

City of Worcester FIVEYEAR 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?

Elm Park Sense of Community Social services Community HealthLink Property improvements Diversity Schools Parks Public Transportation Quiet Sense of safety

Family Health Center Public Pool

Walkable

Downtown

Walkable

Human services

Street and light improvements

Walkable

Human services

Safety

Playgrounds

Canal District

Resources and Services

Churches Surveillance Affordable Walkability YMCA Urban Orchards Food Pantry Community schools Worcester Common Ground Diversity of Businesses Highway access Businesses Great Institutional Partnerships Transportation Inclusive Trees Amenities
Residents
Stores Interpersonal relationships Independent Businesses Green Space Tree Replanting Affordability Boys and Girls Club
Train Station Committed stakeholders
Positive Changes Public Library Worcester Senior Center Places of worship Hospital Historic housing Historical Significance Quinsigamond Village Community Center Non-Profits and Institutions Historical District Youth Programs Recreation



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

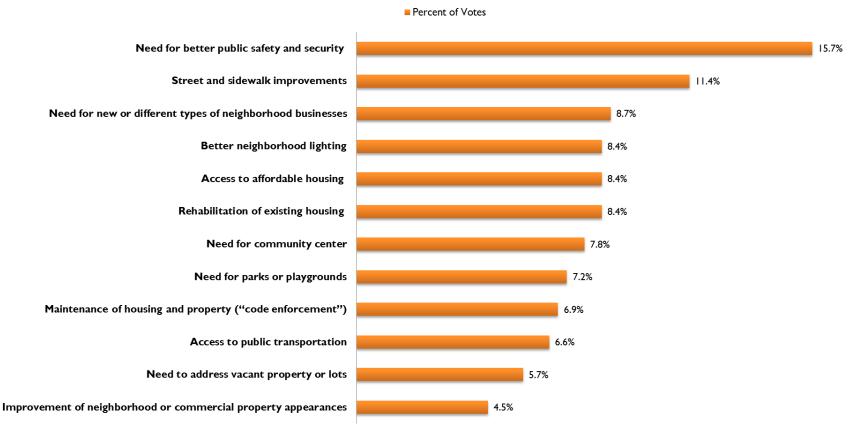
- Public Transit Improvements
- Street and Sidewalk Improvements
- Stated Often
 - New Immigrant Services Including ESL Services
 - Recreational Opportunities
 - Community Policing
 - Drug and Gang Intervention
 - Mental Health Services
- Stated Occasionally
 - Surveillance
 - Weatherization
 - Work With Property Owners for Code Enforcement
 - Food Access
 - Substance Abuse Services

- Solid Waste Management
- Child and Youth Programming
- Services for Seniors
- Coordination Amongst Service Providers
- Transportation to Youth Programs
- Business Incentives

- Homelessness Services
- Access to Services
- Educational Programs Services
- Youth Jobs
- Converting Vacant Lots



NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES IDENTIFIED



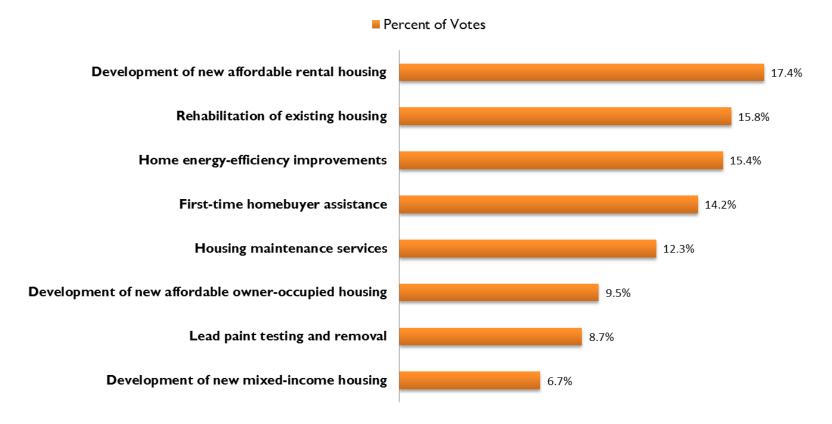


TOP NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES

Priority	Type of Neighborhood Need	% of Votes
I	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%

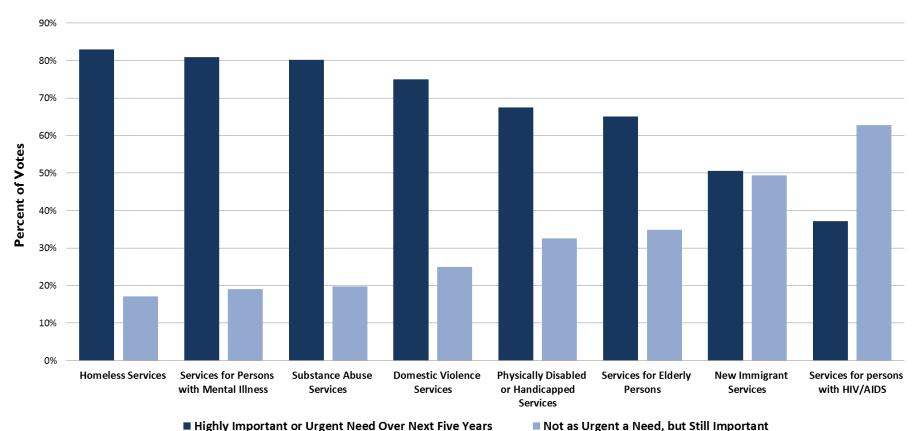


HOUSING PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES





URGENCY OF NEEDS FOR SPECIFIC POPULATIONS



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