

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – AGENDA #41

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Para asistencia, 763-424-8000; Yog xav tau kev pab, 763-424-8000.

Our Vision: Brooklyn Park, a thriving community inspiring pride where opportunities exist for all.

Our Brooklyn Park 2025 Goals:

• A united and welcoming community, strengthened by our diversity • Beautiful spaces and quality infrastructure make Brooklyn Park a unique destination • A balanced economic environment that empowers businesses and people to thrive • People of all ages have what they need to feel healthy and safe • Partnerships that increase racial and economic equity empower residents and neighborhoods to prosper • Effective and engaging government recognized as a leader

I. ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

II. STATUTORY BUSINESS AND/OR POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

7. GENERAL ACTION ITEMS

- 7.1** Consider Authorizing Staff to Spend up to \$4,465,000 in American Rescue Recovery Act Funds in 2021 and 2022
 - A.** RESOLUTION
 - B.** SURVEY RESULT SUMMARY
 - C.** SUMMARY ARPA INVESTMENT PLAN

III. ADJOURNMENT

City of Brooklyn Park Request for Council Action

Agenda Item:	7.1	Meeting Date:	November 15, 2021
Agenda Section:	General Action Items	Originating Department:	Community Development
Resolution:	X	Prepared By:	Sarah Abe, Development Project Coordinator
Ordinance:	NA		
Attachments:	3	Presented By:	Kim Berggren, Community Development Director LaTonia Green, Finance Director Josie Shardlow, Community Engagement Manager
Item:	Consider Authorizing Staff to Spend up to \$4,465,000 in American Rescue Recovery Act Funds in 2021 and 2022		

City Manager's Proposed Action:

MOTION _____, SECOND _____, TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2021-_____ AUTHORIZING STAFF TO SPEND UP TO \$4,465,000 IN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS IN 2021 AND 2022.

Overview:

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 (H.R. 1319) into law. The ARPA provides \$1.9 trillion in additional relief to respond to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). According to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery. The city of Brooklyn Park received a total allocation of \$11,052,580 with half the funds received earlier in 2021 and another half available to be requested in 2022.

Since June, the city has coordinated with community partners, residents, local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and city staff to develop an investment plan for ARPA funds. In August, the City Council approved an initial allocation of \$2 million to address immediate health and safety needs within the community and to administer ARPA funded activities. Staff continued to seek community input on how best to utilize ARPA funds and has now used that input to develop a recommended 2021-2022 ARPA investment plan.

Primary Issues/Alternatives to Consider:

The city conducted an iterative community engagement process to understand critical community needs and gather input on how the ARPA funds should be invested. First, staff reviewed reports, studies, letters, and survey results. Staff then solicited input at a July 14 stakeholder meeting as well as the August 2 joint council and commissions meeting. Finally, community members gave feedback on draft strategies, which informed allocation recommendations. The following guiding principles resulted from the earlier rounds of engagement:

1. Address underlying factors to increase community safety
 - o i.e., unemployment, educational disparities, housing instability, food security, mental health
2. Fund community wellness services brought to community
 - o i.e., Health on the Go, Rec on the Go, Mobile food unit, Outreach workers
3. Direct investments toward community members most impacted
 - o i.e., geographic impact; impact by race, income, age; small businesses

4. Focus on creating opportunities for young people
 - o i.e., programs, services, higher education, internships, jobs
5. Use culturally sensitive and diverse communication and engagement strategies to improve awareness and access to resources
6. Be strategic by coordinating with other government agencies, leveraging other funds, and aiming for financial sustainability

The city has adopted a strategy of stabilizing the city budget followed by investing in strategic programs and partnerships that respond to the public health emergency. The City Council's August action approved \$2 million in the following categories:

- 1) Violence interrupters and support services
- 2) Mental health services
- 3) Interventions to stabilize community
- 4) ARPA administration

These categories echo the community feedback from residents, businesses, and community-based organizations. In the attached survey results summary, the highest priorities were violence intervention and neighborhood safety, mental health, and youth outreach, followed by community proposals, emergency assistance, job training and health disparities. The survey also found that the overwhelming majority of respondents agreed that the proposed categories above would address the community's most critical issues and positively impact the community.

Based on these results, staff have developed a proposed funding allocation for 2021-2022 to be considered for approval by Council. Implementation of this investment plan might be impacted when the Treasury releases the Final Rule, which governs the use of the funds.

Budgetary/Fiscal Issues:

This action will approve up to \$4,465,000 in 2021-2022 spending. The city has already requested and received \$5.5 million in ARPA funds that will be used to cover these programs.

Attachments:

- 7.1A RESOLUTION
- 7.1B SURVEY RESULT SUMMARY
- 7.1C SUMMARY ARPA INVESTMENT PLAN

RESOLUTION #2021-

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING STAFF TO SPEND UP TO \$4,465,000
IN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS IN 2021 AND 2022

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (H.R. 1319) into law. The American Rescue Plan Act provides \$1.9 trillion in additional relief to respond to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, the city of Brooklyn Park was allocated \$11,052,580, which can be used to support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease the spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control, replace lost revenue for eligible state, local, territorial and Tribal governments to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs, support immediate economic stability for households and business and address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the unequal impact of the pandemic, as well as necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2021, the city of Brooklyn Park received \$5,526,290 of the \$11,052,580 with the remaining balance being available for requesting in June 2022; and

WHEREAS, the period of performance for the American Rescue Plan Act is from March 3, 2021 and must be obligated by December 21, 2024, which means all funds must be encumbered and projects contracted. By December 31, 2026, all projects must be complete, including all payments made for encumbrances and projects; and

WHEREAS, on August 23, 2021, the Brooklyn Park City Council authorized staff to spend up to \$2 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to go toward violence interrupters and support services, mental health services, interventions to stabilize the community, and American Rescue Plan Act administration; and

WHEREAS, the city of Brooklyn Park has utilized community feedback to develop a 2021-2022 investment plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the city of Brooklyn Park hereby authorizes staff to spend up to \$4,465,000 in American Rescue Recovery Act funds in 2021 and 2022 in accordance with the proposed investment plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all planned investments that do not occur in 2021 will roll forward to a 2022 expenditure.



ZENCITY TEMPERATURE CHECK REPORT

ARPA Funding

Prepared for Brooklyn Park, MN

Introduction

The following report reviews resident input into how the City should best use federal funding provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) through an analysis of responses to a survey designed by Zencity and deployed by the City of Brooklyn Park. The survey was conducted between September 20 and October 17, 2021, and included 6 closed-ended and 1 open-ended question. The survey received a total of 733 responses.

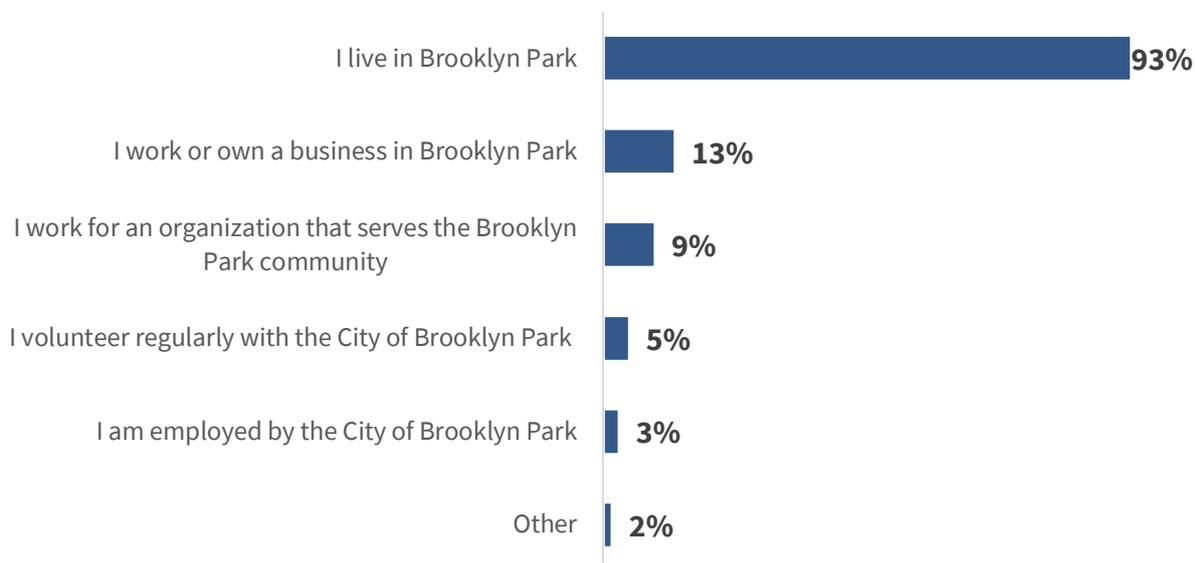
The following analysis includes: Results of each closed-ended question; Results of the open-ended question; Related social media discourse analysis; Main takeaways and recommendations.

Executive Summary

- Many in the community are concerned about public safety issues, and a majority of respondents supported funding violence intervention and support services to alleviate rising crime.
- Funding more “upstream” issues that can contribute to violence and crime — such as mental health services, youth outreach and programming, and housing and homelessness — also earned the approval of many respondents.
- Respondents also supported funding community-based organizations and highlighted the unique position they are in to address community needs.

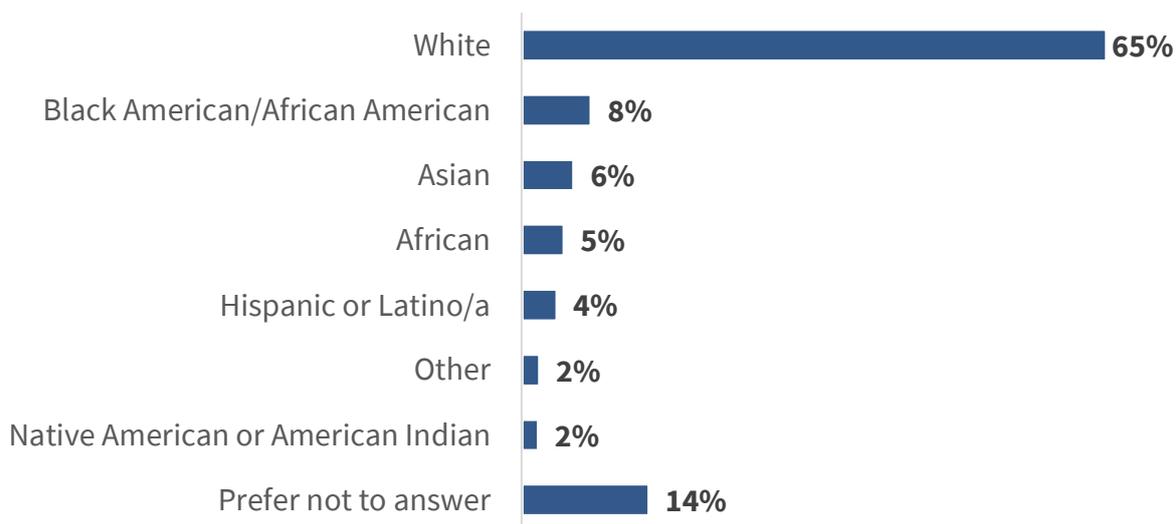
Demographics

Connection to Brooklyn Park

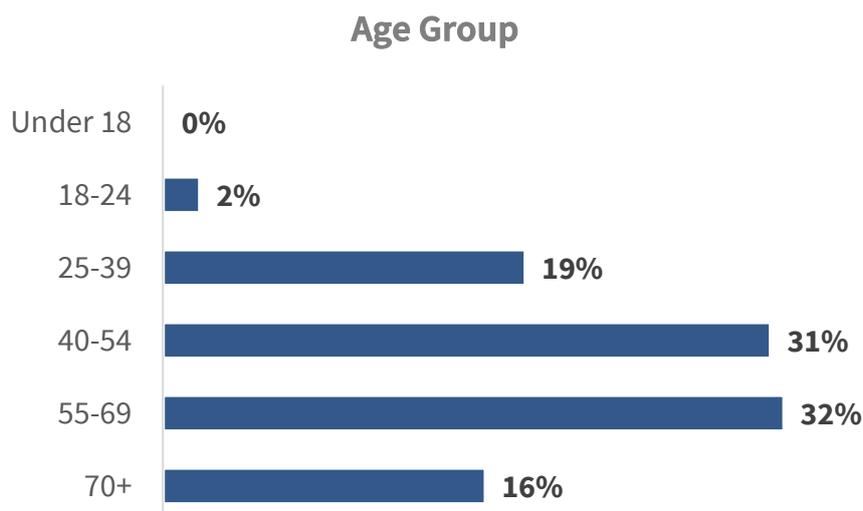


At 93%, the overwhelming majority of respondents were residents of Brooklyn Park. Another 13% worked or owned a business in the city. Most of the “Other” responses came from former residents, local volunteers, and residents of Brooklyn Center.

Ethnicity and Race



Almost two-thirds (65%) of respondents identified as white, more than 8x greater than the second-largest group (Black American/African American). Additionally, 14% of respondents preferred not to self-identify.



Nearly two-thirds of respondents were between the ages of 40 and 69, with the 55-69 (32%) and 40-54 (31%) age groups representing the largest cohorts. Comparatively, slightly more than a fifth (21%) of respondents were below the age of 40.

Methodology

In order to provide a holistic overview of the community’s response, **Zencity analyzed the data in a way that provides a representative snapshot of the community’s attitudes and priorities.**

For the responses to each closed-ended question in the following section, we use an industry-standard statistical technique called rake weighting **to correct for any differences between the makeup of our survey respondents and the community as a whole** by using data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey.

RESULTS ANALYSIS

Closed-Ended Questions Analysis

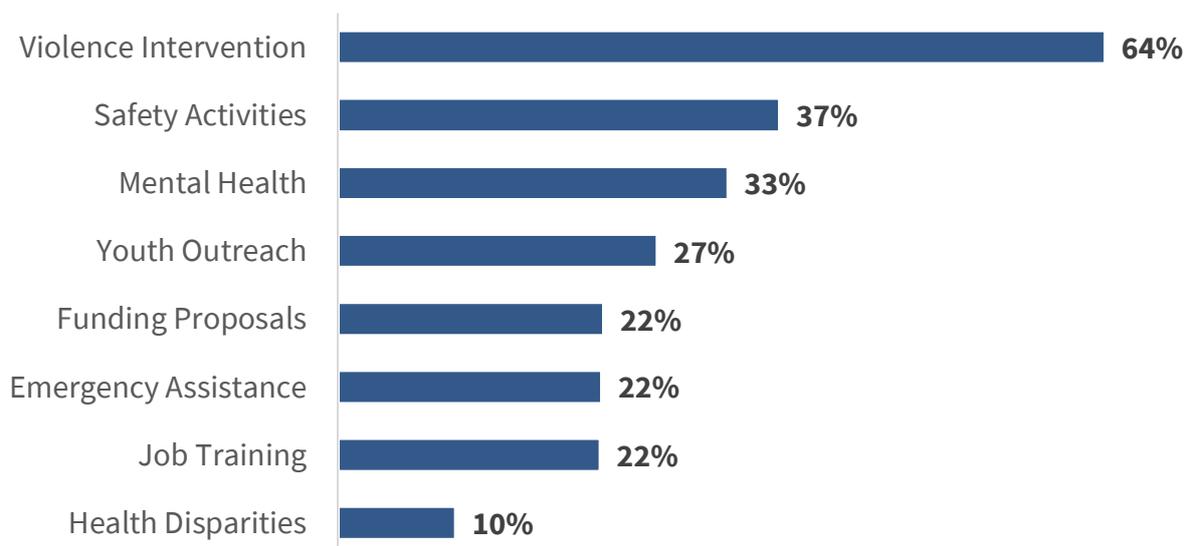
1

Based on community input, below are proposed spending categories for the first half of the funds. Which of these activities do you think are most important for our city? (Choose up to 3)

Residents were asked to evaluate **8 proposed spending categories for ARPA funding**:

- 1.1 **Violence intervention** and support services
- 1.2 Neighborhood **safety activities**.
- 1.3 **Mental health** services
- 1.4 **Youth outreach** workers
- 1.5 **Job training** and placement programs
- 1.6 **Emergency assistance** (i.e., housing, food).
- 1.7 **Funding proposals** from community-based organizations (i.e., housing, business support, nonprofit services)
- 1.8 Reduce **health disparities**, increasing access to vaccines and testing

As shown in the graph below, **funding violence intervention and support services emerged as a consensus priority** for nearly two-thirds (64%) of the community.

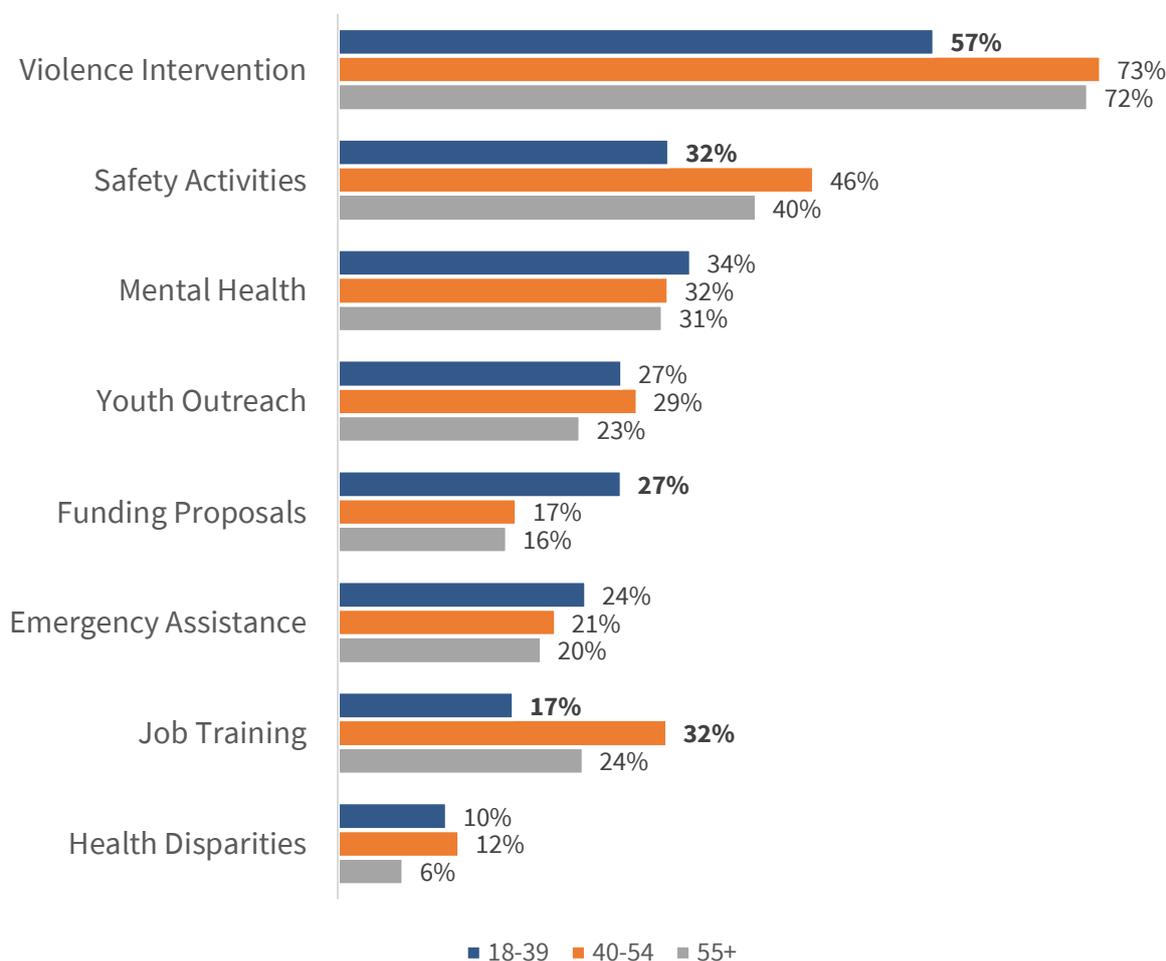


At least a third of respondents also chose neighborhood safety activities (37%) and mental health services (33%). On the other hand, using ARPA funds to reduce health disparities in the community received the least number of votes (8%).

Additionally, 41 “Other” responses (6% of respondents) specified issues relating to public safety and law enforcement, taxation, and water treatment.

To pinpoint specific trends among demographic groups, we also **analyzed the responses to Q1 according to demographic groups**. In the following two graphs, **bolded figures represent statistically significant responses** among a certain demographic group when compared to the general population.

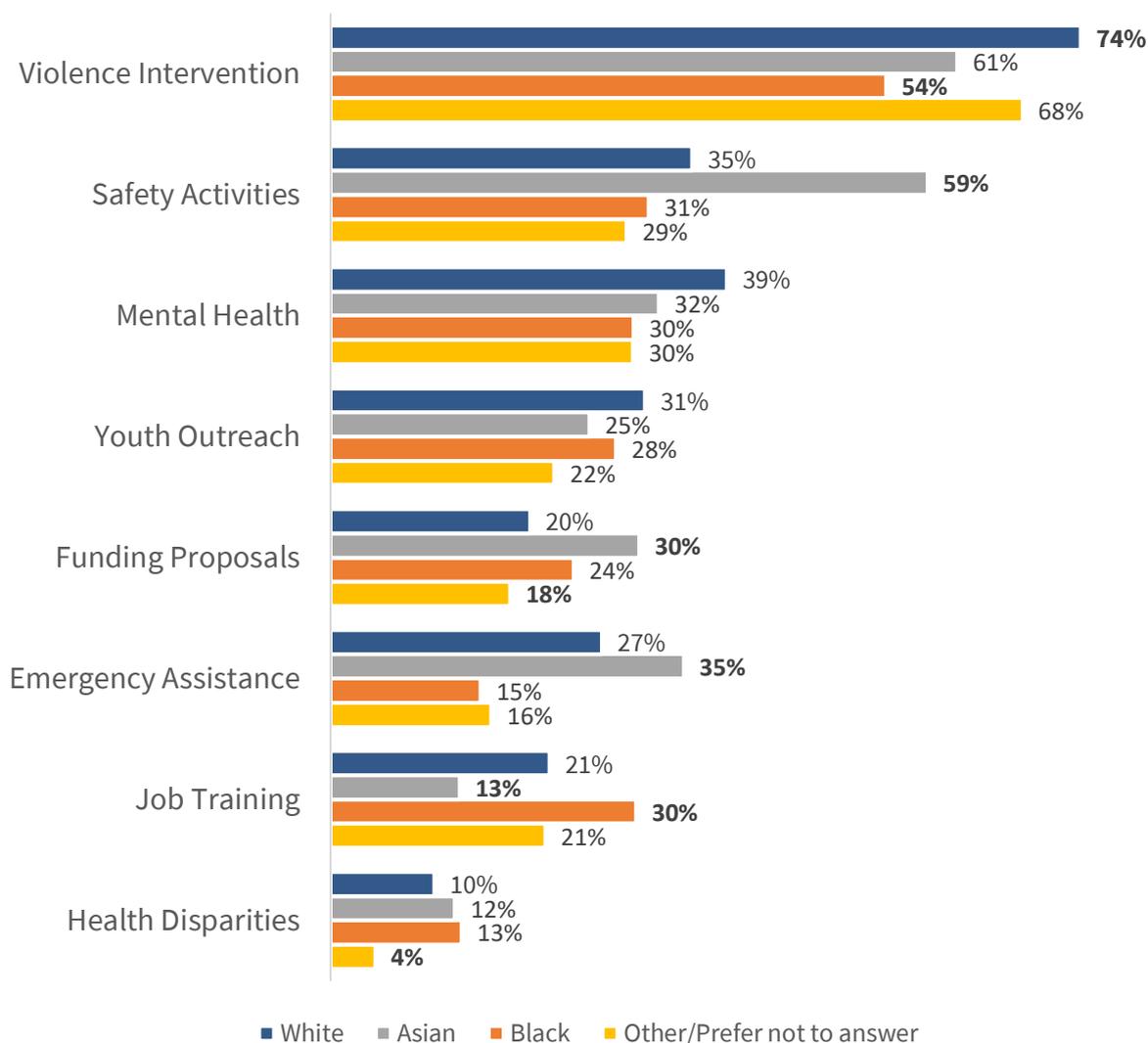
ARPA Spending Categories: By Age Group



As seen, safety-related issues — Violence Intervention and Safety Activities — are top priorities for all age groups, **but younger respondents prioritize them significantly less than people over the age of 40**.

Further, **respondents under the age of 40 also prioritized funding proposals from community-based organizations significantly more than older respondents**. Finally, **the 40-54 age group was more likely to prioritize job training and placement programs**, while people under the age of 40 prioritized this issue significantly less.

ARPA Spending Categories: By Ethnicity and Race

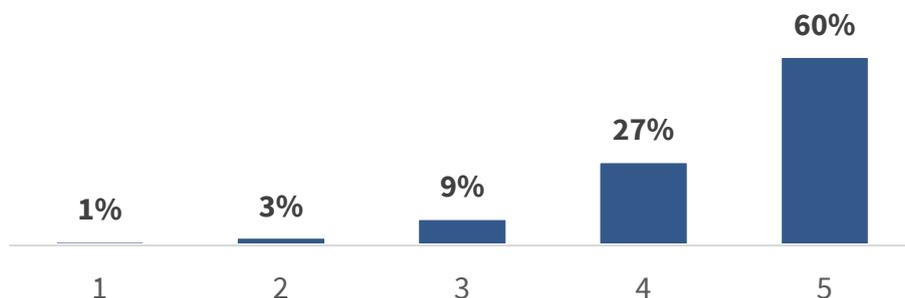


Safety issues are a top priority for all groups, **though white respondents were significantly more likely to prioritize Violence Intervention and Black respondents were significantly less likely to prioritize it compared to other groups.** On the other hand, Black respondents also prioritized Job Training significantly higher than other groups.

Finally, Asian respondents prioritized Neighborhood Safety significantly higher than other groups, as well as Funding Proposals, and Emergency Assistance.

2

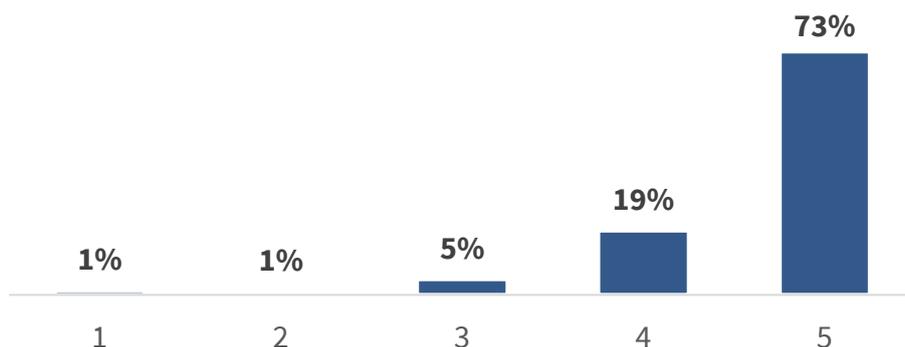
In your opinion, to what extent do the suggested actions that you just rated address the most crucial issues in the community? (1 - Not at all; 5 - Very much)



At 87%, **the overwhelming majority of respondents expressed some level of agreement that the proposed funding options listed in Q1 would address the community's most crucial issues.** Nearly two-thirds (60%) expressed the highest level of agreement, while only 4% expressed some level of disagreement.

3

In your opinion, to what extent do the suggested actions that you just rated have a positive impact on the community? (1 - Not at all; 5 - Very much)

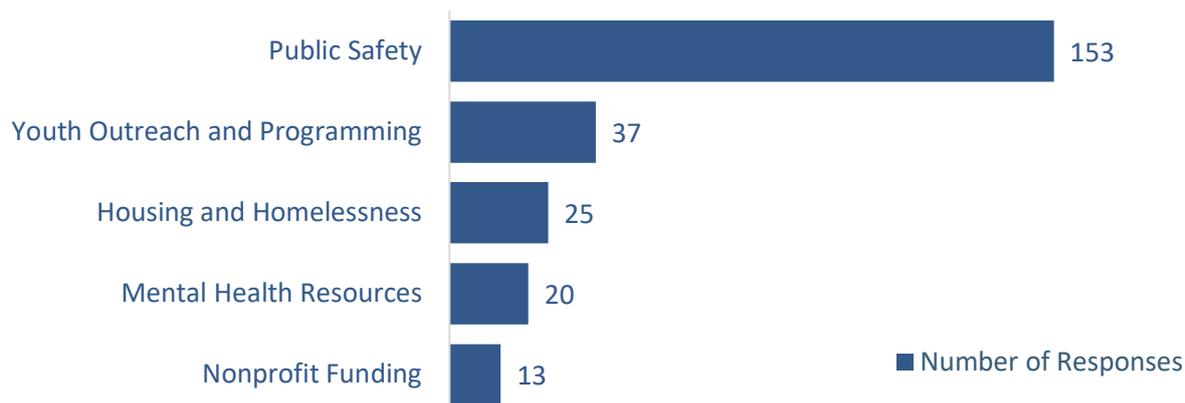


Similar to Q3, **almost all (92%) respondents expressed some degree of agreement that investing in the spending categories positively impact the community.** Only 2% also voiced some level of disagreement with this statement.

RESULTS ANALYSIS

Open-Ended Question Analysis

4 Please share any thoughts you have on the city’s use of American Rescue Plan dollars including anything you think should be changed.



When asked what the City should consider as part of its planning for the use of ARPA funds, **352 respondents offered input through free-text responses**. Analysis of these responses reveals that some of the common themes included:

- **Public Safety (153 responses):** By far, the most common issue raised in the free-text responses was concern about the state of the City’s public safety. In particular, respondents advocated for increased funding for the police department, combatting gun and gang violence, and restoring an overall sense of safety in the community.

“We need to make Brooklyn Park a safe place to live again. The violence in our city is out of control. Residents no longer feel safe in their community. The amount of gun violence is increasing and the police do not have enough resources to deal with it.”

- **Youth Outreach and Programming (37 responses):** More than a tenth of responses called for more resources to be directed toward more youth outreach and programming, with many directly linking this perceived deficiency to public safety concerns.

“I think youth programs to provide early interventions to prevent our youth [from joining] a gang due to lack of hope for a future.”

- **Housing and Homelessness (25 responses):** Many also pinpointed insufficient housing options and homelessness as priority areas and root causes of other issues facing the city.

“Stable housing impacts every aspect of people’s lives. We need to increase affordable housing for large families.”

- **Mental Health Resources (20 responses):** Another group called for more mental health resources in the community, some of whom believed that addressing this area would alleviate some of the public safety issues.

“We really need to improve access to mental health intervention, education, violence associated with mental health.”

- **Nonprofit Funding (13 responses):** Finally, some believed that ARPA dollars would have the most positive impact if distributed to local nonprofits given the success of their existing work in the community.

“Community based organizations have an insight into what their communities need and how they have been affected by the pandemic. Having the funds to work with them will help address their immediate needs.”

Conclusions

The survey results outlined above reveal several key takeaways about how Brooklyn Park residents believe the City could best appropriate ARPA funds to maximize impact in the community:

Concerns about rising crime and residents’ sense of safety emerged as consistent priorities in responses to both the closed-ended and open-ended questions. Although Violence Intervention was chosen as a preferred spending category by older and white residents, **a majority of respondents in all demographic groups approved of funding this priority area.**

As such, this survey strongly indicates that **public safety is at the forefront of residents’ minds** and that there is consensus support for funding violence intervention and support services and, to a lesser extent, neighborhood safety activities. The City may also want to consider using ARPA funds for promoting public safety in a way that aligns with answers to the free-response question, which included **increased funding for the police department and specific initiatives combatting gun and gang violence.**

Furthermore, the fact that **Safety Activities and Violence Intervention received more positive sentiment than negative in the online social media discourse** indicates that residents largely support such initiatives.

Respondents also consistently pointed to Mental Health and Youth Outreach as priority areas for the City to address. Responses to the free-response question also indicate that many **view these two issues as directly linked to the rising crime and violence** that many raised fears about in other parts of the survey.

Accordingly, the City should be aware that funding **Mental Health and Youth Outreach are also important to many Brooklyn Park stakeholders** and are viewed as “upstream” issues contributing to residents’ perceived lack of sense of safety.

Finally, **funding nonprofits and community organizations** also received consistent approval in responses to the open-ended and closed-ended questions, as well as the social media discourse.

Given that **many believe these organizations are well-positioned to serve the community’s needs**, the City may also want to consider how best to bring community-based organizations into the fold to address the priority listed above.

Overall, **the survey responses indicate that most are supportive of funding areas that would promote public safety and alleviate residents’ concerns about rising crime and violence.** Addressing more “upstream issues” that directly and indirectly impact public safety — such as mental health, youth outreach and programming, and housing and homelessness — would also likely receive significant support in the community.

Activity	Description	2021	2022
Violence interruption			
Violence interrupters and support services	Contracted workers to interrupt violence in the field. (Currently using HC ARPA funds).		\$1,200,000
Mental Health services	Hire social workers to work with PD; split cost with Hennepin County (60 BP/40 HC); and other grants in 2022		\$ 76,231
Police cameras	Portable neighborhood camera set up - 2		\$ 70,000
Interventions at Huntington Place	Interventions including increased security costs due to violence and negative economic impacts; pair with \$500K EDA funds	\$250,000	\$ 250,000
Violence Prevention / Community Health		2021	2022
Create Connections in impacted Neighborhoods	Support neighborhood leaders in community building activities in neighborhoods experiencing increased violence and economic stress. (i.e. community unity group)		\$ 25,000
Health on the Go	Invest in collaborative Health on the Go initiative including staff person to serve as navigator, intern hours for events, costs for trailer and mobile lift, supplies for events		\$ 143,881
Rec on the Go - expanded services	Expanded hours to support neighborhood gatherings and Health on the Go programming.		\$ 25,500
Youth Outreach Workers - expanded services	Moving from 3 to 5 days a week; focus on areas with violence; includes outreach in schools; add to lunch period 3 days per week	\$119,000	\$ 170,000
Community response proposals	Support local organizations in pandemic response program delivery (i.e. emergency assistance, food, public health, housing, business services) (RFP)		\$ 700,000
Economic Inclusion - Sub-grants for workforce development	Community Partnership - Sub-grants for workforce organizations (RFP) (Partner with Brooklyn Center)		\$ 350,000
Economic Inclusion - Youth Entrepreneurship	Youth Entrepreneurship Program (Partner with Brooklyn Center)		\$ 120,000
Economic Inclusion - Career Pathways	Career Pathways Program (Partner with Brooklyn Center)		\$ 125,000
Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth programs	1) YouthOnBoard: \$30,000. 2) Anti-Hate Campaign: \$64,200	\$ 30,000	\$ 64,200
Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth program reimbursements	Expenses related to COVID response since March 2021- Aug 2021 (includes HOTG and expanded youth and family engagement)	\$ 40,600	
Cultural media advertising / communications	Connect cultural communities to COVID-19 and other resources and city info	\$ 10,000	\$ 50,000

City service needs		2021	2022
Park Engagement Ambassadors	Increase number of cadets to enforce park ordinances and reduce violence (amplified sound, nuisance behavior, non-emergency calls etc.) Lakeland, Willowstone, Brookdale, Hamilton River, etc.		\$ 103,000
Reclassify community engagement liaison	Upgrade position to reflect work of role and to match market; increased need for engagement and services due to COVID-19	\$ 2,367	\$ 14,206
ARP Project coordinator (FT)	Assists with ARP projects, including sub-contracting	\$ 15,417	\$ 125,000
Grant Administration-Accountant (PT) Program Assist (PT)	Account and project analysis and reconciliation, financial statement/workbooks updated, internal control maintenance and regulatory reporting and some clerical assistance (primarily for ARP-related funds)	\$ 20,000	\$ 129,474
Communication associate - (use ARP instead of general fund for 1/2)	Add communications staff capacity to support all ARP related programs/initiatives we're adding		\$ 38,874
Technology Related Items	Citywide technology requests including fiber, security, emergency management software, pro services and applications		\$ 127,250
Legal / Auditor Fees for ARP		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
COVID testing	Possible staff COVID testing strategy		\$ 50,000
Upgrade Emergency Management Policies, Procedures, and Guides	Consultant to update the City's emergency management documents including citywide operational plans, contingency plans, EOC plans, etc. (\$80K in 2023)		
Total		\$497,384	\$3,967,616
Brooklyn Center contribution	\$200K toward Economic Inclusion programs listed above - pending BC CC approval		\$ 200,000
Total with Brooklyn Center contribution		\$497,384	\$3,767,616