



MAPP of the Southern Kenai Peninsula
Working Together to Improve Community Health

Community Themes & Strengths Assessment:
1a. Perceptions of Community Health Survey
1b. Key Informant Survey

12.13.13

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COMMUNITY THEMES & STRENGTHS ASSESSMENT

BACKGROUND

Spearheaded by South Peninsula Hospital in November 2008, forty organizations gathered in November 2008 to conduct the first collaborative, area-wide Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), with the goal of identifying opportunities for health improvement and to serve as a catalyst for community action. The Mobilizing for Action through Planning & Partnerships (MAPP) framework developed by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and the National Association of City & County Health Officials (NACCHO) was selected to guide the assessment process. Building on the lessons-learned and results from the first CHNA, the second CHNA is composed of the first three of the following four separate assessments:

I. Community Themes & Strengths Assessment

Qualitative input from community members to identify the issues they feel are important

- a. Perceptions of Community Health Survey
- b. Key Informant Survey

II. Community Health Status Assessment

Quantitative community health data (representing cultural, economic, educational, environmental, mental, physical, and spiritual health) that identifies priority health and quality of life issues

III. Forces of Change Assessment

Identifying forces such as legislation, technology, and other impending changes that affect the context in which the community and its public health system operate

IV. Local Public Health Assessment

Measures how well different local public health system partners work together to deliver the Essential Public Health Services. Conducted in 2009 during the first CHNA, but not during the present CHNA.

Using the combined results/observations from all three assessments, a community process is used to prioritize the community needs that MAPP participants will collaboratively address for the next few years.

****It is important to note that the information gathered from each assessment does not stand on its own, but that the information from each assessment is looked at together****

INTRODUCTION

The following responses are the results from the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment, which is composed of two separate community surveys. The Perceptions of Community Health survey was made available to gather community input on broad community health priorities whereas the Key Informant survey was used to identify root causes to community issues. To view all assessments or additional MAPP of the SKP information, please visit www.mappofskp.net. For additional questions, please contact Megan Murphy, MAPP

coordinator, at mappofskp@gmail.com or (907) 235-0570.

PERCEPTIONS OF COMMUNITY HEALTH SURVEY DATA TEAM MEMBERS

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METHODS

The data team revised questions from the first community survey while trying to maintain comparability. Consideration was also given to available Census data and creating questions and response options that would elucidate the respondents' community representation. In order to encourage community participation in the survey, the paper survey was limited to one sheet (two sided), an online version was made available, and questions were primarily multiple-choice questions with free response options.

The survey was open for community response in November and December 2012. Surveys were handed out at the November 10th Rotary Health Fair

(to over 400 people), distributed through the Homer News and Homer Tribune, made available online (mappofskp.net and pop411.org),

handed out to community organizations to distribute to their clients/patrons, distributed at 'Share the Spirit', and made available at City Hall, the Homer Public Library, and Ulmer's Drug & Hardware store. To

compile paper and online results, all paper surveys were entered into survey

monkey. Data team members assigned all free responses to their corresponding categories in order to

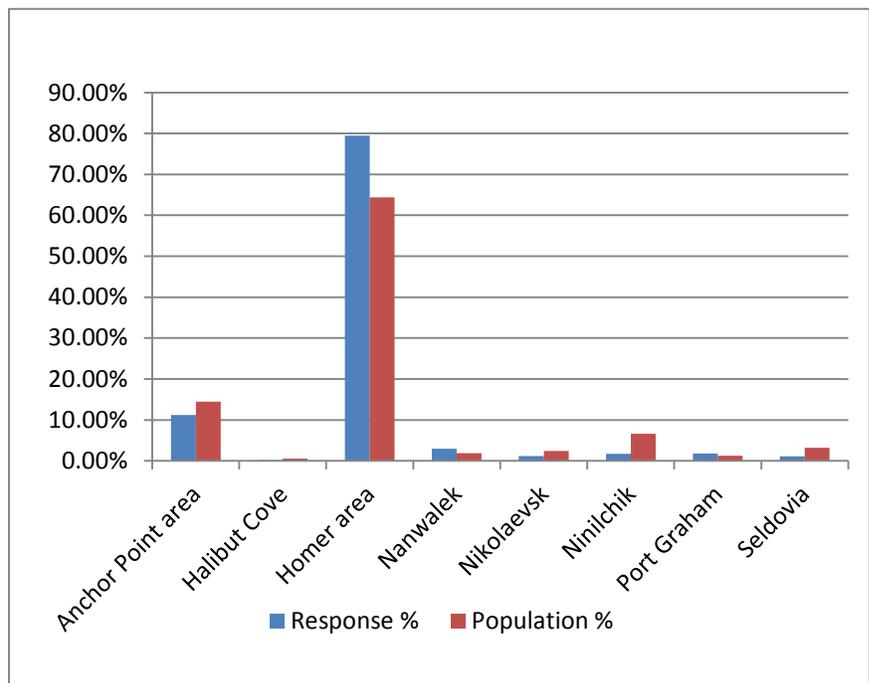


Figure 1. Comparison between community composition of survey respondents to Southern Kenai Peninsula population

determine the volume of responses addressing specific topics. The results of this survey were made available on the MAPP website and announced within Homer News and Tribune letter to the editors.

RESULTS

Approximately 1,212 community members from thirteen Southern Kenai Peninsula communities provided input to the survey. The percentage of respondents from each community reflected the population size in relation to the total SKP population (US Census, Figure 1).

The majority of respondents were from households with two individuals (41.6%) and between 46-64 years old (43.9%). Respondents’ age and income closely mirrored that of the Southern Kenai Peninsula (US Census, Tables 1 & 2).

Age	Survey %	SKP %
13-18	4.6%	6.7%
18-25	5.5%	4.4%
26-45	29.8%	21.7%
46-64	43.9%	35.7%
65+	16.3%	12.0%

Table 1. Age comparison of survey respondents to Southern Kenai Peninsula age composition (age brackets vary slightly between survey options & US Census categories)

Income	Survey %	SKP %
<\$25,000	23.90%	24.7%
\$25,000-33,000	12.30%	11.4%
\$33,000-51,000	18.60%	11.4%
\$51,000-76,000	20.90%	20.1%
\$76,000+	24.20%	31.9%

Table 2. Income comparisons of survey respondents to Southern Kenai Peninsula population (income brackets vary slightly between survey options & US Census categories)

75.4% of respondents reported having some form of health insurance (73% of respondents reported having some form of health insurance in the 2008 survey).

The top five greatest community strengths identified were:

- 1) Natural beauty (78.9%)
- 2) People help each other (68.1%)
- 3) Healthy environment (53.4%)
- 4) Good school (47.6%)
- 5) Diverse cultural / arts opportunities (47.1%)

When asked to rank the issues most affecting themselves and their families, the top three responses were:

1. Economic Costs (selected by 72.9% respondents)
2. Physical Health (selected by 68.4% respondents)
3. Mental / Emotional Health (selected by 46.9% respondents)

When asked to rank the issues most affecting 'the community', the top three responses were:

1. Substance Abuse (selected by 79.3% respondents)
2. Economic Costs (selected by 54.4% respondents)
3. Mental / Emotional Health (selected by 51.6% respondents)

Similar responses and order were observed in the 2008 community survey.

The top five services respondents found most lacking were:

- 1) Teen activities (53.5%)
- 2) Transportation (50.0%)
- 3) Shopping (35.3%)
- 4) Housing (28.0%)
- 5) Substance abuse treatment (27.4%)

In 2008, the top five responses for lacking services were (an open-ended question):

- 1) Medical specialists (43%)
- 2) Clinic services (18%)
- 3) Shopping (16%)
- 4) Teen activities (8%)
- 5) Transportation (5%)

Responses that identified additional categories beyond what was provided:

- Trails (5 responses)
- Teen resources (5 responses)
- Affordable indoor recreation (5 responses)
- Economic opportunities / jobs (4 responses)
- Vocational education (4 responses)
- Emergency services (housing) (3 responses)
- Law enforcement (2 responses)
- Community outreach / education (2 responses)
- Resources for special needs (2 responses)
- Affordable legal services (1 responses)
- Mental health services (1 response)
- Domestic violence services (1 response)

When asked what specific services or activities to provide or improve upon, 473 respondents provided free response suggestions. These responses were categorized and are listed in the order of number of responses (highest to lowest):

- Transportation (109 comments)
- Teen / Youth resources (55 comments)
- Teen activities (51 comments)
- Affordable indoor recreation (45 comments)
- Recreational activities (40 comments)
- Economic opportunities / jobs (37 comments)
- Substance abuse treatment (36 comments)
- Trails (34 comments)
- Access to healthy, whole foods (23 comments)
- Childcare (19 comments)
- Shopping (18 comments)
- Medical specialists (18 comments)
- Housing (17 comments)
- Educational opportunities (17 comments)
- Clinic services (13 comments)
- Mental health services (12 comments)
- Community outreach / education (12 comments)
- Emergency housing (9 comments)
- Health insurance (9 comments)
- Parent services (8 comments)
- (continued from previous page)
- Elder activities (8 comments)
- Law enforcement (8 comments)
- Winter maintenance of roads/sidewalks/trails (8 comments)
- Domestic violence services (7 comments)
- Digital connectivity (7 comments)
- Vocational education (7 comments)
- Elder care (6 comments)
- Arts and culture (5 comments)
- Environmental monitoring (5 comments)
- Business support (5 comments)

The top five responses for what kept respondents from accessing services were:

- 1) Cost (46.5%)
- 2) Schedule conflicts (41.5%)
- 3) Not enough time (35.7%)
- 4) Transportation (20.4%)
- 5) Lack of anonymity (14.0%)

2008 responses included:

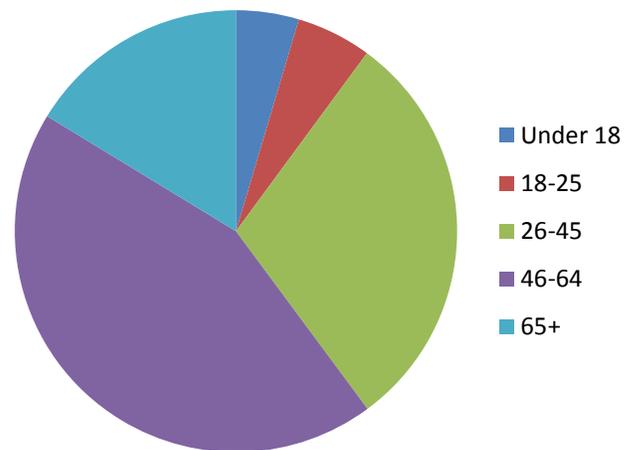
- 1) Cost (34%)
- 2) Lack of anonymity, confidentiality, distrust agency or provider (8%)
- 3) Transportation (8%)

Q1. In what community do you live?

Answer Options	Response %	Response #
Anchor Point area	11.2%	130
Kachemak Selo	0.2%	2
Halibut Cove	0.2%	2
Homer - city limits	48.7%	566
Homer area - outside city limits	30.8%	358
Nanwalek	3.0%	35
Nikolaevsk	1.2%	14
Ninilchik	1.7%	20
Port Graham	1.8%	21
Razdolna	0.6%	7
Seldovia	1.1%	13
Voznesenka	1.5%	18
Other	2.3%	26
Answered Question		1212

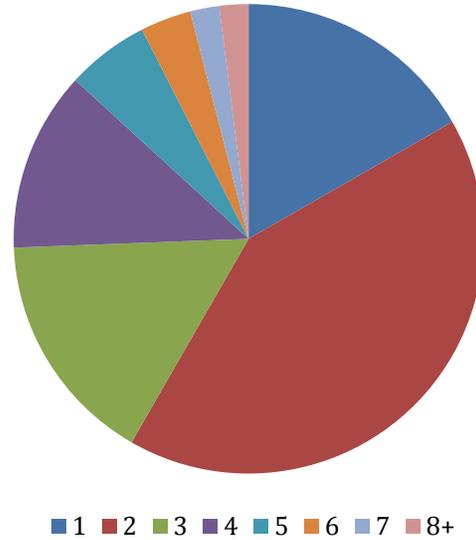
Q2. Which category below includes your age?

Answer Options	Response %	Response #
Under 18	4.6%	54
18-25	5.5%	65
26-45	29.8%	353
46-64	43.9%	521
65+	16.3%	193
Answered Question		1186



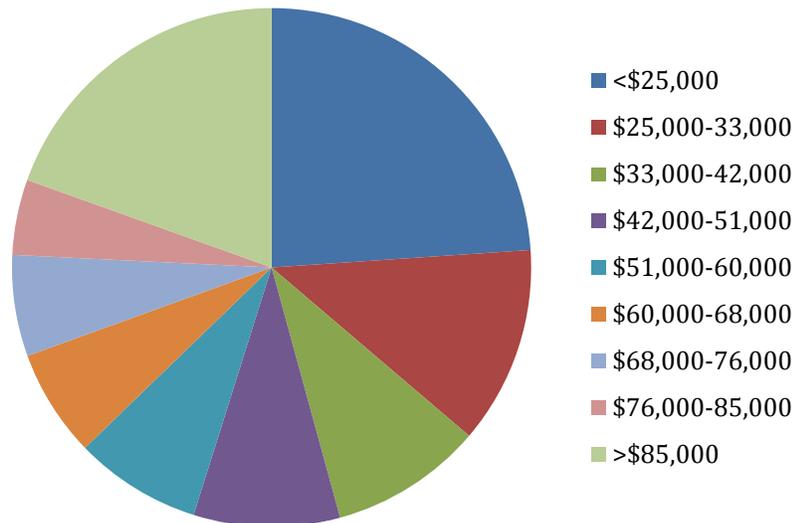
Q3. How many people currently live in your household?

Answer Options	Response %	Response #
1	16.7%	197
2	41.6%	490
3	16.1%	190
4	12.4%	146
5	5.7%	67
6	3.5%	41
7	2.0%	23
8+	2.0%	24
Answered Question		1178



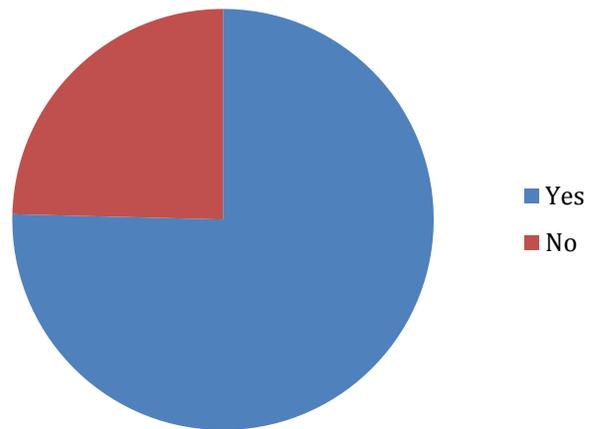
Q4. What is your approximate annual income?

Answer Options	Response %	Response #
<\$25,000	23.9%	269
\$25,000-33,000	12.3%	139
\$33,000-42,000	9.5%	107
\$42,000-51,000	9.1%	102
\$51,000-60,000	7.9%	89
\$60,000-68,000	6.7%	76
\$68,000-76,000	6.3%	71
\$76,000-85,000	4.7%	53
>\$85,000	19.5%	220
Answered Question		1126



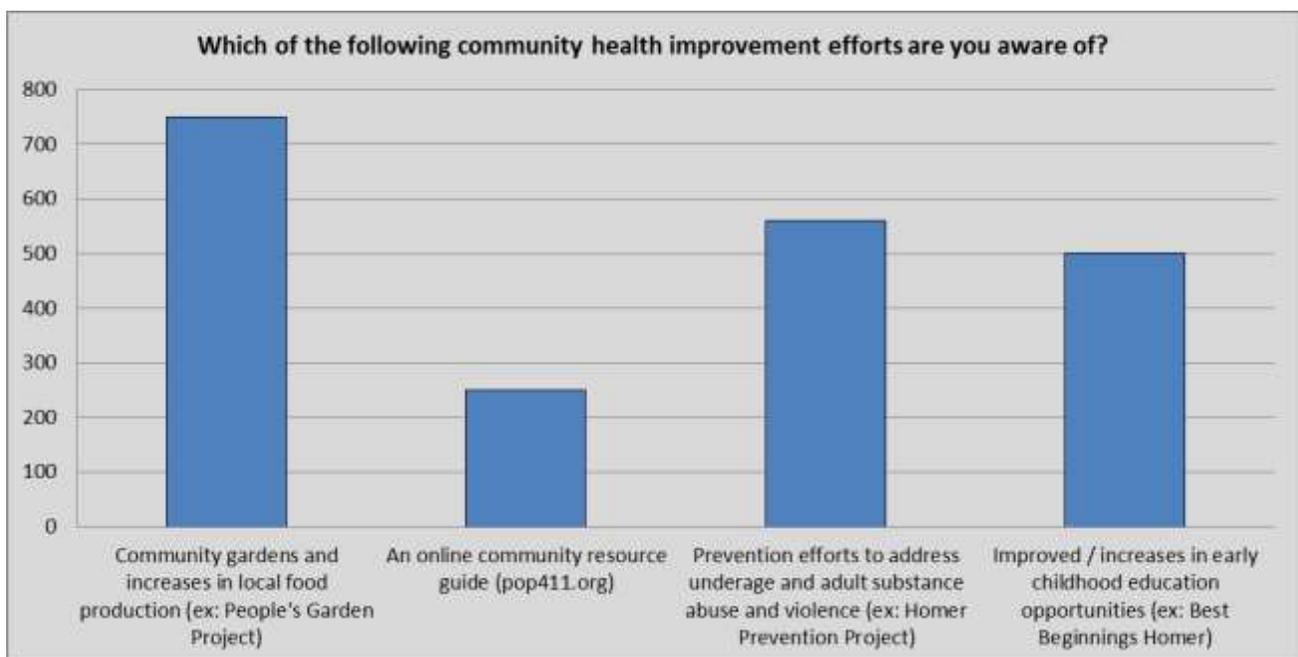
Q5. Do you have health insurance (of any type: private, public, military, Native, Medicaid or Medicare?)

Answer Options	Response %	Response #
Yes	75.4%	878
No	24.6%	286
Answered Question		1164



Q6. Which of the following collaborative health improvement efforts have you heard of?

Answer Options	Response %	Response #
Community gardens and increases in local food production (ex: People's Garden Project)	80.0%	751
An online community resource guide (pop411.org)	26.6%	250
Prevention efforts to address underage and adult substance abuse and violence (ex: Homer Prevention Project)	59.7%	561
Improved / increases in early childhood education opportunities (ex: Best Beginnings Homer)	53.5%	502



Q7. What are the greatest strengths of our community?

Answer Options	Response %	Response #
Natural beauty	78.9%	924
People help each other	68.1%	797
Healthy environment	53.4%	625
Good schools	47.6%	557
Diverse cultural / arts opportunities	47.1%	552
Diverse private/public nonprofit organizations	40.8%	478
Access to healthcare	39.4%	461
Parks & recreation	39.0%	457
Good support for families	36.6%	429
Access to healthy, whole foods	35.3%	413
Religious or spiritual values	34.2%	401
Respect for varied viewpoints	30.1%	353
Healthy behaviors and lifestyles	26.5%	310
Access to job training and higher education	22.4%	262
Cultural diversity	21.3%	249
Good jobs & healthy economy	13.2%	155
Affordable housing	10.6%	124
Public transportation	3.9%	46
Other (please specify)	2.6%	31
Answered Question		1171

Above responses shown from highest to lowest response rate

29 TOTAL FREE RESPONSES WRITTEN WHEN 'OTHER' SELECTED

(the below responses are categorized, thus some responses might be repeated if they contain multiple categories)

People

1. friendly people
2. good friends, relatively safe community
3. love
4. amazing group collaborations
5. many people live intentionally
6. The people who live here
7. Less people

Infrastructure/Resources (7 comments)

1. Good location for creating a polar center that supports the sciences, and manufactures sailing DNV polar vessel for tying Alaska, the nation, and the world
2. good opportunity (commercial fishing)
3. good library
4. Farmer's market. Small (but, not too small) community

5. strong salmon runs and other fish and game access
6. growing teen programs and Boys/Girls club
7. Local college

Location/Environment

1. Good location for creating a polar center that supports the sciences, and manufactures sailing DNV polar vessel for tying Alaska, the nation, and the world
2. environmental programs and awareness, but need more

Services/Activities

1. community recreation/sports
2. TEDxHomer
3. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders diagnosis and support
4. powerful youth community with a radical voice
5. great local and visiting musicians
6. great ski trails!

Absence of strengths

1. none of the above kids have no future--drugs& crime is getting out of hand. In the last 10 years I've seen a decline in most of Homer's strengths
2. There isn't any
3. Low crime rate

Other Feedback

1. All of them! Thank you and Merry Christmas
2. Batting cage for Homer next to ice rink
3. Lots
4. Homer has always been my home but the last 40 years I have moved around
5. On "Religious Values" wrote "except for liberals"

Q8. Please indicate, in the order of importance (1 being the most important) your TOP THREE choices of the following factors that MOST NEGATIVELY affect the health of you and your family and the TOP THREE choices which MOST NEGATIVELY affect the health of the community?

Answer options included:

- **Physical Health**
- **Mental / Emotional Health**
- **Substance Abuse**
- **Interpersonal Violence**
- **Economics Costs**
- **Environmental Health**
- **Education / Education Costs**
- **Other**

Top three health factors selected for 'you and your family':

4. Economic Costs (selected by 72.9% respondents)
5. Physical Health (selected by 68.4% respondents)
6. Mental / Emotional Health (selected by 46.9% respondents)

Top three health factors selected for 'the community':

4. Substance Abuse (selected by 79.3% respondents)
5. Economic Costs (selected by 54.4% respondents)
6. Mental / Emotional Health (selected by 51.6% respondents)

Q9. Which of the following services or activities are lacking in our community?

Answer Options	Response %	Response #
Teen activities	53.5%	567
Transportation	50.0%	530
Shopping	35.3%	374
Housing	28.0%	297
Substance abuse treatment	27.4%	290
Access to healthy, whole foods	23.1%	245
Medical specialists	21.9%	232
Childcare	18.8%	199
Recreational activities	18.0%	191
Educational opportunities	13.9%	147
Digital connectivity	13.5%	143
Elder care	12.3%	130
Business support	9.1%	96
Environmental monitoring	8.6%	91
Dental	8.4%	89
Other	8.9%	89
Clinic services	6.2%	66
Arts and culture	4.8%	51
None	4.5%	48
Answered Question		1060

Above responses shown from highest to lowest response rate

91 FREE RESPONSES WRITTEN WHEN 'OTHER' SELECTED

(the below responses are categorized, thus some responses might be repeated if they contain multiple categories)

Teen Activities (1)

1. apprenticeship programs for teens

Medical Specialists (5)

1. kidney dialysis
2. bone med specialists
3. Gynecologist & doctors that are women
4. variety of alternative medicine
5. Eye Doctor

Housing (12 comments)

1. next to childcare and next to substance abuse treatment wrote "affordable"
2. next to housing wrote "affordable"
3. next to housing wrote "low income"
4. housing for people with pets
5. Affordable housing. Prices/taxes too high for many.

6. Housing for lower income families/individuals
7. If you added the word "AFFORDABLE" I would check housing, dental care, and health care
8. Lack of low income housing. Public transport just isn't practical
9. next to housing wrote "affordable"
10. next to housing and childcare wrote "affordable"
11. next to housing wrote "affordable" and next to foods wrote "we are doing pretty good but there could be more"
12. homeless support and housing options- especially for teens

Arts & Culture (1)

1. Adequate acoustics in local restaurants

Childcare (5)

1. activities for children 6- 12 year olds (Youth Activities)
2. childcare for babies - birth to age 2 - good safe places
3. next to childcare and next to substance abuse treatment wrote "affordable"
4. next to housing and childcare wrote "affordable"
5. next to childcare wrote "for kids w/special needs"

Recreational Activities (6)

1. sober night time spaces and activities weekend
2. exercise classes--more diversity & reasonable prices are needed for all age levels
3. A community space for birthday parties, family events, an indoor place for children to play in the winter, a space for children with special need to socialize and be active.
4. Community Center
5. activities for children 6- 12 year olds (Youth Activities)
6. A community center for arts: a place for arts workshops, dances, classes

Educational Opportunities (7)

1. under funded schools
2. free enterprise education
3. Parents taking an accountable role in raising their children
4. Homer needs a vocational tech school that would serve the community and the ones across the Bay
5. Need more affordable educational offerings for public
6. I would recommend stronger support for Vocational education for high school and college level students. There are jobs available for skilled labor to work on vessels in port and for persons willing to go to sea. Welding, Electrical, Refrigeration, and Engineering to name a few.
7. community schools for adults and families

Access to Healthy, Whole Foods (9 comments)

1. access to healthy fresh food in winter
2. produce here sucks when Farmer's Market stops
3. access to affordable, local fish
4. Access to organic foods year round
5. healthy whole foods are accessible but cost a lot, what about a way to "buy in" to having them by contributing LABOR?
6. subsistence, greenhouse farming
7. access to healthy foods could be limited if tax is applied to unprepared food
8. next to housing wrote "affordable" and next to foods wrote "we are doing pretty good but there could be more"
9. next to food wrote "in winter"

Environmental Monitoring (2)

1. getting rid of Inlet Keepers and common sense in environmental projects.
2. environmental monitoring: sound and light

Substance Abuse Treatment (2)

1. substance abuse prevention programs that work
2. next to childcare and next to substance abuse treatment wrote "affordable"

Dental (4)

1. by dental, food, clinic services wrote "too expensive"
2. cheap / low-income dental
3. on "dental" wrote "affordable"
4. If you added the word "AFFORDABLE" I would check housing, dental care, and health care

Transportation (3)

1. affordable transportation & clinic services for those not on medicare
2. need bus system
3. bike lanes, hiking trails, public transportation, affordable exercise facility

Digital Connectivity (2)

1. next to digital wrote "affordable"
2. poor connectivity on Skyline drive, diversity and jobs with decent salaries

Economic Opportunities/Jobs (4)

1. more jobs
2. employment
3. Jobs
4. poor connectivity on Skyline drive, diversity and jobs with decent salaries

Vocational education (4)

1. I would recommend stronger support for Vocational education for high school and college level students. There are jobs available for skilled labor to work on vessels in port and for persons willing to go to sea. Welding, Electrical, Refrigeration, and

Engineering to name a few.

2. community schools for adults and families
3. on education, wrote "voc, ed", on elder care, wrote "better, more, residential" and by dental wrote "affordable"
4. AFFORDABLE health care. now that Homer Medical is part of SPH office visits and procedure costs have increased. Also more trade vocational programs.

Teen / Youth Resources (5)

1. homeless support and housing options- especially for teens
2. homeless shelter for teens
3. residential facilities for troubled youth
4. Broad authentic teen education
5. apprenticeship programs for teens

Affordable Legal Services (1)

1. legal fees

Law Enforcement (2)

1. There is a very curious lack of law enforcement in the area of drug trafficking (last 10-15 years). The federal govt has had to come in and do it.
2. volunteer citizen watch organizations to support and broaden police & trooper services

Affordable Indoor Recreation (5)

1. bike lanes, hiking trails, public transportation, affordable exercise facility
2. Affordable exercise programs since Curves & weight watchers have closed - for people on a fixed income
3. A community center for arts: a place for arts workshops, dances, classes
4. A community space for birthday parties, family events, an indoor place for children to play in the winter, a space for children with special need to socialize and be active.
5. Indoor exercise equipment

Elder Activities (1)

1. Elder activities and housing for active and cultural/intellectual lifestyle

Domestic Violence Services (1)

1. adequate domestic violence services

Trails (5)

1. sidewalks in my neighborhood
2. bike trails on Sterling highway
3. Bike trails and paths for commuting
4. trail - accessible in town, etc
5. bike lanes, hiking trails, public transportation, affordable exercise facility

Resources for Special Needs (2)

1. next to childcare wrote "for kids w/special needs"
2. A community space for birthday parties, family events, an indoor place for children to play in the winter, a space for children with special need to socialize and be active.

Healthcare / Insurance (3)

1. medicare access to those who have no insurance
2. AFFORDABLE health care. now that homer Medical is part of SPH office visits and procedure costs have increased. Also more trade vocational programs.
3. If you added the word "AFFORDABLE" I would check housing, dental care, and health care

Community Outreach / Education (2)

1. ombusman: it wouldn't hve to be a government official it cold be a column in onr or two newspapers on how to do something/from gardining advice to who to go to in local or state government to solve a problem
2. Communication! Getting the word out to everyone.

Emergency Housing (3)

1. housing for the homeless - males
2. help homeless people get off the streets in homer in winter weather
3. homeless support and housing options- especially for teens

Mental Health Services (1)

1. mental health services

10. What specific services or activities would you like to see provided or improved upon?

(473 individual responses, categorized below)

Teen Activities (51 comments)

1. teen activities
2. more teen activities! We are Bored out here!
3. more activities for teens
4. teen activities substance abuse treatment
5. A place for teens to hang out
6. teen activities
7. RELIABLE AFTER SCHOOL CARE, THAT STAYS OPEN DURING HOLIDAYS AND SUMMER.
8. more activities for young children and teens
9. Something for teens to do, Better monitoring of these jerks like Buccaneer coming in.
10. teen activities
11. We need skating rink again, activities for teens and pre-teens (roller skates)
12. Teen activities, I see too many underage kids smoke down Ben Walters
13. teen activities
14. activities for teens---safe places to go after school hours
15. Teen or young adult activities.
16. More activities to keep teens out of trouble
17. Teen activities, transportation
18. teen support programs/activities
19. teen activities, job training
20. Teen activities, more whole & less-processed foods available, more childcare services for working parents
21. It'd be nice if there were more publicly visible, transparent, student-run (and adult mentored) organizations or activities. Future Farmers of America (FFA) and other organizations within the school face pretty serious challenges being supported outside of the regular curriculum. It's frustrating! When I was young, we had the teen center and it provided an outlet to kids without other positive things to do in the evenings. It also gave them employment and a sense of belonging. I wish we could find a way to support a similar establishment. Also, public transportation, DV awareness, and help for substance abuse would be helpful!
22. Teen and young adult activities that enjoy full support and participation by the community as a whole. We need a COMMUNITY CENTER!!!
23. Teen activities, support for parents
24. Support (funding, school board support, state wide inclusion, community-wide inclusion) for the youth produced TEDxYouth@Homer event April 12, 2013.
25. More emphasis on programs like Big Brothers Big Sisters & Boys and Girls Club to help catch young kids and give them support & strong adults in the community they trust.
26. teen participation
27. More innovative ways to engage teens in healthy and interesting activities. The non-profit HoWL is a good example that gets kids outdoors. Perhaps some alternatives for kids that are not outdoorsey too?
28. Teen activities
29. Activities for teens and pre-teens. Many hang out on the streets.
30. more teen activities
31. Better childcare/teen activities for babies and tweens too

32. places for teens to go, activities to keep them out of trouble
33. More things to do for young people
34. Somewhere for the teens to hang out after school
35. More for teens to do in terms of a community center. More affordable clothing shops. Parent support for raising their kids.
36. I would like a place that teens can go where drugs don't go or sold.
37. Teen activities
38. teen activities/control
39. More healthy teen activities i.e. winter sports outside school, more healthy teen hangouts, more transportation opportunities
40. have all age events, low income/transitional house, better transportation, substance abuse treatment (competent accessible, relevant)
41. private schools, healthy teen activities
42. public or subsidized transportation between Anchor Point and Homer. Regular, positive teen activities.
43. Gym/pool in Anchor Point
44. Transportation- Teen activities
45. transportation to other communities, teen activities
46. Teaching respect to students in the schools, and fostering respectful communication and appropriate behavior K-12 through such activities as volunteer service to others (animal shelter, Sr. Center, Food Pantry), as well as working with others in cooperation to solve complex problems for the greater good (create student "task forces" to tackle bullying, discrimination, appropriate punishment for breaking the rules, environmental pollution and degradation, etc.). Add more police and troopers and/or consider other strategies for making the community more safe, pleasant and law-abiding (citizen "watch" programs, automatic sentences of community service for certain crimes like running stop signs, etc.)
47. Lowering of costs in general, Fun/safe place for teens, shopping options
48. healthy social opportunities for teens. maybe weekly or monthly dances off school premises with decent bands. An "Alice's type" spot for teens.
49. More activities for teens/young adults so they don't just wander around town abusing drugs and being rude to residents
50. Teen activities
51. Teen & youth activities

Medical Specialist (18 comments)

1. affordable dental for adults
2. medical specialties
3. more regularly available health care specialists (e.g. visits by urologist, dermatologist)
4. pediatric MDs & specialists, non-capitalized prices, LOWER GAS PRICES!!!
5. pediatrician
6. Immunologist, natural food store, public transportation system
7. Community Wellness Education
8. long term treatment, arts lapsed at community college
9. Back doctors
10. Low cost surgical

11. Limited access to organic produce through the winter since Smoke Bay Natural Foods closed.
Expensive Full Circle Farm, limited selection at grocery stores, Cancer registry for State of Alaska
More bike and transportation routes more dog-free ski trails
12. healthcare, healthy food, rec center that isn't for super rich people
13. unable to get minor medical treatment w/o going to emergency room many times. Very sad
14. dermatology clinic - by SPH -
15. doctor, pharmacy #1, transportation to Soldotna
16. low-income / free medical / dental / higher wages
17. mental health, substance abuse
18. Affordable housing and utilities; community advocacy for jobs that can support families (very few here); limited available childcare; affordable alternative healthcare (acupuncture/therapeutic massage, etc.)
19. More in clinics Dr.'s,MD,PAC's,Dentists and therapists

Housing (17 comments)

1. Homeless shelter, shopping store in Anchor Point, Teen activities
2. affordable housing
3. more affordable childcare and housing and better dental services that's affordable
4. Housing, teen activities
5. Housing costs are too high. There is no low income housing other Alaska housing. Not everyone qualifies
6. health insurance, substance abuse treatment center
7. more affordable housing options, reduction of energy costs ,more option for transportation--green
8. housing for graduating seniors. Help for people. Housing college students because there are hardly anywhere for these working full time graduated seniors/college students to go to. No apts/houses
9. Low income housing, Public transportation, vocational training.
10. Middle income housing, Fresh food year round, Restaurants
11. Affordable housing and utilities; community advocacy for jobs that can support families (very few here); limited available childcare; affordable alternative healthcare (acupuncture/therapeutic massage, etc.)
12. Public Transportation, Child Care, Housing for people with disabilities that allow pets, 4g
13. income qualified housing (based)
14. affordable housing, better public transportation, lower cost of living, more jobs
15. better housing and affordable housing
16. low income/transitional house
17. community cohesion, arts, rec possibilities/community blg and opportunities, public transportation, job opportunities for youth and beyond, housing for the homeless

Shopping (18 comments)

1. clothes, stores
2. shopping activities
3. shopping, tired of driving to Soldotna and Anch, Lots of homeless kids
4. shopping
5. Too bad Fred Meyer or a similar retail business didn't build here to offer a wider variety of common items and necessities
6. Shopping,

7. Fred Meyer
8. We need a Fred Meyer or Walmart in Homer! Too many greenies! I like plastic bags at Safeway!
9. Fred Meyer's or Walmart, Too many greenies - plastic bags are good at Safeway.
10. Shopping. Affordable, trustworthy assistance for housing services and repairs for handicapped and elderly.
11. town center - public market, walking / biking trails, centralized health campus, more orgs / groups sharing resources & working together, PUBLIC transportation system - a huge root cause for kids and adults to access resources that ARE available
12. Shopping needs to be more affordable (clothing, food, etc).
13. more shopping centers
14. Fred Meyer
15. child care, shopping, and adult education
16. teen activities, shopping places
17. 1) new to community -ads never tell us where stuff is located 2) Encourage Fred Meyer to come to Home 3) Elder care information
18. year round community market

Arts and Culture (5 comments)

1. Karaoke
2. More public ritual (like Burning Basket building/event), TEEN spaces that are inclusive, free and comfortable, Co-housing opportunities available for people with low income, Job mentoring
3. This community is doing pretty GREAT! More creative hangout spaces, Art center
4. Schools-- breadth, width of school offerings inadequate Libraries, music, art, talented/gifted programs all reduced. Improvement essential
5. community cohesion, arts, rec possibilities/community bldg and opportunities, public transportation, job opportunities for youth and beyond, housing for the homeless

Childcare (19 comments)

1. childcare
2. child care, shopping, and adult education
3. More not for credit classes/activities for parents that provide childcare. More support for our current childcare providers and daycare centers (equipment, supplies, cleaning services, training)
4. Accessible recreational activities for kids (low cost, good supervision/ outcome), better/ more flexible childcare
5. Better, more affordable child care options, especially for infants.
6. Some sort of network of child care providers would be great. Occasional sitters or weekend drop ins.
7. Quality childcare
8. childcare at the workplace
9. childcare
10. Indoor play area for kiddos
11. Better childcare/teen activities for babies and tweens too
12. more affordable childcare and housing and better dental services that's affordable
13. For #7: wrote in "other" 1. child care outside of Homer and 2. Thrift store/ food bank in Anchor Point) for #10 wrote: child care in Anchor Point and children necessity store
14. Real substance abuse programs—access. Self-enriching loving childcare
15. bus transportation- infant child care

16. Indoor activities in winter for preschool aged kids would be nice. Also, affordable childcare options are severely lacking here. The fact that there is not a no cost public preschool available to any and all families, without having to qualify in some way, is absolutely shocking and appalling. There is nothing for teenagers to do, and the community wonders why they party and have sex - the community needs something for teens to do, especially the ones who are not involved in sports.
17. affordable housing for mentally ill- affordable child care
18. Special needs child care
19. Elder care & child care

Recreational Activities (40 comments)

1. Recreational Activities
2. indoor play area like chuckie cheese or jungle gym for kids
3. something for teens in our community to do
4. recreational activities
5. A circum polar center that builds apolar saling school ship. A physical/mental fitness centers that balances our minds and bodies
6. This community is doing pretty GREAT! More creative hangout spaces, Art center
7. have all age events, low income/transitional house, better transportation, substance abuse treatment (competent accessible, relevant)"
8. ski resort
9. more park and rec fields--affordable and available weight room
10. plenty borough property in AP to develop ski trails
11. cheaper water taxis for lower income people to access recreational activities across the bay, I'm envisioning an art/educational/music/dance/recreation/environmental and agricultural center @ the HERC bldg--a place for youth and adults alike/mentoring programs facilitating non-alcohol/drugs-incredible activities and exciting and awesome
12. more outside parks, public basketball courts"
13. basket ball, we have too many tree huggers, We need a Fred Meyer or Walmart in Homer, Too many greenies and hippies and Obama lovers, I want plastic bags at Safeway
14. a community recreation center
15. More outdoor recreation in the winter and summer. Offering of sporting activities run by community schools in the summer.
16. A Community Center for all community Members!
17. We need an indoor dog park
18. I would love a dog park or a community center. w/ apple trees and flowers, benches, bathrooms, etc. I would love a community garden with high tunnels and rent them out so people can grow their own food. Recreational activities
19. It would be nice to see the Homer community recreational activities expand a little. I would like to be involved with more activities, but some of them are priced a little high.
20. Childrens' activities
21. Recreational
22. recreational activities
23. more dances, teen activities
24. teen night, family night
25. roller rink, ski hill
26. hiking and biking trails

27. more accommodations for health improvement such as bike paths
28. more bikepaths (on Kachemak Drive)
29. ATV and jetski use and snowmaking
30. Accessible recreational activities for kids (low cost, good supervision/ outcome), better/ more flexible childcare
31. Better quality organic foods, year round Year round theater, drama, clubs, activities for adults. Vans to Anchorage.
32. Healthy and whole foods access in winter More affordable recreation & more trails & sidewalks
33. We need skating rink again, activities for teens and pre-teens (roller skates). Walking path on Diamond Ridge
34. Recreation and manufacturing to bring jobs for our kids. Homer trying to stay too small for the growth we have families are split up cause kids have no future here
35. vocational training, family activities, get kids outside away from screens
36. cheaper physical health, Bay Club is way too expensive
37. Support for Kevin Bell Arena Increased access to substance abuse treatment
38. gym. better roads
39. senior housing and activities
40. healthcare, healthy food, rec center that isn't for super rich people

Educational Opportunities (17 comments)

1. Schools-- breadth, width of school offerings inadequate ,Libraries, music, art, talented/gifted programs all reduced. Improvement essential"
2. more education (more than KPC)
3. more education
4. private schools, healthy teen activities
5. More varied/affordable educational offerings for public. Public transportation, other than taxi, year-round. More low income housing. Inside track/recreational building for winter walking/events. Maybe a batting cage. Like the dome in Anchorage.
6. Education
7. more educational choices
8. better school facilities for children., Ours is run down. We need a gym
9. to a Russian teacher in Razdolna school would be a plus
10. free enterprise in schools
11. Community Wellness Education
12. public transportation- art school
13. Public transportation, more affordable enrichment classes.
14. Cheaper Education and transportation
15. More inexpensive classes after work for yoga, zumba or pilates that are not related to Bay Club.
16. Art school
17. Education on healthy functions

Access to Healthy, Whole Foods (23 comments)

1. For #7: wrote in "other" 1. child care outside of Homer and 2. Thrift store/ food bank in Anchor Point), for #10 wrote: child care in Anchor Point and children necessity store

2. Limited access to organic produce through the winter since Smoke Bay Natural Foods closed. Expensive Full Circle Farm, limited selection at grocery stores, Cancer registry for State of Alaska, More bike and transportation routes, more dog-free ski trails
3. year round fresh local produce and other foods
4. more global warming, local farming
5. more less expensive groceries
6. more access to healthy food year round, economic opportunities--more decent paying jobs with decent benefits
7. availability of local, affordable fish
8. Better quality organic foods, year round. Year round theater, drama, clubs, activities for adults. Vans to Anchorage.
9. Full Year access to healthy, whole foods
10. Natural/organic foods store (like we used to have). More opportunity to purchase fresh local seafood (ie- a seafood market). Public transportation out East End Rd. Public transportation to trailheads across the bay (sorry, water taxi association, but you're too expensive)- I meet a lot of children who grow up here but have never been on most of the trails in Kachemak Bay State Park.
11. More health foods, always.
12. farming
13. local agriculture
14. local farm fresh foods
15. Healthy and whole foods access in winter, More affordable recreation & more trails & sidewalks, Walking path on Diamond Ridge
16. Teen activities-more whole & less-processed foods available, -more childcare services for working parents
17. Immunologist, natural food store, public transportation system
18. Middle income housing, Fresh food year round, Restaurants
19. Public transportation, access to healthy whole local foods (going in the right direction). Activities for people aged 18-20 range--too old for school related activities but not quite ready for the adult world
20. keeping costs of necessities (ie food, utilities, medical) affordable
21. more affordable fruits, vegs
22. Natural/organic foods store (like we used to have). More opportunity to purchase fresh local seafood (ie- a seafood market). Public transportation out East End Rd. Public transportation to trailheads across the bay (sorry, water taxi association, but you're too expensive)- I meet a lot of children who grow up here but have never been on most of the trails in Kachemak Bay State Park.
23. year round community market

Environmental Monitoring (5 comments)

1. Keeping village as clean as possible.
2. Air, soil and water quality monitoring.
3. Like to see clean air and water quality
4. Something for teens to do, Better monitoring of these jerks like Buccaneer coming in.
5. more affordable cost of living Drinking water quality

Substance Abuse Treatment (36 comments)

1. NA meetings :)

2. drug free town
3. drug abuse, and constant drinking is a large problem in our community - we could use more programs for stopping that.
4. Real substance abuse programs--access , Self enriching loving childcare
5. Prevention for drug and sex abuse
6. substance abuse locally
7. Substance abuse treatment
8. domestic violence and substance abuse services, and no confidentiality
9. substance abuse education for kids
10. Substance abuse support, alcohol abuse & bullying in the adolescent community
11. increased education and support for teens and young adults to counter substance abuse and violence
12. substance abuse treatment
13. Substance abuse treatment and services for teens. Transitional housing for teens. Recreational activities for all ages during a variety of times and at affordable prices. Public transit is a serious need in this community. Taxis are not an adequate or appropriate substitute.
14. effective and affordable (free),prevention programs for substance abuse, alcohol, domestic violence, and the accompanying mental health issues
15. perhaps more awareness of the negative effects of excessive alcohol and drugs - but there are great efforts - can't make people listen
16. Substance abuse counseling.
17. substance abuse treatment, housing for homeless
18. substance abuse treatment, housing for homeless
19. Detox services, opiate medical intervention, child abuse intervention, substance abuse services, better police intervention for drug dealing, outpatient srs w/ medical help for opiate users, Real community healthcare that everyone can afford, SVT is not affordable.
20. teen activities, abuse treatment ,transportation
21. The drug affect on this community
22. teen activities, substance abuse treatment
23. Teen activities, I see too many underage kids smoke down Ben Walters
24. long term treatment, arts lapsed at community college
25. health insurance, substance abuse treatment center
26. teen activities, abuse treatment, transportation
27. transportation and substance abuse education and treatment
28. Drinking, especially among teens, is a big problem. Shoulders on roads are too small to be safe on East End Road and there is no bike path.
29. Teen activity substance abuse: 1. positive teen activity could help teens avoid negative behavior. 2. There is a real need for a local substance abuse treatment center due to the high meth and alcohol abuse.
30. services that promote decrease in violence and substance abuse. Focus on the poor people of our community
31. Drug abuse, enforcement. Better job by patrol system. Earlier education to help counteract poor parental and social guidance.
32. More options for dealing with homelessness and substance abuse - shelter/food, treatment and housing, specifically.
33. I have seen many people that have needed psych services and/or substance abuse/alcohol services that are difficult to get here in Homer. We seem to have an awful lot of people showing up in town

that need psych services and that are looking for controlled substances, these are not things that they are able to get freely from the clinics and therefore, they end up getting angry. We have been lucky to be able to work with the Center to try and get people help, but I'm not sure we don't need more...

34. Homeless support and housing-especially for teens, Teen Parent support and education, Public Transportation, effective substance abuse (drugs) support and treatment for affected youth"
35. access to available outdoor activities (esp. across the bay) at affordable cost to families. more childcare. local substance abuse treatment. another large meeting area (to hold 100). voc ed options.
36. have all age events, low income/transitional house, better transportation, substance abuse treatment (competent accessible, relevant)

Clinic Services (13 comments)

1. healthcare, healthy food, rec center that isn't for super rich people
2. unable to get minor medical treatment w/o going to emergency room many times. Very sad
3. dermatology clinic - by SPH -
4. doctor, pharmacy #1, transportation to Soldotna
5. walk in Clinics for non-emergency issues
6. living & health & dental services not so expensive, heat for housing and fuel for cars and trucks to expensive compared to Anc and outside
7. better medical collaboration
8. roads and landing pad for helicopter for medivac
9. public transportation and hospital services
10. Love the new Dr.s and changes at SPH - more info in community about FASD awareness
11. town center - public market, walking / biking trails, centralized health campus, more orgs / groups sharing resources & working together, PUBLIC transportation system - a huge root cause for kids and adults to access resources that ARE available
12. More visits from Public Health nurses!
13. More in clinics Dr.'s,MD,PAC's,Dentists and therapists

Dental (3 comments)

1. low-income / free medical / dental / higher wages
2. children's dental-Denali Kid Care, affordable childcare
3. living & health & dental services not so expensive, heat for housing and fuel for cars and trucks to expensive compared to Anc and outside

Transportation (109 comments)

1. bus transportation, child care
2. Elder care & transportation
3. bus transportation- infant child care
4. Public transit of some sort
5. Other in #7: TRANSPORTATION, Things for teens/young adults
6. Transportation assistance
7. public transportation
8. public transportation
9. public transportation throughout the Peninsula
10. transportation
11. transportation and substance abuse education and treatment

12. roads and landing pad for helicopter for medivac
13. public transportation, more job opportunities
14. Public transportation, access to healthy whole local foods (going in the right direction). Activities for people aged 18-20 range--too old for school related activities but not quite ready for the adult world
15. public or subsidized transportation between Anchor Point and Homer. Regular, positive teen activities. Gym/pool in Anchor Point
16. public transportation, availability for indoor exercise
17. Transportation!
18. public transit
19. public transportation
20. public transportation trunk line mcNeil Canyon to Anchor Point and Homer Spit to Downtown Homer
21. public transportation , trails
22. Public transportation from Kenai/Soldotna to Homer and within Homer. Out East End Road and Homer Spit. B. Ice breaker to keep Homer harbor open for across the bay boats year round
23. transportation so teens can take advantage of school activities offered to them--perhaps a voucher system for teens to travel safely to home from offered events and organizations. Sidewalk on main street and Ben Walter's Lane so younger teens and children could safely walk to activities already available.
24. public transportation, housing for homeless especially youth
25. public transportation and hospital services
26. alternative transportation, bike/ski trails, recreation other than fishing
27. public transportation
28. public transportation
29. affordable public transport
30. public transportation or sidewalks keep me from walking to work or bicycling to work
31. public trans
32. public transportation/Old Sterling Hwy/North Fork
33. public transportation, trail systems (not across the Bay), more affordable dental care, more affordable fruits, vegs
34. transportation
35. mass transit
36. mass transit, let screened people ride the school buses to town and back
37. public transit
38. Transportation. Homer is very spread out, and having no car is very difficult if you need to get out East End, up the hill, or out to Anchor Point. Taxis are the only option that I'm aware of, and those are expensive.
39. I want to note that I don't think there is a lack of availability of teen activities, but there is a lack of teens that are utilizing the available activities.
40. public transportation, a 24 hour health club
41. public transportation, organized trails, walking paths, hiking trails (maintained, etc)
42. Transportation - public - outside city limits as well
43. public transportation
44. Bus service & bike trails
45. Transportation- Teen activities
46. Public transportation of some sort esp encouraging people to walk in winter- plowed sidewalks in winter

47. Public Transportation
48. Affordable transportation- Transitional housing
49. Public transportation, Making the town more walker friendly; need some sidewalks in key areas. Improve bike/path access for transportation.
50. friendly, community-shared transportation
51. some sort of time-scheduled transportation. Just a couple shuttles that loop Homer that the public can ride for a flat rate (like \$2).
52. Transportation, quicker internet and more range for others, housing especially closer in town and for summer workers,
53. Electric public transportation out to Gear Shed, Better bike paths out to Fritz Creek, and out to North Fork
54. Transportation
55. public transportation and roadway safety (e.g. bikes and pedestrian rights)
56. East End Rd. shuttle service during bus peaks. Bicycle trail extended from Pioneer Ave to Spit.
57. public transportation
58. access to available outdoor activities (esp. across the bay) at affordable cost to families. more childcare. local substance abuse treatment. another large meeting area (to hold 100). voc ed options.
59. Public transportation. Why not use the school buses? Get FBI clearances and pay for a spot on the bus if the bus isn't full.
60. public transportation. whatever happened to that taxi voucher system that was supposed to start?
61. public transportation
62. public transportation- art school
63. transportation
64. public transportation
65. public transportation
66. transportation
67. better roads, and a big gym
68. public transportation
69. more affordable housing options , more option for transportation—green, reduction of energy costs"
70. public transportation
71. more public transportation
72. Public transportation, vocational training (affordable)
73. Local and regional transportation
74. transportation to other communities, teen activities
75. We need busses and bike trails, public bus systems! Better/more bike trails!
76. Public transportation, more affordable enrichment classes.
77. Public transportation Rail line
78. bus or other public transport
79. I believe there should be a transportation to and from important areas in Homer. I need special classes.
80. Public transportation, trails, govt support for services nonprofits are providing (because govt isn't)
81. public transportation
82. Teen activities- transportation
83. More healthy teen activities i.e. winter sports outside school, more healthy teen hangouts, more transportation opportunities
84. Low income housing, Public transportation, vocational training.

85. affordable housing, better public transportation, lower cost of living, more jobs
86. More varied/affordable educational offerings for public. Public transportation, other than taxi, year-round. More low income housing. Inside track/recreational building for winter walking/events. Maybe a batting cage. Like the dome in Anchorage.
87. Natural/organic foods store (like we used to have). More opportunity to purchase fresh local seafood (ie- a seafood market). Public transportation out East End Rd. Public transportation to trailheads across the bay (sorry, water taxi association, but you're too expensive)- I meet a lot of children who grow up here but have never been on most of the trails in Kachemak Bay State Park.
88. substance abuse treatment, housing for homeless"
89. digital connectivity out East End Road, offer or twice a day public transportation out East End Road, stop price increase on fuel and food just because we live in Homer
90. more jobs and public transportation
91. A rec center and transportation services other than taxis
92. focus on teens, transportation
93. Teen activities and transportation.
94. low cost health club options--many people who would benefit from the Bay Club activities can't afford it, a reliable consistent transportation system between Homer and ANC
95. more bike trails, affordable regional transportation to Anchor Point, Soldotna/Kenai
96. I would like to see Homer become a more walking and biking friendly community. I would also like to see us have some kind of public transportation.
97. Better trail system and public transportation
98. Bike trails (especially beyond Homer both east and west) and better public transportation.
99. public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian lanes,
100. Bike lanes, Bus route
101. regular small bus services
102. programs to promote better health. More energy assistance such as C.G. Firewood prog Public Transportation
103. community cohesion, arts, rec possibilities/community blg and opportunities, public transportation, job opportunities for youth and beyond, housing for the homeless
104. digital connectivity out East End Road, offer 1 or twice a day public transportation out East End Road, stop price increase on fuel and food just because we live in Homer
105. Substance abuse treatment and services for teens. Transitional housing for teens. Recreational activities for all ages during a variety of times and at affordable prices. Public transit is a serious need in this community. Taxis are not an adequate or appropriate substitute.
106. Public Transportation, Child Care, Housing for people with disabilities that allow pets, 4g
107. have all age events, low income/transitional house, better transportation, substance abuse treatment (competent accessible, relevant)
108. town center - public market, walking / biking trails, centralized health campus, more orgs / groups sharing resources & working together, PUBLIC transportation system - a huge root cause for kids and adults to access resources that ARE available
109. Broad minded transportation shifts to include walking, biking, carpooling, public transport, easy access to across the bay and to anchorage etc.

Business Support (5 comments)

1. Access to affordable public transportation (beyond taxi)
2. digital connectivity and business support

3. Data specialists
4. Support of business
5. more business development! Development being hampered by residents who want Homer to stay small.

Elder Care (6 comments)

1. elder care needs to improve
2. support for those with MS, Parkinson's Disease, issues related to aging
3. More senior housing for low income families
4. Personal care for shut ins and elders.
5. Elder care & transportation
6. Detox services, opiate medical intervention, child abuse intervention, substance abuse services, better police intervention for drug dealing, outpatient srs w/ medical help for opiate users, Real community healthcare that everyone can afford, SVT is not affordable.
7. Elder care & child care

Digital Connectivity (7 comments)

1. digital connectivity out East End Road, offer 1 or twice a day public transportation out East End Road, stop price increase on fuel and food just because we live in Homer
2. digital connectivity ACS says it will be a long time all circuits are used East End Road, up Fritz Creek Rd
3. better access to internet, natural gas connectivity
4. The fiber optic cable that runs through the bay would sure be handy to use. The internet here is expensive and uncompetitive. That sort of infrastructure would really improve our ability to stay connected and be competitive economically and individually.
5. Teaching respect to students in the schools, and fostering respectful communication and appropriate behavior K-12 through such activities as volunteer service to others (animal shelter, Sr. Center, Food Pantry), as well as working with others in cooperation to solve complex problems for the greater good (create student "task forces" to tackle bullying, discrimination, appropriate punishment for breaking the rules, environmental pollution and degradation, etc.) Add more police and troopers and/or consider other strategies for making the community more safe, pleasant and law-abiding (citizen "watch" programs, automatic sentences of community service for certain crimes like running stop signs, etc.)
6. Transportation, quicker internet and more range for others, housing especially closer in town and for summer workers,
7. digital connectivity and business support

Economic Opportunities / Jobs (37 comments)

1. More jobs
2. Grocery outlet open overnight
3. jobs
4. lack of opportunity--diversified year round economy, affordable health care, more than one annual health fair, continuing education and support for community schools
5. more business development! Development being hampered by residents who want Homer to stay small.
6. Recreation and manufacturing to bring jobs for our kids. Homer trying to stay too small for the growth we have families are split up cause kids have no future here

7. more affordable cost of living, Drinking water quality
8. more jobs! More businesses need to be encouraged to come to Homer
9. keeping costs of necessities (ie food, utilities, medical) affordable
10. lower cost of living
11. City should be mean and clean financially. They tend to be spending and taxing more than in the past. (Tax for the gas line is OK, that tax will pay itself back and will give us cleaner, cheaper heating fuel.)
12. Improve Port facilities to receive containerized freight supporting business and lowering costs of living for residents (Deep Water Dock expansion project). Create ship haul-out capabilities that will help to build sustainable support industry jobs here in Homer. Expand Harbor mooring facilities for the large vessel fleet seeking use of Homers preferred location, (East Harbor Expansion project).
13. Lowering of costs in general, Fun/safe place for teens, shopping options
14. Cost of food and services
15. community/city financial support to the Kevin Bell Ice Arena
16. Cost of living [indicated "down" with two arrows pointing down] - Have to move from Homer, TOO EXPENSIVE, TAXES ON FOOD?!! For shame, Bad economy, not enough jobs"
17. More jobs. Homer rejects anything that would improve the economy and they did not rebuild the cannery.
18. daily labor pool for people who need jobs day to day
19. Cheaper Education and transportation
20. more jobs and public transportation
21. Chamber of Commerce
22. More drilling for gas and oil, Natural gas to Homer
23. fewer govt.- funder services, more private
24. Energy/Heating costs exorbitant
25. low income
26. pediatric MDs & specialists- non-capitalized prices- LOWER GAS PRICES!!!
27. more affordable housing options, reduction of energy costs, more option for transportation--green
28. Affordable housing and utilities; community advocacy for jobs that can support families (very few here); limited available childcare; affordable alternative healthcare (acupuncture/therapeutic massage, etc.)
29. clothes, stores
30. more access to healthy food year round, economic opportunities--more decent paying jobs with decent benefits
31. public transportation, more job opportunities
32. Public transportation from Kenai/Soldotna to Homer and within Homer. Out East End Road and Homer Spit. B. Ice breaker to keep Homer harbor open for across the bay boats year round
33. better access to internet, natural gas connectivity
34. teen activities, job generation
35. living & health & dental services not so expensive, heat for housing and fuel for cars and trucks to expensive compared to Anc and outside
36. community cohesion, arts, rec possibilities/community blg and opportunities, public transportation, job opportunities for youth and beyond, housing for the homeless
37. More public ritual (like Burning Basket building/event), TEEN spaces that are inclusive, free and comfortable, Co housing opportunities available for people with low income. Job mentoring

Vocational Education (7 comments)

1. more vocational training/opportunities
2. Training to prepare young adults for a variety of real world jobs. Eg. Warehousing, transportation, fabrication; not just professional or "cosmetology"
3. vocational training, family activities ,get kids outside away from screens
4. teen activities, job training
5. Public transportation, vocational training (affordable)
6. driver education available to elders and anyone likely to drive impair
7. More pubic ritual (like Burning Basket building/event), TEEN spaces that are inclusive, free and comfortable, Co housing opportunities available for people with low income, Job mentoring

Teen / Youth Resources (55 comments)

1. Teen center
2. a place for teens to hang out - eg. roller rink, etc.
3. recreational activities for kids
4. things for teenagers and preteens to do because they turn to drugs or alcohol
5. teen activities in a safe, yet no overly-controlled environment.
6. There's no activities for any of our youth 0-20,I like 2 see more things done for our children. Arcade, roller rink, something safe and indoors.
7. more for the teens to keep of the street
8. no specific ideas, but something for teens to do in town
9. more teen activities not costly
10. teen activities
11. After school programs
12. teen activities, shopping places
13. more places for teens to hang out
14. A rec center and transportation services other than taxis
15. Drinking, especially among teens, is a big problem. Shoulders on roads are too small to be safe on East End Road and there is no bike path.
16. Some type of program preparing teens entering the work force and "adult life" ie: meaning money, learning good work ethic, learning to cook...life skills. Bring back Home Economics at the High School...great program
17. facility for our very young children and for teenagers--community centers
18. housing and life skills for independent teens
19. more outreach to the teen community
20. Rites of passage programs for young men.
21. I would like to see more teen counseling available for free through the schools and available through accessible routes such as KBFPC, Haven House, or other teen center.
22. Help with people NOT committing suicide. Maybe there could be people who go to the schools and talk about it? Also have art that is more for advanced 13-18 year old children.
23. focus on teens, transportation
24. Teen support
25. healthy social opportunities for teens. maybe weekly or monthly dances off school premises with decent bands. An "Alice's type" spot for teens.

26. Broad authentic teen education. Less focus on standardization and more focus on genuine pursuit of interests at an adult level. This includes mentor ship.
27. Teen activities and transportation.
28. More activities for teens/young adults so they don't just wander around town abusing drugs and being rude to residents
29. teen activities, job generation
30. stuff for teenagers to do
31. teen activities
32. teen activities
33. have a new gym in school, better roads
34. teen activities
35. Teen activity substance abuse: 1. positive teen activity could help teens avoid negative behavior. 2. There is a real need for a local substance abuse treatment center due to the high meth and alcohol abuse.
36. teen support programs/activities
37. teen activities/control
38. Homeless shelter, shopping store in Anchor Point, Teen activities
39. Housing, teen activities
40. housing for graduating seniors. Help for people. Housing college students because there are hardly anywhere for these working full time graduated seniors/college students to go to. No apts/houses
41. shopping, tired of driving to Soldotna and Anch, Lots of homeless kids
42. More pubic ritual (like Burning Basket building/event), TEEN spaces that are inclusive, free and comfortable, Co housing opportunities available for people with low income, Job mentoring
43. I'm envisioning an art/educational/music/dance/recreation/environmental and agricultural center @ the HERC bldg--a place for youth and adults alike/mentoring programs facilitating non-alcohol/drugs-incredible activities and exciting and awesome
44. more dances, teen activities
45. teen night, family night
46. roller rink, ski hill
47. Substance abuse support, alcohol abuse & bullying in the adolescent community
48. increased education and support for teens and young adults to counter substance abuse and violence
49. Substance abuse treatment and services for teens. Transitional housing for teens. Recreational activities for all ages during a variety of times and at affordable prices. Public transit is a serious need in this community. Taxis are not an adequate or appropriate substitute.
50. Other in #7: TRANSPORTATION, Things for teens/young adults
51. public transportation, housing for homeless especially youth
52. Training to prepare young adults for a variety of real world jobs. Eg. Warehousing, transportation, fabrication; not just professional or "cosmetology"
53. dating service
54. Public transportation, access to healthy whole local foods (going in the right direction). Activities for peopled aged 18-20 range--too old for school related activities but not quite ready for the adult world
55. I want to note that I don't think there is a lack of availability of teen activities, but there is a lack of teens that are utilizing the available activities.
56. A program to keep our teenagers busy and away from substance abuse. For the village council to get more involved with the community and residents from Port Graham to better ourselves and community.

57. More Activities

Law Enforcement (8 comments)

1. community watch - coop for tracking criminal activity
2. less violence and drugs
3. Accountability, consequences for actions
4. more busts for meth amphetamine manufacturing/ selling/ usage
5. Drug trafficking enforcement and a refusal by local law enforcement to even acknowledge how bad this has gotten in the last ten years. One only needs to compare the deaths from OD, drug related homicide and drug related suicide to these same rates from 20 years ago when local law enforcement actively enforced drug trafficking laws.
6. Enforcement with Domestic and Sexual Abusers; in addition to, enforcement & imprisonment of the leaders in the substance abusers. You know who the main ones are, arrest and imprison them!
7. Teaching respect to students in the schools, and fostering respectful communication and appropriate behavior K-12 through such activities as volunteer service to others (animal shelter, Sr. Center, Food Pantry), as well as working with others in cooperation to solve complex problems for the greater good (create student "task forces" to tackle bullying, discrimination, appropriate punishment for breaking the rules, environmental pollution and degradation, etc.) Add more police and troopers and/or consider other strategies for making the community more safe, pleasant and law-abiding (citizen "watch" programs, automatic sentences of community service for certain crimes like running stop signs, etc.)
8. Drug abuse, enforcement. Better job by patrol system. Earlier education to help counteract poor parental and social guidance.

Affordable Indoor Recreation (45 comments)

1. community center, city incorporation
2. a gym for our school
3. cheaper physical health, Bay Club is way too expensive
4. I want curves back
5. Community Center for all families to participate in
6. low cost health club options--many people who would benefit from the Bay Club activities can't afford it a reliable consistent transportation system between Homer and ANC
7. I'd love to see a city-operated recreational facility, like they have in Durango, CO. It's like a health club, but it's affordable.
8. family indoor activity in the winter
9. Indoor activities in winter for preschool aged kids would be nice. Also, affordable childcare options are severely lacking here. The fact that there is not a no cost public preschool available to any and all families, without having to qualify in some way, is absolutely shocking and appalling. There is nothing for teenagers to do, and the community wonders why they party and have sex - the community needs something for teens to do, especially the ones who are not involved in sports.
10. A community recreation center. Ping pong, pick up basketball games, etc..
11. aerobic/weight exercise for people on fixed incomes - \$70+/month is not affordable
12. indoor child play area
13. A better, more affordable gym for people to exercise. A gym with child care would be beyond amazing!
14. Recreational center at reduced cost

15. indoor family activities such as roller skating in the summer, restaurants with fun area for children, bowling ally with special family fun nights and food, and community family activities such as fourth of july celebrations, community carnival/fair (local food, crafts, music...along with carnival rides) summer evening music at the park.
16. More inexpensive classes after work for yoga, zumba or pilates that are not related to Bay Club.
17. a real community center; not just the high school. A place where kids and adults can go to improve physical and mental health.
18. Support for Kevin Bell Arena. Increased access to substance abuse treatment
19. affordable recreational services (gym & pool)
20. community events winter and all seasons
21. gym, better roads
22. city support of Kevin Bell Arena
23. dating service
24. strips clubs
25. Cheaper options for gyms
26. RELIABLE AFTER SCHOOL CARE, THAT STAYS OPEN DURING HOLIDAYS AND SUMMER.
27. Teen and young adult activities that enjoy full support and participation by the community as a whole.
We need a COMMUNITY CENTER!!!
28. places for teens to go, activities to keep them out of trouble
29. Somewhere for the teens to hang out after school
30. More for teens to do in terms of a community center. More affordable clothing shops. Parent support for raising their kids.
31. I would like a place that teens can go where drugs don't go or sold.
32. Indoor play area for kiddos
33. something for teens in our community to do
34. more park and rec fields--affordable and available weight room
35. public transportation, availability for indoor exercise
36. public transportation, a 24 hour health club
37. community/city financial support of the Kevin Bell Ice Arena
38. have a new gym in school, better roads
39. More varied/affordable educational offerings for public. Public transportation, other than taxi, year-round. More low income housing. Inside track/recreational building for winter walking/events. Maybe a batting cage. Like the dome in Anchorage.
40. public or subsidized transportation between Anchor Point and HOmer. Regular, positive teen activities. Gym/pool in Anchor Point
41. roller rink, ski hill
42. need a gym
43. better school facilities for children. Ours is run down. We need a gym.
44. A program to keep our teenagers busy and away from substance abuse. For the village council to get more involved with the community and residents from Port Graham to better ourselves and community.
45. More Activities

Elder Activities (8 comments)

1. help for seniors

2. senior housing and activities
3. driver education available to elders and anyone likely to drive impair
4. Alzheimer's care
5. Senior housing for active and transportation/ activities for mobile and that are intellectually stimulating (cultural/arts/nature oriented). Activities in senior housing more than card playing and bingo.
6. Elder Activities
7. Elder activities
8. Personal care for shut-ins and elders.

Domestic Violence Services (7 comments)

1. services that promote decrease in violence and substance abuse. Focus on the poor people of our community
2. Domestic violence prevention, alcohol abuse treatment
3. Haven House
4. Prevention for drug and sex abuse
5. domestic violence and substance abuse services, and no confidentiality
6. effective and affordable (free), prevention programs for substance abuse, alcohol, domestic violence, and the accompanying mental health issues
7. Detox services, opiate medical intervention, child abuse intervention, substance abuse services, better police intervention for drug dealing, outpatient srs w/ medical help for opiate users, Real community healthcare that everyone can afford, SVT is not affordable.

Parent Services (8 comments)

1. Drug abuse, enforcement. Better job by patrol system. Earlier education to help counteract poor parental and social guidance.
2. Healthy guidance & education for young parents & families
3. Education and support for young families to address the challenge of raising children in today's world. They need tools and modeling - the world is a different place then it was when they were babies.
4. Teen activities, support for parents
5. More emphasis on programs like Big Brothers Big Sisters & Boys and Girls Club to help catch young kids and give them support & strong adults in the community they trust.
6. Homeless support and housing-especially for teen, Teen Parent support and education, Public Transportation, effective substance abuse (drugs) support and treatment for affected youth
7. More for teens to do in terms of a community center. More affordable clothing shops. Parent support for raising their kids.
8. Drug abuse, enforcement. Better job by patrol system. Earlier education to help counteract poor parental and social guidance.

Trails (34 comments)

1. more bike trails/walking
2. sidewalks
3. trails along the roads for bikes and walking
4. more bike/ski trails, affordable regional transportation to Anchor Point ,Soldotna/Kenai
5. city trails
6. bike lanes, hiking trails, public transportation, affordable indoor exercise facility

7. Hiking trails, more pedestrian friendly environment in town and within 10 miles of city limits, slower speed limits on by pass!!
8. I would like to see Homer become a more walking and biking friendly community. I would also like to see us have some kind of public transportation.
9. Better trail system and public transportation
10. Continued development of biking and walking paths in town.
11. sidewalks and other improvements to walkability, trails (in addition to what we've got) and bike trails-- esp connecting to East End and Spit trails, high quality indoor play space, high-speed internet, music/dance activities for kids 0 - 6, dermatologist availability, therapists (in addition to those in town...esp with those who prioritize confidentiality and discretion), additional park facilities (picnic shelter, fire rings, etc.)
12. greater support for walking and biking trails within the city. lighted for safety in the winter months
13. Broad minded transportation shifts to include walking, biking, carpooling, public transport, easy access to across the bay and to anchorage etc.
14. Bike trails (especially beyond Homer both east and west) and better public transportation.
15. more trails
16. public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian lanes,
17. make more pedestrian friendly - we need MANY more crossways! Would be great for safety
18. More bike paths
19. more walkability, more downtown trails
20. Bike lanes, Bus route
21. town center - public market ,walking / biking trails ,centralized health campus, more orgs / groups sharing resources & working together, PUBLIC transportation system - a huge root cause for kids and adults to access resources that ARE available
22. plenty borough property in AP to develop ski trails
23. public transportation, trails
24. alternative transportation-bike/ski trails, recreation other than fishing
25. public transportation or sidewalks keep me from walking to work or bicycling to work
26. public transportation, trail systems (not across the Bay)more affordable dental care, more affordable fruits, vegg
27. public transportation, organized trails, walking paths, hiking trails (maintained, etc)
28. Bus service & bike trails
29. Public transportation of some sort esp encouraging people to walk in winter- plowed sidewalks in winter
30. Public transportation, making the town more walker friendly; need some sidewalks in key areas. Improve bike/path access for transportation.
31. access to available outdoor activities (esp. across the bay) at affordable cost to families. more childcare. local substance abuse treatment. another large meeting area (to hold 100). voc ed options.
32. We need busses and bike trails! public bus systems! Better/more bike trails!
33. Public transportation, trails, govt support for services nonprofits are providing (because govt isn't)
34. public transportation, organized trails, walking paths, hiking trails (maintained, etc)

Resources for Special Needs (6 comments)

1. affordable housing for mentally ill- affordable child care
2. Transportation availability for handicapped children and activities

3. Heating assistance needs to be better for low income
4. Public Transportation, Child Care, Housing for people with disabilities that allow pets, 4g
5. Shopping. Affordable, trustworthy assistance for housing services and repairs for handicapped and elderly.
6. Special needs child care

Health Insurance (9 comments)

1. medical care for those who do not have insurance, Low costs medical care
2. sph costs are excessive
3. affordable health care for the uninsured...more work incentives for families on Medicaid
4. long term care provided through medicare - no co-pays- comprehensive health care for all
5. healthcare
6. Reduction of healthcare costs
7. children's dental-Denali Kid Care, affordable childcare
8. lack of opportunity--diversified year round economy, affordable health care, more than one annual health fair, continuing education and support for community schools
9. Detox services, opiate medical intervention, child abuse intervention, substance abuse services, better police intervention for drug dealing, outpatient srs w/ medical help for opiate users, Real community healthcare that everyone can afford, SVT is not affordable.

Community Outreach/Education (12 comments)

1. How do I find out about social security?
2. community cohesion, arts, rec possibilities/community blg and opportunities, public transportation, job opportunities for youth and beyond, housing for the homeless
3. programs to promote better health. More energy assistance such as C.G. Firewood program, Public Transportation
4. greater community participation in community direction
5. educate public regarding responsibility for their personal well-being
6. collaborative neighborhood and community improvement projects for social, physical and aesthetic enhancement
7. Better communication between communities & non profits - a lot of double services going on that could be improved into one big program
8. being neighborly
9. 1) new to community -ads never tell us where stuff is located. 2) Encourage Fred Meyer to come to Homer 3) Elder care information
10. Love the new Drs and changes at SPH - more info in community about FASD awareness
11. More classes for health, even just informal groups
12. town center - public market, walking / biking trails, centralized health campus, more orgs / groups sharing resources & working together, PUBLIC transportation system - a huge root cause for kids and adults to access resources that ARE available

Emergency Housing (9 comments)

1. Homeless support and housing-especially for teens, Teen Parent support and education, Public Transportation, effective substance abuse (drugs) support and treatment for affected youth
2. Emergency Shelter for men and families, Better and more comprehensive substance abuse treatment

3. help organize more efficient housing or rental housing for the homeless of homer and disabled homeless of homer!
4. More options for dealing with homelessness and substance abuse - shelter/food, treatment and housing, specifically.
5. hostels for homeless teens attending school,not necessarily only in Homer, but to cover entire Peninsula
6. men's shelter
7. substance abuse treatment, housing for homeless
8. Affordable transportation- Transitional housing
9. more affordable housing options, more option for transportation—green, reduction of energy costs

Mental Health Services (12 comments)

1. mental health, substance abuse
2. better mental health svcs
3. Mental health services
4. mental health care readily available in both emergency and daily access
5. survivor of suicide group
6. I have seen many people that have needed psych services and/or substance abuse/alcohol services that are difficult to get here in Homer. We seem to have an awful lot of people showing up in town that need psych services and that are looking for controlled substances, these are not things that they are able to get freely from the clinics and therefore, they end up getting angry. We have been lucky to be able to work with the Center to try and get people help, but I'm not sure we don't need more...
7. Better services and support for families with children/teens in crisis. More help on what to do when the children need a higher level of care/treatment than what is available locally.
8. Special needs child care
9. Anything that would help people break away from the prejudice, greed and hatred that still harbor in so many of us.
10. Mental Health/counseling services at low cost
11. grief counseling network
12. More resources for homes for people w/mental health issues, when otherwise healthy.

Winter Maintenance of Roads/Sidewalks/Trails (8 comments)

1. safe walking paths on residential streets--most are very dangerous in winter w/o walkways
2. Roads - winter - specifically Slough bridge lights
3. Road improvement
4. road care
5. more accomodations for health improvement such as bike paths
6. better roads, and a big gym
7. I would like a new gym
8. need a gym

Other Feedback

1. We're doing pretty well here :)
2. Not from Homer so unaware
3. I work too many hours to really know or have a say.
4. none

5. less regulation in general
6. Less government, too many non-profits taking away tax base
7. getting rid of so much environment nuts in our community. Same 25 or 50 on same committees who all express their views above all others and city hall listens to them all the time
8. We need a Fred Meyer or Walmart in Homer! Too many greenies! I like plastic bags at Safeway!
9. basket ball, we have too many tree huggers, We need a Fred Meyer or Walmart in Homer Too many greenies and hippies and Obama lovers, I want plastic bags at Safeway
10. Close the bars earlier!
11. Unknown, my wife and I are very new to Homer.
12. See response to previous question
13. all
14. all
15. I don't know
16. Homer is the best place I have ever been
17. better football field, equipment for wrestling
18. Homer is the nicest, friendliest, prettiest place I've ever been. Thank you
19. diversity
20. All is well
21. If you look for help you can usually find it.

Q11. What prevents you from using any services or activities that are available in our community?

Answer Options	Response %	Response #
Cost	46.5%	412
Schedule conflicts	41.5%	368
Not enough time	35.7%	316
Transportation	20.4%	181
Lack of anonymity	14.0%	124
Distrust/Dislike agency or provider	12.9%	114
Confidentiality	12.8%	113
Membership restrictions	11.9%	105
Awareness	11.4%	101
Childcare	8.5%	75
Age restrictions	7.8%	69
Other (please specify)	6.1%	54
Found services elsewhere	5.4%	48
Stigma	5.0%	44
None	4.1%	36
Medicaid problem	3.7%	33
Cultural or religious convictions	3.5%	31
Harassment	3.2%	28
Language barrier	1.0%	9
Answered Question		886

Above responses shown from highest to lowest response rate

53 FREE RESPONSES WRITTEN WHEN 'OTHER' SELECTED

(the below responses are categorized, thus some responses might be repeated if they contain multiple categories)

Schedule Conflicts

1. work
2. not available
3. time of day/night offered--too early, too late
4. Lots of services are only avail during 10-6 tue –Friday
5. Not enough notice

Membership Restrictions

1. many times there is not space for an activity

Not Enough Time

1. time--would love to squeeze in more
2. Lots of good people working too long and hard and don't have time to voice their opinions so they are never heard.
3. lack of adequate space and time for physical activities

Cultural or Religious Convictions

1. politics that don't want to change. Old administrators that pretend all is well
2. Feelings of not belonging---lack of racial/cultural diversity
3. I am an orthodox Christian and rely on God/pray for help

Transportation

1. public transportation
2. Guilt about driving too much and burning too much gas
3. Whatever happened to the earlier regular taxi route plan?
4. I live too far out of town
5. Live year round in Sadie Cove
6. on "transportation" wrote "non-motorized"
7. regular bus or sea service to Anchorage

Awareness

1. new in community
2. only here 6 months
3. more information

Cost

1. If you don't have children you don't count as low income
2. wages here extremely low. Do not match the cost of living. Most people work 2 jobs. Family...not much parental interaction.

3. not 65 yet
4. Would use massage/acupuncture/physical therapy as a means of remaining healthy if they were covered by healthcare
5. Cost by far the biggest deterrent for health services.
6. too expensive!
7. Money

Medicaid / Health Insurance

1. medical insurance
2. My Dr. Does not want me as a client because I am on medicaid. He treats me like shit. he wants to stop my pain medication because he is being pressured by the hospital
3. lack of health insurance coverage.

Health

1. health/hernia
2. disabled
3. health
4. help people access who have hearing/ or sight difficulties
5. Winter time activities for people who aren't out-door-winter time people are seriously lacking and contributing to winter-time depression I believe

Emergency Housing

1. Half of my family stays at one homeless place while I have to stay at a different homeless place and that is wrong to do to a FAMILY!

Winter Maintenance of Roads / Sidewalks / Trails

1. winter road conditions - city will not/does not maintain our section of road

Other Feedback

1. no need at this time
2. i use all the services I can
3. don't need them
4. N/A
5. We use the services that we need at this time, later in life there may be more challenges
6. Sometimes us oldies just like to stay home by the fire
7. there are not a lot of activities
8. on "found services elsewhere" wrote "retired military"
9. Effort
10. Don't like people
11. There are no services or activities available in our community
12. lack of more variety of alternative medicine

Q12. Do you have additional comments or suggestions?

(207 responses, categorized below)

Teen Activities

1. there needs to be more stuff the young people and more housing.
2. need more things for teens
3. more stuff for the teens and communities - stuff for the kids

Medical Specialist

1. need a dermatologist
2. Some one needs to research our extraordinarily high incidence of cancer in this community! Even physicians in town are surprised by it and the lower Kenai Peninsula is known for being a cancer 'hotspot' among healthcare providers in Anchorage.

Affordable Housing

1. on the front of the page wrote "need more of this" next to affordable housing, cultural diversity, good jobs, public transportation, and access to healthy foods
2. I would suggest that Homer get or make a homeless place for FAMILIES to stay together
3. Affordable housing exists for low income & seniors but if just above guidelines its a struggle! especially if no help with utilities!
4. there needs to be more stuff the young people and more housing.

Shopping

1. We need a Fred Meyers or something like that, so we don't have to travel to Soldotna. I'm tired of our tax dollars going up the road.

Arts & Culture

1. art community working with teens-apprentice programs, voc-tech skilled adults--apprentice program

Recreational Activities

1. I think more public facilities for getting exercise would be great- for instance, some of the hockey rinks in Anchorage have running/walking tracks built into them. More PUBLIC support for those facilities we do have (like the hockey rink). Jackson Wyoming has an AMAZING community health center with gyms, workout equipment, a pool, etc.- and, because it's a public facility, rates to use it or take classes there are very reasonable.
2. do away with all video games and get back to family outings outdoors
3. maintain access to subsistence life, protect the quality of life from threat of oil and gas development keep wild areas wild, encourage healthy recreational activities for residents of all ages"
4. Nope, it's a beautiful town/city. I do wish there were more chances for community involvement after working all day till 5. It seems right at 5 everything shuts down.

Educational Opportunities (9 comments)

1. very important to have resources to utilize for education and treatment options and respite
2. Better education for students about a successful life...no alcohol or drugs or smoking
3. KPBSD need more jobs with good health insurance that covers the whole family with lower deductibles, need vans to transport people out East End and Anchor Pt

4. I need a blood bound pathogens training, but the City does not provide it.
5. We've cut schools, cut library funding relentlessly over the past 20 years. An insidious destruction of our community. Cutting city employee benefits and wages also. Penny wise, pound foolish. People are more important than business.
6. education cost
7. Most of the recent focus has been on our teens. However, by 4th grade, kids have well established certain cultural norms and they are simply acting on these as teenagers. Our focus should be on elementary and middle school-age kids. If you do this at the high school, you are almost too late...
8. education at all levels, especially to parents and young children, gives people positive pathways regardless of economics
9. art community working with teens-apprentice programs, voc-tech skilled adults--apprentice program

Access to Healthy, Whole Foods

1. I'd also like to see a community compost and garden set up within city limits. Also like to add that my salary and job just happened while searching for the past 6 months.
2. Another great thing here would be better year round access to AFFORDABLE organic and whole foods for families. We try to feed our family as healthfully as possible, but it can be extremely cost prohibitive at times!
3. We would like to see more funding and support in small farms and greenhouse construction. ie.: 4 wheel drive tractors, non-GMO seed availability and water well drilling
4. We need a community center ---a place for people to shower, do laundry, and hang out. Better health food stores, and a bike path on East End Road
5. I think the diet of the children could be improved less junk food, more exercise.

Environmental Monitoring

1. I am very concerned about the health of our environment here in Homer, and would like to see the community become 'oil-drilling-free' for that reason. I think substance abuse is a huge issue we need to work on both in the schools and with adults. Thanks for providing this forum!
2. I am most concerned @ the incremental degradation of our environment through gradual, and therefore not obvious, increase in sound, night lighting, and increased pollutants.

Substance Abuse (16 comments)

1. drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities are needed. public transportation for poor people,too.
2. Drug problem is rampant. Teens need things to do - affordable - skating rink indoor.
3. We need to work on suicide prevention and domestic violence, plus substance abuse.
4. People need to be more worried about substance abuse rather than whether or not we use plastic bags at Safeway! Also, people have lost their respect for God!
5. homer needs to get a grip on its substance abuse
6. Adults & Families need to be better examples by not abusing substances and people need to be more concerned about keeping drugs & alcohol out of young peoples' hands; teaching them to love and respect God, & teach Morals & principles of honesty & the Bible.
7. Drugs & alcohol are bad - kids & adults need to stay away from it.
8. Hello: As much as I am very thankful fore your service I am deeply disturbed how ignorant some of your doctors are concerning pain treatment. I have been so very dishonored treated like a junky and so very humiliated that this next time I get cancer I well just as soon die than to be treated so badly by

Homer Health Clinic. My Dr. there told me he just as soon not have me as a client because I cost him money going to see him. I am very pissed off.

9. A lot of alcohol and drugs being abused in this town.
10. I would say our communities' main issue is drugs and drinking problems.
11. very important to have resources to utilize for education and treatment options and respite
12. Better education for students about a successful life...no alcohol or drugs or smoking
13. I am very concerned about the health of our environment here in Homer, and would like to see the community become 'oil-drilling-free' for that reason. I think substance abuse is a huge issue we need to work on both in the schools and with adults. Thanks for providing this forum!
14. I owned a business five years here. Raised my kids here and they all live in the lower 48 because There were no opportunities here. We found the schol sytem not to be up to par for today's times. In the 1st ten years I've seen the kids all strung out on drugs and Spice in front of Safeway. I know some of these kids and they can barely hold a conversation. Homer has EXTREME dug problem
15. We need more help programs to keep teens off drugs!
16. I would say our communities' main issue is drugs and drinking problems.

Clinic Services

1. need glasses
2. I'm concerned that SVT Health and Wellness does not operate like a Community Health Center. They deny services to people who can't pay and they don't follow HRSA guidelines - people who are at 100% FPL for Alaska are supposed to get a full discount and they are not to be denied services due to their inability to pay. SVT sends people to collections and then tells them they can't have an appointment unless they pay in full at the time of service - what part of poor don't they get?
3. Open a non-emergent walk in clinic. This will keep folks from visiting ER because they can't get into doctor's office
4. I wonder if some of the suicides and other deaths are related to lack of Vit D - research is pretty strong for using it - maybe more education/media on how the benefits. This is a cold, dark place to live. And, Vit D could be a cheap fix.
5. Really appreciate children vaccinations offered in rural areas, hope they continue.

Dental

1. it used to be that doctors overcharged. WE have plenty of dentists, but the greed factor is rampant. and since there are so many government employees and retirees...those of use who have to purchase dental care ourselves are literally raped by spoiled local dentists.

Public Transportation

1. Have lived in 5 Alaska communities spanning 44 years. Cost of living has increased dramatically (energy-heating & transportation) while wages have been flat. In particular Homer wages are low in relationship to living costs. Challenging...especially for families
2. Our community really needs access to a public transportation system and a public trail system and public recycling, and public restrooms!!
3. we need a community shuttle bus system, Homer, East End, anchor Point. and a communication mode to promote said services
4. town needs city bus system to run included East end road. include parking lot for people to park and take bus
5. drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities are needed. public transportation for poor people, too.

Elder Care

1. more in-care for elders at Homer (housing)

Community Outreach / Education

1. Get the Mayor and Borough involved. Make this a community-wide priority. Be more visible so citizens can't help but know about MAPP and the benefits of becoming involved. Make it unpopular NOT to be involved in the health of this community. Provide the basic necessities to those who need it, and make it easy for the rest of us to support our neighbors through straight forward programs and strong leadership.

Economic / Job Opportunities (32 comments)

1. Homer is becoming less affordable to those not having good income. Great place to live but needs to be affordable to all not those with 6 homes.
2. more vision exercised for green energy alternatives/cultural center/staff to run it
3. "maintain access to subsistence life, protect the quality of life from threat of oil and gas development, keep wild areas wild, encourage healthy recreational activities for residents of all ages"
4. Nope, it's a beautiful town/city. I do wish there were more chances for community involvement after working all day till 5. It seems right at 5 everything shuts down.
5. We've cut schools, cut library funding relentlessly over the past 20 years. An insidious destruction of our community. Cutting city employee benefits and wages also. Penny wise, pound foolish. People are more important than business.
6. education cost
7. I owned a business five years here. Raised my kids here and they all live in the lower 48 because There were no opportunities here. We found the school system not to be up to par for today's times. In the 1st ten years I've seen the kids all strung out on drugs and Spice in front of Safeway. I know some of these kids and they can barely hold a conversation. Homer has EXTREME drug problem
8. on question #5 about health insurance, wrote but not enough, unemployed
9. lower city taxes
10. Too much reliance on gov. The gov and some medical people ripping off the taxpayer
11. City council members seem to have very limited interest in their lower income neighbors needs judging by the way they found middle to upper socio-economic class "wants"
12. Have to buy online quite often. Would rather spend \$ here, but items either aren't available, or are overpriced
13. getting rid of taxes on groceries all together. This hurts the poor especially young families. Council rein in spending. If nonprofits need money use fund making instead of city taxes give aways.
14. Homer will always have a conflict between high earners that want (and who can afford taxes even if they don't want it) a lot of gov't services and low earners who want lower taxes and just want to be left alone. Many miss the days of low taxes in Homer. They realize they are working several days a year just to support the growth in government. Many would rather save the tax money, work less, and spend more time with family.
15. Before spending money on new bike paths, we need to rebuild existing dangers... lights on the slough bridge good idea!
16. In number 7: Mostly all negative effects are a result of my first choice: economic costs. All other options don't have much of a negative effect on me/my family

17. Many individuals and families are quietly working, raising children without much support or recognition while facing difficulties with cost of living. Mental health care is huge here - would like to see similar support and efforts toward area employment opportunities (ones that can support families) and affordable housing/utilities. Any efforts to bring in businesses that do not fit the 'ecotourism/environmentally correct/politically correct' mindset are discouraged; do not see the Chamber or City actively promote increased quality of life/affordability of life in this area on individual and family levels.
18. Quality of life issues need to be positively looked at
19. Homer is a wonderfully diverse, active and dynamic community of all age groups. Decrease cost of living
20. less taxes
21. Affordability
22. Dig Pebble
23. Denied for food stamps because they do not look at whole picture. It keeps you stuck and not able to get needed help.
24. Homer is becoming less affordable to those not having good income. Great place to live but needs to be affordable to all not those with 6 homes.
25. more vision exercised for green energy alternatives/cultural center/staff to run it
26. I'd also like to see a community compost and garden set up within city limits. Also like to add that my salary and job just happened while searching for the past 6 months.
27. Have lived in 5 Alaska communities spanning 44 years. Cost of living has increased dramatically (energy-heating & transportation) while wages have been flat. In particular Homer wages are low in relationship to living costs. Challenging...especially for families
28. Affordable housing exists for low income & seniors but if just above guidelines its a struggle! especially if no help with utilities!
29. Very tired of 20-50 people doing most of the bitching for environmental projects and onr of them turning down PFD, using oi and electric, all they bitch about. Same people on all committees so their are voices heard in Homer. People in charge listen to the same people who are in the paper all the time.
30. Our community really needs access to a public transportation system and a public trail system and public recycling, and public restrooms!!
31. Many times there is not space for an activity someone would like to provide Facility. I think Homer is an incredible community providing so many services and activities. I believe we need to make them accessible and affordable. We can only do so much. Personal responsibility does need to kick in. Once an issue or person is identified then relentless follow-up is necessary to see something thru and keep it sustainable.
32. on the front of the page wrote "need more of this" next to affordable housing, cultural diversity, good jobs, public transportation, and access to healthy foods

Teen / Youth Resources (12 comments)

1. We need more help programs to keep teens off drugs!
2. Something extra is needed to get our kids eating right and exercising enough
3. would love to see dorm style accommodations for college-aged students or summertime residences
4. I think that Homer and areas around it offer a lot of healthy choices for everybody. There are always people though that fall through the cracks, even in elementary school and that is something that

worries me. We have a son that become an alcoholic and bulimic and I am at a loss to where "that" came from.

5. Most wonderful activities in Homer are offered until age of 14. Then, Pier One, Theater, art classes and etc are not available to the 15-18 year old groups. Need for work-study positions, volunteer opportunities for 15-18 olds. Kids are groomed to participate and then "age out" of many activities..
6. As a parent of elementary school age children, I am more concerned about the health and well being of the youth in our community. Specifically, bullying, depression, and drug abuse in teens and tweens. I would like to see more interaction with the schools and organizations around town. If the trails committees, parks and rec, outdoor clubs, etc, can get help/participation from the youth, they might "buy in" to a sense of community and develop meaningful relationships with adults and other youth.
7. There are so many services, that some overlap. It is hard to get teens involved and to stay involved. I see fantastic facilities funded that are under utilized.
8. As you seek to address inappropriate drinking behavior (underage, binge), don't stigmatize adults that engage in social drinking or try to make the issue more systemic than it is. Teenagers drinking and using marijuana are not new or particularly horrendous in and of themselves. Peer pressure and bullying seem to have been the bigger issues that have driven our community to a crisis.
9. Information data on schools at start of previous school year listing a number of homeless teens. Hostels could be in any area with high school boy and girls.
10. need more things for teens
11. more stuff for the teens and communities - stuff for the kids
12. art community working with teens-apprentice programs voc-tech skilled adults--apprentice program

Law Enforcement

1. We need to improve and support pedestrian activities!! Slower speed limits in town, better crossing signs and enforcement, pedestrian paths outside city limits connecting to town!!
2. yes, overly aggressive hyper police, capricious, ticketing and abuses towards elders, transients, and temp workers. Make me fear for my safety in Homer. Twice police cars/trucks have accosted me while riding my bike on roadway. Enforce laws on books

Affordable Indoor Recreation (10 comments)

1. We need a community center ---a place for people to shower, do laundry, and hang out. Better health food stores, and a bike path on East End Road
2. I think that Homer is an excellent place to live; however it is a very transient place for many people....mostly because of lack of jobs and higher cost of living. People want to stay here but can't afford it. Homer could greatly increase tourism by promoting winter activities, cleaning up the town/spit, providing more organized and maintained trails. I also feel we need to ensure we maintain our natural beauty/environment and keep our fishing sustainable.. (for example, get rid of fishing for the largest fish out there)
3. Many times there is not space for an activity someone would like to provide Facility I think Homer is an incredible community providing so many services and activities. I believe we need to make them accessible and affordable. We can only do so much. Personal responsibility does need to kick in. Once an issue or person is identified then relentless follow-up is necessary to see something thru and keep it sustainable.
4. creating and building a multi-use soft court sport and training building. Multi-use sport and training field at the old West campus.
5. kids need stuff to do in winter

6. HOPP project showed the kind of community support that could be had for the creation of a community center
7. Really would like to see the existing Building which houses Boys and Girls Club converted into a Community Center!!!
8. I think more public facilities for getting exercise would be great- for instance, some of the hockey rinks in Anchorage have running/walking tracks built into them. More PUBLIC support for those facilities we do have (like the hockey rink). Jackson Wyoming has an AMAZING community health center with gyms, workout equipment, a pool, etc.- and, because it's a public facility, rates to use it or take classes there are very reasonable.
9. Drug problem is rampant. Teens need things to do - affordable - skating rink indoor.
10. Something extra is needed to get our kids eating right and exercising enough

Parent Services

1. Most of the recent focus has been on our teens. However, by 4th grade, kids have well established certain cultural norms and they are simply acting on these as teenagers. Our focus should be on elementary and middle school-age kids. If you do this at the high school, you are almost too late...
2. education at all levels, especially to parents and young children, gives people positive pathways regardless of economics

Trails

1. The roads aren't very bike friendly. I live out East End Road, and my parents won't let me bike to town because there is no shoulder/bike path.
2. Disregard #7 and #8 in my survey, for the number chooser does not work. Homer needs safer sidewalks along many streets. Bunnell, Main St., Hazel, Bartlett, etc.
3. Our community really needs access to a public transportation system and a public trail system and public recycling, and public restrooms!!
4. We need to improve and support pedestrian activities!! Slower speed limits in town, better crossing signs and enforcement, pedestrian paths outside city limits connecting to town!!
5. "We need a community center ---a place for people to shower, do laundry, and hang out. Better health food stores, and a bike path on East End Road"
6. I think that Homer is an excellent place to live; however it is a very transient place for many people....mostly because of lack of jobs and higher cost of living. People want to stay here but can't afford it. Homer could greatly increase tourism by promoting winter activities, cleaning up the town/spit, providing more organized and maintained trails. I also feel we need to ensure we maintain our natural beauty/environment and keep our fishing sustainable.. (for example, get rid of fishing for the largest fish out there)

Health care / Insurance

1. more information available to community on how to access and pay for health care if one has no medical insurance. Should advocate for sliding scale fees at clinics which they may already do
2. health insurance has a \$10,000 deductible
3. Healthcare for every family
4. health care is for kids only
5. a person with low income who needs medical care should be able to draw against social security to pay for medical procedures. I am legally blind and should have cataract surgery in each eye but cannot afford

Community Outreach / Education

1. more estate planning and lectures. discussions and other discussion on facing life's problems. Right now Hospice does some grief work, independent living helps some people with disabilities. It seems like there could be more coordination between these kinds of services and the medical health care community.
2. no centralized information network to publicize events or programs
3. wish there was not division between natives and non natives resources
4. Many of us do NOT use computers, read only the tribune and are not aware of many things available until after they're over--if ever
5. I'm surprised I never heard of the Homer Prevention Project. Please increase public awareness of this.
6. discrimination is an issue
7. Share the Spirit has helped my family and friends immensely.
8. just clearing sidewalks so pedestrians can get around would be big. Homer has lots of arts/opportunity and infrastructure...how about sharing with AP

Emergency Housing

1. Help our homeless families/teens living on couches/floors trying to just survive. Everyone claims a blind eye to the fact so many poor people in this town.
2. We need a transitional living center for people homeless starting over.

Mental Health

1. Assistance readily available for families facing mental health crisis
2. We have so much. I think the biggest struggle for many is the search for meaning ... truth ... spiritual connection: to feel loved & freedom from inner turmoil
3. We need to work on suicide prevention and domestic violence, plus substance abuse.

Road / Winter Maintenance

1. Dept of transportation - "BOT DOTS" on road for illumination of lanes during winter months

Other Feedback (92 comments)

2. love how the community is so strong and people know each other.
3. I love this community and the way they come together for needy families.
4. Thank you for conducting this survey! :)
5. Merry Xmas and Thank you so much!
6. I like this survey.
7. People who ride bikes should use bikepaths or sidewalks
8. #8 is confusing way of asking or telling how to answer the question
9. Please no more surveying. Put the \$\$ directly into services and for increasing the quality of life for poor people
10. I would like to see a juice bar somewhere and a place to buy organic sprouts. And public bathhouse with saunas.
11. too many for here
12. This survey is directed toward a specific end and does not consider other ends.
13. You should spend more time on your survey to be more inclusive and not repeat yourself as in transportation above

14. your doing great work Keep it up!
15. Thank you for looking into this and not just focusing on one population group.
16. Loved the variety of new booths/services offered this year -
17. thank you
18. I have no issues, live on 700 acres, have my own recreation. Roads and weather conditions are only problem
19. thank you
20. nope.
21. Surveys can be misleading I hope this helps
22. Energy assistance at the job service office has the rudest man on the plant behind the desk. He should be replaced.
23. I hope MAPP starts taking action and moves beyond the survey phase fast and I would hate to see the precious, finite funding spent on studies, studies, studies
24. Keep up the good work. Thank you Homer Senior Center lunches are wonderful especially since new healthy menus! I go 1-2x a month. Halibut Cove depends on Homer for schools, medical and cultural events, especially in the winter.
25. love mapp
26. Thank you for your help
27. Stop Pebble
28. thanks for your work
29. keep developing the networking!
30. This is a fantastic community--its scale, environment, and people!!
31. the health fair is good as always
32. thank you for what you are doing
33. it's great to have so many resources, thanks for helping address current issues
34. thanks 4 the fare
35. numbers 7 and 8 pull down options would not allow me to put my own score in. When I tried it automatically sequenced them 1 thru 8.
36. Stand together.
37. Don't trust how you will be reporting this data. Data can and most likely will be twisted to what you want.
38. Thanks for advocating for a healthy community!
39. Thanks for doing this.
40. Homer is a wonderful, Healthy community
41. Affordability!
42. Homer is small and polarized. It is hard to feel you belong and are not judged no matter what viewpoint you hold or income level you are at. It is very "cliquey." There is low tolerance for diversity. There is low respect for authority and this is demonstrated by attitudes. Ex: running stop signs, rudeness in parking lot at post office, youth mouthing off to elders, behind the scenes manuevering and power plays, "cause people" pushing their viewpoints.
43. no
44. Health Fair great for community!
45. Homer is a great little town.
46. Questions are poorly worded on this form. Confusing. Too much time & money spent on studies - money should go to direct services.
47. Nope. Love Homer!

48. Would like to find projects to address needs?
49. SPH has done a great job attracting new specialists. We FINALLY have an ob/gyn in the community.
THANK YOU.
50. Need to start working on Obama care for all
51. I haven't lived in Homer for even a year yet, but I feel more at home here than I ever did in my home-state of 27 years. Homer is the place I always wanted to be.
52. Thank you for this opportunity to weigh in. It matters.
53. I really appreciate the efforts of MAPP
54. people do not generally know what they have until it is gone.
55. looking forward to the results of the survey; thanks for taking time to prepare it!
56. Personal responsibility for health and welfare are important and should be fostered.
57. Glad you are asking and look forward to receiving the final report. I care about our community and the public shared values we are expressing in our culture. Surfacing our responses into the public will help us move us forward.
58. This and similar programs are very expensive. Is cost/benefit positive? for who? There seems to be a lot of talk, meetings, etc. but little constructive action. Encouraging personal responsibility ie, minimize enabling by this and other agencies, could be key to a more healthy population.
59. I struggled with questions 7 & 8, as they require including all of the options. If, as in Q7, one or several truly don't apply then there's no way to omit it and thus I'm inadvertently giving weight to that piece of community health (or lack thereof). Similarly in Q8 - there should be some ability to say I don't know.
60. I love this community. It's feeling some growing pains right now but I hope we can work them out and keep this a safe and special corner of the world.
61. I think our community does very well taking care of its citizens comparatively speaking.
62. Carry on the good work!
63. strongly feel that MAPP has brought awareness and action/solutions to identified needs of the community.
64. No
65. Part of this survey doesn't work. The part asking to rank the most adverse effects
66. Thank you for your time and efforts. Homer benefits!
67. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this survey. Thank you for the work of MAPP partners to create this opportunity.
68. thank you for doing this survey. Good luck to us all in this cosmic hamlet by the sea!
69. thank you
70. This isn't a very good survey. Needs open ended questions. Most of the options do not concern me at all. I have no children, finished education, there is no public transportation- so why ask about it? Does not mention impact of oil and gas on quality of life/environment, etc. try it again but make it better.
71. No but thanks
72. No - Thank you!
73. Questions 7 and 8 did not work for me. They autofilled 1-8 from top to bottom and would not let me change them. Also, for "other" in questions 7 and 8 there is no blank to fill in to specify what the other thing is.
74. This community is amazing.
75. question 7 and 8 are very confusing
76. build a town center!
77. No - I love being part of the Alaskan family. There is an attitude of helpfulness and sharing "survival skills" and (reference) community organizations.

78. Thank you!
79. I love Homer. Thank you Homer
80. I'm somewhat of an introvert. There are all kinds of programs and fun stuff. I just need to make some friends. Too bad the city can't help with that!
81. living here...it just gets better
82. I don't have (and don't want children, so I can't speak to what is good for backing families
83. If I needed the service I would use it. We live in a very giving, wonderful town
84. NOOOOO!
85. identify yourselves--I have no idea what "MAPP" stands for! Who are you people?
86. it's a very good community, would not want to live anywhere else. life is what you make it.
87. I love Homer. Thank you for your service in making it a healthier place to live.
88. Thank You
89. love Homer
90. Thank you for providing this much needed service today
91. Love this opportunity
92. Thank you for another great health fair!
93. Tell who ever is in office to stop cutting our healthcare programs in AK. Request for more grants for those who really are unfortunate.
94. For the community to get more involved with our culture, activities to teach the children that we can do better and look out for each other. Make them aware that our community needs to get more involved with each other to better Port Graham.
95. I am concerned about the abuse in our state & federal fundings by the Tribal Governments and the abuse in their constitution ordinances and policies and procedures and even when people have brought this to the proper peoples' attention. People feel hopeless about the future of our community because of a narcissistic tribal governing body.

MAPP of the Southern Kenai Peninsula
“Working Together to Improve Community Health”

PERCEPTIONS OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

Since 2008, our community has been working together to improve community health through “MAPP of the Southern Kenai Peninsula” collaborative efforts. Please take a few minutes to tell us what’s important to you. THANK YOU!

1. In what community do you live?

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anchor Point area | <input type="checkbox"/> Kachemak Selo | <input type="checkbox"/> Port Graham |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Halibut Cove | <input type="checkbox"/> Nanwalek | <input type="checkbox"/> Razdolna |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homer – city limits | <input type="checkbox"/> Nikolaevsk | <input type="checkbox"/> Seldovia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homer area – outside city limits | <input type="checkbox"/> Ninilchik | <input type="checkbox"/> Voznesenka |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | | |

2. What is your age?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> under 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 26-45 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46-64 | |

3. How many people currently live in your household?

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8+ |

4. What is your approximate household income?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> less than \$25,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$42,000-51,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$68,000-76,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000-33,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$51,000-60,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$76,000-85,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$33,000-42,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60,000-68,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$85,000+ |

5. Do you have health insurance? (of any type: private, public, military, Native, Medicaid or Medicare)

- Yes No

6. Which of the following collaborative health improvement efforts have you heard of?

- Community gardens & increases in local food production (ex: People’s Garden Project)
- An online community resource guide (pop411.org)
- Prevention efforts to address underage and adult substance abuse and violence (ex: Homer Prevention Project)
- Improved / increases in early childhood education opportunities (ex: Best Beginnings Homer)
- Other (please specify)

7. What are the greatest strengths of our community?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good schools | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious or spiritual values | <input type="checkbox"/> Good support for families |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to job training and higher education | <input type="checkbox"/> Respect for varied viewpoints |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Beauty | <input type="checkbox"/> Diverse cultural / arts opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Public transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Diverse private/public nonprofit organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to health care | <input type="checkbox"/> Good jobs & healthy economy | <input type="checkbox"/> People help each other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural diversity | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy behaviors & lifestyles | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to healthy, whole foods |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | | |

(OVER)

8. Please indicate, in the order of importance (1 being the most important) your TOP THREE choices of the following factors that MOST NEGATIVELY affect the health of you and your family and the TOP THREE choices which MOST NEGATIVELY affect the health of the community.

	You and your family	Community
Physical Health (for ex: cancer, diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, overweight, poor eating habits, unintentional injury)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental / Emotional Health (for ex: depression, anxiety, bipolar, PTSD, SAD, suicide, eating disorders, schizophrenia)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Substance Abuse (for ex: alcohol, tobacco, prescription drugs, inhalants, underage drinking, parent support of kids' using, marijuana, crystal meth, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interpersonal Violence (for ex: child abuse, sexual assault, family violence, date rape, bullying)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Costs (for ex: food and housing, insurance, transportation needs, loans, energy costs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Health (for ex: water quality, air quality, radon, access to subsistence lifestyle, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education / costs and availability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Which of the following services or activities are lacking in our community?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teen activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Dental |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical specialists | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to healthy, whole foods | <input type="checkbox"/> Business support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Elder care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts & culture | <input type="checkbox"/> Substance abuse treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> Digital connectivity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare | <input type="checkbox"/> Clinic services | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | | |

10. What specific services or activities would you like to see provided or improved upon?

11. What prevents you from using any services or activities that are available in our community?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule conflicts | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership restrictions | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of anonymity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Age restrictions | <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough time | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stigma | <input type="checkbox"/> Found services elsewhere | <input type="checkbox"/> Harassment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare | <input type="checkbox"/> Distrust / dislike agency or provider | <input type="checkbox"/> Awareness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confidentiality | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural or religious convictions | <input type="checkbox"/> Cost |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Language barrier | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid problem |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | | |

12. Do you have additional comments or suggestions?

PLEASE TURN IN SURVEY TO A DROP BOX LOCATED AT THE CITY HALL, HOMER LIBRARY, or ULMER'S BY **FRIDAY, DEC 14th**.
YOU CAN ALSO DROP-OFF or MAIL TO MAPP OF SKP, 1230 OCEAN DRIVE, HOMER AK 99603 (next to Washboard).

COMMUNITY THEMES and STRENGTHS ASSESSMENT KEY INFORMANT SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

The responses here are the results from the Key Informant Surveys – responses from about one hundred community leaders representing broad community health in the Southern Kenai Peninsula area. The goals of this survey were to: 1. Determine what changes have occurred within organizations/industries since the last local CHNA was conducted, 2. Determine if the 14 overarching issues identified in the 1st CHNA still capture existing community issues, and 3. Identify root causes to our community issues so to better direct our collective efforts to address them. While this survey focuses on identifying root causes to our community issues, it is important to recognize and build on the strengths of our community when addressing our issues. Community strengths were identified in the first local CHNA and will be incorporated in determining community action.

KEY INFORMANT DATA TEAM MEMBERS

Sara Conyers, VISTA

Heather O’Connor, KBay Family Planning Clinic

Derotha Ferraro, South Peninsula Hospital

Kyra Wagner, Sustainable Homer

Lana Howe, MAPP

Sharon Whytal, Homer Public Health Center

Megan Murphy, MAPP

METHODS

Key informant input was collected through four questions on an online survey and elected interviews. The survey was sent to 100+ community leaders within broad community health perspectives: cultural, economic, educational, environmental, mental, physical, and spiritual. The 2009 list of key informant participants was initially used and updated to address staff changes and to reflect additional community perspectives that were under-represented. MAPP steering committee members contacted all key informants via phone before the survey was distributed to give context for and encourage participation in the survey online or in an interview. A surveymonkey link was then emailed out through mailchimp, allowing for anonymous response. Nine respondents elected the option to be interviewed. Public Health Nurses conducted an additional ten interviews while traveling to outlying communities. A two-week time period was given for survey participation, although additional time was required to conduct interviews.

To ensure anonymity, free responses were summarized by the key informant data team. The data team discussed and further refined root causes identified by respondents.

RESULTS

A total of 86 participants provided input to the survey. Although this survey was anonymous, ~50 key informants verified that they completed the survey which enabled health sector representation to be gauged. Confirmed participation was the following: alternative healthcare (1), arts (3), business (3), clergy (1), early education (1), education (5), environment (4), environmental education (2), government (4), law enforcement (2), health care provider (4), military (2), senior (1), social service (11), and youth (2).

The total timeframe for survey participation was March 1st – April 19th, 2013. New issues brought forth in this round of key informant input included: lack of intergenerational families, transient community, associating individual/family issues with Adverse Childhood Experiences (including end of life emotional issues), city government working cross-purposes to business development and the non-profit sector, and lack of incentives from employers. The majority of identified changes that are presently affecting organizations/industries were financial in nature: funding cuts, economic downturn, decreases in grant opportunities, rises in the cost of living, and more. Economics are becoming a more sophisticated issue, thus complicating our efforts if we don't work together. One positive change identified by many is our community's improved collaboration, community-building, & coordination. The majority (63%) of respondents felt the fourteen community issues described during the first local CHNA still accurately captured existing issues today. Additional suggestions were provided that ultimately fell within a category provided, but were more specific in nature. From the list of 14 themes identified in the 1st CHNA, the key informants selected these five issues as most affecting the populations they serve: Economic Issues (62%), Substance Abuse (52%), Mental Health Issues (47%), Family Issues (37%), and Insurance / health care coverage (31%). Interconnected and circular in nature, these five issues were also consistently identified as root causes by the majority of respondents. The full, summarized survey responses follow below.

KEY INFORMANT SUMMARIZED SURVEY RESULTS

Q1. In the last 3 years, what major changes are affecting your organization or industry? (86 respondents)

Below are respondents' summarized and categorized identified changes.

THEMES OF CHANGE

Economics

- Funding decreases or limitations with increased requirements and demand
- Downturn in economy
- Decreases in federal funding and grant opportunities
- Cost of living increase: fuel, health care
- Lack of local jobs
- Lack of sustainable, local economic opportunities
- Difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff; declining job benefits
- Aging workforce
- Increasing needs for services

Demographics

- Increasing number of retirees
- Aging population
- Increasing needs for services
- Staff turnover and changes

Technology

- Continual changes & complications
- Social networking
- Electronic record-keeping

Lack of shared vision

- Disconnect with leadership in decision-making
- Disconnect between generations
- Ambivalent population, lack of self-responsibility, and/or too busy to participate
- Disconnect with environmental and economic sustainability/development

Changes in natural resources & management

- Climate change impacts
- Declining fish stocks
- Oil and gas development

Healthcare Issues

- Healthcare reform
- Hospital purchase of a local primary care clinic
- Changes in hospital management
- Access to care

Improved collaboration, community-building, & coordination

- Increase in getting kids outdoors
- Shift from punitive to restorative responses, illegality to health effects
- Best Beginnings Homer and MAPP efforts
- Increase in teen hangout spots

Changes in drug-use habits

- Need for better services to address alcohol & drugs

Q2. Does this list accurately reflect our present community issues?

- Lack of shared vision
- Access to care
- Lack of true collaboration
- Insurance / health care coverage
- Interpersonal violence
- Mental health issues
- Lack of prevention, wellness, & recreation activities
- Family issues
- Economic issues
- Environment
- Organizational health / systems
- Substance abuse
- Education
- Lack of tolerance for diversity

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes - this list captures the current issues in our community	63.1%	53
No - there are additional issues not captured in this list	36.9%	31
Identify any missing issue(s) or changes (if any)		44
<i>answered question</i>		84
<i>skipped question</i>		4

Additional issues identified (most of which provided specific examples of issues within the broad categories offered):

Economic issues:

- lack of vibrant and diverse economy
- local food security
- lack of new job sectors
- lack of job opportunities outside of fishing, fossil fuels, government and healthcare industries
- low salaries/ hourly wages, lack of benefits compared to national averages
- difficult for small businesses to get (health) insurance for employers
- lack of civic center in core town area

Housing:

- lack of transitional housing for homeless youth
- lack of private-public partnership for providing student housing
- lack of affordable/adequate and senior housing

Environment:

- Climate change
- Renewable resource management

Education:

- Early intervention/education & child care

Lack of tolerance for diversity and/or interpersonal violence:

- Bullying

Lack of public transportation

Improved local collaboration (Identified as a strength; progress has been made since the first assessment)

Teen issues

- lack of recreation activities
- family issues substance abuse
- divide between generations
- lack of education in schools
- hypocrisy from parents regarding drugs

Senior issues

- lack of respect for elders and lack of acknowledgement for contributions

Q3. Pick at least three of the issues that most impact the population your organization serves

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Economic issues	62.1%	54
Substance abuse	51.7%	45
Mental health issues	47.1%	41
Family issues	36.8%	32
Insurance/health care coverage	31.0%	27
Lack of true collaboration	26.4%	23
Lack of shared vision	23.0%	20
Lack of prevention, wellness, & recreation activities	21.8%	19
Environment	19.5%	17
Education	19.5%	17
Interpersonal violence	16.1%	14
Access to care	14.9%	13
Lack of tolerance for diversity	10.3%	9
Organizational health / systems	9.2%	8
	<i>answered question</i>	75
	<i>skipped question</i>	1

Q4. Pick at least one issue above that most impacts the population your organization serves and describe what you think are the primary root causes. Please – tell us the story here – we are looking for in-depth responses which explain primary root causes and identify possible local solutions.

The compiled responses below are respondents' summarized answers.

Economic issues

- economic issues are the root cause for many other issues (education, access to services, etc.)
- too tied to non-renewable resources
- access to info
- family issues and education
- lack of jobs for youth
- lack of living wage jobs
- Lack of sustainability and lack of social justice/social inequities
- (Listed but no root cause identified) x2
- lack of living wage jobs for young families
- lack of shared vision
- low levels of education
- lack of shared vision
- lack of shared vision (sustainable growth vs just growth) lack of common approach
- lack of formal education
- income gap
- lack of low-skill, year-round employment opportunities
- national and local in context, job related

Substance abuse

- culture tolerates addiction/drug use
- family issues
- lack service coordination, \$ for more services
- family issues, financial issues, mental issues, (ACEs)
- lack of treatment, family issues, lack of org collaboration
- (selected as the issue but no root cause identified) x2
- ACEs
- people aren't ready for treatment
- lack of formal education
- lack of treatment or recovery
- lack of education and parental support
- Lack of tolerance, communication and understanding in family unit
- social norms and apathy, lack of prevention and wellness, abuse at home, lack of consequences. ACEs.

Mental health issues

- family issues
- lack service coordination, \$ for more services
- patients find it easy to get drugs, lack of education and home support
- we have the services so mental health patients come here
- people aren't ready for treatment
- lack of formal education

- Lack of tolerance, communication and understanding in family unit
- lack of services and coordination of care

Access to care

- not comprehensive and not financially accessible
- system that rewards expenses rather than health maintenance and prevention
- economics and disabilities
- lack of finances/high cost and lack of prevention
- lack of finances/high cost and lack of prevention, entitlement of Medicare and other services, over-use of emergency room
- economics
- too high medical costs
- family issues, economics, transportation, substance abuse, lack of awareness

Family issues

- break of family ties by moving here
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), lack of family, educator, and community support
- ACEs, parenting skills, values
- Lack of ACEs prevention
- economics, ACEs, family breakdown
- family breakdown (economics and lack of parenting)
- Lack of tolerance, communication and understanding in family unit
- lack of stable families (ACEs)

Lack of shared vision

- [amongst community members]: Transient community, lack of intergenerational families
- Lack of shared vision/ education [in regards to death]: not dealing well with death=ACEs, emotional baggage, family issues, no time to deal with it
- lack of communication, tolerance, and understanding
- short-term economic gains
- city government working cross purposes from the non profit sector
- non profit goals are hard to meet
- government working cross purposes to business development

Education

- access: money, transportation, awareness
- [in regards to death]: not dealing well with death=ACEs, emotional baggage, family issues, no time to deal with it
- access to info
- technological divide
- Lack of education: ACEs
- lack of incentives from employers

Interpersonal violence

- [domestic violence] economics/social inequities
- failure to support parents and protect kids (lack of ACEs prevention), and loss of funding statewide.
- substance abuse
- lack of formal education
- trauma/ACES, substance abuse issues, mental health issues

Environment

- Lack of education, greenhouse effect, lack of shared values
- disconnect for govt. between environment and economy. Lack of systems understanding by govt. Both government and environmental agencies want economic development, but have different ideas of how to do it.
- addiction to fossil fuels, lack of shared vision, failure to put environment first

Lack of true collaboration

- personal agendas, technological distractions (Tech divide between generations/younger value it more)
- lack of big picture/view thinking by individual organizations, economics leads to internet use

Insurance / health care coverage

- Economics
- (listed but no root cause given) x2

Organizational health / systems

- organizations and government are designed to function as silos
- health care systems: failure to build on strengths

Lack of prevention, wellness, & recreation activities

No root causes identified

Lack of tolerance for diversity

No root causes identified

Root causes not assigned to a specific issue

- lack of shared vision
- distress intolerance and speed
- Economics
- lack of individual responsibility, health limitations
- education or economics

2013 Community Health Needs Assessment: Key Informant Survey

You are a community leader who has been selected to provide anonymous feedback on community needs and issues. We would appreciate your response to the 4 questions by **Friday, March 15th**. If you would prefer to share your responses through conversation (in person or phone interview), please let us know. If you are not able to respond at this time, please feel free to suggest a qualified replacement.

Thank you for taking the time to provide this important feedback on our community's health needs. The feedback you provide is integral to identifying the community priorities that we can collaboratively address. If you have any questions or need additional support in completing this request, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Murphy, MAPP coordinator, at mappofskp@gmail.com.

1. In the last three years, what major changes are affecting your organization or industry?

2. Does this list of issues accurately reflect our present community issues?

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| - Lack of shared vision | - Family issues |
| - Access to care | - Economic issues |
| - Lack of true collaboration | - Environment |
| - Insurance / health care coverage | - Organizational health / systems |
| - Interpersonal violence | - Substance abuse |
| - Mental health issues | - Education |
| - Lack of prevention, wellness, & recreation activities | - Lack of tolerance for diversity |

3. Pick at least three of the issues that most impact the population your organization serves?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of shared vision | <input type="checkbox"/> Family issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to care | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of true collaboration | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance / health care coverage | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational health / systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interpersonal violence | <input type="checkbox"/> Substance abuse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of prevention, wellness, & recreation activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of tolerance for diversity |

4. Pick at least one issue above that most impacts the population your organization serves and describe what you think are the primary root causes. Please – tell us the story here – we are looking for in-depth responses which explain primary root causes and identify possible local solutions.