



**5** City of Worcester  
**FIVE YEAR PLAN: 2015 - 2020**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

**2014**  
**COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT**  
**MEETINGS SUMMARY**



# PROCESS

- In the Fall of 2014, the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED ) hosted a series of community meetings to obtain feedback and input on neighborhood needs.
- The meetings used a facilitated process to encourage and seek input. Both “open ended” questions were asked and “voting and ranking” exercises were used with participants.
- In all, eight (8) community meetings were held in different neighborhoods across the city, attracting a total of 111 participants.
- The public input received will be used by:
  - The City and the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) when helping evaluate applications.
  - City administration when updating the City’s Five Year Consolidated Action Plan for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



# COMMUNITY INPUT MEETINGS

Location	Date
Quinsigamond Village Community Center	10/21/2014
Frances Perkins Public Library Branch	10/23/2014
National Grid Sustainability Hub	10/28/2014
Lincoln Park Tower Apartments	11/5/2014
Worcester Academy	11/6/2014
Great Brook Valley	11/13/2014
Elm Park Tower Apartments	11/18/2014
Worcester Youth Center	11/20/2014

**Total Attendance: 111**



## THEMES ADDRESSED

- Neighborhood Strengths
- Neighborhood Weaknesses
- Non-Profit and Government Services Needed
- Top Neighborhood Issues and Concerns
- Housing Programs and Initiatives
- Needs for Specific Populations



# WHAT DO WE LIKE ABOUT OUR NEIGHBORHOODS?



\*As stated by participants at community input meetings and summarized in a word cloud. The larger the word in the visual the more often it was stated.



# TOP NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES AND CONCERNS

## ■ Most Commonly Stated

- Streets and Sidewalks
- Litter and Lack of Cleanliness
- Vehicles and Traffic
- Negative Perception
- Unemployment/Access to Jobs
- Poor Condition of Housing Stock
- Condition and/or Lack of Parks & Public Recreational Facilities
- Need for More and Better Educational Opportunities

## ■ Stated Often

- Youth Violence and Gang Activity
- Substance Abuse
- Crime
- Absentee/Negligent Landlords
- Lack of Youth Opportunities

## ■ Stated Occasionally

- Lack of Recreational Opportunities
- Need for More Business Assistance
- Loss of Trees
- Food Insecurity
- Economic Inequality
- Drugs and Prostitution
- Need for Community Policing
- Abandoned and Vacant Lots



# TOP PUBLIC SERVICE NEEDS

## ■ Most Commonly Stated

- Public Transit Improvements
- Street and Sidewalk Improvements
- Solid Waste Management
- Child and Youth Programming

## ■ Stated Often

- New Immigrant Services Including ESL Services
- Recreational Opportunities
- Community Policing
- Drug and Gang Intervention
- Mental Health Services
- Services for Seniors
- Coordination Amongst Service Providers
- Transportation to Youth Programs
- Business Incentives

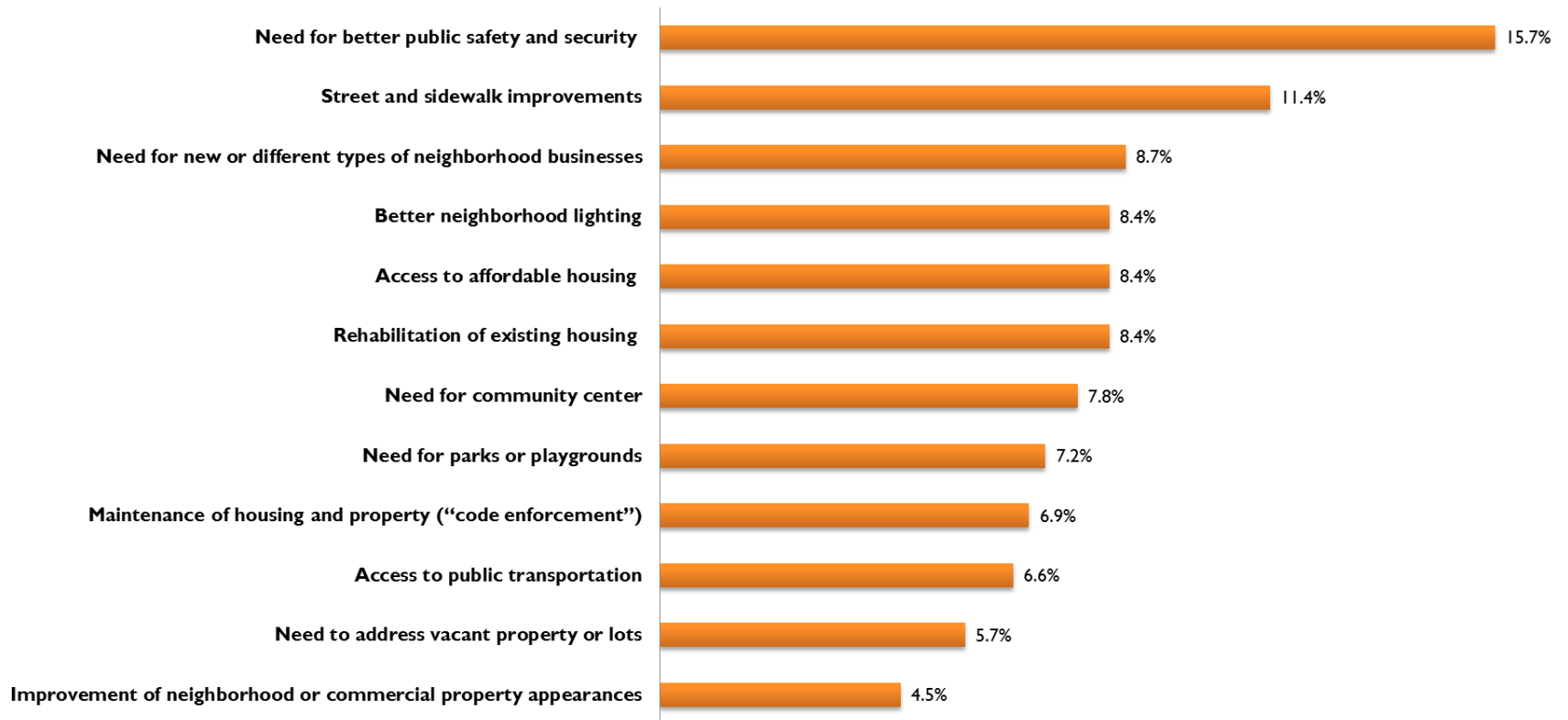
## ■ Stated Occasionally

- Surveillance
- Weatherization
- Work With Property Owners for Code Enforcement
- Food Access
- Substance Abuse Services
- Homelessness Services
- Access to Services
- Educational Programs Services
- Youth Jobs
- Converting Vacant Lots



# NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES IDENTIFIED

■ Percent of Votes





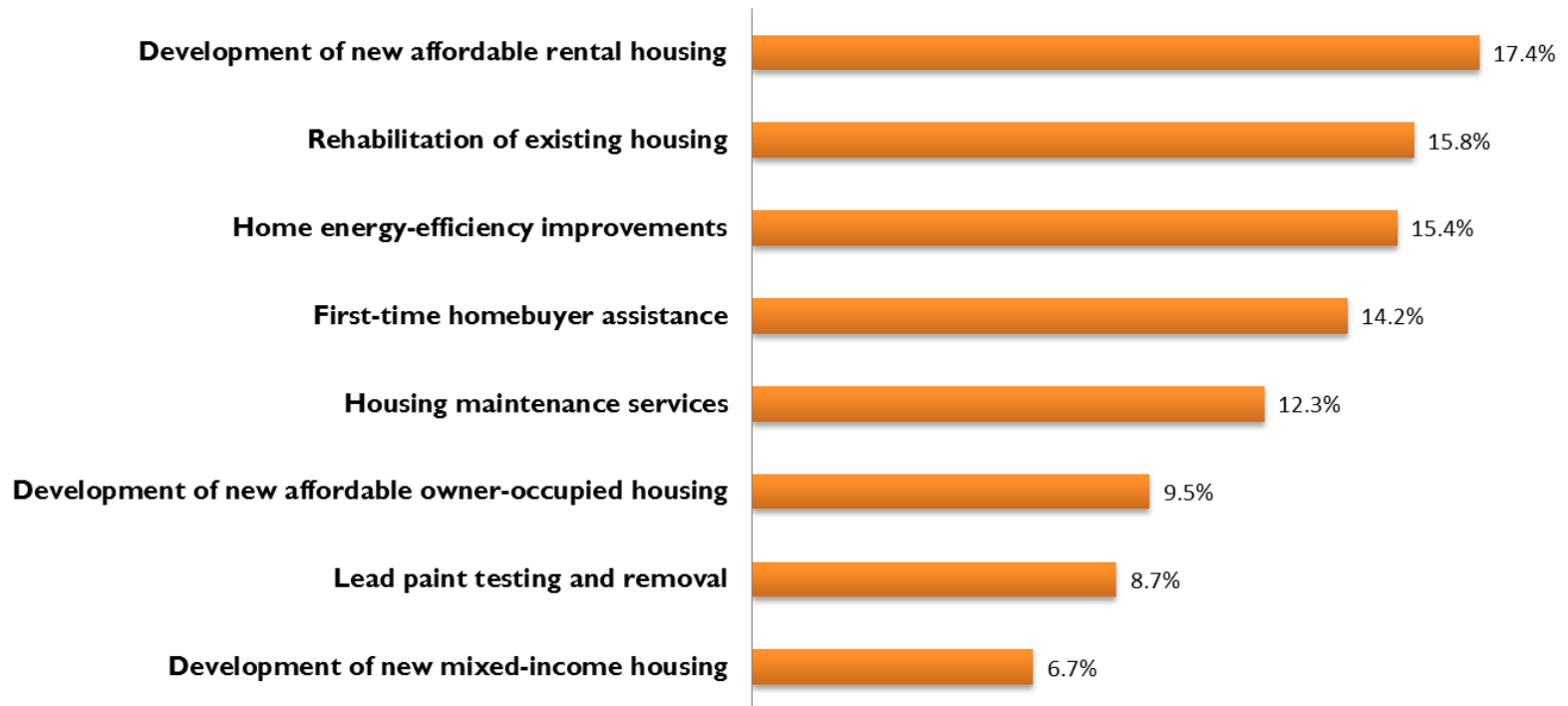


# TOP NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES

Priority	Type of Neighborhood Need	% of Votes
1	Better public safety and security	15.7%
2	Street and sidewalk improvements	11.4%
3	New or different types of neighborhood businesses	8.7%
4 (Tied)	Access to affordable housing	8.4%
4 (Tied)	Better neighborhood lighting	8.4%
4 (Tied)	Rehabilitation of existing housing	8.4%

# HOUSING PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

■ Percent of Votes





# URGENCY OF NEEDS FOR SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

