

Missoula County Community Needs Assessment

Missoula County
Grants & Community Programs
June 25, 2020, 4:00 to 5:00 PM



Agenda

- Welcome and agenda review
- Overview of federal funding opportunities
- Results of online needs assessment survey
- Public comment
- Conclusion and wrap-up



Intents & Purposes of Meeting

- A community needs assessment:
 - helps us identify and define our needs, strengths and assets
 - is the first step in determining how to effectively utilize state and federal funds and resources
 - ensures that community development projects reflect what the community wants and needs
 - becomes part of the public record
 - **Your job here is important.**



Federal Funding Opportunities

HOME

CDBG

Brownfields



Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program

- Federal block grant program directed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Purpose – to expand the supply of affordable housing for low- and very low-income persons
- Eligible uses of funds include tenant-based rental assistance; housing rehabilitation; assistance to homebuyers; and new construction of housing



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

- Federal block grant program directed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Purpose - the development of viable communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals.
- CDBG can be used for the following activities:
 1. Housing – Acquisition / Rehabilitation / Demolition / Clean-up
(*No New Housing Construction*)
 2. Economic development
 3. Public services
 4. Public infrastructure / facilities



Missoula County Brownfields Assessment Grant

A Brownfield site is defined:

as real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, controlled substances, petroleum or petroleum products or is mine-scarred land.

Brownfields can adversely impact human health, decrease the value of surrounding properties, deter potential investments and represent significant safety hazard to the community if left unaddressed.



Benefits of Brownfields Redevelopment:

Brownfield Assessment Grants can help promote revitalization or redevelopment of underutilized properties. These grants can help return properties exhibiting signs of potential contamination back to a productive reuse.

To learn more, contact Sindie Kennedy at skennedy@missoulacounty.us or 406-258-3688



Community Needs Assessment

Online Survey Results



Online Community Needs Assessment



- Online survey was available from June 3-17, 2020
- Distributed through email, social media, and newspaper ads in the Missoulian and Seeley Lake Pathfinder
- 207 responses
- Methodology was not scientific

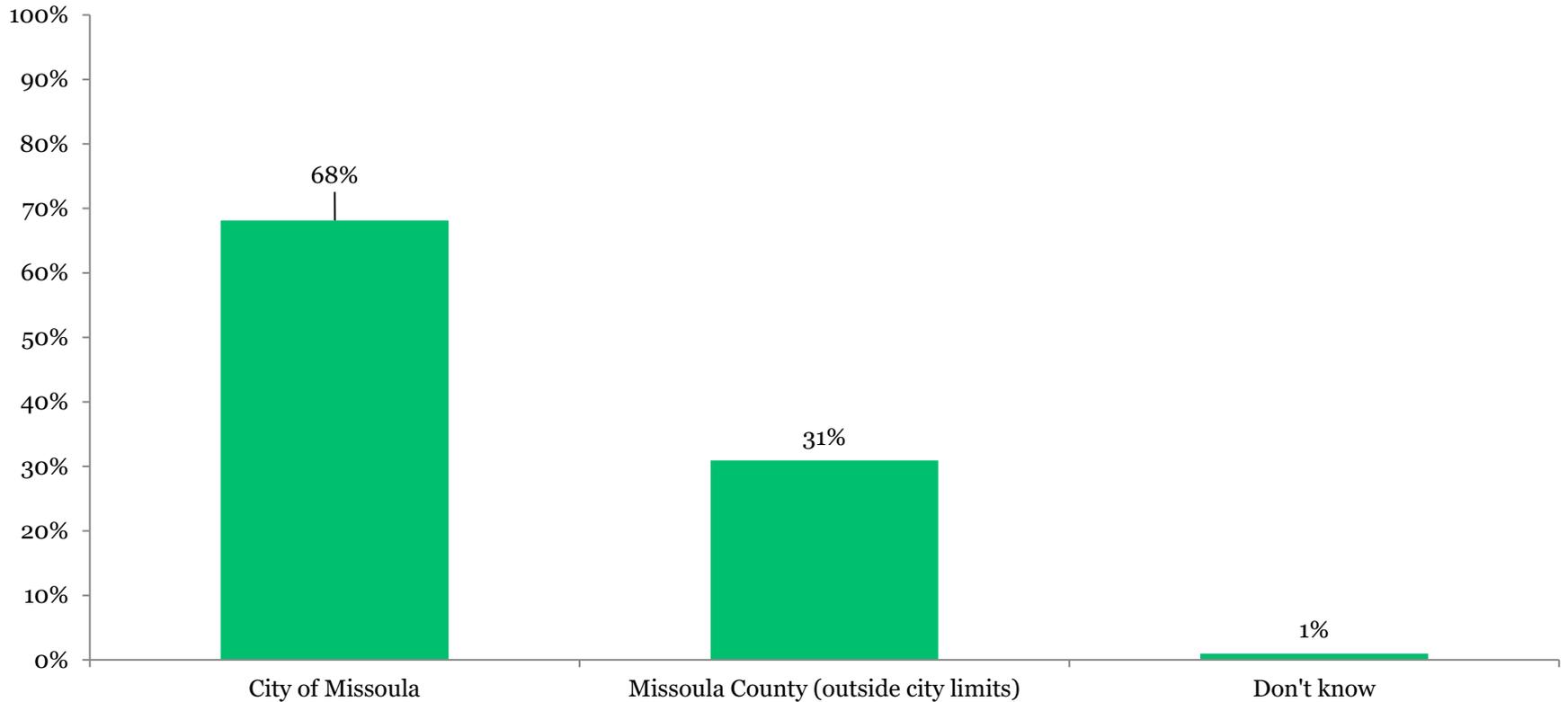


Demographic Summary

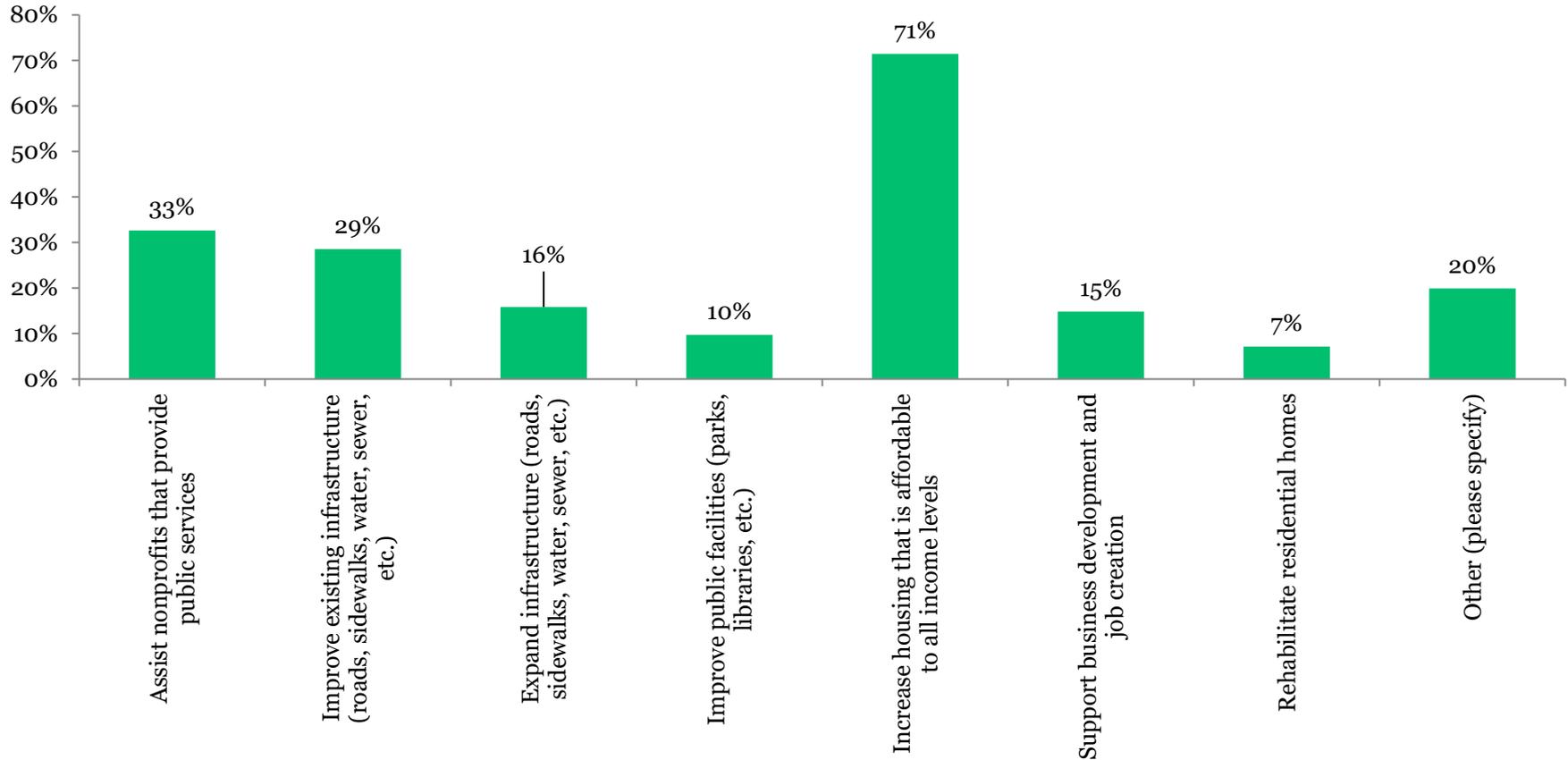
- Top three highest response rate:
 - 26.2% - 35 to 44 years old
 - 21.3% - 25 to 34 years old
 - 20.7% - 45 – 54 years old
- 65.5% of respondents are currently employed for wages
- 21.9% work in the Non-profit Community Service Agency sector



Do you live in the City of Missoula or Missoula County?



From the list below, select two actions you believe should be the top priorities for Missoula County.

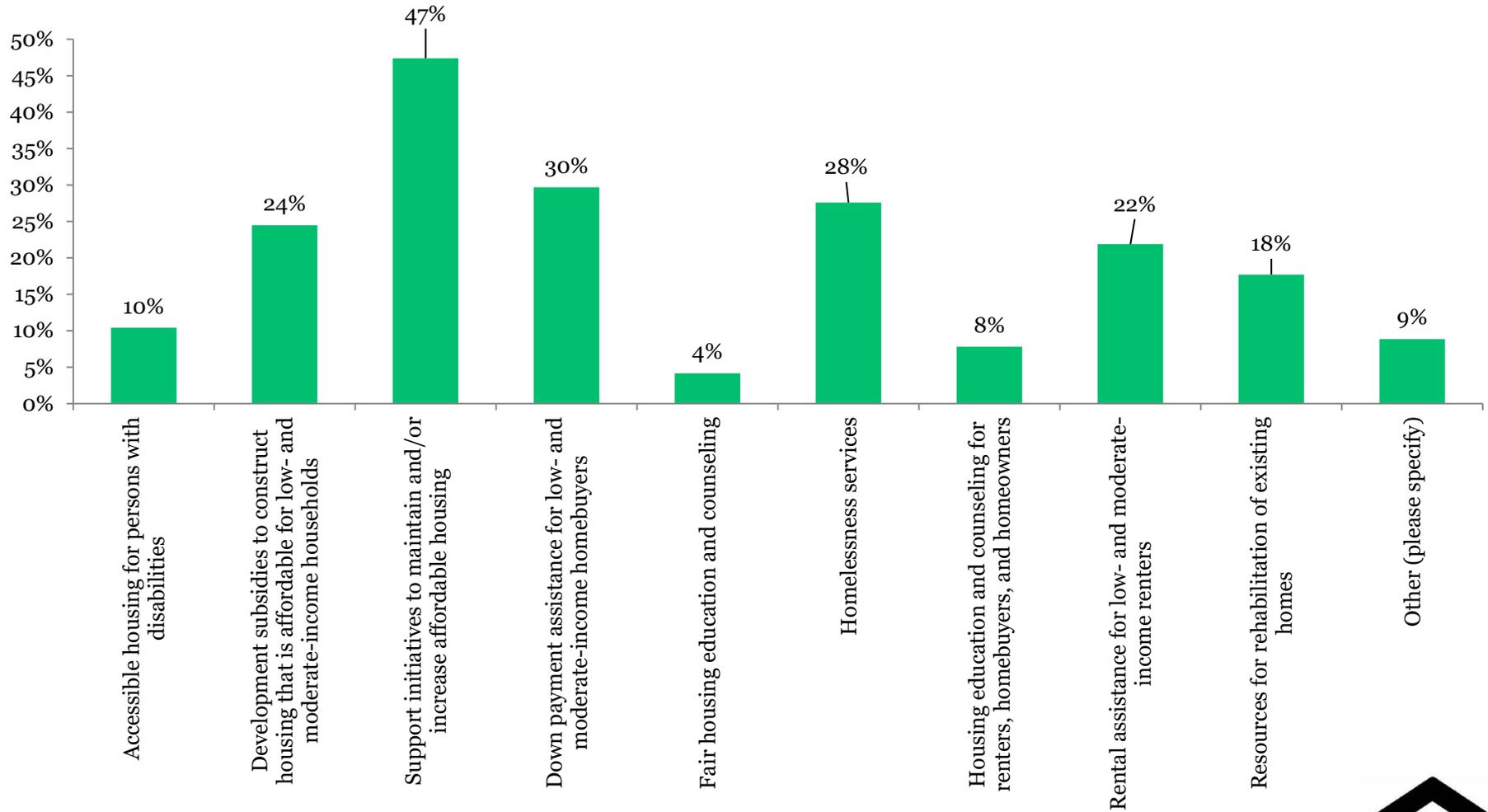


Sample Priority Comments

- “Prepare the county for climate change”
- “Assist non-profits that assist mid- and low-income individuals purchase homes”
- “Prioritize infrastructure, job and business creation, and facilities that build sustainable systems”
- “Reduce Taxes and improved efficiencies in current operations”



From the list below, select two housing initiatives you would prioritize in Missoula County.

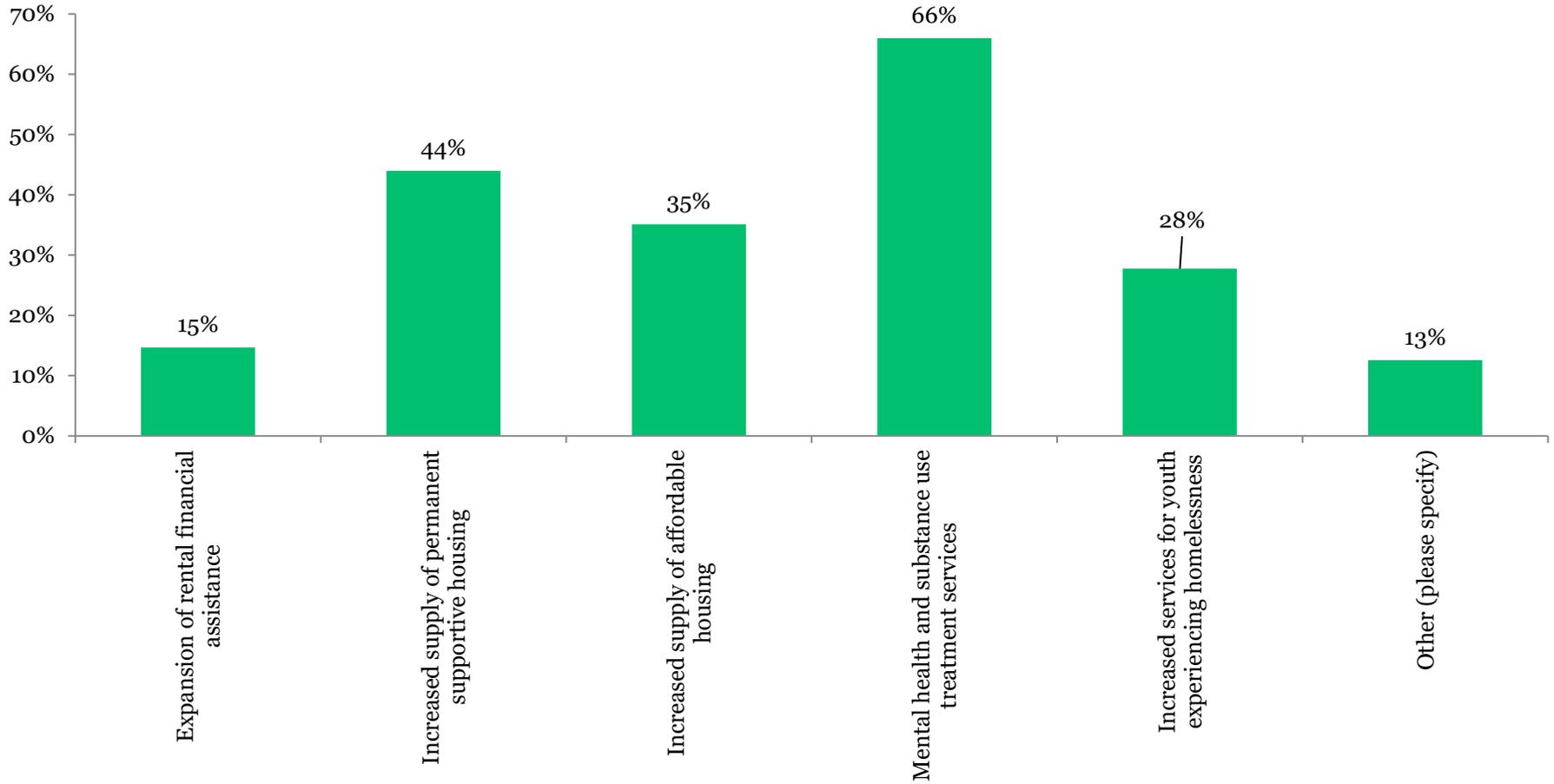


Sample Housing Comments

- “Reduce ever increasing regulations that drive up the cost of housing development”
- “Housing units specifically for people who struggle with substance use and/or mental health”
- “Limiting the number of rental units/air bnb-type units someone can own”
- “Again, the goal should be to REDUCE the size of government!”



In your opinion from the list below, which two areas should be priorities with respect to homelessness?

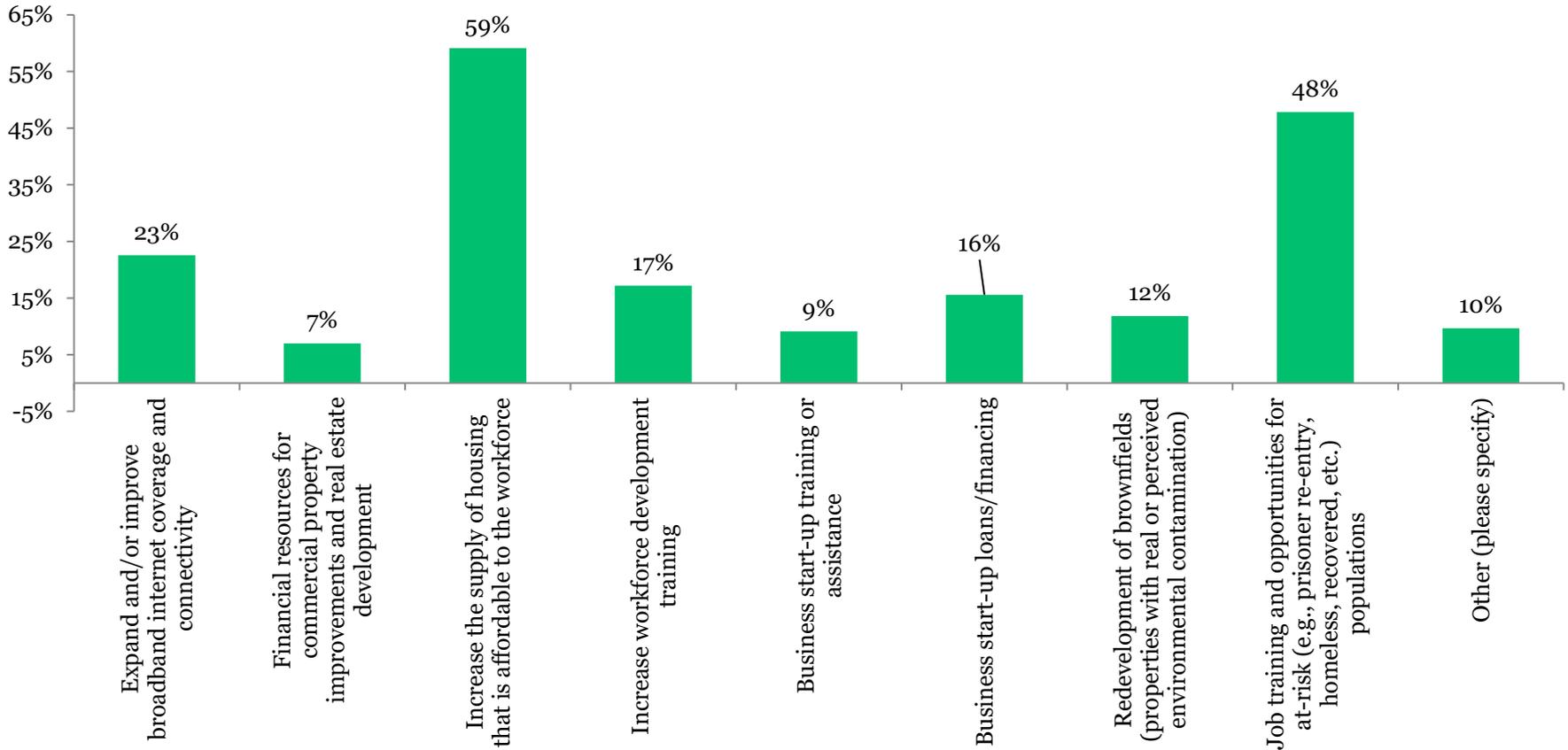


Related Comments

- “Each of these answers is equally important”
- “Assistance for people with unstable income or poor credit”
- “Job training”
- “Permanent housing without restrictions like sobriety, living without pets, or splitting up couples”
- “Sending them away”



From the list below, select two strategies that are most likely to result in increased economic development opportunities for Missoula County.

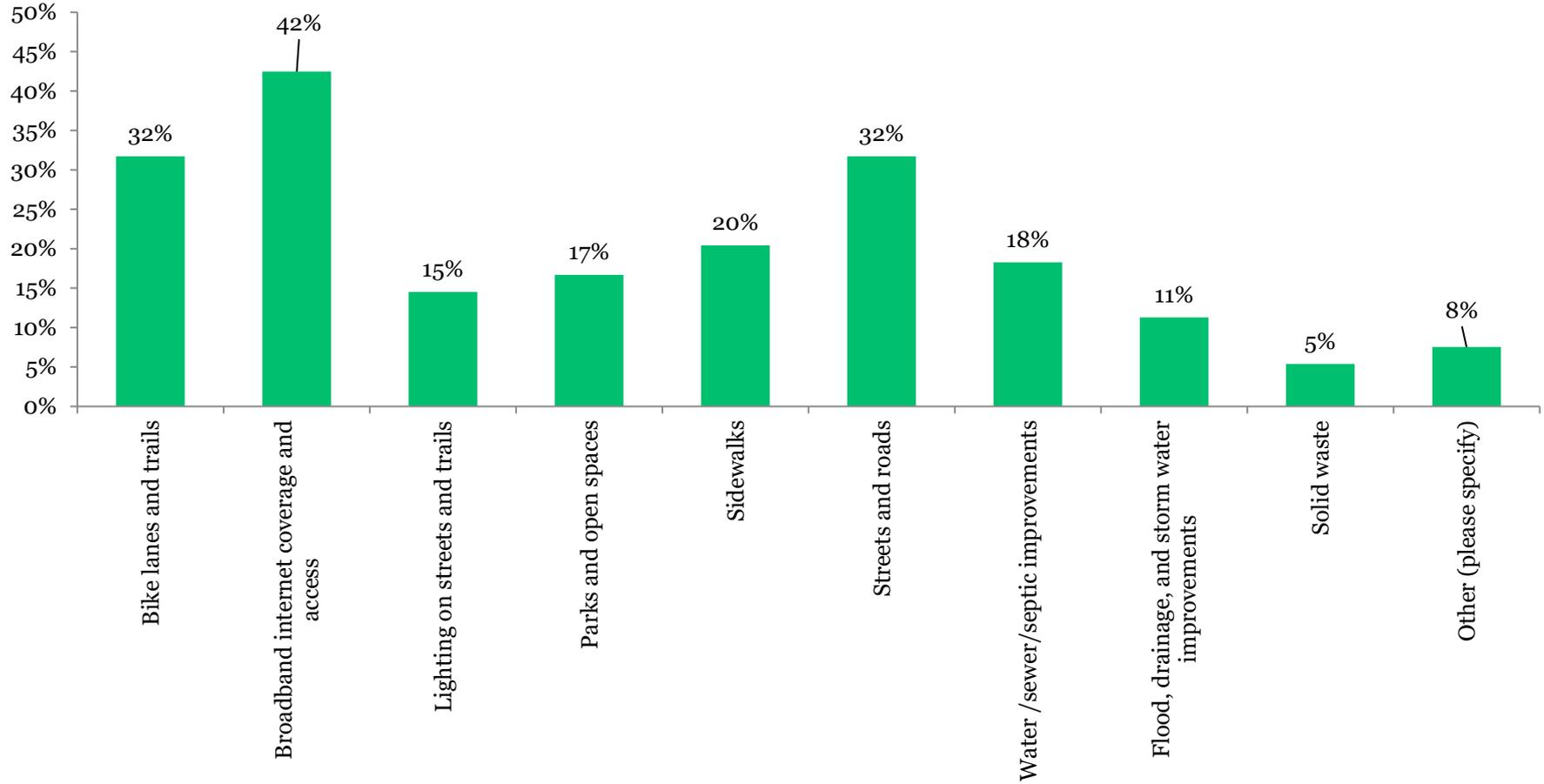


Economic Development Comments

- “Increase wages”
- “Invest in green-collar jobs (subsidies, financial assistance for environmental services, etc.)”
- “Child-care needs to be considered as part of the economic equation”
- “Get rid of red tape!! Missoula is not business friendly!”



From the list below, select two Public Infrastructure strategies that you would prioritize for Missoula County.

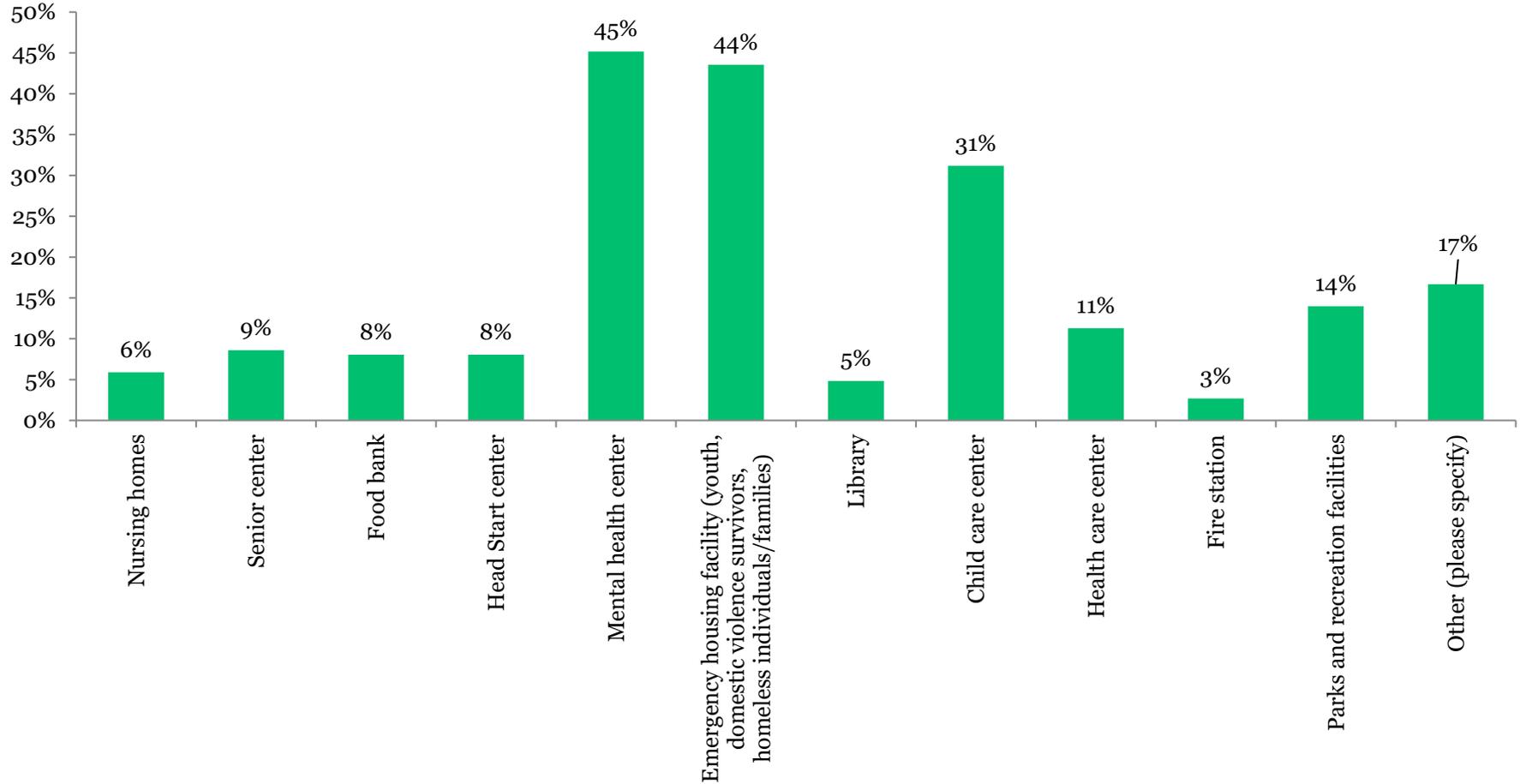


Public Infrastructure Comments

- “Public transportation”
- “Free internet”
- “And a sewer system for Seeley Lake before Seeley Lake and Salmon Lake are no longer safe for recreation or fishing or living”
- “I feel that Missoula County needs to own our refuse collection. Republic, an independent company, has no competition and the rates increase every few months. Our city system should have good recycling programs that are easy to use. We currently have facilities that do not take most plastics, bottles, paints, etc. We need a city system that actually takes, disposes and recycles materials”



What type of community facilities are needed in your community? (Check your top two priorities)

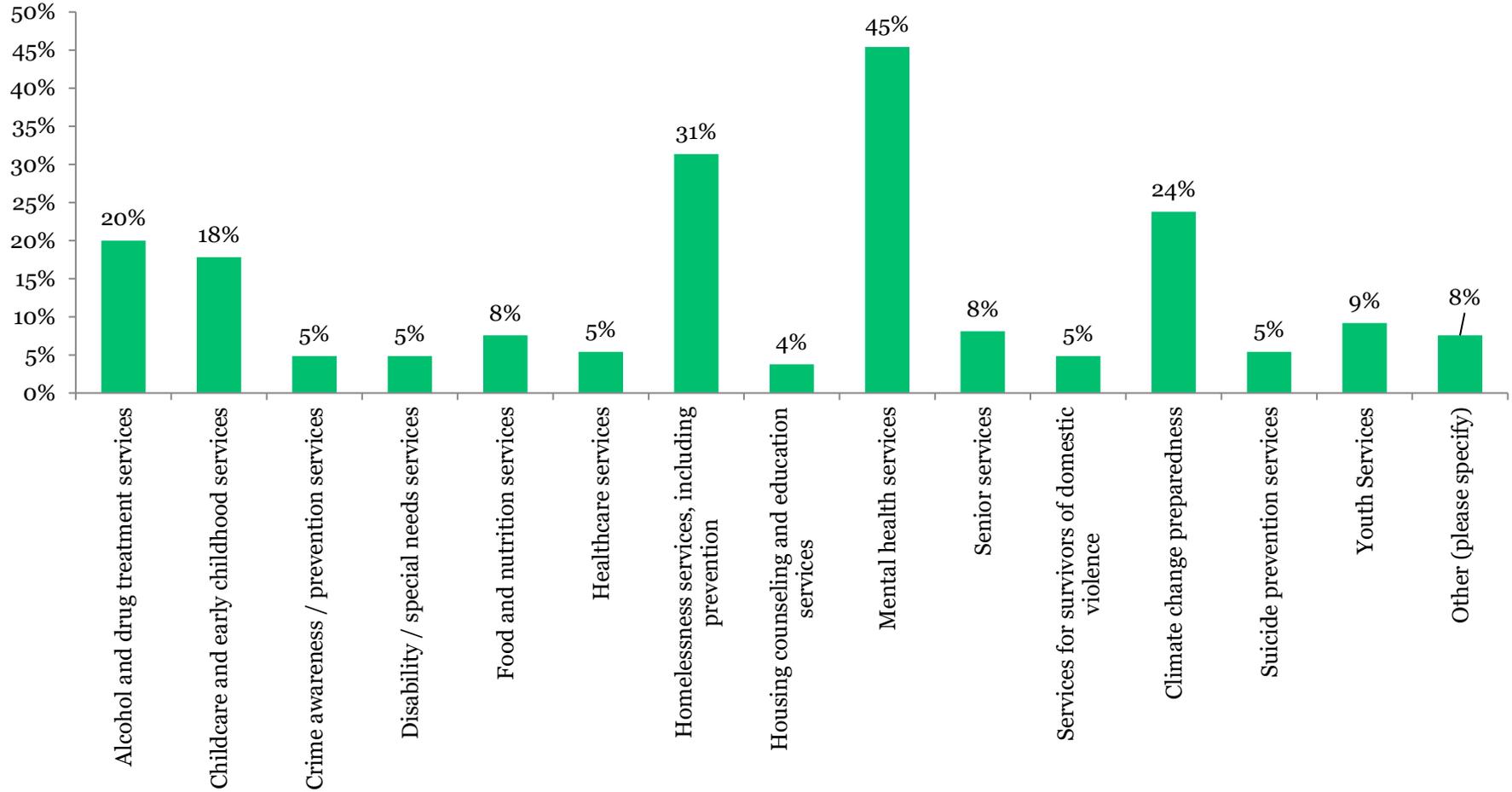


Community Facilities Comments

- “Rental mortgage assistance. Small business recovery post covid”
- “Rec Center/Community Center. NOT an open space park, pool, gym, meeting room, etc”
- “affordable supportive senior housing”
- “FUNDING for existing but inadequate mental health centers/services”



From the list below, select two Public Services you would prioritize for Missoula County.

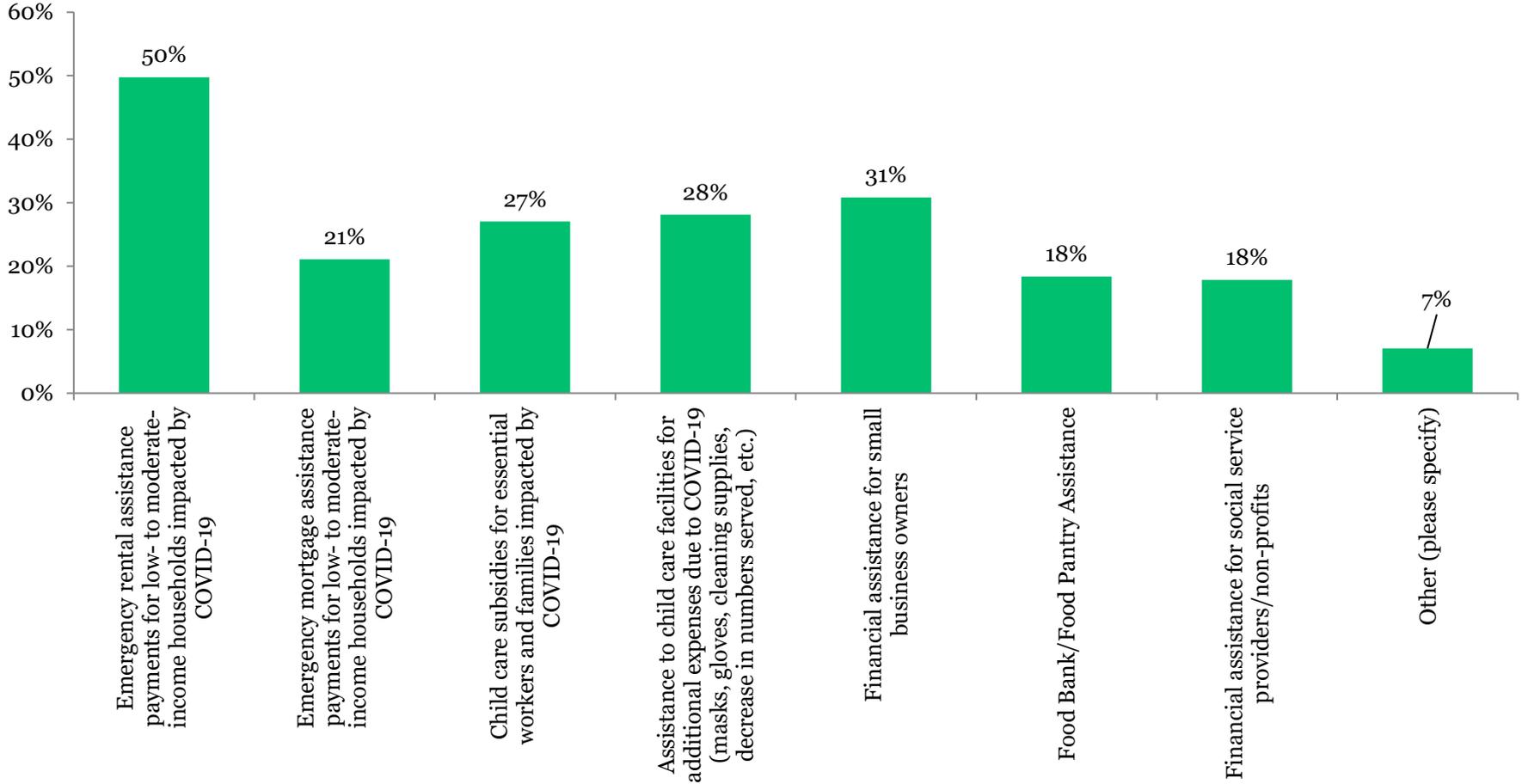


Public Facilities Comments

- “Diversity services (support for indigenous populations and POC)”
- “Financial funding to many of the social services listed above, in tandem with decrease in police budget”
- “Wildfire Preparedness”
- “Services for isolated, struggling seniors”



What are the highest needs in Missoula County for COVID-related assistance? (select two)



COVID-related Assistance Comments

- “Emergency help for ALL income levels mostly medium and up to obviously affects all of us not just the low-income folks”
- “Access to affordable, nutritious food: food security”
- “Maintain police and fire; repair infrastructure”
- “Covid has burned out and was never a serious threat”



General Comments

- 65 additional comments
- Addressing thanks, frustration, and ideas for improvement
- For a full list of public comment, please contact Grants staff (listed at end of presentation)

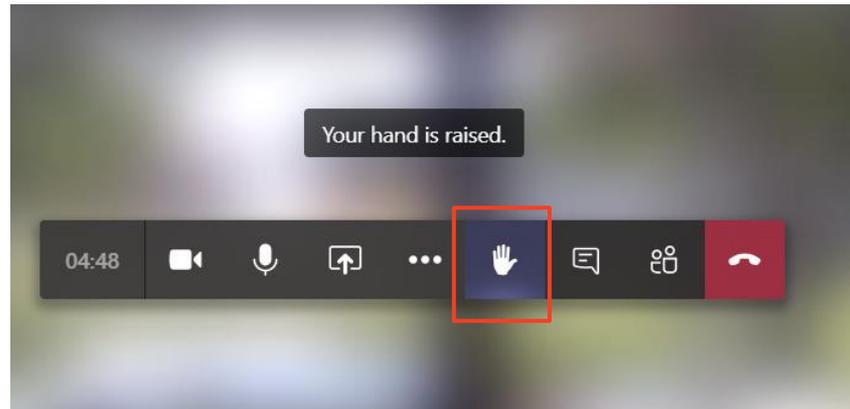


Public Comment



Public Comment Reminders

- **Raise your hand and the facilitator will call on you**



- **Please state your name and if you are representing an agency or community/ neighborhood**
- **Please limit your comment to 3 minutes**
- **Remember to be respectful and courteous**



THANK YOU!

www.missoulacounty.us/grants



Missoula County Community & Planning Services



Questions?

Contact

Kayla Talbert, ktalbert@missoulacounty.us

Erin Kautz, ekautz@missoulacounty.us

Missoula County Grants and Community Programs

www.missoulacounty.us/grants

