide \$1 in cash or acceptable "in kind" (does not count the sweat equity provided by new homeowner).

Support resilient community-based food systems by investing in food hubs, small-scale, diversified farmers and value-added food system entrepreneurs through technical assistance, forgivable loans or other funding, and infrastructure investment. Purchase foods grown by local farmers to help those in immediate need and make food system entrepreneurship more accessible through multiple language translation assistance, and paid staff time for process guidance.

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

Please provide any specific project/program ideas that you would like to recommend for consideration.

We need a good “rainy day fund” to prepare for any resurgence of Covid-19 due to variants. Consideration on keeping the schools open, if there are Covid issues. Consideration on when a booster will be needed for Covid-19. Did I mention the concern about Covid—19? :o) I don’t think it is done with us.

Direct cash benefits to essential workers who have been excluded from other government assistance, and direct payments are most accessible and most efficient. Addressing negative economic impacts does not mean giving money to private business or landlords. Furthermore, future negative economic impacts could be prevented if there was public housing, utilities and internet in place. Public internet could be especially simple as public government buildings in Iowa already have access to high speed public internet, the Iowa Communications Network, which could be amplified as community Wi-Fi. Detroit has a similar community-run effort called the Detroit Community Technology Effort. This would benefit anyone currently forced to deal with either Mediacom or CenturyLink, or potentially even those in rural areas who do not now have good high speed internet options available to them.

Millions should be given to the Johnson County Housing Trust Fund to help invest in affordable housing throughout the county.

I did not mark broadband but not because I don’t think it is important. But because the state should be taking care of this after more than 10 years of talking about it. If you will spend money on technology, get rid of Hikvision devices, surveillance cameras and temperature readers and other. Hikvision is a Chinese owned company whose equipment is used to oppress and inter the Uyghur people. The U.S. feds have banned Hikvision purchases since 2019. Please get rid of its use in Johnson County.

Community broadband

Provide grants to small businesses that support volunteer or sponsor an event in the community. Must provide “so many” hours. Offer funding to essential workers how fall within 80% of the poverty level.

Fund Excluded Workers

fondo de trabajadores excluidos

Fondo de Trabajadores Excluidos

A one-way/emergency response/bicycle/pedestrian bridge at Park Road extended west to the peninsula in Iowa City. Chip-sealing or asphalt paving of narrow county roads from Frytown to Morse. A bike bridge on the Greencastle Road route. Help to develop and reward the skilled and invaluable construction workers who perform this work.

Fondo de Trabajadores Excluidos

Front-line workers kept society going during the pandemic while everyone else worked non-essential jobs from home. I support the Excluded Workers Fund, including direct cash payments to workers excluded from stimulus and unemployment. I also support hazard pay for essential workers. Johnson County claims to care about racial equity and justice and now it is time to put your money where your mouth is. Businesses and nonprofits have already gotten relief many times over. It is unequal that the hardest-working and lowest-paid people in our community have been left behind.

Houses Into Homes supports low income needs. It is a newer organization and needs commitment to ongoing funding for advanced long-term planning.

We should invest for the future.

For example, we need more workers. Rather than just give people money, we should provide workforce training, high quality/ low cost childcare/ and counseling to help people find careers that match their skills and interests. We also need to help formerly incarcerated individuals transition to careers.

Serving the sector hardest hit that are suffering due to lost wages, loss of home, impact on families. Houses Into Homes does a lot to address the inequities of loss of home and all that entails.

Addressing negative impacts means putting money directly into the hands of the essential workers and excluded workers who need it the most, for example hospital workers, fast food workers, home and child care workers, clerks, teachers, aids and all school workers. It’s the right thing to do and they will SPEND it. It does not mean giving money to politically connected businesses that really do not need the assistance.

I don’t really know what specific projects or programs. I just know people are hurting, they need money, not new streets, or infrastructure right now. that is important too but right now so many people have gotten sick and many cannot work any more because of that. those people need help. all those people we “thanked” for being essential workers but what did they get? many got nothing... I think the county could work with existing non profit groups to figure out who is in most needs.

address rural economic development. Specifically local food, vegetable & meat production & processing

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

Please provide any specific project/program ideas that you would like to recommend for consideration.

Community violence prevention  
Affordable housing  
Affordable, quality child care  
Healthy and safe homes

Fondo de trabajadores excluidos

I would like to see the county support essential and excluded workers, previously incarcerated people, with direct cash assistance and hazard pay

I would like to see additional supports for homeless and immigrant families. Housing support in the form of rental assistance, case management and support for basic needs such as household furnishings. I would like to see the county collaborate with the ICCSD to implement a rigorous out-of-school time program to address learning loss. All funding applications should require collaboration.

Fund Excluded Workers Coalition Plan

Support for early childhood programs

Rent and utility assistance. Direct payments to anyone making less than 50k a year.

I think a mental health facility would be nice

I encourage the supervisor's to think about long term investments that can improve the quality of life for all.

Evaluate and support Johnson County Health Department. Resolve any staffing and material resource shortfalls to meet mission.

Gotta be honest, this is not my job.

Direct cash payments for citizens negatively impacted by the pandemic, the derecho, and police brutality and wrongful prosecutions in Johnson county. Proof of such damage should be held to the same standard as PPP loans were held for business owners.

Rental assistance, bonus pay for essential workers, support for immigrant workers and families, assistance for low-income families.

Improved public transportation.

Funds for excluded workers

Un Fondo de Trabajadores Excluidos

We need an Excluded Workers Fund to provide direct cash assistance for excluded workers, hazard pay for essential workers, affordable housing cooperatives, expanded public transportation, and more

Figure out a way to support the Johnson County Sheriff, Ambulance and Fire Services, these areas are way short staffed. DO NOT defund the Sheriff's Office, some areas of the country that defunded are learning now that they should not have. Do not worry about replacing the County's Armored vehicle, if it scares some people, who cares, suck it up, it was very useful during the flood of 2008, be thankful we haven't really had a need for it. Address the Negative Economic Impacts, give some further assistance to the businesses of the County, maybe if businesses were able to receive PPE funds, then they should not be allowed to apply for new funds, give some others a chance. Assist new business, since there has been a loss of businesses (negative impact), maybe you could help some new ones. Give some assistance to private Day Care Providers, assist them and encourage to stay in business, they are caring people. Assist the small communities around in upgrading their water and sewer infrastructure, do not give the monies to the City of Iowa City, they have there own relief monies to use.

Promote more use of active transportation through education and encouragement. Incentivize active transportation for shopping and errands

Mental Health

Hospitals, day care centers, nursing homes

Un Fondo de Trabajadores Excluidos, alivio de pandemia para inmigrantes, y pago de alta riesgo por trabajadores esenciales

Due to the pandemic, the need for Iowa City Free Clinic services has increased, as people have lost jobs and sometimes their insurance. As a result, the Clinic's waiting lists are longer, in particular for patients in need of appointments with specialists, patients diagnosed with chronic health conditions, and patients in need of dental services.

The Clinic employs a small staff. Although we now have systems in place to work with more volunteer providers, we continue to monitor the number of people in the clinic at one time and are at capacity for available appointments.

To meet the increased need, we would recommend consideration of funding for the additional Clinic staff - our ability to provide care to more patients would increase with the addition of a Dental Clinic Director, an additional part-time physician or mid-level medical provider, and a part-time Social Worker.

Essential worker pay needs to be boosted. The water in Coralville is horrible and needs to be fixed.

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

Please provide any specific project/program ideas that you would like to recommend for consideration.

Excluded Workers Fund with no barriers to access

Fund Meals on Wheels for homebound seniors in Johnson County. (Horizons/Elder Services)

I don't really understand "address negative economic impacts" since it seems to include two of the ideas listed. I'd rank it higher if it said "address negative disparate economic impacts." Help those who are about to lose where they live, whether that's a rental or home. Homelessness will create a spiral.

I really liked the drive through voting last year, I hope they keep that.

Fondo de Trabajadores Excluidos por inmigrantes sin documentados que no recibieron alivio de pandemia, cheques de estímulo, o seguro de desempleo

Los trabajadores inmigrantes hicieron el trabajo esencial durante la pandemia pero no obtuvieron alivio.

El Fondo de Trabajadores Excluidos y pago extra para alto riesgo

Fondo de Trabajadores Excluidos

hazard pay for essential workers of color

I support the Excluded Workers Fund plan, particularly stimulus checks for undocumented immigrants, hazard pay for essential workers, more affordable housing, and Sunday bus service. The American Rescue Plan money should go to people, not to businesses or nonprofits. Businesses and nonprofits have gotten bailed out plenty of times. Too many nonprofits have no base and rely too much on government support. I'm disappointed that nonprofits in this town only want the money for themselves to pay for staff. The ARP money should be invested in workers and poor people

As a Catholic from St. Mary's in Solon, I support the Catholic Worker House and their proposal for an Excluded Workers Fund. We are called by our faith to serve the poor, welcome the stranger, and respect the dignity of work.

Senior center satellite location in Coralville, Support for drug and ICE enforcement

I was laid off during the pandemic and was then kicked off unemployment by the governor. I was scared to go back to work and when I did, I got Covid-19.

I would like the ARP money to be invested in hazard pay for essential workers and stimulus checks for excluded workers like undocumented immigrants and previously incarcerated people

It would be great to see the County and local municipalities providing support to the Excluded Workers Fund. Additionally, the County could use a large portion of funds to support and strengthen the many social service agencies that provide essential services to community members.

1

Need to offset current projects in Lone Tree to spread savings on sewer treatment plant over thousands of residents. This would directly benefit many low and fixed income residents in the area.

Inside Out Reentry, provide services to formerly incarcerated people who struggle with barriers that keep them from being successful members of the community.

CommUnity Crisis Center.

DVIP

Update/expand Recreation Center in Coralville

Raise and rebuild South east corner (1st Ave and Mormon Trek)

TRUE lower income housing; not low-income housing costs determined by high income individuals. There should NOT be subsidized housing with impossible-to-meet requirements.

The free medical and dental clinic of Iowa city. This clinic has stayed open during the pandemic, but has had to drastically decrease services offered. Because of the decreased available medical insurance for many community residents due to lost jobs, Low or no income, immigrant status, etc., there are way too many people who have not had adequate medical care which was increased with the fear caused by the pandemic and other social factors. There is a large back up of people who need essential, acute, and preventive medical care. The clinic needs increased paid staffing to help make this need. The many volunteers providing care at the free clinic have decreased due to the pandemic. With a small increase in the number of paid staff at the clinic, there will be a much greater potential for increasing services as the clinic operates on a very efficient and cost-effective manner. The free clinic provides high quality respectful, and non-discriminatory care to the people in our community who Most need this kind of care and treatment from our society.

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

Please provide any specific project/program ideas that you would like to recommend for consideration.
45W456W456W45
subsidize accessibly housing for the elderly!!!!
Be the first county in Iowa that requires all new homes to be Accessible and Affordable.
Give money to businesses that had to close for an extended period of time; raise wages to encourage individuals to quit unemployment and start to work. There are help wanted signs all over the county, and I am not quite sure why it is so hard to retain employees. The workers who are currently employed are overworked, stressed, and underpaid. There should be documentation of lost revenue in order to accept money for increased wages to employees - or at least a large bonus. I know many of these individuals are not considered essential employees, but they are still working long hours, several days in a row.
Broadband for all. This will serve school kids, farmers and all.
Supporting Excluded workers
Housing services and increase funding for affordable housing.
municipal broadband to compete with Mediacom would be a great idea, Mediacom is terrible.
The Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa, in Iowa City, has been advocating for lost wages for low-wage workers, both documented and undocumented, since it was founded in 2014.
Public sector revenue loss should be aimed at small local businesses rather than huge ones. And private, nonprofit businesses have suffered awful revenue losses, particularly housing agencies and outreach agencies, HAB and SCL. PPP helped but not nearly enough. They need much more funding: Successful Living, Unlimited Abilities, Builders of Hope are 3 that have suffered and continue to suffer. They all help the chronically and seriously mentally ill and others.
Remove barriers for support so people that are in need can access what they require to survive and thrive. Provide more support for older adults to access services and stay socially active after a year of detrimental isolation. Improve access to mental health care. Improve child care resources that are accessible to middle and lower class families. Internet access for all.
Excluded workers from government's relief programs should take precedence. They are essential to the functioning of Johnson County and that should be acknowledged by direct cash payments. Groups such as Catholic Worker House, Center for Workers' Justice, Iowa Freedom Riders, Fund Excluded Workers Coalition plus a multitude of other organizations already in existence can be consulted.
Un Fondo de Trabajadores Excluidos y alivio de la pandemia
I am from rural Hills and support the Excluded Workers Fund
I am a Hispanic farmhand and I support the Excluded Workers Fund and hazard pay for essential workers
I support the Excluded Workers Fund and urge Johnson County to give pandemic relief to those who have been left behind. It's the right thing to do and it makes good economic sense
I am an unaccompanied minor living and working on my own and was denied access to Johnson County's General Assistance Fund for help paying rent because I am not 18 years old.
I applied for utility assistance through the county general assistance program and was denied because the bills are under another person's name. I was also told I had to get a doctor's note to prove I could not work or I would not qualify for other assistance. I feel this is unfair to me and my situation and discriminating against me as an immigrant essential worker
The Latino community has clearly stated that immigrants need a pandemic relief with no strings attached. I support an Excluded Workers Fund with no restrictions.
I saw a presentation at St. Mary's in Solon put on by the Catholic Worker House and the immigrant and refugee workers. After hearing their personal stories, I urge Johnson County to pass an Excluded Workers Fund without delay. God bless you.
I am a low-wage essential worker in the public sector and I support hazard pay and an Excluded Workers Fund.
Inside Out Reentry Community housing project
Excluded Workers Fund
Excluded Workers Fund for undocumented immigrants to get stimulus checks
Please pass an Excluded Workers Fund for the Hispanic immigrant community to finally receive what is in justice theirs after 18 months going without
pago de prima y un fondo de trabajadores excluidos



# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

Please provide any specific project/program ideas that you would like to recommend for consideration.

Assist rural areas with infrastructure and making sure everyone in the county has access to broadband..updating infrastructure county-wide should be the top priority. Boost and make Meals on Wheels a top priority for those who are elderly or disabled. And lastly, build a county-wide public transportation service that is available and affordable to all.

I read the Press Citizen article about distributing the ARPA funds. I hope you will spend the money on things like increasing access to voting, with the voting sheds, and improving shared institutions, like better water/sewer, broadband, or HVAC for public buildings. I strongly oppose handing out the money to excluded workers or other special interest groups. This money is for our whole community and should be put into things the whole community benefits from medium and longer-term.

Let's keep Iowa and hopefully some of Johnson county still a rural and agricultural place by improving broadband access. The county area I live in has decent internet, but not high speed and it is necessary when working from home.  
Let's keep the funds received from the government to benefit the people who pay the taxes that allow these funds to be given to the county in the first place.

Better idea's mentioned in Press-Citizen article ...

- Expanding eligibility and benefit amount for the General Assistance Program.
- COVID-19 mitigation steps like increased cleaning for the SEATS paratransit system.
- Public health capital investments like new HVAC systems for county buildings and expanding the Johnson County Medical Examiner workspace.
- Purchase software for poll worker training and management and purchasing sheds to use for drive-thru voting.
- Replace County revenue loss and fill budget shortfalls.
- An eviction diversion program to decrease the number of evictions, stabilize households in crisis, and reduce homelessness.
- Creating an affordable child care program on county-owned property.
- Stimulus allocations to previously incarcerated U.S. citizens left out of previous federal stimulus and relief payments.

Anything you can do to incentivize the needed infrastructure for more stable, consistent internet for home use would be helpful (eg remote learning/teaching is more difficult with so many dropped connections). This especially affects anyone needing to work/learn remotely.

Helping to bring the local businesses back that we lost (especially local favorite restaurants) because of the pandemic.

Helping childcare facilities and staffing issues

Support for small food businesses and farmers who were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding for local foods infrastructure projects to expand local meat and produce processing. This will increase the availability of local food which will mitigate food system crises such as meat shortages and price fluctuations.

Financial support to nonprofits that work to increase food security through access to local foods (e.g. Iowa Valley RC&D, Field to Family). This would serve the ~14% of JC residents who are food insecure.

Funding to schools and other institutions to increase purchasing of fresh, local fruits and vegetables. This would serve local farmers by increasing their sales, and it would serve students by increasing the nutritional content of school lunches which is sometimes the only meal that students receive in a day.

Covid meant that thousand of people in prison had their release delayed. Which mean that there is pent up demand for housing them as they are now released. So more assistance both financial and supportive services are necessary.

Un Fondo de Trabajadores Excluidos

Pago de prima, fondo de trabajadores excluidos

Yo quiero pago de prima y un Fondo de trabajadores esenciales excluidos

Un Fondo para los excluidos y tambien pago de prima para alto riesgo

spread out affordable housing options throughout the county and not concentrate them all on the S/SE side of IC

Rental help for people and their families

Seats buses and Iowa city buses--Improve public transportation

Road Repair

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

Please provide any specific project/program ideas that you would like to recommend for consideration.
Expedite the dispersal of gov. funds for back rent to keep people from being evicted
Continue to increase access to mental health services
Fix the roads
more recycling and more anti littering/general trash awareness
Anything to due with Recreation, Planting of more trees everywhere, Anything to reduce crime/more Police
I am particularly interested in funds going to local Black churches which have been very negatively impacted. Early recovery money went to white churches based on their monthly salary expenses. Black churches typically can't afford to pay their staff and thus for the most part did not qualify for federal assistance. At least 3 black churches closed their doors in 2020 and others had a very difficult time even paying utilities.
I would like to see everyone who has worked in person between March 2020 and present, and who's annual income is under \$60,000/year, receive a direct payment of \$500.
Any program which focuses on climate change needs and sustainability
Expand public transit. Hours, Days and Rural service. Please consolidate. We don't need 4 transit systems We need better cellular service in rural Johnson County. We need higher speed broadband in rural Johnson County
I would like funds used for purchase of Covid-19 quick result testing kits that are free and readily available to all schools, businesses, and county residents. The county's public health department should receive adequate funding to implement this effort.
Broadband access would directly impact all of the other points on the list. Equal access to decent wireless would be a game changer in JoCo; yes, it's expensive, yes, it's complicated, but imagine if you could cut out paper utility bills and other communication? Instant savings and waste reduction. Also way more fair for families with kids who get devices at school but can't provide Internet.
Take back rental assistance from the Iowa finance authority. They have botched the application review process and negatively impacted thousands of Johnson County residents. Work with local agencies to meet the need for rent and utilities relief like Linn and Polk county have.
Free lunch, food pantries Housing for homeless
Give every household at least one quick-response COVID test per resident.
Let's use this money to increase broadband, replace old sewage and pipes. We do not need to spend money to give non-Americans benefits. This is tax payer money.
The Excluded Workers Fund
Look forward. Long term, what's the big economic driver of the area. Decide that, and train displaced workers in that area. Fix our problem with our resources.
Broadband for the county is so important for our kids in school.
Anything that helps to keep the arts going and gives local people good jobs at a decent salary is fine with me.
Creation of a public health, health care and social services Consortium
Create an economic impact fund. Allow businesses that have closed due to COVID and/or that are borderline closing due to COVID to help them remain in business or re-open. Create an application/eligibility process. Offer financial support up to a max of \$250,000 - perhaps set corridors - up to 250,000; up to 150,000, up to 75,000, up to 50,000, up to 25,000 as examples. Start with focus on revitalizing downtown Iowa City. Allocate up to \$10 million. Let's keep Iowa city and Johnson County strong!
Solon area, including unincorporated.
Aquatic center Solon and better grocery store.
More broadband choices in the area, and lower rates or free for low income households
Partner with local companies that are building high-speed internet to rural and metro areas. These are the Sam companies that employee Johnson county and surrounding county taxes. Don't give it to the Mediacom, Centurylinks, Metronets or Windstream type companies. They do not have a vested interest in our communities.
Monetary assistance to essential workers and immigrants. Affordable housing. Buses running 7 days a week. Support for organizations helping the homeless and food insecure.



# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

Please provide any specific project/program ideas that you would like to recommend for consideration.
COVID has placed great demands for broadband bandwidth and speed which existing infrastructure is not supporting - especially in rural areas.
Support the Excluded Workers Support even better vaccination rates in the county (recognizing that they're pretty good)--concerned about large student population that may remain unvaccinated.
This is a once in a life-time opportunity to advance economic development through support of local foods initiatives. \$1,000,000.
A unique opportunity exists to construct affordable housing in the qualified census tract in Iowa City. \$6,500,000.
Project is a feasibility study. Location is both rural and urban areas. The recommendation will serve livestock farmers, meat processors/aggregators and distributors and consumers. The feasibility study would examine the meat processing logjam during COVID and determine whether there is adequate meat processing capacity in Johnson County. If there is adequate processing capacity, then a servicing company in form of a for profit LLC funded with grants should be established as a go-between for farmers and processors. If not adequate processing capacity, then a custom processor is needed for all aspects (meat processing, aggregating and distribution).
Rural health and essential workers and rural broadband users
Please support the R.E. Connect Collective as it works to provide resources to organizations serving communities of color through a hub and spoke model!
N/A
Property tax relief.
Fund social workers to help navigate housing and food insecurity as well as health and mental health repercussions.
Un Fondo de trabajadores excluidos y pago de prima
Help locally owned small businesses who were impacted by COVID.
Assist employers in hard hit areas (arts, service sectors) with maintaining employment so long as they abide by good employment practices and wages.
The pandemic has had a deep and harmful effect on musicians and arts workers, who lost major sources of income in 2020 and only saw some of that income come back this year, and find it once again threatened by higher Covid numbers. While this might seem like only a small percentage of the county's population, this group has an outsized ability to effect the quality of life of Johnson County residents to draw people to the area, and positively impact ongoing economic development. There are several arts nonprofits operating in the county who help support musicians and arts workers, depending largely on business and individual donations in order to do so. Supporting arts nonprofits to a larger degree helps support a sustainable arts infrastructure that keeps musicians and arts workers from being too dependent on uncertain commercial and private forces.
excluded workers fund funding for arts and cultural organizations that are still struggling to recover
I don't feel qualified to try to identify specific projects/programs.
We must replace old plumbing . The 'cost' of not beginning this process surpasses the dollar check cost. Why wouldn't we want to prevent brain damage ? I feel replacing lead pipes will take many years, long past my lifetime. Just do it.
JoCo public health could help performance venues to stay open by supporting their efforts to require negative tests (or vaccine cards).
Johnson County Agricultural Association-they've kept essential workers to maintain the grounds and facilities for many activities of critical benefit to the public such as COVID vaccine clinics, informational meetings, food distribution to those in need and scout day camps.
I strongly support Johnson County partnering with towns in the county to fully fund the plan forwarded by the Excluded Workers Fund and endorsed by the Iowa City Human Rights Commission. The plan is outlined here: <a href="https://cbs2iowa.com/news/local/iowa-city-human-rights-commission-passes-resolution-supporting-excluded-workers-fund">https://cbs2iowa.com/news/local/iowa-city-human-rights-commission-passes-resolution-supporting-excluded-workers-fund</a>
you have limited option on the previous question, I think this money should be spend to cover the needs in the community ( it called American rescue fund, to rescue people not Institute or government rescue fund )

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

Please provide any specific project/program ideas that you would like to recommend for consideration.

Regarding the epidemic, too many people are avoiding vaccination for reasons that make no sense. Vaccines have been accepted for smallpox, diphtheria, polio, seasonal flu, etc. for generations. All negative myths about the vaccine have been debunked. I think state and local government should stop treating the matter as though it's a "conversation" about Covid, and treat it like we are at "war" with Covid. Mandatory vaccination requirements by schools, employers, etc. must be implemented if we are serious about protecting our workers and families, whether they have the common sense to agree to it or not. Until this happens, society will be needlessly asked to keep picking up the tab for lost wages, medical costs of the infected, business closings, etc.

Support for small businesses that are still suffering, if they have survived to this point. Supplement premiums for hiring needed employees. Rent support for small businesses.

At all costs, safe housing for Forrestview, safe water for Breckenridge and fair compensation for excluded workers.

TV news describes our ageing and crumbling water and sewer systems in some of the older parts of Iowa City. I support the correction of large areas of infrastructure for which maintenance and renewal has been deferred. This effort would have a plus of providing living wage employment for a large number of new workers who would be recruited for the tasks. Regarding response to Covid 19: The news reported that Iowa had 700 more Covid deaths in September this year. The majority of these casualties WERE NOT VACCINATED! 700,000 people in the US have died from Covid so far. These are victims who have died before their time. Large proportions of them were employed, supporting careers and families (and paying taxes, buying goods and services, etc.) Clearly, we are not doing enough to educate our society and cultures regarding the use of PPE and vaccinations toward the prevention of the spread of the Covid virus. I support mandatory requirements for use of PPE in schools and many other appropriate settings, and vaccinations for employees in business, the public sector, etc. Any funding that works toward this end would be justified. Remember, we should not just be having a conversation about Covid, we should be waging a war against Covid.

Offer property tax cuts to offset lost revenue

Significant upgrading to water and sewer infrastructure would be the best way to use ARPA money in order to get the most "bang for the buck". Scores of new additions to the workforce could become trained and qualified for jobs that pay a living wage, could influence the workers toward good careers, and would provided the added benefits of that employment becoming part of the tax base, thus supporting the economy beyond the ARPA funding term.

I would recommend funding the nonprofits who step in and make our town a more just and interesting place. Center for Worker Justice, the Bike Library, Public Space One, Dream City, and the like. These groups are always precarious and do very good work with little state/county/city support.

My business is home based and Mediacom and Southslope internet services are much too high, in my opinion.

I would like to see the money used to hire lawyers to sue the government on behalf of us taxpayers for misleading the populace about a non-existent threat to our health. The MANDATES put in place by our government are more hazardous to our health than the yearly flu is.

Un Fondo de Trabajadores Excluidos y pago de prima por alto riesgo

Alivio de la pandemia para trabajadores excluidos y esenciales, tambien pago de prima por alto riesgo y trabajo peligroso

ayuda de la pandemica para trabajadores excluidos y cash directamente a la gente

Excluded Workers Fund and hazard pay for excluded and essential workers, with no restrictions or barriers, and no patronage system for favored nonprofits. Give the money directly to the workers

Fund Excluded Workers without red tape, restrictions, or hand-outs to Shelter House. The government is perfectly capable of giving the money directly to the workers without do-nothing third-party intermediaries such as CWJ

Plata para trabajadores excluidos y esenciales

Un Fondo de trabajadores excluidos

Funding for watershed /stream bank stabilization and restoration

Support for immigrant and refugee families

Affordable housing

The category above to set number categories should have advised readers that they must move the categories with a mouse. I found this out by accident.

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

Please provide any specific project/program ideas that you would like to recommend for consideration.

Internet access treated like a utility. Realistic plans that take into account that most can't afford \$100 or more per month to get news and access to schools, family.

I would like us to support transportation workers.

I am part of Johnson County Food Council

PH first because if we don't get the pandemic under control, everything else falls apart.

Likewise if people can't take jobs because they can't afford childcare, or they have to keep kids home because of Covid exposure, we can't get back to normal

People need housing and landlords also need to pay their bills.

Support small businesses that have stayed open or have opened in the past two years.

Assess losses from local businesses/employers

Help first generation farmers. Help families keep their geriatric loved ones at HoMe so they don't have to go to nursing homes!!

Mercy Hospital Iowa city needs help keeping their employees that are still there. So sad to see the impact that covid has had on the health care hero's.

I feel like many essential workers whose work isn't as visible, are being left behind. In this I would include folks like environmental service personnel who work in high risk areas like hospitals, jails, etc.

Keep/expand green iowa americorps team and the work they do

Ranking didn't work. Address negative economic impacts. More affordable housing needed

It seems the small private business owners don't get the same level of help as the BIG business corporate owners.

In unincorporated JC where I live, our only choice for internet is mediacom. I would like to see more offerings

Start with funds for undocumented workers to at least bring them up to what us documented people received from the federal government. Make it contingent on both vaccination AND possession of a community ID.

Hazard pay for all public facing workers that worked through the pandemic. We literally put our lives and our families lives on the line because what choice did we have? It's infuriating that some on the board of supervisors can't see that.

city water for swisher

Money should be used to improve infrastructure. Iowa City roads are junk after living in suburban St. Louis for 16 years. Police and Fire/EMS also should receive pay increases so we can retain elite level law enforcement officers as well as Fire EMS. Absolutely no money should go to illegal immigrants or incarcerated individuals. Both groups have already broken laws. Inmates and illegal aliens are already a burden of the taxpayers. Paying 0 into the system and receiving benefits of healthcare, shelter, food, education is not fair to hard working American law abiding citizens who have paid taxes. The role of government is to protect the interest of American citizens.

Provide direct reimbursement to landlords and rental property owners whom had NO relief from the bank from making their monthly loan payments on their properties. Many landlords pour the heart and souls into making their living community welcoming, safe, and enjoyable. These landlords should be reimbursed since so often their tenants were not paying rent during the pandemic and the landlord was unusable to evict and search for a tenant that could live up to the terms of the rental agreement and pay the rent.

Provide public health services, such as Covid and flu shots, to homebound residents.

Better support networks and financial resources for pregnancy people and parents who have children who require child care. More funding support for child care can help parents return to the workforce. Despite the family focus in the community, little is done for people during pregnancy in a collective, holistic approach. Better access to healthy, cultural appropriate foods postpartum like meals on wheels except for pregnant folks and newly formed families would also be excellent support.

I would like to see internet access become a utility. I don't know if this is realistic, but internet access is becoming vital. Many job applications are now online, applications for public services (like rent and utility assistance) are online, the ability to work from home is dependent on reliable internet access.

See previous comments about LIHEAP assistance for making their homes more energy efficiency

Pago de alta riesgo, cheques de estímulo, y alivio de la pandemia

pago de prima y cheques de estímulos

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

Please provide any specific project/program ideas that you would like to recommend for consideration.

Rental assistance and the construction of more affordable housing should be a top priority. I would also favor supporting the Center for Worker Justice who is in a good position to help excluded workers. Thirdly, the pandemic has exposed the critical role of broadband for school, work and health care, and I fear the state's allocation of broadband will exclude Johnson County because we are urban and Democratic. Rural JC needs funds to expand broadband.

UAY helped my grandchildren start a youth band and help one grandchild with art classes which helped him tremendously during the pandemic. Their role in building resiliency in youth could n.v e expanded.

The Center for Worker justice helps everyone because when people have jobs and get paid they can survive and contribute so much to our community.

JC Sheriffs department maybe has other sources for training, but I think making sure our law enforcement have sufficient funding for training and mental health.

Parks and trails. Many many people I know survived covid by using our outdoor areas. Shelters at parks that would block the wind could extend our use of outdoor spaces.

Fund excluded workers directly! Not through non profits.

Provide the excluded workers coalition with adequate and appropriate funds; direct payment via county resources to those who were previously excluded.

All hospital workers

Our rural roads are in need of repair. I don't think we need to spend any more money on bike trails as they don't even pay road taxes for their bikes.

An OHV ordinance would be a great way to start representing "County" residents.

Connect North Perkins to South Perkins.

Reimbursement of landlords who had to pay their mortgages but were unable to collect from tenants during the pandemic due to government non eviction rules

Provide living wages for Direct Service Providers employed by agencies- impacts agency ability to hire and provide services; employee financial stability; people with disabilities who need essential life services.

Develop semi-independent living options for adults with disabilities such as an apartment with 1 other disabled adult and daily staff: impacts Service providers' expansion of options; increases independence of disabled adults; employs DSP

Proposal: Free Portable Hotspot Service for all

1. Free portable hotspot service for all is a transformative resource that can enhance quality of life without increasing cost of living. Free portable hotspot service for all can help a large fraction of our population fare for its economic and personal well-being.
2. Free portable hotspot service for all can transform life for a substantial fraction of Johnson County residents who need important internet connectivity, but cannot justify the cost of such service within their set of economic obligations.
3. Free portable hotspot service for all in Johnson County is a resource supporting Iowa City's preeminent honor, its CITY OF LITERATURE designation, bestowed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
4. Free portable hotspot service for all can immediately benefit Johnson County. Our current public health covid emergency may persist. Unpredictable natural urgencies, of unpredictable durations, are an ongoing part of our lives. Widely available free portable hotspot service for all, can, in such instances, be highly beneficial.
5. Free portable hotspot service for all would be available to Johnson County residents without regard to an individual's economic capacity. Access to information through free portable hotspot service for all is parallel to the benefits provided by public libraries. Free portable hotspot service for all is a powerful learning tool. Free portable hotspot service for all can be an additional attraction to Johnson County.
6. Free portable hotspot service for all can be managed through libraries. Libraries can distribute SIM cards. Users can install those SIM cards in their own hotspot devices. Libraries can coordinate instructional programs, as needed.
7. Free portable hotspot service for all is a version of the currently free portable hotspot service that is available through libraries and schools, which evidently does not conflict with Iowa State laws, including obvious industry price fixing scams, such as Iowa Code 388.10. Free portable hotspot service for all is an optimum implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act guidelines that are intended to make necessary investments to BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE.

JOHN BAKAS

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

Please provide any specific project/program ideas that you would like to recommend for consideration.

Proposal:

Rural broadband

We are still losing hundreds of citizens in Iowa to Covid. I would like to fund an effort to bring information teams into workplaces such as factories, schools, and even the hospitals. There is still a persistent atmosphere of misinformation about Covid. People are getting sick and dying before they naturally would have, due to the belligerent and deliberate ignorance of facts about the vaccines. This is supposed to be a war against covid, not just a facebook post about it. The state should make use of PPE and vaccinations mandatory.

How have you been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?	Any additional information you want to provide?
No Answer	Lost important friends and colleagues to Covid
worried about husband working inpatient at UIHC	No Answer
No changes in my work schedule at all. In fact overtime and did not receive any federal benefits etc. any	No Answer
No Answer	Thank you for requesting public input!
Isolation, took over childcare for grandchildren	No Answer
No Answer	An action that would cost little but would also go a long way in easing the economic pain of so many would be issuing a request for President Biden to cancel student debt, with payments set to resume in October, many are anxious about their economic future and money that could be spent in the community will be diverted to loans that in most instances the borrowers will not be able to be pay back. We could discuss the why of this situation ad nauseam, but anecdotally I would point to the counties efforts to raise the minimum wage and the state governments push back, to the detriment of the workers and student debt holders of Johnson county.
No Answer	Thanks for asking for feedback,
Lost wages and had healthcare costs due to illnesses that could have been COVID-19 (same symptoms) but weren't.	Please make sure funds help the individuals that need them the most, not just government or private agencies .
No Answer	Thanks for the survey. I'm glad to get information about what the supervisors are thinking about.
No Answer	Businesses have already gotten funding through other programs. Wealthy or well-connected individuals do not need more money.
Lost a job	No Answer
A+ student failed this year.	No Answer
We feel fortunate that COVID-19 was more of an inconvenience than an economic hardship. My family, including my wife, daughter, son-in-law, and three grandkids--ages 4, 6, & 8--were careful throughout the pandemic and continue to be. No family member appeared to have contracted COVID-19.	Kudos to the teachers in daycare and private schools that remained open. They provided in person care and education to our child so we could serve our patients in person. They and other essential workers deserve more compensation.
Work in a hospital. Saw how the pandemic split us. Hope we Can get a community corps together to improve our community.	We trust that these funds will be used wisely. If possible to use these "once in a generation" funds for more sustainable ways of living in our future, it will help ensure that my grandchildren and future progeny will have a safe world to live in.
No Answer	I do not object to direct payments BUT, this is a one in a lifetime opportunity to change our segregated county with gross inequities.

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

How have you been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?	Any additional information you want to provide?
No Answer	Business had forced closure for ten weeks. People are still scared to come out, so still facing hugely reduced revenue and customers. School was cancelled and when it did restart no after school care available.
No Answer	I am immuno-suppressed and, even with two vaccines, may not be fully immunized. I have continued concerns about how quickly people are losing the masks and not maintaining social distancing.
No Answer	please fix the roads, sidewalks and dog parks. And Please expand internet service options.
No Answer	Please don't waste this opportunity for foundational investments and throw the money away on short term issues to appease people.
No Answer	Governor Reynolds and her lack of guidance and care for the safety of her constituents, put us all at an unnecessary risk when we had to go to work during this pandemic. Hazard pay would be a great reward
No Answer	I am most interested in funds provided in direct payments to individuals and families in need. Wages, rental assistance, safe affordable childcare and access to mental and physical healthcare are important issues as well. Thank you!
Hybrid remote work, as I am an essential onsite worker for certain parts of my job.	No Answer
No Answer	I do not support giving COVID relief funds as direct payments to undocumented immigrants, or only giving payments to certain groups. If direct payments are involved then the county should give the payments equally to all residents, or instead it should invest in infrastructure and other services that will benefit the county as a whole rather than cash to certain individuals.
Loss of conservative representation.	No Answer
No Answer	I mostly hate most of the leaders of this county. They continue to spend money that they don't have, and my children are saddened by this. Since they will have to pay for it all.
Family members could not work because of risk of exposure and bringing that home to a seriously ill/compromised health family member.	No Answer
fed up with all the restrictions, cut down the authority of elected officials.	No Answer
No Answer	more police protection, increase police funding
lost patients, patients still scared, patients delayed treatment	No Answer
No Answer	Please help the poor while helping the UIHC
No Answer	This is a unique opportunity to "get it right." Please focus on equity and inclusion.
No Answer	FUND EXCLUDED AND ESSENTIAL WORKERS.
No Answer	Esa traducción es mala.
No Answer	no
yes - worked a lot of hours in a stressful job	No Answer
No Answer	please don't give into public demands and flashes in the pan - data driven decisions
No Answer	Los otros programas de asistencia no funcionan

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

How have you been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?	Any additional information you want to provide?
No Answer	Affordable housing construction should be cooperatively and communally owned. Governments should not big winners and losers whether business or nonprofit. Relief needs to go to workers and people not institutions.
Without exercise options my physical health has seriously decline. I am now 83 and very handicapped.	No Answer
No Answer	Surprisingly, just five miles north of Iowa City in unincorporated rural Johnson County we are part of a five household neighborhood with only one mbps DSL internet service surrounded by others with full broadband service. An appropriate use of some of these funds would be to provide incentive funding to Mediacom, South Slope, etc. for extending their broadband service to all rural areas.
worked under hazardous conditions without premium pay	No Answer
worked on the front-lines without hazard pay	No Answer
No Answer	No, thank you for allowing me the opportunity for input. We need to use these funds wisely so that it will sustain programs\projects for the most people in Johnson County.
Difficulty Providing Eldercare	No Answer
No Answer	As a part time resident of Johnson County, trying to assist my parents who are longtime residents of Johnson County, anyway to upgrade the broadband will be very helpful to keep them in their home and assist me in providing care for them.
No Answer	covid is not the only thing that is going to happen to our county. Climate change and using some of this money to better develop adaptations and mitigation planning for any type of emergency will build resiliencies for us.
The list is long!	No Answer
No Answer	The opportunities that ARPA could provide for our community is endless! I'm hoping that we consider using these funds that would benefit most or all of our community, not just a select few. This needs to be inclusive for everyone!
I have been lucky. No challenges.	No Answer
No Answer	I am aware interested groups or individuals will eventually have to apply for the funds. But there might also be groups or folks who are not aware they would qualify. I would like to see JC reach out to those groups and educate them . . . they would still have to make a request.
No Answer	Invest in community-based food systems to support a more resilient Johnson County as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and as a step forward to better weathering the next disaster.
Isolation. Have rheumatoid arthritis which necessitates more caution. My husband is a funeral director and has had to care for my Covid victims and their families.	No Answer
No impact	With the current political climate, anything our local leaders can do to unite us in purpose is greatly appreciated.



# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

How have you been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?	Any additional information you want to provide?
No Answer	I would like to see our county finds ways to support workers, families, and other every day folks that don't rely on subsidizing private business--public funding could be spent more effectively and efficiently on building public resources rather than allowing private business and landlords to continue profiting off of our basic needs.
No Answer	No
No Answer	Give the money to people who pay taxes. [obscenity] the welfare leeches. Yall disgust me.
No Answer	I wouldn't say my mental health has worsened. But I would say that between covid and the deracho sp? I am more stressed. I cry easier, felt panicky when storms went thru last week, and my heart dropped when there was a generator check at work that happened a few minutes earlier than planned a couple weeks ago. BUT - I also experienced a greater sense of community in the past year or so. Neighbors and community were there when we needed them and we tried to be there for others also. I love Iowa and I love Johnson County!!
No Answer	Fondo trabajadores excluidos
I have been fortunate	No Answer
No Answer	Fund Excluded Workers
No Answer	Broadband is needed in our area. I wasn't aware of a need to improve water and sewer. Public needs education if there is improvement needed there.
No Answer	Thank you for this opportunity to take part.
I am retired and on social security. I feel very privileged to have made it through this pandemic. I am speaking for those who may not get the opportunity to speak.	Please use this money on infrastructure
No Answer	As I said before I am not as affected by this pandemic as others but that doesn't mean I should not speak out for them. I was taught at an early age to "do unto others", to help others less fortunate than myself. We have an opportunity to lift others out of the depths of a horrendous pandemic, let's do it. It's the right thing to do. My responses are my own.
General disruption of normal functions	just remember to help people. when all people are helped, I think our community will be better off.
No Answer	I attended the meeting at Hilton Garden Inn that Bill Menner moderated concerning rural economic development, and would like further discussion on developing emerging agriculture for small & beginning farmers.
No Answer	Providing access to nature was incredibly important during the pandemic, yet continues to be underfunded in Iowa. It is incredibly important to the future economic and public health of our community to invest in natural resources.
No Answer	Do not fund an excluded workers fund.
Stressful work situation trying to help those impacted directly.	No Answer
No Answer	I don't know enough about the economic needs or loss of public funding to address those concerns. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.



# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

How have you been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?	Any additional information you want to provide?
Had trouble receiving unemployment benefits. Denied backpay from COVID illness from my (now) former employer.	No Answer
No Answer	All cities and towns in Johnson County should be working together on these funds, and to ensure a broader cross-section of our communities are represented in the survey results.
No Answer	Don't get rid of the mrap, it's a very useful tool for law enforcement
No Answer	Spend the money so it benefits the most residents.
No Answer	These are the same recommendations that I would make for all counties and municipalities throughout the United States. There is nothing to "value" about a land mass divided from another land mass by an invisible line. Basically, the first question is meaningless and confusing.
No Answer	I'm worried about children in schools this fall. We're going to see a lot of sick kids if we can't dramatically increase vaccination rates. Masks will be necessary again this fall; I worry about Governor Reynolds' response to that.
Loss of friend due to suicide during lockdown	No Answer
No Answer	We have an opportunity to make history. Let's take advantage of it and not squander our chance.
I am disabled and an agency I received services at closed to in-person visits/went remote. While I supported their decision to do this, it has impacted my health	No Answer
No Answer	I hope to see the recommendations for this funding be collaborative and truly take input from community members and organizations. A unified approach to recovery will be important in both the short and long terms.
No Answer	Not at this time, thank you for asking the public for their input, via this survey. Oh one more thing, the Board of Supervisors need to have equal representation and should be split into Districts, and representatives from those Districts should hold a position on the Board.
reduce opportunities to be out and about	No Answer
No Answer	Use money to enhance climate action and quality of life through new initiatives.
Inability to do my work due to restrictions	No Answer
lost patients to COVID-that is the hardest to watch someone die gasping for air	No Answer
No Answer	I greatly resent that you want to provide money to undocumented workers. My daughter in law came here from another country on a legal spousal visa. It was expensive, she had to have interviews, vaccinations, and a physical exam, but it was LEGAL. I am not a Republican and I do support upholding the laws that we currently have until our congress chooses to change them.
No Answer	please don't waste the money on pet projects - actually use it for helping the people
No Answer	Thank you for your work and for your careful consideration of how best to utilize this funding opportunity.
Stress from caring for those with COVID	No Answer

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

How have you been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?	Any additional information you want to provide?
No Answer	Transformational racial justice can be moved forward by passing a historic Excluded Workers Fund. Does the county have the will to do what's right?
No Answer	So tired of [redacted] and the legislature that just pile the hate on counties like ours. I personally just want to leave Iowa.
I'm retired, so it just made me stay home which is fine. Enjoyed just doing groceries online and picking up or having delivered.	No Answer
No Answer	I feel the supervisors in Johnson County should represent all the people of the entire county. Too many times it seems that Iowa City is calling the shots with disregard for the needs of rural Johnson County.
No Answer	los trabajadores esenciales te ayudaron ahora es el momento de que nos ayudes
No Answer	Somos trabajadores esenciales
No Answer	No obtuve un estímulo de \$ 3,200 como todos los blancos
No Answer	No Answer
No Answer	This is a historic opportunity for Johnson County to stand with the workers who make the rest of our lives so enjoyable. Let's not waste this chance!
Experienced unnecessary mask restrictions and unnecessary loss of services and businesses	What we do for the least of these we do for Christ
No Answer	If the money is not needed, it should be returned to state or federal agencies, rather than used for unsustainable programs or hand outs.
No Answer	Please listen to the Catholic Workers, CCI members, unionized workers, freedom riders, and truth and reconciliation commissioners who are advocating for an Excluded Workers Fund
No Answer	1
No Answer	Our community is need of repair and the people need resources just to survive.
No Answer	Thank you for your efforts!
No Answer	I am tired of hearing that financial government assistance is causing disincentive to return to work. There are several disincentives including lack of childcare for older children in addition to preschool care, LACK of safe put-of-school activities or community activities that REQUIRE decontamination efforts, and illogical, mandates by our current governor. For example, requiring students to return to school WITHOUT masks. Schools should make those decisions based on local conditions.
No Answer	As a long time, regular volunteer provider for specialty medical care at the Free Medical Clinic, I saw firsthand the need for more services. I was unable to volunteer for an entire calendar year. Catching up is a very slow process without more resources.
No Answer	`234`234`
Zoom activities has resulted in loss of mobility	need to support services for mid to lower income seniors! not everyone can afford a retirement home at Oaknoll
I was diagnosed with COVID-19	No Answer

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

How have you been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?	Any additional information you want to provide?
No Answer	We are going to experience a worse fall/winter than we had last year. The public health response has to be increased in order to protect the children and those who are not vaccinated. Broadband access needs to be increased in the event of increased telehealth appointments, remote working, and remote classrooms. The Johnson County Health Department, and those agencies providing mental health services, should be given grants in order to provide those services for free.
Needed to switch to homeschooling because Solon district cut corners on COVID (e.g., moved kids around every 14 minutes to avoid the need for quarantines).	Thank you.
No Answer	NO BENEFITS FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. DO NOT GIVE MY TAXPAYER MONEY TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.
social isolation, loneliness	No Answer
No Answer	I am retired, with a monthly income. I have no children in school. I haven't had any mental health issues. I am in good health. I feel very fortunate.
As a retiree with a modest amount of money, I was not affected other than not traveling to see our children. We were fortunate.	No Answer
No Answer	When many of our neighbors are experiencing the threat of homelessness, working in unsafe conditions, health care inaccessibility, discouraged by the inability to become citizens, plus enduring many other barriers to living well, it is our duty to provide a safety net for those neighbors. Our community will become even stronger.
No Answer	The general assistance program did not work for me
No Answer	The general assistance program does not work, there are too many unfair and restrictive barriers to apply.
No Answer	Please help the Catholic Worker welcome the stranger with a preferential option for the poor. There are more immigrants in the rural areas than people realize and they do more farm work than people know.
No Answer	Thank you for listening to the voices of the immigrant community
Short staff at hospital...pharmacy..restaurant..and government wanting to pay people for not working when there are jobs available	Soy un trabajador excluido, escucha mi voz
No Answer	Why all the road work?
Spouse's hours increased (without increase in pay due to nature of job) during Covid-19 closures.	Business closed permanently
No Answer	The COVID-19 money needs to be used for challenges directly related to COVID-19 first; then budget shortfalls due to COVID-19. and then to other financial challenges related to COVID-19.
Attended school remotely	Make sure not to provide everything to one group ... so many were affected
No Answer	Support Inside Out Reentry
No Answer	job insecurity
No Answer	Nothing
No Answer	Tired of excuses let's get on with life
No Answer	Better Training for Johnson Cty Road Workers

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

How have you been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?	Any additional information you want to provide?
No Answer	Fix the Roads
No Answer	no
Loss of life among family, non-immediate seems like the most significant, also loss of all social engagement for 16+ months.	No Answer
No Answer	Please do not bring weapons of war (MRAP, BearCat, etc.) into our streets. Ever.
Inability to shop safely recently due to state government laws against masking	No Answer
No Answer	No Answer
loss of friends to Covid	No Answer
No Answer	All these millions should go to businesses that were shut down because of the China virus. The to the Veterans, None I repeat NONE to Illegal Immigrants! They should be deported immediately.
Lost 2 jobs	No Answer
No Answer	Please spend most of the money on lasting infrastructure that will be around for years to come. This will benefit the entire community.
I had to delay "elective" surgery due to COVID-19 impact on health care availability. I was also unable to have direct contact with my 97 year old mother in an assisted living facility.	No Answer
Excessive work stress worrying about employee health and safety.	Please focus on proactive efforts that bring the spread of COVID-19 under control. Otherwise we will repeat this vicious cycle, including serious, long-term economic impacts, indefinitely.
No Answer	Broadband would fulfill so much of the city's DEI aspiration; please consider it.
No Answer	Promote people being vaccinated!
Loneliness. Unable to visit relative in local nursing home	No Answer
quarantine isolation was very difficult mentally, physically, and socially.	Do not support giving money to undocumented residents
Unable to see family. I am retired so work not impacted. Unable to visit family member in a local nursing home.	No Answer
No Answer	Let's support our tax payers. Undocumented people should go back to where they came. LGBTQ people should not be rewarded for their gayness. Should keep sexuality a private matter. Let's alleviate property taxes and support our schools
No Answer	My minimal experience was in a very privileged lens
As a person with chronic breathing difficulties, I want us to get back to non mask compulsory environments as soon as practical.	No Answer
No Answer	Do not spend a temporary surplus to buy us long term unsupported costs. Tie the highest pay to the lowest pay and area prosperity benchmarks and then specific minimum rates are unnecessary.
No Answer	Please use the funds wisely to reward essential workers. I have so many co workers and friends wanting to leave and give up. We can't lose our healthcare workers and essential workers in our group homes. We need them to care for the people.
No Answer	Thanks for asking for input.

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

How have you been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?	Any additional information you want to provide?
No Answer	My ranking is based on what programs can benefit all the residents of Johnson County..
Mental health of children doing online school last year was negatively impacted more than we anticipated and no one knew how to help and no response from the district when concerns raised about how online school was being conducted.	Do not start new programs with this one-time funding unless you agree to continue funding.
Supply chain problems.	No Answer
Unable to send my child to school safely and removed them from public school.	No Answer
It has affected workers at the company I work at which has affected me directly.	No Answer
No Answer	Don't rush into this and make a knee-jerk reaction. Our federal government has the knee-jerk reactions covered. Thank you for asking for our input.
Socialization	No Answer
Lost one family member and one friend. Have known many people who were ill. Missed some medical appointments. Missed some dental appointments.	No Answer
Physical mobility impacted by stress, can barely walk, hold upper body up, lost gig work, moved during pandemic in winter day before Xmas	No Answer
No Answer	Do not provide direct cash payments to individuals.
More expense to send kids to private schools due to the closure/online learning model of public school	Thanks for working to make our community more resilient. :)
No Answer	Hope there will be more fun places for the kids so we do not have to travel to other places.
Quit job because of Covid	No Answer
No Answer	Staying and taking care of a 80 year old Mother
Increased workload leading to stress and burn-out (Healthcare industry)	No Answer
No Answer	First priority should be to local small business owners who have suffered the most during this pandemic. Help them keep their doors open (or reopen) without accruing major debt/loans to cover themselves and their workers during the closures and/or limited occupancy stage.
Isolation for months	No Answer
Had to provide child care for daughter's family. She is a nurse.	No Answer
No Answer	Feel fortunate to have been needed and able to work thru most of the pandemic.
No Answer	please look towards local food infrastructure and social justice movements
The strain of trying to maintain connections with lifelong friends, classmates, family. The epidemic has revealed a vast population who are deliberately irrational about the risk/benefit of vaccination. This blatant stubbornness places our population needlessly at risk.	No Answer
No Answer	Thank you for this avenue of participation.
Had to lay off over 50 people.	I just want Iowa City to be it's very best.

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

How have you been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?	Any additional information you want to provide?
As a manager in the public service sector, worrying about staff mental health and stress has been challenging. Maintaining public services safety has also been a huge concern.	No Answer
No Answer	I think that overall Johnson County Public Health has done a great job with communicating with our communities and partnering with other JC organizations.
The prolonged epidemic has greatly impeded our ability to provide visits and comfort to family members in long term care centers. There is a strain on our social structures and habits.	Please rescue JC residents.
No Answer	I especially wish that none of Johnson County's \$29.3 M go to vague and disingenuous pop-up parasitic groups like the Fund Excluded Workers Coalition. They have no credible organization, are disruptive and non-productive at meetings. Even though they may represent a nugget of need in the community, money will be better spent on remedial training, job skills training, employment placement and other betterment efforts. Once we get "excluded workers" into the workforce, earning incomes (and paying taxes) we will be a big step closer to sensible use of the ARPA funding. Handouts like Recovery Checks will simply vanish without much to show for it. Vague issues such as agrarian reform, "returning stolen lands" etc. should be immediately dismissed from the discussions.
No Answer	This is not going away. We need to regard it as similar to seasonal flu (which people die from) and leave individual decisions in the hands of the individuals.
Friends and neighbors suffered all of the above.	No Answer
No Answer	Please hurry. Good people are suffering now.
We have been, and still are being prevented from providing adequate succor, companionship and moral support to our elderly shut-ins, distant family, and our people in nursing homes and hospitals who so often are left feeling along for long periods due to staff shortages, reduced visiting hours, and safety requirements. This condition could have been improved months ago with proper education, leadership, and requirements. I expect that it will require funding to reach out to society. Educational classes will have to be administered at places of work, worship, schools and colleges, anywhere an audience can be captured.	No Answer
Have felt helplessness due to covid restrictions that prevent proper comfort and care we can provided to distant relatives and to family and friends in local care centers, hospitals, etc.	No Answer
Watched a lot of friends struggle financially and lose creative gigs.	No Answer
No Answer	Supporting the arts and artists ALWAYS pays off (study after study shows), so while it's the right cultural things to do, it is also a wise from an economic recovery standpoint.
Quit my job due to the ridiculous requirements of the fake pandemic.	Let's focus on slowing the rate of increases in property tax payments. Each year we end up writing bigger property tax checks to the Johnson County Treasurer. I know elected officials say our tax rates are low, but I look at the dollar amount that we have to write. Each year its a bigger check.

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

How have you been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?	Any additional information you want to provide?
No Answer	Stealing taxpayers money and determining how to spend it has become quite ridiculous. Lower our taxes and let us choose how we spend our money. Government is out of hand. Enough is enough.
No Answer	Fund Excluded Workers Now!
None of the above	No Answer
No Answer	<p>I do think that Johnson County representatives need to start making decisions in a faster mode. If they are going to help people with rent difficulties to help avert eviction ... well, how many people have already been evicted.</p> <p>The only other comment is that regardless of the decisions made, I do hope there will be government oversight and monitoring of funds and proper usage. This is a lot of money to be responsible for; but I still believe it is time to start making decisions for full effectiveness.</p>
No Answer	There should be NO funds given to excluded workers. They are "excluded" for a reason - no documentation of employment or cash workers (as examples).
No Answer	This is a (hopefully) once in a lifetime chance to make real and lasting change. Please do not plow it back into the budget. Do something bold. We need it.
I work on the frontlines at UIHC, it has taken its toll.	No Answer
Work in healthcare - too many hours for work	No Answer
We are retired and my husband has Parkinson's. We wanted to travel before it became impossible. Pathetic but still. I also had to help with homeschooling a grandchild last year which was much harder than I thought	No Answer
No Answer	When I worked at the UIHC, I had to take a yearly tuberculosis test. To keep my job I also had to get an MMR booster. I do not understand why we are treating Covid like it's some special kind of germ that we don't want to stop. I think our first steps are to stomp on Covid and help the people most directly affected.
Lost rent revenue	No Answer
No Answer	Do the right thing. Give hazard pay.
Closed my business for 18 months	No Answer
Dealt with the absolute idiocracy of the current political position of both Iowa City as well as the county. Blown away by the stance of the current situation and absolutely offended that we now have two murals painted on city property that only depict the views of a small portion of the population. I	No Answer
I work in HR, it's been mental demanding and caused me to pivot countless number of times!	Nothing that I say will change any of this, but those in decision making positions currently should be embarrassed by the current activity of both Johnson County and the city of Iowa City. Painting large offensive murals on city property is not only offensive to the mass population but equally as offensive as allowing a white supremacy group paint their message. The fact that the city/county allowed this to happen and used tax payer money is inexcusable and disgusting. The murals need to be removed immediately.
Challenges getting basic healthcare services.	No Answer

# COUNTY-LED GENERAL SURVEY COMMENTS

How have you been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?	Any additional information you want to provide?
No Answer	Please remember disabled and homebound residents in public health outreach.
No Answer	We need to focus on addressing social determinants of health for those living in poverty in our community.
No Answer	Thank you for reaching out to the public
None	No Answer
No Answer	Am against handouts to illegal immigrants-that situation does not merit our tax dollars
No Answer	Apoya un Fondo de Trabajadores Excluidos
Didn't see family as much	No Answer
No Answer	Do not give any money to illegal immigrants.
Decline in physical health due to quarantine and social restrictions	No Answer
Loss of social activities. Connecting with friends and family via zoom through slow rural broadband	Since this is one time money we should think about spending at least some on long term investments that will provide benefits for years to come, such as housing and broadband.
No Answer	I trust my County Supervisors to use the money well.
Although I have not personally been affected, I am blessed. I know others that have been excluded and no human being should be.	No Answer
No Answer	Remember, "there but for the grace of God go I " (or in this case, decision makers- you)
No Answer	If you can't find a logical place to put the millions you need to spend how about giving back to the community members who pay a ridiculous amount in property taxes.
No effect at all!!	No Answer
No Answer	Start representing Rural Residents and stay out of the cities!!!
Became home full-time Paraeducator and IVRS support for autistic high school student for 17 months	No Answer
No Answer	Please address needs of most vulnerable and oppressed groups first. Support DSP and people with disabilities. Thank you.
No Answer	My contact information is: [redacted]
No Answer	My contact info is: [redacted]
No Answer	Fix road
Patients in nursing homes and hospitals are experiencing prolonged loneliness due to prolonged restrictions of family visiting hours. This is affecting the health and morale of the patients and their families. We must take steps to educate and reform the thousands of vaccine hold-outs who are main contributors to the continuation of this epidemic.	No Answer
No Answer	I want to see significant Johnson County's ARPA money spent on educating the ignorant masses with the truth about vaccines and their development and safety and effectiveness. I also want to see the rest of the funding used for upgrading our water and sewer lines and related infrastructure. The creation of much meaningful employment toward these efforts would be a terrific side-benefit of such spending. Handing cash out to thousands of "Excluded" people will not have any permanent and positive results.



# THE JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES



## JOHNSON COUNTY IOWA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES October 27, 2021

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Conference Rooms 203 B/C	Public Input Session	6:02 P.M.
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JOHNSON COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING  
855 SOUTH DUBUQUE STREET  
IOWA CITY, IA 52240

### PUBLIC INPUT SESSION JOHNSON COUNTY LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND ALLOCATION UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

Chairperson Heiden called the Johnson County Board of Supervisors to order in the Health and Human Services Building at 6:02 p.m. **Present:** Jon Green, Lisa Green-Douglass, Pat Heiden, Royceann Porter, and Rod Sullivan.

### PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Bolton & Menk, Inc. Senior Urban Planner Rose Schroder gave a PowerPoint summarizing the public input findings, and the process used to invite public input, regarding Johnson County's needs for the pandemic relief funds distributed under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). William Riker verbally interpreted Schroder's remarks to Spanish. The PowerPoint is contained in the agenda packet of this meeting.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Heiden gave introductory remarks about the process and conduct for public comments.

**Motion** by Green, second by Sullivan, to amend the speaking time allotment to three minutes, with six minutes available for those requiring interpretation. Roll Call: aye: J. Green, P. Heiden, R. Porter, R. Sullivan; nay: L. Green-Douglass.

Patricia Bowen asked that the Board give ARPA relief payments of \$3,200 for each Excluded Worker. She said these workers supported the community during the pandemic and would likely spend economic relief monies locally.

Anita Munoz\* spoke about how immigrants are the structural backbone of the United States, hard-working and competent workers who tirelessly supported Johnson County throughout the pandemic. She spoke about their immediate needs and asked the Board to allocate the money directly to the people with the assistance of the Excluded Workers Coalition (the Coalition).

Katie Biechler called for \$15 million for the Excluded Workers Fund, and for the money to be distributed in direct payments to the workers. She strongly disapproved of the County's hiring a third party to conduct Johnson County's needs assessment for ARPA funds and said other municipalities have used pandemic relief money to provide similar aid. Biechler criticized the Board's treatment of undocumented workers at previous public input sessions and meetings.

Sabri Sky\*\* said she supports the Excluded Workers Fund and direct payments to workers in the amount they requested.

\*Commented through interpreter

\*\*Participated via Zoom

# THE JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES

Minutes

Board of Supervisors-Public Input Session Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Ninoska Campos\* asked for \$15 million in direct aid for Excluded Workers and their families so that each adult and child can receive a stimulus check. She requested that the incarcerated, and each worker who worked during the pandemic, putting their lives at risk and not paid minimum wage, receive an additional direct payment of \$1,600. Campos said it is horrible that Iowa City has so many Latinos yet does not provide them any support. She insisted the Board give the money directly to the Coalition, assisted by the Catholic Worker House.

University of Iowa Professor Kristy Nabhan-Warren spoke about her research with Latinos and refugees in Johnson County, many of whom she said escaped political and economic persecution, and physical or domestic violence. She said Excluded Workers' testimonials describe dangerous work conditions they endured during the pandemic; Iowa is a Right to Work state with little protections for laborers. Nabhan-Warren asked Supervisors to trust that these Excluded Workers need the money and know how to spend it. She said White individuals assuming they know what is best is a form of Neocolonialism.

Kenn Bowen said Excluded Workers working throughout the pandemic risked their and their family members' health; they cooked, cleaned, stocked shelves, and kept the local economy working. Bowen said the County's offer of \$2 million is a joke and that ARPA relief funds are not for a pork barrel project.

David Goodner, representing the Catholic Worker House, chastised the Bolton & Menk report and said the public input process for assessing community needs for ARPA relief has been a sham. He said the Board is cherry picking its projects and ignoring the voices of undocumented workers who participated in the process. Goodner repeatedly directed pointed questions at a Board of Supervisors' staff member before Heiden told him to direct his comments to the Board.

Dan Kauble criticized the Board's public input process and said the process has been shameful. He said excluded workers need this money now and that \$2 million is not enough. Kauble targeted criticism toward Heiden and Sullivan, and said County officials have left out the voices of excluded workers and their advocates.

Mirian Rodriguez\* said she is one among the community of immigrants here tonight with a huge need. She said she respects the Supervisors because they deserve respect, just like immigrants and their children deserve respect. Rodriguez said Excluded Workers, and others, have a big need for food and diapers. She explained her personal need to send money to her children in Honduras and asked the Board, with her heart, to support them and not to send the money away.

Luke Zarwic described his experience as a volunteer serving the immigrant population at the Catholic Worker House. He said his experiences made him realize that Excluded Workers really do need this relief money. Zarwic emphasized that even though Excluded Workers come from different cultures, they are members of the Johnson County community.

Ruth Rosales\* asked for a stimulus check to be paid directly to the Excluded Workers Fund. She said they deserve the money because they had to work during the pandemic and did not have a choice to stay home.

\*Commented via an interpreter

\*\*Participated via Zoom

# THE JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES

Minutes Board of Supervisors-Public Input Session Wednesday, October 27, 2021

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Speaker A\* said she would not give her name for security reasons. She said she is representing the Excluded Workers' Fund of Iowa City and it is possible others present tonight have the same fear about giving out their names. Speaker A explained they need solutions to all the problems caused by the pandemic and will use the relief money to pay taxes, rent, and medical bills, and to buy food.

Speaker B\* spoke about the pandemic's impact on Hispanics and said the people here tonight are part of the Iowa City workforce. She spoke about a personal health condition that affects her livelihood. Speaker B asked that money for Excluded Workers go directly to the Catholic Worker House, which she said is dedicated to the wellbeing of the Latino community.

Freddy\* said he has to work Monday through Sunday, rain or shine, to support his children, who are American citizens. He said immigrants are very useful people, whether or not they wear nice suits. He showed his bloodied hands, saying he is a person – a productive worker who uses his hands to make Iowa a better state. Freddy said he is doing everything right to build up the state and asked whether the Board could do something right for immigrant workers.

Ken\* spoke about his personal experience coming to the United States from Honduras. He said the pandemic complicated things and migrant workers did not get any stimulus payments. Ken said he speaks from his mind and his heart, and that he is not asking as a migrant worker, he is asking as a human being, that if Supervisors have the power to help, please do it. If they don't help, it is on their conscience.

Fernando Campos\* said the pandemic closed down the whole world but it did not close down for these people [he indicated the workers attending this meeting]. They should not have to come here to get the money, they should get it because they deserve it.

Alba Gudiel\* said that Excluded Workers really need this relief money and have a right to it. They risked their lives during the pandemic working in places infected with the virus, places Supervisors don't have to go; Iowa City includes Hispanic immigrants working in local restaurants and roofing houses, and many different areas. She said even though taxes are deducted from their paychecks, they cannot claim tax returns because they don't have a social security number. Gudiel said that when Supervisors go to bed tonight, she hopes they reflect on everything they heard tonight.

Center for Worker Justice (CWJ) Executive Director Mazahir Salih spoke about immigrants' and low-wage workers' needs, and the creative ways the CWJ has supported Excluded Workers. Salih said Supervisors have been supportive of the Excluded Worker community, namely by raising minimum wage and issuing Community Identification Cards. She asked for County support for CWJ's proposal to recover wage-theft, and for improvements to area mobile home parks.

Noah Petersen\*\* spoke in solidarity with the Excluded Workers who spoke tonight and asked Supervisors to look into their conscience as to whether \$2 million is acceptable.

Emily Sinnwell, representing the Catholic Worker House, said that Johnson County cannot launder an Excluded Workers Fund through a consulting firm or a non-profit organization. She claimed providing pandemic relief to Excluded Workers is a permissible use under ARPA

\*Commented via an interpreter

\*\*Participated via Zoom

# THE JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES

Minutes

Board of Supervisors-Public Input Session Wednesday, October 27, 2021

guidelines and that the Board lacks political will to do the right thing. She directed criticism at Salih before Heiden told her to direct comments to the Board.

CWJ Volunteer Shel Stromquist applauded the Excluded Worker movement for drawing visibility to the tremendous needs of people who have been excluded. He spoke about wage theft and said Johnson County and Iowa City should become a Fair Labor community. He proposed two ways to use the ARPA relief funds stating that community leaders must address immediate needs of low-wage workers, but also build the capacity to address the underlying inequities and underlying unfairness in this economy. He urged the Board to think both immediately and in the long term about what needs to be done.

Mike Carberry\*\* said he supports an Excluded Workers Fund, and he spoke about impoverished citizens' needs, noting specific support for low-income daycare. Carberry said it is not right to pair non-profit groups against each other in competition for relief funds.

CWJ President Bijou Maliabo spoke to ask for support of CWJ's work, the Excluded Workers Coalition, and organizations working together to assist people.

Speaker C\* said she roofs houses, working like a man, because she doesn't have papers and so she can't find work with dignity. She said Excluded Workers risked their lives, not only during the pandemic working dangerous jobs in order to make money to support their children. She said the Supervisors have families just like Excluded Workers, and she asked Supervisors, with all her heart, to listen to the voices they heard tonight and give the support they need.

Dorcas Mpanda said she immigrated at age 14 and became homeless at 18. While receiving treatment at the hospital, her social worker placed her with the Catholic Worker House where Mpanda stayed and slept on the floor. She said that \$2 million is not enough for all the people in need, especially for people like her. At age 20, she is in financial debt to the hospital. Mpanda said she has no parents; she is all by herself and she begged the Supervisors with all her heart to "hear our voice".

Heiden said the Board appreciates the publics' presence and their sharing very personal stories. They understand the enormity of the responsibility and opportunity before them and will remember the comments and input throughout their decision process.

**Adjourned at 8:12 p.m.**

Attest: Travis Weipert, Auditor

Recorded by Nancy Tomkovicz, Deputy Auditor

\*Commented via an interpreter

\*\*Participated via Zoom

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