Stakeholder Organizations Survey Final Report

Finalized June 2022

This report summarizes the responses from participation in the Stakeholder Organizations Survey. This survey was disseminated in December 2021 and closed in April 2022.

As of April 1st, the stakeholder engagement survey has received 101 responses.

If you would like to read all participant comments in detail, please see this link: https://publicinput.com/Reporting/ReportPreview/13886
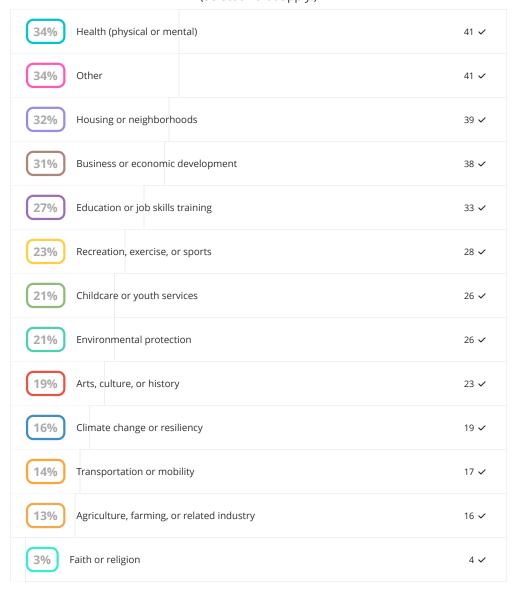
About the Participating Organizations

Type of organization or community group

65%	Community nonprofit or advocacy group	66 ✓
15%	Business	15 ✓
9%	Buncombe County Boards & Commissions	9 ✓
6%	Other	6 ✓
3%	Neighborhood organization	3 ✓
2%	Educational institution	2 ✓

101 Respondents

Which of the following community topics does your organization's mission address?
(Select all that apply.)

34%	Health (physical or mental)	41 ✓
34%	Other	41 ✓
32%	Housing or neighborhoods	39 ✓
31%	Business or economic development	38 ✓
27%	Education or job skills training	33 ✓
23%	Recreation, exercise, or sports	28 ✓
21%	Childcare or youth services	26 ✓
21%	Environmental protection	26 ✓
19%	Arts, culture, or history	23 ✓
16%	Climate change or resiliency	19 ✓
14%	Transportation or mobility	17 ✓
13%	Agriculture, farming, or related industry	16 ✓
3%	Faith or religion	4 ✓

122 Respondents

Planning Issues

What are the top long-range planning issues that the County should be addressing in the next two decades? (Select up to three.)

50%	Planning for growth (land use, housing, transportation)	50 ✓
40%	Planning for sustainable infrastructure (utilities, public facilities and services)	40 ✓
39%	Creating a more equitable community	39 ✓
34%	Fostering community health (access to healthcare, healthy food, etc.)	34 ✓
32%	Advancing education and upward economic mobility of residents	32 ✓
22%	Planning for climate resiliency and hazard mitigation	22 ✓
19%	Protecting the environment	19 ✓
16%	Fostering economic development	16 ✓
14%	Working lands protection (farms, forests, horticulture)	14 ✓
11%	Other	11 ✓
10%	Providing new recreational amenities	10 ✓

101 Respondents

Policy Ideas

Participants were asked:

Now we will ask you for your THREE "big ideas".
In a few words, what is your first "big idea" that your organization would like the County to support to improve our community?

After an analysis of the comments we've received so far, we have identified the following themes.

Big Ideas

- Supporting **aging** population
- Maintaining and developing **housing** accessibility, diversity, and affordability, particularly targeting those who are homeless
- Improved access to **education** – and educational programs – for all
- Better and more accessible **health** services
- Address **food** security
- Utilization of **data** (census, maps, trends, demographics)
- Emphasis on **economic and workforce development**
- Planning for **growth** (infrastructure, transportation, using data, staffing/resources)

Policies, Programs, or Projects

- Consider **planning-**related tools, such as developing plans and making changes to zoning and development regulations

- Implement various **health** services, particularly mental health services and services for the elderly population
- Increase **transportation** connectivity and improve access to underserved areas; support development of greenways
- Support **families and children** through more childcare options and shelters and programs for individuals and families living in unsafe conditions
- Incentivize diverse **housing** options
- Support preservation of **historic** landmarks and conduct historic architectural survey
- Encourage development of **renewable energy**
- Increase **equitable public engagement**, participation, and communication (also, election services and recreation &community centers)
- **Data** gathering, aggregation, and consistency (mostly regarding demographics, trends, equity, and land use)
- Identifying and preserving **natural lands** (also, erosion and stormwater management)
- Look at waste data and **waste services** (also, landfills)

Themes

- **Housing**: Affordable housing, homelessness
- **Education**: Access to better education and programs for all ages
- **Aging:** Tools supporting the aging population
- **Health**: Mental and physical health services
- **Food**: Improving access to food sources (including local food, community, gardens, and healthy food)
- **Arts & Culture**: Historic preservation
- **Infrastructure**: Broadband, sewer
- **Transportation**: Access to public transit, greenways
- **Equity**: Services and support for marginalized groups, LGBTQ+, disability accessibility, reparations
- **Environment**: Conservation, preservation, agriculture, trees, water, pollution, erosion
- **Planning**: Better planning, zoning, permitting, ordinances, creating plans
- **Employment**: Increase access to jobs, training, workforce
- **Families & Children**: Family support services, childcare
- **Sustainability**: Energy, carbon-free, climate change, sustainable design/development
- **Recreation**: Recreation facilities
- **Economic Development**: Businesses, agriculture