

# Engaging Harrisonburg



Results of a six month public input process about allocating ARPA funds



# Presentation Overview

1. Best Practices of Public Input
2. Our Public Input Approach
3. Who Engaged? Who Provided Input?
4. Key Findings
  - a. Pandemic Impacts
  - b. Priority Needs of the Whole Group
  - c. Priority Needs of Low Income Households
  - d. Priority Needs by Race and Ethnicity
5. Summary
6. Suggested Next Steps



# Public Input Best Practices

- **Getting people to the “table”**
  - Making spaces accessible
  - Meeting people where they are
  - Working with community partners
- **Facilitating multiple pathways for sharing experiences and ideas**
  - Ensuring understanding of impacts and needs
  - Identify solutions that will address those needs
  - Helping the community recognize the need to make choices

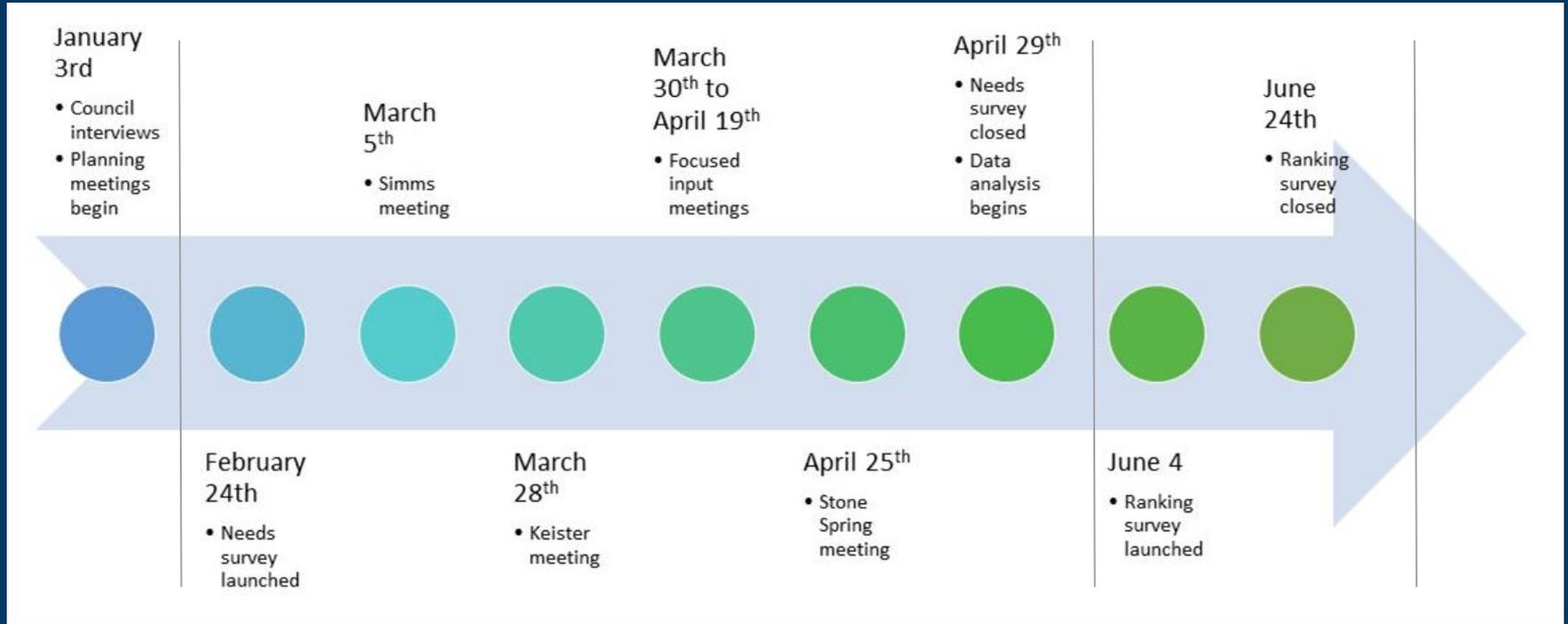


# Public Input Best Practices

- Using public input for decision-making
  - Being transparent - ensuring people can “see” their input
  - Recognizing public values about how decisions should be made
    - *Align decisions with existing plans*
    - *Support what already exists and those already meeting needs*
    - *Make investments that do not create future tax burdens*
    - *Invest in our most vulnerable*
    - *Seek long-term, innovative solutions*
    - *Address past harms*



# Our Public Input Approach



# Process Timeline

# Ways that We Asked for Input

## Identifying Needs

- Online survey
- Paper survey
- Open public meetings
- Focused input meetings

*Identifying pandemic impacts and ranking the needs that emerged or were made worse*

## Ranking Needs

- 'Pop-Ups'
  - Online survey
  - Paper survey

*Reprioritizing the needs that emerged or were made worse*





### Community Health and Wellness

Supporting physical, mental health and substance abuse programs, and support for social services and programming.

### Neighborhood Investments

Improvements to roads and sidewalks, parks and playgrounds, community and recreation centers, and trails to support biking and walking.

### Community Services for Individuals and Families

Homelessness and housing services, childcare, youth services, programs and support for seniors.

### Maintaining and Growing Jobs and Businesses

Investments in tourism, hospitality, and travel, efforts to increase job creation and workforce training.

### Public Facilities and Services

Improvements in public services including water and sewer, public safety programs and equipment.



### Increasing Safe, Accessible, and Sustainable Housing

This includes needs like ensuring more rental housing, more affordable housing for purchase, energy efficiency incentives, and sheltering the homeless

### Expanding and Enhancing Public Spaces

This includes needs like expanding and enhancing arts and cultural spaces, public parks, greenways, community recreation centers and pools, and centralizing community information

### Upgrading Neighborhood Livability and Sustainability

This includes needs like upgrading and expanding sidewalks, improving roads and bike lanes, managing flooding, increasing Wifi access, and beautifying neighborhoods

### Improving Community Mental and Physical Health

This includes needs like substance abuse help, mental health treatment, health clinics, food access, and support for seniors and those with disabilities

### Strengthening Support for K-12 Students

This includes needs like school buildings, student mental health, tutoring, and summer and before/after school programs

### Supporting Our Workers and Working Families

This includes needs like competitive and living wages, job training, affordable and quality childcare, and incentivizing businesses

### Building Capacity of City Government and Its Services

This includes needs like fully staffing safety personnel and departments, water and sewer improvements, sustainability of city property, and offering services in multiple languages

### Improving How We Get Around

This includes needs like public transportation, bike lanes, creating a network of usable sidewalks, and electric vehicle charging stations

Ensuring more affordable, safe, and quality rental housing in the city

Increasing more affordable housing for purchase (expanding...

Enhancing homeless sheltering options

Improving home energy efficiency and environmental sustaina...

Increasing substance abuse treatment services

Expanding accessible and affordable mental health tr...

Providing adequate health care clinics to meet dema...

Ensuring care and support for those with disabilities

Ensuring support and connection for seniors

Efficiently distributing food to reduce hunger

Expanding accessible and affordable mental health treatment for youth

Improving public school facilities

Expanding student mental health support

Growing before and after school program

Improving teacher compensation

Expanding tutoring and mentor

Increasing affordable summer c...

Expanding paths that connect neighborhoods

Supporting competitive wages

Advancing living wages for all workers

Expanding both in person and virtual training across multiple job types

Expanding public transportation services

Increasing and connecting bike lanes and trails

Increasing public and private electric vehicle use

Improving the network of usable sidewalks and accessible sidewalks

Enhancing language accessibility of city's services

Converting city government buildings and vehicles to more environmentally sustainable options

Enhancing and adding arts and cultural heritage centers

Ensuring accessibility to all public spaces for people with disabilities

# Moving from Needs Survey to Ranking Survey

# What the public input information can tell us ...

- **Impacts** of the pandemic
- **Needs** that emerged or were made worse
- **Priorities** amongst those needs
- **Ideas** for meeting prioritized needs

Divided out by ...

- **Race/Ethnicity**
- Age
- **Household Income**
- Census District (Location)
- Resident, Worker, or Business Owner
- Degree of Financial Impacts
- Housing Situation
- Gender Identity

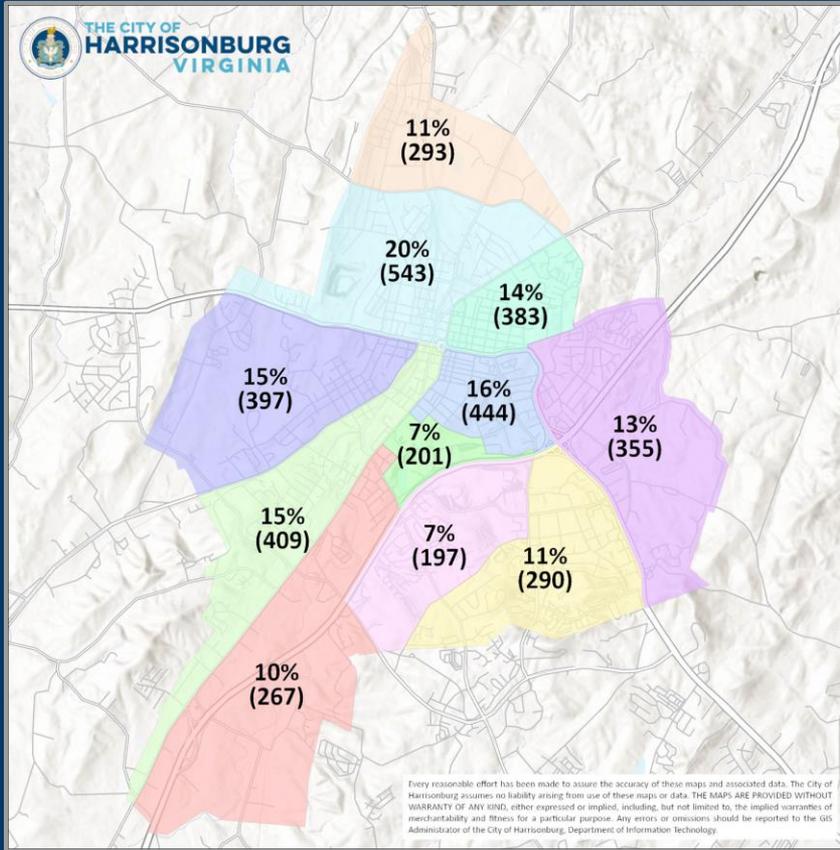


Who Engaged? Who Provided Input?

# Total Engagements

	Engagements	Completions (Full and Partial)
Needs Survey	1776	1246
Open Public Meetings	~200	
Focused Input Meetings	157	
Ranking Survey	1086	
<i>Total</i>	<i>3219</i>	<i>2689</i>





# Locations of Participants

	<b>Census Data</b> (2021 est.)	<b>Needs Survey</b>	<b>Open Public Meetings</b>	<b>Focused Input Meetings</b>	<b>Ranking Survey</b>
<b>Non-White</b>	11%	11% (138)	51% (51)	21% (12)	14% (129)
<b>White</b>	77%	75% (929)	49% (64)	78% (78)	74% (697)
<b>Multiracial/ Not Say</b>	8%	13% (163)	<1% (9)	<1% (6)	13% (119)
<b>Household Income Under \$40,000</b>	Persons in poverty 25%	23% (282)	32% (43)	46% (19)	17% (154)

**Summary: Participation By ARPA Focus and Across Input Events**

# Key Findings

# Consistently Identified Priorities

- Housing
  - *Safe and affordable, quality rental housing*
- Mental and Physical Health
  - *Adequate health care clinics*
  - *Increasing substance abuse treatment services*
- Workers and Working Families
  - *Affordable, accessible child care*



	Survey	Open Public Meetings	Focused Input Meetings
<b>1 (Most frequent)</b>	Housing	Public Spaces	Workers and Working Families
<b>2</b>	Mental and Physical Health	Housing	Mental and Physical Health
<b>3</b>	Workers and Working Families	Workers and Working Families	Housing
<b>4</b>	Getting Around	Neighborhood Livability	Getting around
<b>5</b>	Neighborhood Livability	City Gov and Services	Public Spaces
<b>6</b>	Public Spaces	K-12 Schools and Students	Neighborhood Livability
<b>7</b>	City Gov and Services	Getting Around	K-12 Schools and Students
<b>8 (Least frequent)</b>	K-12 Schools and Students	Mental and Physical Health	City Gov and Services
<i>N</i> =	<i>(people)</i> 1776	<i>(comments)</i> 152	<i>(comments)</i> 239

## Findings: Priority Needs by Frequency Across Events

	Total Responses	Under \$40K Income	Non-White Residents	White Residents
1 (most frequent)	Housing	Mental and Physical Health	Mental and Physical Health	Housing
2	Mental and Physical Health	Housing	Workers and Working families	Mental and Physical Health
3	Workers and Working families	Workers and Working families	Housing	Getting around
4	Getting around	Public Spaces	Getting around	Workers and Working families
5	Public Spaces	Getting around	Public Spaces	Neighborhood Livability
6	Neighborhood Livability	Neighborhood Livability	Neighborhood Livability	Public Spaces
7	City Gov and Services	City Gov and Services	K-12	City Gov and Services
8 (least frequent)	K-12	K-12	City Gov and Services	K-12
N =	1930	282	183	929

**Findings:** Priorities from Needs Survey and Input Meetings Combined

	Total Responses	Under \$40K Income	Non-White Residents	White Residents
<b>First</b>	K-12 Schools and Students	Housing	K-12 Schools and Students	Mental and Physical Health
<b>Second</b>	Mental and Physical Health	Mental and Physical Health	Housing	K-12 Schools and Students
<b>Third</b>	Workers and Working Families	Workers and Working Families	Mental and Physical Health	Workers and Working Families
<b>Fourth</b>	Housing	K-12 Schools and Students	Workers and Working Families	Housing
<b>Fifth</b>	Neighborhood Livability	Neighborhood Livability	Neighborhood Livability	Neighborhood Livability
<b>Sixth</b>	Getting Around	Getting Around	Getting Around	Getting Around
<b>Seventh</b>	Public Spaces	Public Spaces	Public Spaces	Public Spaces
<b>Eighth</b>	City Gov and Services			
<i>N =</i>	<i>1086</i>	<i>157</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>698</i>

## Findings: Priorities from Ranking Survey

# Other priorities

- K-12 Schools and Students
  - *Before and after school programs*
  - *Student mental health*
- Getting Around
  - *Improving sidewalk network*
  - *Improving bike lane and trail network*
- Housing
  - *Homeless sheltering*
  - *Pathways to ownership*
- Workers and Working Families
  - *Living wage*
  - *Competitive wages*



# Suggested Next Steps

- City Council facilitated work session to further explore findings and examine specific projects through criteria
- Virtual or in-person one-on-one meetings with ICAD
  - Individual Council Members
  - Executive leadership team of City Staff
- ARPA Public Input Report finalized and made public
- ARPA Public Input data organized and made public



# Appreciations

City Staff, in particular ...

- Mr. Ande Banks
- Ms. Amy Snider
- Mr. Michael Parks
- Mr. Luke Morgan, ARPA Coordinator
- Mr. Chip Brown, GIS Coordinator
- Mr. Chris Quinn, HR Chamber of Commerce

Our 'convening' partners

The ICAD facilitation team

Spanish language interpreters

City Council

The public

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# Appendix: Priorities at Sub-Category Levels

	Total Responses	Under \$40K Income	Non-White Residents	White Residents
1 (most frequent)	Safe, affordable, quality rental housing	Homeless sheltering	Homeless sheltering	Safe, affordable, quality rental housing
2	Homeless sheltering	Safe, affordable, quality rental housing	Safe, affordable, quality rental housing	Homeless sheltering
3	Pathways to ownership	Pathways to ownership	Pathways to ownership	Pathways to ownership
4 (least frequent)	Home energy efficient/enviro	Home energy efficient/enviro	Home energy efficient/enviro	Home energy efficient/enviro

**Findings:** Priorities from Needs Survey and Input Meetings Combined - Housing Sub-Categories

	Total Responses	Under \$40K Income	Non-White Residents	White Residents
First	Safe, affordable, quality rental housing			
Second	Pathways to ownership	Homeless sheltering	Pathways to ownership	Pathways to ownership
Third	Homeless sheltering	Pathways to ownership	Homeless sheltering	Homeless sheltering
Fourth	Home energy efficient/enviro	Home energy efficient/enviro	Home energy efficient/enviro	Home energy efficient/enviro

**Findings:** Priorities from Ranking Survey - Housing Sub-Categories

	Total Responses	Under \$40K Income	Non-White Residents	White Residents
1 (most frequent)	Adequate health care clinics			
2	Increasing substance abuse treatment services			
3	Mental health for homeless	Support and connection for seniors	Distributing food to reduce hunger	Mental health for homeless
4	Expanding mental health treatment for youth	Expanding mental health treatment for youth	Expanding mental health treatment for youth	Distributing food to reduce hunger
5	Distributing food to reduce hunger	Distributing food to reduce hunger	Mental health for homeless	Expanding mental health treatment for youth
6	Support and connection for seniors	Mental health for homeless	Care and support for disabled	Support and connection for seniors
7 (least frequent)	Care and support for disabled	Care and support for disabled	Support and connection for seniors	Care and support for disabled

**Findings:** Priorities from Needs Survey and Input Meetings Combined - Mental and Physical Health Sub-Categories

	Total Responses	Under \$40K Income	Non-White Residents	White Residents
<b>First</b>	Expanding mental health treatment for youth			
<b>Second</b>	Adequate health care clinics	Mental health for homeless	Adequate health care clinics	Adequate health care clinics
<b>Third</b>	Increasing substance abuse treatment services	Adequate health care clinics	Increasing substance abuse treatment services	Increasing substance abuse treatment services
<b>Fourth</b>	Mental health for homeless	Increasing substance abuse treatment services	Mental health for homeless	Mental health for homeless
<b>Fifth</b>	Care and support for disabled			
<b>Sixth</b>	Distributing food to reduce hunger			
<b>Seventh</b>	Support and connection for seniors			

## Findings: Priorities from Ranking Survey - Mental and Physical Health Sub-Categories

	Total Responses	Under \$40K Income	Non-White Residents	White Residents
1 (most frequent)	Ensuring quality, affordable child care	Incentivizing new businesses	Incentivizing new businesses	Ensuring quality, affordable child care
2	Incentivizing new businesses	Ensuring quality, affordable child care	Ensuring quality, affordable child care	Incentivizing new businesses
3	Expanding in person and virtual job training			
4	Supporting competitive wages	Supporting competitive wages	Supporting competitive wages	Supporting competitive wages
5 (least frequent)	Advancing living wages	Advancing living wages	Advancing living wages	Advancing living wages

**Findings:** Priorities from Needs Survey and Input Meetings Combined- Workers and Working Families Sub-Categories

	Total Responses	Under \$40K Income	Non-White Residents	White Residents
First	Advancing living wages	Advancing living wages	Advancing living wages	Advancing living wages
Second	Supporting competitive wages	Supporting competitive wages	Supporting competitive wages	Supporting competitive wages
Third	Ensuring quality, affordable child care			
Fourth	Expanding in person and virtual job training			
Fifth	Incentivizing new businesses	Incentivizing new businesses	Incentivizing new businesses	Incentivizing new businesses

**Findings:** Priorities from Ranking Survey - Workers and Working Families Sub-Categories

	Total Responses	Under \$40K Income	Non-White Residents	White Residents
<b>1 (most frequent)</b>	Increasing affordable summer camp and sports activities	Increasing affordable summer camp and sports activities	Increasing affordable summer camp and sports activities	Growing before and after school programs
<b>2</b>	Growing before and after school programs	Growing before and after school programs	Growing before and after school programs	Improving school facilities
<b>3</b>	Improving school facilities	Improving school facilities	Expanding student mental health support	Expanding student mental health support
<b>4</b>	Improving teacher compensation and support	Expanding student mental health support	Improving teacher compensation and support	Increasing affordable summer camp and sports activities
<b>5</b>	Expanding student mental health support	Improving teacher compensation and support	Improving school facilities	Improving teacher compensation and support
<b>6 (least frequent)</b>	Expanding tutoring and mentoring programs			

## Findings: Priorities from Needs Survey and Input Meetings Combined - K-12 Schools and Students

	Total Responses	Under \$40K Income	Non-White Residents	White Residents
<b>First</b>	Improving teacher compensation and support	Expanding student mental health support	Expanding student mental health support	Improving teacher compensation and support
<b>Second</b>	Expanding student mental health support	Improving teacher compensation and support	Improving teacher compensation and support	Expanding student mental health support
<b>Third</b>	Growing before and after school programs			
<b>Fourth</b>	Improving school facilities	Improving school facilities	Improving school facilities	Improving school facilities
<b>Fifth</b>	Expanding tutoring and mentoring programs			
<b>Sixth</b>	Increasing affordable summer camp and sports activities			

## Findings: Priorities from Ranking Survey - K-12 Schools and Students Sub-Categories