



Results for 2015 Consolidated Plan Community Needs Survey

Description: The Housing and Community Development Department's (HCDD) 5-year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan serve as a community development strategy and an application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Houston's CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG grants. When developing these plans, HCDD collects views from citizens on housing and community development needs. In addition, HUD encourages HCDD to explore alternative public involvement techniques and quantitative ways to measure efforts that encourage citizen participation in a shared vision for change in communities and neighborhoods.

HCDD made a Community Needs Survey available online and in print from October 1, 2014 to December 15, 2014. The survey was available online through www.surveymonkey.com and PDFs were available for download and print through HCDD's website. Paper copies of the survey were available during the two fall public hearings, at other events HCDD staff participated in, and by asking HCDD staff for paper copies. The survey was available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese. HCDD staff was available during this time period to promote and administer the survey at neighborhood, community, and agency meetings. When administering the survey, HCDD staff used an audience response system technology.

A total of 2,120 respondents participated in the survey. The survey was completed online through SurveyMonkey by 1,529, of which 47 were in Spanish, 13 were in Vietnamese, and 11 were in Chinese. HCDD received 466 paper copies of the Community Needs Survey which included 21 surveys in Vietnamese and 15 surveys in Chinese. One hundred twenty-five (125) respondents participated in the Survey through the audience response system conducted by HCDD staff.

The survey consisted of 27 questions and some questions allowed for multiple responses. The following are the results from the survey responses.

Summary of Results

Although the Community Needs Survey is not a scientific survey, general conclusions can be made from the surveys received about the respondents. The results illustrate that affordable housing is very important to those that responded to the Community Needs Survey. Affordable housing ranked as the highest priority need in Houston. Almost all respondents agreed that more affordable housing was needed in Houston (83%) and that affordable housing should be available in all areas of the city (80%). Two out of three respondents (68%) thought that homeowner affordable housing was a greater need than rental affordable housing in Houston.



In particular, needs for homeowners and the need for repair of existing housing in the city ranked highly and included financial assistance for homeownership, repair of homeowner housing, and repair of existing rental apartments. Housing and supportive services for the elderly and homeless also ranked high. Child care services, health services, and job training ranked as the highest supportive service needs, while health facilities, child care centers, and facilities promoting community safety ranked as the three highest neighborhood facility needs. Job creation/retention, employment training, and small business lending ranked highest in the economic development needs category. The top three ranked neighborhood service needs were demolition of substandard buildings, enforcement of cleanliness and safety codes, and neighborhood crime awareness/prevention.

A large percentage of respondents were homeowners (62%), identified as female (63%), identified as White (51%), and worked fulltime (53%). More than one third of respondents were low- and moderate-income with 30% earning below \$35,000. One in six respondents considered themselves to be community advocates (16%).

Priority Needs

Respondents were asked to rank the top three priority needs in a variety of community development categories. Greatest weight was placed on the first priority selected and least weight given to the respondent's third selection. The following are the results of the priority ranking scores. On some written surveys, respondents did not prioritize their selection and instead used check marks. Therefore their answers were not calculated in the priority ranking score but were only included in the frequency count of the top three selections. Approximately two out of three respondents chose Affordable Housing and Neighborhood Facility Improvements and Services as one of three top priority needs from five broad categories.

Table 1. HCDD Priority Needs (A: 1,728)

	Priority Ranking Score	Frequency in Top 3
Affordable Housing	8,811	1,165
Infrastructure Improvements	6,708	973
Neighborhood Facility Improvements and Services	5,877	1,086
Economic Development	5,256	948
Supportive Services	4,567	877

The following are the top three needs as ranked by the respondents in the following categories:

- **Affordable Housing:** 1) Providing financial assistance for homeownership, 2) Repairing homeowner housing, and 3) Repairing existing rental apartments
- **Groups in Most Need of Affordable Housing:** 1) Elderly, 2) Low- and Moderate-Income Persons, and 3) Homeless
- **Supportive Services:** 1) Child care services, 2) Health services, and 3) Job training
- **Groups in Most Need of Supportive Services:** 1) Homeless, 2) Elderly, and 3) Persons with physical disabilities
- **Neighborhood Facilities:** 1) Health facilities and clinics, 2) Child care centers, and 3) Facilities promoting community safety (fire stations, police stations)

- **Neighborhood Services:** 1) Demolition of substandard buildings, 2) Enforcement of cleanliness and safety codes, and 3) Neighborhood crime awareness / prevention
- **Infrastructure Needs:** 1) Street reconstruction, 2) Flood drainage improvements, and 3) Pedestrian improvements
- **Economic Development Needs:** 1) Job creation and retention, 2) Employment training, and 3) Small business loans

The following are results from affordable housing and neighborhood questions:

- 83% of respondents thought that Houston needed more affordable housing.
- 68% of respondents thought that Houston needed more affordable homeowner housing and 32% of respondents thought that more affordable rental housing was needed.
- 80% of respondents thought that affordable housing should be available in neighborhoods throughout Houston.
- Over one third of the respondents reported being dissatisfied (28%) or very dissatisfied (10%) with the overall conditions of their neighborhood. Other respondents reported being very satisfied (8%), satisfied (33%), or neutral (21%) about the overall conditions of their neighborhood.

Demographics of Survey Respondents

- Over one in six respondents identified themselves as a community advocate (16%). Respondents also identified themselves as a business owner (12%), social service provider (11%), healthcare provider (7%), landlord (6%), housing provider (3%), and commercial property owner (2%). Almost two-thirds of respondents (61%) did not identify themselves with any of these categories.
- Respondents lived in the following sections of Houston: Inner 610 loop (34%), Southwest (25%), Southeast (21%), Northwest (10%), and Northeast (6%). The remaining respondents (4%) live outside of the Houston city limits.
- Almost two-thirds (62%) of the respondents owned their home, while 25% rented, 10% stayed with a friend or family member, 2% had other living arrangements, and 1% considered themselves homeless.
- Primary English speakers made up the majority of respondents (85%). Other respondents reported speaking the following languages at home: Spanish (10%), Vietnamese (2%), Chinese (2%), and another language (1%).
- Well over half (63%) of the respondents identified themselves as female.
- 25% respondents identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino.
- Twenty-eight percent (29%) of respondents identified as African American or Black; 51% identified as White, 18% identified as Multiracial, 6% identified as Asian, 2% identified as American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1% identified as Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander.
- Over half of the respondents (53%) were employed full time while one sixth (16%) of the respondents were retired. The remaining respondents were employed part time (11%), unemployed (6%), or do not participate in the workforce (Never worked/Do not work 15%).

Demographics of Respondents' Households

- 13% of respondents' households had incomes at \$15,000 or below and 8% had a household income of \$15,001 to \$25,000 and 9% had a household income of \$25,001 to \$35,000. The remainder of

respondents had household incomes \$35,001 or above with two in five respondents having household incomes at or above \$75,000 (39%).

- Over half of the respondents' households consisted of one member (19%) or two member households (33%).
- Most respondents reported that their households were adults only (57%). The next most reported household make up was two adults plus children (28%).
- Almost one-fifth (19%) of the respondents reported that a member of their household is physically, mentally, or developmentally disabled.
- Approximately one in six respondents (14%) reported that they or a member of their household is a Veteran.
- Respondents reported having the following problems with buying or renting property in Houston in the past two years: Limited Income (19%), Credit Issues (16%), Could not get a loan (9%) or Discrimination based on a protected class (3%). Over two-thirds (69%) of respondents reported not having these issues in the past two years.