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APPENDIX 1: Fact Sheet – Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

FACT SHEET: The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Will Deliver \$350 Billion for State, Local, Territorial, and Tribal Governments to Respond to the COVID-19 Emergency and Bring Back Jobs

May 10, 2021

Aid to state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments will help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery

Today, the U.S. Department of the Treasury announced the launch of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to provide \$350 billion in emergency funding for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. Treasury also released details on how these funds can be used to respond to acute pandemic response needs, fill revenue shortfalls among these governments, and support the communities and populations hardest-hit by the COVID-19 crisis. With the launch of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, eligible jurisdictions will be able to access this funding in the coming days to address these needs.

State, local, territorial, and Tribal governments have been on the frontlines of responding to the immense public health and economic needs created by this crisis – from standing up vaccination sites to supporting small businesses – even as these governments confronted revenue shortfalls during the downturn. As a result, these governments have endured unprecedented strains, forcing many to make untenable choices between laying off educators, firefighters, and other frontline workers or failing to provide other services that communities rely on. Faced with these challenges, state and local governments have cut over 1 million jobs since the beginning of the crisis. The experience of prior economic downturns has shown that budget pressures like these often result in prolonged fiscal austerity that can slow an economic recovery.

To support the immediate pandemic response, bring back jobs, and lay the groundwork for a strong and equitable recovery, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, designed to deliver \$350 billion to state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to bolster their response to the COVID-19 emergency and its economic impacts. Today, Treasury is launching this much-needed relief to:

- Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control;
- Replace lost public sector revenue to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs;
- Support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses; and,
- Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the unequal impact of the pandemic on certain populations.

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide substantial flexibility for each jurisdiction to meet local needs—including support for households, small businesses, impacted industries, essential workers, and the communities hardest-hit by the crisis. These funds also deliver resources that recipients can invest in building, maintaining, or upgrading their water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Starting today, eligible state, territorial, metropolitan city, county, and Tribal governments may request Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds through the Treasury Submission Portal. Concurrent with this program launch, Treasury has published an Interim Final Rule that implements the provisions of this program.

FUNDING AMOUNTS

The American Rescue Plan provides a total of \$350 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to help eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments meet their present needs and build the foundation for a strong recovery. Congress has allocated this funding to tens of thousands of jurisdictions. These allocations include:

Type	Amount (\$ billions)
States & District of Columbia	\$195.3
Counties	\$65.1
Metropolitan Cites	\$45.6
Tribal Governments	\$20.0
Territories	\$4.5
Non-Entitlement Units of Local Government	\$19.5

Treasury expects to distribute these funds directly to each state, territorial, metropolitan city, county, and Tribal government. Local governments that are classified as non-entitlement units will receive this funding through their applicable state government. Treasury expects to provide further guidance on distributions to non-entitlement units next week.

Local governments should expect to receive funds in two tranches, with 50% provided beginning in May 2021 and the balance delivered 12 months later. States that have experienced a net increase in the unemployment rate of more than 2 percentage points from February 2020 to the latest available data as of the date of certification will receive their full allocation of funds in a single payment; other states will receive funds in two equal tranches. Governments of U.S. territories will receive a single payment. Tribal governments will receive two payments, with the first payment available in May and the second payment, based on employment data, to be delivered in June 2021.

USES OF FUNDING

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments with a substantial infusion of resources to meet pandemic response needs and rebuild a stronger, more equitable economy as the country recovers. Within the categories of eligible uses, recipients have broad flexibility to decide how best to use this funding to meet the needs of their communities. Recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to:

- **Support public health expenditures**, by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff;
- **Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency**, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector;
- **Replace lost public sector revenue**, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic;
- **Provide premium pay for essential workers**, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors; and,
- **Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure**, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.

Within these overall categories, Treasury’s Interim Final Rule provides guidelines and principles for determining the types of programs and services that this funding can support, together with examples of allowable uses that recipients may consider. As described below, Treasury has also designed these provisions to take into consideration the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on those hardest-hit by the pandemic.

1. Supporting the public health response

Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 continues to require an unprecedented public health response from state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide resources to meet these needs through the provision of care for those impacted by the virus and through services that address disparities in public health that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Recipients may use this funding to address a broad range of public health needs across COVID-19 mitigation, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and public health resources. Among other services, these funds can help support:

- **Services and programs to contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including:**
 - ✓ Vaccination programs
 - ✓ Medical expenses
 - ✓ Testing
 - ✓ Contact tracing
 - ✓ Isolation or quarantine
 - ✓ PPE purchases
 - ✓ Support for vulnerable populations to access medical or public health services
 - ✓ Public health surveillance (e.g., monitoring for variants)
 - ✓ Enforcement of public health orders
 - ✓ Public communication efforts
 - ✓ Enhancement of healthcare capacity, including alternative care facilities
 - ✓ Support for prevention, mitigation, or other services in congregate living facilities and schools
 - ✓ Enhancement of public health data systems
 - ✓ Capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs
 - ✓ Ventilation improvements in key settings like healthcare facilities

- **Services to address behavioral healthcare needs exacerbated by the pandemic, including:**
 - ✓ Mental health treatment
 - ✓ Substance misuse treatment
 - ✓ Other behavioral health services
 - ✓ Hotlines or warmlines
 - ✓ Crisis intervention
 - ✓ Services or outreach to promote access to health and social services
- **Payroll and covered benefits expenses** for public health, healthcare, human services, public safety and similar employees, to the extent that they work on the COVID-19 response. For public health and safety workers, recipients can use these funds to cover the full payroll and covered benefits costs for employees or operating units or divisions primarily dedicated to the COVID-19 response.

2. **Addressing the negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency**

The COVID-19 public health emergency resulted in significant economic hardship for many Americans. As businesses closed, consumers stayed home, schools shifted to remote education, and travel declined precipitously, over 20 million jobs were lost between February and April 2020. Although many have since returned to work, as of April 2021, the economy remains more than 8 million jobs below its pre-pandemic peak, and more than 3 million workers have dropped out of the labor market altogether since February 2020.

To help alleviate the economic hardships caused by the pandemic, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds enable eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to provide a wide range of assistance to individuals and households, small businesses, and impacted industries, in addition to enabling governments to rehire public sector staff and rebuild capacity. Among these uses include:

- **Delivering assistance to workers and families**, including aid to unemployed workers and job training, as well as aid to households facing food, housing, or other financial insecurity. In addition, these funds can support survivor's benefits for family members of COVID-19 victims.
- **Supporting small businesses**, helping them to address financial challenges caused by the pandemic and to make investments in COVID-19 prevention and mitigation tactics, as well as to provide technical assistance. To achieve these goals, recipients may employ this funding to execute a broad array of loan, grant, in-kind assistance, and counseling programs to enable small businesses to rebound from the downturn.
- **Speeding the recovery of the tourism, travel, and hospitality sectors**, supporting industries that were particularly hard-hit by the COVID-19 emergency and are just now beginning to mend. Similarly impacted sectors within a local area are also eligible for support.
- **Rebuilding public sector capacity**, by rehiring public sector staff and replenishing unemployment insurance (UI) trust funds, in each case up to pre-pandemic levels. Recipients may also use this funding to build their internal capacity to successfully implement economic relief programs, with investments in data analysis, targeted outreach, technology infrastructure, and impact evaluations.

3. Serving the hardest-hit communities and families

While the pandemic has affected communities across the country, it has disproportionately impacted low-income families and communities of color and has exacerbated systemic health and economic inequities. Low-income and socially vulnerable communities have experienced the most severe health impacts. For example, counties with high poverty rates also have the highest rates of infections and deaths, with 223 deaths per 100,000 compared to the U.S. average of 175 deaths per 100,000.

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds allow for a broad range of uses to address the disproportionate public health and economic impacts of the crisis on the hardest-hit communities, populations, and households. Eligible services include:

- **Addressing health disparities and the social determinants of health**, through funding for community health workers, public benefits navigators, remediation of lead hazards, and community violence intervention programs;
- **Investments in housing and neighborhoods**, such as services to address individuals experiencing homelessness, affordable housing development, housing vouchers, and residential counseling and housing navigation assistance to facilitate moves to neighborhoods with high economic opportunity;
- **Addressing educational disparities** through new or expanded early learning services, providing additional resources to high-poverty school districts, and offering educational services like tutoring or afterschool programs as well as services to address social, emotional, and mental health needs; and,
- **Promoting healthy childhood environments**, including new or expanded high quality childcare, home visiting programs for families with young children, and enhanced services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth.

Governments may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to support these additional services if they are provided:

- within a Qualified Census Tract (a low-income area as designated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development);
- to families living in Qualified Census Tracts;
- by a Tribal government; or,
- to other populations, households, or geographic areas disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

4. Replacing lost public sector revenue

State, local, territorial, and Tribal governments that are facing budget shortfalls may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to avoid cuts to government services. With these additional resources, recipients can continue to provide valuable public services and ensure that fiscal austerity measures do not hamper the broader economic recovery.

Many state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments have experienced significant budget shortfalls, which can yield a devastating impact on their respective communities. Faced with budget shortfalls and pandemic-related uncertainty, state and local governments cut staff in all 50 states. These budget shortfalls and staff cuts are particularly problematic at present, as these entities are on the front lines of battling the COVID-19 pandemic and helping citizens weather the economic downturn.

Recipients may use these funds to replace lost revenue. Treasury's Interim Final Rule establishes a methodology that each recipient can use to calculate its reduction in revenue. Specifically, recipients will compute the extent of their reduction in revenue by comparing their actual revenue to an alternative representing what could have been expected to occur in the absence of the pandemic. Analysis of this expected trend begins with the last full fiscal year prior to the public health emergency and projects forward at either (a) the recipient's average annual revenue growth over the three full fiscal years prior to the public health emergency or (b) 4.1%, the national average state and local revenue growth rate from 2015-18 (the latest available data).

For administrative convenience, Treasury's Interim Final Rule allows recipients to presume that any diminution in actual revenue relative to the expected trend is due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Upon receiving Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, recipients may immediately calculate the reduction in revenue that occurred in 2020 and deploy funds to address any shortfall. Recipients will have the opportunity to re-calculate revenue loss at several points through the program, supporting those entities that experience a lagged impact of the crisis on revenues.

Importantly, once a shortfall in revenue is identified, recipients will have broad latitude to use this funding to support government services, up to this amount of lost revenue.

5. Providing premium pay for essential workers

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide resources for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to recognize the heroic contributions of essential workers. Since the start of the public health emergency, essential workers have put their physical well-being at risk to meet the daily needs of their communities and to provide care for others.

Many of these essential workers have not received compensation for the heightened risks they have faced and continue to face. Recipients may use this funding to provide premium pay directly, or through grants to private employers, to a broad range of essential workers who must be physically present at their jobs including, among others:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ✓ Staff at nursing homes, hospitals, and home-care settings | ✓ Truck drivers, transit staff, and warehouse workers |
| ✓ Workers at farms, food production facilities, grocery stores, and restaurants | ✓ Childcare workers, educators, and school staff |
| ✓ Janitors and sanitation workers | ✓ Social service and human services staff |
| ✓ Public health and safety staff | |

Treasury's Interim Final Rule emphasizes the need for recipients to prioritize premium pay for lower income workers. Premium pay that would increase a worker's total pay above 150% of the greater of the state or county average annual wage requires specific justification for how it responds to the needs of these workers.

In addition, employers are both permitted and encouraged to use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to offer retrospective premium pay, recognizing that many essential workers have not yet received additional compensation for work performed. Staff working for third-party contractors in eligible sectors are also eligible for premium pay.

6. Investing in water and sewer infrastructure

Recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to invest in necessary improvements to their water and sewer infrastructures, including projects that address the impacts of climate change.

Recipients may use this funding to invest in an array of drinking water infrastructure projects, such as building or upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution, and storage systems, including the replacement of lead service lines.

Recipients may also use this funding to invest in wastewater infrastructure projects, including constructing publicly-owned treatment infrastructure, managing and treating stormwater or subsurface drainage water, facilitating water reuse, and securing publicly-owned treatment works.

To help jurisdictions expedite their execution of these essential investments, Treasury's Interim Final Rule aligns types of eligible projects with the wide range of projects that can be supported by the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Recipients retain substantial flexibility to identify those water and sewer infrastructure investments that are of the highest priority for their own communities.

Treasury's Interim Final Rule also encourages recipients to ensure that water, sewer, and broadband projects use strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefits agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions.

7. Investing in broadband infrastructure

The pandemic has underscored the importance of access to universal, high-speed, reliable, and affordable broadband coverage. Over the past year, millions of Americans relied on the internet to participate in remote school, healthcare, and work.

Yet, by at least one measure, 30 million Americans live in areas where there is no broadband service or where existing services do not deliver minimally acceptable speeds. For millions of other Americans, the high cost of broadband access may place it out of reach. The American Rescue Plan aims to help remedy these shortfalls, providing recipients with flexibility to use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to invest in broadband infrastructure.

Recognizing the acute need in certain communities, Treasury's Interim Final Rule provides that investments in broadband be made in areas that are currently unserved or underserved—in other words, lacking a wireline connection that reliably delivers minimum speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. Recipients are also encouraged to prioritize projects that achieve last-mile connections to households and businesses.

Using these funds, recipients generally should build broadband infrastructure with modern technologies in mind, specifically those projects that deliver services offering reliable 100 Mbps download and 100

Mbps upload speeds, unless impracticable due to topography, geography, or financial cost. In addition, recipients are encouraged to pursue fiber optic investments.

In view of the wide disparities in broadband access, assistance to households to support internet access or digital literacy is an eligible use to respond to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, as detailed above.

8. Ineligible Uses

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide substantial resources to help eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments manage the public health and economic consequences of COVID-19. Recipients have considerable flexibility to use these funds to address the diverse needs of their communities.

To ensure that these funds are used for their intended purposes, the American Rescue Plan Act also specifies two ineligible uses of funds:

- **States and territories may not use this funding to directly or indirectly offset a reduction in net tax revenue due to a change in law from March 3, 2021 through the last day of the fiscal year in which the funds provided have been spent.** The American Rescue Plan ensures that funds needed to provide vital services and support public employees, small businesses, and families struggling to make it through the pandemic are not used to fund reductions in net tax revenue. Treasury's Interim Final Rule implements this requirement. If a state or territory cuts taxes, they must demonstrate how they paid for the tax cuts from sources other than Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds—by enacting policies to raise other sources of revenue, by cutting spending, or through higher revenue due to economic growth. If the funds provided have been used to offset tax cuts, the amount used for this purpose must be paid back to the Treasury.
- **No recipient may use this funding to make a deposit to a pension fund.** Treasury's Interim Final Rule defines a "deposit" as an extraordinary contribution to a pension fund for the purpose of reducing an accrued, unfunded liability. While pension deposits are prohibited, recipients may use funds for routine payroll contributions for employees whose wages and salaries are an eligible use of funds.

Treasury's Interim Final Rule identifies several other ineligible uses, including funding debt service, legal settlements or judgments, and deposits to rainy day funds or financial reserves. Further, general infrastructure spending is not covered as an eligible use outside of water, sewer, and broadband investments or above the amount allocated under the revenue loss provision. While the program offers broad flexibility to recipients to address local conditions, these restrictions will help ensure that funds are used to augment existing activities and address pressing needs.

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Frequently Asked Questions

AS OF JULY 14, 2021

This document contains answers to frequently asked questions regarding the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSFRF / CLFRF, or Fiscal Recovery Funds). Treasury will be updating this document periodically in response to questions received from stakeholders. Recipients and stakeholders should consult the [Interim Final Rule](#) for additional information.

- For overall information about the program, including information on requesting funding, please see <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments>
- For general questions about CSFRF / CLFRF, please email SLFRP@treasury.gov
- Treasury is seeking comment on all aspects of the Interim Final Rule. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal (<https://www.regulations.gov/document/TREAS-DO-2021-0008-0002>) on or before July 16, 2021. Please be advised that comments received will be part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. Do not disclose any information in your comment or supporting materials that you consider confidential or inappropriate for public disclosure.

Questions added 5/27/21: 1.5, 1.6, 2.13, 2.14, 2.15, 3.9, 4.5, 4.6, 10.3, 10.4 (noted with “[5/27]”)

Questions added 6/8/21: 2.16, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, 4.7, 6.7, 8.2, 9.4, 9.5, 10.5 (noted with “[6/8]”)

Questions added 6/17/21: 6.8, 6.9, 6.10, 6.11 (noted with “[6/17]”)

Questions added 6/23/21: 1.7, 2.17, 2.18, 2.19, 2.20, 3.1 (appendix), 3.13, 4.8, 6.12 (noted with “[6/23]”)

Question added 6/24/21: 2.21 (noted with “[6/24]”)

Questions added 7/14/21: 1.8, 3.14, 3.15, 4.9, 4.10, 4.11, 4.12, 6.13, 6.14, 6.15, 6.16, 6.17, 10.3 updated (noted with “[7/14]”)

Answers to frequently asked questions on distribution of funds to non-entitlement units of local government (NEUs) can be found in this [FAQ supplement](#), which is regularly updated.

1. Eligibility and Allocations

1.1. Which governments are eligible for funds?

The following governments are eligible:

- States and the District of Columbia
- Territories
- Tribal governments
- Counties
- Metropolitan cities
- Non-entitlement units, or smaller local governments

1.2. Which governments receive funds directly from Treasury?

Treasury will distribute funds directly to each eligible state, territory, metropolitan city, county, or Tribal government. Smaller local governments that are classified as non-entitlement units will receive funds through their applicable state government.

1.3. Are special-purpose units of government eligible to receive funds?

Special-purpose units of local government will not receive funding allocations; however, a state, territory, local, or Tribal government may transfer funds to a special-purpose unit of government. Special-purpose districts perform specific functions in the community, such as fire, water, sewer or mosquito abatement districts.

1.4. How are funds being allocated to Tribal governments, and how will Tribal governments find out their allocation amounts?¹

\$20 billion of Fiscal Recovery Funds was reserved for Tribal governments. The American Rescue Plan Act specifies that \$1 billion will be allocated evenly to all eligible Tribal governments. The remaining \$19 billion will be distributed using an allocation methodology based on enrollment and employment.

There will be two payments to Tribal governments. Each Tribal government's first payment will include (i) an amount in respect of the \$1 billion allocation that is to be divided equally among eligible Tribal governments and (ii) each Tribal government's pro rata share of the Enrollment Allocation. Tribal governments will be notified of their allocation amount and delivery of payment 4-5 days after completing request for funds in the Treasury Submission Portal. The deadline to make the initial request for funds is June 21, 2021.

The second payment will include a Tribal government's pro rata share of the Employment Allocation. There is a \$1,000,000 minimum employment allocation for Tribal governments. In late-June, Tribal governments will receive an email notification to re-enter the Treasury Submission Portal to confirm or amend their 2019 employment numbers that were submitted to the Department of the Treasury for the CARES Act's Coronavirus Relief Fund. To receive an Employment Allocation, including the minimum employment allocation, Tribal governments must confirm employment numbers by July

¹ The answer to this question was updated on June 29, 2021.

16, 2021. Treasury will calculate employment allocations for those Tribal governments that confirmed or submitted amended employment numbers by the deadline. In August, Treasury will communicate to Tribal governments the amount of their portion of the Employment Allocation and the anticipated date for the second payment.

1.5. My county is a unit of general local government with population under 50,000. Will my county receive funds directly from Treasury? [5/27]

Yes. All counties that are units of general local government will receive funds directly from Treasury and should apply via the [online portal](#). The list of county allocations is available [here](#).

1.6. My local government expected to be classified as a non-entitlement unit. Instead, it was classified as a metropolitan city. Why? [5/27]

The American Rescue Plan Act defines, for purposes of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF), metropolitan cities to include those that are currently metropolitan cities under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program but also those cities that relinquish or defer their status as a metropolitan city for purposes of the CDBG program. This would include, by way of example, cities that are principal cities of their metropolitan statistical area, even if their population is less than 50,000. In other words, a city that is eligible to be a metropolitan city under the CDBG program is eligible as a metropolitan city under the CLFRF, regardless of how that city has elected to participate in the CDBG program.

Unofficial allocation estimates produced by other organizations may have classified certain local governments as non-entitlement units of local government. However, based on the statutory definitions, some of these local governments should have been classified as metropolitan cities.

1.7. In order to receive and use Fiscal Recovery Funds, must a recipient government maintain a declaration of emergency relating to COVID-19? [6/23]

No. Neither the statute establishing the CSFRF/CLFRF nor the Interim Final Rule requires recipients to maintain a local declaration of emergency relating to COVID-19.

1.8. Can non-profit or private organizations receive funds? If so, how? [7/14]

Yes. Under section 602(c)(3) of the Social Security Act, a State, territory, or Tribal government may transfer funds to a “private nonprofit organization . . . , a Tribal organization . . . , a public benefit corporation involved in the transportation of passengers or cargo, or a special-purpose unit of State or local government.” Similarly, section 603(c)(3) authorizes a local government to transfer funds to the same entities (other than Tribal organizations). The Interim Final Rule clarifies that the lists of transferees in sections 602(c)(3) and 603(c)(3) are not exclusive, and recipients may transfer funds to constituent units of government or private entities beyond those

specified in the statute. A transferee receiving a transfer from a recipient under sections 602(c)(3) and 603(c)(3) will be considered to be a subrecipient and will be expected to comply with all subrecipient reporting requirements.

The ARPA does not authorize Treasury to provide CSFRF/CLFRF funds directly to non-profit or private organizations. Thus, non-profit or private organizations should seek funds from CSFRF/CLFRF recipient(s) in their jurisdiction (e.g., a State, local, territorial, or Tribal government).

2. Eligible Uses – Responding to the Public Health Emergency / Negative Economic Impacts

2.1. What types of COVID-19 response, mitigation, and prevention activities are eligible?

A broad range of services are needed to contain COVID-19 and are eligible uses, including vaccination programs; medical care; testing; contact tracing; support for isolation or quarantine; supports for vulnerable populations to access medical or public health services; public health surveillance (e.g., monitoring case trends, genomic sequencing for variants); enforcement of public health orders; public communication efforts; enhancement to health care capacity, including through alternative care facilities; purchases of personal protective equipment; support for prevention, mitigation, or other services in congregate living facilities (e.g., nursing homes, incarceration settings, homeless shelters, group living facilities) and other key settings like schools; ventilation improvements in congregate settings, health care settings, or other key locations; enhancement of public health data systems; and other public health responses. Capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs are also eligible, such as physical plant improvements to public hospitals and health clinics or adaptations to public buildings to implement COVID-19 mitigation tactics.

2.2. If a use of funds was allowable under the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) to respond to the public health emergency, may recipients presume it is also allowable under CSFRF/CLFRF?

Generally, funding uses eligible under CRF as a response to the direct public health impacts of COVID-19 will continue to be eligible under CSFRF/CLFRF, with the following two exceptions: (1) the standard for eligibility of public health and safety payrolls has been updated; and (2) expenses related to the issuance of tax-anticipation notes are not an eligible funding use.

2.3. If a use of funds is not explicitly permitted in the Interim Final Rule as a response to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts, does that mean it is prohibited?

The Interim Final Rule contains a non-exclusive list of programs or services that may be funded as responding to COVID-19 or the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency, along with considerations for evaluating other potential uses of Fiscal Recovery Funds not explicitly listed. The Interim Final Rule also provides flexibility for recipients to use Fiscal Recovery Funds for programs or services that are not identified on these non-exclusive lists but which meet the objectives of section 602(c)(1)(A) or 603(c)(1)(A) by responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts.

2.4. May recipients use funds to respond to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts by replenishing state unemployment funds?

Consistent with the approach taken in the CRF, recipients may make deposits into the state account of the Unemployment Trust Fund up to the level needed to restore the pre-pandemic balances of such account as of January 27, 2020, or to pay back advances received for the payment of benefits between January 27, 2020 and the date when the Interim Final Rule is published in the Federal Register.

2.5. What types of services are eligible as responses to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic?

Eligible uses in this category include assistance to households; small businesses and non-profits; and aid to impacted industries.

Assistance to households includes, but is not limited to: food assistance; rent, mortgage, or utility assistance; counseling and legal aid to prevent eviction or homelessness; cash assistance; emergency assistance for burials, home repairs, weatherization, or other needs; internet access or digital literacy assistance; or job training to address negative economic or public health impacts experienced due to a worker's occupation or level of training.

Assistance to small business and non-profits includes, but is not limited to:

- loans or grants to mitigate financial hardship such as declines in revenues or impacts of periods of business closure, for example by supporting payroll and benefits costs, costs to retain employees, mortgage, rent, or utilities costs, and other operating costs;
- Loans, grants, or in-kind assistance to implement COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics, such as physical plant changes to enable social distancing, enhanced cleaning efforts, barriers or partitions, or COVID-19 vaccination, testing, or contact tracing programs; and
- Technical assistance, counseling, or other services to assist with business planning needs

2.6. May recipients use funds to respond to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts by providing direct cash transfers to households?

Yes, provided the recipient considers whether, and the extent to which, the household has experienced a negative economic impact from the pandemic. Additionally, cash transfers must be reasonably proportional to the negative economic impact they are intended to address. Cash transfers grossly in excess of the amount needed to address the negative economic impact identified by the recipient would not be considered to be a response to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative impacts. In particular, when considering appropriate size of permissible cash transfers made in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments may consider and take guidance from the per person amounts previously provided by the federal government in response to the COVID crisis.

2.7. May funds be used to reimburse recipients for costs incurred by state and local governments in responding to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts prior to passage of the American Rescue Plan?

Use of Fiscal Recovery Funds is generally forward looking. The Interim Final Rule permits funds to be used to cover costs incurred beginning on March 3, 2021.

2.8. May recipients use funds for general economic development or workforce development?

Generally, not. Recipients must demonstrate that funding uses directly address a negative economic impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency, including funds used for economic or workforce development. For example, job training for unemployed workers may be used to address negative economic impacts of the public health emergency and be eligible.

2.9. How can recipients use funds to assist the travel, tourism, and hospitality industries?

Aid provided to tourism, travel, and hospitality industries should respond to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic. For example, a recipient may provide aid to support safe reopening of businesses in the tourism, travel and hospitality industries and to districts that were closed during the COVID-19 public health emergency, as well as aid a planned expansion or upgrade of tourism, travel and hospitality facilities delayed due to the pandemic.

Tribal development districts are considered the commercial centers for tribal hospitality, gaming, tourism and entertainment industries.

2.10. May recipients use funds to assist impacted industries other than travel, tourism, and hospitality?

Yes, provided that recipients consider the extent of the impact in such industries as compared to tourism, travel, and hospitality, the industries enumerated in the statute. For example, nationwide the leisure and hospitality industry has experienced an

approximately 17 percent decline in employment and 24 percent decline in revenue, on net, due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Recipients should also consider whether impacts were due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as opposed to longer-term economic or industrial trends unrelated to the pandemic.

Recipients should maintain records to support their assessment of how businesses or business districts receiving assistance were affected by the negative economic impacts of the pandemic and how the aid provided responds to these impacts.

2.11. How does the Interim Final Rule help address the disparate impact of COVID-19 on certain populations and geographies?

In recognition of the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 virus on health and economic outcomes in low-income and Native American communities, the Interim Final Rule identifies a broader range of services and programs that are considered to be in response to the public health emergency when provided in these communities. Specifically, Treasury will presume that certain types of services are eligible uses when provided in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT), to families living in QCTs, or when these services are provided by Tribal governments.

Recipients may also provide these services to other populations, households, or geographic areas disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. In identifying these disproportionately-impacted communities, recipients should be able to support their determination for how the pandemic disproportionately impacted the populations, households, or geographic areas to be served.

Eligible services include:

- Addressing health disparities and the social determinants of health, including: community health workers, public benefits navigators, remediation of lead paint or other lead hazards, and community violence intervention programs;
- Building stronger neighborhoods and communities, including: supportive housing and other services for individuals experiencing homelessness, development of affordable housing, and housing vouchers and assistance relocating to neighborhoods with higher levels of economic opportunity;
- Addressing educational disparities exacerbated by COVID-19, including: early learning services, increasing resources for high-poverty school districts, educational services like tutoring or afterschool programs, and supports for students' social, emotional, and mental health needs; and
- Promoting healthy childhood environments, including: child care, home visiting programs for families with young children, and enhanced services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth.

2.12. May recipients use funds to pay for vaccine incentive programs (e.g., cash or in-kind transfers, lottery programs, or other incentives for individuals who get vaccinated)?

Yes. Under the Interim Final Rule, recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, including expenses related to COVID-19 vaccination programs. See 31 CFR 35.6(b)(1)(i). Programs that provide incentives reasonably expected to increase the number of people who choose to get vaccinated, or that motivate people to get vaccinated sooner than they otherwise would have, are an allowable use of funds so long as such costs are reasonably proportional to the expected public health benefit.

2.13. May recipients use funds to pay “back to work incentives” (e.g., cash payments for newly employed workers after a certain period of time on the job)? [5/27]

Yes. Under the Interim Final Rule, recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to provide assistance to unemployed workers. See 31 CFR 35.6(b)(4). This assistance can include job training or other efforts to accelerate rehiring and thus reduce unemployment, such as childcare assistance, assistance with transportation to and from a jobsite or interview, and incentives for newly employed workers.

2.14. The Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) included as an eligible use: "Payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency." What has changed in CSFRF/CLFRF, and what type of documentation is required under CSFRF/CLFRF? [5/27]

Many of the expenses authorized under the Coronavirus Relief Fund are also eligible uses under the CSFRF/CLFRF. However, in the case of payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees (hereafter, public health and safety staff), the CSFRF/CLFRF does differ from the CRF. This change reflects the differences between the ARPA and CARES Act and recognizes that the response to the COVID-19 public health emergency has changed and will continue to change over time. In particular, funds may be used for payroll and covered benefits expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees, including first responders, to the extent that the employee's time that is dedicated to responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

For administrative convenience, the recipient may consider a public health and safety employee to be entirely devoted to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency, and therefore fully covered, if the employee, or his or her operating unit or division, is primarily dedicated (e.g., more than half of the employee's time is dedicated) to responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Recipients may use presumptions for assessing whether an employee, division, or operating unit is primarily dedicated to COVID-19 response. The recipient should

maintain records to support its assessment, such as payroll records, attestations from supervisors or staff, or regular work product or correspondence demonstrating work on the COVID-19 response. Recipients need not routinely track staff hours. Recipients should periodically reassess their determinations.

2.15. What staff are included in “public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees”? Would this include, for example, 911 operators, morgue staff, medical examiner staff, or EMS staff? [5/27]

As discussed in the Interim Final Rule, funds may be used for payroll and covered benefits expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees, for the portion of the employee’s time that is dedicated to responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Public safety employees would include police officers (including state police officers), sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, firefighters, emergency medical responders, correctional and detention officers, and those who directly support such employees such as dispatchers and supervisory personnel. Public health employees would include employees involved in providing medical and other health services to patients and supervisory personnel, including medical staff assigned to schools, prisons, and other such institutions, and other support services essential for patient care (e.g., laboratory technicians, medical examiner or morgue staff) as well as employees of public health departments directly engaged in matters related to public health and related supervisory personnel. Human services staff include employees providing or administering social services; public benefits; child welfare services; and child, elder, or family care, as well as others.

2.16. May recipients use funds to establish a public jobs program? [6/8]

Yes. The Interim Final Rule permits a broad range of services to unemployed or underemployed workers and other individuals that suffered negative economic impacts from the pandemic. That can include public jobs programs, subsidized employment, combined education and on-the-job training programs, or job training to accelerate rehiring or address negative economic or public health impacts experienced due to a worker’s occupation or level of training. The broad range of permitted services can also include other employment supports, such as childcare assistance or assistance with transportation to and from a jobsite or interview.

The Interim Final Rule includes as an eligible use re-hiring public sector staff up to the government’s level of pre-pandemic employment. “Public sector staff” would not include individuals participating in a job training or subsidized employment program administered by the recipient.

2.17. The Interim Final Rule states that “assistance or aid to individuals or businesses that did not experience a negative economic impact from the public health emergency would not be an eligible use under this category.” Are recipients

required to demonstrate that each individual or business experienced a negative economic impact for that individual or business to receive assistance? [6/23]

Not necessarily. The Interim Final Rule allows recipients to demonstrate a negative economic impact on a population or group and to provide assistance to households or businesses that fall within that population or group. In such cases, the recipient need only demonstrate that the household or business is within the population or group that experienced a negative economic impact.

For assistance to households, the Interim Final Rule states, “In assessing whether a household or population experienced economic harm as a result of the pandemic, a recipient may presume that a household or population that experienced unemployment or increased food or housing insecurity or is low- or moderate-income experienced negative economic impacts resulting from the pandemic.” This would allow, for example, an internet access assistance program for all low- or moderate-income households, but would not require the recipient to demonstrate or document that each individual low- or -moderate income household experienced a negative economic impact from the COVID-19 public health emergency apart from being low- or -moderate income.

For assistance to small businesses, the Interim Final Rule states that assistance may be provided to small businesses, including loans, grants, in-kind assistance, technical assistance or other services, to respond to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency. In providing assistance to small businesses, recipients must design a program that responds to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency, including by identifying how the program addresses the identified need or impact faced by small businesses. This can include assistance to adopt safer operating procedures, weather periods of closure, or mitigate financial hardship resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency.

As part of program design and to ensure that the program responds to the identified need, recipients may consider additional criteria to target assistance to businesses in need, including to small businesses. Assistance may be targeted to businesses facing financial insecurity, with substantial declines in gross receipts (e.g., comparable to measures used to assess eligibility for the Paycheck Protection Program), or facing other economic harm due to the pandemic, as well as businesses with less capacity to weather financial hardship, such as the smallest businesses, those with less access to credit, or those serving disadvantaged communities. For example, a recipient could find based on local data or research that the smallest businesses faced sharply increased risk of bankruptcy and develop a program to respond; such a program would only need to document a population or group-level negative economic impact, and eligibility criteria to limit access to the program to that population or group (in this case, the smallest businesses).

In addition, recognizing the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on disadvantaged communities, the Interim Final Rule also identifies a set of services that are presumptively eligible when provided in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT); to families and individuals living in QCTs; to other populations, households, or geographic areas

identified by the recipient as disproportionately impacted by the pandemic; or when these services are provided by Tribal governments. For more information on the set of presumptively eligible services, see the Interim Final Rule section on *Building Stronger Communities through Investments in Housing and Neighborhoods* and FAQ 2.11.

2.18. Would investments in improving outdoor spaces (e.g. parks) be an eligible use of funds as a response to the public health emergency and/or its negative economic impacts? [6/23]

There are multiple ways that investments in improving outdoor spaces could qualify as eligible uses; several are highlighted below, though there may be other ways that a specific investment in outdoor spaces would meet eligible use criteria.

First, in recognition of the disproportionate negative economic impacts on certain communities and populations, the Interim Final Rule identifies certain types of services that are eligible uses when provided in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT), to families and individuals living in QCTs, or when these services are provided by Tribal governments. Recipients may also provide these services to other populations, households, or geographic areas disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

These programs and services include services designed to build stronger neighborhoods and communities and to address health disparities and the social determinants of health. The Interim Final Rule provides a non-exhaustive list of eligible services to respond to the needs of communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, and recipients may identify other uses of funds that do so, consistent with the Rule’s framework. For example, investments in parks, public plazas, and other public outdoor recreation spaces may be responsive to the needs of disproportionately impacted communities by promoting healthier living environments and outdoor recreation and socialization to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Second, recipients may provide assistance to small businesses in all communities. Assistance to small businesses could include support to enhance outdoor spaces for COVID-19 mitigation (e.g., restaurant patios) or to improve the built environment of the neighborhood (e.g., façade improvements).

Third, many governments saw significantly increased use of parks during the pandemic that resulted in damage or increased maintenance needs. The Interim Final Rule recognizes that “decrease[s to] a state or local government’s ability to effectively administer services” can constitute a negative economic impact of the pandemic.

2.19. Would expenses to address a COVID-related backlog in court cases be an eligible use of funds as a response to the public health emergency? [6/23]

The Interim Final Rule recognizes that “decrease[s to] a state or local government’s ability to effectively administer services,” such as cuts to public sector staffing levels, can constitute a negative economic impact of the pandemic. During the COVID-19 public

health emergency, many courts were unable to operate safely during the pandemic and, as a result, now face significant backlogs. Court backlogs resulting from inability of courts to safely operate during the COVID-19 pandemic decreased the government's ability to administer services. Therefore, steps to reduce these backlogs, such as implementing COVID-19 safety measures to facilitate court operations, hiring additional court staff or attorneys to increase speed of case resolution, and other expenses to expedite case resolution are eligible uses.

2.20. Can funds be used to assist small business startups as a response to the negative economic impact of COVID-19? [6/23]

As discussed in the Interim Final Rule, recipients may provide assistance to small businesses that responds to the negative economic impacts of COVID-19. The Interim Final Rule provides a non-exclusive list of potential assistance mechanisms, as well as considerations for ensuring that such assistance is responsive to the negative economic impacts of COVID-19.

Treasury acknowledges a range of potential circumstances in which assisting small business startups could be responsive to the negative economic impacts of COVID-19, including for small businesses and individuals seeking to start small businesses after the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency. For example:

- A recipient could assist small business startups with additional costs associated with COVID-19 mitigation tactics (e.g., barriers or partitions; enhanced cleaning; or physical plant changes to enable greater use of outdoor space).
- A recipient could identify and respond to a negative economic impact of COVID-19 on new small business startups; for example, if it could be shown that small business startups in a locality were facing greater difficulty accessing credit than prior to the pandemic, faced increased costs to starting the business due to the pandemic, or that the small business had lost expected startup capital due to the pandemic.
- The Interim Final Rule also discusses eligible uses that provide support for individuals who have experienced a negative economic impact from the COVID-19 public health emergency, including uses that provide job training for unemployed individuals. These initiatives also may support small business startups and individuals seeking to start small businesses.

2.21. Can funds be used for eviction prevention efforts or housing stability services? [6/24]

Yes. Responses to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic include “rent, mortgage, or utility assistance [and] counseling and legal aid to prevent eviction or homelessness.” This includes housing stability services that enable eligible households to maintain or obtain housing, such as housing counseling, fair housing counseling, case management related to housing stability, outreach to households at risk of eviction or promotion of housing support programs, housing related services for survivors of

domestic abuse or human trafficking, and specialized services for individuals with disabilities or seniors that supports their ability to access or maintain housing.

This also includes legal aid such as legal services or attorney's fees related to eviction proceedings and maintaining housing stability, court-based eviction prevention or eviction diversion programs, and other legal services that help households maintain or obtain housing.

Recipients may transfer funds to, or execute grants or contracts with, court systems, non-profits, and a wide range of other organizations to implement these strategies.

3. Eligible Uses – Revenue Loss

3.1. How is revenue defined for the purpose of this provision? [appendix added 6/23]

The Interim Final Rule adopts a definition of “General Revenue” that is based on, but not identical, to the Census Bureau’s concept of “General Revenue from Own Sources” in the Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances.

General Revenue includes revenue from taxes, current charges, and miscellaneous general revenue. It excludes refunds and other correcting transactions, proceeds from issuance of debt or the sale of investments, agency or private trust transactions, and revenue generated by utilities and insurance trusts. General revenue also includes intergovernmental transfers between state and local governments, but excludes intergovernmental transfers from the Federal government, including Federal transfers made via a state to a locality pursuant to the CRF or the Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Tribal governments may include all revenue from Tribal enterprises and gaming operations in the definition of General Revenue.

Please see the appendix for a diagram of the Interim Final Rule’s definition of General Revenue within the Census Bureau’s revenue classification structure.

3.2. Will revenue be calculated on an entity-wide basis or on a source-by-source basis (e.g. property tax, income tax, sales tax, etc.)?

Recipients should calculate revenue on an entity-wide basis. This approach minimizes the administrative burden for recipients, provides for greater consistency across recipients, and presents a more accurate representation of the net impact of the COVID- 19 public health emergency on a recipient’s revenue, rather than relying on financial reporting prepared by each recipient, which vary in methodology used and which generally aggregates revenue by purpose rather than by source.

3.3. Does the definition of revenue include outside concessions that contract with a state or local government?

Recipients should classify revenue sources as they would if responding to the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances. According to the Census Bureau's [Government Finance and Employment Classification manual](#), the following is an example of current charges that would be included in a state or local government's general revenue from own sources: "Gross revenue of facilities operated by a government (swimming pools, recreational marinas and piers, golf courses, skating rinks, museums, zoos, etc.); auxiliary facilities in public recreation areas (camping areas, refreshment stands, gift shops, etc.); lease or use fees from stadiums, auditoriums, and community and convention centers; and rentals from concessions at such facilities."

3.4. What is the time period for estimating revenue loss? Will revenue losses experienced prior to the passage of the Act be considered?

Recipients are permitted to calculate the extent of reduction in revenue as of four points in time: December 31, 2020; December 31, 2021; December 31, 2022; and December 31, 2023. This approach recognizes that some recipients may experience lagged effects of the pandemic on revenues.

Upon receiving Fiscal Recovery Fund payments, recipients may immediately calculate revenue loss for the period ending December 31, 2020.

3.5. What is the formula for calculating the reduction in revenue?

A reduction in a recipient's General Revenue equals:

$$\text{Max } \{ [\text{Base Year Revenue} * (1 + \text{Growth Adjustment})^{\left(\frac{n_t}{12}\right)}] - \text{Actual General Revenue}_t ; 0 \}$$

Where:

Base Year Revenue is General Revenue collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Growth Adjustment is equal to the greater of 4.1 percent (or 0.041) and the recipient's average annual revenue growth over the three full fiscal years prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

n equals the number of months elapsed from the end of the base year to the calculation date.

Actual General Revenue is a recipient's actual general revenue collected during 12-month period ending on each calculation date.

Subscript *t* denotes the calculation date.

3.6. Are recipients expected to demonstrate that reduction in revenue is due to the COVID-19 public health emergency?

In the Interim Final Rule, any diminution in actual revenue calculated using the formula above would be presumed to have been “due to” the COVID-19 public health emergency. This presumption is made for administrative ease and in recognition of the broad-based economic damage that the pandemic has wrought.

3.7. May recipients use pre-pandemic projections as a basis to estimate the reduction in revenue?

No. Treasury is disallowing the use of projections to ensure consistency and comparability across recipients and to streamline verification. However, in estimating the revenue shortfall using the formula above, recipients may incorporate their average annual revenue growth rate in the three full fiscal years prior to the public health emergency.

3.8. Once a recipient has identified a reduction in revenue, are there any restrictions on how recipients use funds up to the amount of the reduction?

The Interim Final Rule gives recipients broad latitude to use funds for the provision of government services to the extent of reduction in revenue. Government services can include, but are not limited to, maintenance of infrastructure or pay-go spending for building new infrastructure, including roads; modernization of cybersecurity, including hardware, software, and protection of critical infrastructure; health services; environmental remediation; school or educational services; and the provision of police, fire, and other public safety services.

However, paying interest or principal on outstanding debt, replenishing rainy day or other reserve funds, or paying settlements or judgments would not be considered provision of a government service, since these uses of funds do not entail direct provision of services to citizens. This restriction on paying interest or principal on any outstanding debt instrument, includes, for example, short-term revenue or tax anticipation notes, or paying fees or issuance costs associated with the issuance of new debt. In addition, the overarching restrictions on all program funds (e.g., restriction on pension deposits, restriction on using funds for non-federal match where barred by regulation or statute) would apply.

3.9. How do I know if a certain type of revenue should be counted for the purpose of computing revenue loss? [5/27]

As discussed in FAQ #3.1, the Interim Final Rule adopts a definition of “General Revenue” that is based on, but not identical, to the Census Bureau’s concept of “General Revenue from Own Sources” in the Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances.

Recipients should refer to the definition of “General Revenue” included in the Interim Final Rule. See 31 CFR 35.3. If a recipient is unsure whether a particular revenue source is included in the Interim Final Rule’s definition of “General Revenue,” the recipient may consider the classification and instructions used to complete the Census Bureau’s Annual Survey.

For example, parking fees would be classified as a Current Charge for the purpose of the Census Bureau’s Annual Survey, and the Interim Final Rule’s concept of “General Revenue” includes all Current Charges. Therefore, parking fees would be included in the Interim Final Rule’s concept of “General Revenue.”

The Census Bureau’s Government Finance and Employment Classification manual is available [here](#).

3.10. In calculating revenue loss, are recipients required to use audited financials? [6/8]

Where audited data is not available, recipients are not required to obtain audited data. Treasury expects all information submitted to be complete and accurate. See 31 CFR 35.4(c).

3.11. In calculating revenue loss, should recipients use their own data, or Census data? [6/8]

Recipients should use their own data sources to calculate general revenue, and do not need to rely on published revenue data from the Census Bureau. Treasury acknowledges that due to differences in timing, data sources, and definitions, recipients’ self-reported general revenue figures may differ somewhat from those published by the Census Bureau.

3.12. Should recipients calculate revenue loss on a cash basis or an accrual basis? [6/8]

Recipients may provide data on a cash, accrual, or modified accrual basis, provided that recipients are consistent in their choice of methodology throughout the covered period and until reporting is no longer required.

3.13. In identifying intergovernmental revenue for the purpose of calculating General Revenue, should recipients exclude all federal funding, or just federal funding related to the COVID-19 response? How should local governments treat federal funds that are passed through states or other entities, or federal funds that are intermingled with other funds? [6/23]

In calculating General Revenue, recipients should exclude all intergovernmental transfers from the federal government. This includes, but is not limited to, federal transfers made via a state to a locality pursuant to the Coronavirus Relief Fund or Fiscal Recovery Funds. To the extent federal funds are passed through states or other entities or intermingled with other funds, recipients should attempt to identify and exclude the

federal portion of those funds from the calculation of General Revenue on a best-efforts basis.

3.14. What entities constitute a government for the purpose of calculating revenue loss? [7/14]

In determining whether a particular entity is part of a recipient's government for purposes of measuring a recipient's government revenue, recipients should identify all the entities included in their government and the general revenue attributable to these entities on a best-efforts basis. Recipients are encouraged to consider how their administrative structure is organized under state and local statutes. In cases in which the autonomy of certain authorities, commissions, boards, districts, or other entities is not readily distinguishable from the recipient's government, recipients may adopt the Census Bureau's criteria for judging whether an entity is independent from, or a constituent of, a given government. For an entity to be independent, it generally meets all four of the following conditions:

- The entity is an organized entity and possesses corporate powers, such as perpetual succession, the right to sue and be sued, having a name, the ability to make contracts, and the ability to acquire and dispose of property.
- The entity has governmental character, meaning that it provides public services, or wields authority through a popularly elected governing body or officers appointed by public officials. A high degree of responsibility to the public, demonstrated by public reporting requirements or by accessibility of records for public inspection, also evidences governmental character.
- The entity has substantial fiscal independence, meaning it can determine its budget without review and modification by other governments. For instance, the entity can determine its own taxes, charges, and debt issuance without another government's supervision.
- The entity has substantial administrative independence, meaning it has a popularly elected governing body, or has a governing body representing two or more governments, or, in the event its governing body is appointed by another government, the entity performs functions that are essentially different from those of, and are not subject to specification by, its creating government.

If an entity does not meet all four of these conditions, a recipient may classify the entity as part of the recipient's government and assign the portion of General Revenue that corresponds to the entity.

To further assist recipients in applying the forgoing criteria, recipients may refer to the Census Bureau's [*Individual State Descriptions: 2017 Census of Governments*](#) publication, which lists specific entities and classes of entities classified as either independent (defined by Census as "special purpose governments") or constituent (defined by Census as "dependent agencies") on a state-by-state basis. Recipients should note that the Census Bureau's lists are not exhaustive and that Census classifications are based on an analysis of state and local statutes as of 2017 and subject to the Census Bureau's judgement. Though not included in the Census Bureau's publication, state

colleges and universities are generally classified as dependent agencies of state governments by the Census Bureau.

If an entity is determined to be part of the recipient's government, the recipient must also determine whether the entity's revenue is covered by the Interim Final Rule's definition of "general revenue." For example, some cash flows may be outside the definition of "general revenue." In addition, note that the definition of general revenue includes Tribal enterprises in the case of Tribal governments. Refer to FAQ 3.1 (and the Appendix) for the components included in General Revenue.

3.15. The Interim Final Rule's definition of General Revenue excludes revenue generated by utilities. Can you please clarify the definition of utility revenue? [7/14]

As noted in FAQs 3.1 and 3.9, the Interim Final Rule adopts a definition of "general revenue" that is based on, but not identical to, the Census Bureau's concept of "General Revenue from Own Sources" in the Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances. Recipients should refer to the definition of "general revenue" included in the Interim Final Rule. See 31 CFR 35.3. If a recipient is unsure whether a particular revenue source is included in the Interim Final Rule's definition of "general revenue," the recipient may consider the classification and instructions used to complete the Census Bureau's Annual Survey.

According to the Census Bureau's [Government Finance and Employment Classification manual](#), utility revenue is defined as "[g]ross receipts from sale of utility commodities or services to the public or other governments by publicly-owned and controlled utilities." This includes revenue from operations of publicly-owned and controlled water supply systems, electric power systems, gas supply systems, and public mass transit systems (see pages 4-45 and 4-46 of the manual for more detail).

Except for these four types of utilities, revenues from all commercial-type activities of a recipient's government (e.g., airports, educational institutions, lotteries, public hospitals, public housing, parking facilities, port facilities, sewer or solid waste systems, and toll roads and bridges) are covered by the Interim Final Rule's definition of "general revenue." If a recipient is unsure whether a particular entity performing one of these commercial-type activities can be considered part of the recipient's government, please see FAQ 3.14.

4. Eligible Uses – General

4.1. May recipients use funds to replenish a budget stabilization fund, rainy day fund, or similar reserve account?

No. Funds made available to respond to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts are intended to help meet pandemic response needs and provide immediate stabilization for households and businesses. Contributions to rainy day funds

and similar reserves funds would not address these needs or respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, but would rather be savings for future spending needs. Similarly, funds made available for the provision of governmental services (to the extent of reduction in revenue) are intended to support direct provision of services to citizens. Contributions to rainy day funds are not considered provision of government services, since such expenses do not directly relate to the provision of government services.

4.2. May recipients use funds to invest in infrastructure other than water, sewer, and broadband projects (e.g. roads, public facilities)?

Under 602(c)(1)(C) or 603(c)(1)(C), recipients may use funds for maintenance of infrastructure or pay-go spending for building of new infrastructure as part of the general provision of government services, to the extent of the estimated reduction in revenue due to the public health emergency.

Under 602(c)(1)(A) or 603(c)(1)(A), a general infrastructure project typically would not be considered a response to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts unless the project responds to a specific pandemic-related public health need (e.g., investments in facilities for the delivery of vaccines) or a specific negative economic impact of the pandemic (e.g., affordable housing in a Qualified Census Tract).

4.3. May recipients use funds to pay interest or principal on outstanding debt?

No. Expenses related to financing, including servicing or redeeming notes, would not address the needs of pandemic response or its negative economic impacts. Such expenses would also not be considered provision of government services, as these financing expenses do not directly provide services or aid to citizens.

This applies to paying interest or principal on any outstanding debt instrument, including, for example, short-term revenue or tax anticipation notes, or paying fees or issuance costs associated with the issuance of new debt.

4.4. May recipients use funds to satisfy nonfederal matching requirements under the Stafford Act? May recipients use funds to satisfy nonfederal matching requirements generally?

Fiscal Recovery Funds are subject to pre-existing limitations in other federal statutes and regulations and may not be used as non-federal match for other Federal programs whose statute or regulations bar the use of Federal funds to meet matching requirements. For example, expenses for the state share of Medicaid are not an eligible use. For information on FEMA programs, please [see here](#).

4.5. Are governments required to submit proposed expenditures to Treasury for approval? [5/27]

No. Recipients are not required to submit planned expenditures for prior approval by Treasury. Recipients are subject to the requirements and guidelines for eligible uses contained in the Interim Final Rule.

4.6. How do I know if a specific use is eligible? [5/27]

Fiscal Recovery Funds must be used in one of the four eligible use categories specified in the American Rescue Plan Act and implemented in the Interim Final Rule:

- a) To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- b) To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers;
- c) For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and
- d) To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

Recipients should consult Section II of the Interim Final Rule for additional information on eligible uses. For recipients evaluating potential uses under (a), the Interim Final Rule contains a non-exclusive list of programs or services that may be funded as responding to COVID-19 or the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency, along with considerations for evaluating other potential uses of Fiscal Recovery Funds not explicitly listed. See Section II of the Interim Final Rule for additional discussion.

For recipients evaluating potential uses under (c), the Interim Final Rule gives recipients broad latitude to use funds for the provision of government services to the extent of reduction in revenue. See FAQ #3.8 for additional discussion.

For recipients evaluating potential uses under (b) and (d), see Sections 5 and 6.

4.7. Do restrictions on using Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to cover costs incurred beginning on March 3, 2021 apply to costs incurred by the recipient (e.g., a State, local, territorial, or Tribal government) or to costs incurred by households, businesses, and individuals benefiting from assistance provided using Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds? [6/8]

The Interim Final Rule permits funds to be used to cover costs incurred beginning on March 3, 2021. This limitation applies to costs incurred by the recipient (i.e., the state, local, territorial, or Tribal government receiving funds). However, recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to provide assistance to households, businesses, and individuals within the eligible use categories described in the Interim

Final Rule for economic harms experienced by those households, businesses, and individuals prior to March 3, 2021. For example,

- Public Health/Negative Economic Impacts – Recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to provide assistance to households – such as rent, mortgage, or utility assistance – for economic harms experienced or costs incurred by the household prior to March 3, 2021 (e.g., rental arrears from preceding months), provided that the cost of providing assistance to the household was not incurred by the recipient prior to March 3, 2021.
- Premium Pay – Recipients may provide premium pay retrospectively for work performed at any time since the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Such premium pay must be “in addition to” wages and remuneration already received and the obligation to provide such pay must not have been incurred by the recipient prior to March 3, 2021.
- Revenue Loss – The Interim Final Rule gives recipients broad latitude to use funds for the provision of government services to the extent of reduction in revenue. The calculation of lost revenue begins with the recipient’s revenue in the last full fiscal year prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency and includes the 12-month period ending December 31, 2020. However, use of funds for government services must be forward looking for costs incurred by the recipient after March 3, 2021.
- Investments in Water, Sewer, and Broadband – Recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to make necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband. See FAQ Section 6. Recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to cover costs incurred for eligible projects planned or started prior to March 3, 2021, provided that the project costs covered by the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds were incurred after March 3, 2021.

4.8. How can I use CSFRF/CLFRF funds to prevent and respond to crime, and support public safety in my community? [6/23]

Under Treasury’s Interim Final Rule, there are many ways in which the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (“Funds”) under the American Rescue Plan Act can support communities working to reduce and respond to increased violence due to the pandemic. Among the eligible uses of the Funds are restoring of public sector staff to their pre-pandemic levels and responses to the public health crisis and negative economic impacts resulting from the pandemic. The Interim Final Rule provides several ways for recipients to “respond to” this pandemic-related gun violence, ranging from community violence intervention programs to mental health services to hiring of public safety personnel.

Below are some examples of how Fiscal Recovery Funds can be used to address public safety:

- In all communities, recipients may use resources to rehire police officers and other public servants to restore law enforcement and courts to their pre-pandemic levels.

Additionally, Funds can be used for expenses to address COVID-related court backlogs, including hiring above pre-pandemic levels, as a response to the public health emergency. See FAQ 2.19.

- In communities where an increase in violence or increased difficulty in accessing or providing services to respond to or mitigate the effects of violence, is a result of the pandemic they may use funds to address that harm. This spending may include:
 - Hiring law enforcement officials – even above pre-pandemic levels – or paying overtime where the funds are directly focused on advancing community policing strategies in those communities experiencing an increase in gun violence associated with the pandemic
 - Community Violence Intervention (CVI) programs, including capacity building efforts at CVI programs like funding and training additional intervention workers
 - Additional enforcement efforts to reduce gun violence exacerbated by the pandemic, including prosecuting gun traffickers, dealers, and other parties contributing to the supply of crime guns, as well as collaborative federal, state, and local efforts to identify and address gun trafficking channels
 - Investing in technology and equipment to allow law enforcement to more efficiently and effectively respond to the rise in gun violence resulting from the pandemic

As discussed in the Interim Final Rule, uses of CSFRF/CLFRF funds that respond to an identified harm must be related and reasonably proportional to the extent and type of harm experienced; uses that bear no relation or are grossly disproportionate to the type or extent of harm experienced would not be eligible uses.

- Recipients may also use funds up to the level of revenue loss for government services, including those outlined above.

Recognizing that the pandemic exacerbated mental health and substance use disorder needs in many communities, eligible public health services include mental health and other behavioral health services, which are a critical component of a holistic public safety approach. This could include:

- Mental health services and substance use disorder services, including for individuals experiencing trauma exacerbated by the pandemic, such as:
 - Community-based mental health and substance use disorder programs that deliver evidence-based psychotherapy, crisis support services, medications for opioid use disorder, and/or recovery support
 - School-based social-emotional support and other mental health services
- Referrals to trauma recovery services for crime victims.

Recipients also may use Funds to respond to the negative economic impacts of the public health emergency, including:

- Assistance programs to households or populations facing negative economic impacts of the public health emergency, including:

- Assistance to support economic security, including for the victims of crime;
 - Housing assistance, including rent, utilities, and relocation assistance;
 - Assistance with food, including Summer EBT and nutrition programs; and
 - Employment or job training services to address negative economic or public health impacts experienced due to a worker's occupation or level of training.
- Assistance to unemployed workers, including:
 - Subsidized jobs, including for young people. Summer youth employment programs directly address the negative economic impacts of the pandemic on young people and their families and communities;
 - Programs that provide paid training and/or work experience targeted primarily to (1) formerly incarcerated individuals, and/or (2) communities experiencing high levels of violence exacerbated by the pandemic;
 - Programs that provide workforce readiness training, apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship opportunities, skills development, placement services, and/or coaching and mentoring; and
 - Associated wraparound services, including for housing, health care, and food.

Recognizing the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on certain communities, a broader range of services are eligible in those communities than would otherwise be available in communities not experiencing a pandemic-related increase in crime or gun violence. These eligible uses aim to address the pandemic's exacerbation of public health and economic disparities and include services to address health and educational disparities, support neighborhoods and affordable housing, and promote healthy childhood environments. The Interim Final Rule provides a non-exhaustive list of eligible services in these categories.

These services automatically qualify as eligible uses when provided in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs), low-income areas designated by HUD; to families in QCTs; or by Tribal governments. Outside of these areas, recipient governments can also identify and serve households, populations, and geographic areas disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

Services under this category could include:

- Programs or services that address or mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on education, childhood health and welfare, including:
 - Summer education and enrichment programs in these communities, which include many communities currently struggling with high levels of violence;
 - Programs that address learning loss and keep students productively engaged;
 - Enhanced services for foster youths and home visiting programs; and
 - Summer camps and recreation.
- Programs or services that provide or facilitate access to health and social services and address health disparities exacerbated by the pandemic. This includes Community Violence Intervention (CVI) programs, such as:
 - Evidence-based practices like focused deterrence, street outreach, violence interrupters, and hospital-based violence intervention models, complete with

- wraparound services such as behavioral therapy, trauma recovery, job training, education, housing and relocation services, and financial assistance; and,
- Capacity-building efforts at CVI programs like funding more intervention workers; increasing their pay; providing training and professional development for intervention workers; and hiring and training workers to administer the programs.

Please refer to Treasury's Interim Final Rule for additional information.

4.9. May recipients pool funds for regional projects? [7/14]

Yes, provided that the project is itself an eligible use of funds and that recipients can track the use of funds in line with the reporting and compliance requirements of the CSFRF/CLFRF. In general, when pooling funds for regional projects, recipients may expend funds directly on the project or transfer funds to another government that is undertaking the project on behalf of multiple recipients. To the extent recipients undertake regional projects via transfer to another government, recipients would need to comply with the rules on transfers specified in the Interim Final Rule, Section V. A recipient may transfer funds to a government outside its boundaries (e.g., county transfers to a neighboring county), provided that the recipient can document that its jurisdiction receives a benefit proportionate to the amount contributed.

4.10. May recipients fund a project with both ARP funds and other sources of funding (e.g., blending, braiding, or other pairing funding sources), including in conjunction with financing provided through a debt issuance? [7/14]

Cost sharing or matching funds are not required under CSFRF/CLFRF. Funds may be used in conjunction with other funding sources, provided that the costs are eligible costs under each source program and are compliant with all other related statutory and regulatory requirements and policies. The recipient must comply with applicable reporting requirements for all sources of funds supporting the CSFRF/CLFRF projects, and with any requirements and restrictions on the use of funds from the supplemental funding sources and the CSFRF/CLFRF program. Specifically,

- All funds provided under the CSFRF/CLFRF program must be used for projects, investments, or services that are eligible under the CSFRF/CLFRF statute, Treasury's Interim Final Rule, and guidance. See 31 CFR 35.6-8; FAQ 4.6. CSFRF/CLFRF funds may not be used to fund an activity that is not, in its entirety, an eligible use under the CSFRF/CLFRF statute, Treasury's Interim Final Rule, and guidance. For example,
 - CSFRF/CLFRF funds may be used in conjunction with other sources of funds to make an investment in water infrastructure, which is eligible under the CSLFRF statute, and Treasury's Interim Final Rule.
 - CSFRF/CLFRF funds could not be used to fund the entirety of a water infrastructure project that was partially, although not entirely, an eligible use under Treasury's Interim Final Rule. However, the recipient could use CSFRF/CLFRF funds only for a smaller component project that does

constitute an eligible use, while using other funds for the remaining portions of the larger planned water infrastructure project that do not constitute an eligible use. In this case, the “project” under this program would be only the eligible use component of the larger project.

- In addition, because CSFRF/CLFRF funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026, recipients must be able to, at a minimum, determine and report to Treasury on the amount of CSFRF/CLFRF funds obligated and expended and when such funds were obligated and expended.

4.11. May Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds be used to make loans or other extensions of credit (“loans”), including loans to small businesses and loans to finance necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure? [7/14]

Yes. Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (“Funds”) may be used to make loans, provided that the loan is an eligible use and the cost of the loan is tracked and reported in accordance with the points below. See 31 CFR 35.6. For example, a recipient may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to make loans to small businesses. See 31 CFR 35.6(b)(6). In addition, a recipient may use Funds to finance a necessary investment in water, sewer or broadband, as described in the Interim Final Rule. See 31 CFR 35.6(e).

Funds must be used to cover “costs incurred” by the recipient between March 3, 2021, and December 31, 2024, and Funds must be expended by December 31, 2026. See Section III.D of the Interim Final Rule; 31 CFR 35.5. Accordingly, recipients must be able to determine the amount of Funds used to make a loan.

- For loans that mature or are forgiven on or before December 31, 2026, the recipient must account for the use of funds on a cash flow basis, consistent with the approach to loans taken in the Coronavirus Relief Fund.
 - Recipients may use Fiscal Recovery Funds to fund the principal of the loan and in that case must track repayment of principal and interest (i.e., “program income,” as defined under 2 CFR 200).
 - When the loan is made, recipients must report the principal of the loan as an expense.
 - Repayment of principal may be re-used only for eligible uses, and subject to restrictions on timing of use of funds. Interest payments received prior to the end of the period of performance will be considered an addition to the total award and may be used for any purpose that is an eligible use of funds under the statute and IFR. Recipients are not subject to restrictions under 2 CFR 200.307(e)(1) with respect to such payments.
- For loans with maturities longer than December 31, 2026, the recipient may use Fiscal Recovery Funds for only the projected cost of the loan. Recipients may estimate the subsidy cost of the loan, which equals the expected cash flows associated

with the loan discounted at the recipient's cost of funding. A recipient's cost of funding can be determined based on the interest rates of securities with a similar maturity to the cash flow being discounted that were either (i) recently issued by the recipient or (ii) recently issued by a unit of state, local, or Tribal government similar to the recipient. Recipients that have adopted the Current Expected Credit Loss (CECL) standard may also treat the cost of the loan as equal to the CECL-based expected credit losses over the life of the loan. Recipients may measure projected losses either once, at the time the loan is extended, or annually over the covered period.

Under either approach for measuring the amount of funds used to make loans with maturities longer than December 31, 2026, recipients would not be subject to restrictions under 2 CFR 200.307(e)(1) and need not separately track repayment of principal or interest.

Any contribution of Fiscal Recovery Funds to a revolving loan fund must follow the approach described above for loans with maturities longer than December 31, 2026. In other words, a recipient could contribute Fiscal Recovery Funds to a revolving loan fund, provided that the revolving loan fund makes loans that are eligible uses and the Fiscal Recovery Funds contributed represent the projected cost of loans made over the life of the revolving loan fund.

4.12. May funds be used for outreach to increase uptake of federal assistance like the Child Tax Credit or federal programs like SNAP? [7/14]

Yes. Eligible uses to address negative economic impacts include work “to improve efficacy of programs addressing negative economic impacts, including through use of data analysis, targeted consumer outreach, improvements to data or technology infrastructure, and impact evaluations.” See 31 CFR 35.6(b)(10). Of note, per the CSFRF/CLFRF [Reporting Guidance](#), allowable use of funds for evaluations may also include other types of program evaluations focused on program improvement and evidence building. In addition, recipients may use funds to facilitate access to health and social services in populations and communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including benefits navigators or marketing efforts to increase consumer uptake of federal tax credits, benefits, or assistance programs that respond to negative economic impacts of the pandemic. See 31 CFR 35.6(b)(12).

5. Eligible Uses – Premium Pay

5.1. What criteria should recipients use in identifying essential workers to receive premium pay?

Essential workers are those in critical infrastructure sectors who regularly perform in-person work, interact with others at work, or physically handle items handled by others.

Critical infrastructure sectors include healthcare, education and childcare, transportation, sanitation, grocery and food production, and public health and safety, among others, as provided in the Interim Final Rule. Governments receiving Fiscal Recovery Funds have the discretion to add additional sectors to this list, so long as the sectors are considered critical to protect the health and well-being of residents.

The Interim Final Rule emphasizes the need for recipients to prioritize premium pay for lower income workers. Premium pay that would increase a worker's total pay above 150% of the greater of the state or county average annual wage requires specific justification for how it responds to the needs of these workers.

5.2. What criteria should recipients use in identifying third-party employers to receive grants for the purpose of providing premium pay to essential workers?

Any third-party employers of essential workers are eligible. Third-party contractors who employ essential workers in eligible sectors are also eligible for grants to provide premium pay. Selection of third-party employers and contractors who receive grants is at the discretion of recipients.

To ensure any grants respond to the needs of essential workers and are made in a fair and transparent manner, the rule imposes some additional reporting requirements for grants to third-party employers, including the public disclosure of grants provided.

5.3. May recipients provide premium pay retroactively for work already performed?

Yes. Treasury encourages recipients to consider providing premium pay retroactively for work performed during the pandemic, recognizing that many essential workers have not yet received additional compensation for their service during the pandemic.

6. Eligible Uses – Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure

6.1. What types of water and sewer projects are eligible uses of funds?

The Interim Final Rule generally aligns eligible uses of the Funds with the wide range of types or categories of projects that would be eligible to receive financial assistance through the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

Under the DWSRF, categories of [eligible projects](#) include: treatment, transmission and distribution (including lead service line replacement), source rehabilitation and decontamination, storage, consolidation, and new systems development.

Under the CWSRF, categories of [eligible projects](#) include: construction of publicly-owned treatment works, nonpoint source pollution management, national estuary program projects, decentralized wastewater treatment systems, stormwater systems, water

conservation, efficiency, and reuse measures, watershed pilot projects, energy efficiency measures for publicly-owned treatment works, water reuse projects, security measures at publicly-owned treatment works, and technical assistance to ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act.

As mentioned in the Interim Final Rule, eligible projects under the DWSRF and CWSRF support efforts to address climate change, as well as to meet cybersecurity needs to protect water and sewer infrastructure. Given the lifelong impacts of lead exposure for children, and the widespread nature of lead service lines, Treasury also encourages recipients to consider projects to replace lead service lines.

6.2. May construction on eligible water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure projects continue past December 31, 2024, assuming funds have been obligated prior to that date?

Yes. Treasury is interpreting the requirement that costs be incurred by December 31, 2024 to only require that recipients have obligated the funds by such date. The period of performance will run until December 31, 2026, which will provide recipients a reasonable amount of time to complete projects funded with Fiscal Recovery Funds.

6.3. May recipients use funds as a non-federal match for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)?

Recipients may not use funds as a state match for the CWSRF and DWSRF due to prohibitions in utilizing federal funds as a state match in the authorizing statutes and regulations of the CWSRF and DWSRF.

6.4. Does the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) apply to eligible infrastructure projects?

NEPA does not apply to Treasury's administration of the Funds. Projects supported with payments from the Funds may still be subject to NEPA review if they are also funded by other federal financial assistance programs.

6.5. What types of broadband projects are eligible?

The Interim Final Rule requires eligible projects to reliably deliver minimum speeds of 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload. In cases where it is impracticable due to geography, topography, or financial cost to meet those standards, projects must reliably deliver at least 100 Mbps download speed, at least 20 Mbps upload speed, and be scalable to a minimum of 100 Mbps download speed and 100 Mbps upload speed.

Projects must also be designed to serve unserved or underserved households and businesses, defined as those that are not currently served by a wireline connection that reliably delivers at least 25 Mbps download speed and 3 Mbps of upload speed.

6.6. For broadband investments, may recipients use funds for related programs such as cybersecurity or digital literacy training?

Yes. Recipients may use funds to provide assistance to households facing negative economic impacts due to Covid-19, including digital literacy training and other programs that promote access to the Internet. Recipients may also use funds for modernization of cybersecurity, including hardware, software, and protection of critical infrastructure, as part of provision of government services up to the amount of revenue lost due to the public health emergency.

6.7. How do I know if a water, sewer, or broadband project is an eligible use of funds? Do I need pre-approval? [6/8]

Recipients do not need approval from Treasury to determine whether an investment in a water, sewer, or broadband project is eligible under CSFRF/CLFRF. Each recipient should review the Interim Final Rule (IFR), along with the preamble to the Interim Final Rule, in order to make its own assessment of whether its intended project meets the eligibility criteria in the IFR. A recipient that makes its own determination that a project meets the eligibility criteria as outlined in the IFR may pursue the project as a CSFRF/CLFRF project without pre-approval from Treasury. Local government recipients similarly do not need state approval to determine that a project is eligible under CSFRF/CLFRF. However, recipients should be cognizant of other federal or state laws or regulations that may apply to construction projects independent of CSFRF/CLFRF funding conditions and that may require pre-approval.

For water and sewer projects, the IFR refers to the EPA [Drinking Water](#) and [Clean Water](#) State Revolving Funds (SRFs) for the categories of projects and activities that are eligible for funding. Recipients should look at the relevant federal statutes, regulations, and guidance issued by the EPA to determine whether a water or sewer project is eligible. Of note, the IFR does not incorporate any other requirements contained in the federal statutes governing the SRFs or any conditions or requirements that individual states may place on their use of SRFs.

6.8. For broadband infrastructure investments, what does the requirement that infrastructure “be designed to” provide service to unserved or underserved households and businesses mean? [6/17]

Designing infrastructure investments to provide service to unserved or underserved households or businesses means prioritizing deployment of infrastructure that will bring service to households or businesses that are not currently serviced by a wireline connection that reliably delivers at least 25 Mbps download speed and 3 Mbps of upload speed. To meet this requirement, states and localities should use funds to deploy broadband infrastructure projects whose objective is to provide service to unserved or underserved households or businesses. These unserved or underserved households or businesses do not need to be the only ones in the service area funded by the project.

6.9. For broadband infrastructure to provide service to “unserved or underserved households or businesses,” must every house or business in the service area be unserved or underserved? [6/17]

No. It suffices that an objective of the project is to provide service to unserved or underserved households or businesses. Doing so may involve a holistic approach that provides service to a wider area in order, for example, to make the ongoing service of unserved or underserved households or businesses within the service area economical. Unserved or underserved households or businesses need not be the *only* households or businesses in the service area receiving funds.

6.10. May recipients use payments from the Funds for “middle mile” broadband projects? [6/17]

Yes. Under the Interim Final Rule, recipients may use payments from the Funds for “middle-mile projects,” but Treasury encourages recipients to focus on projects that will achieve last-mile connections—whether by focusing on funding last-mile projects or by ensuring that funded middle-mile projects have potential or partnered last-mile networks that could or would leverage the middle-mile network.

6.11. For broadband infrastructure investments, what does the requirement to “reliably” meet or exceed a broadband speed threshold mean? [6/17]

In the Interim Final Rule, the term “reliably” is used in two places: to identify areas that are eligible to be the subject of broadband infrastructure investments and to identify expectations for acceptable service levels for broadband investments funded by the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. In particular:

- The IFR defines “unserved or underserved households or businesses” to mean one or more households or businesses that are not currently served by a wireline connection that reliably delivers at least 25 Mbps download speeds and 3 Mbps of upload speeds.
- The IFR provides that a recipient may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to make investments in broadband infrastructure that are designed to provide service to unserved or underserved households or businesses and that are designed to, upon completion: (i) reliably meet or exceed symmetrical 100 Mbps download speed and upload speeds; or (ii) in limited cases, reliably meet or exceed 100 Mbps download speed and between 20 Mbps and 100 Mbps upload speed and be scalable to a minimum of 100 Mbps download and upload speeds.

The use of “reliably” in the IFR provides recipients with significant discretion to assess whether the households and businesses in the area to be served by a project have access to wireline broadband service that can actually and consistently meet the specified thresholds of at least 25Mbps/3Mbps—i.e., to consider the actual experience of current

wireline broadband customers that subscribe to services at or above the 25 Mbps/3 Mbps threshold. Whether there is a provider serving the area that advertises or otherwise claims to offer speeds that meet the 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload speed thresholds is not dispositive.

When making these assessments, recipients may choose to consider any available data, including but not limited to documentation of existing service performance, federal and/or state-collected broadband data, user speed test results, interviews with residents and business owners, and any other information they deem relevant. In evaluating such data, recipients may take into account a variety of factors, including whether users actually receive service at or above the speed thresholds at all hours of the day, whether factors other than speed such as latency or jitter, or deterioration of the existing connections make the user experience unreliable, and whether the existing service is being delivered by legacy technologies, such as copper telephone lines (typically using Digital Subscriber Line technology) or early versions of cable system technology (DOCSIS 2.0 or earlier).

The IFR also provides recipients with significant discretion as to how they will assess whether the project itself has been designed to provide households and businesses with broadband services that meet, or even exceed, the speed thresholds provided in the rule.

6.12. May recipients use Funds for pre-project development for eligible water, sewer, and broadband projects? [6/23]

Yes. To determine whether Funds can be used on pre-project development for an eligible water or sewer project, recipients should consult whether the pre-project development use or cost is eligible under the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF and DWSRF, respectively). Generally, the CWSRF and DWSRF often allow for pre-project development costs that are tied to an eligible project, as well as those that are reasonably expected to lead to a project. For example, the DWSRF [allows](#) for planning and evaluations uses, as well as numerous pre-project development costs, including costs associated with obtaining project authorization, planning and design, and project start-up like training and warranty for equipment. Likewise, the CWSRF [allows](#) for broad pre-project development, including planning and assessment activities, such as cost and effectiveness analyses, water/energy audits and conservation plans, and capital improvement plans.

Similarly, pre-project development uses and costs for broadband projects should be tied to an eligible broadband project or reasonably expected to lead to such a project. For example, pre-project costs associated with planning and engineering for an eligible broadband infrastructure build-out is considered an eligible use of funds, as well as technical assistance and evaluations that would reasonably be expected to lead to commencement of an eligible project (e.g., broadband mapping for the purposes of finding an eligible area for investment).

All funds must be obligated within the statutory period between March 3, 2021 and December 31, 2024, and expended to cover such obligations by December 31, 2026.

6.13. May State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds be used to support energy or electrification infrastructure that would be used to power new water treatment plants and wastewater systems? [7/14]

The EPA's [Overview of Clean Water State Revolving Fund Eligibilities](#) describes eligible energy-related projects. This includes a "[p]ro rata share of capital costs of offsite clean energy facilities that provide power to a treatment works." Thus, State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds may be used to finance the generation and delivery of clean power to a wastewater system or a water treatment plant on a pro-rata basis. If the wastewater system or water treatment plant is the sole user of the clean energy, the full cost would be considered an eligible use of funds. If the clean energy provider provides power to other entities, only the proportionate share used by the water treatment plant or wastewater system would be an eligible use of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

6.14. How should states and local governments assess whether a stormwater management project, such as a culvert replacement, is an eligible project for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds? [7/14]

FAQ 6.7 describes the overall approach that recipients may take to evaluate the eligibility of water or sewer projects. For stormwater management projects specifically, as noted in the EPA's [Overview of Clean Water State Revolving Fund Eligibilities](#), "Stormwater projects must have a water quality benefit." Thus, to be eligible under CSFRF/CLFRF, stormwater management projects should be designed to incorporate water quality benefits consistent with the goals of the Clean Water Act. [Summary of the Clean Water Act.](#)

6.15. May recipients use Funds for road repairs and upgrades that occur in connection with an eligible water or sewer project? [7/14]

Yes, recipients may use State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for road repairs and upgrades directly related to an eligible water or sewer project. For example, a recipient could use Funds to repair or re-pave a road following eligible sewer repair work beneath it. However, use of Funds for general infrastructure projects is subject to the limitations described in FAQ 4.2. Water and sewer infrastructure projects are often a single component of a broader transportation infrastructure project, for example, the implementation of stormwater infrastructure to meet Clean Water Act established water quality standards. In this example, the components of the infrastructure project that interact directly with the stormwater infrastructure project may be funded by Fiscal Recovery Funds.

6.16. May Funds be used to build or upgrade broadband connections to schools or libraries? [7/14]

As outlined in the IFR, recipients may use Fiscal Recovery Funds to invest in broadband infrastructure that, wherever it is practicable to do so, is designed to deliver service that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical upload and download speeds of 100 Mbps to households or businesses that are not currently serviced by a wireline connection that reliably delivers at least 25 Mbps download speed and 3 Mbps of upload speed. Treasury interprets “businesses” in this context broadly to include non-residential users of broadband, including private businesses and institutions that serve the public, such as schools, libraries, healthcare facilities, and public safety organizations.

6.17. Are eligible infrastructure projects subject to the Davis-Bacon Act? [7/14]

The Davis-Bacon Act requirements (prevailing wage rates) do not apply to projects funded solely with award funds from the CSFRF/CLFRF program, except for CSFRF/CLFRF-funded construction projects undertaken by the District of Columbia. The Davis-Bacon Act specifically applies to the District of Columbia when it uses federal funds (CSFRF/CLFRF funds or otherwise) to enter into contracts over \$2,000 for the construction, alteration, or repair (including painting and decorating) of public buildings or public works. Recipients may be otherwise subject to the requirements of the Davis-Bacon Act, when CSFRF/CLFRF award funds are used on a construction project in conjunction with funds from another federal program that requires enforcement of the Davis-Bacon Act. Additionally, corollary state prevailing-wage-in-construction laws (commonly known as “baby Davis-Bacon Acts”) may apply to projects. Please refer to FAQ 4.10 concerning projects funded with both CSFRF/CLFRF funds and other sources of funding.

Treasury has indicated in its Interim Final Rule that it is important that necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure be carried out in ways that produce high-quality infrastructure, avert disruptive and costly delays, and promote efficiency. Treasury encourages recipients to ensure that water, sewer, and broadband projects use strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefits agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions, not only to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects, but also to support the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers. Using these practices in construction projects may help to ensure a reliable supply of skilled labor that would minimize disruptions, such as those associated with labor disputes or workplace injuries.

Treasury has also indicated in its reporting guidance that recipients will need to provide documentation of wages and labor standards for infrastructure projects over \$10 million, and that these requirements can be met with certifications that the project is in compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act (or related state laws, commonly known as “baby Davis-Bacon Acts”) and subject to a project labor agreement. Please refer to the Reporting and Compliance Guidance, page 21, for more detailed information on the reporting requirement.

7. Non-Entitlement Units (NEUs)

Answers to frequently asked questions on distribution of funds to NEUs can be found in this [FAQ supplement](#), which is regularly updated.

8. Ineligible Uses

8.1. What is meant by a pension “deposit”? Can governments use funds for routine pension contributions for employees whose payroll and covered benefits are eligible expenses?

Treasury interprets “deposit” in this context to refer to an extraordinary payment into a pension fund for the purpose of reducing an accrued, unfunded liability. More specifically, the interim final rule does not permit this assistance to be used to make a payment into a pension fund if both: (1) the payment reduces a liability incurred prior to the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency, and (2) the payment occurs outside the recipient’s regular timing for making such payments.

Under this interpretation, a “deposit” is distinct from a “payroll contribution,” which occurs when employers make payments into pension funds on regular intervals, with contribution amounts based on a pre-determined percentage of employees’ wages and salaries. In general, if an employee’s wages and salaries are an eligible use of Fiscal Recovery Funds, recipients may treat the employee’s covered benefits as an eligible use of Fiscal Recovery Funds.

8.2. May recipients use Fiscal Recovery Funds to fund Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)? [6/8]

OPEB refers to benefits other than pensions (see, e.g., [Governmental Accounting Standards Board, “Other Post-Employment Benefits”](#)). Treasury has determined that Sections 602(c)(2)(B) and 603(c)(2), which refer only to pensions, do not prohibit CSFRF/CLFRF recipients from funding OPEB. Recipients of either the CSFRF/CLFRF may use funds for eligible uses, and a recipient seeking to use CSFRF/CLFRF funds for OPEB contributions would need to justify those contributions under one of the four eligible use categories.

9. Reporting

On June 17, 2021, Treasury released [Guidance on Recipient Compliance and Reporting Responsibilities for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds](#). Recipients should consult this guidance for additional detail and clarification on recipients’ compliance and reporting responsibilities. A users’ guide will be provided with additional information on how and where to submit required reports.

9.1. What records must be kept by governments receiving funds?

Financial records and supporting documents related to the award must be retained for a period of five years after all funds have been expended or returned to Treasury, whichever is later. This includes those which demonstrate the award funds were used for eligible purposes in accordance with the ARPA, Treasury's regulations implementing those sections, and Treasury's guidance on eligible uses of funds.

9.2. What reporting will be required, and when will the first report be due?

Recipients will be required to submit an interim report, quarterly project and expenditure reports, and annual Recovery Plan Performance Reports as specified below, regarding their utilization of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Interim reports: States (defined to include the District of Columbia), territories, metropolitan cities, counties, and Tribal governments will be required to submit one interim report. The interim report will include a recipient's expenditures by category at the summary level and for states, information related to distributions to non-entitlement units of local government must also be included in the interim report. The interim report will cover activity from the date of award to July 31, 2021 and must be submitted to Treasury by August 31, 2021. Non-entitlement units of local government are not required to submit an interim report.

Quarterly Project and Expenditure reports: State (defined to include the District of Columbia), territorial, metropolitan city, county, and Tribal governments will be required to submit quarterly project and expenditure reports. This report will include financial data, information on contracts and subawards over \$50,000, types of projects funded, and other information regarding a recipient's utilization of award funds. Reports will be required quarterly with the exception of non-entitlement units, which will report annually. An interim report is due on August 31, 2021. The reports will include the same general data as those submitted by recipients of the Coronavirus Relief Fund, with some modifications to expenditure categories and the addition of data elements related to specific eligible uses. The initial quarterly Project and Expenditure report will cover two calendar quarters from the date of award to September 30, 2021 and must be submitted to Treasury by October 31, 2021. The subsequent quarterly reports will cover one calendar quarter and must be submitted to Treasury within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter.

Non-entitlement units of local government will be required to submit the project and expenditure report annually. The initial annual Project and Expenditure report for non-entitlement units of local government will cover activity from the date of award to September 30, 2021 and must be submitted to Treasury by October 31, 2021. The subsequent annual reports must be submitted to Treasury by October 31 each year.

Recovery Plan Performance Reports: States (defined to include the District of Columbia), territories, metropolitan cities, and counties with a population that exceeds 250,000

residents will also be required to submit an annual Recovery Plan Performance Report to Treasury. This report will include descriptions of the projects funded and information on the performance indicators and objectives of each award, helping local residents understand how their governments are using the substantial resources provided by Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program. The initial Recovery Plan Performance Report will cover activity from date of award to July 31, 2021 and must be submitted to Treasury by August 31, 2021. Thereafter, the Recovery Plan Performance Reports will cover a 12-month period and recipients will be required to submit the report to Treasury within 30 days after the end of the 12-month period. The second Recovery Plan Performance Report will cover the period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 and must be submitted to Treasury by July 31, 2022. Each annual Recovery Plan Performance Report must be posted on the public-facing website of the recipient. Local governments with fewer than 250,000 residents, Tribal governments, and non-entitlement units of local government are not required to develop a Recovery Plan Performance Report.

Please see the [Guidance on Recipient Compliance and Reporting Responsibilities](#) for more information.

9.3. What provisions of the Uniform Guidance for grants apply to these funds? Will the Single Audit requirements apply?

Most of the provisions of the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200) apply to this program, including the Cost Principles and Single Audit Act requirements. Recipients should refer to the Assistance Listing for detail on the specific provisions of the Uniform Guidance that do not apply to this program. The Assistance Listing will be available on beta.SAM.gov.

9.4. Once a recipient has identified a reduction in revenue, how will Treasury track use of funds for the provision of government services? [6/8]

The ARPA establishes four categories of eligible uses and further restrictions on the use of funds to ensure that Fiscal Recovery Funds are used within the four eligible use categories. The Interim Final Rule implements these restrictions, including the scope of the eligible use categories and further restrictions on tax cuts and deposits into pensions. Reporting requirements will align with this structure.

Consistent with the broad latitude provided to recipients to use funds for government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue, recipients will be required to submit a description of services provided. As discussed in IFR, these services can include a broad range of services but may not be used directly for pension deposits, contributions to reserve funds, or debt service. Recipients may use sources of funding other than Fiscal Recovery Funds to make deposits to pension funds, contribute to reserve funds, and pay debt service, including during the period of performance for the Fiscal Recovery Fund award.

For recipients using Fiscal Recovery Funds to provide government services to the extent of reduction in revenue, the description of government services reported to Treasury may be narrative or in another form, and recipients are encouraged to report based on their existing budget processes and to minimize administrative burden. For example, a recipient with \$100 in revenue replacement funds available could indicate that \$50 were used for personnel costs and \$50 were used for pay-go building of sidewalk infrastructure.

In addition to describing the government services provided to the extent of reduction in revenue, all recipients will also be required to indicate that Fiscal Recovery Funds are not used directly to make a deposit in a pension fund. Further, recipients subject to the tax offset provision will be required to provide information necessary to implement the Interim Final Rule, as described in the Interim Final Rule. Treasury does not anticipate requiring other types of reporting or recordkeeping on spending in pensions, debt service, or contributions to reserve funds.

These requirements are further detailed in the guidance on reporting requirements for the Fiscal Recovery Funds available [here](#).

9.5. What is the Assistance Listing and Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for the program? [6/8]

The [Assistance Listing](#) for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) was published May 28, 2021 on SAM.gov. This includes the final CFDA Number for the program, 21.027.

The assistance listing includes helpful information including program purpose, statutory authority, eligibility requirements, and compliance requirements for recipients. The CFDA number is the unique 5-digit code for each type of federal assistance, and can be used to search for program information, including funding opportunities, spending on usaspending.gov, or audit results through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse.

To expedite payments and meet statutory timelines, Treasury issued initial payments under an existing CFDA number. If you have already received funds or captured the initial CFDA number in your records, please update your systems and reporting to reflect the final CFDA number 21.027. **Recipients must use the final CFDA number for all financial accounting, audits, subawards, and associated program reporting requirements.**

To ensure public trust, Treasury expects all recipients to serve as strong stewards of these funds. This includes ensuring funds are used for intended purposes and recipients have in place effective financial management, internal controls, and reporting for transparency and accountability.

Please see [Treasury's Interim Final Rule](#) and the [Guidance on Recipient Compliance and Reporting Responsibilities](#) for more information.

10. Miscellaneous

10.1. May governments retain assets purchased with Fiscal Recovery Funds? If so, what rules apply to the proceeds of disposition or sale of such assets?

Yes, if the purchase of the asset was consistent with the limitations on the eligible use of funds. If such assets are disposed of prior to December 31, 2024, the proceeds would be subject to the restrictions on the eligible use of payments.

10.2. Can recipients use funds for administrative purposes?

Recipients may use funds to cover the portion of payroll and benefits of employees corresponding to time spent on administrative work necessary due to the COVID–19 public health emergency and its negative economic impacts. This includes, but is not limited to, costs related to disbursing payments of Fiscal Recovery Funds and managing new grant programs established using Fiscal Recovery Funds.

10.3. Are recipients required to remit interest earned on CSFRF/CLFRF payments made by Treasury? [5/27, updated 7/14]

No. CSFRF/CLFRF payments made by Treasury to states, territories, and the District of Columbia are not subject to the requirement of the Cash Management Improvement Act and Treasury’s implementing regulations at 31 CFR part 205 to remit interest to Treasury. CSFRF/CLFRF payments made by Treasury to local governments and Tribes are not subject to the requirement of 2 CFR 200.305(b)(8)–(9) to maintain balances in an interest-bearing account and remit payments to Treasury. Moreover, interest earned on CSFRF/CLFRF payments is not subject to program restrictions. Finally, States may retain interest on payments made by Treasury to the State for distribution to NEUs that is earned before funds are distributed to NEUs, provided that the State adheres to the statutory requirements and Treasury’s guidance regarding the distribution of funds to NEUs. Such interest is also not subject to program restrictions.

Among other things, States and other recipients may use earned income to defray the administrative expenses of the program, including with respect to NEUs.

10.4. Is there a deadline to apply for funds? [5/27]

The Interim Final Rule requires that costs be incurred by December 31, 2024. Direct recipients are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. For direct recipients other than Tribal governments, there is not a specific application deadline.

Tribal governments do have deadlines to complete the application process and should visit www.treasury.gov/SLFRPTribal for guidance on applicable deadlines.

Non-entitlement units of local government should contact their state government for information on applicable deadlines.

10.5. May recipients use funds to cover the costs of consultants to assist with managing and administering the funds? [6/8]

Yes. Recipients may use funds for administering the CSFRF/CLFRF program, including costs of consultants to support effective management and oversight, including consultation for ensuring compliance with legal, regulatory, and other requirements.

11. Operations

11.1. How do I know if my entity is eligible?

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 set forth the jurisdictions eligible to receive funds under the program, which are:

- States and the District of Columbia
- Territories
- Tribal governments
- Counties
- Metropolitan cities (typically, but not always, those with populations over 50,000)
- Non-entitlement units of local government, or smaller local governments (typically, but not always, those with populations under 50,000)

11.2. How does an eligible entity request payment?

Eligible entities (other than non-entitlement units) must submit their information to the [Treasury Submission Portal](#). Please visit the [Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund website](#) for more information on the submission process.

11.3. I cannot log into the Treasury Submission Portal or am having trouble navigating it. Who can help me?

If you have questions about the Treasury Submission Portal or for technical support, please email covidreliefitsupport@treasury.gov.

11.4. What do I need to do to receive my payment?

All eligible payees are required to have a DUNS Number previously issued by Dun & Bradstreet (<https://www.dnb.com/>).

All eligible payees are also required to have an active registration with the System for Award Management (SAM) (<https://www.sam.gov>).

And eligible payees must have a bank account enabled for Automated Clearing House (ACH) direct deposit. Payees with a Wire account are encouraged to provide that information as well.

More information on these and all program pre-submission requirements can be found on the [Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund website](#).

11.5. Why is Treasury employing id.me for the Treasury Submission Portal?

ID.me is a trusted technology partner to multiple government agencies and healthcare providers. It provides secure digital identity verification to those government agencies and healthcare providers to make sure you're you – and not someone pretending to be you – when you request access to online services. All personally identifiable information provided to ID.me is encrypted and disclosed only with the express consent of the user. Please refer to ID.me Contact Support for assistance with your ID.me account. Their support website is <https://help.id.me>.

11.6. Why is an entity not on the list of eligible entities in Treasury Submission Portal?

The ARPA statute lays out which governments are eligible for payments. The list of entities within the Treasury Submission Portal includes entities eligible to receive a direct payment of funds from Treasury, which include states (defined to include the District of Columbia), territories, Tribal governments, counties, and metropolitan cities.

Eligible non-entitlement units of local government will receive a distribution of funds from their respective state government and should not submit information to the Treasury Submission Portal.

If you believe an entity has been mistakenly left off the eligible entity list, please email SLFRP@treasury.gov.

11.7. What is an Authorized Representative?

An Authorized Representative is an individual with legal authority to bind the government entity (e.g., the Chief Executive Officer of the government entity). An Authorized Representative must sign the Acceptance of Award terms for it to be valid.

11.8. How does a Tribal government determine their allocation?

Tribal governments will receive information about their allocation when the submission to the Treasury Submission Portal is confirmed to be complete and accurate.

11.9. How do I know the status of my request for funds (submission)?

Entities can check the status of their submission at any time by logging into [Treasury Submission Portal](#).

11.10. My Treasury Submission Portal submission requires additional information/correction. What is the process for that?

If your Authorized Representative has not yet signed the award terms, you can edit your submission with in the into [Treasury Submission Portal](#). If your Authorized Representative has signed the award terms, please email SLFRP@treasury.gov to request assistance with updating your information.

11.11. My request for funds was denied. How do I find out why it was denied or appeal the decision?

Please check to ensure that no one else from your entity has applied, causing a duplicate submission. Please also review the list of all eligible entities on the [Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund website](#).

If you still have questions regarding your submission, please email SLFRP@treasury.gov.

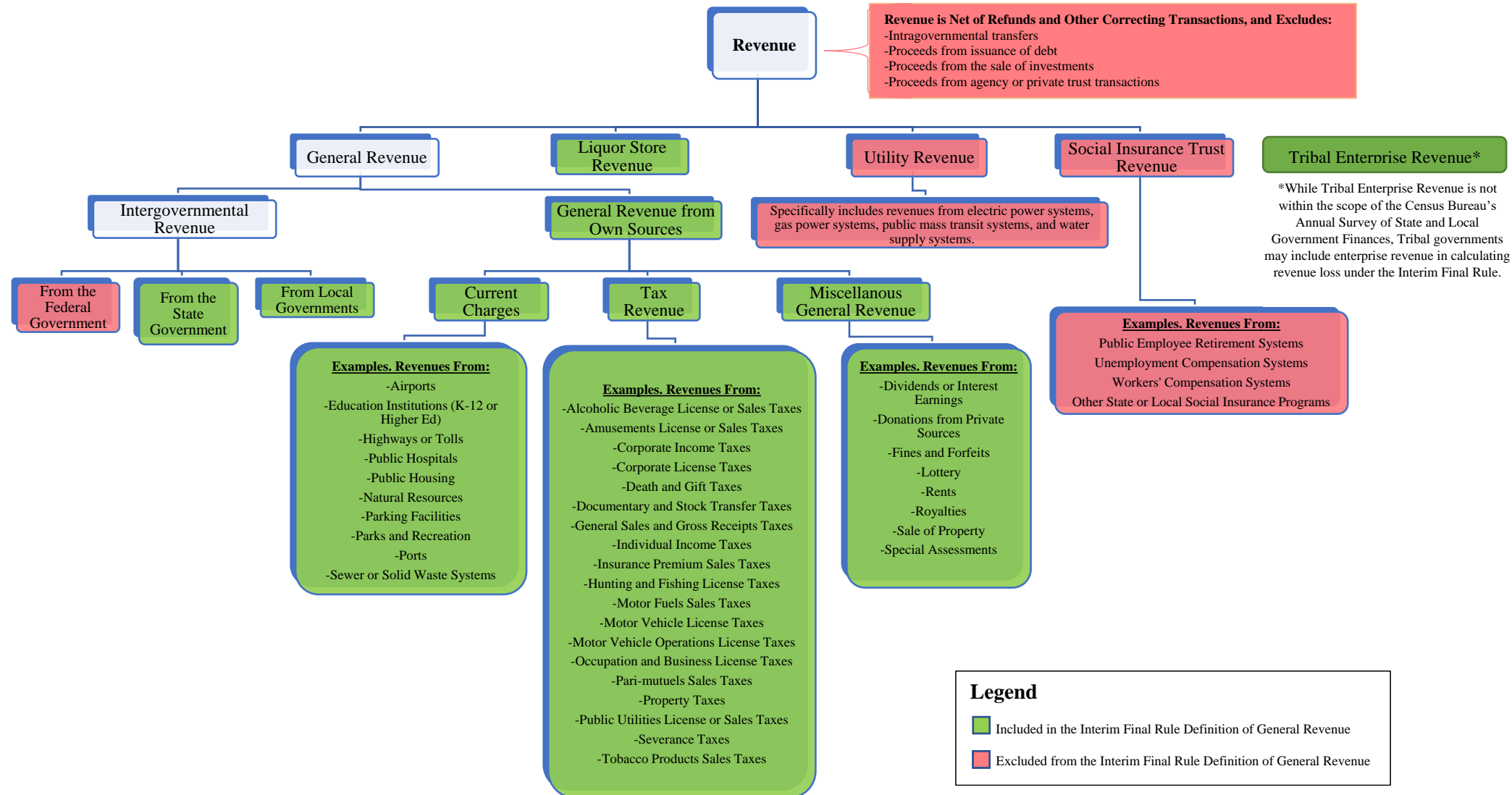
11.12. When will entities get their money?

Before Treasury is able to execute a payment, a representative of an eligible government must submit the government's information for verification through the [Treasury Submission Portal](#). The verification process takes approximately four business days. If any errors are identified, the designated point of contact for the government will be contacted via email to correct the information before the payment can proceed. Once verification is complete, the designated point of contact of the eligible government will receive an email notifying them that their submission has been verified. Payments are generally scheduled for the next business day after this verification email, though funds may not be available immediately due to processing time of their financial institution.

11.13. How does a local government entity provide Treasury with a notice of transfer of funds to its State?

For more information on how to provide Treasury with notice of transfer to a state, please email SLRedirectFunds@treasury.gov.

Appendix: Interim Final Rule Definition of General Revenue Within the Census Bureau Classification Structure of Revenue



Source: [U.S. Bureau of the Census Government Finance and Employment Classification Manual, 2006](#); [Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances](#)

BRIEFING ROOM

President Biden Announces American Rescue Plan

JANUARY 20, 2021 • LEGISLATION

Emergency Legislative Package to Fund Vaccinations, Provide Immediate, Direct Relief to Families Bearing the Brunt of the COVID-19 Crisis, and Support Struggling Communities

The COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding economic crisis are devastating families across the country. More than 20 million Americans have contracted COVID-19, and at least 370,000 have died. From big cities to small towns, too many Americans are barely scraping by, or not scraping by at all. And the pandemic has shined a light on the persistence of racial injustice in our healthcare system and our economy. The need to act is clear in the lines at food banks, the small businesses that are closed or closing, and the growing number of Americans experiencing housing insecurity. After nearly a year of the public health crisis, our nation remains in this dark winter of the pandemic and facing a deep economic crisis.

President Biden is laying out the first step of an aggressive, two-step plan for rescue, from the depths of this crisis, and recovery, by investing in America, creating millions of additional good-paying jobs, combatting the climate crisis, advancing racial equity, and building back better than before.

While Congress's bipartisan action in December was a step in the right direction, it was only a down payment. It fell far short of the resources needed to tackle the immediate crisis. We are in a race against time, and absent additional government assistance, the economic and public health crises could worsen in the months ahead; schools will not be able to safely reopen; and vaccinations will remain far too slow.

As last month's jobs report underscored, the virus and our economy are intertwined. We cannot rescue our economy without containing this virus.

Today, President Biden is announcing the American Rescue Plan to change the course of the pandemic, build a bridge towards economic recovery, and invest in racial justice. The American Rescue Plan will address the stark, intergenerational inequities that have worsened in the wake of COVID-19. Researchers at Columbia University estimate that these proposals will cut child poverty in half.



HOW WILL THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN HELP YOU?

Learn about the Plan

Specifically, President Biden's American Rescue Plan will:

- **Mount a national vaccination program, contain COVID-19, and safely reopen schools,** including by setting up community vaccination sites nationwide, scaling up testing and tracing, eliminating supply shortage problems, investing in high-quality treatments, providing paid sick leave to contain spread of the virus, addressing health disparities, and making the necessary investments to meet the president's goal of safely reopening a majority of K-8 schools in the first 100 days.
- **Deliver immediate relief to working families bearing the brunt of this crisis** by sending \$1,400 per-person checks to households across America, providing direct housing and nutrition assistance, expanding access to safe and reliable childcare and affordable healthcare, increasing the minimum wage, extending unemployment insurance, and giving families with kids and childless workers an emergency boost this year.
- **Support communities that are struggling in the wake of COVID-19** by providing support for the hardest-hit small businesses, especially small businesses owned by entrepreneurs of color, and protecting the jobs of the first responders, transit workers, and other essential workers we depend on.

In addition to addressing the public health and economic crises head on, the President's plan will provide emergency funding to upgrade federal information technology infrastructure and address the recent breaches of federal government data systems. This is an urgent national security issue that cannot wait.

President Biden's \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan is ambitious, but achievable, and will rescue the American economy and start beating the virus. Congress should act expeditiously to help working families, communities, and small businesses persevere through the pandemic.

This legislative package is needed now to address the immediate crises. In the coming weeks, President Biden will lay out his economic recovery plan to invest in America, create millions of additional good-paying jobs, combat the climate crisis, and build back better than before.

Mount a national vaccination program, contain COVID-19, and safely reopen schools

The pandemic is raging, with record high infection and death rates. A new strain of the virus that is even more contagious is appearing in communities across the country. Meanwhile, Americans are waiting to get their vaccines, even while doses are sitting on shelves. More than ten months into the pandemic, we still lack necessary testing capacity and are suffering from shortages of supplies like basic protective equipment for those on the front lines. Americans of color are being infected and are dying from COVID-19 at greater rates because of lasting systemic racism in our health care system. And, older Americans continue to suffer at disproportionate rates.

We can't wait to slow the spread of this virus. And, we can't fight this pandemic in fits and starts. President Biden is putting forward a comprehensive plan to deal with this crisis and launch a whole-of-government COVID-19 response plan that will change the course of the pandemic by ensuring we have necessary supplies and protective gear, increasing testing to mitigate spread, vaccinating the US population, safely reopening schools, and addressing COVID-19 health disparities.

To support this plan, President Biden is calling on Congress to provide the \$160 billion in funding necessary to save American lives and execute on his plan to mount a national vaccination program, expand testing, mobilize a public health jobs program, and take other necessary steps to build capacity to fight the virus. He is also calling on Congress to ensure our schools have everything they need to safely reopen and to provide emergency paid leave so people can stay home when needed to help contain the spread of the virus. Altogether, this would put over \$400 billion toward these critical measures for addressing COVID-19.

President Biden's rescue proposal will:

Mount a national vaccination program. Current vaccination efforts are not sufficient to quickly and equitably vaccinate the vast majority of the U.S. population. We must ensure that those on the ground have what they need to get vaccinations into people's arms. The president's proposal will invest \$20 billion in a national vaccination program in partnership with states, localities, Tribes and territories. This will include launching community vaccination centers around the country and deploying mobile vaccination units to hard-to-reach areas. The Biden Administration will take action to ensure all people in the United States—regardless of their immigration status—can access the vaccine free-of-charge and without cost-sharing. To help states ensure that all Medicaid enrollees will be vaccinated, President Biden will also work with Congress to expand the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) to 100% for the administration of vaccines.

Scale up testing to stop the spread of COVID, safely reopen schools, and protect at-risk populations. While we are working to vaccinate the population, we need to focus on what we know works. Testing is a critical strategy for controlling the spread of COVID-19, yet the U.S. is still not using it effectively. Despite innovations to improve testing, tests are still not widely available. The president's plan invests \$50 billion in a massive expansion of testing, providing funds for the purchase of rapid tests, investments to expand lab capacity, and support to help schools and local governments implement regular testing protocols. Expanded testing will ensure that schools can implement regular testing to support safe reopening; that vulnerable settings like prisons and long-term care facilities can regularly test their populations; and that any American can get a test for free when they need one.

Mobilize a public health jobs program to support COVID-19 response. The president's plan includes an historic investment in expanding the public health workforce. This proposal will fund 100,000 public health workers, nearly tripling the country's community health roles. These individuals will be hired to work in their local communities to perform vital tasks like vaccine outreach and contact tracing in the near term, and to transition into community health roles to build our long-term public health capacity that will help improve quality of care and reduce hospitalization for low-income and underserved communities.

Address health disparities and COVID-19. While COVID-19 has devastated the entire country, it has hit some groups and communities of color much harder than others. President Biden is committed to addressing the disparities evident in the pandemic at every step, from ensuring equitable distribution of vaccines and supplies to expanding health care services for underserved communities. His proposal includes funding to provide health services for underserved populations, including expanding Community Health Centers and investing in health services on tribal lands. These funds will support the expansion of COVID treatment and care, as well as our ability to provide vaccination to underserved populations.

Protect vulnerable populations in congregate settings. Long-term care residents and workers account for almost 40% of all U.S. COVID-19 deaths. Further, African-American and Latina women, who have borne the brunt of the pandemic, are overrepresented among long-term care workers. The president's proposal provides critical funding for states to deploy strike teams to long-term care facilities experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks—which may impede vaccination of residents and workers—and to conduct better infection control oversight.

1 in 5 state and federal prisoners in the U.S. has had COVID-19, and African Americans and Latinos are overrepresented among incarcerated individuals. The proposal also supports COVID-19 safety in federal, state, and local prisons, jails, and detention centers by providing funding for COVID-19 mitigation strategies, including supplies and physical distancing; safe re-entry for the formerly incarcerated; and the vaccination of both incarcerated people and staff.

Identify and address emerging strains of COVID-19. The identification of new strains of SARS-CoV-2 in the United Kingdom and South Africa highlight a key vulnerability in our nation's COVID response: we simply do not have the kind of robust surveillance capabilities that we need to track outbreaks and mutations. Tracking the way the virus is changing and moving through the population is essential to understanding outbreaks, generating treatments and vaccines, and controlling the pandemic. The president's proposal includes funding to dramatically increase our country's sequencing, surveillance, and outbreak analytics capacity at the levels demanded by the crisis.

Provide emergency relief and purchase critical supplies and deploy National Guard.

Persistent supply shortages – from gloves and masks to glass vials and test reagents – are inhibiting our ability to provide testing and vaccination and putting frontline workers at risk. The president's plan will invest \$30 billion into the Disaster Relief Fund to ensure sufficient supplies and protective gear, and to provide 100% federal reimbursement for critical emergency response resources to states, local governments, and Tribes, including deployment of the National Guard. The president will call for an additional \$10 billion investment in expanding domestic manufacturing for pandemic supplies. These funds will support President Biden in fulfilling his commitment to fully use the Defense Production Act and to safeguard the country by producing more pandemic supplies in the U.S.

Invest in treatments for COVID-19. Months into this pandemic, we still do not have reliable and accessible treatments. The federal government urgently needs to invest to support development, manufacturing, and purchase of therapies to ensure wide availability and affordability of effective treatments, as well as invest in studies of the long-term health impacts of COVID-19 and potential therapies to address them.

Protect workers against COVID-19. Millions of Americans, many of whom are people of color, immigrants, and low-wage workers, continue to put their lives on the line to keep the country functioning through the pandemic. They should not have to lie awake at night wondering if they'll make it home from work safely the next day, or if they'll bring home the virus to their loved ones and communities. The president is calling on Congress to authorize the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue a COVID-19 Protection Standard that covers a broad set of workers, so that workers not typically covered by OSHA, like many public workers on the frontlines, also receive protection from unsafe working conditions and retaliation. And, President Biden is calling on Congress to provide additional funding for OSHA enforcement and grant funding, including for the Susan Harwood grant program, for organizations to help keep vulnerable workers healthy and safe from COVID-19. These steps will help keep more workers healthy, reopen more businesses safely, and beat the virus.

Restore U.S. leadership globally and build better preparedness. Protecting the United States from COVID-19 requires a global response, and the pandemic is a grave reminder that biological threats can pose catastrophic consequences to the United States and the world. The president's plan will provide \$11 billion including to support to the international health and humanitarian response; mitigate the pandemic's devastating impact on global health, food security, and gender-based violence; support international efforts to develop and distribute medical countermeasures for COVID-19; and build the capacity required to fight COVID-19, its variants, and emerging biological threats.

Provide schools the resources they need to reopen safely. A critical plank of President Biden's COVID-19 plan is to safely reopen schools as soon as possible – so kids and educators can get back in class and parents can go back to work. This will require immediate, urgent action by Congress. The COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented challenges for K-12 schools and institutions of higher education, and the students and parents they serve. School closures have disproportionately impacted the learning of Black and Hispanic students, as well as students with disabilities and English language learners. While the December down payment for schools and higher education institutions was a start, it is not sufficient to address the crisis. President Biden is calling on Congress to provide \$170 billion – supplemented by additional state and local relief resources – for K-12 schools and institutions of higher education. These resources will help schools serve all students, no matter where they are learning, and help achieve President Biden's goal to open the majority of K-8 schools within the first 100 days of his Administration.

- **Provide \$130 billion to help schools to safely reopen.** Schools need flexible resources to safely reopen and operate and/or facilitate remote learning. The president's plan will provide \$130 billion to support schools in safely reopening. These funds can be used to

reduce class sizes and modify spaces so students and teachers can socially distance; improve ventilation; hire more janitors and implement mitigation measures; provide personal protective equipment; ensure every school has access to a nurse; increase transportation capacity to facilitate social distancing on the bus; hire counselors to support students as they transition back to the classroom; close the digital divide that is exacerbating inequities during the pandemic; provide summer school or other support for students that will help make up lost learning time this year; create and expand community schools; and cover other costs needed to support safely reopening and support students. These funds will also include provisions to ensure states adequately fund education and protect students in low-income communities that have been hardest hit by COVID-19. Districts must ensure that funds are used to not only reopen schools, but also to meet students' academic, mental health and social, and emotional needs in response to COVID-19, (e.g. through extended learning time, tutoring, and counselors), wherever they are learning. Funding can be used to prevent cuts to state pre-k programs. A portion of funding will be reserved for a COVID-19 Educational Equity Challenge Grant, which will support state, local and tribal governments in partnering with teachers, parents, and other stakeholders to advance equity- and evidence-based policies to respond to COVID-related educational challenges and give all students the support they need to succeed. In addition to this funding, schools will be able to access FEMA Disaster Relief Fund resources to get reimbursed for certain COVID-19 related expenses and will receive support to implement regular testing protocols.

- **Expand the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.** The president's plan will ensure colleges have critical resources to implement public health protocols, execute distance learning plans, and provide emergency grants to students in need. This \$35 billion in funding will be directed to public institutions, including community colleges, as well as, public and private Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Serving Institutions. This funding will provide millions of students up to an additional \$1,700 in financial assistance from their college.
- **Hardest Hit Education Fund.** Provide \$5 billion in funds for governors to use to support educational programs and the learning needs of students significantly impacted by COVID-19, whether K-12, higher education, or early childhood education programs.

Provide emergency paid leave to 106 million more Americans to reduce the spread of the virus. No American should have to choose between putting food on the table and quarantining to prevent further spread of COVID-19. And yet, nearly 1 in 4 workers and close to half of low-income workers lack access to paid sick leave, disproportionately burdening Americans of color. Lack of paid leave is threatening the financial security of working families and increasing the risk of COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths. Congress did the right

thing last year when it created an emergency paid leave program through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. That action decreased daily infections by 400 cases per state per day in states that previously had no paid sick leave requirement. While the December down payment extended the Families First employer tax credits through March 2021, it did not renew the requirement that employers provide leave. President Biden is calling on Congress to:

- **Put the requirement back in place and eliminate exemptions for employers with more than 500 and less than 50 employees.** He will also make it clear that healthcare workers and first responders get these benefits, too. Closing these loopholes in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act will extend emergency paid leave to up to 106 million additional workers.
- **Provide expanded paid sick and family and medical leave.** The president will provide over 14 weeks of paid sick and family and medical leave to help parents with additional caregiving responsibilities when a child or loved one's school or care center is closed; for people who have or are caring for people with COVID-19 symptoms, or who are quarantining due to exposure; and for people needing to take time to get the vaccine.
- **Expand emergency paid leave to include federal workers.** This measure will provide paid leave protections to approximately 2 million Americans who work for the federal government.
- **Provide a maximum paid leave benefit of \$1,400 per-week for eligible workers.** This will provide full wage replacement to workers earning up to \$73,000 annually, more than three-quarters of all workers.
- **Reimburse employers with less than 500 employees for the cost of this leave.** Extending the refundable tax credit will reimburse employers for 100 percent of the cost of this leave.
- **Reimburse state and local government for the cost of this leave.**
- **Extend emergency paid leave measures until September 30, 2021.** With so much uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, extending paid leave until the end of September will help to limit the spread of COVID-19 and provide economic security to millions of working families.

Deliver Immediate, Direct Relief to Families Bearing the Brunt of the Crisis.

As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, millions of Americans are hurting through no fault of their own. More than 10 million Americans are unemployed, and 4 million have been out of work for half a year or longer. The jobs crisis is particularly severe in communities of color, where 1

in 10 Black workers and 1 in 11 Latino workers are unemployed. Large numbers of families are struggling to pay rent or their mortgages and put food on the table. And, last month, it only got worse: we lost 140,000 jobs in December , including 20,000 public educators, and nearly 400,000 jobs at restaurants and bars.

President Biden is calling on Congress to take urgent action to deliver immediate, direct relief to Americans bearing the brunt of this crisis. Altogether, this would devote about \$1 trillion towards building a bridge to economic recovery for working families and, according to researchers at Columbia University, cut child poverty in half.

President Biden's plan will:

Give working families a \$1,400 per-person check to help pay their bills, bringing their total relief payment from this and the December down payment to \$2,000. More than 1 in 3 households — and half of Black and Latino households — are struggling to pay for usual household expenses like rent and groceries during the pandemic. In this crisis, working families need more than the \$600 per person that Congress passed last year. President Biden is calling on Congress to increase that direct financial assistance to \$2,000. An additional \$1,400 per person in direct checks will help hard-hit households cover expenses, spend money at local businesses in their communities, and stimulate the economy. President Biden's plan will also expand eligibility to adult dependents who have been left out of previous rounds of relief and all mixed status households. And, his plan will ensure that the Treasury Department has the flexibility and resources it needs to deliver stimulus checks to the families that need them most, including the millions of families that still haven't received the \$1,200 checks they are entitled to under the CARES Act.

Extend and expand unemployment insurance benefits so American workers can pay their bills. Around 18 million Americans rely on the unemployment insurance program. Congress did the right thing by continuing expanded eligibility and extending the number of weeks unemployed workers can receive benefits. One study estimates that extending pandemic unemployment insurance programs through 2021 could create or save over five million jobs. But these benefits are set to expire in weeks — even as the COVID-19 pandemic worsens. Millions of Americans are receiving benefits through unemployment insurance programs that will no longer serve new beneficiaries starting in mid-March.

President Biden is calling on Congress to extend these and other programs, providing millions of hard-hit workers with the financial security and peace of mind they need and deserve. And, he believes Congress should provide a \$400 per-week unemployment insurance supplement to help hard-hit workers cover household expenses. The president is committed to providing these emergency supports to families for as long as the COVID-19 crisis continues and

employment opportunities remain limited. The president is proposing to extend these emergency unemployment insurance programs through September 2021, and will work with Congress on ways to automatically adjust the length and amount of relief depending on health and economic conditions so future legislative delay doesn't undermine the recovery and families' access to benefits they need.

President Biden's plan will:

- **Extend financial assistance for workers who have exhausted their regular unemployment compensation benefits.** Extending and increasing the additional weeks provided under the emergency unemployment insurance program will ensure that approximately 5 million Americans continue to receive assistance in the months ahead.
- **Extend financial assistance for unemployed workers who do not typically qualify for unemployment compensation benefits.** The president believes Congress should extend unemployment support for self-employed workers, like ride-share drivers and many grocery delivery workers, who do not typically qualify for regular unemployment compensation. And, he supports increasing the number of weeks these workers can receive the benefit to provide long-term financial security to the program's approximately 8 million beneficiaries.
- **Fully fund states' short-time compensation programs and additional weeks of benefits.** Short-time compensation programs, also known as work sharing, help small businesses stay afloat and economically vulnerable workers make ends meet by enabling workers to stay on the job at reduced hours, while making up the difference in pay. These programs avoid layoffs and pave the way for rapid rehiring and an accelerated recovery.

Help struggling households keep a roof over their heads. The economic fallout of COVID-19 has made it more difficult for working families, especially families of color, to cover their housing expenses. Across the country, 1 in 5 renters and 1 in 10 homeowners with a mortgage are behind on payments. Congress took an important step in the right direction by securing \$25 billion in rental assistance and extending the federal eviction moratorium until January 31. However, American families already owe \$25 billion in back rent, and the threat of widespread evictions will still exist at the end of January. Further, more than 10 million homeowners have fallen behind on mortgage payments. Failing to take additional action will lead to a wave of evictions and foreclosures in the coming months, overwhelming emergency shelter capacity and increasing the likelihood of COVID-19 infections. And Americans of color, who have on average a fraction of the wealth available to white families, face higher risks of eviction and housing loss without critical assistance.

President Biden is calling on Congress to take immediate action to forestall a coming wave of COVID-related evictions and foreclosures.

- **Ensure that families hit hard by the economic crisis won't face eviction or foreclosure.** The president is calling on Congress to extend the eviction and foreclosure moratoriums and continue applications for forbearance on federally-guaranteed mortgages until September 30, 2021. These measures will prevent untold economic hardship for homeowners, while limiting the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. The president is also calling on Congress to provide funds for legal assistance for households facing eviction or foreclosure.
- **Help renters and small landlords make ends meet by providing an additional \$30 billion in rental and critical energy and water assistance for hard-hit individuals and families.** While the \$25 billion allocated by Congress was an important down payment on the back rent accrued during this crisis, it is insufficient to meet the scale of the need. That's why President Biden is proposing an additional \$25 billion in rental assistance to provide much-needed rental relief, especially for low- and moderate-income households who have lost jobs or are out of the labor market. The president is also proposing \$5 billion to cover home energy and water costs and arrears through programs like the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, for struggling renters. These funds will ensure that the hardest-hit renters and small landlords, including those in disadvantaged communities that have suffered disproportionately in terms of pollution and other environmental harms, aren't put in the position where they can't cover their own housing expenses. This program includes a competitive set-aside of funding for states to invest in clean energy and energy efficiency projects that reduce electricity bills for families in disadvantaged communities.
- **Deliver \$5 billion in emergency assistance to help secure housing for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.** This funding will allow states and localities to help approximately 200,000 individuals and families obtain stable housing, while providing a downpayment on the president's comprehensive approach to ending homelessness and making housing a right for all Americans. Specifically, these funds will provide flexibility for both congregate and non-congregate housing options, help jurisdictions purchase and convert hotels and motels into permanent housing, and give homeless services providers the resources they need to hire and retain staff, maintain outreach programs, and provide essential services.

Address the growing hunger crisis in America. About 1 in 7 households nationwide, including more than 1 in 5 Black and Latino households and many Asian American and Pacific Islander households, are struggling to secure the food they need. While the December

down payment provided \$13 billion to strengthen and expand federal nutrition programs, it will not solve the hunger crisis in America. President Biden is calling on Congress to ensure all Americans, regardless of background, have access to healthy, affordable groceries. The president's plan will:

- **Extend the 15 percent Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit increase.** Maintaining the increase through the summer – when childhood hunger spikes due to a lack of school meals – is a critical backstop against rising food insecurity. This change will help keep hunger at bay for around 40 million Americans . The president is calling for this to be extended through September 2021. He is also committed to providing this boost for as long as the COVID-19 crisis continues, and will work with Congress on ways to automatically adjust the length and amount of relief depending on health and economic conditions so future legislative delay doesn't undermine the recovery and families' access to benefits they need.
- **Invest \$3 billion to help women, infants and children get the food they need.** This multi-year investment in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is needed to account for increased enrollment due to growing hunger and to increase outreach to ensure that low-income families have access to high-quality nutritious food and nutrition education.
- **Partner with restaurants to feed American families and keep restaurant workers on the job at the same time.** The FEMA Empowering Essential Deliveries (FEED) Act will leverage the resources and expertise of the restaurant industry to help get food to families who need it, and help get laid-off restaurant workers across the country back on the job.
- **Support SNAP by temporarily cutting the state match.** The president is calling for a one time emergency infusion of administrative support for state anti-hunger and nutrition programs to ensure that benefits get to the kids and families that need it most.
- **Provide U.S. Territories with \$1 billion in additional nutrition assistance for their residents.** Bolstering the Nutrition Assistance Program block grant will help thousands of working families in Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands put food on the table for the duration of the pandemic.

Raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. Throughout the pandemic, millions of American workers have put their lives on the line to keep their communities and country functioning, including the 40 percent of frontline workers who are people of color. As President Biden has said, let's not just praise them, let's pay them. Hard working Americans deserve sufficient wages to put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads, without having to keep multiple jobs. But millions of working families are struggling to get by. This is why the

president is calling on Congress to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, and end the tipped minimum wage and sub-minimum wage for people with disabilities so that workers across the country can live a middle class life and provide opportunity for their families.

Call on employers to meet their obligations to frontline essential workers and provide back hazard pay. Essential workers — who are disproportionately Black, Latino, and Asian American and Pacific Islander— have risked their lives to stock shelves, harvest crops, and care for the sick during this crisis. They have kept the country running even during the darkest days of the pandemic. A number of large employers, especially in the retail and grocery sectors, have seen bumper profitability in 2020 and yet done little or nothing at all to compensate their workers for the risks they took. The president believes these employers have a duty to do right by their frontline essential workers and acknowledge their sacrifices with generous back hazard pay for the risks they took across 2020 and up to today. He and the Vice President will call on CEOs and other business leaders to take action to meet these obligations.

Expand access to high-quality, affordable child care. We are facing an acute, immediate child care crisis in America, which is exacerbating our economic crisis. Due to increased costs and lower enrollment, a [recent survey](#) of child care providers showed that most child care providers expect that they will close within a few months without relief or are uncertain how long they can stay open. If left unaddressed, many child care providers will close — some permanently — and millions of children could go without necessary care, and millions of parents could be left to make devastating choices this winter between caring for their children and working to put food on the table. Early childcare providers are almost entirely women, among whom [40 percent](#) are people of color, and so these closures could devastate engines of opportunity for minority- and women-owned businesses. President Biden is calling on Congress to take immediate actions to address this crisis by helping child care centers reopen and remain open safely, and by making that care affordable to families who need it.

In addition, too many families are unable to afford child care, while early educators earn [wages so low](#) that they can't support their own families. This challenge [existed before COVID-19](#), and the pandemic has exacerbated it. President Biden is calling on Congress to ease the financial burden of care for families, expand financial support for child care providers so that this critical sector can stay afloat during the pandemic and beyond, and make critical investments to improve wages and benefits for the essential child care sector. President Biden's plan will:

- **Help hard-hit child care providers, including family child care homes, cover their costs and operate safely by creating a \$25 billion emergency stabilization fund.** This Emergency Stabilization Fund will help hard-hit child care providers that are in danger of closing and provide support to nearly half of all child care providers. It will also assist

those that have had to shut down meet their financial obligations during the pandemic, so that they can reopen. It will help providers pay for rent, utilities, and payroll, as well as increased costs associated with the pandemic including personal protective equipment, ventilation supplies, smaller group sizes, and modifications to make the physical environment safer for children and workers.

- **Expand child care assistance to help millions of families and help parents return to work.** Millions of parents are risking their lives as essential workers, while at the same time struggling to obtain care for their children. Others have become 24/7 caregivers while simultaneously working remotely. Still more are unemployed, caring for their children full-time, and worrying about how they will make ends meet or afford child care when they do find a job. And, the limited access to child care during the pandemic has caused more women to leave the workforce. While the December down payment provides \$10 billion in funding through the Child Care and Development Block Grant program, the president's proposal expands this investment with an additional \$15 billion in funding, including for those who experienced a job interruption during the COVID-19 pandemic and are struggling to afford child care. This additional assistance with child care costs will help the disproportionate number of women who left the labor force to take on caregiving duties reenter the workforce. And, this expanded investment will also help rebuild the supply of child care providers, and encourage states to take meaningful steps towards increasing the pay and benefits of child care workers.
- **Increase tax credits to help cover the cost of childcare.** To help address the childcare affordability crisis, President Biden is calling on Congress to expand child care tax credits on an emergency basis for one year to help working families cover the cost of childcare. Families will get back as a tax credit as much as half of their spending on child care for children under age 13, so that they can receive a total of up to \$4,000 for one child or \$8,000 for two or more children. The tax credit will be refundable, meaning that families who don't owe a lot in taxes will still benefit. The full 50 percent reimbursement will be available to families making less than \$125,000 a year. And, all families making between \$125,000 and \$400,000 will receive a partial credit so they receive benefits at least as generous as those they can receive today.

Bolster financial security for families and essential workers in the midst of the pandemic.

The lowest income families are particularly vulnerable in the midst of the pandemic, and President Biden is calling for one year expansions of key supports for families on an emergency basis. The Child Tax Credit should be made fully refundable for the year. Currently, 27 million children live in families with household incomes low enough that they didn't qualify for the full value of the Child Tax Credit, and this measure would give these children and their families additional needed resources. The president is also calling to increase the credit to

\$3,000 per child (\$3,600 for a child under age 6) and make 17 year-olds qualifying children for the year.

He is also calling for an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit for the year to ensure that the lowest income workers get critical support including millions of essential workers. He is proposing to raise the maximum Earned Income Tax Credit for childless adults from roughly \$530 to close to \$1,500, raise the income limit for the credit from about \$16,000 to about \$21,000, and expand the age range that is eligible including by eliminating the age cap for older workers and expanding eligibility for younger workers so that they can claim the credit they deserve. Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit for childless adults would give a needed boost to the earnings of several million workers, including cashiers, home health aides, delivery people, and other people working in essential occupations. The president also is committed to making sure that Americans who see their earnings fall in 2021 due to the pandemic don't see the Earned Income Tax Credit reduced as a result.

Lastly, the president is calling for an additional \$1 billion for states to cover the additional cash assistance that Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) recipients needed as a result of the pandemic crisis. The pandemic has led to increased TANF caseloads, generated higher costs for many TANF recipients – from higher utility costs to the need for internet access for remote schooling – and longer periods of joblessness given high unemployment. These funds will provide sorely needed relief.

Preserving and expanding health coverage. Roughly two to three million people lost employer sponsored health insurance between March and September, and even families who have maintained coverage may struggle to pay premiums and afford care. Further, going into this crisis, 30 million people were without coverage, limiting their access to the health care system in the middle of a pandemic. To ensure access to health coverage, President Biden is calling on Congress to subsidize continuation health coverage (COBRA) through the end of September. He is also asking Congress to expand and increase the value of the Premium Tax Credit to lower or eliminate health insurance premiums and ensure enrollees – including those who never had coverage through their jobs – will not pay more than 8.5 percent of their income for coverage. Together, these policies would reduce premiums for more than ten million people and reduce the ranks of the uninsured by millions more.

Expanding access to behavioral health services. The pandemic has made access to mental health and substance use disorder services more essential than ever. The president is calling on Congress to appropriate \$4 billion to enable the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Health Resources and Services Administration to expand access to these vital services.

Ensure adequate funding for veterans' health. COVID-19 has put enormous pressure on America's veterans and on the Veterans Health Administration that is charged with providing and facilitating top-notch care for them. The president is committed to ensuring America delivers on its promise to the people who have served our country. To account for increased usage as many veterans have lost access to private health insurance, higher overall costs, and other pandemic-related impacts, the president is immediately requesting an additional \$20 billion to make sure that veterans' health care needs can be met through this crisis.

Combat increased risk of gender-based violence. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated domestic violence and sexual assault, creating a "shadow pandemic" for many women and girls who are largely confined to their home with their abuser and facing economic insecurity that makes escape more difficult. President Biden is calling for at least \$800 million in supplemental funding for key federal programs that protect survivors.

Provide Critical Support to Struggling Communities.

COVID-19 and the resulting economic crisis has devastated communities across the country. Schools remain closed, with students struggling with remote learning and parents – 1.6 million mothers this fall – leaving the workforce. Small businesses, the backbones of their communities that employ nearly half of American workers, are unable to keep their doors open. And, some state and local essential workers are seeing their wages reduced or their jobs disappear. President Biden is calling on Congress to send a lifeline to small businesses; protect educators, public transit workers, and first responders from lay-offs; and keep critical services running at full strength. Altogether, his plan would provide approximately \$440 billion in critical support to struggling communities. This is in addition to funds that President Biden is requesting for safely reopening schools throughout the country.

President Biden's plan will:

Provide small businesses with the funding they need to reopen and rebuild. Small businesses sustain half of the private sector jobs in America, and they have struggled in the wake of COVID-19. Black- and Brown-owned small businesses, and those in hard-hit industries like restaurants, hotels, and the arts, have suffered disproportionately. Nationally, small business revenue is down 32 percent, and at least 400,000 firms have permanently closed. To help hard-hit firms survive the pandemic and fully recover, President Biden is calling on Congress to:

- **Provide grants to more than 1 million of the hardest hit small businesses.** This \$15 billion in flexible, equitably distributed grants will help small businesses get back on their feet, put the current disaster behind them, and build back better.

- **Leverage \$35 billion in government funds into \$175 billion in additional small business lending and investment.** With a \$35 billion investment in successful state, local, tribal, and non-profit small business financing programs, Congress can generate as much as \$175 billion in low-interest loans and venture capital to help entrepreneurs — including those in the clean energy sector — innovate, create and maintain jobs, build wealth, and provide the essential goods and services that communities depend on.

In addition, the president wants to work with Congress to make sure that restaurants, bars, and other businesses that have suffered disproportionately have sufficient support to bridge to the recovery, including through the Community Credit Corporation at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Provide support for first responders and other essential workers. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, first responders, frontline public health workers, and countless other essential workers have risked their lives to keep our communities safe and functioning. Educators have worked tirelessly to keep our children learning and growing, coming up with new ways to reach and engage their students, often while balancing caring for their own children. Without these front line workers, we will not be able to effectively respond to the pandemic, administer the vaccine, or safely reopen our schools. President Biden is calling on Congress to provide \$350 billion in emergency funding for state, local, and territorial governments to ensure that they are in a position to keep front line public workers on the job and paid, while also effectively distributing the vaccine, scaling testing, reopening schools, and maintaining other vital services. The president is also calling on Congress to allocate \$3 billion of this funding to the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Grants from EDA provide resources directly to state and local government entities, tribal institutions, institutions of higher education, and non-profits to fund initiatives that support bottom's up economic development and enable good-paying jobs. This funding – double the amount provided by the CARES Act – will support communities nationwide with a broad range of financial needs as they respond to and recover from COVID-19.

Protect the future of public transit. Safe and dependable public transit systems are critical for a robust and equitable economy recovery. The president is calling for \$20 billion in relief for the hardest hit public transit agencies. This relief will keep agencies from laying off transit workers and cutting the routes that essential workers rely on every day while making these transit systems more resilient and ensuring that communities of color maintain the access to opportunity that public transportation provides.

Support Tribal governments' response to COVID-19. COVID-19 has exacted an especially high toll in Indian Country. People living on reservations are four times more likely to have COVID-19 and American Indian and Alaska Natives are nearly twice as likely to die from

COVID-19 than white Americans. While the December down payment had many beneficial provisions, it included little direct funding to help Tribal governments respond to COVID-19. President Biden is calling on Congress to give Tribes the resources they need to obtain sufficient personal protective equipment, increase access to clean water and electricity, and expand internet access so that children can learn remotely and more families can obtain basic health care through telemedicine. President Biden's plan would invest \$20 billion in Indian Country to support Tribal governments' response to the pandemic. These resources will help to reduce stark and persistent inequities in COVID-19 transmission, hospitalization, and death, while improving economic conditions and opportunity.

Modernize federal information technology to protect against future cyber attacks.

In addition to the COVID-19 crisis, we also face a crisis when it comes to the nation's cybersecurity. The recent cybersecurity breaches of federal government data systems underscore the importance and urgency of strengthening U.S. cybersecurity capabilities. President Biden is calling on Congress to launch the most ambitious effort ever to modernize and secure federal IT and networks. To remediate the SolarWinds breach and boost U.S. defenses, including of the COVID-19 vaccine process, President Biden is calling on Congress to:

- **Expand and improve the Technology Modernization Fund.** A \$9 billion investment will help the U.S. launch major new IT and cybersecurity shared services at the Cyber Security and Information Security Agency (CISA) and the General Services Administration and complete modernization projects at federal agencies. In addition, the president is calling on Congress to change the fund's reimbursement structure in order to fund more innovative and impactful projects.
- **Surge cybersecurity technology and engineering expert hiring.** Providing the Information Technology Oversight and Reform fund with \$200 million will allow for the rapid hiring of hundreds of experts to support the federal Chief Information Security Officer and U.S. Digital Service.
- **Build shared, secure services to drive transformational projects.** Investing \$300 million in no-year funding for Technology Transformation Services in the General Services Administration will drive secure IT projects forward without the need of reimbursement from agencies.
- **Improving security monitoring and incident response activities.** An additional \$690M for CISA will bolster cybersecurity across federal civilian networks, and support the piloting of new shared security and cloud computing services.

###

APP

4: Press Release - Mayor Sheehan Announces Launch of "Restart Albany"

News

Posted on: March 12, 2021

Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan Announces Launch of “Restart Albany”

Contact: [David Galin](#)

*Mayor Sheehan Encourages
Neighborhood Associations and
Community Leaders to Organize
Neighborhood Cleanups in
Partnership with DGS*

*Mayor Sheehan Announces COVID
Recovery Task Force and Names
Co-Chairs: Mike Whalen, M&T Bank
VP & Jahkeen Hoke, Business For
Good Foundation ED*



ALBANY, NY – In response to President Biden’s signing of the American Rescue Plan and the continued expansion of COVID vaccine availability, Mayor Kathy Sheehan has announced the launch

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of “Restart Albany” – an initiative that marks a new beginning for Albany and:

- Adds new employees to the Department of General Services to help clean parks, streets, and sidewalks
- Adds new employees to the Department of Recreation to operate a full Summer Youth Employment Program and recreation camps & clinics
- Encourages neighborhood associations and community leaders to organize neighborhood cleanups in partnership with DGS
- Launches a renewed effort by the City’s Codes Department to ensure continued buildings and regulatory compliance across Albany
- Creates a COVID Recovery Task Force to ensure the City of Albany equitably and strategically maximizes the resources available to our residents, businesses, and community organizations thanks to the American Rescue Plan to restart Albany and build back better.

Residents interested in applying for positions in the Department of General Services or Department of Recreation can visit www.jobs.albanyny.gov. Additionally, individuals interested in applying for DGS seasonal opportunities can [apply online](#) or apply in person by visiting DGS Headquarters at 1 Connors Boulevard.

Any group that is interested in organizing a neighborhood cleanup can request supplies and support from the Department of General Services necessary to having a successful cleanup, including tools, gloves, bags and trash collection by visiting <http://www.albanyneighborhoods.com/> or by calling (518) 434-CITY (2489).

Mayor Sheehan named **Mike Whalen, Administrative Vice President of M&T Bank**, and **Jahkeen Hoke, Executive Director of Business For Good Foundation**, as Co-Chairs of the City’s COVID Recovery Task Force – a task force that will engage every sector of the City of Albany to ensure that we get resources where they need to be to restart Albany, re-open businesses, prevent evictions and strengthen our not-for-profit organizations.

Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan said, “It has been exactly one year since the first two cases of COVID were diagnosed in Albany County. Immediately, our City employees stepped up in herculean ways to continue providing essential city services when our residents and businesses needed it most – but we also know we had to scale back some of our typical efforts to ensure we remained fiscally solvent as the previous federal administration put airlines and Fortune 500 companies ahead of our frontline heroes. That’s why it is fitting that

today, as vaccinations ramp up and our entire nation works to end this pandemic, we announce this new effort to mark a new beginning in Albany – a new beginning that is only possible because of the passage of the American Rescue Plan and tireless advocacy of President Joe Biden, US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and Congressman Paul Tonko. Our best days are truly ahead of us.”

Mike Whalen, Administrative Vice President of M&T Bank, and Jahkeem Hoke, Executive Director of Business For Good

Foundation said, “The American Rescue Plan is a game changer for our fellow neighbors, the business community, and our community-based organizations, and we are committed to working closely with Mayor Sheehan to ensure that we equitably and strategically maximize the resources available in the Plan to benefit our entire City. We look forward to working with leaders from across the City to help restart Albany and build back better.”

City Treasurer Darius Shahinfar said, “Joe Biden famously said ‘Don't tell me what you value, show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value.’ Nancy Pelosi, Chuck Schumer, and Joe Biden have shown us what they value, and have reinforced what we as Americans value, and that is our public workforce. Every public employee in the City of Albany and cities across the country owe Nancy Pelosi, Chuck Schumer, and Joe Biden a huge debt of gratitude, including police, fire, road, sanitation, water and sewer crews, and all of our other heroic first responders.”

Common Council Majority Leader & Finance Committee

Chairperson Ginnie Farrell said, “The pandemic has been devastating to our community and to Albany’s budget. The American Rescue Plan will give the opportunity for financial healing, ensuring our city services, including our parks, streets, and sidewalks, stay open, clean, and safe, and even more importantly investing in youth engagement over the summer months. I appreciate Mayor Sheehan’s leadership through the pandemic and into this much needed recovery.”

6th Ward Common Councilmember Richard Conti said, “The resources under the American Rescue Plan will allow us to reinvest in our community as we embark on the road to recovery and building back our economy and our neighborhoods. Today's announcement by Mayor Sheehan signals a new start that it's time to work together and move forward.”

Jackie Ring, Center Square Neighborhood Association President

said, “The initiatives Mayor Sheehan announced today addressed key needs in our city – job creation, youth programs, code enforcement and clean neighborhoods and parks. They are creative solutions to

problems we call “quality of life” issues and will go a long way toward improving our city on many levels. Center Square residents grapple constantly with keeping the neighborhood clean and we are particularly appreciative of the city’s stepped-up commitment to helping us. As the Mayor indicated, we’re all in this together, it’s a great “Restart” for Albany.”

Jeff Crumpton, Hudson Park Neighborhood Association President

said, “The two most important allies for the Hudson Park Neighborhood Association are our friends and neighbors through the community, and the incredible partnership with our City, County, and State leaders. Without the focus and leadership from Mayor Sheehan and her administration over the past year, the outcome would have been very different. We are beyond grateful to you and your team, especially the hard-working members of DGS. We are ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work in Restarting Albany. Mayor Sheehan, COVID Recovery Task Force Co-chairs Whalen and Hoke, Commissioners Panunzio and Jones, we are excited about the future of this great city and are ready to pitch in to make it even better.”

###

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[Statement from Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan Regarding Policing Reform & Reinvention Collaborative Plan](#)

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[Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan to Make Major Announcement Related to the Passage of the American Rescue](#)

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Mayor Kathy Sheehan Swears-In Albany’s Newest City Court Judge, Ricja Rice, Esq.

Posted on: August 7, 2021

Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan Signs Historic Fair Housing Legislation Into Law

Posted on: August 6, 2021

Albany Mayor Sheehan Reinstates Mask Mandate for All City Employees and Within All City Buildings

Posted on: August 5, 2021

Albany Community Development Agency Offers Surveys and Free Webinars to Landlords and Tenants

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News

Posted on: May 4, 2021

Mayor Sheehan, Co-Chairs Whalen & Hoke Announce City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Members

Contact: [David Galin](#)

Membership Spans Arts & Entertainment, Banking, Child Care, Economic Development, Education, Government, Health & Human Services, Housing, Labor, Non-Profit, Restaurants & other Small Businesses, & Workforce Development Sectors

ALBANY, NY – Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan and City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Co-Chairs Mike Whalen and Jahkeen Hoke have introduced the 41 individuals appointed to the City's COVID Recovery Task Force – representing a variety of sectors including Arts & Entertainment, Banking, Child Care, Economic Development,



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Education, Government, Health & Human Services, Housing, Labor, Non-Profit, Restaurants & other Small Businesses, and Workforce Development.

Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan said, “I am grateful to the members of the Task Force, which met for the first time on April 23, for agreeing to provide their time and leadership as we recover from a once in a century pandemic.”

The City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force, created by Mayor Sheehan, has four main objectives:

- Obtain a shared understanding of how the American Rescue Plan can help the City of Albany;
- Identify the needs of the City of Albany residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations that are not covered by other funding sources;
- Equitably and strategically maximize resources available to our residents, businesses, and community organizations to restart Albany and build back better; and
- Engage every sector of the City of Albany to ensure resources are directed where they are needed to restart Albany, re-open businesses, prevent evictions, and strengthen our not-for-profit organizations.

The COVID Recovery Task Force will complete a needs assessment and identify areas in need of investment in the coming months to help Albany build back better. Mayor Sheehan and the Albany Common Council will use this input to help determine how to maximize the City’s Recovery Act Funding.

On March 12, 2021, Mayor Sheehan named Mike Whalen, Administrative Vice President of M&T Bank, and Jahkeen Hoke, CEO of Business For Good Foundation, as Co-Chairs of the City’s COVID Recovery Task Force. The COVID Recovery Task Force met for the first time on Friday, April 23, 2021.

To learn more about the COVID Recovery Task Force, please visit <https://albanyny.gov/1924/COVID-Recovery-Taskforce>

City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force members:

Title First Name Last Name Organization

Kaweeda Adams Albany City Schools

Faye Andrews City of Albany Community Development Agency

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Hon. Dr. Dorsey Applies Chief City Auditor

Kate Baker Small Business Administration

Hon. Alfredo Balarin Albany Common Councilmember

Carm Basile Capital District Transportation Authority

Bob Belber ASM Global/Times Union Center

Neenah Bland Albany Community Action Partnership

Tricia Brown North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters

Jeff Buell Redburn Development

Michael Castellana SEFCU

Chiquita D'Arbeau Albany Housing Authority

Mark Eagan Capital Region Chamber

Hon. Corey Ellis Albany Common Council President

Hon. Sonia Frederick Albany Common Councilmember

Anthony Gaddy Upstate New York Black Chamber of Commerce

Peter Gannon United Way of the Greater Capital Region

Tammis Groft Albany Institute of History and Art

Jahkeen Hoke Business for Good Foundation

Kevin Hicks Albany County Airport Authority

Micky Jimenez Capital District Latinos

Hon. Andrew Joyce Albany County Legislature Chairman

Anna Kuwabara Albany Symphony

Eileen Larrabee Open Space Institute

Angelo Maddox Fresh & Fly Clothing

Hon. Daniel McCoy Albany County Executive

Select Language ▼

Dr. Dennis McKenna Albany Medical Center

Tracy Metzger TL Metzger & Associates, LLC

Giovanni Otero Salvation Army

Matthew Peter Albany Parking Authority

Dominick Purnomo Yono's/DP's

Dr. Roger Ramsammy Hudson Valley Community College

Sarah Reginelli Capitalize Albany

Hon. Jahmel Robinson Albany Common Councilmember

Dr. Havidán Rodriguez SUNY, University at Albany

Hon. Darius Shahinfar Albany City Treasurer

Hon. Kathy Sheehan Mayor, City of Albany

Noelene Smith Baby Institute

Georgette Steffens Downtown Albany BID

Raphael Tucker City of Albany Youth & Workforce Services

Michael Whalen M&T Bank

###

← **Previous**

Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan
and Department of General
Services Announce New Food
Waste Composting Pro

Next ⇒

Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan and
Department of General Services
Recognize Arbor Day.

Other News in News

Mayor Kathy Sheehan Swears-In Albany's Newest City Court Judge, Ricja Rice, Esq.

Posted on: August 7, 2021

Select Language ▼

City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force

ALBANY LEADS



MAYOR KATHY SHEEHAN

MICHAEL WHALEN, CO-CHAIR

JAHKEEN HOKE, CO-CHAIR



Agenda

- **Introductions (15 minutes)**
- **Why have our Co-Chairs said yes? (5 minutes)**
- **Why are we here? (10 minutes)**
- **Funding overview (10 minutes)**
- **How can you help? (15 minutes)**
- **Homework & housekeeping (10 minutes)**



Introductions

Kaweeda	Adams	Albany City Schools
Faye	Andrews	City of Albany Community Development Agency
Dorcey	Applyrs	Chief City Auditor
Kate	Baker	Small Business Administration
Alfredo	Balarin	Albany Common Councilmember
Carm	Basile	Capital District Transportation Authority
Bob	Belber	ASM Global/Times Union Center
Neena	Bland	Albany Community Action Partnership
Tricia	Brown	North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters
Jeff	Buell	Redburn Development
Michael	Castellana	SEFCU
Chiquita	D'Arbeau	Albany Housing Authority
Mark	Eagan	Capital Region Chamber
Corey	Ellis	Common Council President
Sonia	Frederick	Albany Common Councilmember
Anthony	Gaddy	Upstate New York Black Chamber of Commerce
Peter	Gannon	United Way of the Greater Capital Region
Tammis	Groft	Albany Institute of History and Art
Jahkeen	Hoke	Business for Good Foundation



Introductions

Kevin	Hicks	Albany County Airport Authority
Micky	Jimenez	Capital District Latinos
Andrew	Joyce	Albany County Legislature Chairman
Anna	Kuwabara	Albany Symphony
Eileen	Larabee	Open Space Institute
Angelo	Maddox	Fresh & Fly Clothing
Daniel	McCoy	Albany County Executive
Dennis	McKenna	Albany Medical Center
Tracy	Metzger	TL Metzger & Associates, LLC
Matthew	Peter	Albany Parking Authority
Dominick	Purnomo	Yono's/DP's
Roger	Ramsammy	Hudson Valley Community College
Sarah	Reginelli	Capitalize Albany
Jahmel	Robinson	Albany Common Councilmember
Havidán	Rodriguez	SUNY, University at Albany
Darius	Shahinfar	City of Albany Treasurer
Kathy	Sheehan	Mayor, City of Albany
Noelene	Smith	Baby Institute
Georgette	Steffens	Downtown Albany BID
Raphael	Tucker	City of Albany Youth & Workforce Services
Michael	Whalen	M&T Bank



Why have our Co-Chairs said yes?



Michael Whalen
Administrative VP
M&T Bank



Jahkeen Hoke
CEO
Business for Good
Foundation



Why are we here?

Obtain a shared understanding of how the American Rescue Plan can help the City of Albany

Identify the needs of the City of Albany residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations that cannot be covered by other funding sources

Equitably and strategically maximize resources available to our residents, businesses, and community organizations to restart Albany and build back better

Engage every sector of the City of Albany to ensure we get resources where they are needed to restart Albany, re-open businesses, prevent evictions, and strengthen our not-for-profit organizations



Various Funding Resources

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Total Awarded</u>
Save Our Stages	\$15 Billion
Restaurants	\$25 Billion
Back Rent Relief	\$50 Billion
PPP	\$478 Million*
CARES Act Funding	\$5+ Million*

*** City of Albany-specific**



PPP Loans – City of Albany

	Total Funding	# of Loans	Average Loan Size	Jobs Supported
Loans over \$150,000	\$461,146,313	789	\$585,211	42,168
Loans under \$150,000	\$17,594,760	1,516	\$11,606	3,315
City of Albany Total	\$478,741,073	2,305	\$207,696	45,483



American Rescue Plan

City of Albany

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
City of Albany	\$85,282,416

State of New York

<u>Name</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
New York State	\$12.6B

Other Local Entities

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
City of Troy	\$45.6M
City of Schenectady	\$57.8M
City of Utica	\$63.9M
City of Syracuse	\$126.1M
City of Rochester	\$206.8M
City of Buffalo	\$350M
Albany County	\$59M
CDTA	\$51.7M
Albany School District	\$46.6M



Use of Funds

“(c) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) USE OF FUNDS.—Subject to paragraph (2), and except as provided in paragraph (3), a State, territory, or Tribal government shall only use the funds provided under a payment made under this section, or transferred pursuant to section 603(c)(4), to cover costs incurred by the State, territory, or Tribal government, by December 31, 2024—

“(A) to **respond to** the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) or its **negative economic impacts**, including **assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality**;

“(B) to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID–19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the State, territory, or Tribal government that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work;

“(C) for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such State, territory, or Tribal government due to the COVID–19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the State, territory, or Tribal government prior to the emergency; or

“(D) to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.



City of Albany Fiscal Needs

	Based off Prior Year Revenue (Per Bill Language)					
Revenue Category	2020 Projected	2021 Forecast	2022 Forecast	2023 Forecast	2024 Forecast	Grand Total
Property Tax	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2,641,067)	\$ (2,641,067)	\$ (2,641,067)	\$ (7,923,200)
Other PILOTs	\$ (1,305,890)	\$ (998,196)	\$ (499,098)	\$ (249,549)	\$ (124,775)	\$ (3,177,507)
Sales Tax	\$ (2,538,124)	\$ (2,538,124)	\$ (1,269,062)	\$ (634,531)	\$ (317,266)	\$ (7,297,108)
State Aid	\$ (2,740,183)	\$ (2,798,145)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (5,538,327)
Capital City Funding	\$ (1,200,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,200,000)
Departmental Income	\$ (2,559,887)	\$ (2,029,476)	\$ (1,160,517)	\$ (743,317)	\$ (557,487)	\$ (7,050,683)
Landfill	\$ (1,766,154)	\$ (4,853,454)	\$ (4,853,454)	\$ (4,853,454)	\$ (4,853,454)	\$ (21,179,970)
All Other	\$ (3,168,829)	\$ (620,989)	\$ (465,742)	\$ (349,307)	\$ (261,980)	\$ (4,866,847)
Total	\$ (15,279,066)	\$ (13,838,385)	\$ (10,888,940)	\$ (9,471,224)	\$ (8,756,028)	\$ (58,233,643)



How can you help?

- You each are here because your expertise, background, and the constituencies you serve have been affected by COVID
- You are representative of the broader sector you represent
- Your organization and your collective wisdom can help contribute to the long-term vitality and success of the City of Albany by investing to recover from COVID and build back better



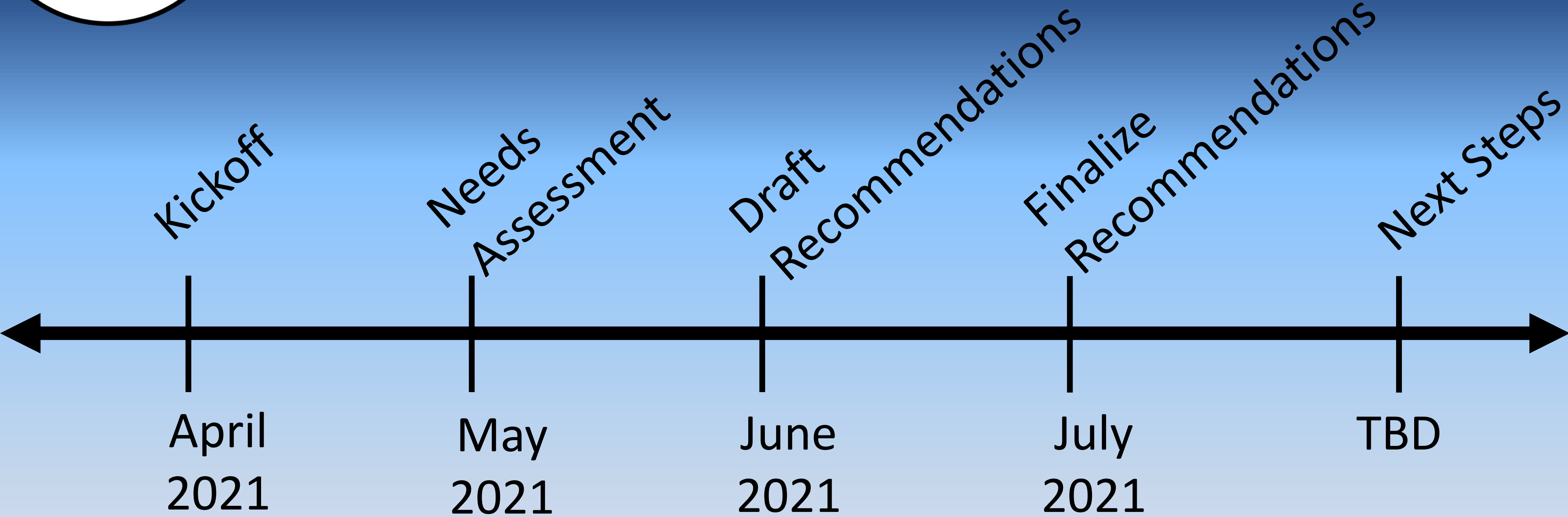
Sectors Currently Represented

- Arts & Entertainment
- Banking
- Child Care
- Economic Development
- Education
- Government
- Health & Human Services
- Housing
- Restaurants & other Small Businesses
- Workforce Development

WHO ARE WE MISSING?



Proposed Timeline





Homework for next meeting

- Think about the constituencies in the City of Albany
 - Who has been historically disadvantaged and left behind because of systemic barriers created outside of those constituencies' control?
 - How can this funding help remove those barriers?
- Think about your organization's current short- and long-term plans
 - How can the City of Albany help support those missions?



Housekeeping

- ✓ **Send 1 Paragraph Bio if you have not already done so**
- ✓ **Public Announcement of the Task Force**
- ✓ **Best Day of Week for Future Meetings**
 - **Will send Doodle Poll**
- ✓ **Other Suggestions/Input**

City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force

Kickoff Meeting

Friday, April 23, 2021 @ 1:00 PM

Times Union Center Media Room/Zoom

Introductions

Following introductions, the Co-Chairs and the Mayor began the meeting by walking the Task Force Members through a prepared PowerPoint presentation. The Co-Chairs discussed why they agreed to lead this effort and then identified the four main objectives of this Task Force.

Four Main Objectives

- Obtain a shared understanding of how the American Rescue Plan can help the City of Albany
- Identify the needs of the City of Albany residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations that cannot be covered by other funding sources
- Equitably and strategically maximize resources available to our residents, businesses, and community organizations to restart Albany and build back better
- Engage every sector of the City of Albany to ensure we get resources where they are needed to restart Albany, re-open businesses, prevent evictions, and strengthen our not-for-profit organizations

The Co-Chairs and Mayor then provided an overview of the various COVID recovery funding sources available, the federal funding that entities in the City of Albany have received to date, the American Rescue Plan funding, the current state of Albany finances, why the Task Force Members were selected, sectors represented by the Task Force, the proposed timeline of the Task Force, and assignments for Task Force members.

An open discussion of Task Force Members followed the formal presentation. Several key points were identified during the discussion. This is an opportunity to educate City of Albany residents and stakeholders about this City-driven appropriation distribution process. As directed by the Mayor, this group is to provide recommendations to the City so the City can make educated, equitable decisions around the allocation of these funds – which will be a very transparent, public process. There is a consensus that the Task Force needs to drill down into specific subtopics and identify/quantify real needs within each sector. Are any sectors not currently represented by the Task Force? Peter Gannon (United Way Greater Capital Region) will share ALICE report.

Administrative Matters

- Each meeting PowerPoint slide deck and minutes will be distributed to the Task Force.
- Biographies and contact information for members will be shared. This information is currently being collected.
- A landing page on the City of Albany website is currently under development to maintain resources and working documents relevant to the Task Force.

- A Doodle Poll/survey will be distributed to identify future meeting dates based on the proposed timeline shared at this meeting and Task Force member availability.

Next Steps

Task Force Members were asked to do the following prior to the next meeting:

- 1) Think about the constituencies in the City of Albany. Who has been historically disadvantaged and left behind because of systemic barriers created outside of those constituencies' control? How can this funding help remove those barriers?
- 2) Think about your organization's current short- and long-term plans. How can the City of Albany help support those missions?

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:01 p.m.

City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force

ALBANY LEADS



MAYOR KATHY SHEEHAN

MICHAEL WHALEN, CO-CHAIR

JAHKEEN HOKE, CO-CHAIR



Agenda | Task Force Meeting 2 May 18, 2021

1. Co-Chairs' Welcome
2. Treasury Guidance Overview
 - a. COVID Response Requirement
 - b. Expectations for compliance
 - c. Eligible Expenditures
3. Working Groups
4. Anticipated Outcomes
 - a. Needs Assessment
 - i. Context*
 - ii. Impact Areas (impacts, needs, highlighted projects/programs)*
 - b. Recommended Project/Program Evaluation Approach
 - i. Operational Priorities*
 - ii. Overall Thematic Priorities*
 - iii. Impact Area-Specific Priorities*
 - c. Management & Implementation Plan Recommendations
5. How we get there / Next Steps
 - a. Schedule
 - b. Engagement Opportunities
 - c. Call for industry survey summaries



REMINDER: Why are we here?

Obtain a shared understanding of how the American Rescue Plan can help the City of Albany

Identify the needs of the City of Albany residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations that cannot be covered by other funding sources

Equitably and strategically maximize resources available to our residents, businesses, and community organizations to restart Albany and build back better

Engage every sector of the City of Albany to ensure we get resources where they are needed to restart Albany, re-open businesses, prevent evictions, and strengthen our not-for-profit organizations



Treasury Guidance Overview

- The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARP”) established the \$350 billion Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds **to provide emergency funding for eligible governments.**
- As of May 10th, U.S. Treasury officials indicated **the first payments to state and local governments will commence within days.**
- ARP funds are expected to be **disbursed to local governments in two parts**, with half provided beginning this month and the remainder in one year.
- The Treasury has recently published revised allocation figures, which indicate that the City of Albany ARP Fiscal Recovery Fund allocation is **approximately \$80.7 million** (down from the previously-identified \$85 million).*
- The Treasury has also announced the Interim Final Rules on **May 10, 2021.**



Treasury Guidance Overview | COVID Response

“Assessing whether a program or service “responds to” the COVID-19 public health emergency requires the recipient to, first, identify a need or negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency and, second, identify how the program, service, or other intervention addresses the identified need or impact. While the COVID-19 public health emergency affected many aspects of American life, eligible uses under this category must be in response to the disease itself or the harmful consequences of the economic disruptions resulting from or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency.”

– US Department of Treasury, Interim Final Rule, May 10, 2021



Treasury Guidance Overview | Compliance

Dates of Eligibility:

- Covered costs include those **incurred** beginning **March 3, 2021**
- Costs must be **obligated** by **December 31, 2024**
- Performance must be **complete** by **December 31, 2026**

Reporting:

- One interim report
- Quarterly Project and Expenditure Reports
- Annual Recovery Plan Performance Report

*****KEY TAKEAWAY: EXPECT THESE FUNDS TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT MONITORING... AND AUDITS!*****



Treasury Guidance Overview | Eligible Expenditures



To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;



To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers;



For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and



To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.



Working Groups

“In 10 years, we may look back at this time and ask: Which places merely spent their money, and which places invested it?”

-

-The Brookings Institution, March 23, 2021



Working Groups

To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts:



**Supporting the
Public Health
Response**



**Assistance to
Workers and
Families**

- A) Education/Workforce/
Human Services
- B) Housing/Transportation/
Community Revitalization



**Small Business
Support**



**Tourism/Travel
/Hospitality/
(Arts) Recovery**



Working Groups

At-Large Representatives

Co-Chairs

Elected Officials

***All welcome in all groups**

Small Business Support

Kate Baker

Mark Eagan

Anthony Gaddy

Angelo Maddox

Tracy Metzger

Georgette Steffens

Tourism/ Travel/ Hospitality / Arts Recovery

Bob Belber

Tammis Groft

Kevin Hicks

Anna Kuwabara

Dominick Purnomo

Supporting the Public Health Response

Dorcey Applyrs

Dan McCoy

Dennis McKenna

...



Working Groups

Assistance to Workers & Families

*Education/Workforce/
Human Services*

Kaweeda Adams

Tricia Brown

Neenah Bland

Peter Gannon

Kevin Hicks

Giovanni Otero

Roger Ramsammy

Havidan Rodriquez

Noelene Smith

Raphael Tucker

Assistance to Workers & Families

*Housing/Transportation/
Community Revitalization*

Faye Andrews

Carm Basile

Jeff Buell

Michael Castellana

Chiquita D'Arbeau

Eileen Larrabee

Matt Peter

Sarah Reginelli



Anticipated Outcomes

a. Needs Assessment

- i. Context
- ii. Impact Areas (by working group)
 - i. *Summary of COVID-19 impacts*
 - ii. *Strategic Investments Needed*
 - iii. *Model/highlighted projects & programs*

b. Recommended Project/Program Evaluation Approach

- i. Operational Priorities (viability indicators)
- ii. Overall Thematic Priorities (universal themes)
- iii. Impact Area-Specific Priorities (by working group)

c. Management & Implementation Plan Recommendations

- i. Process for Allocation and Award
- ii. Project/Program Implementation Management
- iii. Monitoring, Measurement & Compliance



Next Steps | Schedule





Next Steps | Schedule

Task Force Meetings

- #1 April 23, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.
- #2 May 18, 2021 12:00 p.m. (Today!)
- #3 June 3, 2021 12:00 p.m.
- #4 July 1, 2021 12:00 p.m.
- #5 July 22, 2021 2:00 p.m.

Working Group Meetings

Round 1 – Needs Assessment

Monday, May 24	Tuesday, May 25
11:00 am – Education/Workforce/Human Services	9:00 am – Public Health Response
12:15 pm – Housing/Transp/Comm Revitalization	10:15 pm – Small Business Support
	11:30 am – Tourism/Travel/Hospitality/Art

Round 2 - Recommendations

Monday, June 21	Tuesday, June 22
12:00 pm – Education/Workforce/Human Services	10:00 am – Small Business Support
1:15 pm – Housing/Transp/Comm Revitalization	11:15 pm – Tourism/Travel/Hospitality/Art
2:30 pm – Public Health Response	



Next Steps | Engagement Opportunities & Survey Summaries

Assignments & Engagement

Working Groups Next Steps	Future Opportunities
Friday, May 21 st - Industry Data Summaries Due	Impact Assessment Survey
Mon/Tues May 24 th /25 th - Working Group Meetings	Priority/Recommendation Survey
	Mon/Tues June 21 st /22 nd - Working Group Meetings



<https://albanyny.gov/1924/COVID-Recovery-Taskforce>



Next Steps

“In 10 years, we may look back at this time and ask: Which places merely spent their money, and which places invested it?”

-

-The Brookings Institution, March 23, 2021

City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force

Meeting #2

May 18, 2021 | 12pm

Albany Capital Center/Zoom

Attendees

* () designee attended

COVID Recovery Task Force Members			
Name	Present	Name	Present
Kaweeda Adams		Micky Jimenez	X
Faye Andrews	X	Andrew Joyce * (Michael Morris)	X
Dorcey Applyrs	X	Anna Kuwabara	X
Kate Baker	X	Eileen Larrabee	X
Alfredo Balarin		Angelo Maddox	X
Carm Basile		Daniel McCoy * (Daniel Lynch)	X
Bob Belber	X	Dennis McKenna	X
Neenah Bland	X	Tracy Metzger	X
Tricia Brown	X	Matthew Peter	X
Jeff Buell	X	Dominick Purnomo	X
Michael Castellana		Roger Ramsammy * (Louis Copelin)	X
Chiquita D'Arbeau	X	Sarah Reginelli	X
Mark Eagan * (Jason Benitez)	X	Jahmel Robinson	
Corey Ellis	X	Havidán Rodríguez	
Sonia Frederick	X	Darius Shahinfar	X
Anthony Gaddy	X	Kathy Sheehan	X
Peter Gannon	X	Noelene Smith	
Tammis Groft	X	Georgette Steffens	X
Jahkeen Hoke	X	Raphael Tucker	X
Kevin Hicks		Michael Whalen	X

Other Attendees:

Ashley Mohl, Nora Culhane Friedel, Renee McFarlin, John Regan, Michael Bohne

Introductions

Following introductions, the Co-Chairs and the Mayor began the meeting by walking the Task Force Members through a prepared PowerPoint presentation. The Co-Chairs provided an overview of the meeting agenda and reminded Members of the four main objectives of this Task Force.

The Co-chairs and Ashley Mohl (Director of Economic Development at Capitalize Albany Corporation, acting as Initiative Coordinator) provided a summary of pertinent Treasury guidance as it relates to the American Rescue Plan Act and the available funding. A key takeaway from this information is that these funds will have significant monitoring and audits throughout.

The Task Force members were then presented with proposed working groups to align with Treasury Guidance and a schedule of meeting times for the remaining meetings of the full Task Force, as well as the smaller working groups meetings. Task Force members were encouraged to attend more than just their assigned working group, and the Co-Chairs stressed that all are welcome in all working groups. It was clarified that the Task Force members are being asked to serve as experts in specific industry sectors and are necessary on the assigned working groups, but their input will be incredibly valuable to across all working groups. It was further recommended that elected officials serve at-large rather than on a specific working group in order to ensure that working group findings are tied together where necessary. A discussion ensued between Task Force members reiterating that it is likely there will be overlap between working group topics and resources. The conversation continued with Task Force members reinforcing the idea that these working groups are not meant to create further silos, but to utilize their expertise in their particular fields to inform further decision making with respect to this funding. A request was made to allow for working groups to review notes from the other working groups. A reoccurring message in this discussion was the potential for these funds to inspire a true Albany renaissance, to help Albany become what we already know it to be. A number of Task Force members indicated that they would be attending multiple working groups.

The Initiative Coordinator then walked the group through the anticipated outcomes of the Task Force, reminded the group of the compressed schedule, and discussed future meeting dates and times. The Co-Chairs then discussed how public engagement will be incorporated into this process through surveys as part of the needs assessment and the recommendation phases of the Task Force and emphasized that the website will be where to find all meeting resources & materials. The Initiative Coordinator provided an overview of the Industry Survey Summary document that will help to inform the needs assessment conducted by the Task Force and advised Task Force members of the due date of May 21, 2021. The Co-Chairs adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:05 p.m.

Administrative Matters

- Meeting Materials/Resources will continue to be posted publicly to the City's webpage as they become available
- A reminder about Working Group meetings including Zoom log-in information for each session will be distributed to Task Force members; this will include a request for RSVPs

Next Steps

Task Force Members were asked to do the following prior to the next meeting:

- Prepare/RSVP for the Working Group sessions next week
- Return Industry Survey Summary to Nora Culhane Friedel by Friday, May 21, 2021
- Submit photo/bio for webpage to Nora Culhane Friedel if you have not already

City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force

ALBANY LEADS



MAYOR KATHY SHEEHAN

MICHAEL WHALEN, CO-CHAIR

JAHKEEN HOKE, CO-CHAIR



Agenda | Task Force Meeting 3 June 3, 2021

1. Mayor & Co-Chairs' Welcome
4. Task Force Media Policy Overview
- a. Working Groups - Needs Assessment
 - a. Prioritization, Captains & Overall Themes
 - b. Working Group Report Out
 - i. Assistance to Workers and Families – Education/Workforce/Human Services
 - ii. Assistance to Workers and Families – Housing/Transportation/Community Revitalization
 - iii. Small Business Support
 - iv. Tourism/Travel/Hospitality/Arts Recovery
 - v. Supporting the Public Health Response
 - c. Needs Assessment Discussion
5. Next Steps
 - a. Schedule
 - b. Engagement Opportunities



Working Groups | Needs Prioritization

The Eisenhower Decision Matrix



Source: <https://luxafor.com/the-eisenhower-matrix/>



Working Groups | Captains

Assistance to Workers and Families – Education/Workforce/Human Services

- TBD – any volunteers?

Assistance to Workers and Families – Housing/Transportation/Community Revitalization

- TBD – any volunteers?

Small Business Support – Needs Assessment

- Anthony Gaddy & Georgette Steffens

Tourism/Travel/Hospitality/Arts Recovery

- Matthew Peter & Kevin McClintock

Supporting the Public Health Response

- Dr. Dorcey Applyrs



Working Groups | Questions

While you're listening to the reports from each of the Working Groups, please think about the following questions...

- ❖ Can you identify anything missing from this needs assessment?
- ❖ What are the areas of crossover that should be woven together for the best results?
- ❖ What opportunities do you envision with this funding?
- ❖ What rises to the top for you in terms of urgency/prioritization?



Working Groups | Overall Themes

Needs Assessment

- ❖ ACCESS
- ❖ EQUITY
- ❖ MARKETING & INFORMATION DISSEMINATION
- ❖ STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS & EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION
- ❖ PRIORITIZATION & SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS
- ❖ ADVANCING TECH = ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT/OUTREACH/BETTER SALES
- ❖ INTEGRATE INNOVATIONS & LESSONS LEARNED INTO SOP



Working Groups | Group Report Out

Assistance to Workers and Families – Housing/Transportation/Community
Revitalization – Needs Assessment

“HOW WE DO BUSINESS IS FOREVER CHANGED.”



Working Groups | Group Report Out

Assistance to Workers and Families – Education/Workforce/Human Services – Needs Assessment

What was going well pre-COVID?

- Access to and enrollment in services was at a high point for many organizations in the group
- Organizations had the capacity to focus on equity and addressing health disparities

What innovations have arisen due to COVID?

- Organizations were forced to shift their outreach and service delivery methods, offering opportunities for wider outreach
- Partnerships with private enterprise facilitated virtual communications, i.e. the School District and wireless providers

What are the inequities in this focus area?

- Access to internet and hardware required to engage in remote services
- Undocumented population was left out of federal programs – both pre-COVID and throughout relief issuances
- Not enough community outreach/case managers/interpreters to help residents tap into assistance and address trauma in underserved populations



Working Groups | Group Report Out

Assistance to Workers and Families – Education/Workforce/Human Services – Needs Assessment

What were the challenges brought on by COVID?

- Lost connections and a need to rebuild confidence and relationships with historically underserved populations
- Lack of diversity in the skilled trades limits opportunities for equity and strengthening the sectors relying on those workers
- Issues on which advocates were gaining momentum reverted and the issues exacerbated
- Additional trainings are consistently required to update employees on ever-changing guidance
- COVID created “The New Poverty” – a further diminishing middle class due to job loss at the onset of COVID-19
- Salaries are not competitive, and labor is in short supply
- Grant funding dried up

Model Programs

- Workforce development programs that provide professional development advancement opportunities, i.e. license fees
- Invest in access to improved mental health, social emotional well-being services, nutrition, and health risks
- Expand services and ways to access those services, i.e. offering hybrid approaches
- Continue to strengthen partnerships
- Continue food delivery programs
- Multi-Craft Pre-Apprenticeship Program



Working Groups | Group Report Out

Assistance to Workers and Families – Housing/Transportation/Community
Revitalization – Needs Assessment

“LET’S NOT ‘SPREAD THE PEANUT BUTTER TOO THIN’. WE SHOULD LOOK AT MAKING BOTH *SIGNIFICANT* AND *SUSTAINABLE* INVESTMENTS AS PART OF THIS INITIATIVE.”



Working Groups | Group Report Out

Assistance to Workers and Families – Housing/Transportation/Community Revitalization – Needs Assessment

What was going well pre-COVID?

- Travel to, from, and within Albany was seeing increased frequency and revenues, which offered opportunities for investments
- Over \$1B had been invested in development and redevelopment projects city-wide
- Revenues from increased activity and grant opportunities funded programming, i.e.:
 - Albany Housing Authority – Summer Camps, skills and drills
 - Albany Parking Authority – with CDTA, enhanced marketing, streetscaping, pedestrian improvements

What innovations have arisen due to COVID?

- Improved access to WiFi at Albany Housing Authority Properties
- Increased interest in alternative transportation options

What are the inequities in this focus area?

- Historically, green space locations and amenities are inequitably distributed based on location
- Development pro formas are challenging, and many projects in disinvested neighborhoods require significant public investment to bring to fruition



Working Groups | Group Report Out

Assistance to Workers and Families – Housing/Transportation/Community Revitalization – Needs Assessment

What are the challenges brought on by COVID?

- Any slowdown of \$1B of development projects in the pipeline could affect municipal revenue
- Work from home/hybrid schedules limit city visitors, and in the long-term, this has the potential to significantly impact our downtown and commercial districts
- Reduced revenues (grants, income-generation i.e. rent) required reductions in programming and investments

Model Programs

- Demolition and rehabilitation funding
- Gap financing between market rate and tax credit funding for projects in disinvested neighborhoods
- Investments in pedestrian connectivity and safety, traffic-calming, and beautification
- Investments in more equitably located and equipped parks
- Fund food and camp programming
- Create homeownership and rental assistance programs



Working Groups | Group Report Out

Small Business Support – Needs Assessment

“TIMES LIKE THESE BREED ENTREPRENEURSHIP LIKE NO OTHER.”



Working Groups | Group Report Out

Small Business Support – Needs Assessment

What was going well pre-COVID?

- Positive shift in the way people were doing and starting businesses
- MWBEs significantly benefitted from state mandates and contracts
- Significant momentum in building conversions
- Increased B2B, especially for minority business owners

What innovations have arisen due to COVID?

- Businesses found ways to innovate/pivot and improve their operations, i.e. online sales, increased online marketing
- Support SmAlbany as a regional collaboration
- SBDC's webinar platform + translation services

What are the inequities in this focus area?

- Many businesses or aspiring entrepreneurs are not aware of the resources available to them
- Access to qualified, diverse talent
- Access to capital
- Small businesses have limited capacity to work on vs. in their business
- Language barriers
- Cultural differences in receiving information



Working Groups | Group Report Out

Small Business Support – Needs Assessment

What are the challenges brought on by COVID?

- Those businesses with a social media presence and ability to sell online are leaving those that do not behind; websites and POS systems are expensive and training is needed
- The underserved/disadvantaged population is typically employed by newest businesses; less jobs for challenged populations
- Hybrid/Work from Home models impacted small businesses
- Self-Employment Assistance Program (SEAP) suspended
- Businesses that did not qualify for available programs
- Significant back rent owed by small businesses to landlords

Model Programs

- Provide continuing mentoring/business support that goes beyond start-up, i.e. online marketing and sales
- Find ways to provide enhanced flexibility for eligible uses of funding
- Equitable neighborhood and gateway improvements, especially in the most challenged neighborhoods
- Free retail space to entrepreneurs (BID has this program prepped)
- Pursue gaps in market/growth sectors that we do not have/have few of in the area to promote recovery
- Coordinate efforts for broader information dissemination, program development, marketing resources, and success stories
- SBDC SEED Loan Program
- SBDC Inclusivity Project
- Bring back SEAP
- Develop a cooperative/commercial kitchen
- Capitalize Albany grant programs



Working Groups | Group Report Out

Tourism/Travel/Hospitality/Arts Recovery – Needs Assessment

“IF A CHILD DOESN’T VISIT A MUSEUM, ATTEND THE SYMPHONY, ETC. BEFORE THE AGE OF 10-12, THEY WON’T INCLUDE THIS IN THEIR ADULT LIFE.”



Working Groups | Group Report Out

Tourism/Travel/Hospitality/Arts Recovery – Needs Assessment

What was going well pre-COVID?

- Organizations were examining social equity options and reforming their identity
- 2019 was biggest year for the hotel industry locally
- Community pride; City has offerings for residents and visitors

What innovations have arisen due to COVID?

- “Going digital” to share arts/tourism/culture with a broader audience (worldwide)

What are the inequities in this focus area?

- Lighting and pedestrian safety improvements mostly invested in visitor/tourist areas
- Many businesses or aspiring entrepreneurs are not aware of the resources available to them
- Admission charges are an equity issue; organizations offer free events, but without a safety net, this is difficult to do
- Need to increase connectivity between arts and schools/youth; virtual programming can fill gaps brought on by a lack of field trips (and provide mental health support)



Working Groups | Group Report Out

Tourism/Travel/Hospitality/Arts Recovery – Needs Assessment

What are the challenges brought on by COVID?

- | | |
|--|---|
| -Ever-changing regulations and guidance make it impossible to plan successful events | -Uncertainty of payroll and revenues |
| -Hotel industry’s profits nearly halved | -Organizations’ safety nets have been exhausted |
| -Conferences/events not projected to fully recover until 2023 | |

Model Programs

- Times Union Center – video boards to highlight city events or organizations
- Offer free/reduced admission to events and facilities
- Encourage use of public transportation, and stop prioritizing parking for visitors over the needs of residents
- Highlight the need for more systemic social justice issues addressed within organizations
- Provide assistance to other entities and reinvest in the community with an “ecosystem viewpoint”
- Share best practices, i.e. “suggested donation” success
- Wayfinding



Working Groups | Group Report Out

Supporting the Public Health Response – Needs Assessment

“THE SYSTEM NEEDS TO BECOME NIMBLE AND MEET PEOPLE TRULY WHERE THEY ARE.”



Working Groups | Group Report Out

Supporting the Public Health Response – Needs Assessment

What was going well pre-COVID?

- Mom and pop/local community organizations were expanding their reach into underserved populations at previously unrecognized levels

What innovations have arisen due to COVID?

- New technology permits remote and efficient service delivery, offering increased access for some and comfort for others
- Increased partnerships and collaboration among government and grassroots efforts to pool funding and resources
- Opportunity for non-traditional players to invest in public health and increase awareness of public health issues
- Government employers were forced to introduce new technologies that have resulted in enhanced efficiency for service delivery, as well as assess staffing and training needs
- Increased general public interest in public health
- Increased investment in public health



Working Groups | Group Report Out

Supporting the Public Health Response – Needs Assessment

What are the inequities in this focus area?

- Low diversity in health care professions
- Need to provide staff training, specialists for mental health and health professionals that speak multiple languages
- Health disparity among communities of color and low-income communities
- Pandemic shifted local focus and resources (example given was gun violence efforts pre-COVID); gun violence is a public health issue that has worsened in the aftermath of COVID and cannot be ignored
- Those in decision-making roles must consider and understand the level of government distrust on the ground and difficulties faced in reaching communities about health issue due to historic medical/health injustices against minority groups
- Inequities between essential workers and those permitted to work remotely
- Those permitted to work remotely will see changes in work/life balance



Working Groups | Group Report Out

Supporting the Public Health Response – Needs Assessment

What are the challenges brought on by COVID?

- Grassroots organizations that had established trust and physical presence in communities were unable to do so during COVID; not as able to make those connections virtually
- Existing health disparities in communities of color were exacerbated
- COVID exacerbated existing mental health issues
- Exacerbated need for additional healthcare workforce

Model Programs

- Improve access to food, i.e. continue school initiatives to deliver food to families
- Fund grassroots/non-governmental social services programs based out of alternative sites (i.e. churches)
- Invest in building trust with Department of Public Health to ensure better roll-out of testing, vaccines and health education
- Increase dissemination of information about health and increased translation services for public health services
- Establish public/private partnerships to grow workforce in the healthcare sector, including non-medical positions
- Invest in translated materials and translation assistance
- Incentivize medical establishments (i.e. pharmacies) to establish in communities of color
- Train multilingual staff
- Fund programs for access
- Enhance transportation to health facilities



Needs Assessment Discussion

Now that you've heard what each of the working groups have said...

- ❖ Can you identify anything missing from this needs assessment?
- ❖ What are areas of cross-over that should be woven together for the best results?
- ❖ What opportunities do you envision with this funding?
- ❖ What rises to the top for you in terms of urgency/prioritization?



Media Policy Overview

Effective media relations best serve the Task Force by:

- Informing the public of opportunities for input
- Promoting the Task Force's achievements, activities and events of significance
- Expanding the general visibility of the Task Force
- Ensuring that accurate information is conveyed to the public

Designation of Task Force Spokesperson(s):

- Task Force Co-Chairs, Mike Whalen and Jahkeen Hoke shall serve as official spokespersons and primary media contacts



Next Steps | Schedule





Next Steps | Schedule

Task Force Meetings

- #1 April 23, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.
- #2 May 18, 2021 12:00 p.m.
- #3 June 3, 2021 12:00 p.m. (Today!)
- #4 July 1, 2021 12:00 p.m.
- #5 July 22, 2021 2:00 p.m.

Round 2 - Recommendations	
Monday, June 21	Tuesday, June 22
12:00 pm – Education/Workforce/Human Services	10:00 am – Small Business Support
1:15 pm – Housing/Transp/Comm Revitalization	11:15 pm – Tourism/Travel/Hospitality/Art
2:30 pm – Public Health Response	



Next Steps | Public Engagement

A call for public input (survey) on the Needs Assessment conducted by this Task Force is currently under development. When the survey is live, we need you all to do the following:

- Please disseminate the survey widely throughout your networks. **SHARE, SHARE, SHARE!**
- If paper copies are needed, please request through nculhane@capitalizealbany.com.
- If additional translations are needed, please request through nculhane@capitalizealbany.com.

A link to the survey will be added to the COVID Recovery Task Force website when it's live, and all Task Force members will be sent an email notification. Please be on the lookout!

City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force

Meeting #3

June 3, 2021 | 12pm

Albany Capital Center/Zoom

Attendees:

* () designee attended

COVID Recovery Task Force Members			
Name	Present	Name	Present
Kaweeda Adams	X	Micky Jimenez	
Faye Andrews	X	Andrew Joyce * (Michael Morris)	X
Dorcey Applyrs	X	Anna Kuwabara	X
Kate Baker	X	Eileen Larrabee	X
Alfredo Balarin	X	Angelo Maddox	X
Carm Basile * (Jonathan Scherzer)	X	Daniel McCoy * (Daniel Lynch)	X
Bob Belber	X	Dennis McKenna * (John Regan)	X
Neenah Bland		Tracy Metzger	X
Tricia Brown		Matthew Peter	X
Jeff Buell		Dominick Purnomo	X
Michael Castellana	X	Roger Ramsammy	
Chiquita D'Arbeau	X	Sarah Reginelli	X
Mark Eagan * (Jason Benitez)	X	Jahmel Robinson	
Corey Ellis		Havidán Rodríguez	
Sonia Frederick	X	Darius Shahinfar	X
Anthony Gaddy	X	Kathy Sheehan	X
Peter Gannon	X	Noelene Smith	X
Tammis Groft	X	Georgette Steffens	X
Jahkeen Hoke	X	Raphael Tucker	X
Kevin Hicks		Michael Whalen	X

Other Attendees:

Ashley Mohl, Nora Culhane Friedel, Renee McFarlin, Michael Bohne, Bradford Hickox, Richard Conti, Patrick Alderson, David Galin

Meeting Content:

The Co-Chairs and the Mayor began the meeting by welcoming the Task Force members and reviewing the goal of these meetings, as well as briefly discussing the importance of the prioritization of the different needs represented in the assessment.

Ashley Mohl (Director of Economic Development at Capitalize Albany Corporation, acting as Initiative Coordinator) then walked the Task Force through the prepared presentation, beginning with a review of the Working Group sessions held on May 24th and May 25th. The Initiative Coordinator introduced the committed Working Group captains and made a request for volunteers to take on the role in the two groups remaining without established captains. Two Task Force members offered to co-captain the Housing/Transportation/Community group, while a third member offered to captain the

Education/Workforce/Human Services group. The Initiative Coordinator and Working Group captains then reported out from their respective Working Group sessions, and all notes for each session were provided as handouts to Task Force members in attendance. The Working Group notes will also be distributed by email to all Task Force members subsequent to the meeting. The Initiative Coordinator highlighted the recurrent themes through the sessions and supported the report out with prepared slides identifying the major discussion points of each session.

Throughout and following the Working Groups' report out, there were discussion points raised among Task Force members. The idea of a city-backed loan fund as a tool to reduce risk to private lenders and thereby increase lending activity was presented and considered; suggestions were made to utilize existing community development finance institutions or loan funds and other sources. The conversation continued further around developing inclusive strategies for attracting and retaining talent in the City of Albany. This led to additional discussion regarding creative marketing strategies to highlight the "rebirth" of Albany – the focus being on one message and one platform. The newly released [CapNY brand and website](#) for the Capital District was identified as an existing successful campaign that can achieve this goal.

Co-Chair Mike Whalen then reviewed the Task Force Media Policy with Task Force members. The schedule was reviewed for the upcoming meetings, and it was identified that a call for public input (survey) on the Needs Assessment conducted by this Task Force is currently under development and will be distributed to the Task Force members within the next week. Members were also advised that a link to the survey will be added to the COVID Recovery Task Force website, and all Task Force members will be sent an email notification with boilerplate language regarding dissemination. Survey equity was raised as a concern, and the Mayor responded, assuring that the survey will be open to the public and that additional public engagement will be collected and considered in the course of official City and Common Council business pertaining to the budgeting and ultimate allocation ARP funds. Committee Co-Chairs and members also noted that the Task Force was selected to represent their industry's constituents and have been asked to provide insight into their particular sector, summarize needs when possible, and reach out to their contact lists to engage them in the conversation.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Administrative Matters:

- Meeting Materials/Resources will continue to be posted publicly to the City's webpage as they become available
- A reminder about Working Group meetings including Zoom log-in information for each session will be distributed to Task Force members; this will include a request for RSVPs

Next Steps:

Task Force Members were asked to do the following prior to the next meeting:

- Return Industry Survey Summary, Needs Assessment, and Best Practice Worksheets to Nora Culhane Friedel ASAP
- Upon public input survey release the Task Force members are asked to please distribute the survey widely throughout your networks (If paper copies are needed or if additional translations are needed, please request through nculhane@capitalizealbany.com)

City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force

ALBANY LEADS



MAYOR KATHY SHEEHAN

MICHAEL WHALEN, CO-CHAIR

JAHKEEN HOKE, CO-CHAIR



Agenda | Task Force Meeting 4 July 1, 2021

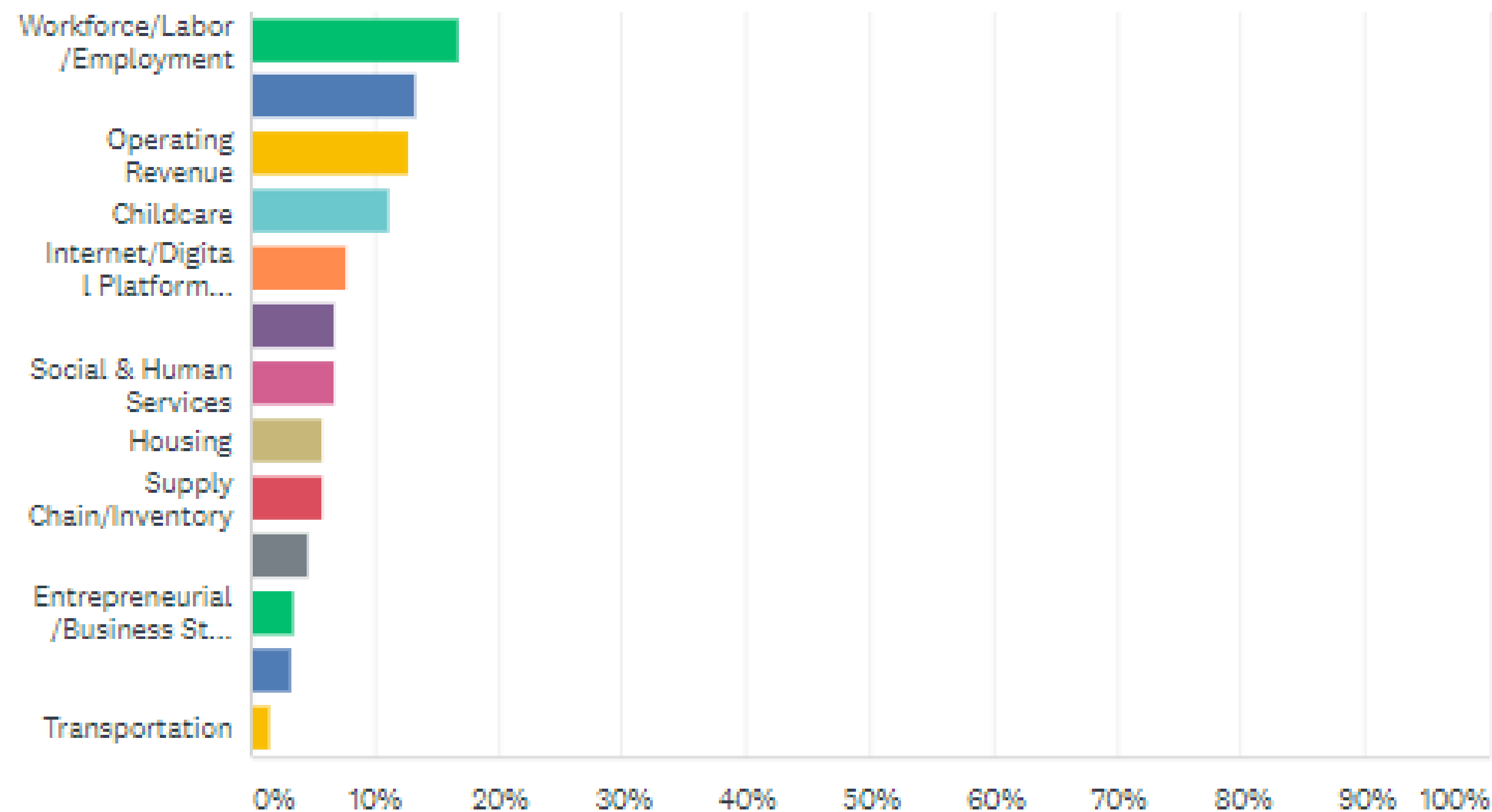
1. Mayor & Co-Chairs' Welcome
2. Public Survey Results – Needs Assessment
3. Working Groups - Recommendations
 - a. Overview
 - b. Discussion Regarding Recommendations and Model Initiatives
4. Next Steps
 - a. Schedule
 - b. Public Survey #2



Public Survey Results | Needs Assessment

What is the largest unmet need created by the pandemic for your or your organization?

Answered: 429 Skipped: 16





Public Survey Results | Needs Assessment

Biggest Unmet Need - Other





Needs Assessment

Describe the Impacts...

“Several of our staff have suffered mentally from the pandemic which in return has affected their attendance.”

“Tenants have interpreted the eviction moratorium as a rent holiday. Our Accounts receivable balance is up 800 %.”

“As violent crime continues to persist at a high level throughout the City of Albany, individuals begin to perceive the City as unsafe and less desirable.”

“We are having a difficult time finding part-time employees.”

“Supply costs and Contractor availability”

“We’ve had to cut hours, limit programs”

“Our adult education enrollment numbers have dropped significantly, and many of our adult learners didn't have the tech to participate in classes online.”

“Lack of safe and affordable childcare means... juggle our work with watching our three children...weighed the cost of childcare ...it all doesn't add up...try to do our best but there is never enough time to do all that we need to...our children don't always get the attention they deserve...always feel like we're bailing out the ocean with a small bucket.”

My organization receives 90% of its funding through workshops and donations.

“work evaporated”







Public Survey Results | Needs Assessment

Education/Workforce/Human Services...

“Training in schools to include trades and internships for students in all grades. Field trips to different types of workplaces all over the city. Get kids involved in volunteer work early!”

“Better coordination between service providers.”

“Childcare isn't just Monday to Friday 9-5. We need this development to focus on nontraditional hours and to be directly located in low income communities reliant on public transit.”

“Quality day care free services, higher wages for lower skilled workers to help lift them out of poverty, good benefits as well.”

“Elder care and homeless are major issues. After care for school age children”

“Mental health services for children. Address conflict resolution education to help mitigate Gun violence.”

“Coordination of services available to allow for people to work.”



Public Survey Results | Needs Assessment

Housing/Transportation/Community Revitalization...

“we need clean, safe, well-maintained and well-supervised parks with full time programming that tell our children and residents they and their health and safety matters.”

“Street Calming is needed to turn roadways especially in business districts from highway type speeds to safe walkable areas”

**“more bus service
on weekends”**

“Need to make sure that positive development in this city continues and is not concentrated in already wealthy neighborhoods. Need to focus first on reaching residents in the city who are underserved before bringing new 'talent' in. “

“black homeownership should be top priority”

“People not knowing what help is available to them and lack of cross-communication between agencies providing the assistance.”

**“The Mayor’s Office
needs to have a better
way to address
abandoned buildings.”**

“Support to existing property owners in historic districts to make necessary repairs.”



“COVID is a once in a century pandemic. We should spend the money on once in a century investments.”



Public Survey Results | Needs Assessment

Small Business...

More public or shared studios/kitchens, even if it's tiny spaces, for small business owners to have a space to grow.

Public works like sidewalks and lighting add to business support



Small business owners who live in the City of Albany must be given priority

Insufficient training/ fiscal support for those who wish to start a business in the creative arts domain (of all kinds - visual, performing, etc.)

Keeping any government hacks out of our way!



Travel/Tourism/Hospitality/Arts...

“The negative impacts are felt more disproportionately in communities of color.”

“Hotels are experiencing low occupancy rates and no federal assistance. They are not fully staffed and many employee residents from our low income neighborhoods.”

“Better promotion.”

“Shows will come back and venues will reopen. Everybody will go there. Extra funding shouldn’t be necessary.”

“The need for people to return to their old habits, eating out, going to films, movies and concerts.”





Public Survey Results | Needs Assessment

Other Thoughts...

“Invest in digital literacy skills, certification programs to prepare for new career paths, child care financial support and summer / after school programs to allow parents to return to work in person when needed”

**“Let’s get all cultural venues
street fairs and festivals and
concerts and plays up and
running ASAP”**

**“Need to make the city
safe for all. Residents &
visitors alike”**



“There are so many blighted properties- work to get home ownership!”

“I think the response needs to be focused on the most historically marginalized communities in Albany, specifically the South End, West Hill and Arbor Hill. I also think high-priority needs to be placed on youth and future sustainability. “

**“Better coordination
between service
providers.”**



Working Groups | Recommendations

While we discuss overview of the Working Group discussion, please think about the following...

- ❖ Do you concur with the findings of the working groups regarding prioritization?
 - ...urgency?
 - ...depth of assistance required?
- ❖ Where the public identified differing priorities from the Working Groups, is there any revisions to the prioritization you would suggest?
- ❖ What specific model initiatives do you envision with this funding?

Working Group Sessions Round 2 - Recommendations

Supporting the Public Health Response

Top 3	Programming Impact Area <i>Programs and projects that...</i>	Urgency	Assistance Level				
*	Promote access to healthcare for traditionally underserved individuals	1					
*	Support mental and emotional health	1					
*	Retain, develop, and attract a qualified and diverse workforce	2					
	Support universal access to healthy food and nutrition education	2					
	Improve access to healthcare for people experiencing homelessness <i>(Consensus achieved to add into the first Impact Area above)</i>	3					
	Mitigate public health risk for essential workers	3					

Working Group Sessions Round 2 - Recommendations

Assistance to Workers and Families – Education/Workforce/Human Services

Top 3	Programming Impact Area <i>Programs and projects that...</i>	Urgency	Assistance Level
*	Expand access to affordable, high-speed broadband throughout the City of Albany	1	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Increase awareness of, support navigation of and improve access to available services and financial resources		<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Provide mental health support and address social-emotional impacts of the pandemic		<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
*	Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce and emerging/expanding industries and job opportunities		<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
*	Create efficiency for or sustainability of existing programs producing impactful results	1	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Increase access to and affordability of quality, holistic childcare options		<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

Working Group Sessions Round 2 - Recommendations

Assistance to Workers and Families – Housing/Transportation/Community Revitalization

Top 3	Programming Impact Area <i>Programs and projects that...</i>	Urgency	Assistance Level
	Invest in implementation of neighborhood revitalization strategies	2	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
*	Target public infrastructure improvements in distressed census tracts and disinvested neighborhoods	1	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Encourage use of and spending at local businesses	1	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce	3	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Increase awareness of, support navigation of and improve access to available services and financial resources	2	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Improve public safety	1	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Support quality and affordable housing opportunities <i>(Highlighted text was recommended by Working Group)</i>	1	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
*	Support local real estate development investments that advance community revitalization goals	2	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
*	Enhance alternative transportation use and increase accessibility and equity in transportation options <i>(Highlighted text was recommended by Working Group)</i>	1	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

Working Group Sessions Round 2 - Recommendations

Small Business Support

Top 3	Programming Impact Area <i>Programs and projects that...</i>	Urgency	Assistance Level
	Provide technical and access to information for small businesses and entrepreneurs <i>(Consensus achieved to combine this with the 2nd Impact Area below)</i>	1	N/A – combined with next Impact Area
*		1	<div><div></div></div>
	Provide flexible financial assistance for a diverse array of small business needs		<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Support entrepreneurship opportunities and start-up businesses, particularly for individuals unemployed due to the pandemic	2	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Focus on financial support for businesses with ongoing reopening restrictions challenges <i>(Highlighted text was recommended by Working Group)</i>	3	<div><div></div></div>
	Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce	1	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Stabilize inventory costs resulting from supply chain disruption/market gaps	2	<div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Encourage use of and spending at local businesses	3	<div><div></div></div>
*	Develop supportive and flexible legislation, regulations and code	2	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
*	Improve the quality of place in Albany's commercial districts, including gateways and all connecting streets <i>(Highlighted text was recommended by Working Group)</i>	1	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Expand access to commercial kitchen space for entrepreneurs or expanding businesses <i>(Consensus achieved to add this into the 2nd Impact Area above)</i>	1	N/A – combined with second Impact Area

Working Group Sessions Round 2 - Recommendations

Tourism/Travel/Hospitality/Arts Recovery

Top 3	Programming Impact Area <i>Programs and projects that...</i>	Urgency	Assistance Level
*	Provide flexible financial assistance and technical support for hospitality, arts & cultural entities <i>(Highlighted text was recommended by Working Group)</i>	1	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
*	Increase awareness of and equitable access to existing arts and cultural venues for residents of all ages	2	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Focus on marketing and financial support for businesses and organizations with ongoing reopening restrictions challenges <i>(Highlighted revisions to text were recommended by Working Group)</i>	2	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
*	Promote public safety and Enhance the connectivity and navigability from destination-to-destination and promote public safety <i>(Highlighted revisions to text were recommended by Working Group)</i>	1	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>



Working Groups | Discussion

Now that you've heard what each of the working groups have said...

- ❖ Do you concur with the findings of the working groups regarding prioritization?
 - ... urgency?
 - ... depth of assistance required?
- ❖ Where the public identified differing priorities from the Working Groups, is there any revisions to the prioritization you would suggest?
- ❖ What specific model initiatives do you envision with this funding?



Next Steps | Schedule



Task Force Meetings

#4 July 1, 2021 12:00 p.m. (Today)

#5 July 22, 2021 2:00 p.m.



Next Steps | Public Survey #2

A second call for public input (survey) on the Priority Recommendations developed by this Task Force is currently under development. When the survey is live next week, we need you all to do the following:

- Please disseminate the survey widely throughout your networks. **SHARE, SHARE, SHARE!**
- If paper copies are needed, please request through nculhane@capitalizealbany.com.
- If additional translations are needed, please request through nculhane@capitalizealbany.com.

A link to the survey will be added to the COVID Recovery Task Force website when it's live, and all Task Force members will be sent an email notification. Please be on the lookout!

City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force

Meeting #4

July 1, 2021 | 12pm

Albany Capital Center/Zoom

Attendees:

* () designee attended

COVID Recovery Task Force Members			
Name	Present	Name	Present
Kaweeda Adams	X	Micky Jimenez	
Faye Andrews	X	Andrew Joyce * (Nicole Antonucci)	X
Dorcey Applyrs	X	Anna Kuwabara	X
Kate Baker	X	Eileen Larrabee	X
Alfredo Balarin	X	Angelo Maddox	X
Carm Basile * (Allison Schreffler)	X	Daniel McCoy * (Patrick Alderson)	X
Bob Belber		Dennis McKenna * (John Regan)	X
Neenah Bland		Tracy Metzger	
Tricia Brown		Matthew Peter	X
Jeff Buell	X	Dominick Purnomo	
Michael Castellana	X	Roger Ramsammy * (Louis Copelin)	X
Chiquita D'Arbeau * (Nick Thony)	X	Sarah Reginelli	X
Mark Eagan * (Jason Benitez)	X	Jahmel Robinson	
Corey Ellis		Havidán Rodríguez	
Sonia Frederick	X	Darius Shahinfar	
Anthony Gaddy	X	Kathy Sheehan	X
Peter Gannon		Noelene Smith	X
Tammis Groft	X	Georgette Steffens	X
Jahkeen Hoke	X	Raphael Tucker	
Michael Whalen	X	Giovanni Otero	X
Kevin Hicks			

Other Attendees:

Ashley Mohl, Nora Culhane Friedel, Renee McFarlin, Michael Bohne, David Galin, Erin Grace

Meeting Content:

The Co-Chairs and the Mayor began the meeting by welcoming the Task Force members and reviewing the goal of these meetings, as well as referencing the importance of the recommendations represented in the work accomplished so far.

Ashley Mohl (Director of Economic Development at Capitalize Albany Corporation, acting as Initiative Coordinator) then walked the Task Force through the prepared presentation, beginning with a review of the public survey results regarding the City's COVID-19 preliminary needs assessment. This overview highlighted the top needs identified overall, as well as provided a selection of actual survey responses across each of the Working Groups.

The Task Force discussed the public's feedback on the preliminary needs assessment and where the Task Force's findings were validated or should be amended or added to based on the survey results and engagement with Task Force members. The Task Force discussed the importance of ensuring that a wide range of community perspectives were represented as the Task Force developed the report.

The Initiative Coordinator provided a summary of each Working Group's discussion and priority recommendations from the June 21st and June 22nd sessions and then initiated a group discussion.

The Task force addressed concerns that a survey methodology is not effective at directly engaging all communities and suggested alternate means of soliciting feedback from the public to ensure all voices are heard. The members were encouraged to continue to execute alternative engagement opportunities and continue to fulfill their role as representatives of the broad cross-section of communities and constituents they each serve.

The Initiative Coordinator shared that the second public survey to help determine the Task Force's priority recommendations is under development and will be distributed to the Task Force members upon finalization. Task Force members were encouraged to disseminate the second public survey in the manner best suited to attracting the broadest response rate possible from their constituencies. Members were also advised that a link to the survey will be added to the COVID Recovery Task Force website, and all Task Force members will be sent an email notification with boilerplate language regarding dissemination. The survey will be available in printed copies and will also be available for translation as necessary.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Administrative Matters:

- Meeting Materials/Resources will continue to be posted publicly to the City's webpage as they become available

Next Steps:

Task Force Members were asked to do the following prior to the next meeting:

- Upon release of the final survey, distribute the survey widely throughout their networks (If paper copies are needed or if additional translations are needed, please request through nculhane@capitalizealbany.com)

City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force

ALBANY LEADS



MAYOR KATHY SHEEHAN

MICHAEL WHALEN, CO-CHAIR

JAHKEEN HOKE, CO-CHAIR



Agenda | Task Force Meeting #5 July 22, 2021

1. Mayor & Co-Chairs' Welcome

2. Public Survey #2 Results

3. Outcomes to Date

4. Overall Principles

a. Guiding Principles

b. Implementation Principles

5. Task Force Confirmation of Outcomes

6. Future-Focused Timeline



Public Survey #2 | Results



COVID was a once-in-a-century pandemic. We should spend the money on once-in-a-century investments.”

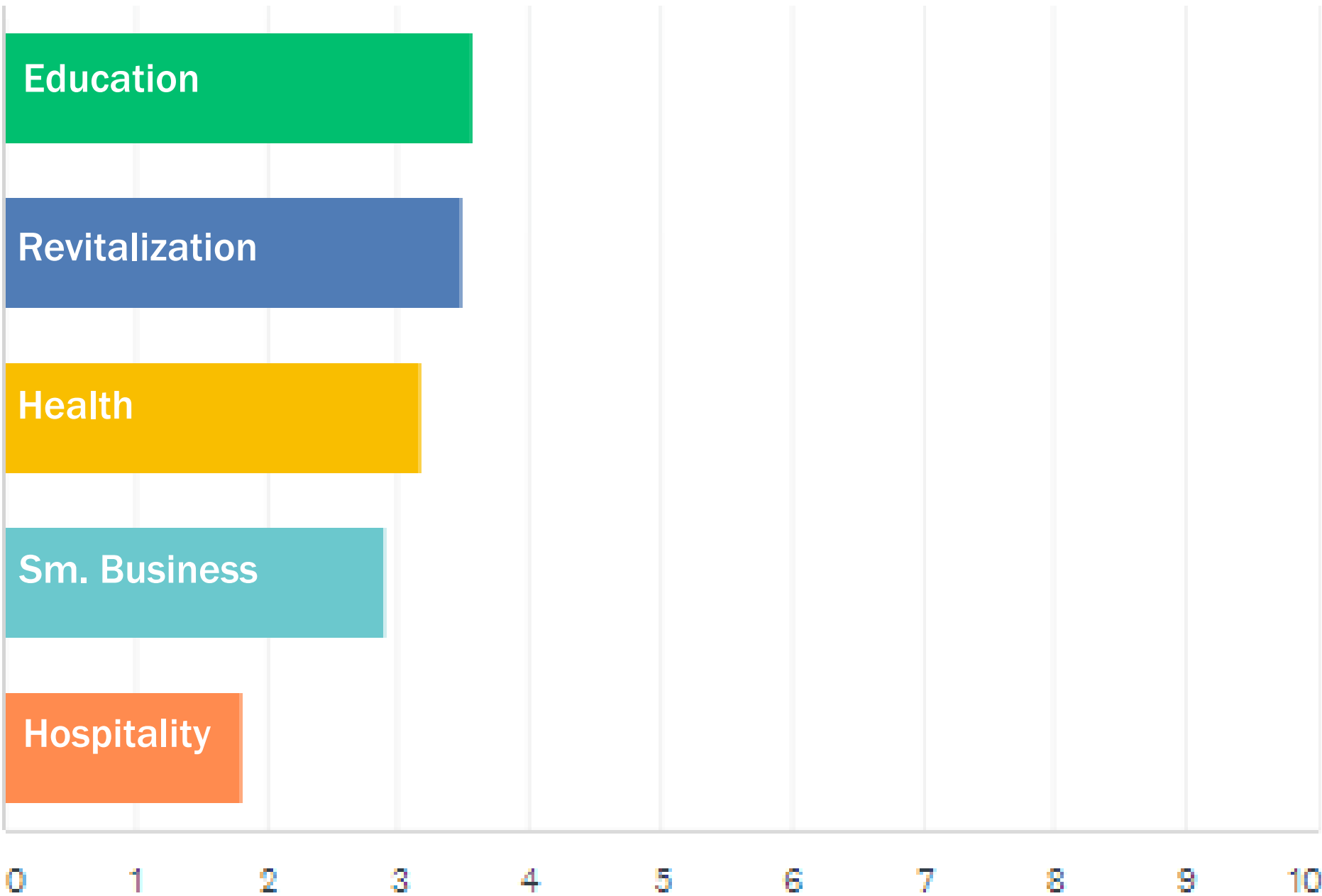
*- Public Survey Respondent,
June 2021*



Public Survey #2 | Results

The American Rescue Plan allows for funding to address the following COVID-19 recovery needs. Rank these Impact Areas in order of priority for recovery assistance.(Where 1 is most important and 5 is least important)

Answered: 739 Skipped: 0



- Top 3:**
- 1) Education/Workforce/ Human Services
 - 2) Housing/Transportation/ Community Revitalization
 - 3) Public Health

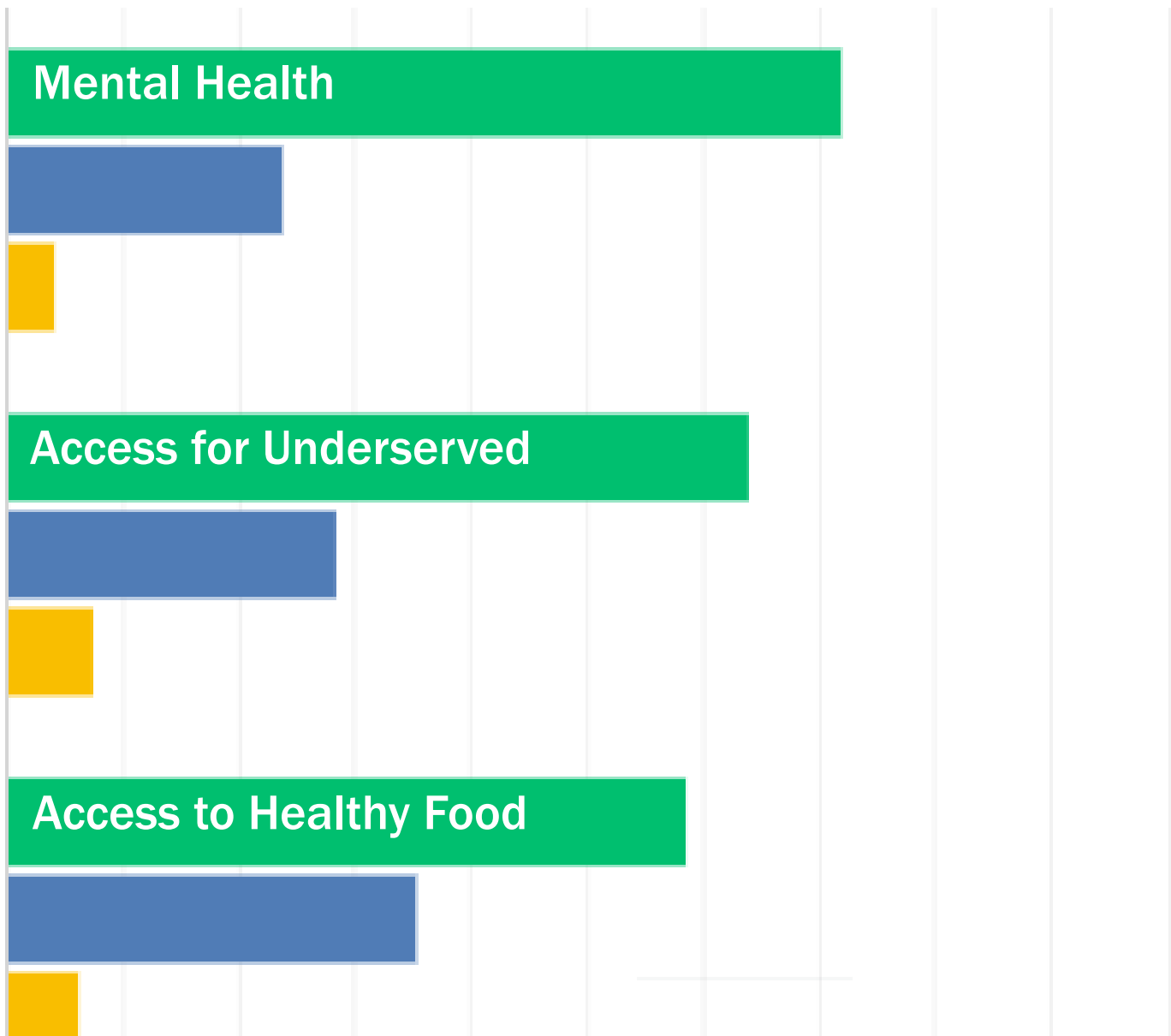


Public Survey #2 | Results

Public Health

Identify the level of unmet financial need within each of the “Supporting the Public Health Response” project and program areas: (Find out more about each of these project and program areas [HERE](#). Please consider if there are other sources of funding that are designed to assist each area as well as the depth of financial assistance needed to achieve deep and sustainable impact)

Answered: 730 Skipped: 9



Top 3:

- 1) Support mental and emotional health
- 2) Promote access to healthcare for traditionally underserved individuals
- 3) Support universal access to healthy food and nutrition education

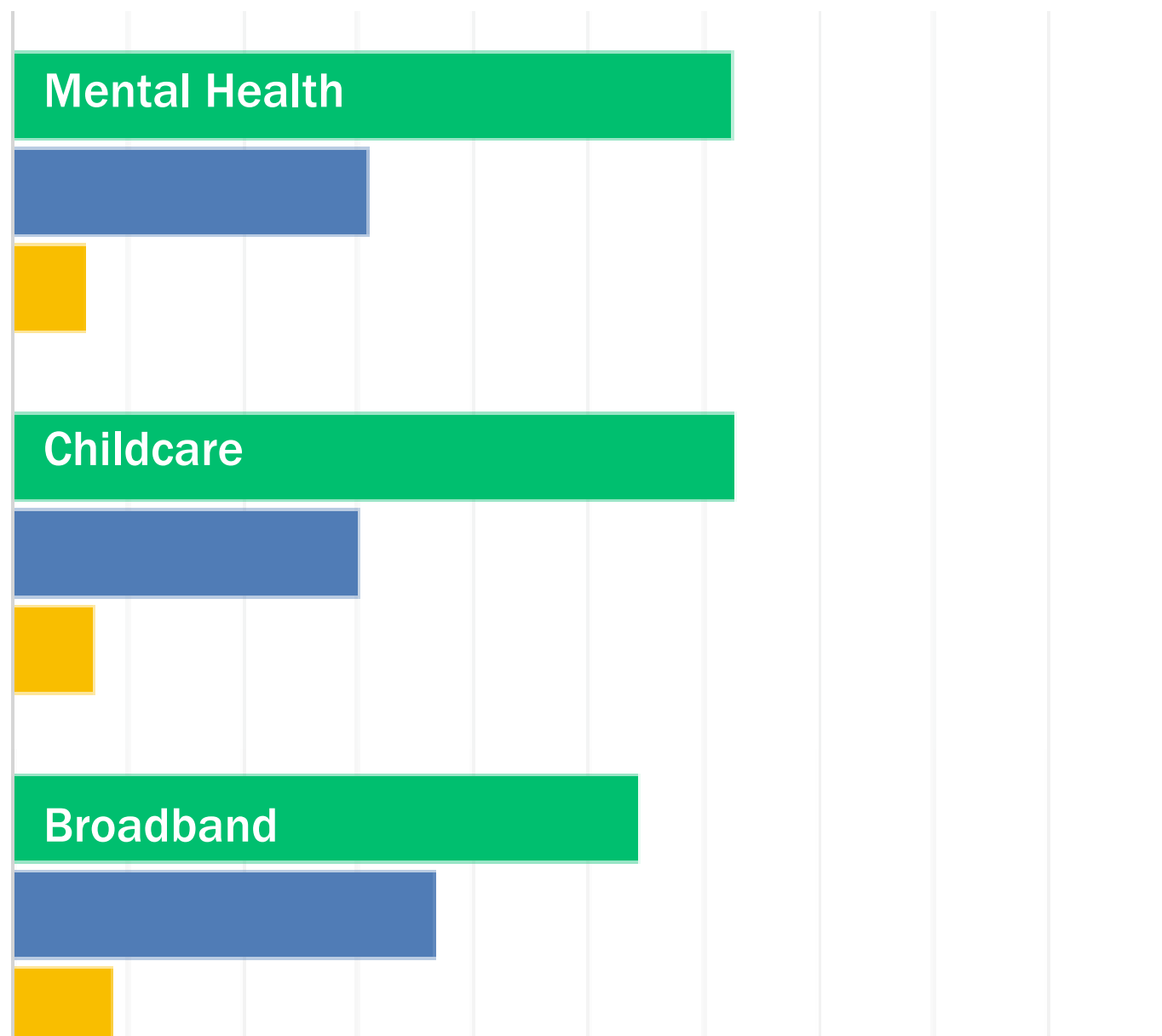


Public Survey #2 | Results

Education/Workforce/Human Services

Identify the level of unmet financial need within each of the “Assistance to Workers and Families – Education/Workforce/Human Services” project and program areas: (Find out more about each of these project and program areas [HERE](#). Please consider if there are other sources of funding that are designed to assist each area as well as the depth of financial assistance needed to achieve deep and sustainable impact)

Answered: 733 Skipped: 6



Top 3:

- 1) Provide mental health support and address social-emotional impacts of the pandemic
- 2) Increase access to and affordability of quality, holistic childcare options
- 3) Expand access to affordable, high-speed broadband access throughout the City of Albany

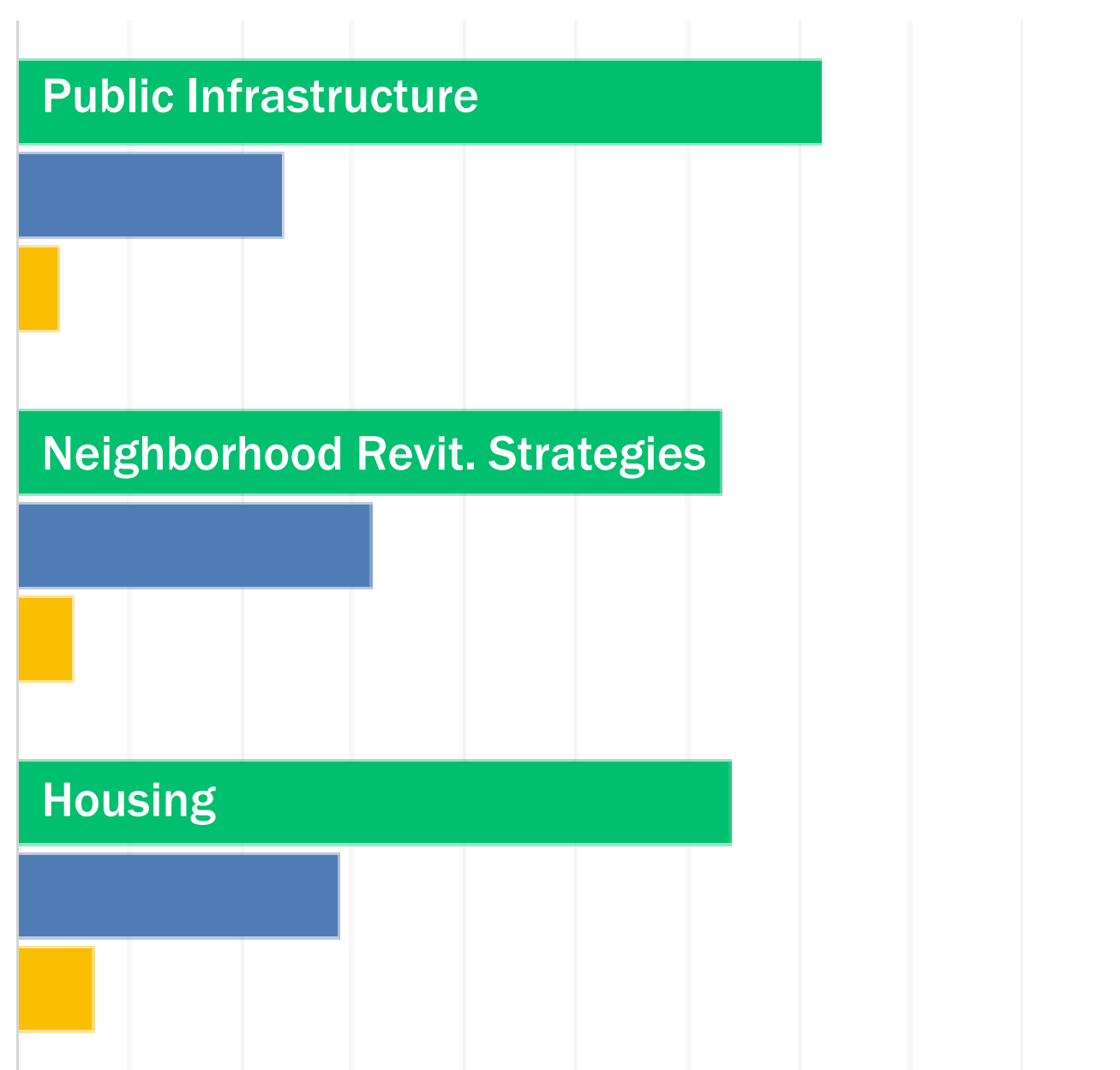


Public Survey #2 | Results

Housing/Transportation/Community Revitalization

Identify the level of unmet financial need within each of the "Assistance to Workers and Families – Housing/Transportation/Community Revitalization" project and program areas: (Find out more about each of these project and program areas [HERE](#). Please consider if there are other sources of funding that are designed to assist each area as well as the depth of financial assistance needed to achieve deep and sustainable impact)

Answered: 734 Skipped: 5



Top 3:

- 1) Target public infrastructure improvements in distressed census tracts and disinvested neighborhoods
- 2) Invest in implementation of neighborhood revitalization strategies
- 3) Support quality, affordable and diverse housing opportunities

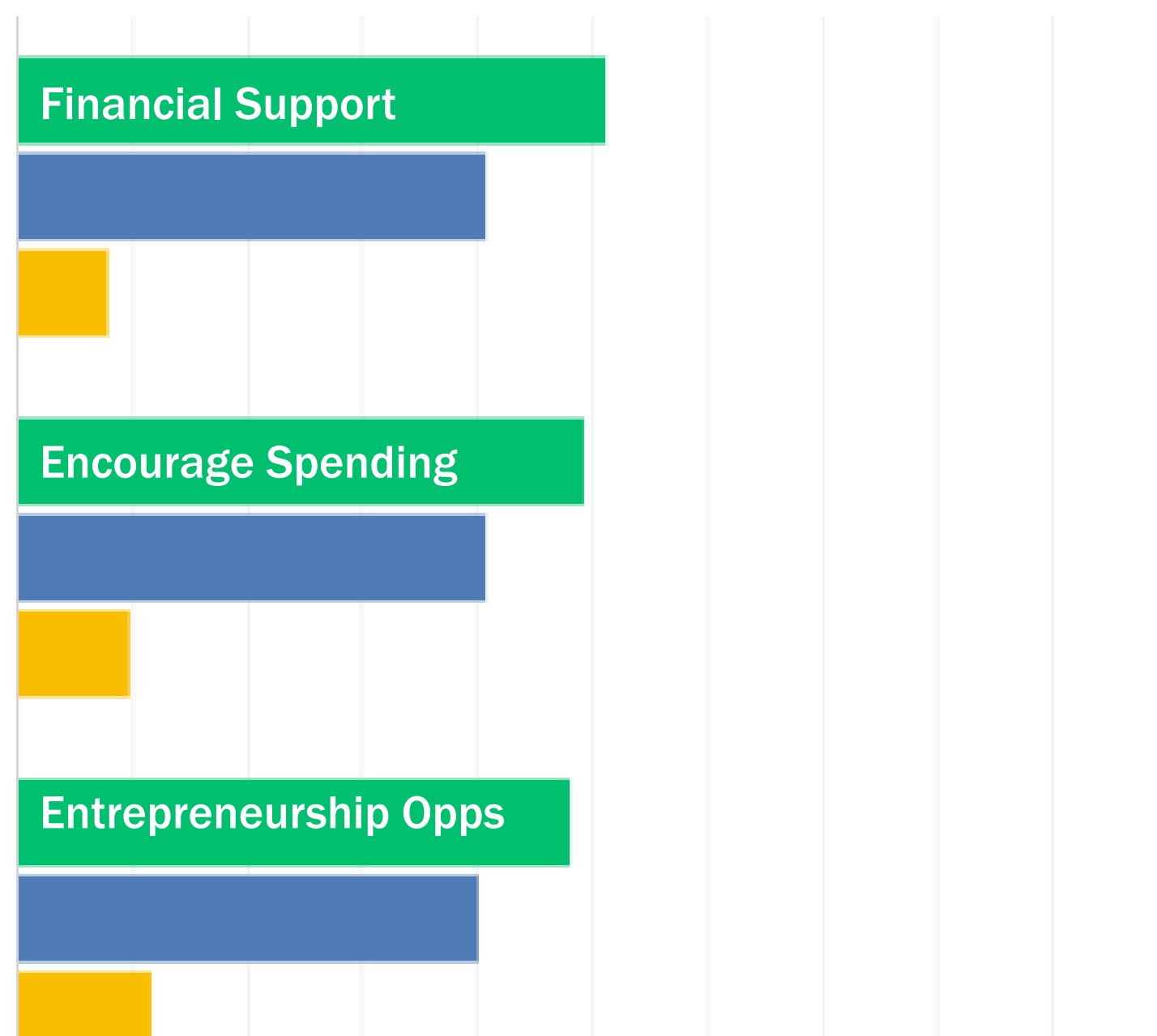


Public Survey #2 | Results

Small Business

Identify the level of unmet financial need within each of the “Small Business Support” project and program areas: (Find out more about each of these project and program areas [HERE](#). Please consider if there are other sources of funding that are designed to assist each area as well as the depth of financial assistance needed to achieve deep and sustainable impact)

Answered: 731 Skipped: 8



Top 3:

- 1) Focus on financial support for businesses with ongoing reopening challenges
- 2) Encourage use of and spending at local businesses
- 3) Support entrepreneurship opportunities and start-up businesses, particularly for individuals unemployed due to the pandemic

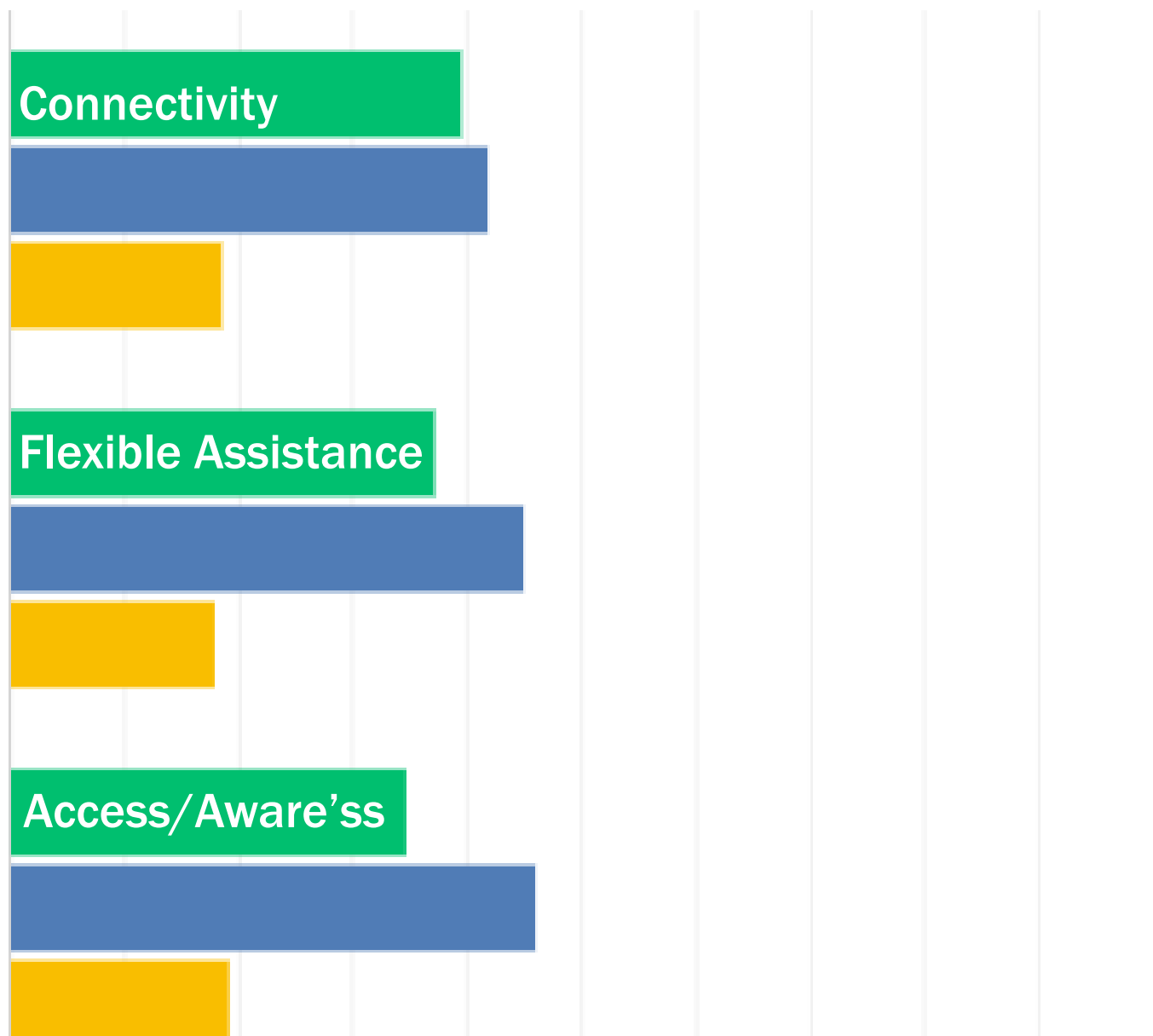


Public Survey #2 | Results

Tourism/Travel/Hospitality/Arts Recovery

Identify the level of unmet financial need within each of the “Tourism/Travel/Hospitality/Arts Recovery” project and program areas: (Find out more about each of these project and program areas [HERE](#). Please consider if there are other sources of funding that are designed to assist each area as well as the depth of financial assistance needed to achieve deep and sustainable impact).

Answered: 727 Skipped: 12



Top 3:

- 1) Enhance the connectivity and navigability from destination-to-destination and promote public safety
- 2) Provide flexible financial assistance and technical support for hospitality, arts & cultural entities
- 3) Increase awareness of and equitable access to existing hospitality, arts & cultural destinations for residents of all ages



Public Survey #2 | Results

Urgency

Select which of the following project and program areas have the most immediate urgency: (Please limit your selection to 10 program/project choices. Find out more about each of these project and program areas [HERE](#)).

Answered: 739 Skipped: 0



Top 10:

- 1) Provide mental health support and address social-emotional impacts of the pandemic
- 2) Promote access to healthcare for traditionally underserved individuals
- 3) Increase access to and affordability of quality, holistic childcare options
- 4) Support universal access to healthy food and nutrition education
- 5) Improve public safety
- 6) Target public infrastructure improvements in distressed census tracts and disinvested neighborhoods
- 7) Invest in implementation of neighborhood revitalization strategies
- 8) Support quality, affordable and diverse housing opportunities
- 9) Expand access to affordable, high-speed broadband access throughout the City of Albany
- 10) Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce and emerging/expanding industries and job opportunities



Outcomes to Date |



(The) perfect use of Rescue Plan dollars: one-time, proven impact and huge results for those at greatest risk."

*- Robert Gordon and Michele Jolin,
New York Times Guest Opinion, April 29, 2021*



Outcomes to Date | Task Force Findings



Needs Assessment

Including challenges and inequities by working group sector; data and trends from Task Force Specialists; and model programs

	Top Priority	Urgent Need	Need Level	Direct C-19 Response	Cross-sector
Recommendation					
Public Health	Promote access to healthcare for traditionally underserved individuals	*	!	+++	C
	Support mental and emotional health	*	!	++	C X
	Retain, develop, and attract a qualified and diverse workforce	*	!	++	C X
	Support universal access to healthy food and nutrition education		!	+	
	Mitigate public health risk for essential workers			+	C
Ed./Workforce/Hum. Svc.	Expand access to affordable, high-speed broadband access throughout the City of Albany	*	!	+++	C
	Increase awareness of, support navigation of and improve access to available services and financial resources			++	X
	Provide mental health support and address social-emotional impacts of the pandemic		!	++	C X
	Retain/develop/attract a qualified and diverse workforce for emerging/expanding industries and job opportunities	*	!	++	C X
	Create efficiency for or sustainability of existing programs producing impactful results	*	!	+++	
Housing/Transp./Comm. Revitaliz.	Increase access to and affordability of quality, holistic childcare options	*	!	++	C X
	Invest in implementation of neighborhood revitalization strategies		!	++	C X
	Target public infrastructure improvements in distressed census tracts and disinvested neighborhoods	*	!	+++	C X
	Encourage use of and spending at local businesses		!	+	
	Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce		!		C X
Small Business	Increase awareness of, support navigation of and improve access to available services and financial resources			+	X
	Improve public safety		!	+	
	Support quality, affordable and diverse housing opportunities	*	!	+++	C
	Support local real estate development that advances community revitalization goals	*	!	+++	C X
	Enhance alternative transportation use and increase accessibility and equity in transportation options	*	!	++	C
Arts/Hosp...	Provide flexible fin. assistance/tech. assistance/access to information for a diverse array of small business needs	*	!	+++	C X
	Support entrepreneurship opportunities/start-up businesses, particularly for individuals unempl. due to pandemic			++	C
	Focus on financial support for businesses with ongoing reopening challenges			+	C
	Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce		!	++	C X
	Stabilize inventory costs resulting from supply chain disruption/market gaps			++	C
Arts/Hosp...	Encourage use of and spending at local businesses			+	
	Develop/embrace existing supportive/flexible legislation, regulations and code	*		++	
	Improve the quality of place in Albany's commercial districts, including gateways and all connecting streets	*	!	+++	X
	Provide flexible financial assistance and technical support for hospitality, arts & cultural entities	*	!	+++	C
	Increase awareness of/equitable access to existing hospitality, arts & cultural destinations for residents of all ages	*		++	
Arts/Hosp...	Focus on marketing and financial support for businesses and organizations with ongoing reopening challenges			+	C X
	Enhance the connectivity and navigability from destination-to-destination and promote public safety	*	!	++	

Impact Areas

Recommended strategies by working group sector prioritized by overall impact, urgency and depth of unmet financial need

PRIORITIES: Housing, Transportation & Community Revitalization	
Impact Areas	Programmatic Recommendations
PROGRAMMING IMPACT AREA Programs and projects that invest in implementation of neighborhood revitalization strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Create or expand programs that provide demolition and/or rehabilitation funding citywide, with emphasis on traditionally disadvantaged neighborhoodsCreate or expand programs that provide gap financing for housing development projects in distressed Census tracts and traditionally disadvantaged neighborhoodsCreate or expand programs that specifically support and target increasing homeownership opportunities for minority populations and increasing homeownership rates in neighborhoods with traditionally low homeownership rates
CHALLENGE Insufficient resources to address blighted properties and inequities in neighborhood investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Create or expand programs that prioritize vacant and abandoned property acquisition and redevelopmentCreate and expand programs that provide financial support to property owners for upgrades, code compliance, and improvements
CHALLENGE Insufficient resources to address community revitalization, programming, and public infrastructure needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Leverage existing resources – like the NYSDOS Brownfield program – to fund projects in neighborhoods with a high level of architectural and/or historic character and with a large number of vacant or abandoned propertiesCreate and expand community support programming like youth and senior activities and servicesCreate and expand programs and projects that increase food access—particularly targeting areas that are “food deserts”Create and expand programs that highlight, expand or create community events and activitiesCreate or expand programs to ensure access to healthcare, housing, food assistance and any other services to everyone in needCreate or expand programming that allows for easier and more equitable accessCreate or expand projects/programs that provide quality and affordable rental housing opportunitiesCreate or expand programs that assist homeowners with supportive upkeep and maintenance of their homes, as well as related infrastructure improvements e.g. lead service line replacement
PROGRAMMING IMPACT AREA Programs and projects that target public infrastructure improvements in distressed census tracts and disinvested neighborhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Invest in pedestrian and other connectivity infrastructure in disinvested neighborhoods, ensuring these neighborhoods are fully connected – particularly to job opportunities, environmentally-friendly green space, and other neighborhoods e.g. connect South End to Downtown and Delaware Ave.Invest in multi-generational and accessible parks, playgrounds and open spaces in disinvested neighborhoodsCreate or expand programs for gateway improvement projects in traditionally disadvantaged neighborhoodsDevelop a design guidelines manual of suggestions including pattern books for each City neighborhoodCreate development incentives to promote the use and application of design enhancements for rehabilitation and new construction projectsLeverage existing resources to make amenity and infrastructure investments in disinvested neighborhoods
CHALLENGE Historic inequities in the built environment, including housing, parks/open spaces, sidewalks, and amenities	
PROGRAMMING IMPACT AREA Programs and projects that encourage use of and spending at local businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Create or expand programs to encourage workers to work from the officeCreate or expand programs to attract commercial office tenants to the City's commercial corridorsCreate or expand programs that encourage college and university students to explore the City's commercial corridorsCreate or expand programs providing financial assistance and technical support for marketing and advertising for small businesses or commercial corridorsCreate or expand financial resources and regulatory solutions to address rent delinquency(See additional small business support programs in Small Business section)
CHALLENGE Impact of work from home/hybrid schedules on the City's restaurants and retailers	
CHALLENGE Insufficient resources for payment of unpaid rent and other financial obligations	

Programmatic Recommendations

Multiple tactics addressing each Impact Area drawn from Task Force specialists and local and national best practices



Outcomes to Date | Task Force Findings

Sector Summaries

Public Health

Improving public health in Albany will require enhanced cultural and linguistic competency from providers, improved attention to mental health, and increased diversity of the public health workforce - all ensuring that at-risk populations have access to the care they need.

Edu./Wrkfc/Hum. Svc

To ensure Albany’s residents are equitably prepared for the future - particularly to participate in and help grow regional industry clusters - they must be supported by quality, affordable childcare; access to universal high-speed internet; and skills-development training focused on the underserved.

Housing/Trans/Revit

Targeted, deliberate and meaningful action to reverse neighborhood disinvestment resulting from a history of systemic racism and creating supportive and accessible pathways to increase equitable homeownership are critical to Albany’s revitalization.

Small Business

Flexible assistance and quality of place are essential for Albany’s small businesses to successfully pivot operations to meet the demands of a dynamic new environment and attract and retain customers.

Travel/Tour/Hosp/Arts

Leisure, lodging and cultural recovery will require enhanced connectivity to visitors through creating better awareness of local offerings, more equitable access to local communities, and quality of place investments that connect venues and neighborhoods.



Outcomes to Date | Recommendations

“The Task Force strongly recommends funding a limited number of highly-impactful programs that can produce profound results, rather than thinly spreading resources.”

- Recovery Task Force,
July, 2021



Overall Principles | Guiding Principles

* Equity

Proposals that directly improve conditions for traditionally disadvantaged, underserved or marginalized populations

* Collaboration

Proposals where multiple service providers partner to leverage their resources and increase capacity

* Sustainability

Proposals that are able to feasibly complete their objective within the ARP timeline or are able to self-operate beyond the life of the funding

* Impact

Proposals that will provide meaningful and measurable change in one or (preferably) more priority Impact Area program recommendations



Overall Principles | Guiding Principles

* Leverage

Proposals that maximize resources by bringing additional financial assistance or capacity from external sources

* Innovation

Proposals that take an entrepreneurial or new approach to the priority Impact Area program recommendations

* Engagement


Proposals developed through robust community involvement or designed to enhance communication between the public and service providers

* Scale


Proposals that provide widespread benefits independently or are designed to be replicable and scalable across sectors or neighborhoods

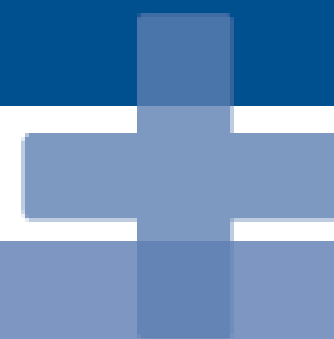



Overall Principles | Assessment Framework

 **COVID-19 Impact**
addressing community needs arising
from or exacerbated by the pandemic.



 **Guiding Principles**
addressing universal, foundational priori-
ties to ensure resources are maximized



 **Strategic Impact**
addressing programmatic recommen-
dations outlined as priorities by the
community



Overall Principles | Implementation Principles



*“One criterion should be investing in projects/
initiatives that have immediate, discernible,
measurable results. ”*

*- Public Survey Respondent
July 2021*



Overall Principles | Implementation Principles

* Flexibility

The full impacts of the pandemic continue to unfold, final Federal regulations for ARP funds have not been released, and Albany's innovative nonprofit, private and institutional sectors will need time to develop and refine projects and programs responsive to the City's needs.

For all of these reasons, when crafting the 2021 Budget, designing program guidelines, and application solicitations, the City is encouraged to be broad, dynamic and agile in its approach.

* Compliance

While the final ARP regulations are not yet defined, significant parameters, restrictions and oversight requirements should be expected. It is of paramount importance that the City engage substantial resources to ensure that all ARP expenditures adhere to final compliance requirements.

Every effort should be made to place the bulk of the administrative burden on internal resources vs subrecipients to maximize ease of use and application.

* Capacity

The City should immediately seek to retain additional staffing resources in two distinct areas:

- General ARP program administration for financial management, proposal solicitation, grants management and compliance
- Project management including project and program design and implementation for agencies charged with direct ARP use

Sub-recipients should also be encouraged to add administrative capacity

* Engagement

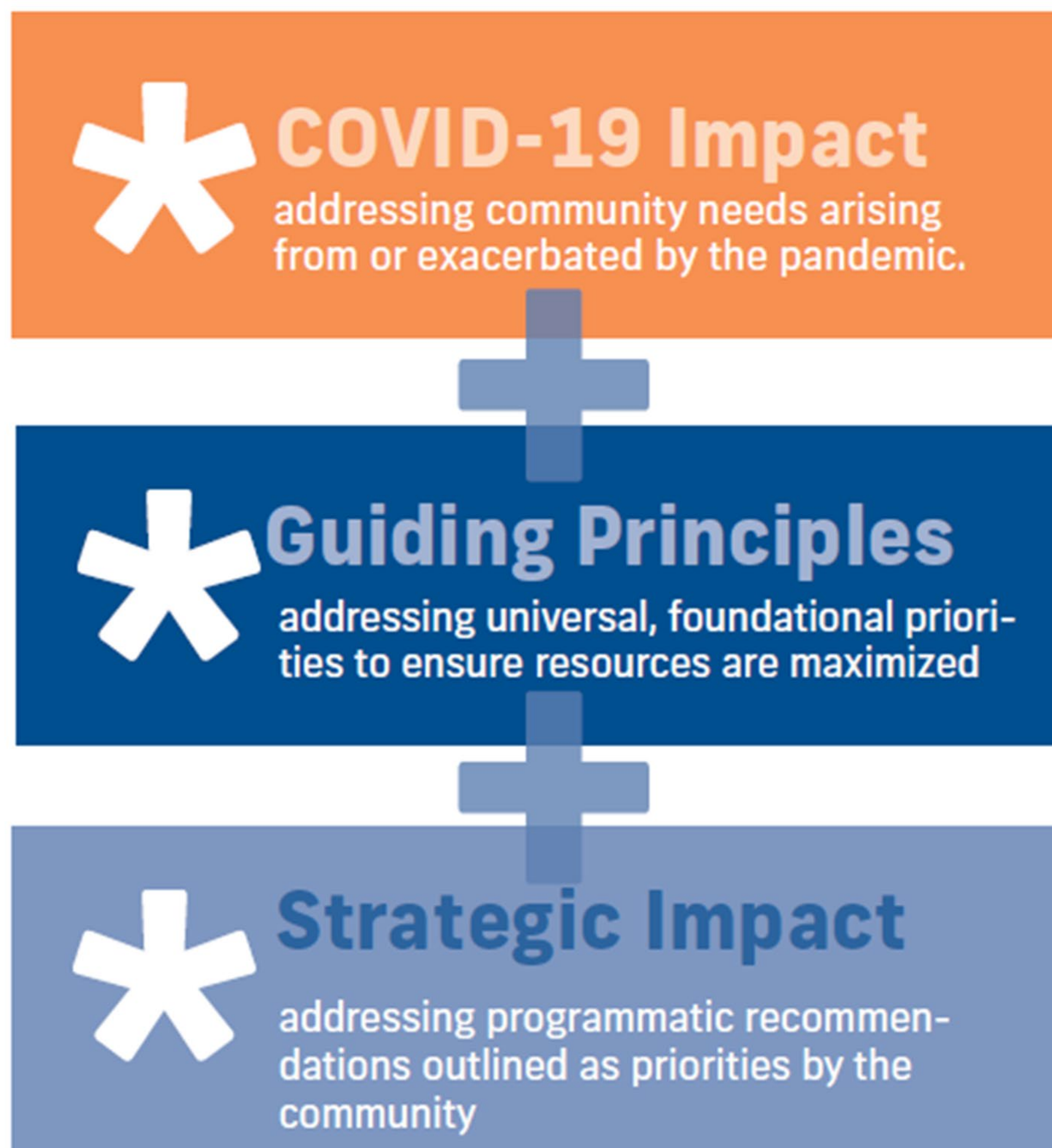
Effective and transparent two-way communications should be a hallmark of the City's ARP initiative.

Consideration and resources should be given to soliciting innovative proposals from diverse subrecipients, constant contact with the community regarding changing needs and priorities, and measuring outcomes so that successes can be celebrated and replicated and shortcomings can be addressed and re-tooled.

This effort should be supported by dedicated City staff whose role is focused on community outreach.



Overall Principles | Assessment Framework



SUBRECIPIENTS

Operational Requirement Recommendations

- Capacity Plan
- Track Record
- Feasibility Demonstration
- Compliance Plan



Confirmation of Outcomes |



In 10 years, we may look back at this time and ask: Which places merely spent their money, and which places invested it?"

*-The Brookings Institution,
March 23, 2021*



Confirmation of Outcomes | Where We Started

Obtain a shared understanding of how the American Rescue Plan can help the City of Albany

Identify the needs of the City of Albany residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations that cannot be covered by other funding sources

Equitably and strategically maximize resources available to our residents, businesses, and community organizations to restart Albany and build back better

Engage every sector of the City of Albany to ensure we get resources where they are needed to restart Albany, re-open businesses, prevent evictions, and strengthen our not-for-profit organizations



- Announced March 12, 2021
- Convened April 23, 2021
- Report draft to be complete July 31, 2021
- Report to be released August 2021

- Diverse, 41-member group of community leaders
- Affiliated with 108+ local organizations
- 12+ sectors represented
- 5 Working Groups aligned with ARP impact areas
- Appointed by Mayor Sheehan

- 17 Task Force and Working Group meetings
- 2 public surveys
- 1,000+ survey respondents
- 60+ direct meetings with community members/ community groups

- 5 impact-area needs assessments
- 66 top challenges/inequities
- 16 model programs
- 32 impact area strategic recommend's
- 245 programmatic recommend's
- 8 guiding principles
- 4 implementation principles
- Final report (forthcoming)





Next Steps | Schedule

SUGGESTED TIMELINE

TASK FORCE REPORT

results of needs assessments and priority recommendations released from 41-member Task Force



now

ARP FUNDS BUDGETED
program categories and funding amounts for 2022 identified in City Budget and discussed/approved by Common Council



by Q4 2021

ROUND 1 PROGRAMS FUNDED
agencies with 2022 budget allocations will release program guidelines and solicit proposals for funding, making awards to programs/projects addressing needs/priorities outlined in Report



by Q1 2022

ADDITIONAL FUNDING
ROUNDS COMPLETE
agencies release final programs and final solicitations for funding



by Q4 2023

ARP FUNDS SPENT DOWN
all ARP program funds must be spent down and all funded projects/programs must be complete or self-sustaining



by Q4 2024

MONITORING COMPLETE
final program report due to Federal government



by Q4 2026

PROGRESS REPORTS DUE

progress reports, including proof of payments made and results achieved due quarterly and annually to Federal government, and bi-annual progress reports due to the Task Force

TOUCHSTONES

City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force

ALBANY LEADS



MAYOR KATHY SHEEHAN

MICHAEL WHALEN, CO-CHAIR

JAHKEEN HOKE, CO-CHAIR

City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force

Meeting #5

July 22, 2021 | 2pm

Albany Capital Center/Zoom

Attendees:

* () designee attended

COVID Recovery Task Force Members			
Name	Present	Name	Present
Kaweeda Adams * (Ron Lesko)	X	Micky Jimenez	
Faye Andrews	X	Andrew Joyce * (Necole Chambers)	X
Dorcey Appllys * (Peatros Haile)	X	Anna Kuwabara	X
Kate Baker	X	Eileen Larrabee	X
Alfredo Balarin	X	Angelo Maddox	X
Carm Basile * (Allison Schreffler)	X	Daniel McCoy * (Daniel Lynch)	X
Bob Belber	X	Dennis McKenna * (John Regan)	X
Neenah Bland	X	Tracy Metzger	X
Tricia Brown		Matthew Peter	X
Jeff Buell	X	Dominick Purnomo	X
Michael Castellana		Roger Ramsammy	
Chiquita D'Arbeau	X	Sarah Reginelli	X
Mark Eagan		Jahmel Robinson	
Corey Ellis		Havidán Rodríguez *(Jordan Carleo-Evangelist)	X
Sonia Frederick	X	Darius Shahinfar	X
Anthony Gaddy	X	Kathy Sheehan	X
Peter Gannon		Noelene Smith	X
Tammis Groft		Georgette Steffens	X
Jahkeen Hoke	X	Raphael Tucker	X
Michael Whalen	X	Giovanni Otero	X
Kevin Hicks			

Other Attendees:

Ashley Mohl, Nora Culhane Friedel, Renee McFarlin, Michael Bohne, David Galin, Nick Thony

Meeting Content:

The Co-Chairs and the Mayor began the meeting at 2:05 p.m. Ashley Mohl (Director of Economic Development at Capitalize Albany Corporation, acting as Initiative Coordinator) then walked the Task Force through the prepared presentation, beginning with a review of the Public Survey #2 results and outcomes. Nearly 750 respondents to the second public survey, close to 300 more than the initial survey. With both surveys combined, the Task Force received more than 1,000 survey respondents. Racial and ethnic diversity stayed at levels consistent with the first survey and nearly 70% Albany residents participated. Respondents were asked to pick their top 10 programs/project areas in terms of urgency.

The final tally of the Top 10 most urgent program areas were:

- 1) Provide mental health support and address social-emotional impacts of the pandemic
- 2) Promote access to healthcare for traditionally underserved individuals
- 3) Increase access to and affordability of quality, holistic childcare options
- 4) Support universal access to healthy food and nutrition education
- 5) Improve public safety
- 6) Target public infrastructure improvements in distressed census tracts and disinvested neighborhoods
- 7) Invest in implementation of neighborhood revitalization strategies
- 8) Support quality, affordable and diverse housing opportunities
- 9) Expand access to affordable, high-speed broadband access throughout the City of Albany
- 10) Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce and emerging/expanding industries and job opportunities

The Co-Chairs then led the Task Force members through the proposed and constituent-informed Guiding Principles and Implementation Principles. The Mayor reviewed the proposed Assessment Framework and Task Force members were encouraged to express questions or concerns. Task Force members agreed that now and moving forward, flexibility, compliance, capacity, and engagement during the sub-recipient funding process is paramount. The Task Force members discussed the guidance provided by the Treasury and called for presenting a unified front as much as possible as the report is released.

The Task Force leadership reviewed the next steps, beginning with the Mayor reviewing the Report with the Budget Office and other city departments to determine how best to work these recommendations into the proposed 2022 Budget – and potentially propose amendments to the 2021 budget. The report will also be provided to the City of Albany Common Council to assist in their review of the proposed budget package. The Report will be made public, so that external agencies and service providers can begin considering how their operations can address these recommendations and start developing the collaborative projects and programs they intend to apply for subrecipient funding to create or enhance. It was stated that the City plans to begin building administrative and project management capacity, developing internal programs, and designing guidelines and competitive solicitations for subrecipient awards beginning in Quarter 1 of 2022, following budget approval.

The Co-Chairs shared that the Task Force leadership is pursuing a marketing campaign to accompany the report release.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m.

Administrative Matters:

- Meeting Materials/Resources will continue to be posted publicly to the City's webpage as they become available

Next Steps:

- Draft report completed by July 31, 2021
- Report released August 2021

Appendix : or in rous and Members



**CITY OF ALBANY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**
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WWW.ALBANYNY.GOV

KATHY SHEEHAN
MAYOR

City of Albany
COVID Recovery Task Force
Co-Chairs Mike Whalen & Jahkeen Hoke

WORKING GROUPS

Assessing whether a program or service ‘responds to’ the COVID-19 public health emergency requires the recipient to, first, identify a need or negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency and, second, identify how the program, service, or other intervention addresses the identified need or impact. While the COVID-19 public health emergency affected many aspects of American life, eligible uses under this category must be in response to the disease itself or the harmful consequences of the economic disruptions resulting from or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

– Dept. of Treasury Interim Final Rule

Identified Interim Final Rule Categories

1. Supporting the Public Health Response
 - a. Dan McCoy, Albany County Executive (Government, Health & Human Services)
 - b. Dennis McKenna, Albany Medical Center (Health & Human Services)
 - c. Dorsey Applyrs, Chief City Auditor (Health & Human Services, Government)
 - d. Micky Jimenez, Capital District Latinos (Health & Human Services)
2. Assistance to Workers and Families – Education/Workforce/Human Services
 - 1) Kaweeda Adams, Albany City Schools (Education)
 - 2) Tricia Brown, North Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters (Labor, Workforce Development)
 - 3) Roger Ramsammy, Hudson Valley Community College (Education, Workforce Development)
 - 4) Havidan Rodriguez, SUNY, University at Albany (Education, Workforce Development)
 - 5) Noelene Smith, Baby Institute (Childcare, Education)
 - 6) Raphael Tucker, City of Albany Youth and Workforce Services (Workforce Development, Government)
 - 7) Neenah Bland, Albany Community Action Partnership (Childcare, Education, Workforce Development)


- 8) Peter Gannon, United Way of the Greater Capital Region (Nonprofit, Health & Human Services, Workforce Development)
- 9) Giovanni Otero, Salvation Army (Nonprofit)
3. Assistance to Workers and Families – Housing/Transportation/Community Revitalization
 - 1) Faye Andrews, Albany Community Development Agency (Economic Development, Government)
 - 2) Jeff Buell, Redburn Development (Housing, Economic Development)
 - 3) Chiquita D'Arbeau, Albany Housing Authority (Housing)
 - 4) Matt Peter, Albany Parking Authority (Government, Tourism)
 - 5) Sarah Reginelli, Capitalize Albany Corporation (Economic Development, Nonprofit)
 - 6) Carm Basile, CDTA (Transportation)
 - 7) Michael Castellana, SEFCU, Capitalize Albany Corporation (Banking, Economic Development)
 - 8) Eileen Larrabee, Open Space Institute (Economic Development)
4. Small Business Support
 - 1) Kate Baker, Small Business Development Center (Restaurants & Small Businesses)
 - 2) Mark Eagan, CEG/Capital Region Chamber (Restaurants & Small Businesses)
 - 3) Anthony Gaddy, Upstate New York Black Chamber of Commerce, CAIDA (Restaurants & Small Businesses, Economic Development)
 - 4) Angelo Maddox, Fresh & Fly Clothing (Restaurants & Small Businesses)
 - 5) Tracy Metzger, TL Metzger & Associates & CAIDA (Restaurants & Small Businesses, Economic Development)
 - 6) Georgette Steffens, Downtown Albany BID (Restaurants & Small Businesses, Economic Development)
5. Tourism/travel/hospitality/arts Recovery
 - 1) Bob Belber, ASM Global/Times Union Center (Arts & Entertainment)
 - 2) Tammis Groft, Albany Institute of History & Art (Arts & Entertainment)
 - 3) Kevin Hicks, Albany County Airport Authority (Tourism, Transportation, Government)
 - 4) Anna Kuwabara, Albany Symphony (Arts & Entertainment)
 - 5) Dominick Purnomo, Yono's, Feed Albany, Palace Theatre (Arts & Entertainment, Restaurants & Small Business, Nonprofit)
 - 6) Matt Peter, Albany Parking Authority (Transportation)

At-Large Representatives

- Co-Chairs - Mike Whalen, M&T Bank (Banking), Jahkeen Hoke, Business for Good Foundation (Nonprofit)
- Elected Officials
- *All members are welcome to attend all working group meetings



1



Needs Assessment

Key Discussion Points | Working Groups May 24-25, 2021

- 1. What was going well in your sector pre-COVID-19? Conversely, what were the challenges?**
 - There was established strength in community pre-COVID-19; overall engagement was up;
 - Addressing health disparities was gaining momentum and took a step back post-COVID-19
 - Cultural/arts events (as a means to connect) were predominantly shut down post-COVID
 - family engagement (from an educational perspective) shifted to digital and in some ways was an added asset to curricula. Challenges in education included determining the best ways to infuse equity; How do we increase student involvement and access/enrollment in services? We must continue to meet nutrition requirements even in a remote environment
 - COVID forced a shift/challenge in forming and maintaining societal 'connections'. We need to reestablish and rebuild these connections.
- 2. What are the inequities in your sector?**
 - Labor shortage (especially in the skilled labor sectors); need for apprenticeship and mentoring programs
 - access to mental health services were curtailed by COVID especially in distressed neighborhoods;
 - Existing food insecurity was exacerbated;
 - assistance to those undocumented must continue and increase;
 - access to mental health services and nutrition must be prioritized for vulnerable populations

2

2



Needs Assessment

Key Discussion Points | Working Groups May 24-25, 2021

3. How has your sector changed because of COVID-19, and what is its current state?

- Enrollment in services has come down and is below normal/pre-COVID levels (stats from Neenah?)
- need to offer different services/options and novel ways to engage those who have lost connections with assistance
- need to reengage/connect with a blended in-person/remote approach
 - The need to 'go remote' did foster positive innovation - we need to continue to strengthen and improve access to technology and partnerships.
- How can we pool resources to achieve better efficiencies?

3

3



Needs Assessment

Key Discussion Points | Working Groups May 24-25, 2021

4. What support or opportunity is needed for inclusive and equitable recovery in your sector?

- Staff shortage - more training/development
 - Programs needed to attract and retain talent;
- An economic divide present and was widened by COVID (i.e. inequity in certain fields including compensation, training, advancement etc.);
- Ability to pay competitive salaries is key;
- Access to reliable childcare is vital to the workforce;
- More employee support is needed especially relating to emotional support, substance abuse counseling and professional training;
- It is vital to enable connection to resources;
- We need to create and/or increase positions to address trauma (via outreach)
- Support for an Apprenticeship Program to expand workforce and diversity in the Building Trades ** added 6/14 by member request

5. Are there any final thoughts for this session?

- What are the tangible financial actions needed?
- Workforce development/training programs;
- Professional development opportunities;
- Create new full-time positions/staff increases especially for social outreach;
- Funds to pay for employee licenses, training, fees, etc.


4

4

Housing/Transportation/Community Revitalization Working Group Notes



1



Needs Assessment

Key Discussion Points | Working Groups May 24-25, 2021

1. What was going well in your sector pre-COVID-19? Conversely, what were the challenges?
 - Transportation:
 - Parking Authority:
 - Parking garages were filled at 115-125% capacity based on sales
 - Steady increase in in daytime users
 - Increase in the amount of event revenue (Times Union Center, Albany Capital Center)
 - Focus centered around street scaping and walkability (connect garages with ongoing community development)
 - Partnered with CDTA to expand transportation options:
 - Trolleys, Bike share, lighting, murals & greenspace
 - Airport Authority:
 - Travel was going well
 - Housing:
 - Albany Housing Authority
 - Ramped up wrap around programming for residents
 - Training Programs
 - Summer Camps
 - Skills & drills
 - Food Programming
 - Land Conservation & Park Support:
 - Albany Housing Authority
 - Ramped up wrap around programming for residents
 - Training Programs
 - Summer Camps
 - Skills & drills
 - Food Programming

2

2



Needs Assessment

Key Discussion Points | Working Groups May 24-25, 2021

2. What are the inequities in your sector?

- Transportation:
 - Pedestrian access
 - Adequate lighting in urban neighborhoods
 - Access to greenspace
 - Rural areas are more difficult to service
- Real Estate Development:
 - Real Estate budgets have financial gap for rehabbing residential units in underserved communities

3

3



Needs Assessment

Key Discussion Points | Working Groups May 24-25, 2021

3. How has your sector changed because of COVID-19, and what is its current state?


- Transportation:
 - Parking Authority:
 - Monthly garage use fell by approximately 25%
 - Event revenue fell to 0%
 - \$2 million per year loss (gross)
 - Current hiring/wage freeze
 - Limited community projects due to budgetary constraints
 - Airport Authority:
 - Currently back at 60% of Pre-COVID levels
 - Expectation is that travel will not reach pre-COVID (2019) levels until 2022
 - Challenges moving forward: Testing, CDC guidelines
 - CDTA:
 - Ridership is down 60% (Approx. \$6 million)
 - Liquid deposits up by \$1b
 - Banking:
 - Interest rates are at historic lows
 - Liquid deposits up by \$1billion
 - Loan demand is low, compared to pre-pandemic levels
 - Non-branch staff will be out of office until at least end of summer
 - Onsite staff will be reduced permanently
 - Housing:
 - Over \$2 million in rent revenue lost
 - Installed 4 wifi hotspots throughout properties
 - In partnership w/ NYS, two sites for distanced learning were opened
 - Capital South Campus Center
 - Ezra Apprentice Homes

4

4



1



Needs Assessment

Key Discussion Points | Working Groups May 24-25, 2021

1. What was going well in your sector pre-COVID-19? Conversely, what were the challenges?

Challenges:

- Workforce development challenges exist in finding quality people that want to work in health care
 - Need for clinical nursing staff locally (and nationwide); entry-level employment and increased diversity; Need to provide staff training, specialists for mental health and health professionals that speak multiple languages
- Health disparity among communities of color and low-income communities that was exacerbated by COVID-19
- Decreased ability of grassroots organizations to be physically present in community during COVID; challenges exist to engaging with community virtually
- Need for additional mental health programs
- Need to eliminate disparities within the healthcare system and better understand root causes of systemic racism
- Need to increase trust with Department of Public Health to ensure better roll-out of testing, vaccines and health education
- Municipal funding challenge created by COVID-19 due to reduced tax collection
- Lack of engagement by people without resources, particularly for emotional and mental health services, food insecurity and clothing
- Pandemic shifted local focus and resources (example given was gun violence efforts pre-COVID)

Strengths:

- Introduction of new technology has allowed for new ways of delivering services efficiently and remotely, which has provided greater comfort from consumers and in some cases made it more accessible to the public
- Increased partnerships and collaboration among government and grassroots efforts to pool funding and resources, highlighted shift in focus from treatment to prevention
- Opportunity for non-traditional players to invest in public health and increased awareness of public health issues

2

2



Needs Assessment

Key Discussion Points | Working Groups May 24-25, 2021

2. What are the inequities in your sector?

- Covid-19 exacerbated economic inequalities (Commenter noted that City has unexpectedly strong collections; programs to assist those who had payment issues);
- Concept of access as an inequity was a major theme of the Working Group– transportation, wealth, broadband, resources
 - Access to affordable and reliable broadband for tele-health and tele-education
 - Access to pharmacies in communities of color
 - Food access and lack of transportation to get to food distribution
 - Lack of translated materials and translation services, particularly for Spanish speaking families that were seeking social services or needed insurance assistance
- Built environment was inequitable prior to COVID-19 and those inequities have been exacerbated by COVID-19. Examples given were parks/open spaces, quality housing and sidewalks
- Traditional safe havens such as churches were shut-down during COVID, creating inequities in traditional forms of social services
- Inequities became apparent in who was and was not permitted to work remotely. Point also made about changes in the work/life balance caused by COVID

3

3



Needs Assessment

Key Discussion Points | Working Groups May 24-25, 2021

3. How has your sector changed because of COVID-19, and what is its current state?

- Government was forced to pilot and introduce new technologies that resulted in enhanced efficiency for service delivery (both City and County)
 - Has enabled government to do a more comprehensive review of staffing and training needs
- Capital District Latinos was not able to have people in-person services; void created by pivoting to remote services due to broadband access
- Health care industry was able to show its flexibility to deliver care during pandemic and continue to reach populations that were not able to access healthcare
- From a racial disparity perspective, a disconnect to services was identified because of a lack of access to information and services; difficult to get resources to communities in need due to bureaucracy
- Increased general public interest in public health; increased investment
- Reactions to racial injustice during COVID showed a need for increased health services as well as a heightened sensitivity to racial justice

4

4



Needs Assessment

Key Discussion Points | Working Groups May 24-25, 2021

4. What support or opportunity is needed for inclusive and equitable recovery in your sector?


- Need identified for people in decision making roles to consider and understand the level of government distrust on the ground and difficulties faced in reaching communities about health issues
- Enhanced transportation to health facilities, increased dissemination of information about health and increased translation services for public health services
- Increased trust in health care is needed
- Example given: County partnered with Whitney Young to provide testing and vaccination services directly to underserved neighborhoods
- Need for new public/private partnerships to grow out workforce development in the healthcare sector. Point made that not all healthcare jobs are medical – needs run the gamut from doctors and nurses to IT people and administrative

5. Are there any final thoughts for this session?

- Questions were asked about next steps



1



Needs Assessment – Small Business

Key Discussion Points | Working Group May 25, 2021

1. What was going well in your sector pre-COVID-19? Conversely, what were the challenges?

What was going well:

- Continue conversions/rehab of older buildings
- Downtown events were previously moving forward
- Able to attract retail tenants pre-covid
- B2B was increasing
- Covid effectively placed a hold on momentum
- Shift in the concept of the "right way" to do business, establish location (co-working spaces, etc.)
- Challenge: Access to capital and qualified diverse talent
- Many new businesses were starting, including MWBE push by NYS → took a hit with NYS shutdown, esp. those that relied heavily on state contracts (projecting 2022)
- Challenge: restaurant workforce, pre-covid
- Businesses that were "missed," i.e. PPP (Schedule C/didn't show profit); EIDL (deadline for establishment);
- Restaurant program (\$ mostly available to minority groups)
- Access to opportunities for entrepreneurs (i.e. brick and mortar location; unable to go all-in financially)
- New NYS program req'd 2019 profit for eligibility
- Access to financial capital – future and existing entrepreneurs unprepared/unaware of what is required to access
- Financial industry accessibility – need to improve outreach/relationships
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion conversations were increasing pre-covid
- Previously organizing/mobilizing/engaging the black business community

Challenges:

- affordable solutions to est. in a community; socioeconomic market conditions in particular locations can be challenging/limiting; overall impedes progress of a strong black business community
- Immigrant owned businesses were left behind; less likely to apply for gov't programs (linguistic barriers, fear of gov't retaliation/deportation/inquiry)
- Broadened class/business divide (i.e. professional services; more successful businesses had access to services to succeed; others on the margins really did not)
- Technology/Broadband access – e-commerce transition (+ lack of website, etc.)
- Small business owners – administrative costs associated with success/access to programs (i.e. PPP) – owners were grappling with the day-to-day, much less program access/utilization
- language barrier*

2



Needs Assessment – Small Business

Key Discussion Points | Working Group May 25, 2021

2. What are the inequities in your sector?

- Have resources in the community, but not always accessible/marketed in a concerted effort
- More partnership to support/disseminate information about each other's organizations
- Understanding how each culture receives their information/community trust component for dissemination
- Small businesses don't have capacity to enhance/seek resources
- Support for establishment, but lack of support for long-term guidance/mentorship/cultivating professional relationships
- Working on your business vs. in your business (as above – capacity)
- "Backyard" of NYC – Albany disadvantaged/perception is that we are small/improve entirety of Albany equitably by fixing communities most in need first

3. How has your sector changed because of COVID-19, and what is its current state?

- More knowledge of the existing resources to help grow business in the small business community (both improving for opportunities moving forward)
- Businesses opening last (i.e. hotels, etc.) typically employ the underserved/disadvantaged population
- Office space market – was soft pre-covid, but now losing downtown presence for those that were here
- Economic impact of remote/hybrid work is significant on our small businesses, esp. mixed-use corridors

3

3



Needs Assessment

Key Discussion Points | Working Groups May 24-25, 2021

4. What support or opportunity is needed for inclusive and equitable recovery in your sector?

- Equitable neighborhood improvement (i.e. as above) as well as gateway improvements, esp. in the most challenged neighborhoods
- Streetscape improvements help drive small business growth
- How do we make it affordable for people to come back to the office/set up retail
- Establish a more formal economic development collaborative in Albany to strengthen partnership, educate each other about programs, and pursue common goal(s) (i.e. programming)
- Small Enterprise Economic Development (SBDC) – access to capital; lent out over \$2.1 m; tools/information to sustain and grow businesses → 40% participants are minorities; 50% are women
- Webinar delivery (SBDC)
- BID pre-covid was looking to create free retail space, provide mentorship; offer space to test whether brick and mortar was right for these businesses → program still ready to go
- SBDC – Inclusivity Project – black businesses and entrepreneurs/growth
- Commercial kitchen for food manufacturers (typically takes 2 to 3 years to grow from home to commercial production) → bring this opportunity to an urban environment
- Capitalize Albany programming – structures of the grant programs serve as foundation for additional programming
- Demonstrate to the City in real time – success stories, collaborations, take back our streets via economic activity
- Capital Region Chamber covid challenges surveys
- Bring back SEAP
- Training with ecommerce, marketing/tech

4

4



Needs Assessment


Key Discussion Points | Working Groups May 24-25, 2021

5. Are there any final thoughts for this session?

- What are the market gaps in Albany? i.e. media/games/entertainment → where do people spend their disposable income?
- How do you keep people after 5 PM?
- Commercial tenants still behind in rent – assessment challenges, etc.
- Biggest financial needs – flexible funding/proposal-based
 - Unrestricted capital to make decisions based on what is right for their business
 - Retail store example: pivoted to e-commerce, but doesn't have fulfillment center and need the space – most program funding can't be used for this type of thing, or marketing
 - i.e. like charitable giving being allocated towards specific programming, but no admin costs for delivery



1



Needs Assessment

Key Discussion Points | Working Groups May 24-25, 2021

1. What was going well in your sector pre-COVID-19? Conversely, what were the challenges?

- Hotel industry – 2019 was the largest year – since COVID the success has been almost cut in half
 - Lobbying efforts ongoing
 - Conferences and other travel events in Albany county aren't projected to recover until 2023
 - Public transportation has proven to be a challenge for the hotel industry
- APA had its best year prior to COVID – looked to increase **walkability** and connectivity of downtown (trolleys?) – "First Night" resurgence opportunity?
 - APA saw a decline of 60% in meter revenue
 - Event revenue essentially went to zero
 - Wayfinding is still a priority but has had a setback!
 - Focus on keeping folks in the city instead of sending them out
- Performing arts, revenue down 25% - work for these folks has dried up
- Pre COVID there was a good sense of growth – examined social equity options within sector – reforming identity – looking at what can the organization can provide to the community
- Albany Institute 2019 was their best year
 - huge success with Schuyler Sisters exhibition – partnership and collaboration helped make this successful all around
 - currently open 40%-50%
- Uncertainty of payroll, revenue
- Community pride is an important aspect of recovery – advertise opportunities for workforce development/events/ programs for all
- TU center offered using video boards out front to highlight city events or orgs (provide exposure)
- Uncertainty on when and how they can plan events of every size – marketing and connecting dots within the city between all industries
- Palace Theater was previously working on a security training program prior to the pandemic

2



Needs Assessment

Key Discussion Points | Working Groups May 24-25, 2021

2. What are the inequities in your sector?

- The inherent nature of parking can help fuel inequity
 - lighting of parking locations downtown prove we cater to visitors more than residents
 - safety issues
 - walkable neighborhoods will help promote with interconnected neighborhood
- Museums/cultural attractions
 - being on a bus line is important
 - encourage folks to use public transportation
 - admission charges (try to offer free activities as often as possible ex: 500-800 people) reduced admission
 - need to reach youth, students
- Political leaders are still hesitant to use large arenas which fuels uncertainty from public

3

3



Needs Assessment

Key Discussion Points | Working Groups May 24-25, 2021

3. How has your sector changed because of COVID-19, and what is its current state?

- Highlighted the need for more systemic social justice issues addressed within organizations
- Going digital – livestreaming events
 - it is costly but worth investing in to be competitive as possible
 - Moving materials online, lectures, pieces, potentially earn more on virtual events with suggested donations
 - deliver to a greater audience
- Upheaval of operating procedures
- There is a mix of WFH model/co-working space utilization
- Per Albany parking authority: have had to examine hybrid (rates can be monthly/weekly/daily/integrate with ticket sales)
 - how they can assist other entities and reinvest \$ in the community with their “ecosystem viewpoint”

4

4



Needs Assessment

Key Discussion Points | Working Groups May 24-25, 2021

4. What support or opportunity is needed for inclusive and equitable recovery in your sector?

- increased connectivity between the arts and schools/youth services – can orgs provide staff support to schools? Resources to advocate for arts in schools
 - Busing/tutoring /mental health support
- Get back to normalcy and recover from utilizing safety net, can we survive another dip? Need events coming back – sponsoring options
- Palace marquee is not working (highlights infrastructure needs)
- Marketing
 - Highlight important and attractive points about our city in a uniform way
 - Central portal to highlight all resources and orgs in the city – bring the market together – “who we are” - updated lists on openings/closures

5

5



Needs Assessment

Key Discussion Points | Working Groups May 24-25, 2021

5. Are there any final thoughts for this session?

- Albany Parking Authority and the convention center offered to assist with researching existing successful projects and programs
- Hotels are all exceptionally challenged
 - one in downtown has not fully opened yet
 - they have been left out of federal \$
 - challenging their property assessments
- Impacts of lost convention(s) \$ are lasting

6

6

Working Group Sessions Round 2 - Recommendations						
Supporting the Public Health Response						
Top 3	Programming Impact Area <i>Programs and projects that...</i>	Urgency	Assistance Level			
*	Promote access to healthcare for traditionally underserved individuals	1				
*	Support mental and emotional health	1				
*	Retain, develop, and attract a qualified and diverse workforce	2				
	Support universal access to healthy food and nutrition education	2				
	Improve access to healthcare for people experiencing homelessness <i>(Consensus achieved to add into the first Impact Area above)</i>	3				
	Mitigate public health risk for essential workers	3				

Working Group Sessions Round 2 - Recommendations

Assistance to Workers and Families – Education/Workforce/Human Services

Top 3	Programming Impact Area <i>Programs and projects that...</i>	Urgency	Assistance Level
*	Expand access to affordable, high-speed broadband throughout the City of Albany	1	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Increase awareness of, support navigation of and improve access to available services and financial resources		<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Provide mental health support and address social-emotional impacts of the pandemic		<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
*	Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce and emerging/expanding industries and job opportunities		<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
*	Create efficiency for or sustainability of existing programs producing impactful results	1	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Increase access to and affordability of quality, holistic childcare options		<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

Working Group Sessions Round 2 - Recommendations						
Assistance to Workers and Families – Housing/Transportation/Community Revitalization						
Top 3	Programming Impact Area <i>Programs and projects that...</i>	Urgency	Assistance Level			
	Invest in implementation of neighborhood revitalization strategies	2				
*	Target public infrastructure improvements in distressed census tracts and disinvested neighborhoods	1				
	Encourage use of and spending at local businesses	1				
	Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce	3				
	Increase awareness of, support navigation of and improve access to available services and financial resources	2				
	Improve public safety	1				
	Support quality and affordable housing opportunities <i>(Highlighted text was recommended by Working Group)</i>	1				
*	Support local real estate development investments that advance community revitalization goals	2				
*	Enhance alternative transportation use and increase accessibility and equity in transportation options <i>(Highlighted text was recommended by Working Group)</i>	1				

Working Group Sessions Round 2 - Recommendations			
Small Business Support			
Top 3	Programming Impact Area <i>Programs and projects that...</i>	Urgency	Assistance Level
	Provide technical and access to information for small businesses and entrepreneurs <i>(Consensus achieved to combine this with the 2nd Impact Area below)</i>	1	N/A – combined with next Impact Area
*	Provide flexible financial assistance for a diverse array of small business needs	1	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Support entrepreneurship opportunities and start-up businesses, particularly for individuals unemployed due to the pandemic	2	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Focus on financial support for businesses with ongoing reopening restrictions challenges <i>(Highlighted text was recommended by Working Group)</i>	3	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce	1	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Stabilize inventory costs resulting from supply chain disruption/market gaps	2	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Encourage use of and spending at local businesses	3	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
*	Develop supportive and flexible legislation, regulations and code	2	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
*	Improve the quality of place in Albany’s commercial districts, including gateways and all connecting streets <i>(Highlighted text was recommended by Working Group)</i>	1	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Expand access to commercial kitchen space for entrepreneurs or expanding businesses <i>(Consensus achieved to add this into the 2nd Impact Area above)</i>	1	N/A – combined with second Impact Area

Working Group Sessions Round 2 - Recommendations

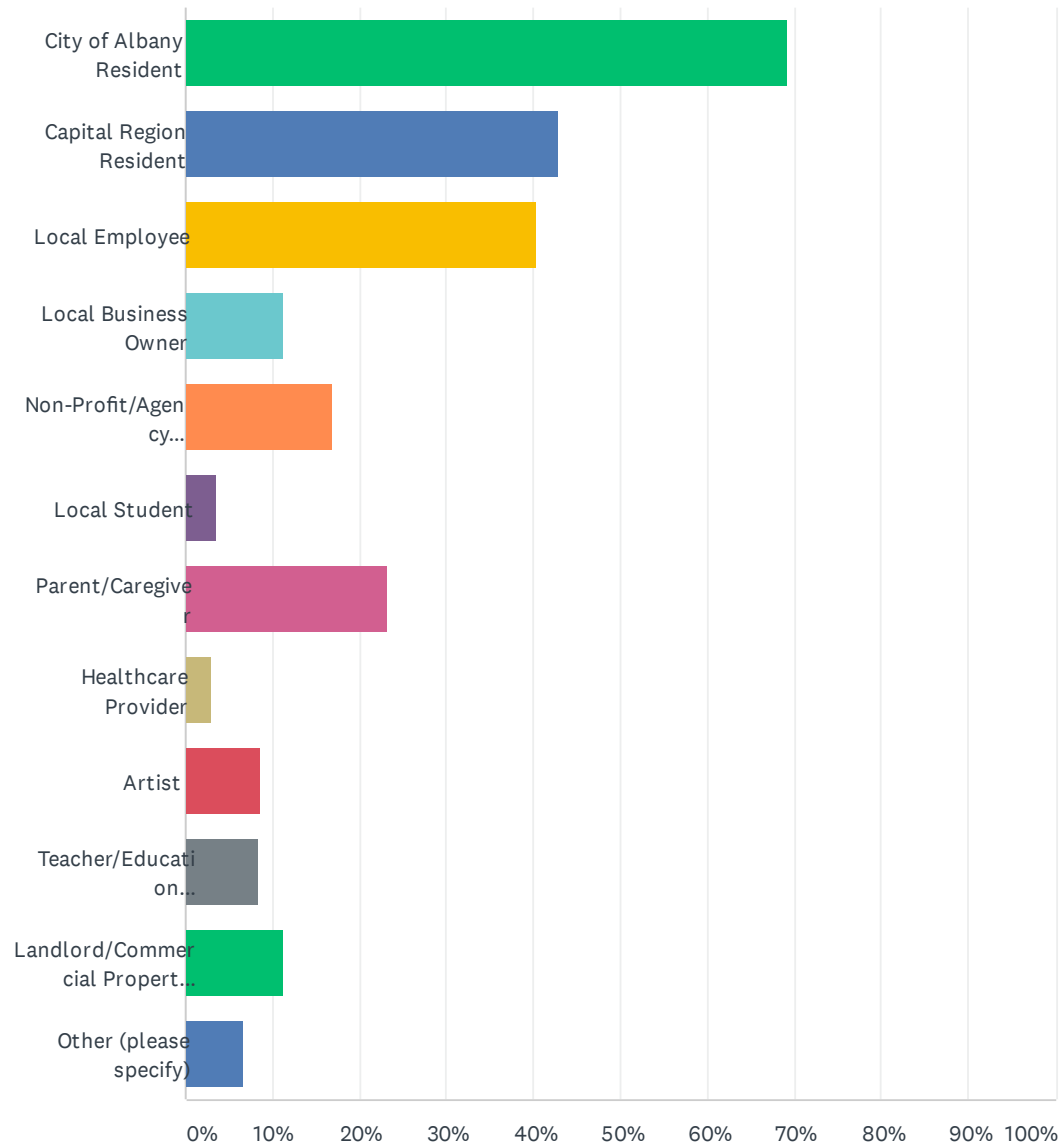
Tourism/Travel/Hospitality/Arts Recovery

Top 3	Programming Impact Area <i>Programs and projects that...</i>	Urgency	Assistance Level
*	Provide flexible financial assistance and technical support for hospitality, arts & cultural entities <i>(Highlighted text was recommended by Working Group)</i>	1	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
*	Increase awareness of and equitable access to existing arts and cultural venues for residents of all ages	2	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Focus on marketing and financial support for businesses and organizations with ongoing reopening restrictions challenges <i>(Highlighted revisions to text were recommended by Working Group)</i>	2	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
*	Promote public safety and Enhance the connectivity and navigability from destination-to-destination and promote public safety <i>(Highlighted revisions to text were recommended by Working Group)</i>	1	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

Appendix : Public Survey # eeds Assessment - Results

Q1 Which of the following describes you? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 444 Skipped: 1



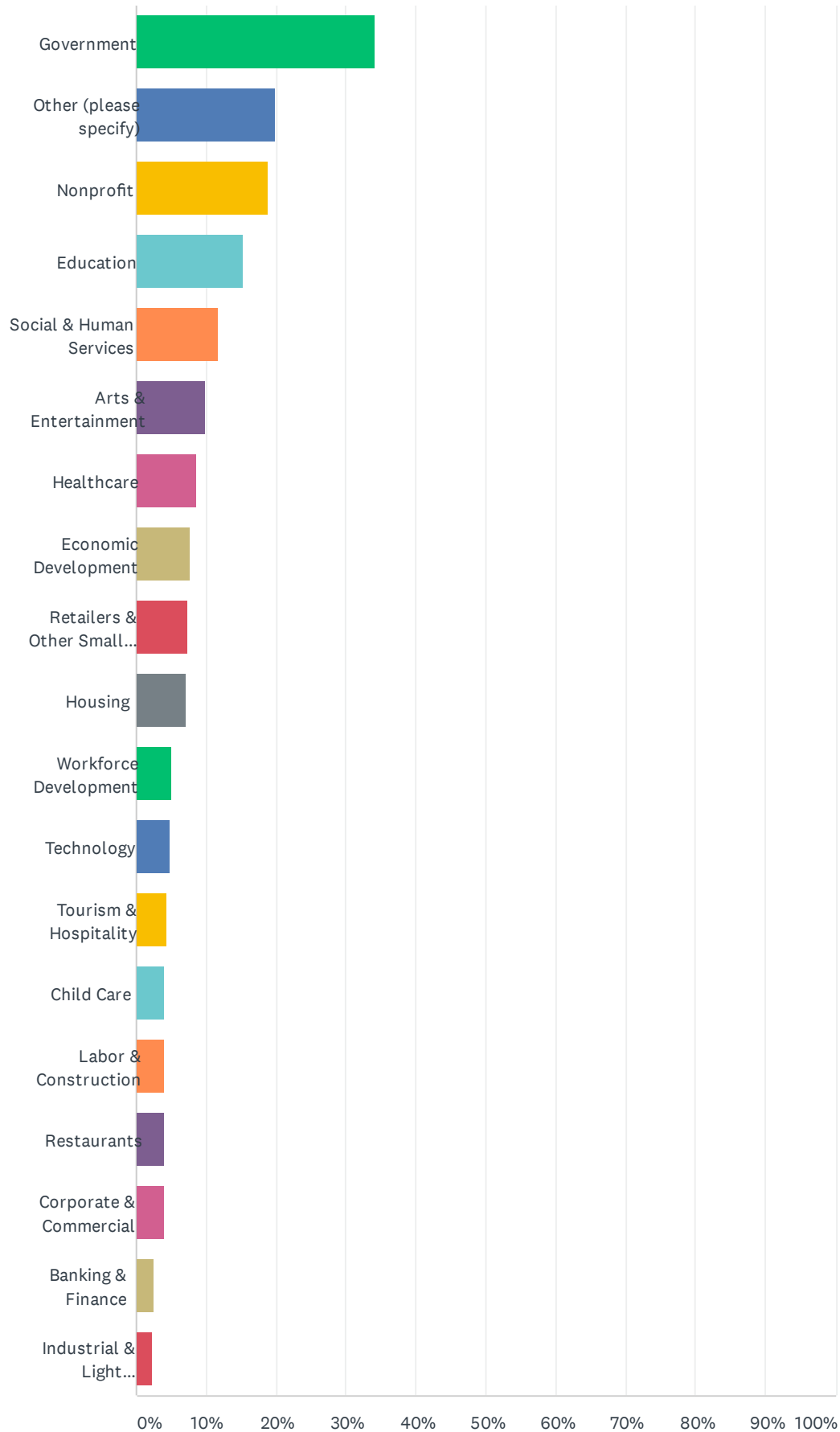
City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
City of Albany Resident	69.14%	307
Capital Region Resident	42.79%	190
Local Employee	40.32%	179
Local Business Owner	11.26%	50
Non-Profit/Agency Representative	16.89%	75
Local Student	3.60%	16
Parent/Caregiver	23.20%	103
Healthcare Provider	2.93%	13
Artist	8.56%	38
Teacher/Education Administrator	8.33%	37
Landlord/Commercial Property Owner	11.26%	50
Other (please specify)	6.76%	30
Total Respondents: 444		

Q2 Which sector do you work in or represent? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 439 Skipped: 6

City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #1

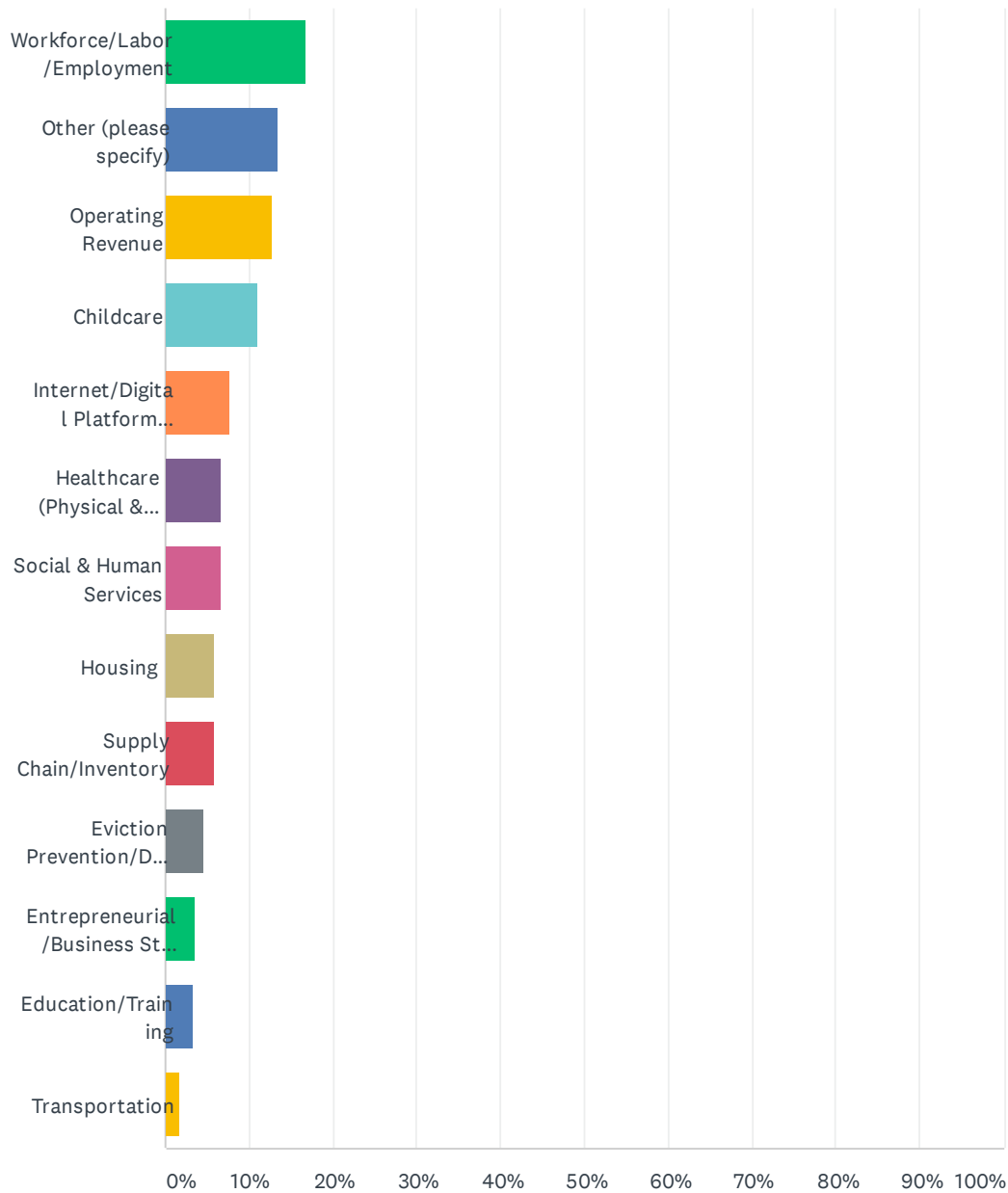


City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Government	34.17%	150
Other (please specify)	19.82%	87
Nonprofit	18.91%	83
Education	15.26%	67
Social & Human Services	11.62%	51
Arts & Entertainment	9.79%	43
Healthcare	8.66%	38
Economic Development	7.74%	34
Retailers & Other Small Businesses	7.29%	32
Housing	7.06%	31
Workforce Development	5.01%	22
Technology	4.78%	21
Tourism & Hospitality	4.33%	19
Child Care	3.87%	17
Labor & Construction	3.87%	17
Restaurants	3.87%	17
Corporate & Commercial	3.87%	17
Banking & Finance	2.51%	11
Industrial & Light Manufacturing	2.28%	10
Total Respondents: 439		

Q3 What is the largest unmet need created by the pandemic for you or your business/organization? (Select one)

Answered: 429 Skipped: 16



City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #1

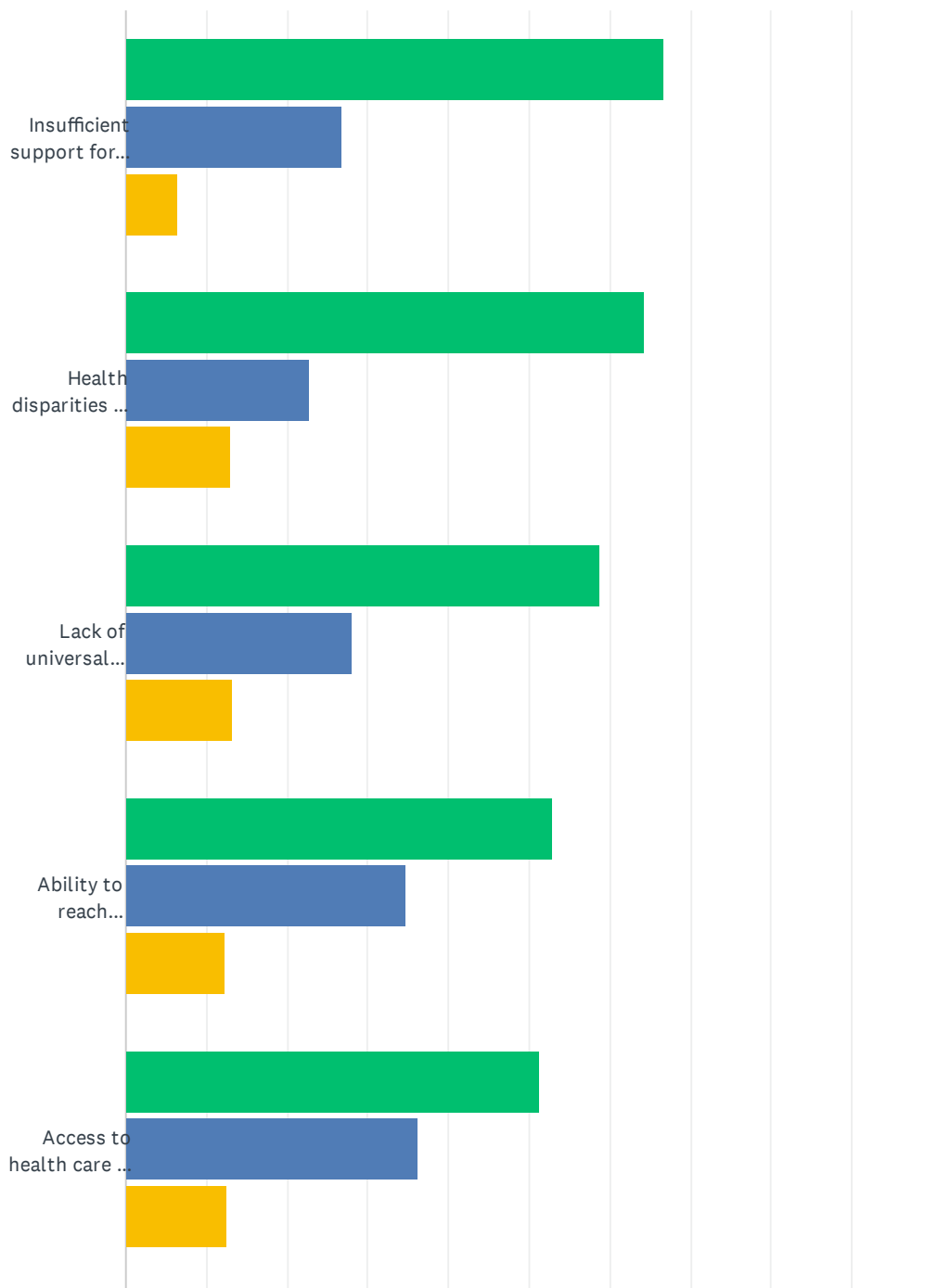
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Workforce/Labor/Employment	16.78%	72
Other (please specify)	13.29%	57
Operating Revenue	12.82%	55
Childcare	11.19%	48
Internet/Digital Platform Access	7.69%	33
Healthcare (Physical & Mental)	6.76%	29
Social & Human Services	6.76%	29
Housing	5.83%	25
Supply Chain/Inventory	5.83%	25
Eviction Prevention/Delinquency Assistance	4.66%	20
Entrepreneurial/Business Start Up Support	3.50%	15
Education/Training	3.26%	14
Transportation	1.63%	7
TOTAL		429

Q4 How would you describe the impacts of COVID-19 on you or your business/organization? Please describe the largest unmet need selected above including ongoing specific financial needs. Please identify the impacts below – use specific numbers, needs or examples where possible (250 word max).

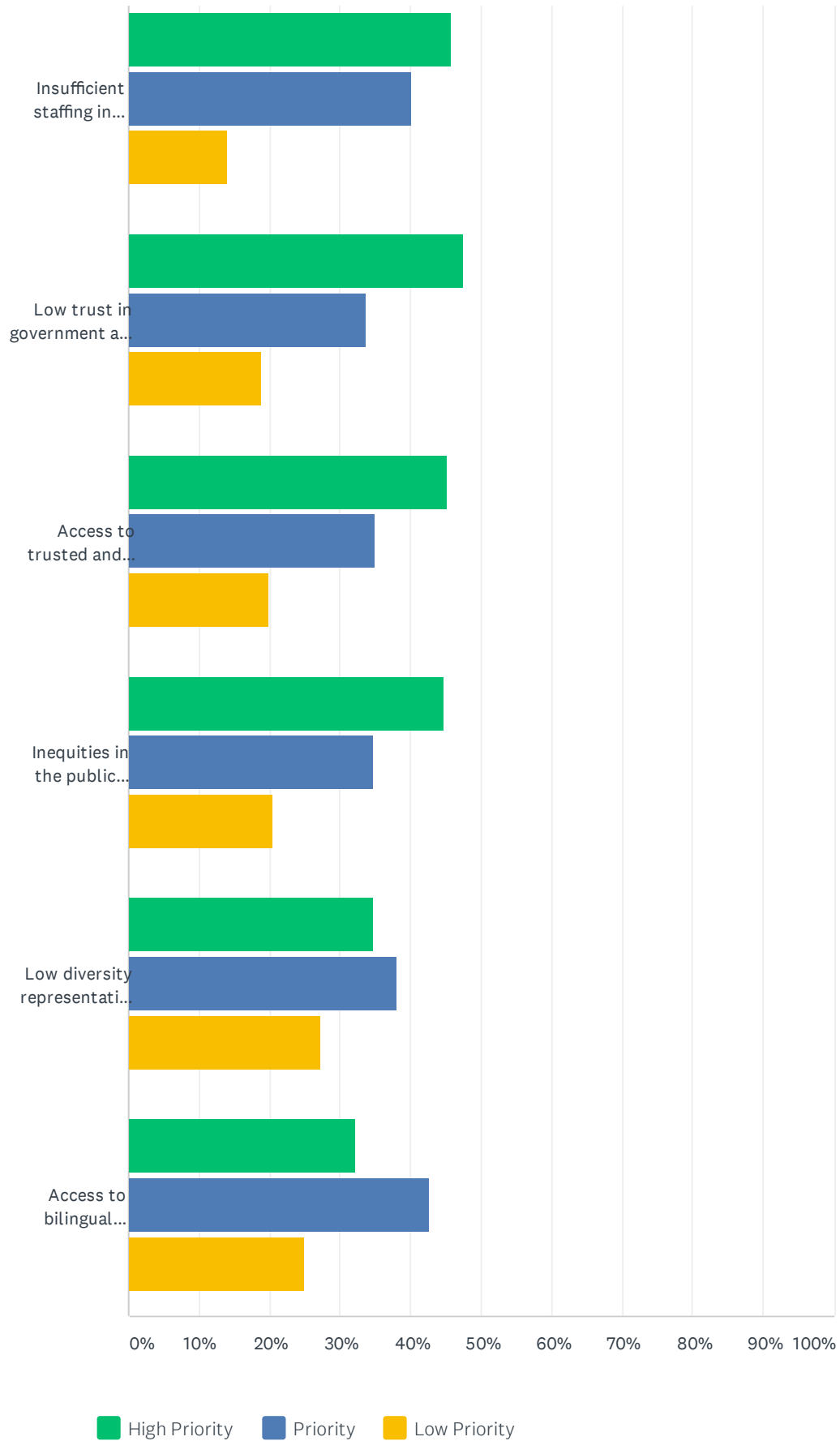
Answered: 298 Skipped: 147

Q5 The American Rescue Plan allows for funding to address the following COVID-19 recovery needs: Supporting the Public Health Response Assistance to Workers and Families – Education/Workforce/Human Services Assistance to Workers and Families – Housing/Transportation/Community Revitalization Small Business Support Tourism/Travel/Hospitality/Arts Recovery Please rank the following “Supporting the Public Health Response” needs:

Answered: 438 Skipped: 7



City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #1



City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #1

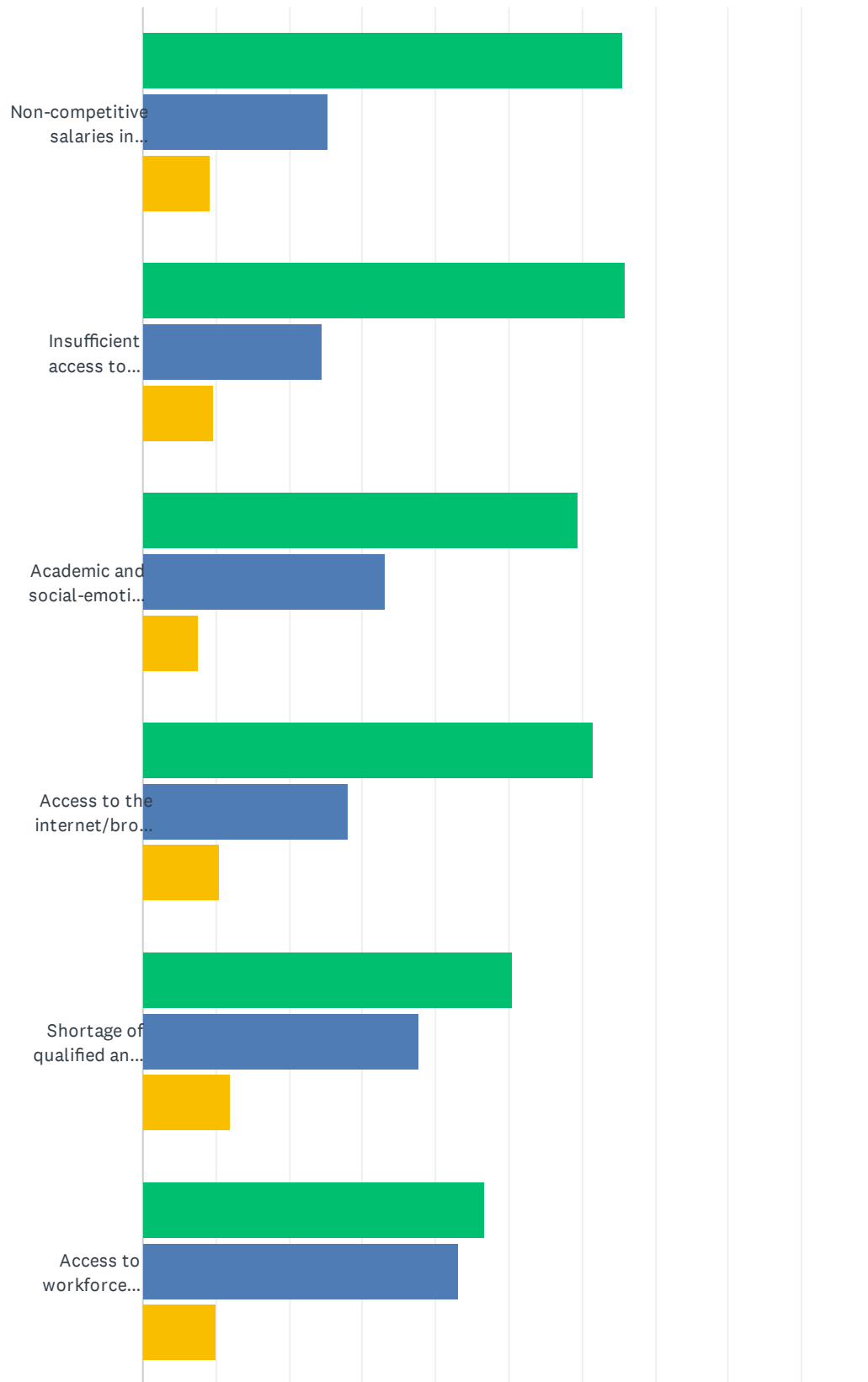
	HIGH PRIORITY	PRIORITY	LOW PRIORITY	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Insufficient support for mental health issues	66.82% 290	26.73% 116	6.45% 28	434	8.08
Health disparities in communities of color and low-income communities	64.22% 280	22.71% 99	13.07% 57	436	7.69
Lack of universal access to healthy food	58.80% 254	28.01% 121	13.19% 57	432	7.41
Ability to reach traditionally underserved individuals	52.90% 228	34.80% 150	12.30% 53	431	7.15
Access to health care for people experiencing homelessness	51.16% 220	36.28% 156	12.56% 54	430	7.06
Insufficient staffing in healthcare workforce, particularly in clinical nursing and entry-level employment	45.79% 196	40.19% 172	14.02% 60	428	6.73
Low trust in government and institutions creating difficulties reaching minority communities about health issues	47.56% 205	33.64% 145	18.79% 81	431	6.63
Access to trusted and culturally-sensitive community health advocates and coordinators	45.20% 193	34.89% 149	19.91% 85	427	6.46
Inequities in the public health risk between essential and remote workers	44.71% 190	34.82% 148	20.47% 87	425	6.42
Low diversity representation across all levels in health care professions	34.65% 149	38.14% 164	27.21% 117	430	5.64
Access to bilingual medical and mental health specialists and staff	32.24% 138	42.76% 183	25.00% 107	428	5.61

Q6 What additional challenges and inequities exist within “Supporting the Public Health Response” sectors? Please identify additional challenges below and their priority level (250 word max).

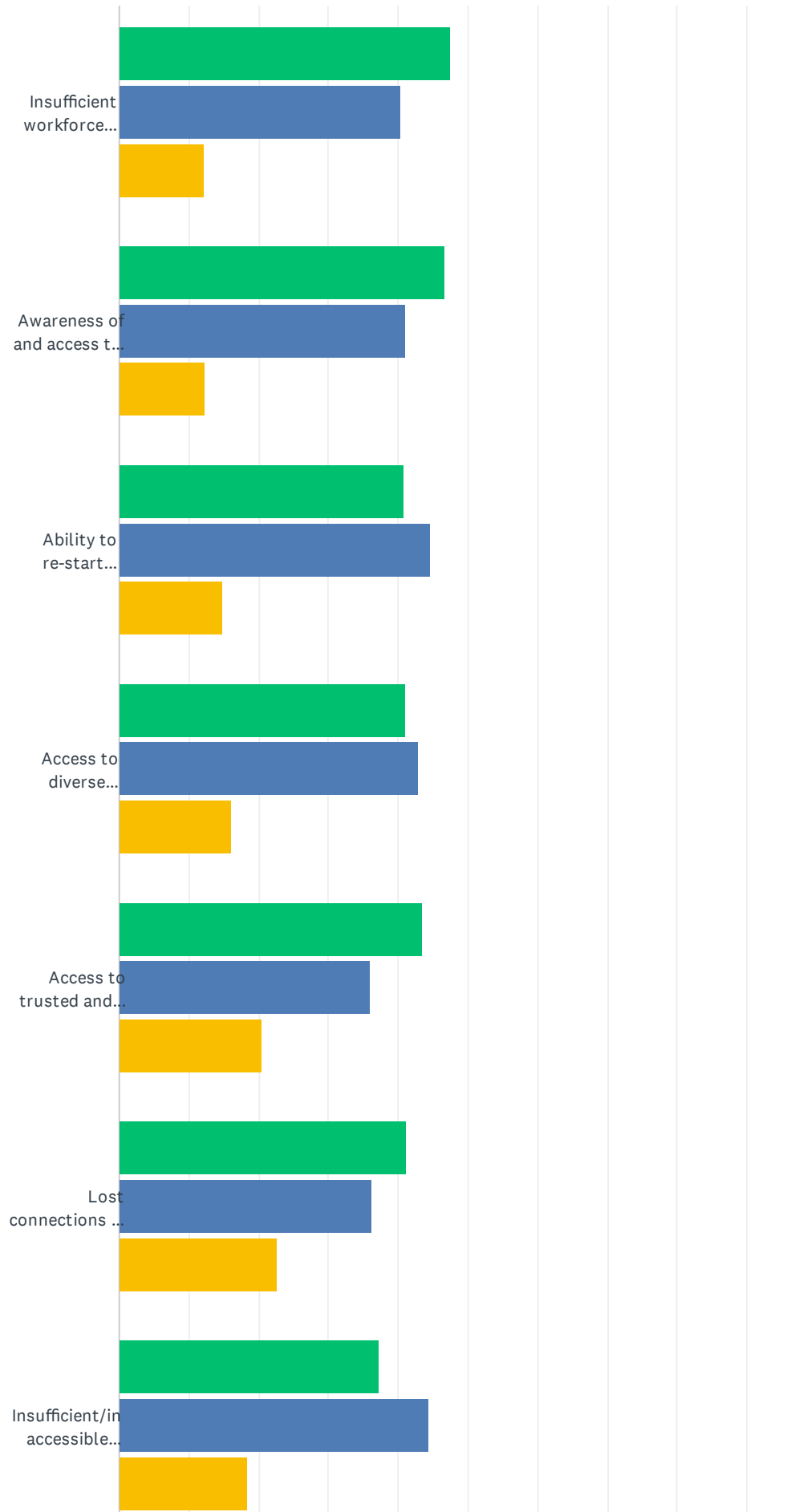
Answered: 143 Skipped: 302

Q7 Please rank the following “Assistance to Workers and Families – Education/ Workforce/ Human Services” needs:

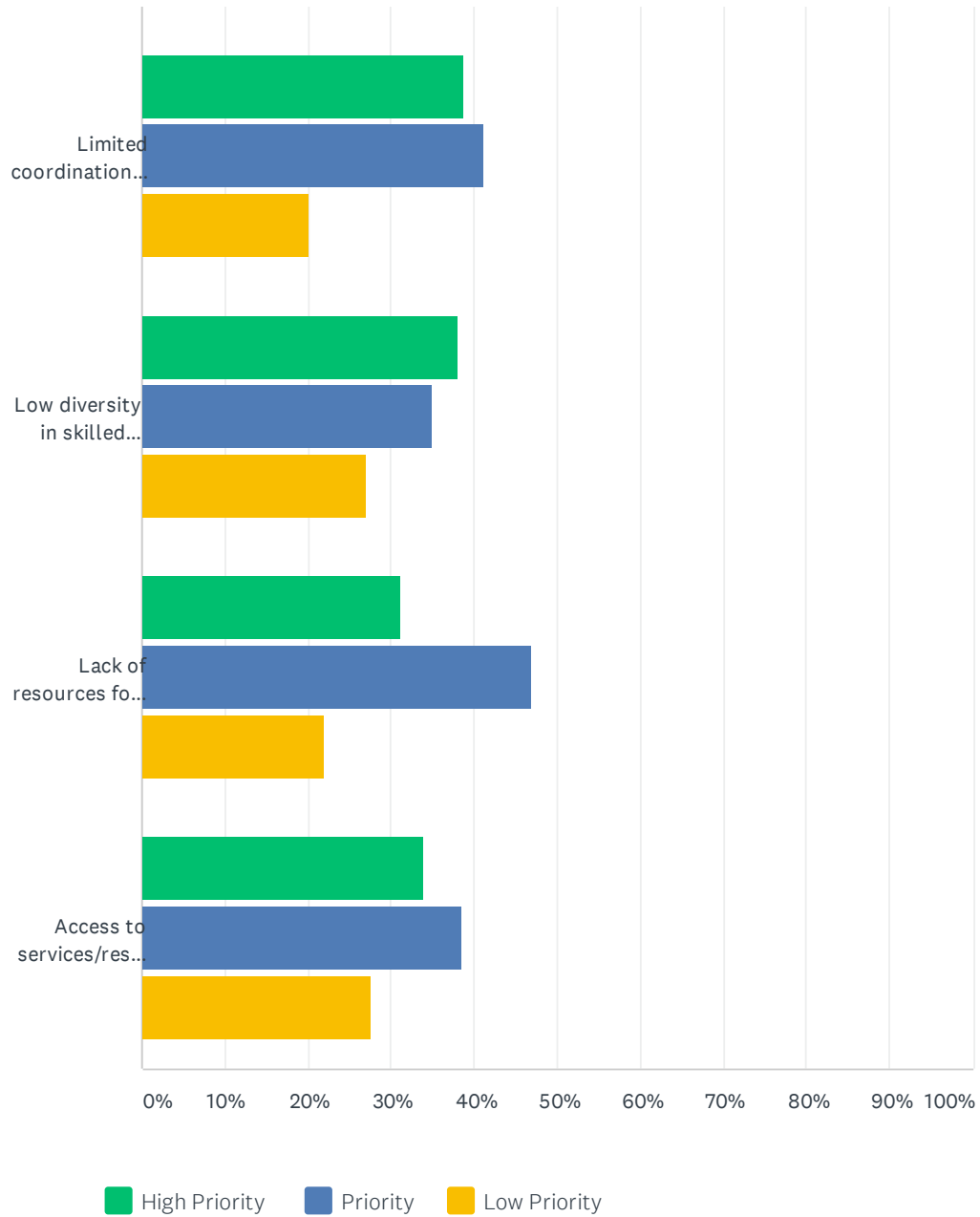
Answered: 431 Skipped: 14



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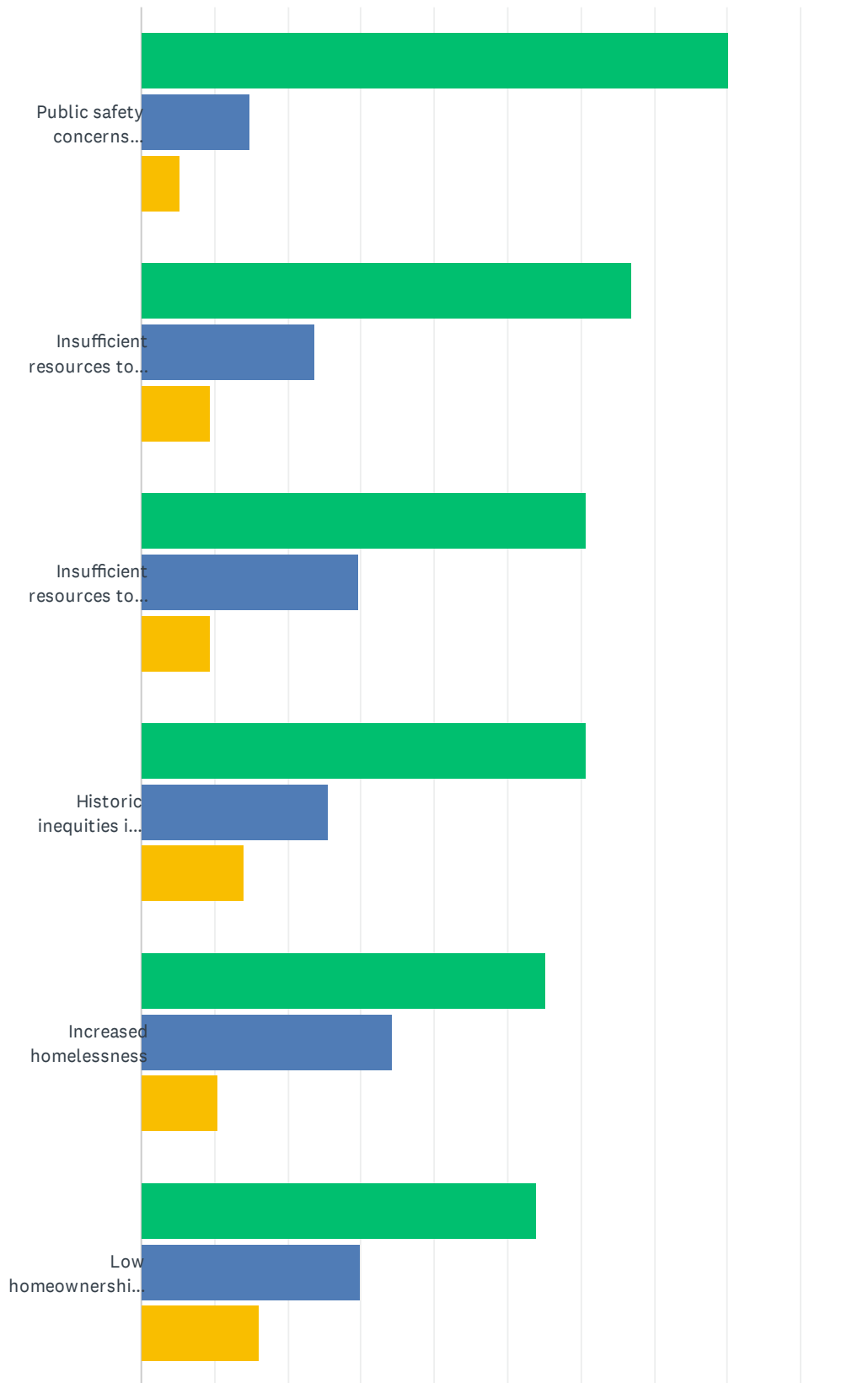
	HIGH PRIORITY	PRIORITY	LOW PRIORITY	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Non-competitive salaries in fields critically in need of staffing, such as childcare and education	65.57% 278	25.24% 107	9.20% 39	424	7.91
Insufficient access to affordable, enriching childcare options to allow individuals to return to the workforce	65.88% 278	24.41% 103	9.72% 41	422	7.91
Academic and social-emotional impacts on children	59.34% 251	33.10% 140	7.57% 32	423	7.66
Access to the internet/broadband (hardware and service)	61.50% 262	27.93% 119	10.56% 45	426	7.65
Shortage of qualified and available workforce to meet employment demand across multiple sectors	50.35% 214	37.65% 160	12.00% 51	425	7.04
Access to workforce development and training programs to facilitate career advancement or career transitions	46.70% 198	43.16% 183	10.14% 43	424	6.93
Insufficient workforce development resources for individuals aged 25+	47.52% 201	40.43% 171	12.06% 51	423	6.89
Awareness of and access to available services for newly unemployed or low-income individuals	46.67% 196	40.95% 172	12.38% 52	420	6.84
Ability to re-start successful pre-pandemic initiatives	40.71% 171	44.52% 187	14.76% 62	420	6.45
Access to diverse employment opportunities/industries	41.01% 171	42.93% 179	16.07% 67	417	6.41
Access to trusted and culturally-sensitive education, workforce and community service advocates and coordinators	43.50% 184	35.93% 152	20.57% 87	423	6.35
Lost connections and confidence between service providers and historically underserved populations	41.23% 174	36.26% 153	22.51% 95	422	6.16
Insufficient/inaccessible Human Services support to address traumatic impacts of 2020	37.17% 155	44.36% 185	18.47% 77	417	6.12
Limited coordination among service providers to address impacts at scale	38.61% 161	41.25% 172	20.14% 84	417	6.12
Low diversity in skilled construction trades professions	38.15% 161	34.83% 147	27.01% 114	422	5.83
Lack of resources for operational activities for service providers	31.18% 130	46.76% 195	22.06% 92	417	5.68
Access to services/resources for undocumented community members	33.81% 142	38.57% 162	27.62% 116	420	5.59

**Q8 What additional challenges and inequities exist within “Assistance to Workers and Families – Education/ Workforce/ Human Services” sectors?
Please identify additional challenges below and their priority level (250 word max).**

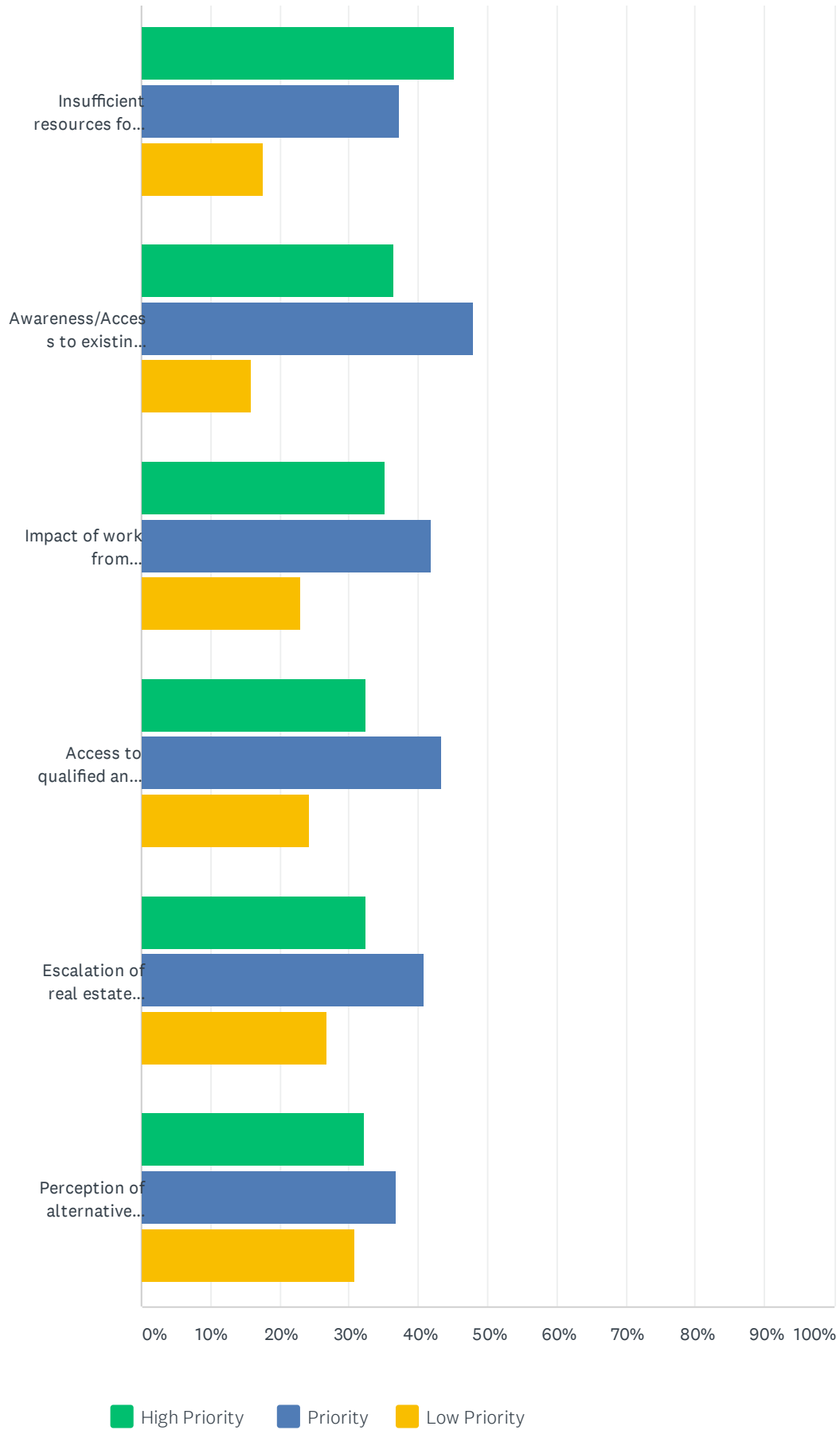
Answered: 109 Skipped: 336

Q9 Please rank the following “Assistance to Workers and Families – Housing/ Transportation/ Community Revitalization” needs:

Answered: 433 Skipped: 12



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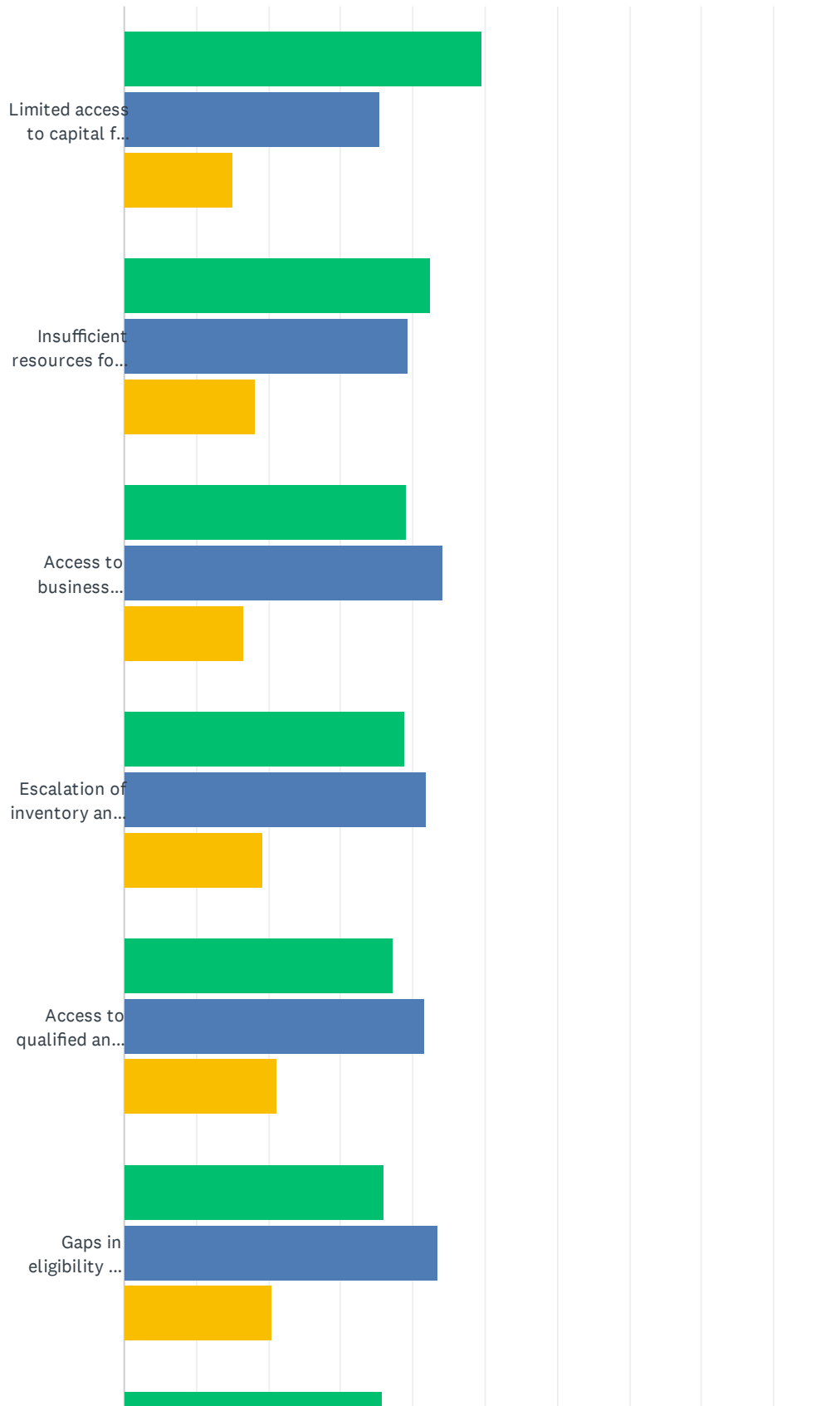
	HIGH PRIORITY	PRIORITY	LOW PRIORITY	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Public safety concerns including an escalation of gun violence, pandemic-related restrictions on community policing and anti-recidivism initiatives	80.09% 342	14.75% 63	5.15% 22	427	8.80
Insufficient resources to address blighted properties and inequities in neighborhood investment	66.90% 283	23.64% 100	9.46% 40	423	7.97
Insufficient resources to address community revitalization, programming, and public infrastructure needs	60.76% 257	29.79% 126	9.46% 40	423	7.66
Historic inequities in the built environment, including housing, parks/open spaces, sidewalks, and amenities	60.61% 257	25.47% 108	13.92% 59	424	7.47
Increased homelessness	55.26% 231	34.21% 143	10.53% 44	418	7.34
Low homeownership rate, particularly among minorities	54.03% 228	29.86% 126	16.11% 68	422	7.06
Insufficient resources for payment of unpaid rent and other financial obligations	45.19% 188	37.26% 155	17.55% 73	416	6.56
Awareness/Access to existing resources for support and funding	36.30% 151	47.84% 199	15.87% 66	416	6.18
Impact of work from home/hybrid schedules on the City's restaurants and retailers	35.10% 146	41.83% 174	23.08% 96	416	5.83
Access to qualified and diverse talent	32.45% 135	43.27% 180	24.28% 101	416	5.65
Escalation of real estate development risk due to rising construction and labor costs, combined with an uncertain market	32.53% 135	40.72% 169	26.75% 111	415	5.56
Perception of alternative mobility options like public transit and bike-share	32.29% 134	36.87% 153	30.84% 128	415	5.38

Q10 What additional challenges and inequities exist within the “Assistance to Workers and Families – Housing/Transportation/Community Revitalization” sectors? Please identify additional challenges below and their priority level (250 word max)

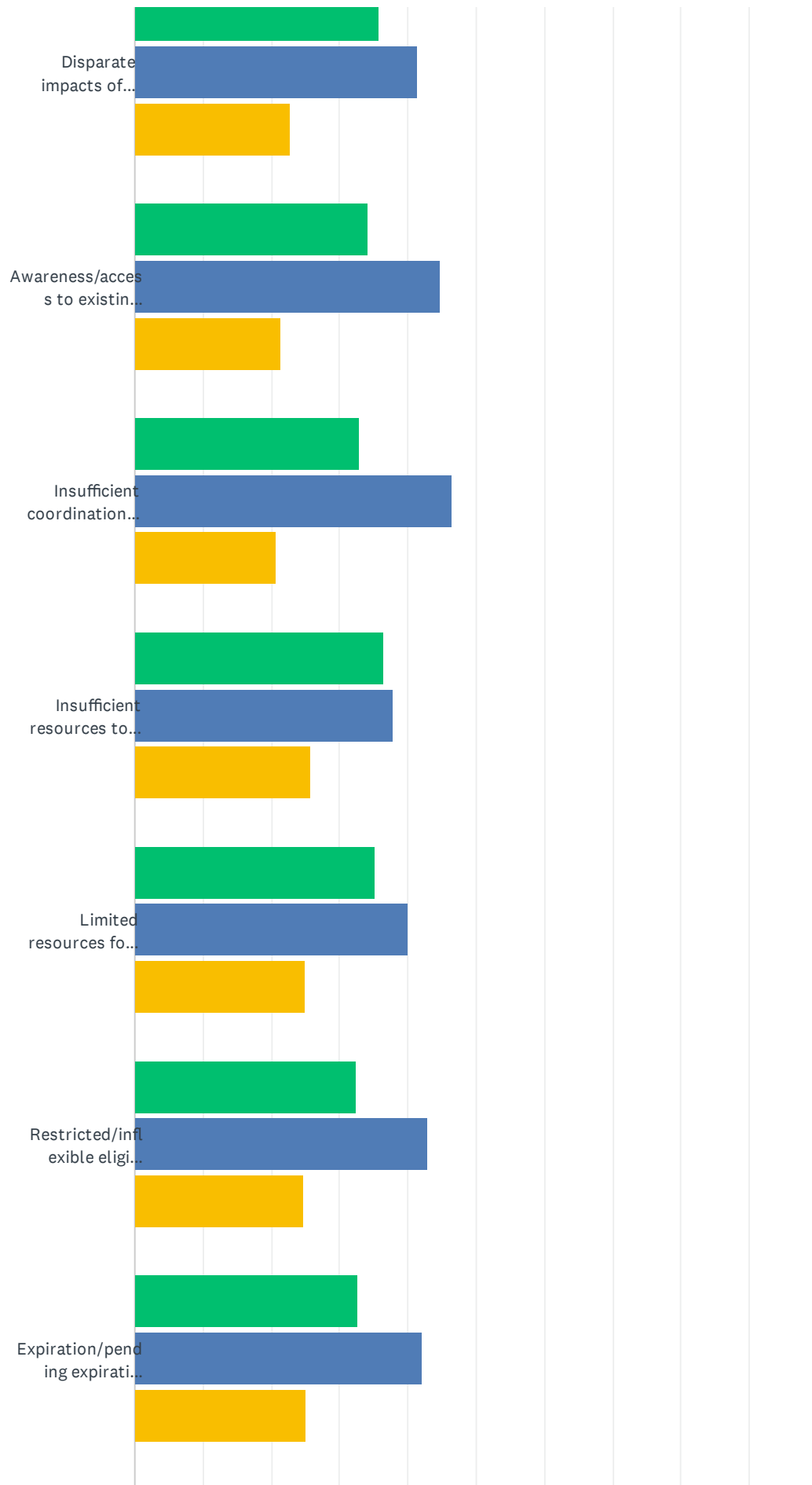
Answered: 114 Skipped: 331

Q11 Please rank the following “Small Business Support” needs:

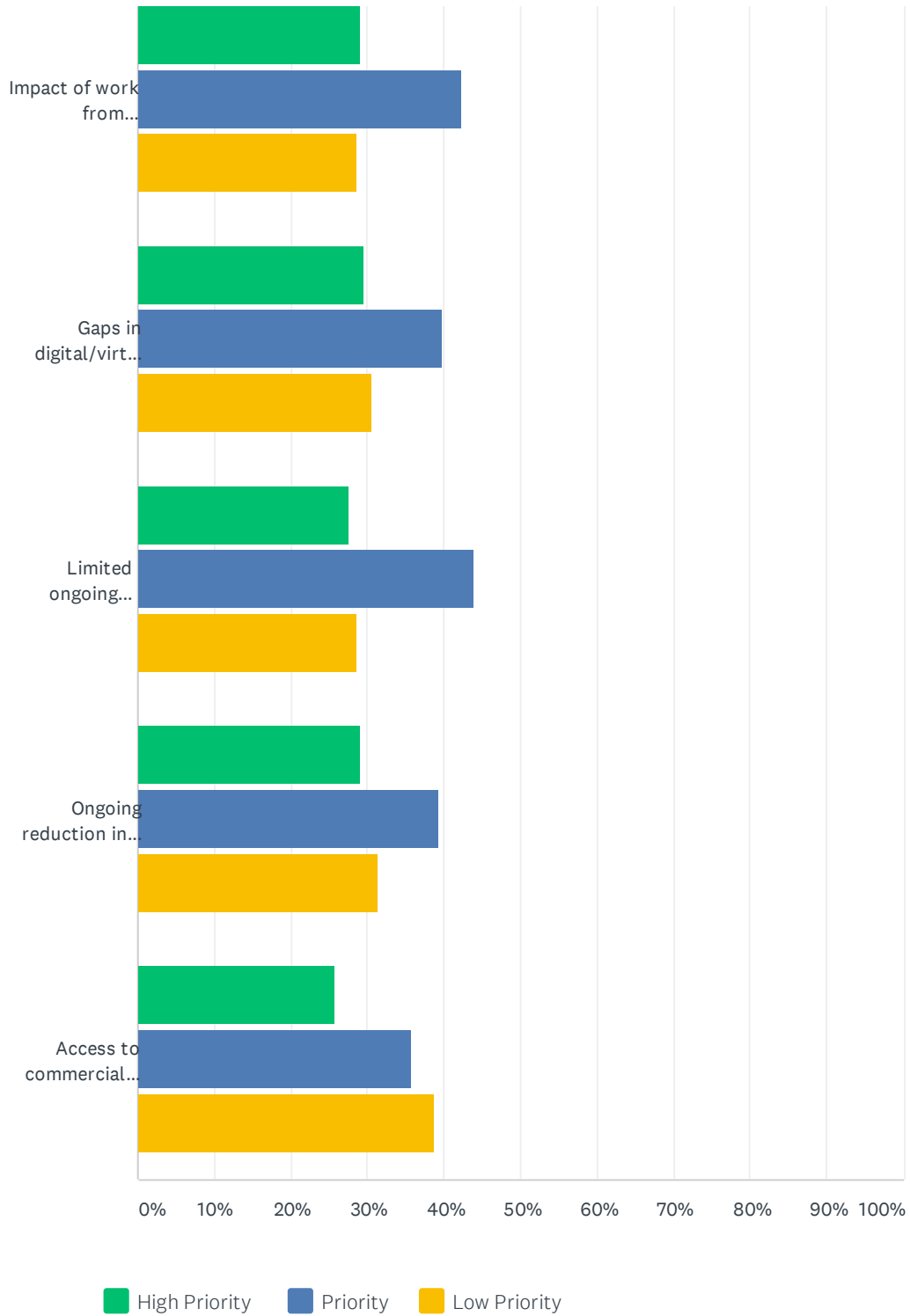
Answered: 415 Skipped: 30



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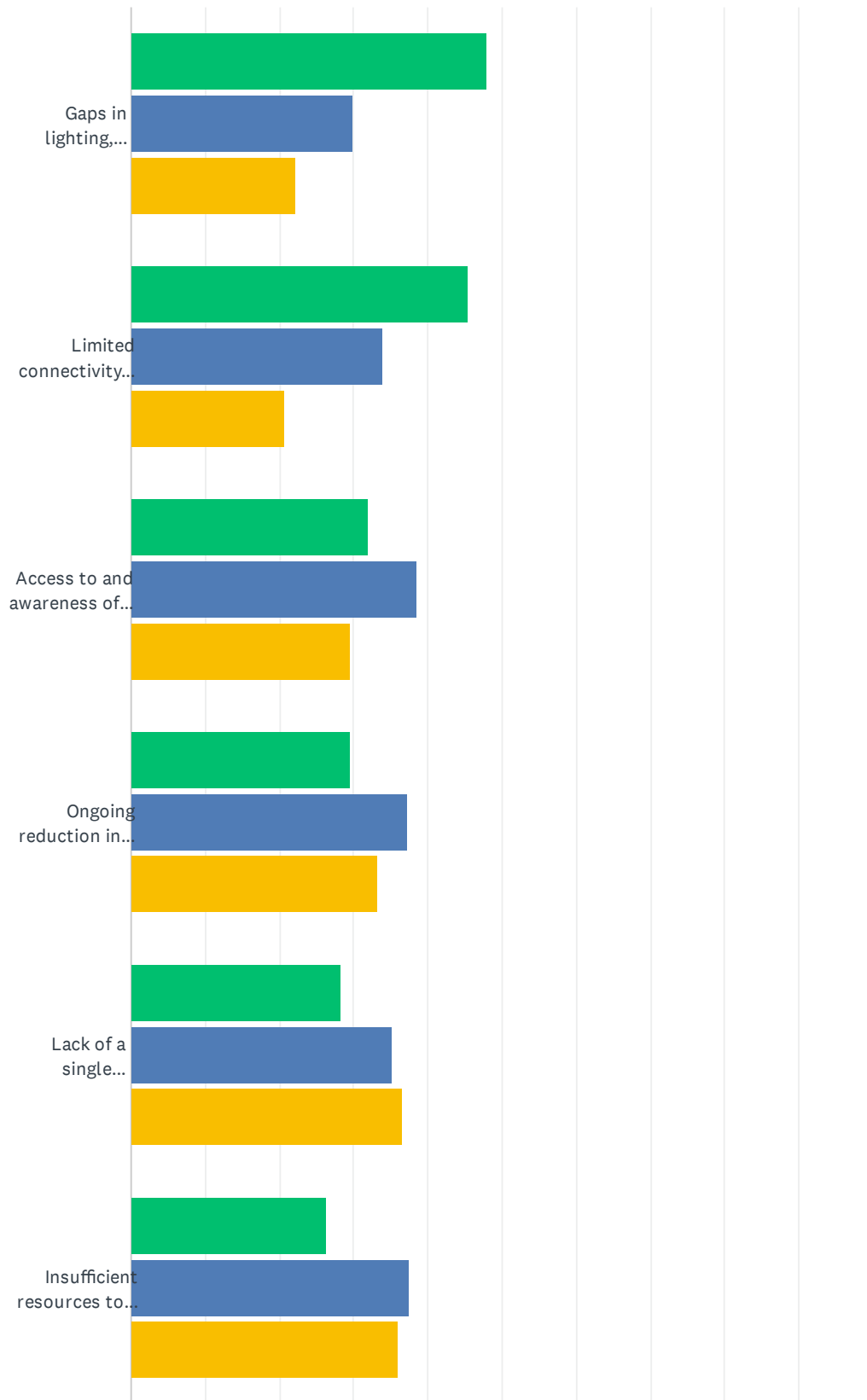
	HIGH PRIORITY	PRIORITY	LOW PRIORITY	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Limited access to capital for small businesses, and specifically to minorities	49.50% 200	35.40% 143	15.10% 61	404	6.87
Insufficient resources for unpaid rent and other financial obligations owed by small businesses	42.47% 172	39.26% 159	18.27% 74	405	6.39
Access to business development support for small business owners with limited capacity	39.20% 156	44.22% 176	16.58% 66	398	6.30
Escalation of inventory and supplies costs due to supply chain disruption	38.86% 157	41.83% 169	19.31% 78	404	6.17
Access to qualified and diverse talent to reopen/maintain operations successfully	37.31% 150	41.54% 167	21.14% 85	402	6.02
Gaps in eligibility of existing small business programs	36.00% 144	43.50% 174	20.50% 82	400	5.98
Disparate impacts of reopening guidance on certain businesses/industries and the individuals they employ, in particular, underserved populations	35.71% 145	41.38% 168	22.91% 93	406	5.87
Awareness/access to existing program information	34.00% 136	44.75% 179	21.25% 85	400	5.85
Insufficient coordination/collaboration of organizations providing assistance to small businesses	32.83% 131	46.37% 185	20.80% 83	399	5.81
Insufficient resources to address gateway and commercial corridor improvements and public amenities	36.34% 145	37.84% 151	25.81% 103	399	5.78
Limited resources for entrepreneurship	35.07% 141	40.05% 161	24.88% 100	402	5.76
Restricted/inflexible eligible uses of funding on many available programs e.g. technology improvements, virtual presence, marketing eligibility	32.41% 129	42.96% 171	24.62% 98	398	5.64
Expiration/pending expiration of flexible legislation/authorizations that supported small business	32.67% 131	42.14% 169	25.19% 101	401	5.63
Impact of work from home/hybrid schedules on the City's restaurants and retailers	29.00% 116	42.25% 169	28.75% 115	400	5.30
Gaps in digital/virtual/website presence and technical skills for small businesses	29.60% 119	39.80% 160	30.60% 123	402	5.26
Limited ongoing technical assistance/skills development for existing businesses	27.57% 110	43.86% 175	28.57% 114	399	5.24
Ongoing reduction in revenues due to continued social distancing regulations	29.18% 117	39.40% 158	31.42% 126	401	5.20
Access to commercial kitchen space to start-up or expand operations	25.63% 102	35.68% 142	38.69% 154	398	4.73

Q12 What additional challenges and inequities exist within the “Small Business Support” sectors? Please identify additional challenges below and their priority level (250 word max)

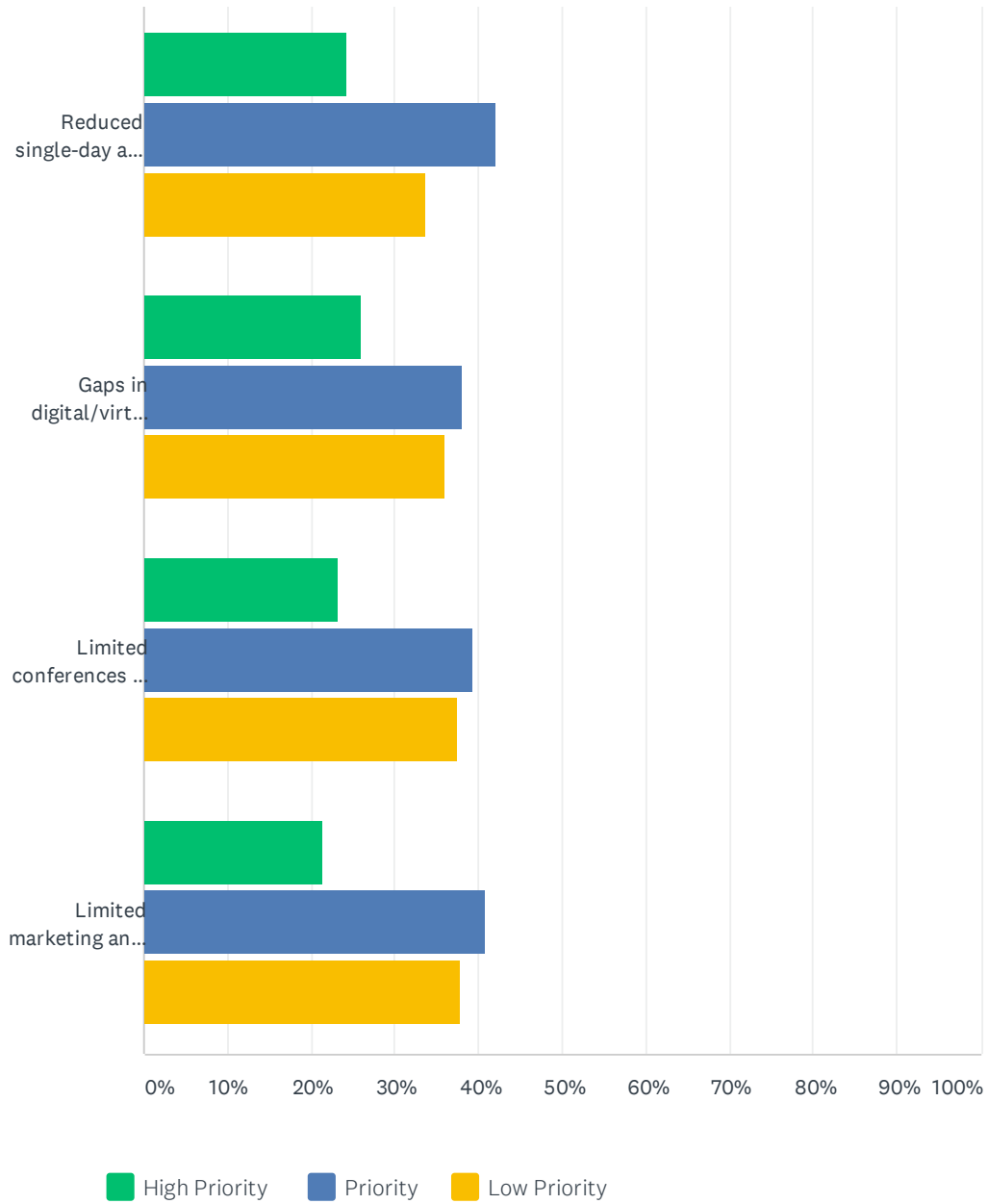
Answered: 84 Skipped: 361

Q13 Please rank the following “Tourism/Travel/Hospitality/Arts Recovery” needs:

Answered: 418 Skipped: 27



City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #1



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	HIGH PRIORITY	PRIORITY	LOW PRIORITY	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Gaps in lighting, wayfinding, and pedestrian safety improvements that create public safety concerns	47.80% 196	30.00% 123	22.20% 91	410	6.50
Limited connectivity between arts and schools/youth	45.37% 186	33.90% 139	20.73% 85	410	6.44
Access to and awareness of resources for arts/tourism/cultural venues	32.02% 130	38.42% 156	29.56% 120	406	5.42
Ongoing reduction in revenues due to continued social distancing regulations	29.50% 118	37.25% 149	33.25% 133	400	5.14
Lack of a single public-facing resource for tourism/travel/hospitality/arts	28.22% 114	35.15% 142	36.63% 148	404	4.95
Insufficient resources to provide equitable access for admission charges	26.42% 107	37.53% 152	36.05% 146	405	4.88
Reduced single-day and overnight visitors to spend money locally	24.32% 99	42.01% 171	33.66% 137	407	4.87
Gaps in digital/virtual/website presence and technical skills for arts/tourism/cultural venues	25.86% 105	38.18% 155	35.96% 146	406	4.85
Limited conferences and events being scheduled	23.23% 95	39.36% 161	37.41% 153	409	4.67
Limited marketing and advertising budgets and cross-coordination among venues	21.39% 86	40.80% 164	37.81% 152	402	4.56

Q14 What additional challenges and inequities exist within the “Tourism/Travel/Hospitality/Arts Recovery” sectors? Please identify additional challenges below and their priority level (250 word max)

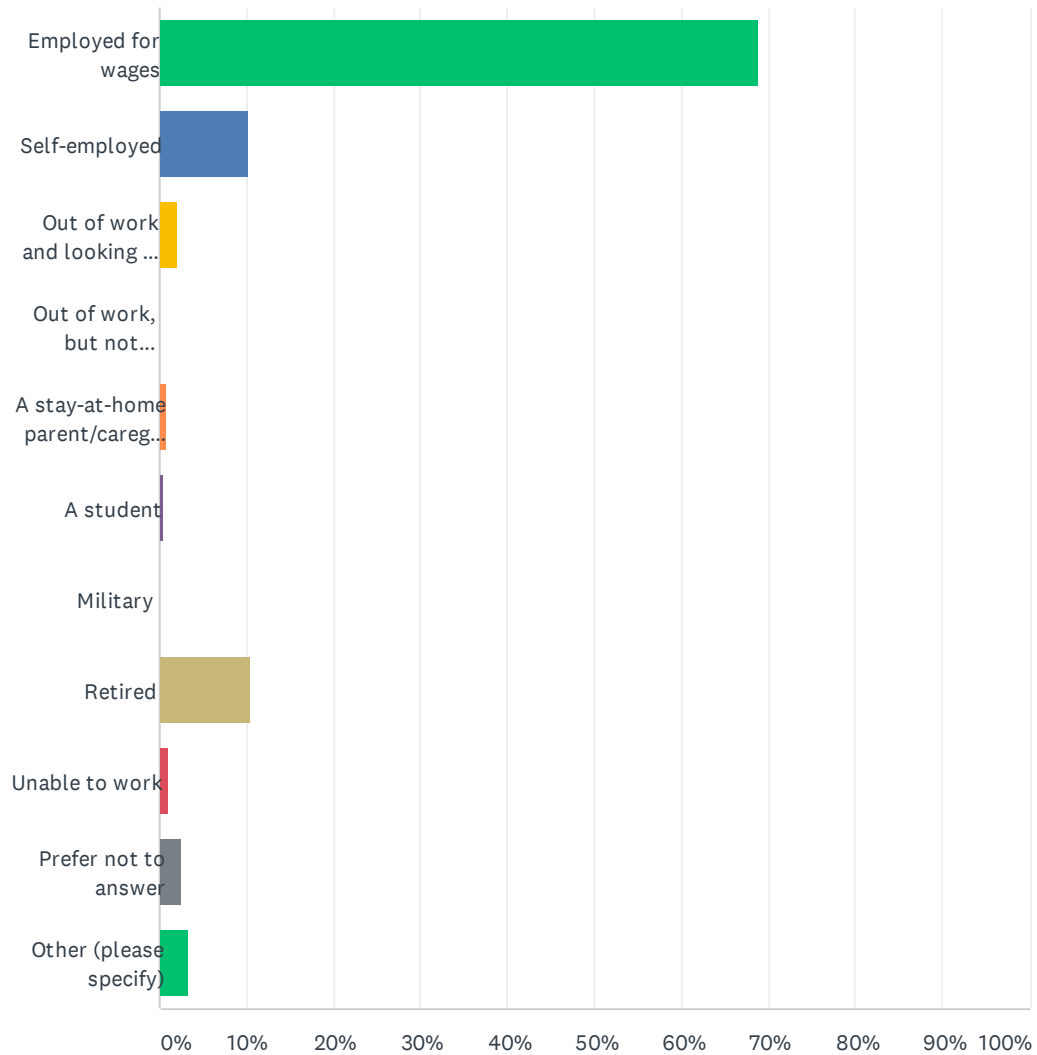
Answered: 100 Skipped: 345

Q15 What additional thoughts do you have regarding COVID-19 recovery needs in the City of Albany? Please identify additional thoughts below (250 word max).

Answered: 159 Skipped: 286

Q16 What is your current employment status? (select one)

Answered: 440 Skipped: 5

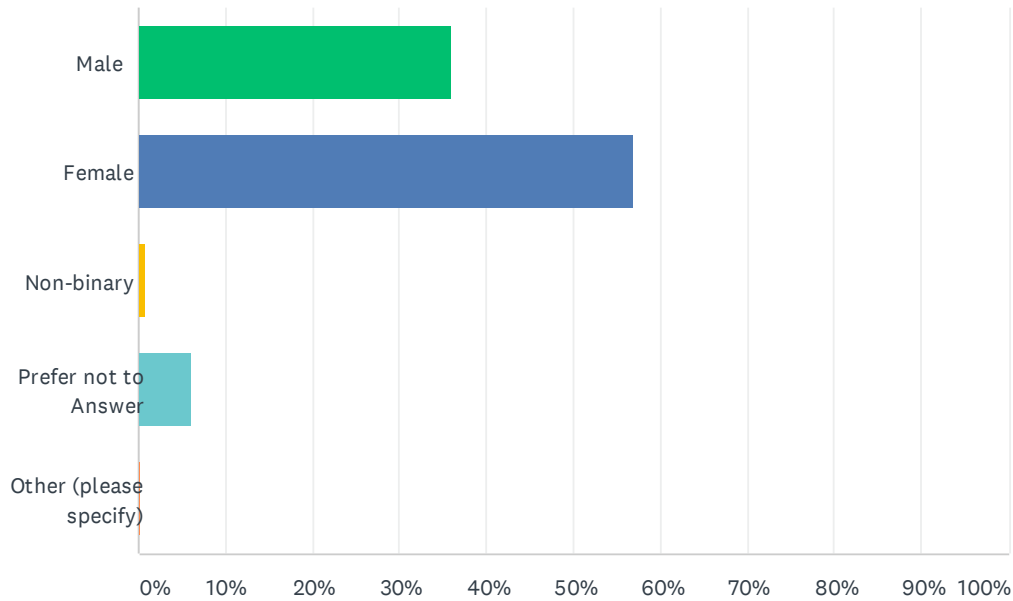


City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Employed for wages	68.86%	303
Self-employed	10.23%	45
Out of work and looking for work	2.05%	9
Out of work, but not currently looking for work	0.00%	0
A stay-at-home parent/caregiver	0.91%	4
A student	0.45%	2
Military	0.00%	0
Retired	10.45%	46
Unable to work	1.14%	5
Prefer not to answer	2.50%	11
Other (please specify)	3.41%	15
TOTAL		440

Q17 What gender do you identify as?

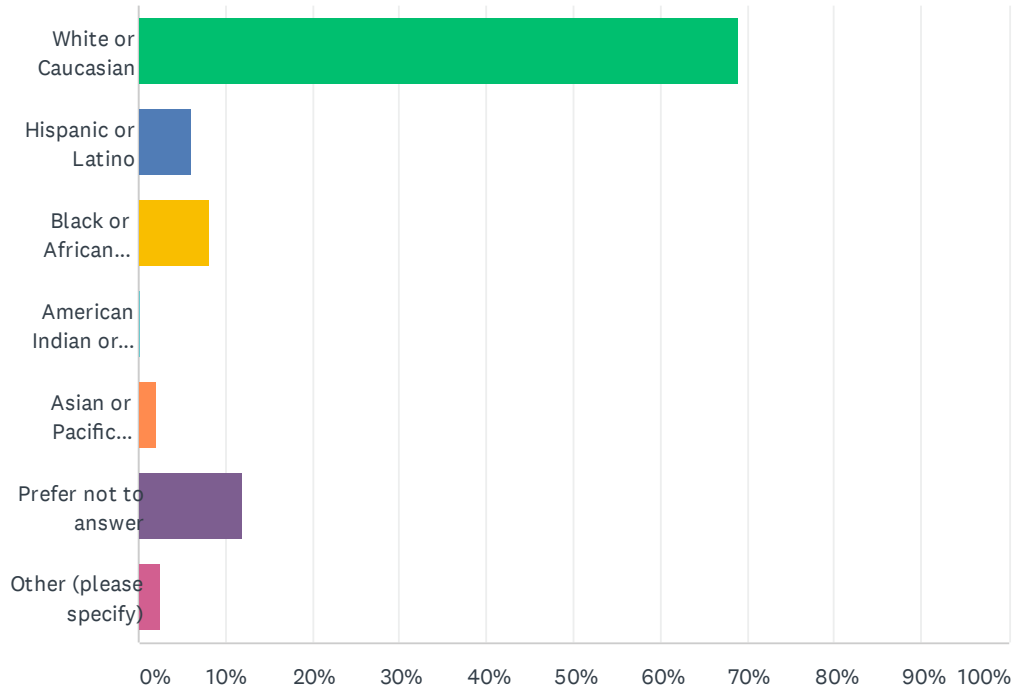
Answered: 440 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	35.91%	158
Female	56.82%	250
Non-binary	0.91%	4
Prefer not to Answer	6.14%	27
Other (please specify)	0.23%	1
TOTAL		440

Q18 What is your ethnicity?

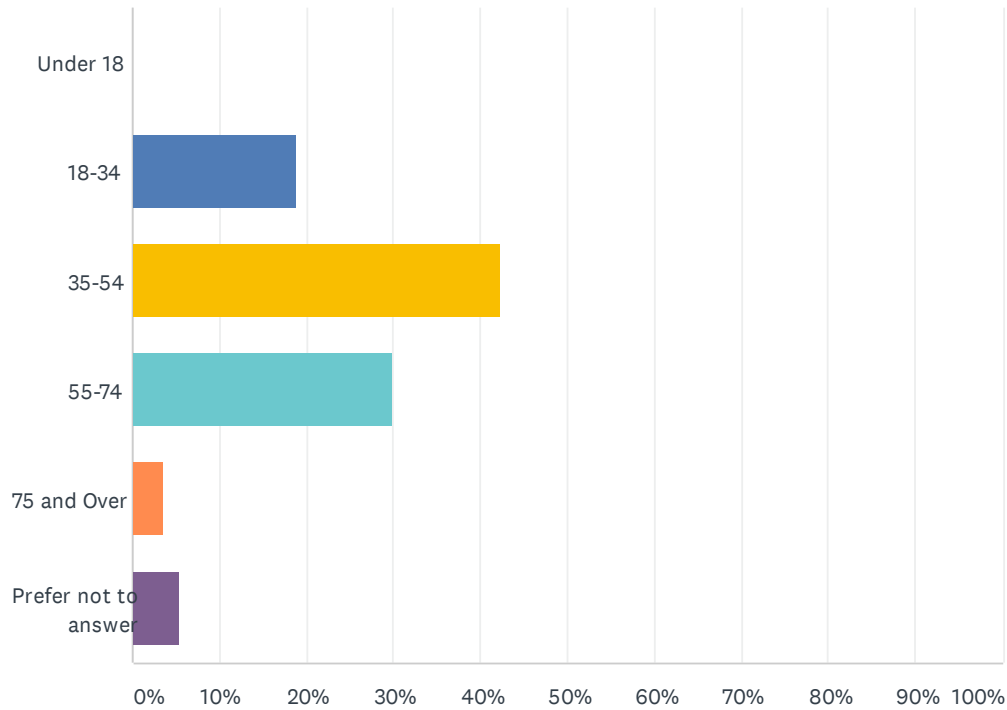
Answered: 439 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
White or Caucasian	69.02%	303
Hispanic or Latino	6.15%	27
Black or African American	8.20%	36
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.23%	1
Asian or Pacific Islander	2.05%	9
Prefer not to answer	11.85%	52
Other (please specify)	2.51%	11
TOTAL		439

Q19 What is your age? (select one)

Answered: 442 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18-34	18.78%	83
35-54	42.31%	187
55-74	29.86%	132
75 and Over	3.62%	16
Prefer not to answer	5.43%	24
TOTAL		442

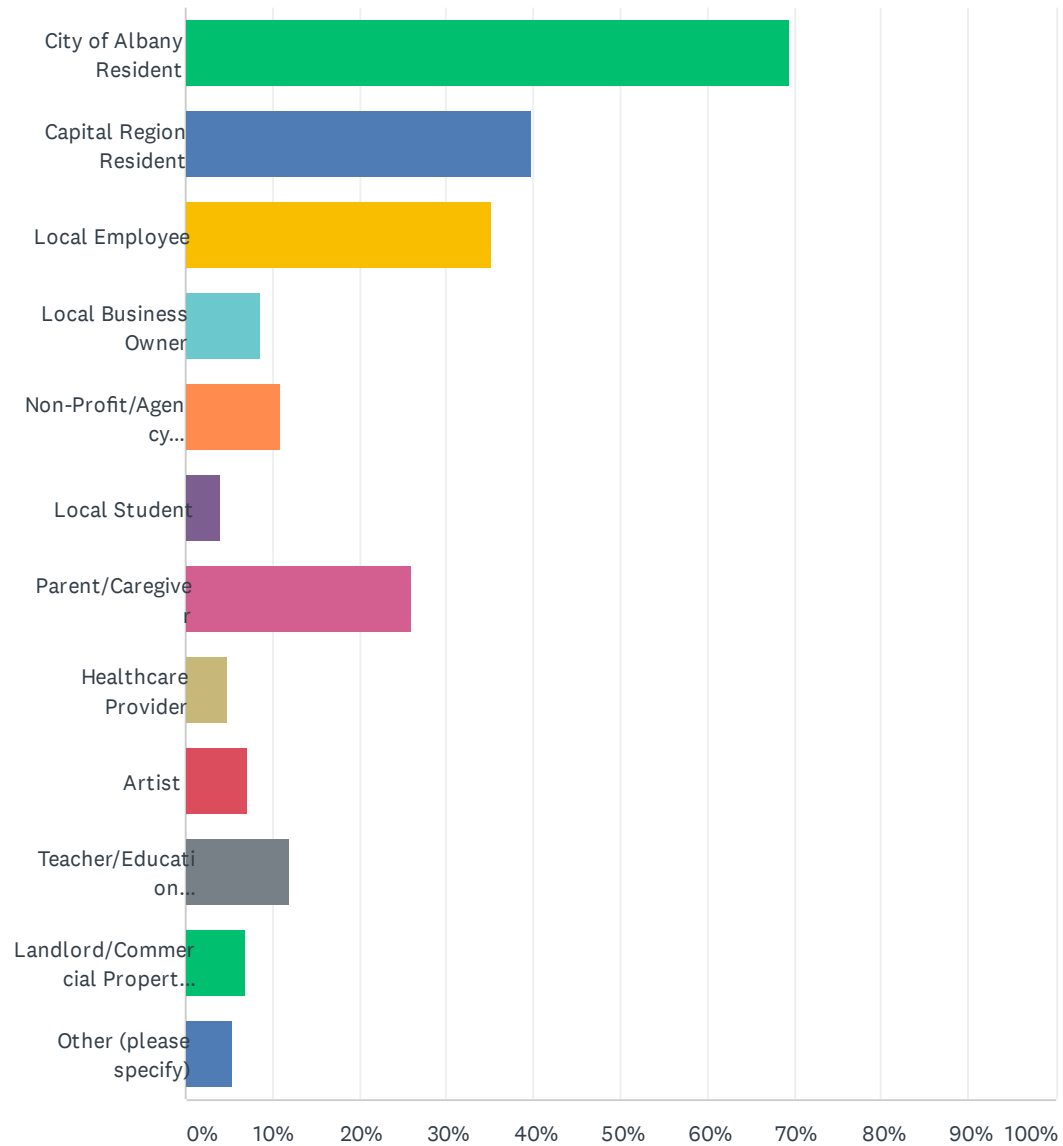
Q20 What is your zip code?

Answered: 424 Skipped: 21

Appendix 20: Public Survey #2 Priority Recommendations – Results

Q1 Which of the following describes you? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 743 Skipped: 0



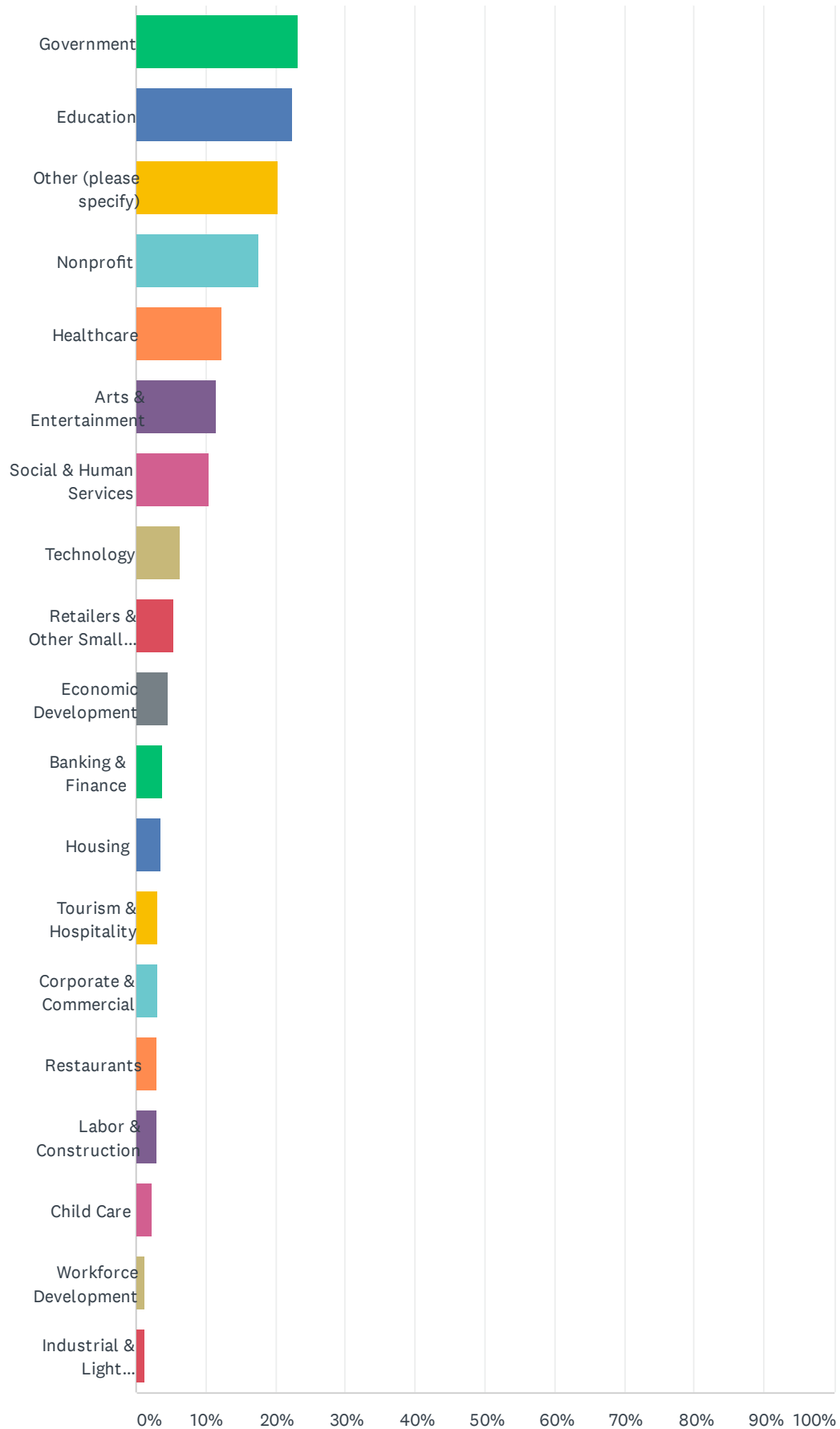
City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
City of Albany Resident	69.45%	516
Capital Region Resident	39.70%	295
Local Employee	35.13%	261
Local Business Owner	8.61%	64
Non-Profit/Agency Representative	10.90%	81
Local Student	4.04%	30
Parent/Caregiver	25.98%	193
Healthcare Provider	4.85%	36
Artist	7.13%	53
Teacher/Education Administrator	11.84%	88
Landlord/Commercial Property Owner	6.86%	51
Other (please specify)	5.38%	40
Total Respondents: 743		

Q2 Which sector do you work in or represent? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 743 Skipped: 0

City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #2

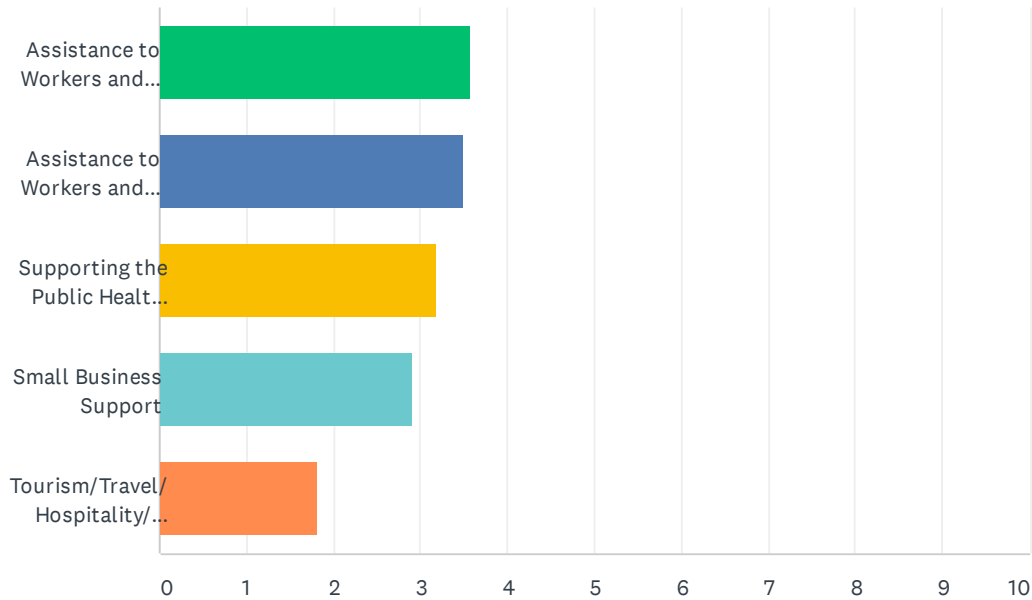


City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Government	23.15%	172
Education	22.34%	166
Other (please specify)	20.19%	150
Nonprofit	17.50%	130
Healthcare	12.38%	92
Arts & Entertainment	11.57%	86
Social & Human Services	10.36%	77
Technology	6.19%	46
Retailers & Other Small Businesses	5.52%	41
Economic Development	4.58%	34
Banking & Finance	3.77%	28
Housing	3.63%	27
Tourism & Hospitality	3.23%	24
Corporate & Commercial	3.10%	23
Restaurants	2.96%	22
Labor & Construction	2.83%	21
Child Care	2.29%	17
Workforce Development	1.35%	10
Industrial & Light Manufacturing	1.35%	10
Total Respondents: 743		

Q3 The American Rescue Plan allows for funding to address the following COVID-19 recovery needs. Rank these Impact Areas in order of priority for recovery assistance.(Where 1 is most important and 5 is least important)

Answered: 743 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	SCORE
Assistance to Workers and Families – Education/Workforce/Human Services	25.44% 189	34.45% 256	18.98% 141	15.21% 113	5.92% 44	743	3.58
Assistance to Workers and Families – Housing/Transportation/Community Revitalization	23.82% 177	27.86% 207	28.26% 210	14.67% 109	5.38% 40	743	3.50
Supporting the Public Health Response	28.67% 213	14.67% 109	21.27% 158	17.09% 127	18.30% 136	743	3.18
Small Business Support	17.36% 129	14.80% 110	20.59% 153	36.07% 268	11.17% 83	743	2.91
Tourism/Travel/Hospitality/Arts Recovery	4.71% 35	8.21% 61	10.90% 81	16.96% 126	59.22% 440	743	1.82

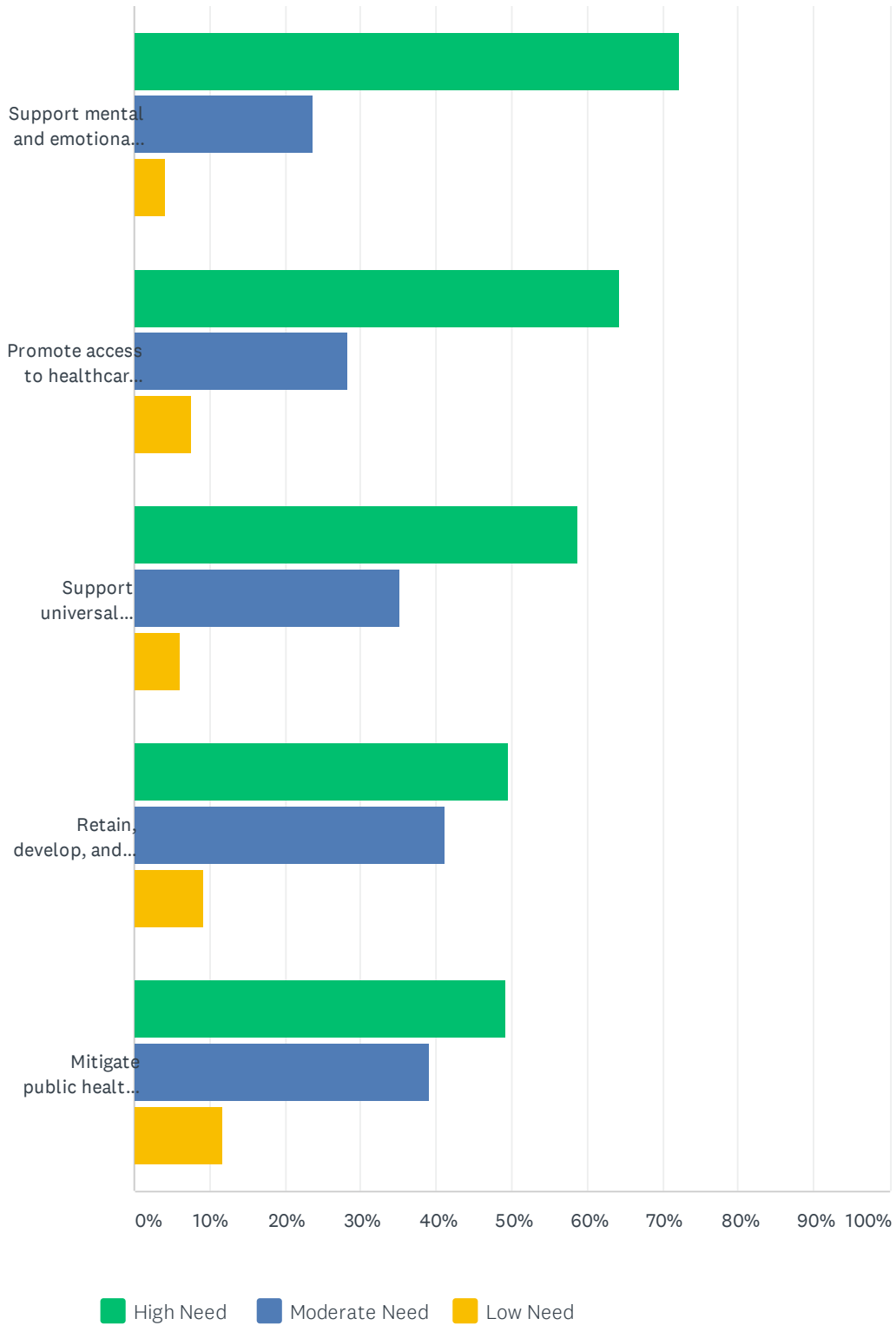
Q4 Please describe why you ranked the Impact Areas in the selected order above. (250 word max)

Answered: 515 Skipped: 228

Q5 Identify the level of unmet financial need within each of the “Supporting the Public Health Response” project and program areas: (Find out more about each of these project and program areas [HERE](#). Please consider if there are other sources of funding that are designed to assist each area as well as the depth of financial assistance needed to achieve deep and sustainable impact)

Answered: 734 Skipped: 9

City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #2



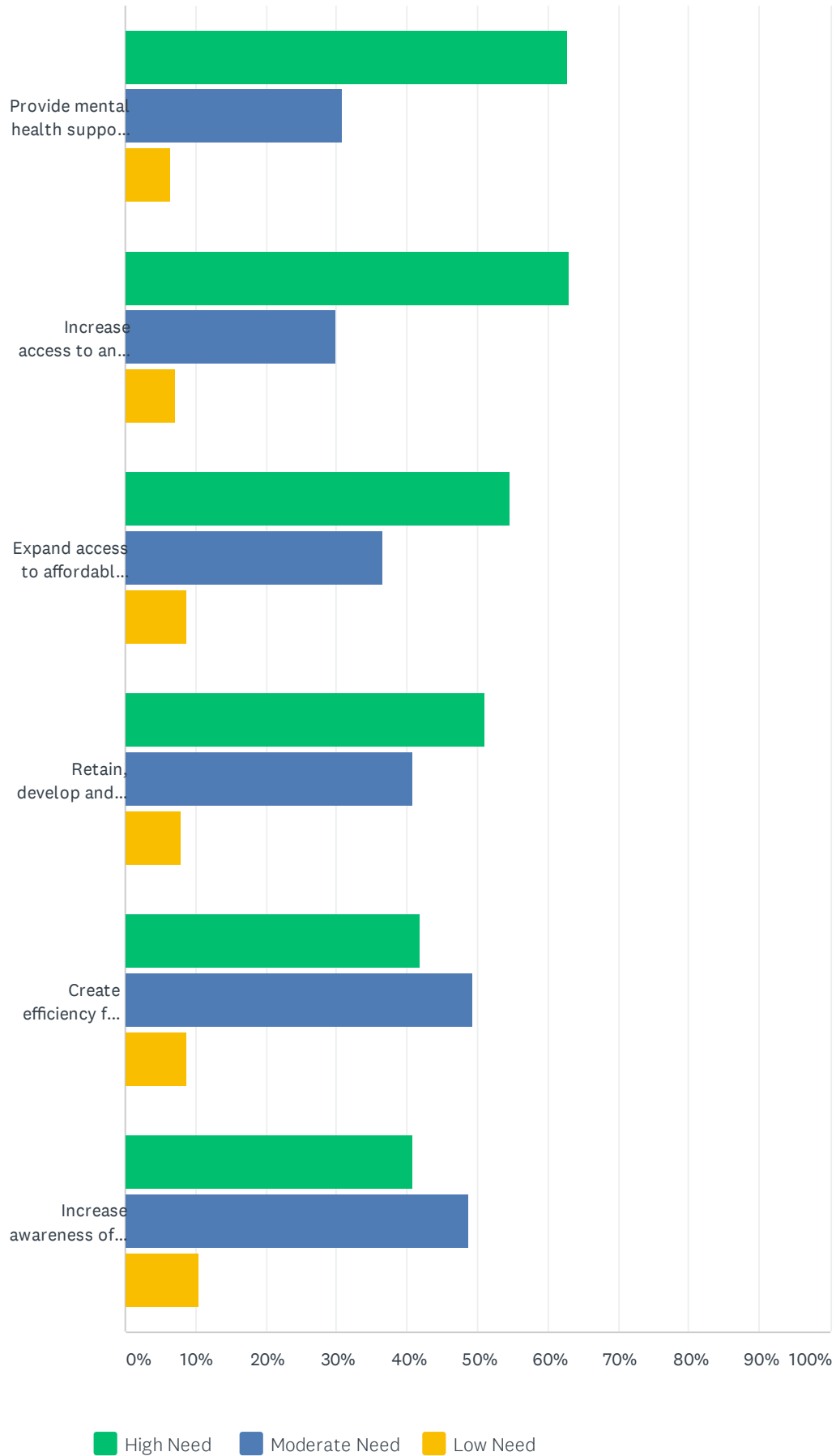
City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #2

	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Support mental and emotional health	72.13% 528	23.63% 173	4.23% 31	732	8.44
Promote access to healthcare for traditionally underserved individuals	64.26% 471	28.24% 207	7.50% 55	733	7.91
Support universal access to healthy food and nutrition education	58.80% 431	35.06% 257	6.14% 45	733	7.69
Retain, develop, and attract a qualified and diverse workforce	49.59% 364	41.14% 302	9.26% 68	734	7.11
Mitigate public health risk for essential workers	49.18% 359	39.18% 286	11.64% 85	730	6.99

Q6 Identify the level of unmet financial need within each of the “Assistance to Workers and Families – Education/Workforce/Human Services” project and program areas: (Find out more about each of these project and program areas [HERE](#). Please consider if there are other sources of funding that are designed to assist each area as well as the depth of financial assistance needed to achieve deep and sustainable impact)

Answered: 737 Skipped: 6

City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #2

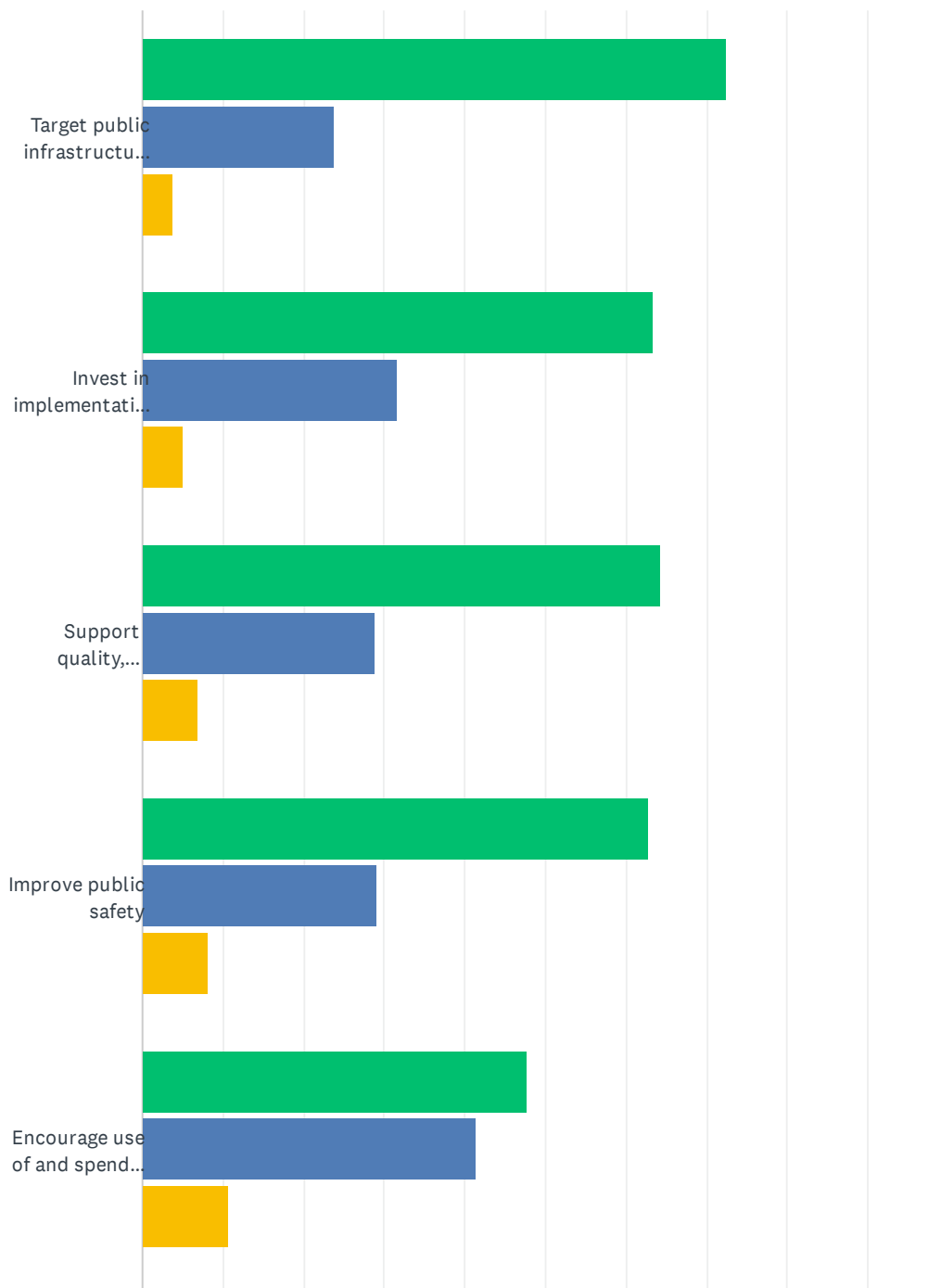


City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #2

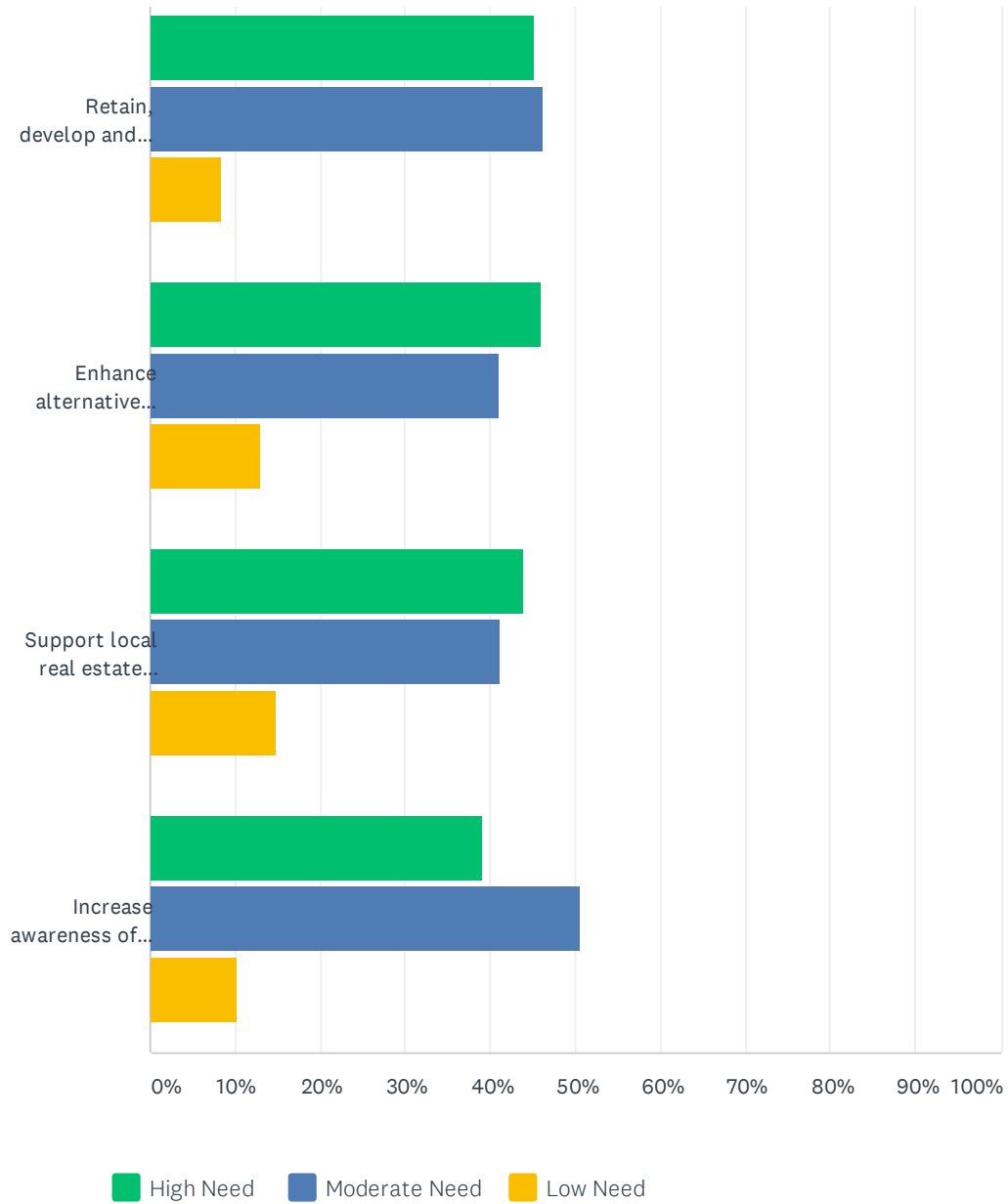
	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Provide mental health support and address social-emotional impacts of the pandemic	62.72% 461	30.75% 226	6.53% 48	735	7.87
Increase access to and affordability of quality, holistic childcare options	62.94% 462	29.97% 220	7.08% 52	734	7.86
Expand access to affordable, high-speed broadband access throughout the City of Albany	54.62% 402	36.68% 270	8.70% 64	736	7.38
Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce and emerging/expanding industries and job opportunities	51.09% 376	40.90% 301	8.02% 59	736	7.23
Create efficiency for or sustainability of existing programs producing impactful results	41.80% 306	49.45% 362	8.74% 64	732	6.74
Increase awareness of, support navigation of and improve access to available services and financial resources	40.74% 299	48.77% 358	10.49% 77	734	6.62

Q7 Identify the level of unmet financial need within each of the "Assistance to Workers and Families – Housing/Transportation/Community Revitalization" project and program areas: (Find out more about each of these project and program areas [HERE](#). Please consider if there are other sources of funding that are designed to assist each area as well as the depth of financial assistance needed to achieve deep and sustainable impact)

Answered: 738 Skipped: 5



City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #2

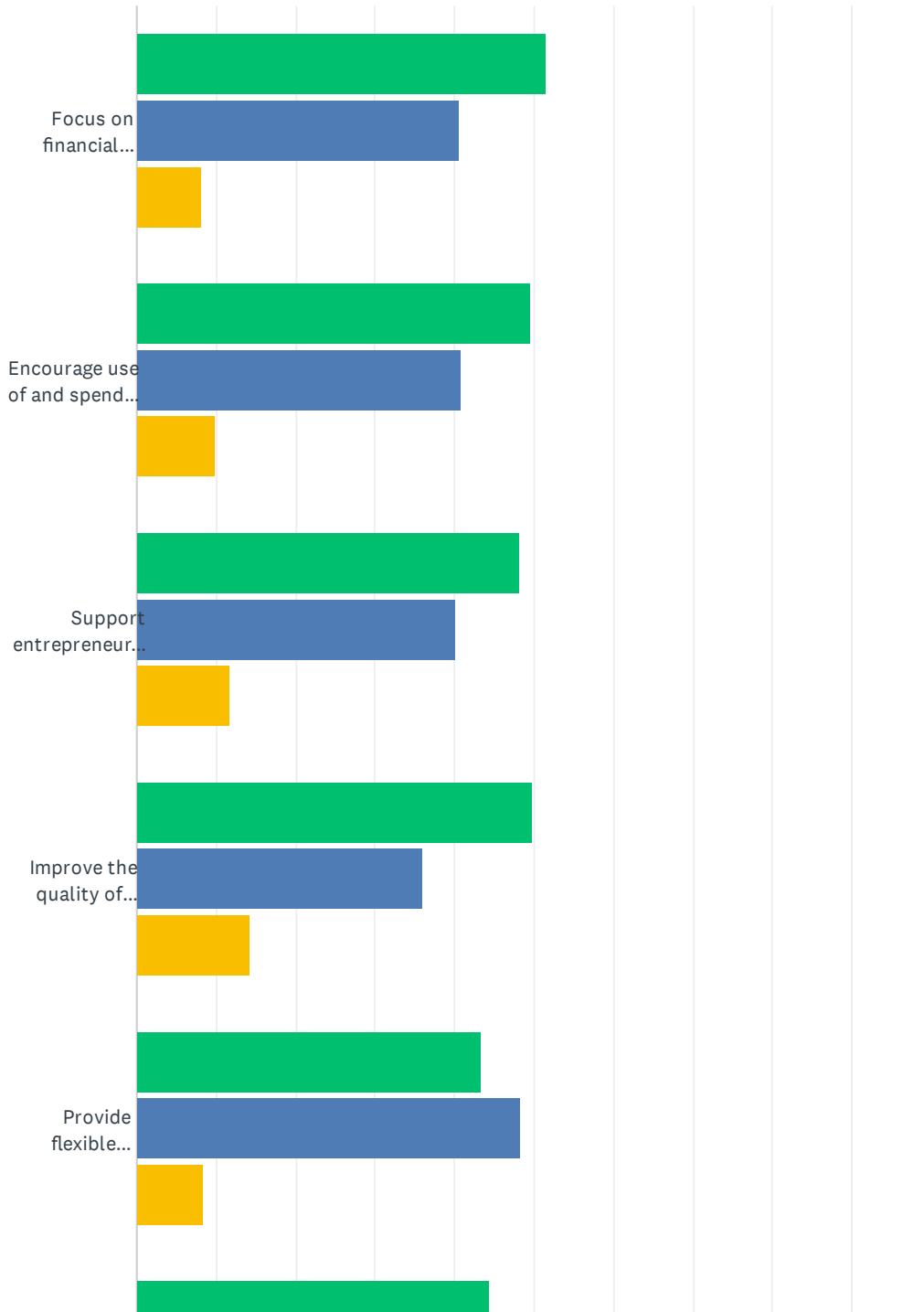


City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #2

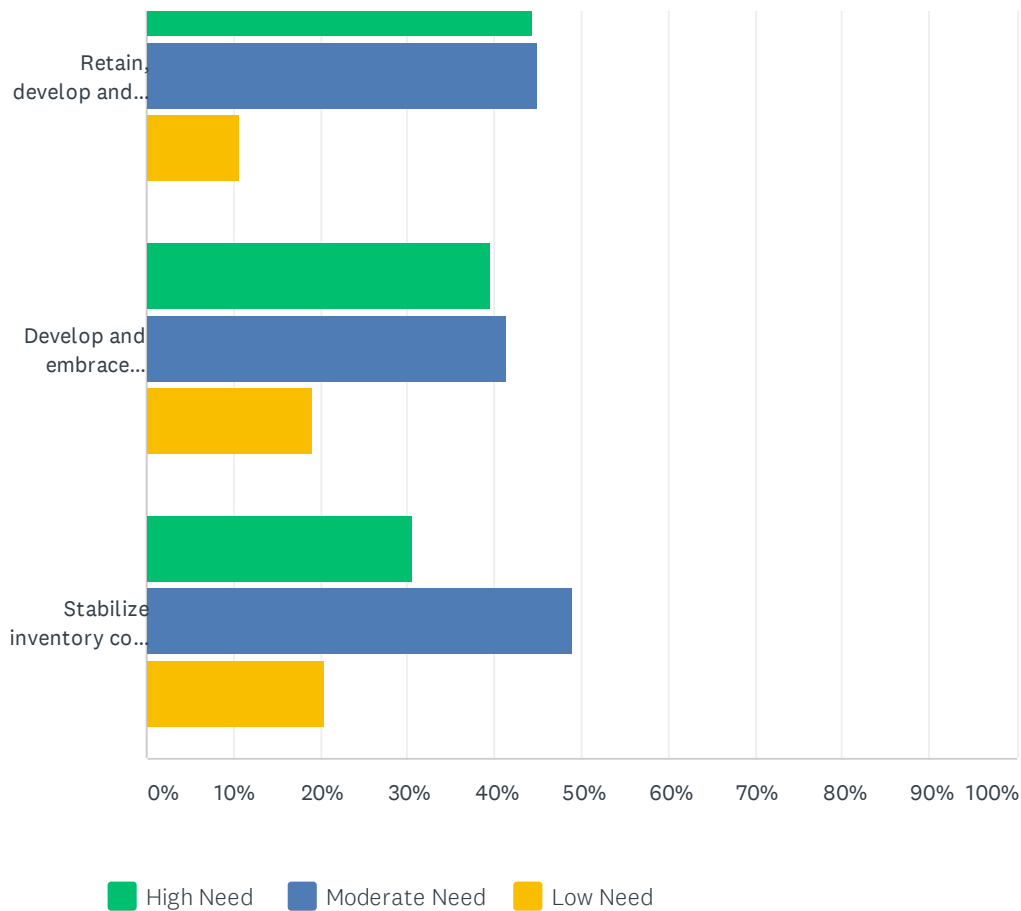
	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Target public infrastructure improvements in distressed census tracts and disinvested neighborhoods	72.38% 532	23.81% 175	3.81% 28	735	8.47
Invest in implementation of neighborhood revitalization strategies	63.40% 466	31.56% 232	5.03% 37	735	7.97
Support quality, affordable and diverse housing opportunities	64.26% 471	28.79% 211	6.96% 51	733	7.93
Improve public safety	62.81% 461	29.02% 213	8.17% 60	734	7.81
Encourage use of and spending at local businesses	47.76% 352	41.52% 306	10.72% 79	737	6.96
Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce	45.24% 333	46.33% 341	8.42% 62	736	6.93
Enhance alternative transportation use and increase accessibility and equity in transportation options	45.99% 338	41.09% 302	12.93% 95	735	6.78
Support local real estate development that advances community revitalization goals	43.96% 324	41.11% 303	14.93% 110	737	6.60
Increase awareness of, support navigation of and improve access to available services and financial resources	39.10% 287	50.54% 371	10.35% 76	734	6.54

Q8 Identify the level of unmet financial need within each of the “Small Business Support” project and program areas: (Find out more about each of these project and program areas [HERE](#). Please consider if there are other sources of funding that are designed to assist each area as well as the depth of financial assistance needed to achieve deep and sustainable impact)

Answered: 735 Skipped: 8



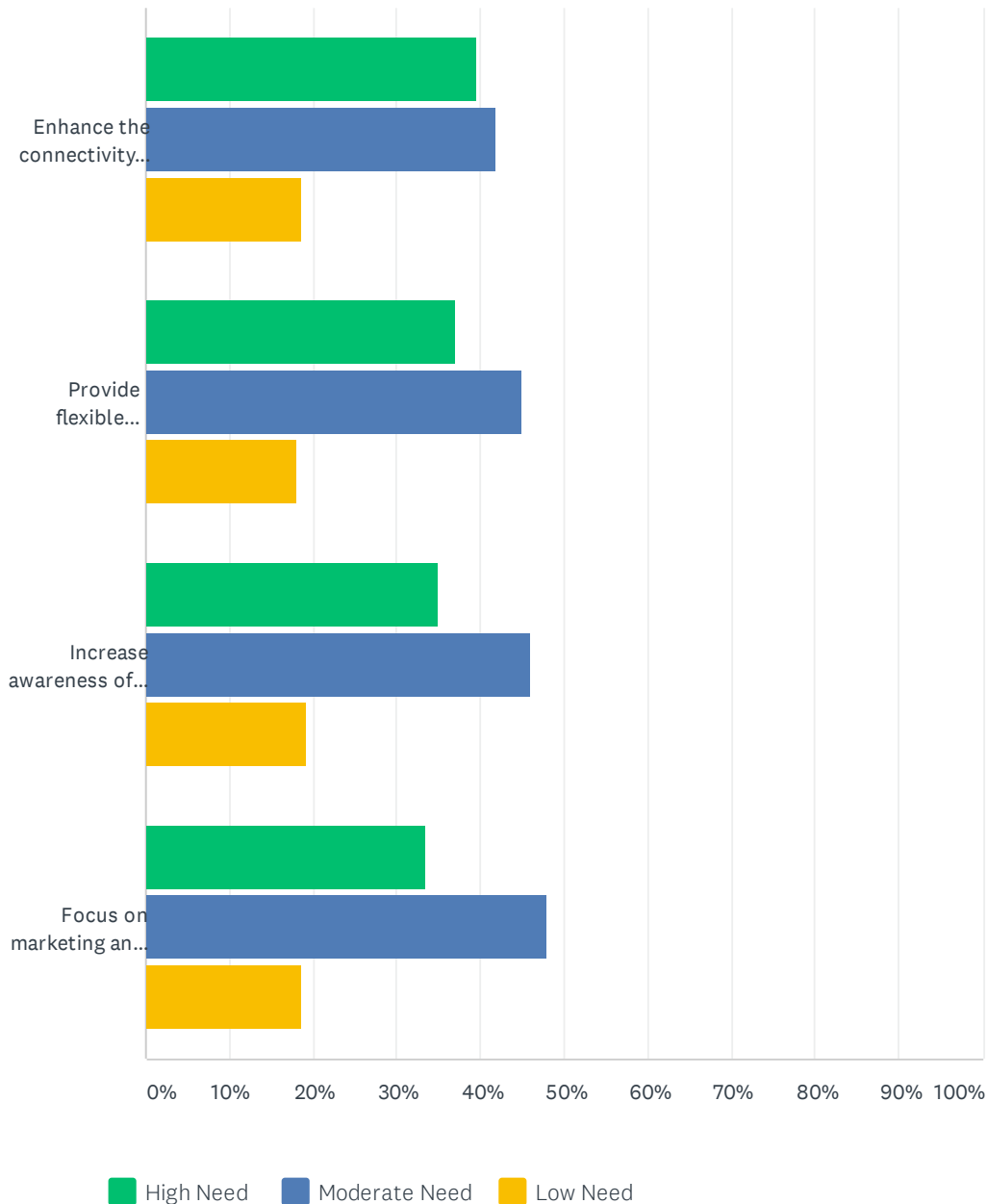
City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #2



	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Focus on financial support for businesses with ongoing reopening challenges	51.37% 375	40.55% 296	8.08% 59	730	7.25
Encourage use of and spending at local businesses	49.52% 361	40.74% 297	9.74% 71	729	7.09
Support entrepreneurship opportunities and start-up businesses, particularly for individuals unemployed due to the pandemic	48.08% 351	40.14% 293	11.78% 86	730	6.93
Improve the quality of place in Albany's commercial districts, including gateways and all connecting streets	49.79% 363	35.94% 262	14.27% 104	729	6.92
Provide flexible financial assistance, technical assistance, and access to information for a diverse array of small business needs	43.25% 317	48.29% 354	8.46% 62	733	6.82
Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce	44.31% 323	44.99% 328	10.70% 78	729	6.79
Develop and embrace existing supportive and flexible legislation, regulations and code (i.e. federal façade program, to-go alcohol)	39.56% 288	41.35% 301	19.09% 139	728	6.21
Stabilize inventory costs resulting from supply chain disruption/market gaps	30.49% 222	48.90% 356	20.60% 150	728	5.70

Q9 Identify the level of unmet financial need within each of the “Tourism/Travel/Hospitality/Arts Recovery” project and program areas: (Find out more about each of these project and program areas [HERE](#). Please consider if there are other sources of funding that are designed to assist each area as well as the depth of financial assistance needed to achieve deep and sustainable impact).

Answered: 731 Skipped: 12



City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #2

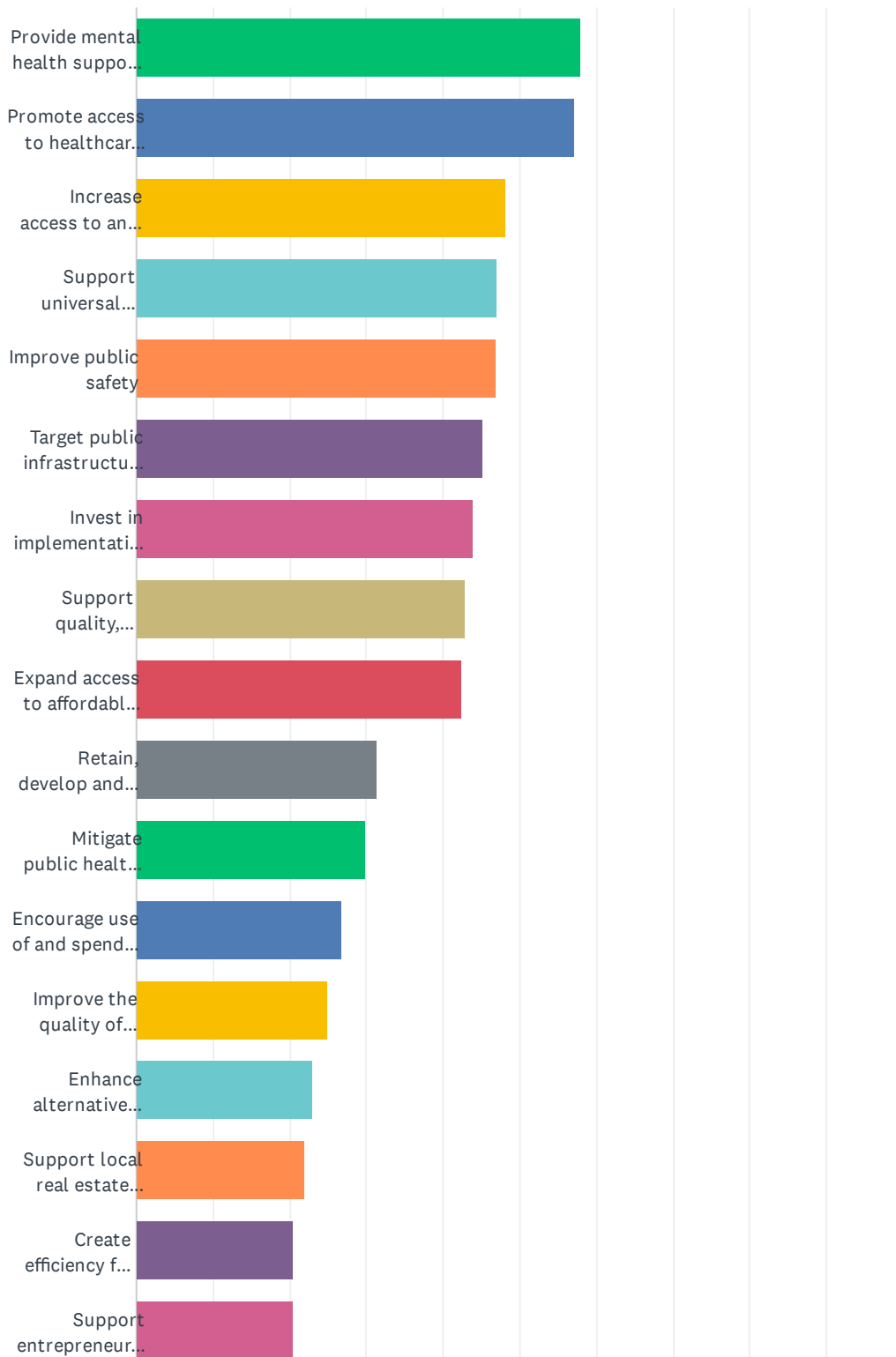
	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Enhance the connectivity and navigability from destination-to-destination and promote public safety	39.61% 288	41.82% 304	18.57% 135	727	6.24
Provide flexible financial assistance and technical support for hospitality, arts & cultural entities	37.09% 270	44.92% 327	17.99% 131	728	6.13
Increase awareness of and equitable access to existing hospitality, arts & cultural destinations for residents of all ages	34.85% 253	46.01% 334	19.15% 139	726	5.98
Focus on marketing and financial support for businesses and organizations with ongoing reopening challenges	33.43% 243	48.01% 349	18.57% 135	727	5.93

Q10 Please assist us by identifying specific projects and programs that can have significant positive impacts in the areas above: Please identify local or other examples that should be used as best practices or models for new initiatives (250 word max).

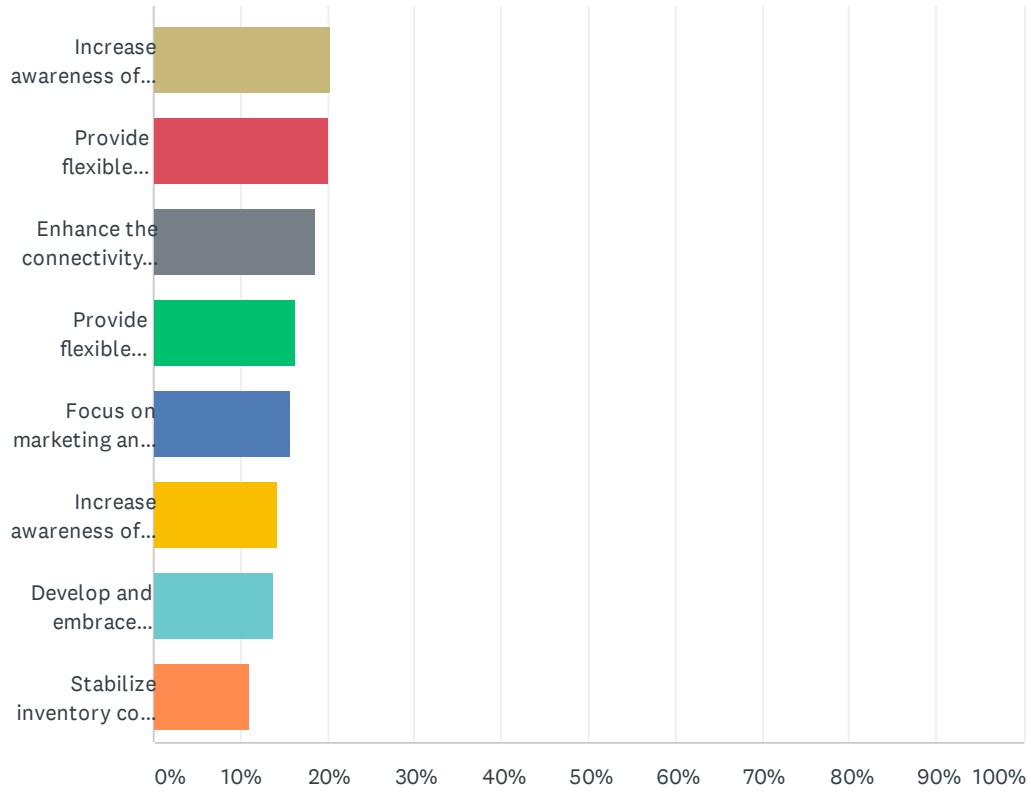
Answered: 264 Skipped: 479

Q11 Select which of the following project and program areas have the most immediate urgency: (Please limit your selection to 10 program/project choices. Find out more about each of these project and program areas [HERE](#)).

Answered: 743 Skipped: 0



City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #2



City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #2

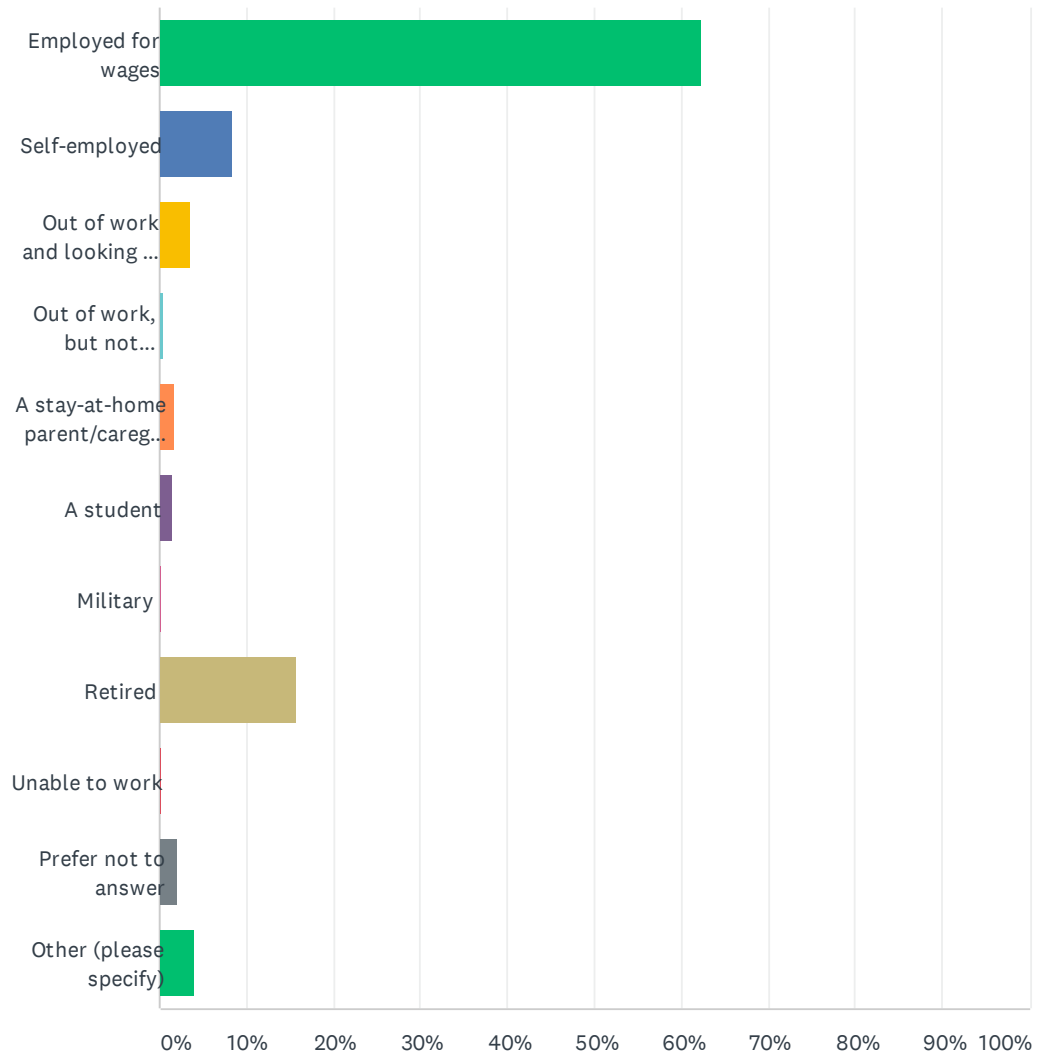
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Provide mental health support and address social-emotional impacts of the pandemic	58.01%	431
Promote access to healthcare for traditionally underserved individuals	57.07%	424
Increase access to and affordability of quality, holistic childcare options	48.05%	357
Support universal access to healthy food and nutrition education	46.97%	349
Improve public safety	46.84%	348
Target public infrastructure improvements in distressed census tracts and disinvested neighborhoods	45.09%	335
Invest in implementation of neighborhood revitalization strategies	43.88%	326
Support quality, affordable and diverse housing opportunities	42.80%	318
Expand access to affordable, high-speed broadband access throughout the City of Albany	42.40%	315
Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce and emerging/expanding industries and job opportunities	31.36%	233
Mitigate public health risk for essential workers	29.88%	222
Encourage use of and spending at local businesses	26.78%	199
Improve the quality of place in Albany's commercial districts, including gateways and all connecting streets	24.90%	185
Enhance alternative transportation use and increase accessibility and equity in transportation options	23.01%	171
Support local real estate development that advances community revitalization goals	21.94%	163
Create efficiency for or sustainability of existing programs producing impactful results	20.59%	153
Support entrepreneurship opportunities and start-up businesses, particularly for individuals unemployed due to the pandemic	20.46%	152
Increase awareness of, support navigation of and improve access to available services and financial resources	20.32%	151
□Provide flexible financial assistance, technical assistance, and access to information for a diverse array of small business needs	20.05%	149
Enhance the connectivity and navigability from destination-to-destination and promote public safety	18.71%	139
Provide flexible financial assistance and technical support for hospitality, arts & cultural entities	16.29%	121
Focus on marketing and financial support for businesses and organizations with ongoing reopening challenges	15.75%	117
Increase awareness of and equitable access to existing hospitality, arts and cultural destinations for residents of all ages	14.27%	106
Develop and embrace existing supportive and flexible legislation, regulations and code (i.e. federal façade program, to-go alcohol)	13.86%	103
Stabilize inventory costs resulting from supply chain disruption/market gaps	11.17%	83
Total Respondents: 743		

Q12 What additional thoughts do you have regarding COVID-19 recovery recommendations for the City of Albany? Please identify additional thoughts below (250 word max).

Answered: 225 Skipped: 518

Q13 What is your current employment status? (select one)

Answered: 742 Skipped: 1

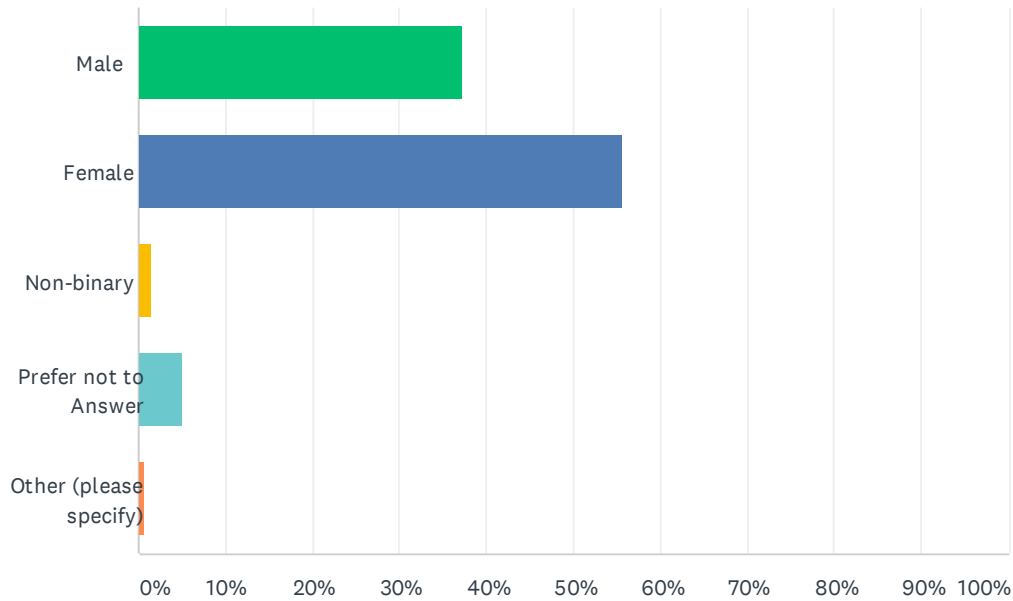


City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force Public Survey #2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Employed for wages	62.40%	463
Self-employed	8.36%	62
Out of work and looking for work	3.64%	27
Out of work, but not currently looking for work	0.40%	3
A stay-at-home parent/caregiver	1.75%	13
A student	1.48%	11
Military	0.13%	1
Retired	15.63%	116
Unable to work	0.13%	1
Prefer not to answer	2.02%	15
Other (please specify)	4.04%	30
TOTAL		742

Q14 What gender do you identify as?

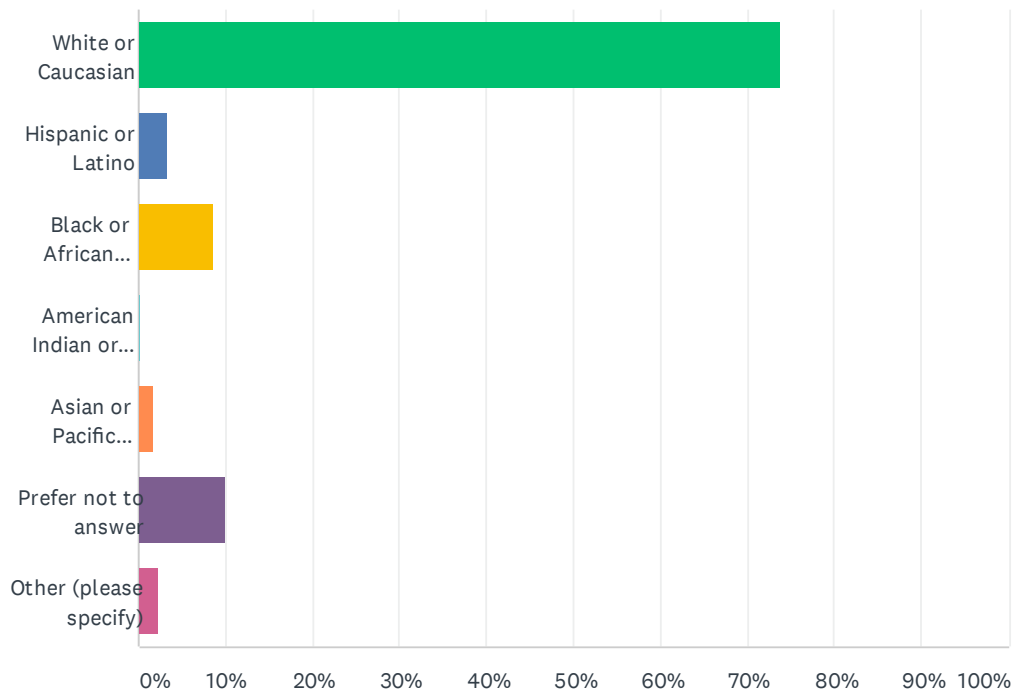
Answered: 738 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	37.26%	275
Female	55.69%	411
Non-binary	1.49%	11
Prefer not to Answer	5.01%	37
Other (please specify)	0.54%	4
TOTAL		738

Q15 What is your ethnicity?

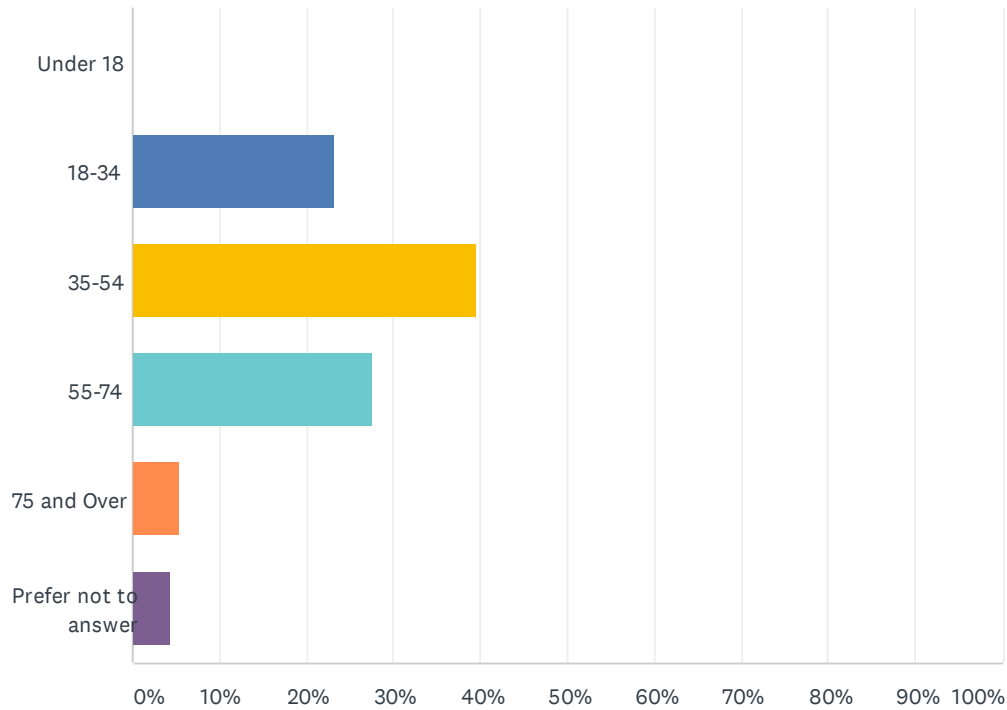
Answered: 739 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
White or Caucasian	73.88%	546
Hispanic or Latino	3.38%	25
Black or African American	8.53%	63
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.27%	2
Asian or Pacific Islander	1.62%	12
Prefer not to answer	10.01%	74
Other (please specify)	2.30%	17
TOTAL		739

Q16 What is your age? (select one)

Answered: 739 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18-34	23.14%	171
35-54	39.51%	292
55-74	27.60%	204
75 and Over	5.41%	40
Prefer not to answer	4.33%	32
TOTAL		739

Q17 What is your zip code?

Answered: 710 Skipped: 33

