



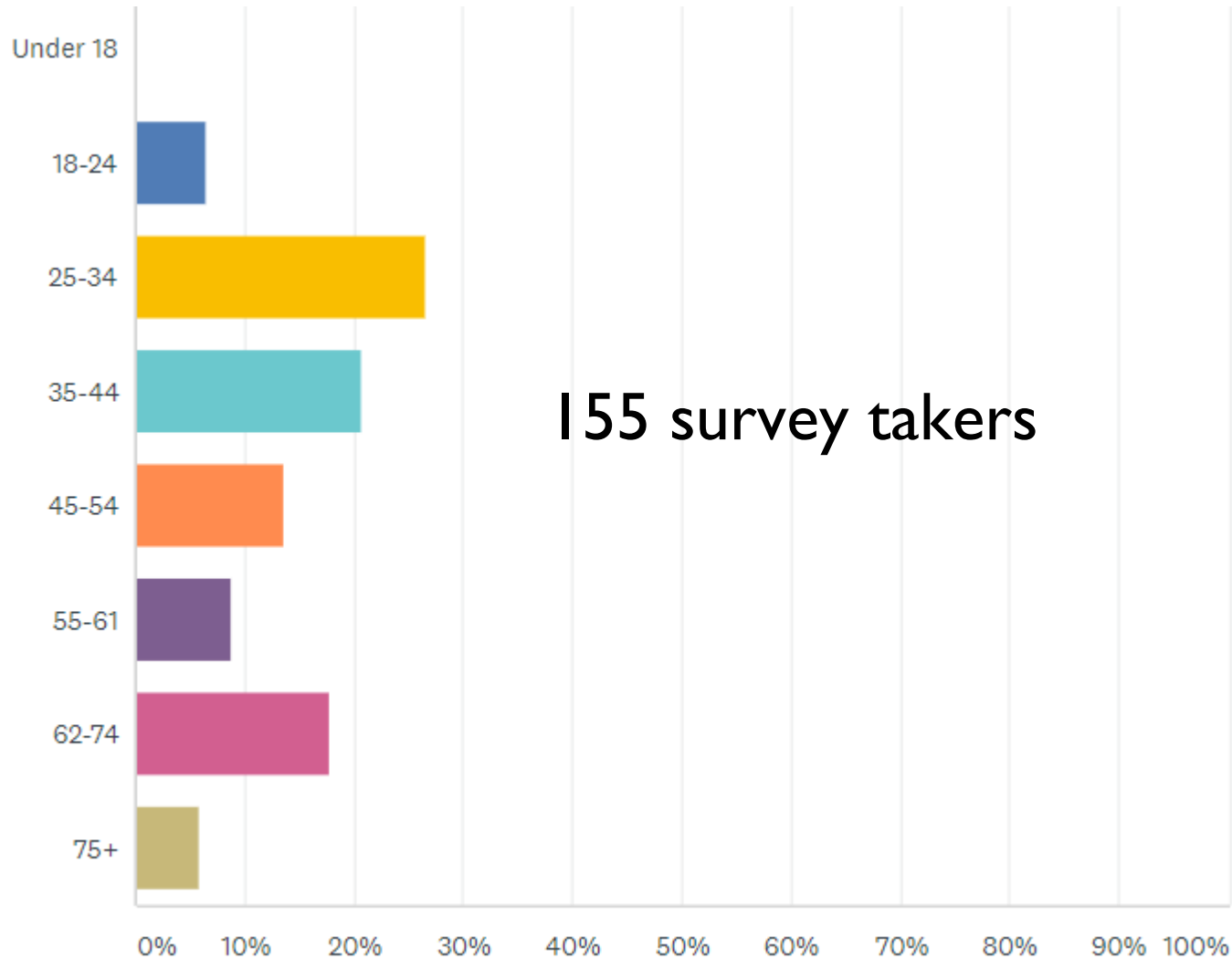
## Community Needs Survey

To inform the Community Development Block Grant and HOME  
5-year plan – look at how to prioritize our funds

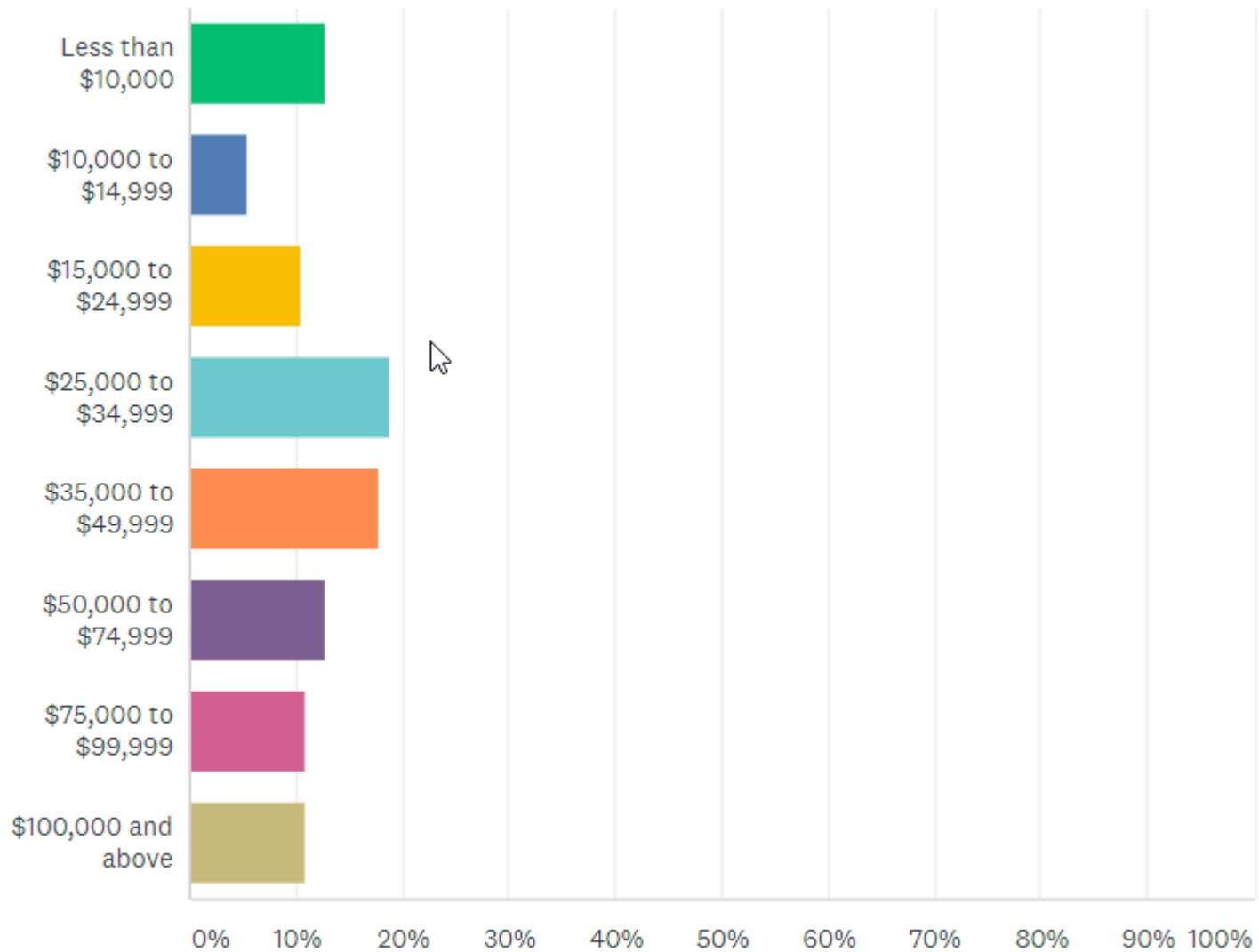
## **Important Outcomes from a Neighborhood Plan**

1. More police presence and safety
2. Improving the housing, more single family homes
3. More lighting
4. Better care of parks
5. Improve the look of the neighborhood

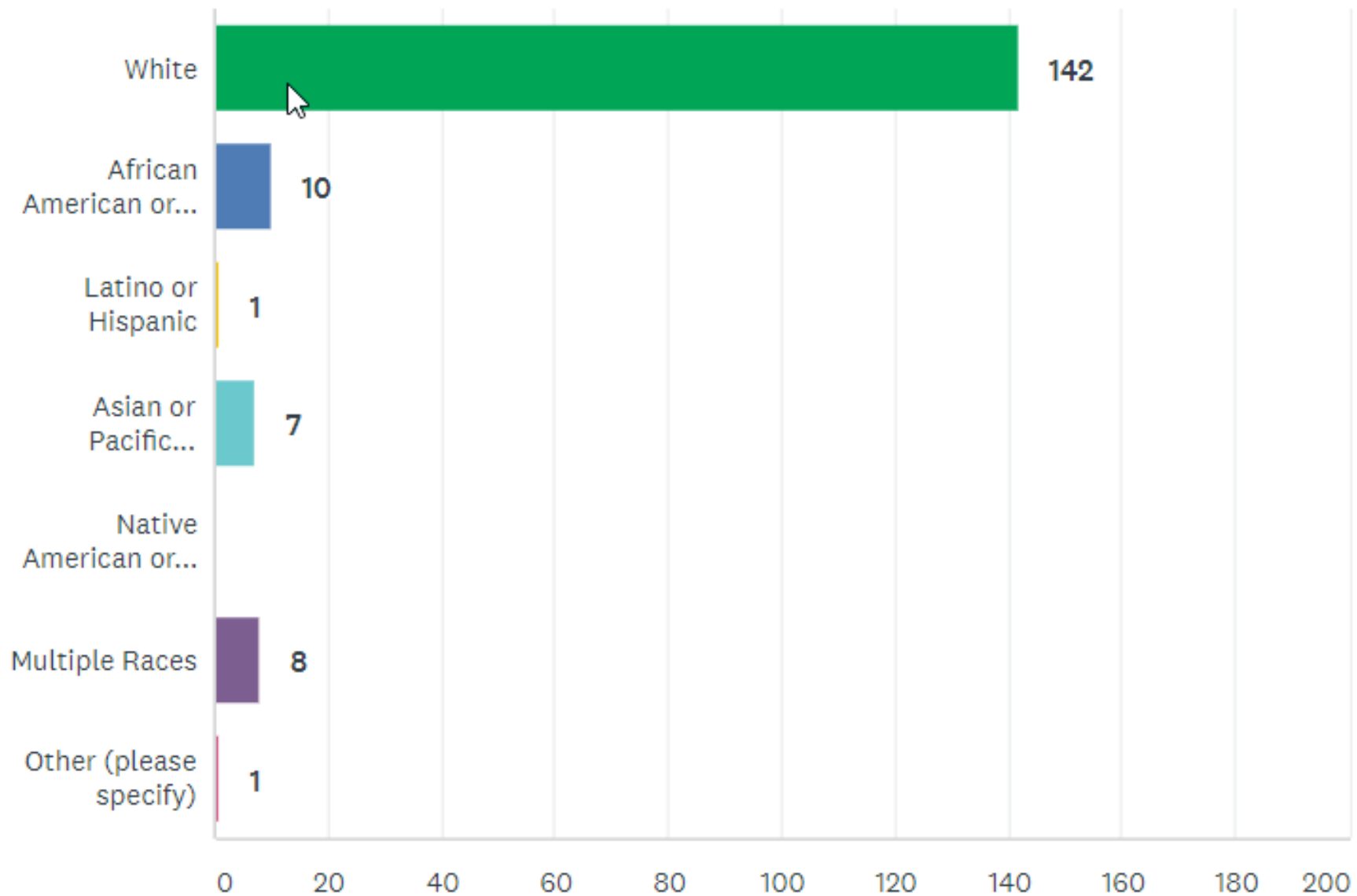
# Who took the survey- Age



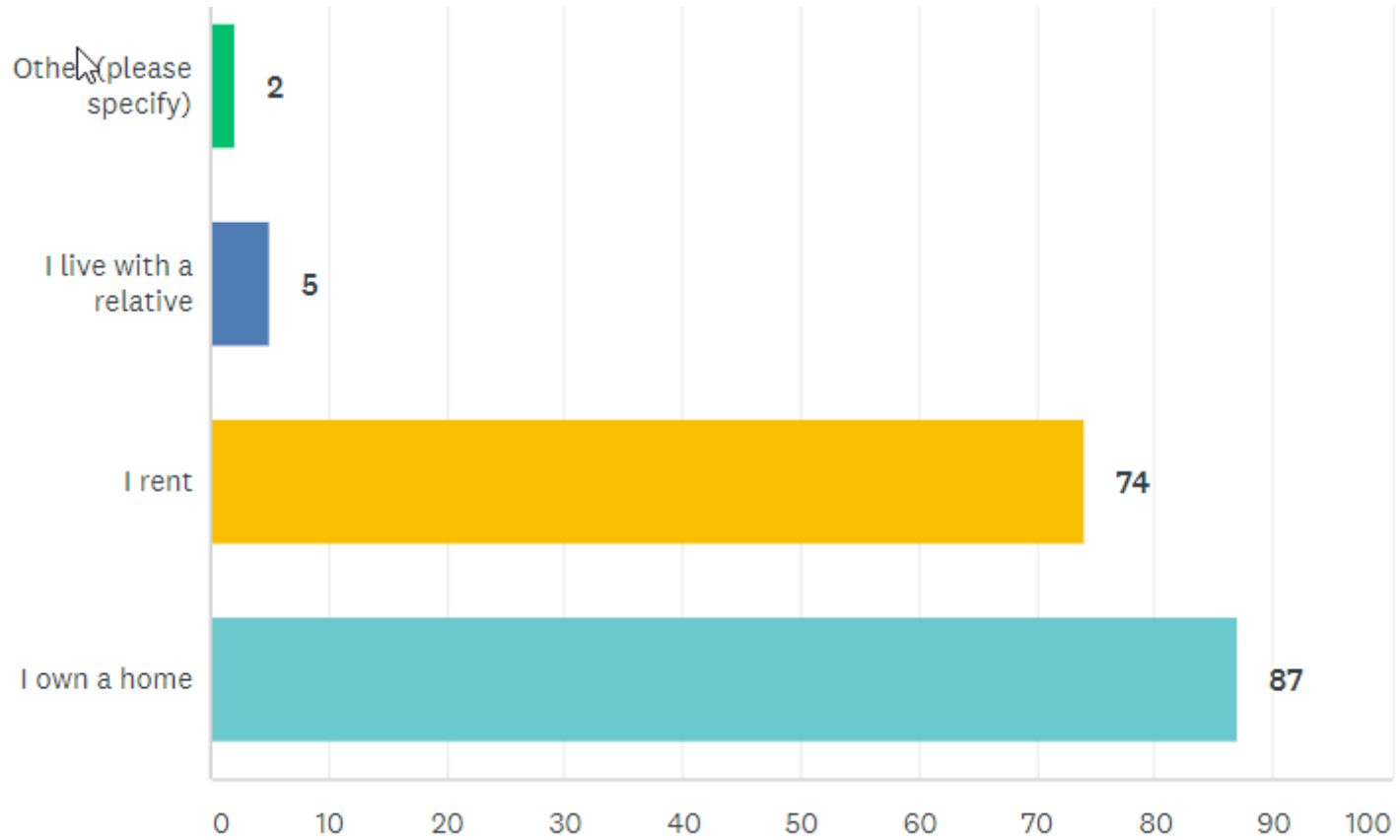
# Who took the survey- Income



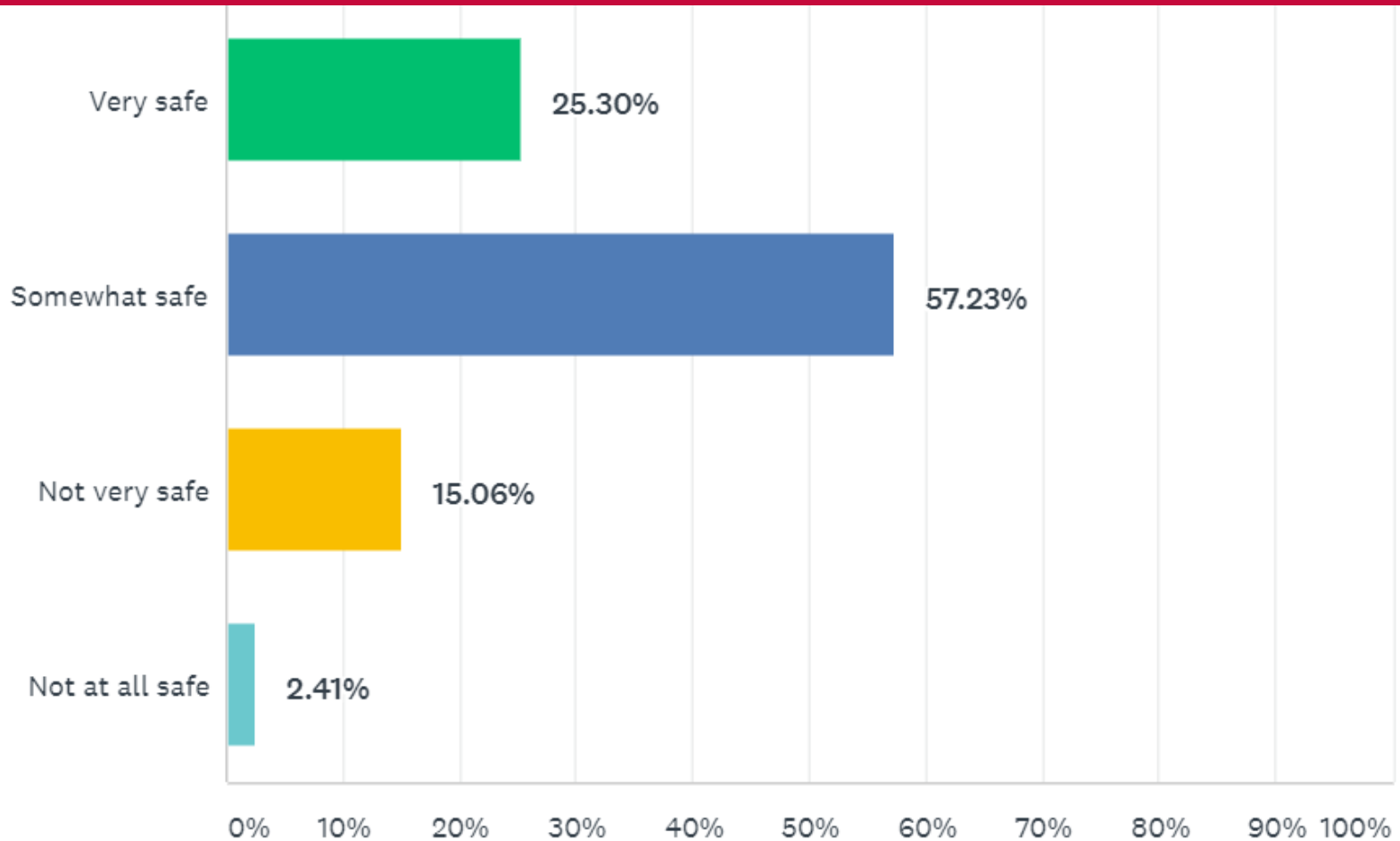
# Who took the survey- Race



# Housing Status



# How safe do you feel? (overall)



## **Compared to City-Wide Survey**

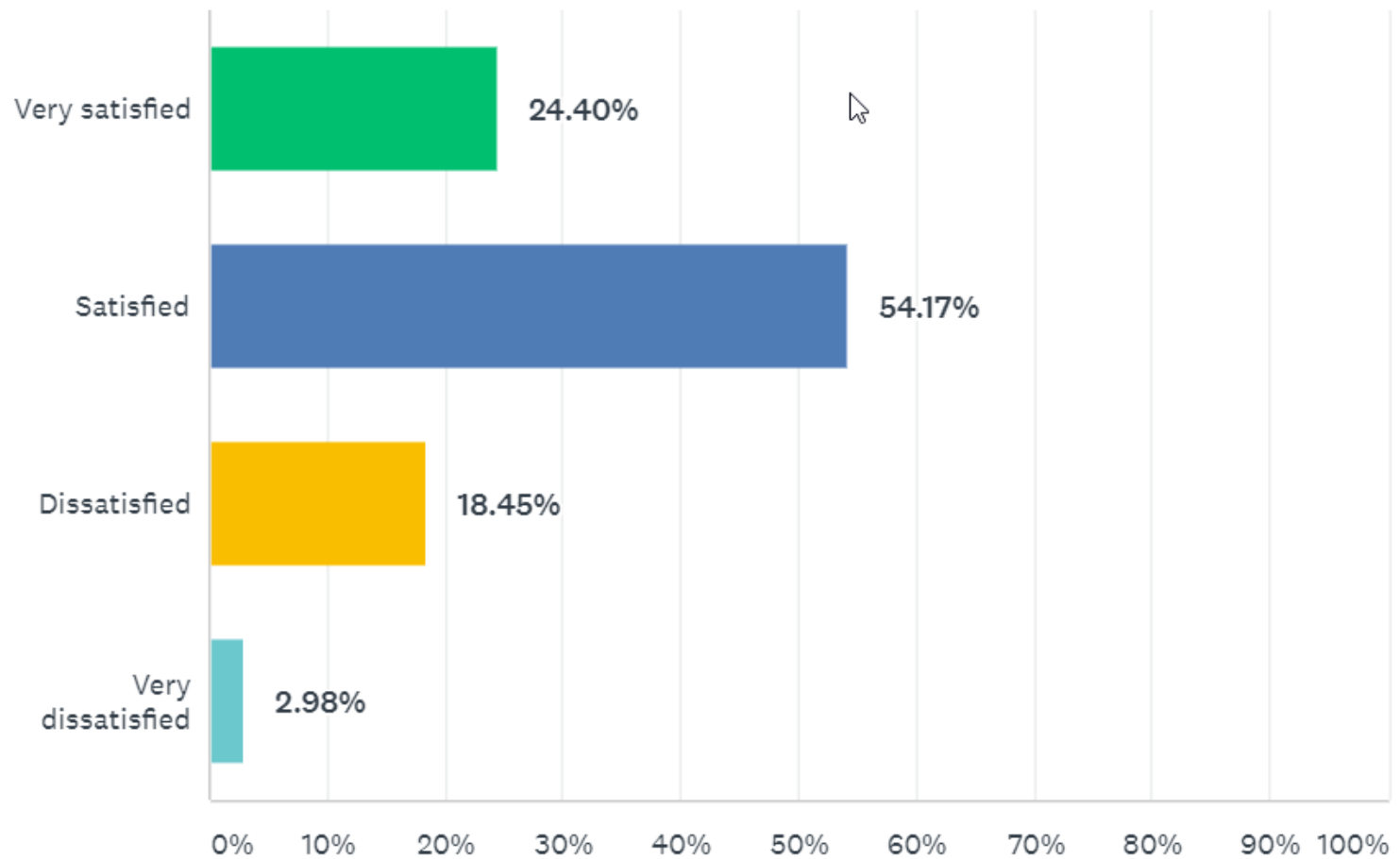
*42% of overall survey takers feel very safe (less safe than city-wide)*

*49% of overall survey takers feel somewhat safe*

*7% feel not very safe*

*1% not at all safe*

# How satisfied do you feel? (overall)



## City-Wide

- 2019 34% feel very satisfied
- 2014 21% feel very satisfied



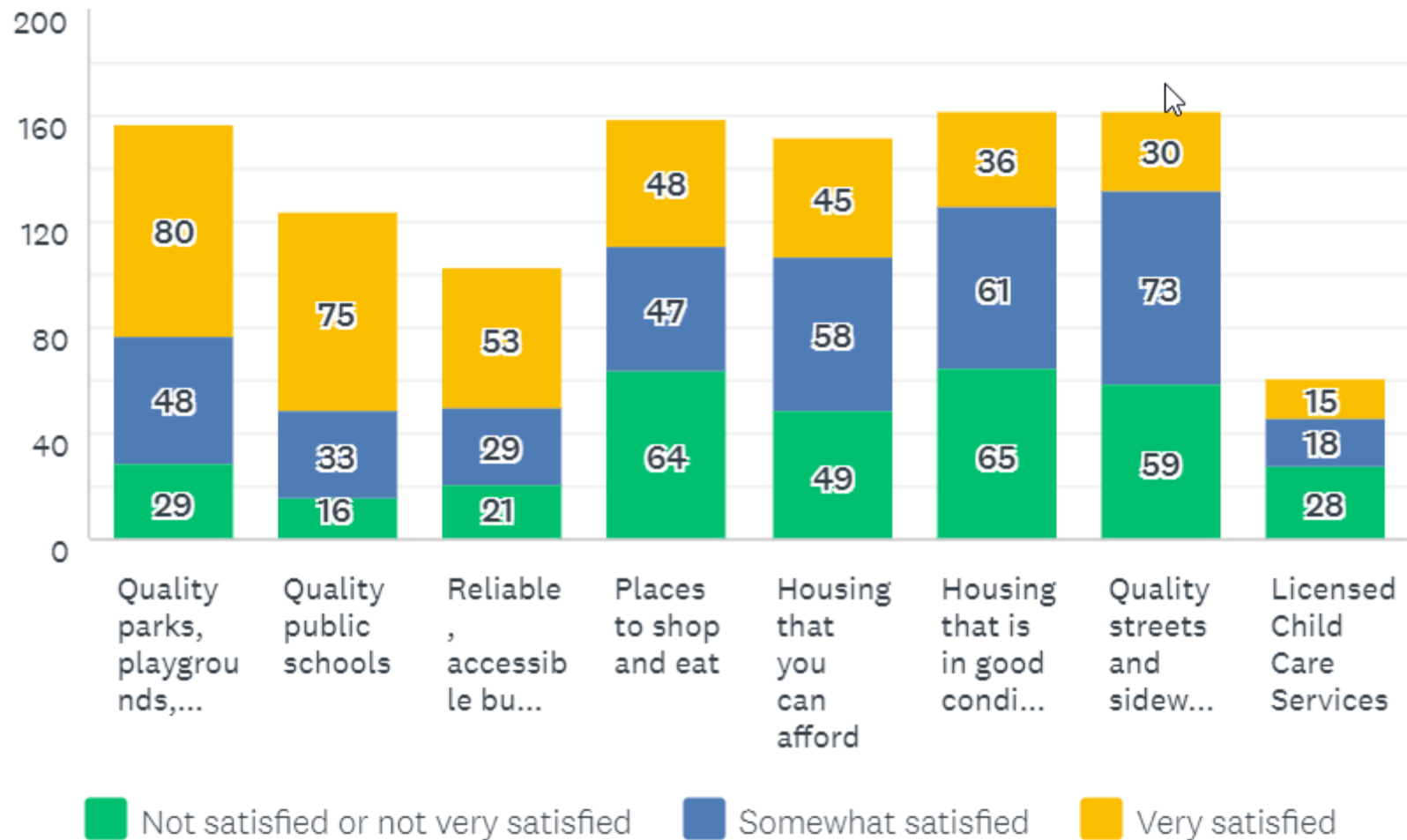
# What do you like best about your neighborhood?

S street house lot hospital great neighborhood keep lighting  
community park downtown quiet everything close  
Close work neighbors improving Location  
street lights school close downtown new nice friendly improvement  
people clean homes Good

# What do you like best about your neighborhood?

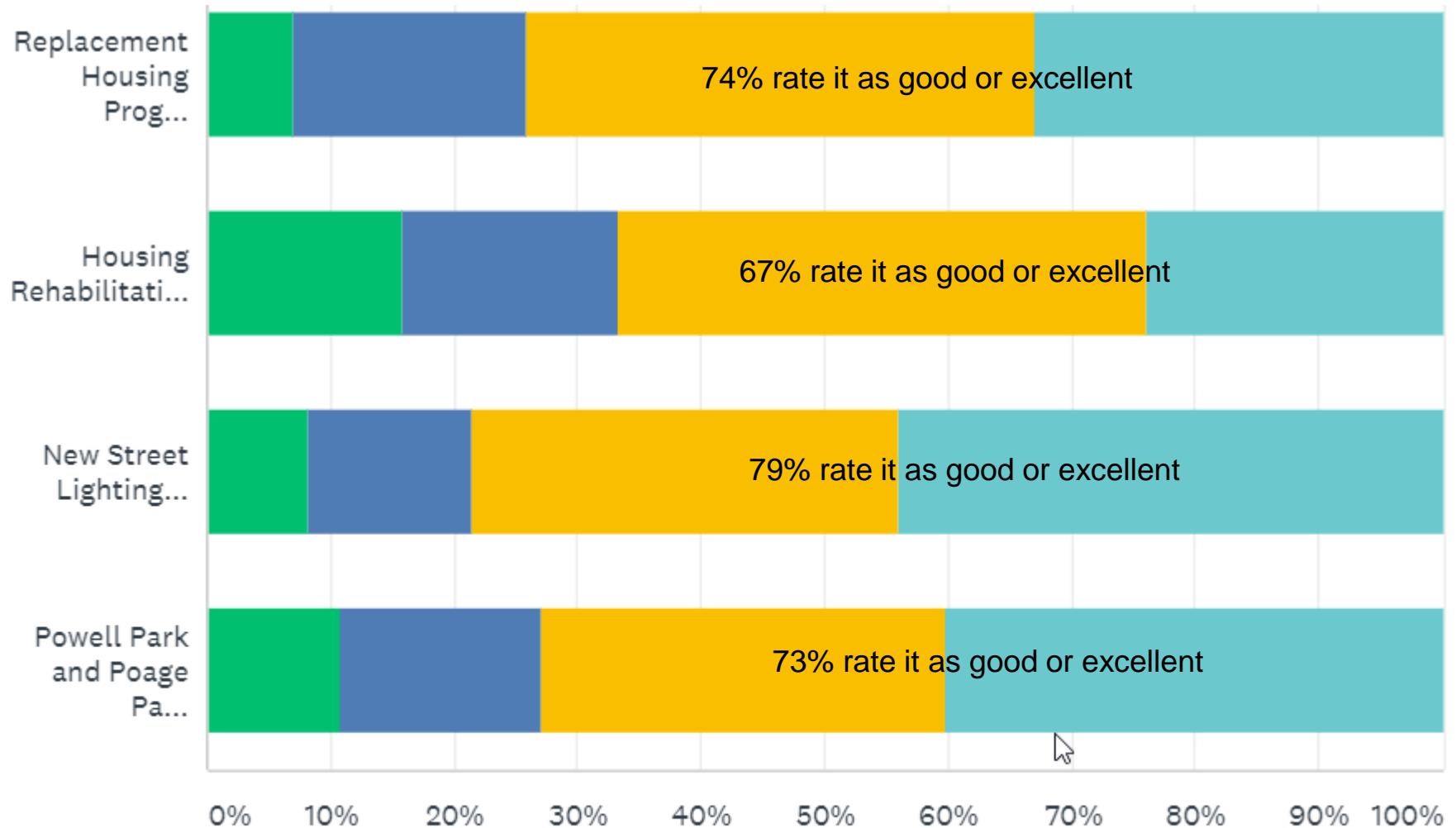
- Quiet and nice neighbors
- Location- close to schools and amenities
- Good neighbors, well kept homes, friendly, quiet
- Neighbors are great
- Improving
- Improvement in lighting
- School district
- Close to work, within walking distance
- Know my neighbors, feel safe, will help each other out.
- The extra lighting
- improvements have been made like condemning properties and putting up new properties. La Crosse Promise is a good ideas. I like the location, centrally located. Attempt to improve
- the improvement efforts being made, accessibility to everything I need
- Our immediate neighbors - friendly & helpful
- The mix of income levels, race and ethnicity
- Close to work and downtown. During fair weather do not need a car
- Its kinda hood right now. I get to be the tip of the gentrification spear
- Diversity
- Neighborhood is improving due to Promise Program and addition of street lights
- New homes are being built
- Inexpensive, low cost
- really cheap to rent house
- the park, neighborhood association
- social class mix
- Our neighborhood resource officer program has been a great help with issues experienced in our area. Parks in our area are also great!

# How satisfied are you with your access to the following resources?



People are the happiest with their access to quality parks and playgrounds, schools. Least satisfied with access to licensed child care services and the quality of the streets. Housing quality is issue, housing affordability, and places to shop and eat.

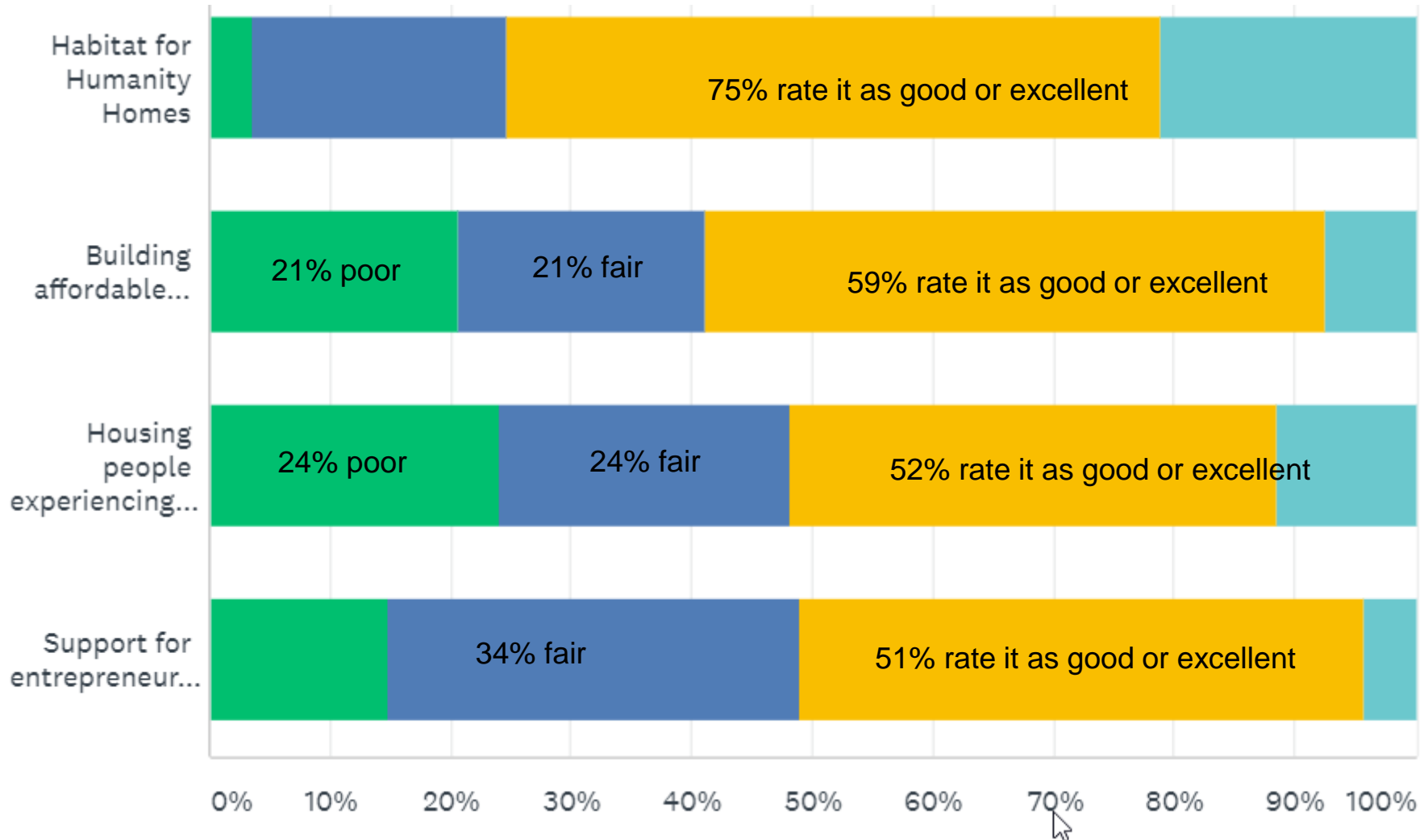
# Rate the quality and effectiveness of City programs.



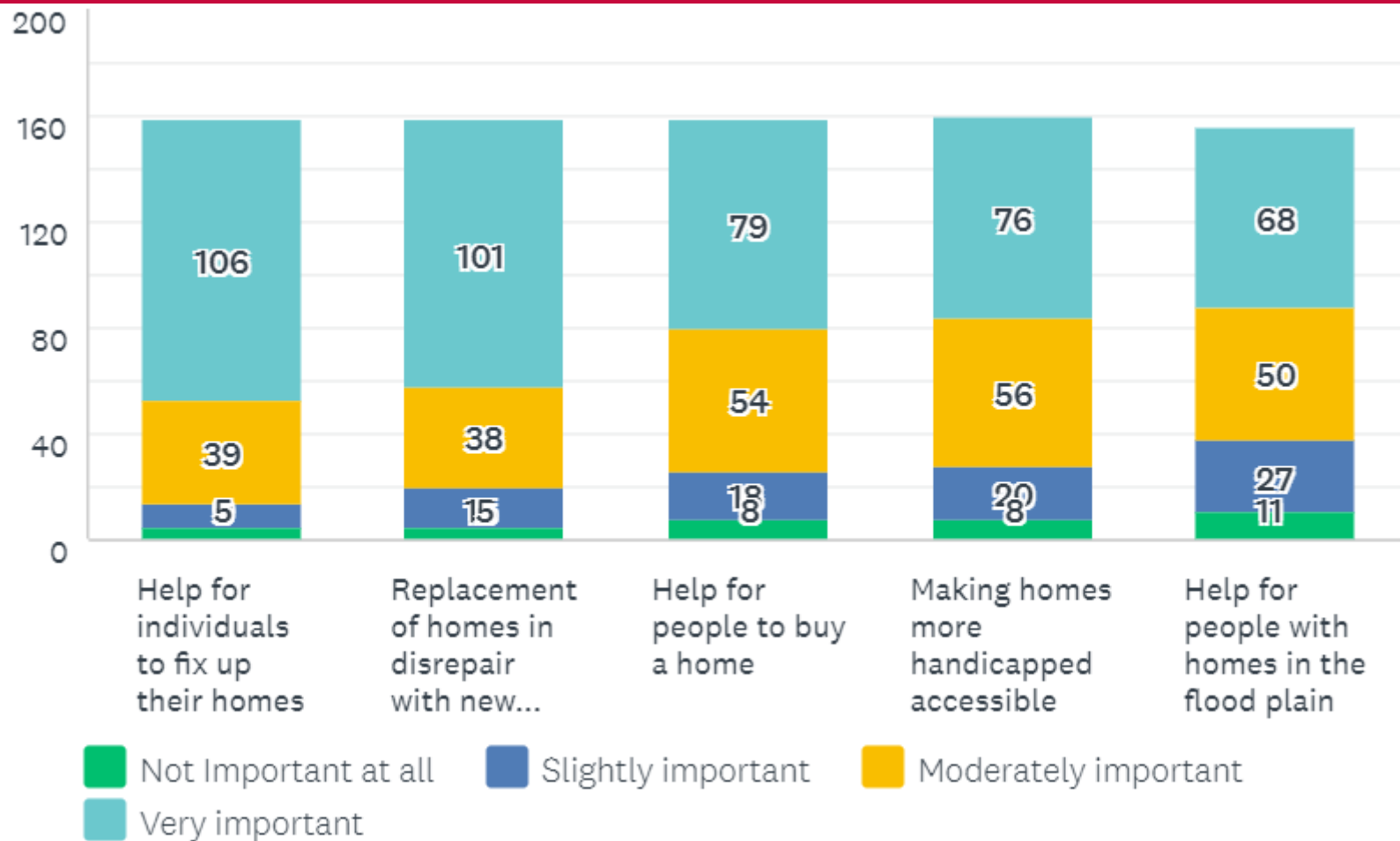
Higher ratings for these programs than City-wide survey. Many improvement impacted neighborhood.

■ Poor ■ Fair ■ Good ■ Excellent

# Rate the quality and effectiveness of programs funded by the City.

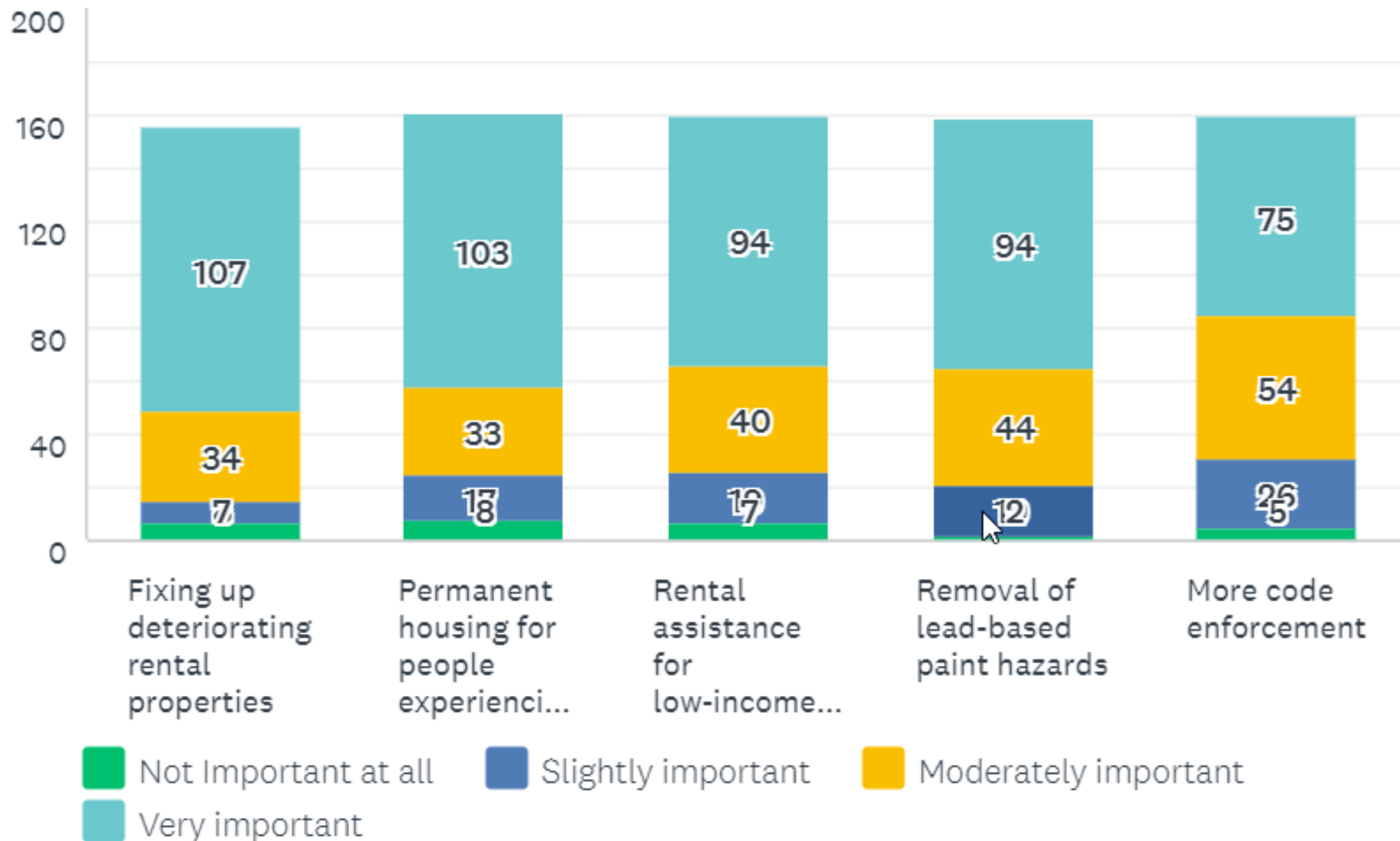


# Programs that meet City's homeownership needs

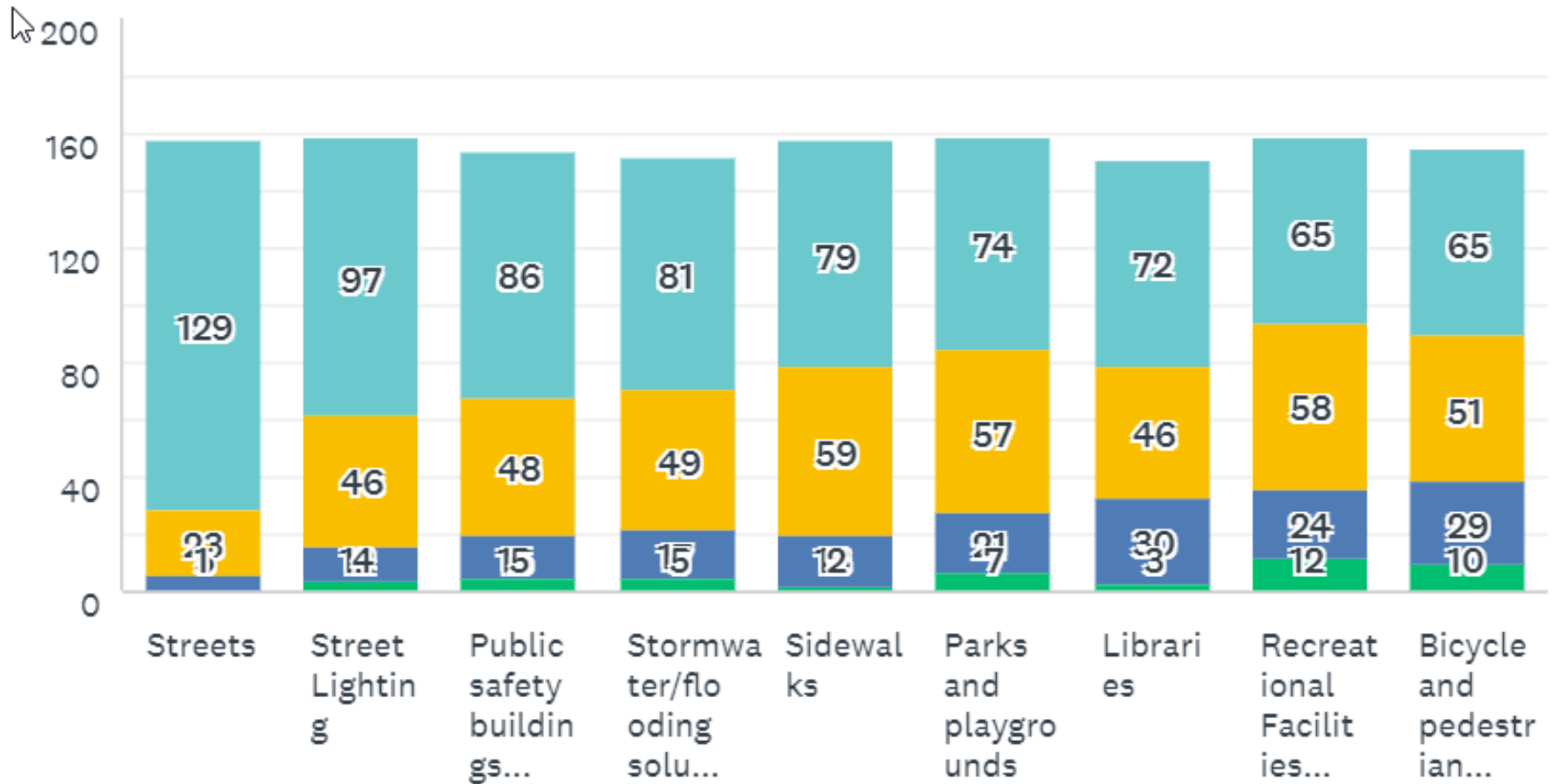


Majority of respondents think these programs are very important or moderately important. Helping individuals fix up their home was ranked number one, followed closely by replacing homes. This is the same as 5-years ago.

# Programs that meet City's rental needs



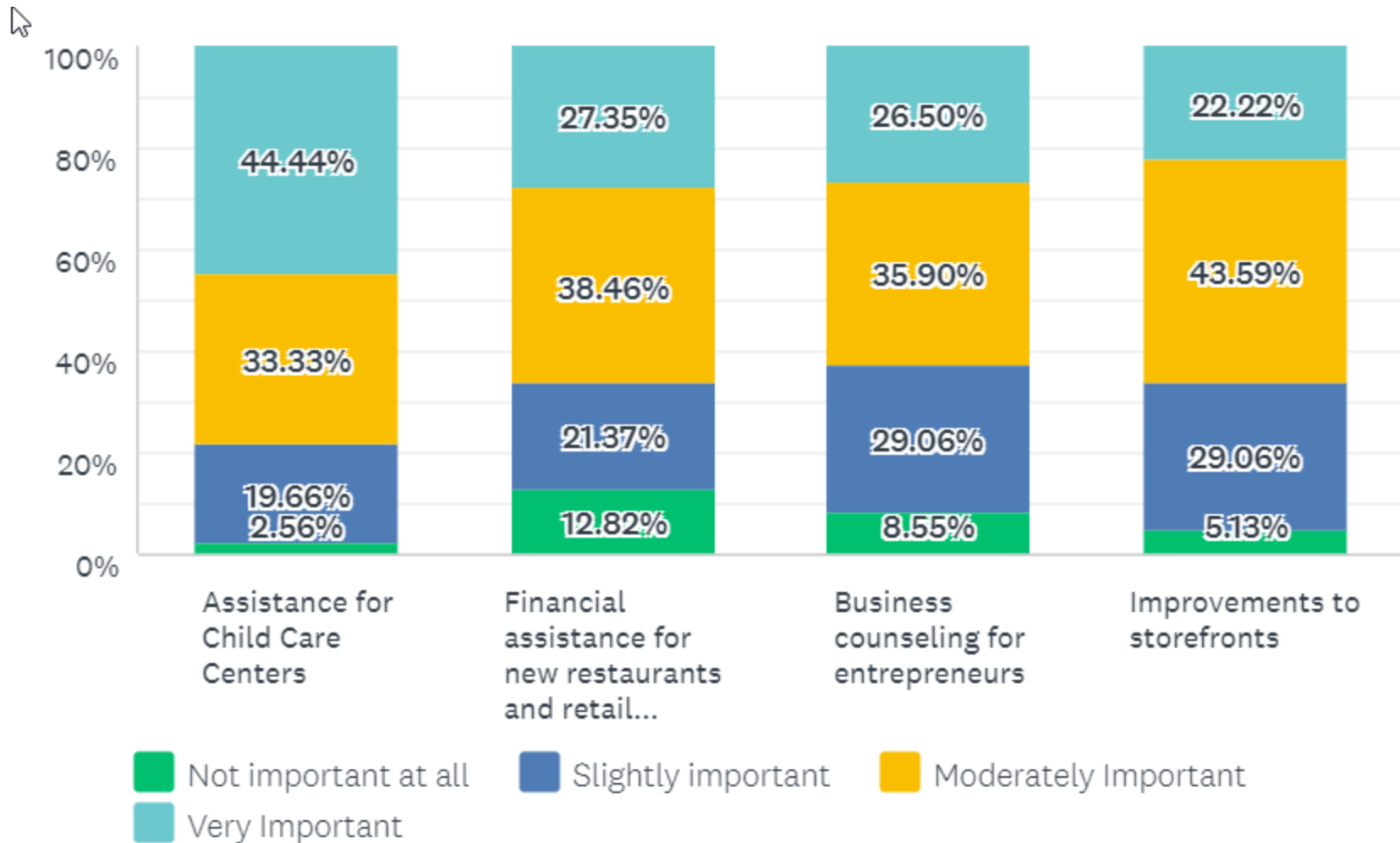
# How important are the following capital improvements?



Streets and street lighting very important. But addressing housing quality and housing affordability still seen as slightly more important than other capital improvements.



# How important are these Economic Development programs?

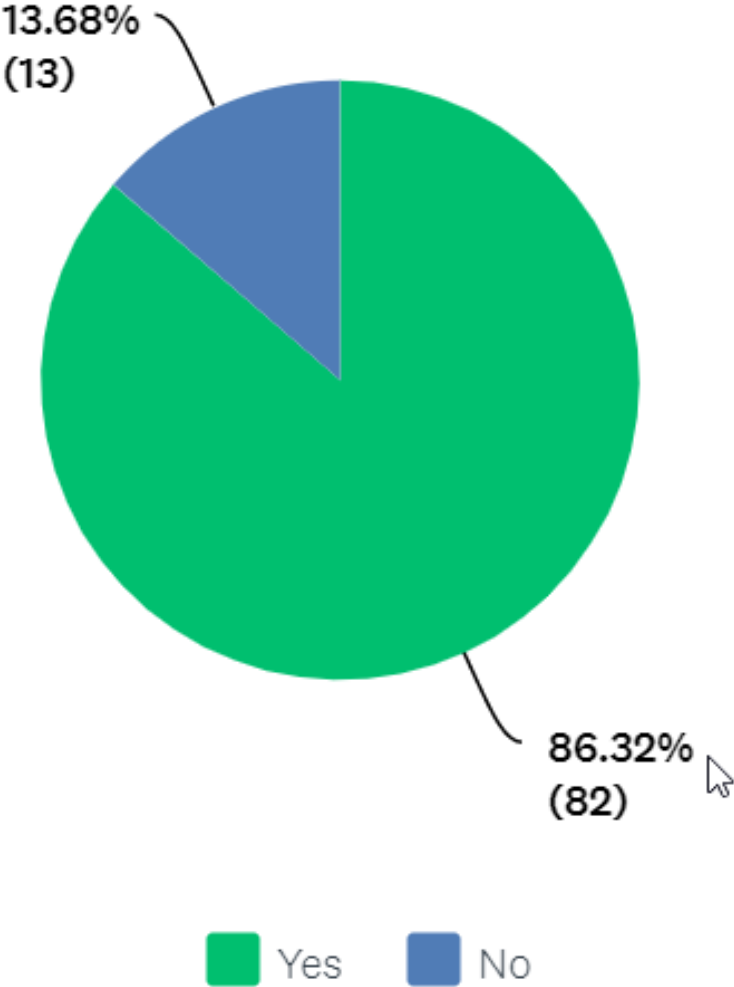


New restaurants and retail, child care more important than City-wide survey

# Four (4) types of services that City should prioritize

▼ Mental Health Services	50.32%	78
▼ Homeless services (housing, shelters, support)	44.52%	69
▼ Crime prevention and public safety	43.23%	67
▼ Low-cost health care services	40.65%	63
▼ Substance abuse services and prevention	32.26%	50
▼ Domestic violence and child abuse prevention	25.81%	40
▼ Child Care	24.52%	38
▼ Transportation services (bus, car repair)	18.06%	28
▼ Youth services and programs	17.42%	27
▼ Food Banks	16.77%	26
▼ Community social workers and case management	16.13%	25
▼ Parks and Recreation	16.13%	25
▼ Job training	14.19%	22
▼ Financial counseling services	13.55%	21
▼ Tenant/landlord counseling	12.90%	20
▼ Emergency shelters	12.26%	19

# Would you support a strategy that targets resources to specific neighborhoods ?



## Key Takeaways

1. Significant improvements have been made in all key areas identified 5+ years ago (more policing, housing investment, parks)
2. General trend is positive for the neighborhood
3. Still, more needs to be done in the area of housing and policing, neighborhood commercial, roads

## **What's next for the survey results?**

- Inform Council of the importance of roads but maintain focus on things we (Community Development) do well and can leveraging resources- housing quality and affordability
- Recommend to Parks and Recreation to consider how to improve community engagement in projects
- Share results with police department

## **Preliminary Ideas for 5-Year CDBG Plan**

- Slower “pace” of replacement housing in the neighborhood and Washburn but continue to advocate for its support
- Support another lighting project
- Support child care, upgrades to Hamilton School
- Prioritize supporting businesses that are food-related
- Continue to examine how to improve quality of housing stock through incentives and enforcement
- Deeper affordability for “new” affordable housing
- Examine connections to waterfront and bike/pedestrian improvements

What are your thoughts?

Based on the survey, where do you think the City should prioritize its funds?

# What would you like to see improved?

- Street replacement at 10<sup>th</sup> and Farnam
- Community center lighting
- Pot holes
- Mufflers for cars
- Police chases
- Child care is expensive
- Wish people were friendlier
- To have neighborhood more updated, clean up. Love all new developments.
- A place to shop and eat would be nice the older I get.
- New homes needs owners that take pride in their homes
- more restaurants and shopping
- Remove drug houses and house of ill repute.
- fewer rental properties
- There are lots of elderly folks. We need a neighborhood grocery store and a place to eat
- more rich people movin to the PPH
- Less rental property (especially multiple units)
- Need to continue removing blighted homes and apartments. Prioritize single family housing.
- more police patrol in the evenings
- More lighting
- Parking from Gundersen
- Separate lanes for bicycles, greater sense of community
- grocery stores, restaurants to walk to, breakfast
- there are beautiful new homes being built in the area, but are over priced for the neighborhood
- I just like to see the homes being better maintained and safer
- More affordable family housing in my area that families can rent. Also if they are nice not run down and disgusting
- The state of affordable housing in La Crosse is abysmal. The houses in my neighborhood are not cared for. My house alone is awful from the foundation to the floor to the roof.

# What would you like to see improved?

- I would like to have adequate lighting added to deter crime. I would like the city to crack down on drug dealers. If they're caught, send them to jail and keep them there. I would like local zoning laws enforced - such as not turning single family dwellings into rentals. By not enforcing these ordinances, neighborhoods are being devalued.
- corner grocery/bakery at hood and 10th st dog park/lot to meet people community resource kiosk, place to see whats going on, post events
- monitoring speed of traffic near schools and parks
- The trees that are in violation of the city ordinance. Being to close together
- Rent lowered!!!! Paying for parking in the garage at \$40 a month is insane!!! And the garage is NOT heated or has AC! And we have to beg to get it cleaned ONCE a year!!! Rent is out of control!!! I am on a limited budget, retired and everything keeps going up in cost except my income!!!
- More street lights . Less rental properties..
- If the city is wanting to better the Hamilton area, please reconsider changing the name of "Hood" Street. I live on Hood street, and that name has such a negative connotation to the area. In my neighborhood, I believe home owners should be held accountable to have the people living in the house maintain their yards/properties instead of having junk overflowing around their houses. I think more street surveillance cameras should be placed and even add an emergency phone.
- Access to locally sourced food and goods within walking distance
- The new streetlights are horrible, no real bike trails. Food desert.
- More shopping and nicer restaurants, more quality affordable housing
- Fix the roads, do something about people dropping used needles everywhere and lock the methheads up
- Lighting, potholes, trees on boulevards being planted with fruit trees. Have more free accessibility to free fresh fruits. Parks with planters that grow vegetables and fruit trees
- Safety of the neighborhood.
- Rental housing is in poor condition or just way too expensive for nicer options
- What we need is an inexpensive place to shop for food. Like an Aldi's but better. Festival foods and Kwik Trips are nice. but way too expensive.



# Comments

- All streets in this area should have the new street lighting - Denton, Redfield etc
- More is need in Powel, Poage, Hamilton. Replace the trees that were removed in 2018 due to Emerald Ash Borer. Fix streets and sidewalks. Have Parking Authority give tickets to cars parked to close to curb cut outs. Must measure 15 feet exactly to give ticket. More police patrols and officer liasions or patrol bikes.
- I would like to see more lighting projects around Powell Park.
- More replacement homes closer together
- Very impressed with projects.
- The Park have nothing for teens.. the home program are too expensive
- My opinion is some of the houses, SOME, were not so bad and could have been renovated to just as good a standard. Don`t get me wrong, there is a nice improvement in my neighborhood, as far as looks. The parks I think was a waste of money, you could have improved them in other ways, just as they were and made them just as usable. Not adding all the plush statues, sidewalks, new fancy buildings, cutting down actual large play areas for kids and adults. Play equipment is fine, that was a great improvement.
- I hope you stop with the street lighting at 7th street. I am not impress with lighting. bright light at spot of light many more shadows as you move away
- Need more Grants to fix up old homes
- The rate at which lacrosse is building homes is not fast enough to keep up with our population increase

# Comments

- Keep up the good work, it has not gone unnoticed
- While it is difficult not to see the value of these housing programs and to congratulate the city's attempt to revitalize struggling neighborhoods, I think there needs to, locked into the purchasing of these homes, a modicum of neighborly etiquette enforced. We have new home that was purchased in our neighborhood. Many people are living in it (clearly not a single family) and the surrounding neighbors are tasked with cleaning up the trash thrown into the streets - even after they've kindly been asked to stop this behavior from several long-time residents.
- You just spent millions of dollars on these parks and then I received a questionnaire last fall about putting a new basketball court in at Powell park or poage park. That makes no sense.
- I dont like the layout of Powell park, and the play structures are so minimal. more picnic tables. another jungle gym, more swings. more.
- Poage Park is no longer a great park for young kids. There should be swings and other play things that can be used by younger kids. Also, too many dogs running in the park and the owners do not clean up after them
- Too many parks! Street repairs more important
- 7th street lighting really helped, need to expand this
- The new lighting on 7th is disruptive to residents. When there is snow on the ground, it's practically daylight. My venitian blinds aren't enough (as they were before new lights) to keep the bedrooms dark for sleeping. The purchase of light blocking curtains was an expense.
- Still to many rentals in the Powell Poage neighborhood.

# Comments

- Really impressed with what the city is trying to do with housing in Poage Powell area! Getting more people who own their homes and will stay long term is the way to make change.
- Excellent use of the money.
- I dont care for the fact that you took the ball field out of the park. That was something that brought people to the park. now it is a place for trouble
- Most people in these areas cannot buy homes. We need quality family rentals not student housing or apartments in this Powell poage area
- Powell park never received a water feature.. also, garden was unattended and only late blooming , messy, disappointing.. hopeful basketball park that is going in has a sound barrier natural hedge or Man-made ppl are concerned for the bounce noise echoing

# Comments

- Love the programs but sometimes the program itself makes it difficult for middle class family to qualify. Keep in mind we are the working poor but yet hit a category that says you make too much to qualify. How does that work. If someone with way lower income qualify, how can they afford to pay the bill. Sometimes it doesn't make sense and this can get frustrating fast
- Habitat homes tend to get shabby very fast. No landscaping or bushes are put in. Not impressed with Habitat homes put up in the neighborhood.
- More housing rehab help to homeowners.
- A lot of the garden/food garden programs have been ineffective.
- The City's involvement in improving homelessness by supporting housing is innovative, compassionate, and highly successful.
- As far as affordable housing goes I think a better definition needs to be made. A single mom with 3 kids can't afford to rent a 3bedroom apartment in one of your affordable housing units.
- Couleecap is a respectable program that assists people in the purchase of their first home and helps others with weatherization. I think this program has definite value in our community. In years past, I volunteered at " The Place of Grace". This was also a valuable asset to the community as well. However, living near "The Place of Grace" has proven that it has become a steady "hang-out" for shady characters who sit and smoke cigarettes for hours on the porch. In my estimation, this is clearly not what this establishment was intended for, and I would like to see it return to its original mission.

# Comments

- Affordable housing is way beyond my income...and that is about all La Crosse builds for the wealthy and those that can afford affordable housing! Soon you will have more homeless than you can help because rent keeps going up and all other costs yet my retirement income stays the same!
- The city does nothing to help the working poor.
- We need programs that help from the start. Like start with healthcare, then grooming, training for a job, appropriate clothes, help with applications, maybe businesses that are willing to train or take on people that haven't worked in a while. Getting on your feet is an entire process.
- When I moved here as a new grad I couldn't find any affordable housing. I made more than minimum wage, but with school loans I could really only afford income sensitive housing. Now I pay way too much for an older rental but it's my only option.
- Very little economic growth in this pocket.
- The income cap for alot of these programs is so low that alot of people miss out
- Your listed "affordable housing"... not affordable. In lacrosse most will agree that anything over \$1000 a month and a credit score requirement of over 700 is not affordable or welcoming to lower middle class citizens. Try telling our homeless population that those are "affordable".. we really hate hearing about new affordable housing just to find out upon completion that it's just luxury apartments for the rich and retired
- Getting housing for homeless people is very important. Knowing the difference between helping one get back on their feet and enabling laziness seems to be lacking in this community and many people who work hard and support these programs are suffering. I'd go as far to say they are becoming increasingly bitter towards that population.

# Any final Comments?

- Thank you
- I feel disgusted when the City pours money into expanding places like the La Crosse Center and makes excuses for not taking care of streets, water issues, and the needs of children and poor families. I am also concerned about the drug trafficking in my neighborhood and in the 6 years I've lived here, have not noticed a change except for an increase.
- STOP trying to separate AODA and Mental Health issues. They cannot be! Stop developing so many youth programs and hiring unhealthy and unreliable adults to run them. Stop ignoring the real conversations that this bigoted city needs to have. Stop supporting those that claim to want to do good in this community, yet take money from drug dealers for services rendered. Start holding people accountable. Invest in people that want to have the real conversations.
- Better senior centers
- Build tiny Homes For the Homeless. Fund programs that help our youth
- Thanks for fixing up my neighborhood. I live there so I can walk to work. It's great.
- We need real bike paths not bikes printed on roads.
- lighting, new roads, get rid of the bicycles & put them in their own lane
- We need to crack down on absentee landlords. Many of these properties are devaluing our neighborhoods. We also need to enforce current housing ordinances.
- Would like to see the alley paved.
- need lighting hood street 6th and 7th. small grocery store on farnam and hood.
- More infrastructure services like housing stock improvement / affordability, public transportation expansion, and promotion of neighborhood grocery stores, dog parks, and community kiosks.
- Nicer dog park
- I love la crosse and want it to grew. I just might have to leave if I cant find a good apartment to live in.

# Any final Comments?

- Those rent places that are for "low-income" I would not mind, but because i make \$100 more than the bottom line to be accepted, I am one to fall through the cracks!!! What will La Crosse do for those of us in this category?????
- Please, real bike paths free from cars. Not bike lanes, dedicated trails from neighborhoods to natural areas. Better policing of neighborhoods especially around "bar time". 2:30 am.
- Child care and substance abuse are huge issues along with mental health services
- Any thoughts on a tiny home village, small housing for homeless or low income. Maybe a garden in the middle of it and case managers that guide them to help with their needs.
- Continue to rebuild the neighborhoods in need by tearing down houses that need to be and eliminate rentals to clean up the neighborhood. Also fixing the roads is very important.
- We need Myrick Park BACK! It was unfair how the city took it away! There are plans for the duck pond....let's use them! People came from all over to this old park! Please restore the duck pond, concessions, playground for all abilities and maybe a petting zoo!
- Develop more affordable housing, help people that receive orders to correct access a fund to fix up their properties

# Any final Comments?

- I think the city is doing a great job as a whole. Moving forward I think looking at specific programs that deal with section 8 housing, homelessness, and drug prevention (the needle exchange) and figuring out which programs are actually helping individuals or if they are enabling people to continue their ways that make our community an unsafe and unappealing place to live is important. (i e homeless in the parks, children being stuck with free needles in the parks and providing money to those who abuse the system). La Crosse used to be an amazing place to live and while it still is a "nice" place to live I feel the choices we are making are slowly deteriorating our lovely and once safe community. PS. Can you please post a survey about our judges! ;)
- If you want anyone to want to live and work here, or desire La Crosse to be a travel destination, THE ROADS NEED TO BE FIXED.
- Bathrooms in City, rehab Shopko into affordable, tiny apartments, look at unused land for housing, all city trees should have food available, where sidewalks are underutilized- transform them into bike lanes (like near Walmart). Good luck.
- Help the elderly take care of their homes and more affordable housing for Seniors
- I love this city. I am appalled that their housing is so awful. Do better, and let me know what, as a citizen and resident of La Crosse, WI I can do to help. No one should have to live in houses with poor foundations and pest problems. Rental properties need to be better, and I feel that there should be ramifications for landlords