



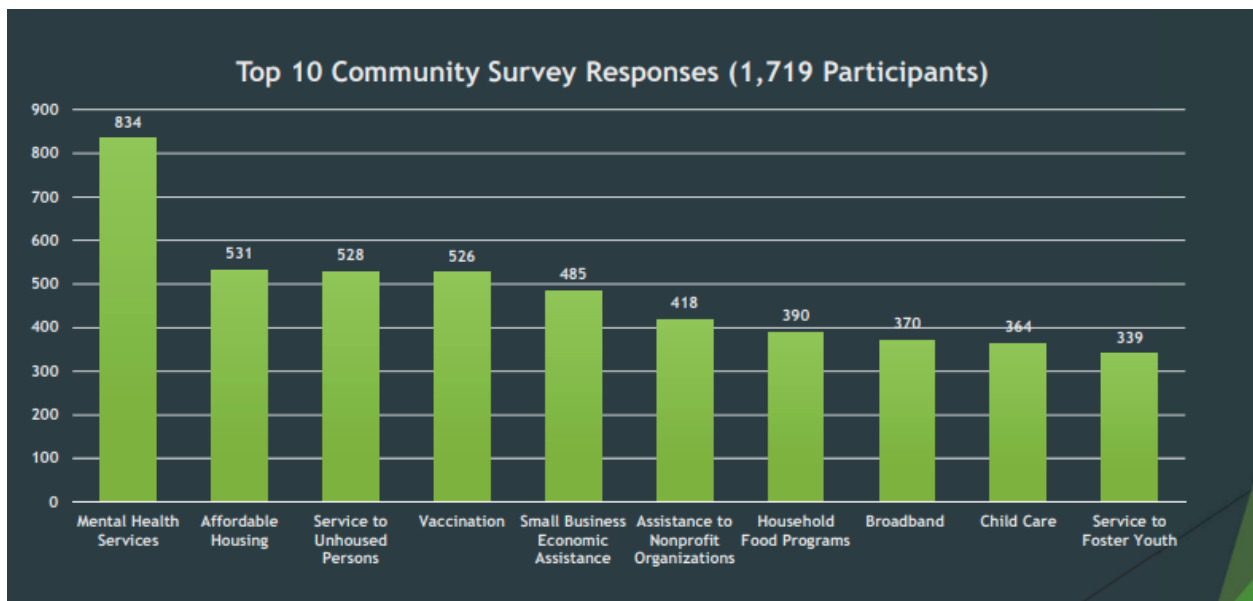
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Oct. 8, 2021

Greene County Commission releases ARPA community survey results

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – The Greene County Commission is sharing the results of a recent community survey. It asked residents what issues should be considered high priority for the \$56.8 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The money was awarded to the county by the U.S. Treasury Department for COVID-19 pandemic relief. After tabulating both digital and physical copy results, there was a total of 1,719 responses and 645 written comments.

Respondents could choose 5 out of 22 eligible categories. Here's a breakdown of the top 10 choices:



Respondents were also asked to provide what part of Greene County they live in. There were responses from all 10 municipalities and unincorporated sections of the county.

Here's a breakdown of the results comparing people who live in Springfield versus other parts of the county.

Springfield Responses (1,107)		All Other County Resident Responses (612)	
Expenditure Category	Response Total	Expenditure Category	Response Total
Mental Health Services	589 (53%)	Mental Health Services	245 (40%)
Service to Unhoused Persons	405 (37%)	Small Business Economic Assistance	196 (32%)
Affordable Housing	396 (36%)	Broadband	190 (31%)
Vaccination	360 (33%)	Vaccination	166 (27%)
Small Business Economic Assistance	289 (26%)	Services to Foster Youth	142 (23%)
Household Food Programs	282 (25%)	Assistance to Nonprofit Organizations	139 (23%)
Assistance to Nonprofit Organizations	279 (25%)	Affordable Housing	135 (22%)
Child Care	245 (22%)	Job Training Assistance	126 (21%)
Substance Use Services	228 (21%)	Water and Sewer	125 (20%)
Job Training Assistance	202 (18%)	Service to Unhoused Persons	123 (20%)

Respondents could also leave a written comment. They were grouped into different sections that referenced the seven expenditure categories for ARPA funds. Other comments were a wide variety of broad public or social issues including, but not limited to: Aid to tourism and travel industries, child education, rental assistance, job training, pay for essential workers, community violence interventions, substance abuse services, infrastructure and transportation, law enforcement services, parks and nature, animal shelter services, services to the elderly, and stimulus checks.

The Greene County Commissioners are using this survey to capture a snapshot of important issues. To gather further input, the Commissioners are meeting with local leaders and organizations to discuss solutions to problems they face. The first half of the \$56.8 million has already been awarded to the county. Per federal guidelines, all ARPA funds must be allocated by December 31, 2024.

Non-profit listening sessions are also currently being conducted. A county team, lead by Dr. Lyle Foster, will use the ARPA community survey results, listening sessions, CFO community focus report, Forward SGF report, and Greene County census data to inform the Commission in the prioritization process. This will later guide the Commissioners to select their final priorities and allocate funds to assist Greene County in responding and recovering from the pandemic.

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Greene County is the State of Missouri's fourth most populous county, serving more than 275,000 people (2010 census). Its mission is to provide all citizens of Greene County, including those in its cities, a safe and thriving community through excellent customer service, unparalleled dedication, and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Greene County Commission is the executive body of Greene County operating under guidelines established in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri. Within that authority the Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervises the activities of county departments, fixes salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides for construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.

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