Community Needs Assessment Survey

City of Blue Hill - 2023 Report







Conducted by South Central Economic Development District, Inc. 401 East Avenue, Holdrege, NE 68949| scedd.us | 308.455.4770

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Introduction

Local governments that take the time to understand and respond to the needs of their constituents are able to lead their communities into a future that is envisioned and supported by the people. The accurate identification of a community's needs and priorities is an important investment that provides meaningful information as well as a method for engaging passionate, committed residents. The information gained and engagement created by a Community Needs Assessment Survey assists local officials and leaders with establishing a benchmark for ongoing community participation and creates a legacy for future generations.

The Community Needs Assessment Survey (CNAS) is an important first step in the path that leads to ongoing community development and growth. The CNAS process produces information that enables a community to systematically set and achieve goals. Blue Hill completed a previous CNAS in 2012, conducted by South Central Economic Development District, Inc. (SCEDD). This report compares the 2012 and 2023 results, as appropriate, to demonstrate the historical and current data.

To ensure the CNAS provided meaningful information and community engagement, the survey process included the following steps:

- * formed a survey question selection committee of stakeholder that represented multiple community interests such as school, business owners, and local government;
- provided appropriate publicity to ensure all households were aware of the importance of the survey; and
- * hosted a town hall meeting for the presentation of results and inclusion of residents in priority identification and goal setting.

The City of Blue Hill contacted the South Central Economic Development District, Inc. (SCEDD) to request its support to complete a 2023 CNAS. With the guidance and support of SCEDD, electronic and paper survey questionnaires were created. A link to the electronic survey was distributed through email and various social media posts, with the survey link placed on the City of Blue Hill's website landing page. The Facebook pages of the City, Blue Hill Community School, and Blue Hill Community Club prominently featured the survey and reminders to complete. A Blue Hill Community School high school senior media student also created a video featuring drone footage of the town and encouraged residents to take the CNAS. The video was well produced and received over 50 views and 29 shares and counting. Additionally, posters were placed in high-traffic businesses and community buildings with a QR code providing a link to scan with a smartphone, to complete the survey. Paper surveys were made available to residents at the library, City Office, Thramer's Food Center, and Ron's Pharmacy. SCEDD compiled the completed surveys, conducted data analysis, and prepared the report that follows.

Methodology

The questionnaire was divided into six areas of interest:

- Demographics
- Community/City
- Housing
- Business & Economic Development
- Child Care
- Education

The electronic form of the survey was available from September 6th, advertised to end September 20th, however the online link remained open through the following weekend of September 24th. The City publicized the link for households to complete the survey through their City website and social media, Blue Hill Economic Development and Chamber of Commerce pages, in addition to an insert in the mailed August monthly utility bill. Survey respondents were made aware they could only complete one survey per household. Only one survey was accepted from each Internet Protocol (IP) address, with the exception of surveys completed at the public library, or paper surveys entered by City personnel.

Paper surveys were printed and delivered by City personnel on September 5th and 6th to Blue Hill businesses, including the City office, Library, Ron's Pharmacy and Thramer's Food Center. The paper survey provided an option for those who preferred this format or who did not have access to a device to complete the electronic survey. Paper surveys were required to be returned to the City office no later than the close of business September 20th. Twenty surveys were completed through paper which City staff entered electronically.

Completed survey results were processed by SCEDD, utilizing the Survey Monkey software tool which integrates statistical analysis. Additional statistical comparison and analysis was completed by SCEDD staff to create the report and final presentation of data.

Responses were gathered in a variety of formats including **multiple choice**, **yes/no**, **and rating scales**.

- Ratings scales were either Excellent = 4, Good = 3, Fair = 2, Poor = 1 or
 Definitely = 4, Probably = 3, Probably Not = 2, Definitely Not = 1.
- Responses to the four choices available on each rating scale were given a weighted average score, as noted above, to arrive at an overall rating.
- In addition to the four responses outlined, don't know or no opinion could be selected; don't know or no opinion responses were omitted from final results.

The following information provides a snapshot for the community of Blue Hill according to the 2020 Decennial U.S. Census. Blue Hill has a population of 865, with 387 total households estimated. The 137 responses generated within Blue Hill City limits represent a response rate of 35.4%. Twenty-two (22) respondents did not indicate if they lived within city limits, and 23 respondents did not provide their home zip code, with 9 responses indicating a zip code other than Blue Hill, representing 5% of total respondents. **Total surveys completed was 203.**

	Blue Hill City Limits
City Population	865
Average Household Size	2.16
Total Households*	387
Total Surveys Returned from Blue Hill zip code	171
Total Surveys Returned within City Limits	137
Response Rate within City Limits	35.4%
Total Surveys Completed	203

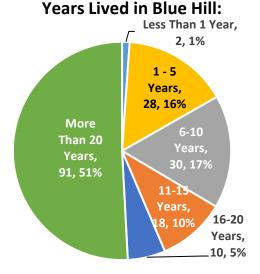
^{*}Source: 2020 Decennial U.S. Census, 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Demographics

Demographic questions provide an overview of the make-up of a community, based on age, number of years in the community, commute to work, combined annual household income, and number of members in a household.

The first demographic question asked the age of the head-of-household. Three age groups betweent 25 and 74 were well represented. The prevalent age groups were 45-56 at 24% (43), 25-34 at 20% (36), and 35-44 at 19% (34). Other age groups by head of household, that were represented well included 65-74 at 15% (27) and 55 to 64 at 13% (23). The least represented age groups were 19-24 at 2% (4), 85 or older with 3% (5), and 75 to 84 with 4% (8) respondents.

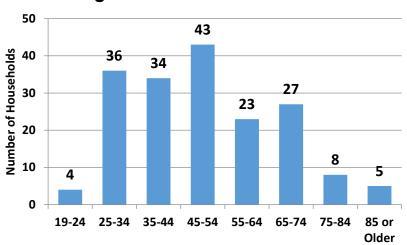




the area for 16-20 years.

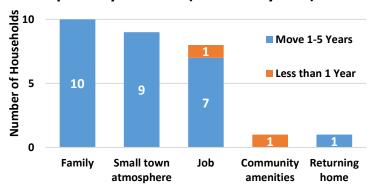
The next question asked the primary reason for moving for those who moved to the community within the last five years. Thirty (30) households indicated they had moved within 5 years, and 29 provided an answer as

Age of Head of Household:



Respondents were asked how long they have lived in the Blue Hill area. Of the 203 households represented, 179 answered this question. Of those responding, a majority, 51% (91), have lived in the Blue Hill area for more than 20 years. Only 1% (2) moved to the area within the past year and 16% (28) had lived there 1-5 years, 17% (30) have lived in the area 6-10 years, 10% (18) for 11-15 years, and 5% (10) have lived in

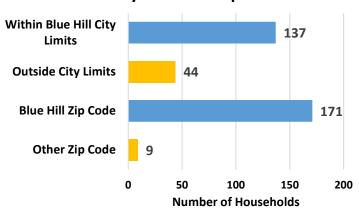
If you moved to the Community within the last five years, what was your primary reason? (select only one)



to the main reason they moved to Blue Hill. The top reason indicated for moving was family at 10 households, followed closely by small town atmosphere at 9, and job for 8 households. Additional responses were community amenities (1) and returning home (1).

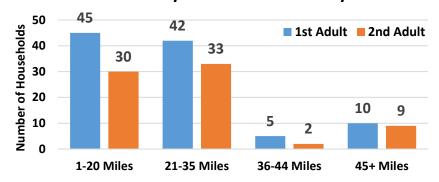
Respondents were asked to indicate if they lived within or outside the city limits of Blue Hill. One hundred and thirty-seven (137) respondents, representing 76% of responses, indicated they lived within city limits, with 44 respondents, representing 24%, indicating they lived outside city limits. Twenty-two (22) did not provide a response, which likely impacts the percentage of in-town resident responses. Respondents then indicated their home address zip code, showing 171 respondents at

Do you live within city limits or outside city limits? What is your home zip code?



95% had a Blue Hill 68930, zip code, and 9 respondents indicated a home zip code other than Blue Hill with 4 providing Ayr, 3 Bladen, and 1 each for Red Cloud and Campbell; 23 respondents did not provide a home zip code.

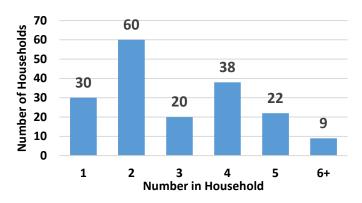
If you work outside of the Blue Hill area, how far do you commute one way?



Households were asked, if they worked outside of the Blue Hill area, to identify how far they commute to work (one way). Each household could report for two adults. Results indicated 176 adults work 1 to over 45 miles outside of Blue Hill. Seventy five adults commute 1-20 miles to work, another 75 adults commute 21-35 miles.

7 commute 36 to 44 miles, and 19 commute 45 miles or more to work one way. Adults not commuting could select 'not applicable' which was selected by 122.

How many family members are in your household, including yourself?

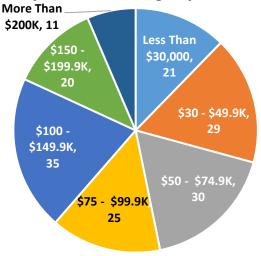


The number of family members living in the household was answered by 179 households. Thirty (30) at 17% were one-person households, 60 at 33.5% were two-person, 20 at 11% three-person, 38 at 21% as four-person, 22 at 12% as five-person, and 9 households represented 5% of households of 6 are more.

The final demographic question asked for the combined annual household income with 171 respondents answering this question and 32 opting not to answer.

There was a very balanced representation by household income with 12% (21) less than \$30,000, 17% (29) at \$30,000-49,999, 17.5% (30) at \$50,000-74,000, 14.5% (25) at \$75,000-99,999, the most common response representing 20.5% (35) was \$100,000-149,999, 12% (20) at \$150,000-199,999, and 6.5% (11) households indicating an income of more than \$200,000. This breaks down to approximately one third each earning under \$50,000, between \$50,000-99,999, and over \$100,000.

What is the combined annual income of all family members living in your home?

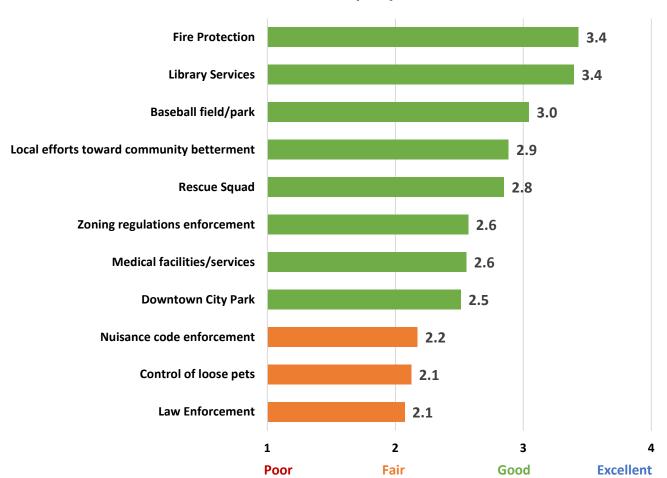


City/Community

This section of the survey addressed items specific to the local government as well as how residents felt about the community.

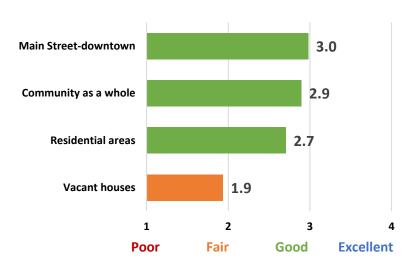
The **adequacy** of fire protection and library services received the top weighted average score of 3.4, equivalent to a high good rating. Of the 201 providing responses, 93% rated fire protection as excellent or good, and 92% rated library services as excellent or good. The baseball field/park were rated by 81% as excellent or good, 75% rated local efforts toward community betterment as excellent or good, and 69% rated rescue squad as excellent or good.

Rate the Adequacy of:



The city or community areas that received the lowest ratings were nuisance code enforcement with 60% rated as fair or poor, control of loose pets 62% rated as fair or poor, and law enforcement 63% rated as fair or poor.

Rate the General Appearance of:

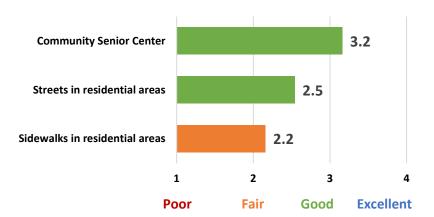


Respondents were asked to rate the **general appearance** of community features on a scale of excellent to poor. Main street – downtown received an overall good rating, with 83% (163) rating the general appearance as excellent or good. The community as a whole received an average score of 2.9, with residential areas following closely at 2.7 average score. Vacant houses received the lowest general appearance score at 1.9, equivalent to a fair rating, with 72% (124) rating as fair or poor. Two of these four

areas were also rated in the 2012 CNAS, with the appearance of the community as a whole and the residential areas each receiving an overall good rating similar to these 2023 results.

Residents were asked to rate the **condition** of additional city features, 201 households provided a response. The Community Senior Center received the highest ratings with 89% (165) rating the condition -as good or excellent. Streets in residential areas received a good rating by 56% of those providing an opinion, with only 5% indicating excellent. Sidewalks in residential areas received a fair

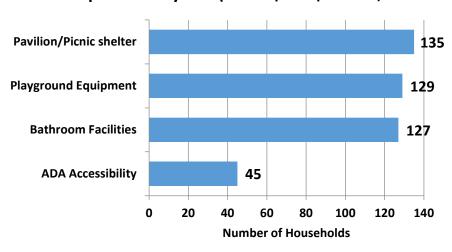
Rate the Condition of:



rating with 58% (128) respondents providing a condition of fair or poor.

Residents were asked to identify whether they felt Blue Hill encourages public participation – individuals having a voice regarding local government decisions. One-hundred sixty-four (164) households provided an opinion. A combined 118 respondents (72%) indicated public participation definitely or probably is encouraged, which is a good indicator for city leadership. Thirty-one (19%) felt public participation was probably not and 15 (9%) definitely not encouraged.

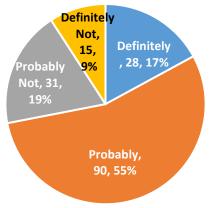
What improvements to City parks are most important to you? (select up to 3 priorities)



Special Project - Park Pavilion & Playground

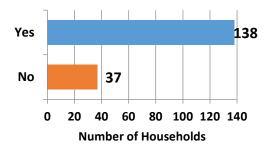
The next series of questions asked if the city should focus on the specific project of a park pavilion. The CNAS steering committee agreed a park pavilion had been a common topic for a future community project. Strong support was evident with 79% (138) of the 175 providing an opinion indicating the community should develop a covered pavilion and playground at the Aquatics Center.

Does Blue Hill encourage public participation - individuals having a voice regarding local governmental decisions?



The improvements to City parks that are most important to their household were then asked, with 195 respondents selecting up to 3 priorities. A pavilion/picnic shelter was the top priority with 69% (135) indicating this as a top priority, followed closely by playground equipment at 66% (129), and bathroom facilities, 65% (127). The ADA accessibility received the fewest votes with 23% (45) indicating it as a top priority.

Should the community develop a Covered Pavilion and Playground at the Aquatics Center?



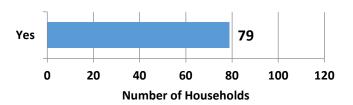
Would you contribute to a fund drive for the Covered Pavilion & Playground project?



Further inquiries on this project, asked respondents if they would be willing to volunteer their labor to help complete the pavilion and playground project. Seventynine (79) households, indicated they would be willing to volunteer.

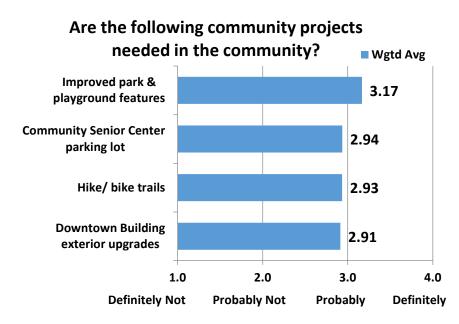
The next two questions assessed community assistance with this pavilion playground project. A total of 101 households, representing 68% of those with an opinion, indicated they would contribute to a fund drive for the covered pavilion and playground.

Would you be willing to volunteer your labor to help complete the Pavilion & Playground project to meet the identified needs?



Community Projects & Programs

Respondents were asked if four specific projects were needed in the community. Overall, respondents indicated each of these projects is probably needed. Improved park and



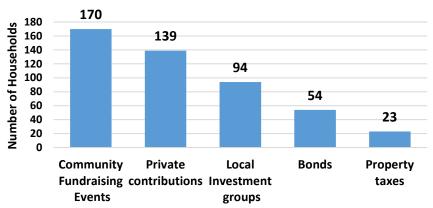
playground features received the most support, 84% (157) stated this was definitely or probably a needed community project. The Community Senior Center parking lot was rated by 70.8% (131) as definitely or probably needed, followed closely by hike/bike trails at 68.1% (124), and downtown building exterior upgrades with 70.6% (130), stated it was definitely or probably a needed community project.

If partial funding source can be acquired from state and federal sources for the above-listed projects, respondents were asked how Blue Hill should fund its share. Respondents could

check all preferred funding sources. The most preferred option was community fundraising events with 86% (170) of 197 respondents, followed by private contributions indicated by 71% (139). Local investment groups was indicated by 48% (94), bonds 27% (54), and finally, property taxes with 12% (23) responses selected that option.

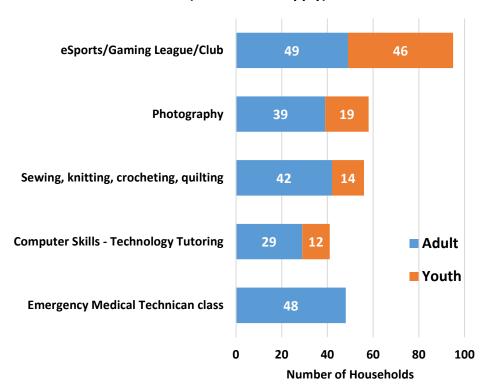
A list of community programs or classes for households to

If partial funding for the above-listed projects can be acquired from state & federal sources, how should Blue Hill fund its share? (check all that apply)



indicate what they would utilize, was provided with consideration given for local resources and opportunities. Households could indicate if youth, adult, or both would utilize the programs. The eSports/gaming league/club was of most interest for both adults (49) and youth (46),

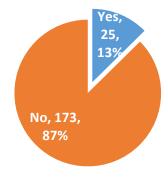
If offered in the community, which of the following programs or classes would you utilize? (check all that apply)



proving to be the most popular program opportunity to utilize. The **Emergency Medical** Technician class, available only to adults, received a strong 48 responses that would uitilize the class. Photography programs showed 39 adults and 19 youth would utilize; sewing, knitting, crocheting, quilting utilized by 42 adults and 14 youth; and computer skills - technology tutoring programs had 29 adults and 12 youth that would utilize.

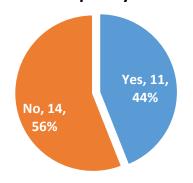
Continuing the line of local issues, respondents were asked if at least one time within the last 90 days, they had worried about running out of food before they could afford more. 87% (173) stated they had not worried within the past 90 days about running out of food. Twenty-five (25) households, representing 13% of those responding, indicated yes, they had worried about food running out. When comparing the 'yes' answers to this question with the number and age of children in the demographic section for their households,

At least one time within the last 90 days, I/we have worried whether our food would run out before we could afford more.



13 children age birth to pre-school and 18 children kindergarten through high school were represented in these 25 households. Two (2) of the 25 did not provide demographic age information, and 10 of these households indicated there were no children in the home.

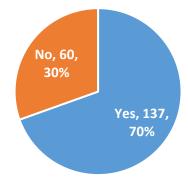
Of those answering 'Yes' (25) to food insecurity... awareness of the food pantry location?



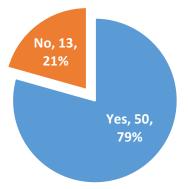
Respondents were asked if they were aware that Blue Hill had a food pantry located inside the St. Paul Lutheran Church. The majority of respondents, 130 (66%), indicated they were aware of the existence of the local food pantry; 67 respondents indicated they were not aware. Of the 25 households that indicated food insecurity within the last 90 days, 11 households were aware of the food pantry location, with 14 households not aware.

The next question addressed the awareness of the Midland Area on Aging's home meal delivery service, available to those 60 and over or with mobility needs. One hundred and thirty-seven (137) respondents were aware of the meal delivery option, representing 70%; 60 households were not aware of this option, representing 30%.

Are you aware Midland Area on Aging's home meal delivery is available for those age 60 or over or those with mobility needs?



By Head of Household Age 55 and over (only)... awareness of meal delivery service:



In a further analysis, responses to this question were compared with households whose head-of-household were age 55 or older; 13 households in this age group were not aware of the meal delivery option, providing an opportunity to promote this available service in the community.

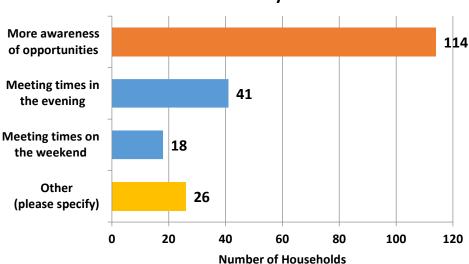
A list of community events currently hosted by the Blue Hill Community Club, including 4th of July, Downtown Christmas Lighting, Farmers Market, Tour of Homes, and City-Wide Garage Sales, was provided, followed by the next question.

Respondents were asked to select one factor that

would encourage them to volunteer at any of these community events. A significant 71% (114) of the 160 that responded indicated more awareness of opportunities would encourage them

to volunteer. Meeting times in the evening would encourage 41 respondents, and meeting times on the weekend would encourage 18 respondents to volunteer. Other responses were provided by 26 households of those, 6 indicated a sentiments of a more welcoming or kind atmosphere would encourage them to become involved at these

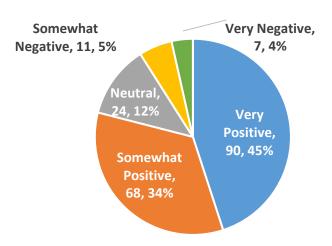
What would encourage you to volunteer at any of these community events?



community events. Additional comments included suggestions for promotion of volunteer opportunities such as going beyond Facebook, using fliers, social media, downtown media board, and a Sign-up Genius online platform.

The final question of the community section asked respondents, "Overall, how do you feel about our community?" Respondents could select from a 5-point scale of very positive to very negative. Overall, 79% (158) of 200 respondents felt very positive or somewhat positive about their community. In comparing this question to the 2012 Blue Hill CNAS Report, a comparable percentage, 75%, also indicated positive or very positive feelings about their community.

Overall, how do you feel about our community?



The gauge illustration shows the grey dotted wedge as the range for previous community's CNAS scores in the SCEDD region for this question. Blue Hill's 2012 response was overall somewhat positive at 1.92 score, with the 2023 score slightly better at 1.89, closer to the overall 1 score of very positive.



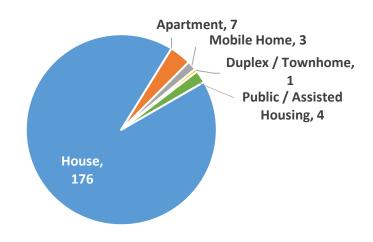
A follow-up question asked respondents to indicate why they felt that way about Blue Hill. One-hundred and sixteen (116) households provided a response and are provided in full to the City in their report. Several comments had similar sentiments around a need for an increased sense of a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. Many comments noted positive growth was evident in their community.

Housing

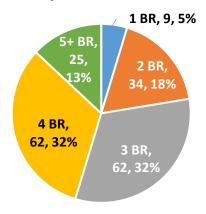
The next survey section was geared toward identifying several types of housing needs in Blue Hill.

The first question asked respondents what type of home they lived in; 92% of respondents said they lived in a house, representing 176 households. Seven (7) households lived in apartments, 4 households selected public/assisted housing, 3 households indicated mobile home, while only one respondent indicated they lived in a duplex or townhome.

Do you live in:



How many bedrooms are in your home?

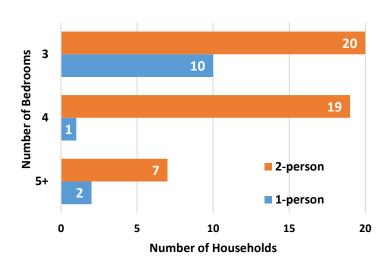


is helpful in visualizing how many households have more bedrooms than residents, and who may consider transitioning to a smaller home if options were available. There were 20 households of 3-bedroom homes with 2-person, and 10 households of 1-person. Four-bedroom homes housed 19 two-person households, and one one-person. Homes with 5 or more bedrooms were occupied by 7 2-person, and 2 1-person households.

Households were then asked about the number of bedrooms in their home. 5% (9) lived in a one bedroom home, 18% (34) had two bedrooms, 32% (62) had 3 bedrooms, 32% (62) had 4-bedroom homes, with 13% (25) at 5 or more bedrooms.

The data results for the number of people in each household was compared to the number of bedrooms in the home. This cross-tabulation of data

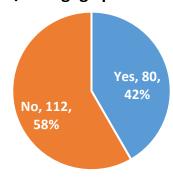
Number of 1 & 2 member households with 3 to 5+ bedrooms



Households that spend more than 30% of their income toward housing (rent/mortgage plus utilities) are often considered to be cost burdened by their housing costs. Forty-two (42) percent, or 80 households of 192 responding, reported spending more than 30% of their income toward housing.

Respondents were asked to rate the condition of their residence. Only 4 households indicated their home was in overall unsatisfactory or poor condition having

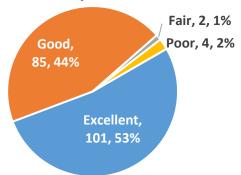
Do you pay more than 30% of your income towards housing (rent/mortgage plus utilities)?



multiple issues. Two (2) indicated their residence was fair with substantial wear and one major issue. Eighty-five (85) households indicated a good rating as their home was structurally sound only needing minor repairs, while 101 indicated their home was in excellent condition. A combined 97% of respondents believed their home to be in either excellent or good (structurally sound) condition.

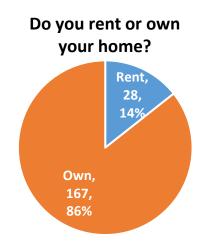
Conditions of housing are described typically in universal terms in Nebraska housing reports, by the following criteria:

How would you rate the condition of your residence?



- **Excellent**, solid roof and foundation, contributes positively to housing stock of the community;
- **Good**, structurally sound, may need minor repairs such as shingles, paint, concrete steps or new doors;
- **Fair**, substantial wear, one major issue such as sagging roof, missing/rotted siding, rotting windows, sagging porch;
- **Poor**, overall unsatisfactory, multiple issues such as crumbing foundation, broken/rotted windows and doors, sagging roof.

Households were asked if they owned or rented their home. 86% (167) of 195 households responded they owned their home while 14% (28) indicated they were renting.

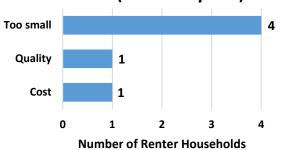


Renters

The next section of housing questions was specific to renters.

Renters were asked if their current rental met their needs. Of the 28 who responded, 79% (22) indicated that their current rental met their needs and 21% (6) said that their current rental did not meet their needs.

If your rental does not meet your needs, please indicate the reason (select only one)



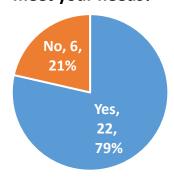
Respondents who indicated their rental did

not meet their needs were asked the primary reason. Six (6) respondents provided an answer, with 4 indicating their rental was too small, and 1 each indicated quality and cost as the reason the rental did not meet their needs.

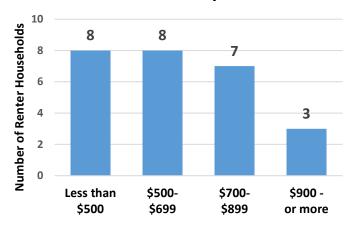
Renters were asked how much they paid for rent monthly. Twenty-six (26) of the 28 responded, with 8 renters indicating they pay less than \$500 a month, 8 paying \$500-699, 7 paying \$700-899, and 3 households paying over \$900 per month.

Renters were asked about the type of rental housing they would prefer in Blue Hill, if other options were available. Of

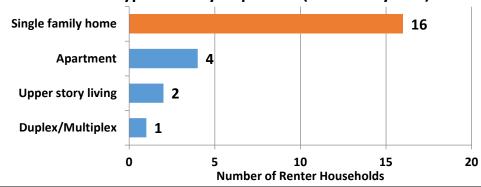
Does your current rental meet your needs?



What are you currently paying for rent on a monthly basis?



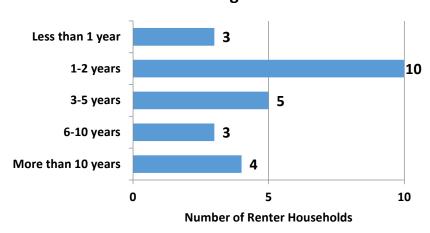
If other rental housing were available in Blue Hill, which type would you prefer? (select only one)



the 26 renter households that responded, 16 said they would prefer a single family home. Four (4) indicated an apartment as their preference, with 2 for upper story living, and 1 interested in a duplex/multi-plex.

Renters were asked about the difficulty finding their current rental. There was a near even split in responses with 54% (14) of respondents indicating it was very difficult or somewhat difficult to find their current rental. And conversely, 46% (12) indicated it was either not very difficult or not difficult at all to find their rental.

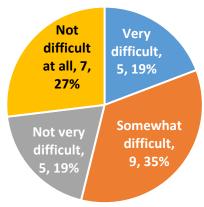
How long do you plan to continue renting?



Residents who currently rent were asked if they preferred to own or rent. Of the 28 renter households responding, 13 indicated they preferred to continue renting, with 15 indicating they prefer to own a home.

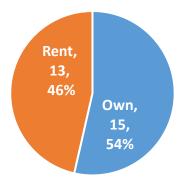
Additional questions were asked of the 15 renters who preferred to own, however, only 1 household responded which is not statistically significant to report.

How difficult was it to find your current rental?



Current renters were asked how long they planned to continue renting. Of the 25 total respondents, 3 said they plan on renting less than a year. Ten (10) plan on renting for 1-2 years, and 5 indicated 3-5 years. Three (3) respondents plan on renting for 6-10 years and 4 plan to rent for more than ten years.

Renters: Do you prefer to own or rent?



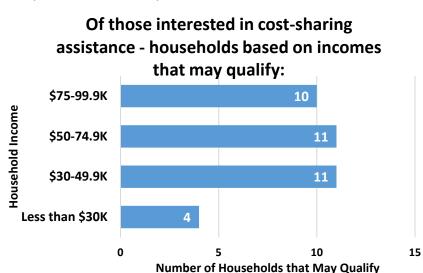
Owners

The next set of housing questions was directed to homeowners only.

Homeowners were asked if they were interested in cost sharing assistance to complete rehabilitation improvements of their home. Of the 173 total responses, 51 (29%) of homeowner respondents indicated "yes" they would be interested in cost-sharing assistance, 122 (71%) households were not interested.

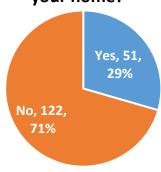
Further analysis was utilized, with the 51

homeowners who indicated interest in cost sharing assistance to complete rehabilitation improvements, compared to their household income. Of the 51 who indicated interest in cost-



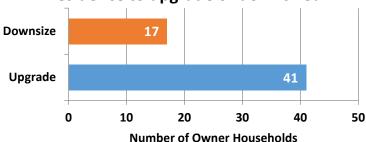
Homeowners were asked if they had considered changing their residence to either upgrade or downsize. Of the 58 respondents who had considered changing their residence, 41 considered an upgrade and 17 considered downsizing.

Would you be willing to apply for cost sharing assistance to complete rehabilitation of your home?

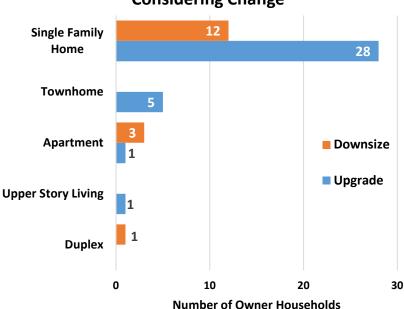


sharing assistance, approximately 36 homeowners with household incomes below \$99.9K could be income eligible for a rehabilitation program based on their household income and size. A household of four, for example, could be eligible if their combined income was less than \$99.8K according to eligibility requirements of a common statewide housing program.

Have you considered changing your residence to upgrade or downsize?



Type of Housing Preferred by Owners Considering Change



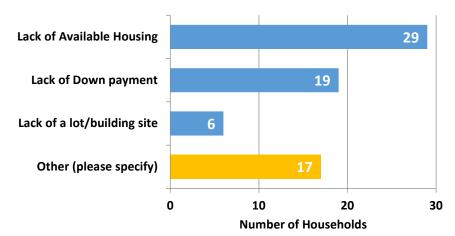
Homeowners considering changing their residence were asked about their preferred type of housing. Single family homes were the most popular, preferred by 40 households, 12 considering downsizing and 28 considering an upgrade. Five (5) households considering an upgrade would prefer a townhome, 4 prefer an apartment of which 3 are considering a downsize, and 1 each preferred upper story living or a duplex. These results indicate traditional 2-4-bedroom single family homes would be in most demand.

Homeowners considering

changing their residence were asked to select barriers that kept them from doing so with 54 answering this question. Lack of available housing was selected by 29 (54%) as the barrier to

changing. A lack of down payment was a barrier for 19 owner households, and lack of a lot or building site was indicated by 6 as a barrier to changing residence. Of the 17 'other' responses, 11 cited variations of cost, pricing, or current housing market; and 6 were undecided about location, future plans, or type.

What barriers keep you from changing your residence? (check all that apply)



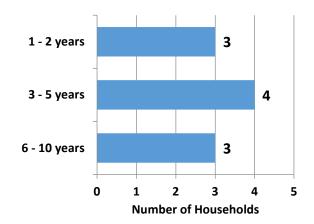
Are you considering building a new home in the community?



Owners seeking to build were then asked to specify the timeframe in which they were considering building a new home. Of the responses, 3 indicated considering to build a new home in 1-2 years, 4 in 3-5 years, and 3 in 6-10 years. A statement after this question provided information on the new subdivision lots now available on the southwest section of town and to contact the City of interested.

Homeowners were then asked if they were considering building a new home in Blue Hill. Seven (7) owner households indicated they were considering building a new home within the community.

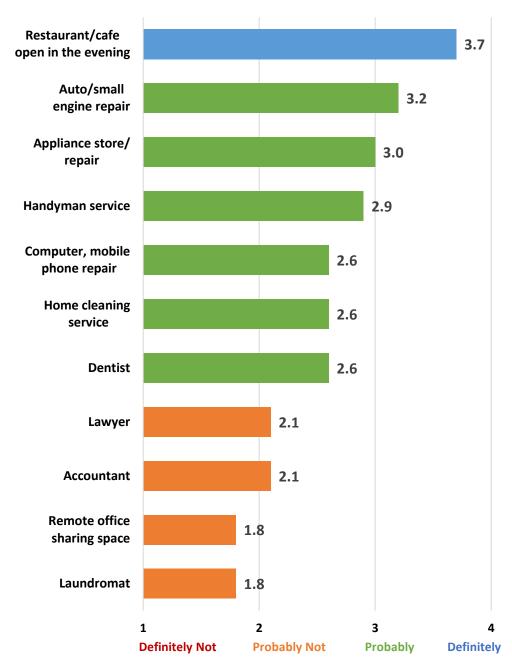
In what timeframe are you considering building a new home?



Business & Economic Development

The first business and economic development question asked respondents if they would utilize the suggested businesses or services if they were available in Blue Hill. A total of 185 of the 203 households responded to this question. Of the responses received, 174 households. representing 96% of respondents, indicated they would definitely or probably utilize a restaurant or café open in the evening. Other businesses that would definitely or probably be supported included an auto/small engine repair with 85% (147), an appliance store/repair with 79.5% (132), and a handyman service with 71.6% (126). A computer/mobile phone repair would definitely or probably be supported by 58%, home cleaning service at 49%, and dentist at 50%. The businesses

Would you utilize the following businesses if they were available in our community?

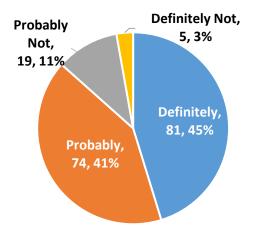


that would probably not be supported, included accountant and lawyer both receiving only 25% definitely or probably selected. The business suggestions receiving the least support for utilizing were the laundromat at 14% of definitely or probably would support, and remote office sharing space at 11%. Seven 'other' responses varied by topic and are provided at the end of the City's report.

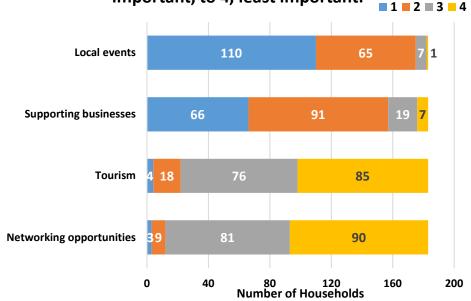
Respondents were asked if their household prioritized shopping in Blue Hill to support local businesses. Of the 184 household responses, 81 (45%) indicated they definitely prioritize shopping in Blue Hill, 74 (41%) probably, with 19 (11%) indicating probably not, and 5 (3%) households indicating definitely not.

The next questions asked households to rank the importance of specific focus areas for the Blue Hill Community Club (BHCC) and Economic Development. One-hundred and eighty-three (183) respondents ranked focus areas as 1 (most important) through 4 (least important). Local events was ranked 1st as

Does your household prioritize shopping in Blue Hill to support local businesses?



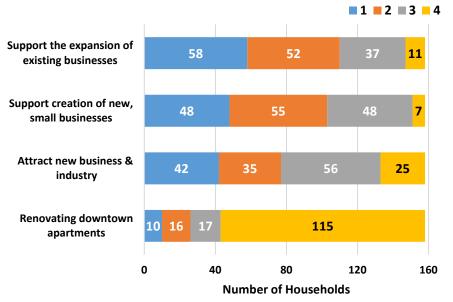
Rank the importance of the following Blue Hill Community Club focus areas, 1, as most important, to 4, least important:



most important, by 110 households, and ranked 2nd by 65. Supporting businesses received strong support with 66 selecting this as the top focus area, and 91 selecting as second most important. The majority of households ranked tourism and networking opportunities as the 3rd or 4th important focus area. This provides compelling support for BHCC to continue their focus on local events and tying in the support of businesses as a priority.

The rankings of Economic Development focus areas showed a more varied response for top focus priorities. The support to expand existing businesses received the top ranking by a slight margin, followed closely by support or creation of new, small businesses. Attracting new business and industry was ranked as the third highest priority, with renovating downtown

Rank the importance of the following Economic Development focus areas, 1, most important, to 4, least important:

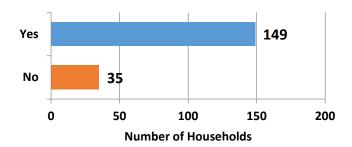


apartments having a consensus from respondents as the least important focus area. The 2012 CNAS economic development questions on focus areas had comparable responses with creation of new businesses, and form plan for job creation, receiving the most support. With continued interest in economic development, these focus areas continue to be an opportunity for Blue Hill to explore.

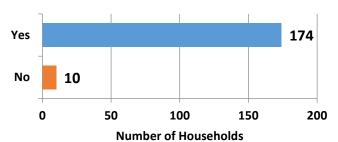
Respondents were asked if the City should consider incentives to encourage housing development. Of the 184 responding, 81% (149) indicated yes, indicating *high* support for this activity.

Resondents were then asked if the City should consider incentives to encourage business development. Ninety-five percent (95%) of the 184 responded yes, indicating very strong community support for business incentives.

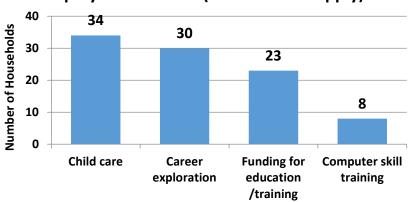
Should Blue Hill consider incentives to encourage housing development?



Should Blue Hill consider incentives to encourage business development?



What would enable you to improve your employment status? (check all that apply)

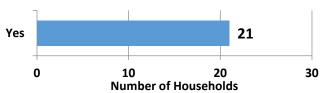


Respondents were asked what would enable them to improve their current employment status; more than one item could be selected. Of the 95 responses provided, child care was the top factor to enable an improved employment status with 34 (36%), followed by career exploration with 30 (32%), funding for education/training with 23 (24%), and computer skill training selected by 8 (8%). These employment factors could be explored by

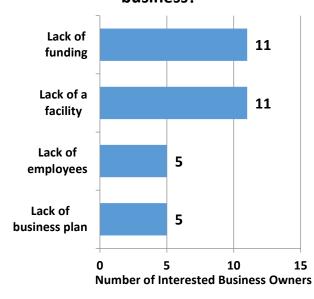
community organizations or businesses to further support, recruit, and retain the workforce in the Blue Hill area.

The next series of questions asked households of their interest in starting or purchasing a business in Blue Hill. Twentyone (21) households indicated they would be interested in starting or purchasing a business.

Are you interested in starting or purchasing a business in town?



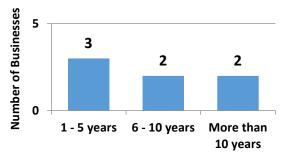
If yes, what is keeping you from starting or purchasing a business?



A further inquiry was made of those who expressed interest in purchasing or starting a business in Blue Hill. Respondents were asked what was keeping them from starting or purchasing a business. A total of 21 interested business owners provided responses; more than one factor could be selected. Lack of funding and lack of a facility were each selected 11 times. Lack of employees and lack of a business plan were each selected by 5 households. Other responses included cost, time, and lack of community support from past businesses that were not successful.

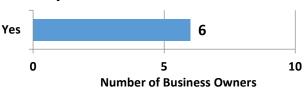
Respondents were then asked if they were a business owner that will be seeking to transition out their business in the future. Six (6) responded yes, they are planning to transition out of their business in the future.

If yes, how soon do you want to transition?



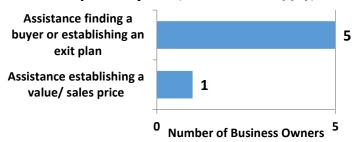
Respondents that indicated they planned to transition their business were asked what assistance would be helpful to them. Five (5) business owners selected assistance finding a buyer or establishing an exit plan, with 1 selecting assistance establishing a value/sales price.

Are you a business owner that will be seeking to transition out of your business in the future?



The business owners that answered were then asked how soon they want to transition. Three (3) business owners indicated they want to transition in 1-5 years, with 2 owners indicating in 6-10 years and 2 indicating in more than 10 years.

If you plan to transition your business, what assistance would be helpful to you? (check all that apply)

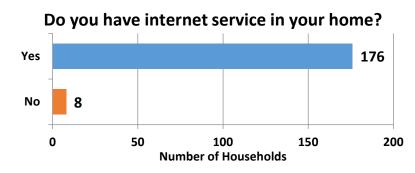


The opportunities to explore the development of new businesses, provide incentives for business development, and provide assistance to businesses in transition, are all areas the community could explore. Resources in the state and through SCEDD are available to improve retention and recruitment of the work force and workshops could be hosted locally to encourage these interested community members to participate.

Technology - Digital Access

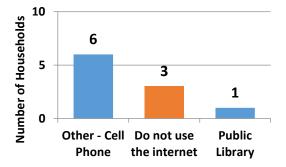
With the prominence of technology in every aspect of life and following the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in more jobs transitioned to work from home, the performance, speed, and affordability of internet service has quickly become a major quality of life factor. Additionally, state and federal funds are currently available to fund broadband improvements and digital literacy efforts, if the need can be demonstrated. Blue Hill is in a favorable position with high speed and reliable broadband internet service available to every household.

The next series of questions asked respondents to indicate their usage of internet and cellular services. One-hundred eighty-four (184) households responded, with 176 indicating they had internet service in the home, and 8 households,



representing 4%, indicating they did not have internet service.

If you do not have internet in your home, where do you access the internet?



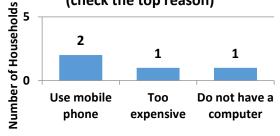
For the households that indicated they did not have an internet connected device in the home, they were asked where they most often access the internet. Seven (7) of the 8 households answered. Six (6) indicated they accessed internet through their cell phone or hot spot. Three (3) households indicated they do not use the internet, and 1 household indicated using the internet at the public library. Other options provided that were not selected included: work/office, family/friend's house, or at a local business. National digital equity reports find that households only utilizing their mobile device for

technology may limit their access to quality of life opportunities in education, telemedicine, and the work force (Source: NTIA, retrieved October, 2023:

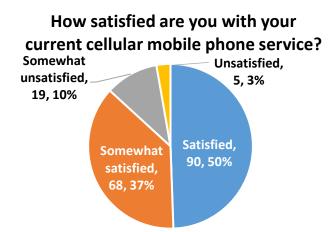
https://www.ntia.gov/blog/2022/switched-why-are-one-five-us-households-not-online).

These respondents were asked to select the main reason they do not currently have internet access in their home. Of the 7 responses, 2 indicated they use a mobile phone, 1 indicated it was too expensive, and 1 stated they did not have a computer. 'Other' responses related to affordability, lack of need and privacy. Information on the

What is the main reason(s) you do not currently have internet access in your home? (check the top reason)



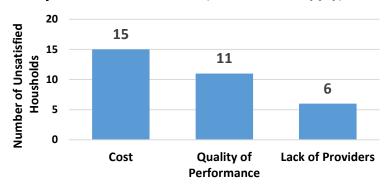
Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Affordable Connectivity Program was listed as a resource within the survey, stating income-qualified households could apply to receive \$30 off their monthly internet bill, as well as funding towards a device.



For those 24 indicating somewhat unsatisfied or unsatisfied with cellular/mobile service, cost was selected by 15, quality of performance by 11, and lack of providers by 6. 'Other' responses included: too many dead spots in Webster County and lack of data in the area. Community leaders could opt to share this with local cell phone providers in efforts to improve this quality of life measurement.

The quality of cellular phone service is also another indicator for quality of life and access to basic health, safety, and communication resources. All respondents were asked if they were satisfied with their current cellular mobile service. One-hundred eighty-three (183) answered, 87% indicated satisfied or somewhat satisfied, 10% indicated somewhat satisfied, and 3% indicated unsatisfied.

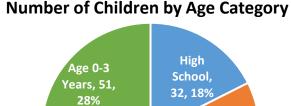
If somewhat unsatisfied or unsatisfied with your cellular/mobile phone service, what is the main reason for your dissatisfaction? (check all that apply)

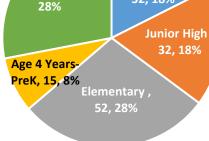


Child Care

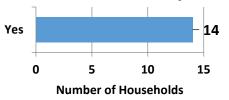
This next section addressed child care in Blue Hill. Respondents were asked how many

children were in their household by the following age categories and indicating 1, 2 or 3 or more for each. Of the 178 households that responded, 108 (61%) had no children in the household. The age of children represented was balanced with 32 (18%) indicated 9-12th High School, 32 (18%) indicated 6-8th Junior High by 25 households, 52 (28%) in elementary, 15 (8%) children in the smallest age group age four to prekindergarten, and 51 (28%) of households with children age 0 to 3.



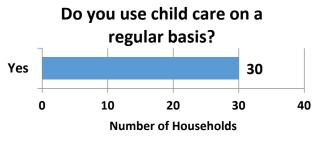


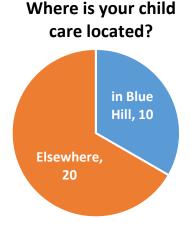
If you do not currently have children, are you anticipating needing child care within the next 5 years?



Respondents were asked if they used child care services on a regular basis. Of the 184 responses received, 30 (16%) households stated that they use child care on a regular basis.

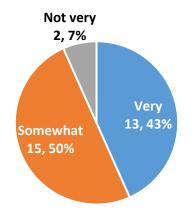
Households were then asked if they do not currently have children, are they anticipating needing child care within the next 5 years. Fourteen (14) indicated they anticipated needing child care within the next 5 years.





Respondents who answered yes to using child care, were asked about the location of their child care. The majority of households at 67% (20), indicated their child care was located elsewhere, while only 33% (10) indicated in Blue Hill.

How satisfied are you with your child care?



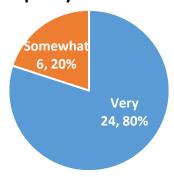
Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with their child care. Thirty (30) households responded with 13 (43%) stating very satisfied, 15 (50%) somewhat satisfied, and 2 (7%) not very satisfied. No households indicated they were not at all satisfied with their child care.

Respondents were asked about the difficulty of finding quality child care. Of the 30 households that responded, a significant majority 24 (80%) indicated it was very difficult, and 6 (20%) households indicated

it was

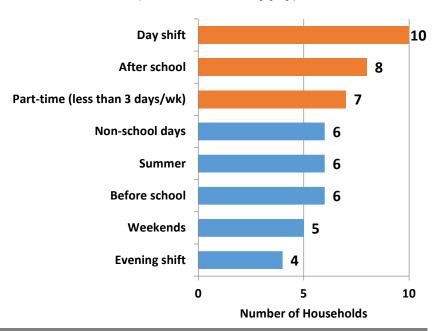
somewhat difficult to find quality child care. No respondents (0) stated that it was not very difficult or not at all difficult. The need for child care in the Blue Hill community is not new as the 2012 CNAS found 58% of respondents (of 35 households) stated it was very or somewhat difficult to find child care 11 years ago. At that time 63% (11) households had child care in Blue Hill, while a third had child care outside the community, which is a flip in percentages to this 2023 CNAS.

How difficult is it to find quality child care?



Blue Hill residents were asked what child care needs they had that were not currently being met and were provided a list of options to select all that apply to their household. With 23 households responding, day shift was the highest unmet child care need indicated by 10 households, followed by after school at 8 and part-time (less than 3 days/week) selected by 7. The child care needs of nonschool days, summer, and before school each were selected by 6, with weekends selected 5 times, and evening shifts selected by 4 households.

What child care needs do you have that are not currently being met? (check all that apply)



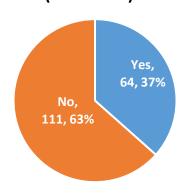
A review of all CNAS child care related responses would indicate a need for more providers in Blue Hill, given only 10 of 30 households are served in Blue Hill with 20 going elsewhere, and several specific child care needs are not being met. This aligns with an earlier question in the business development section question in which households indicated child care was the top factor that would improve a household member's employment status.

Education

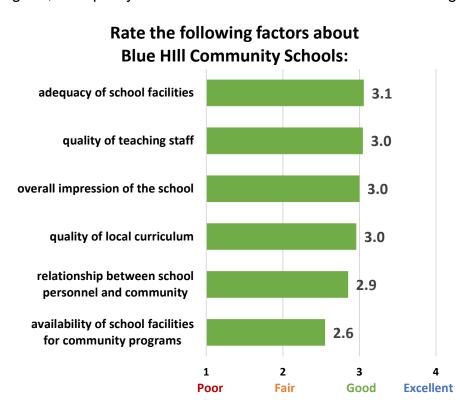
The next section focused on education and asked households about the Blue Hill Community School (BHCS) system. Households were first asked if they had children in BHCS, PreK-12th grade. Of the 175 respondents, 64 (37%) did have children currently in the school system, while 111 (63%) did not.

All households were asked to rate the following factors about BHCS, with an excellent through poor rating, as well as a 'don't know or no opinion'

Do you have children in the Blue Hill Community School (PreK-12th)?



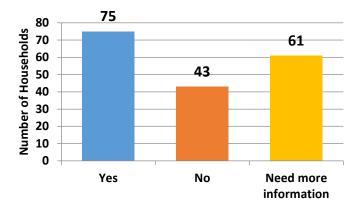
option. Of those 173 households with an opinion, each area received an overall good rating. The adequacy of school facilities received the highest weighted score with 39 excellent and 91 good ratings. The quality of the teaching staff received the next highest rank with 47 excellent and 72 good, followed closely by overall impression of with 44 excellent and 81 good, and quality of local curriculum with 32 excellent and 79 good ratings. The relationship



between community and school personnel was rated by 155 households with 36 rating as excellent and 69 as good. The availability of school facilities for community programs such as recreation, meetings, etc. also received an overall fair to good rating with 18 excellent, and 61 good.

Households were asked if they would support a bond that updates and improves the Blue Hill Community Schools' facilities. A total of 179 households responded with 75 (42%) stating they would support a bond and 43 (24%) responding no, they would not be in support. Sixty-one (61) 34% of households indicated they needed more information before deciding if they would support a school bond to improve BHCS Facilities.

Would you support a bond that updates and improves Blue Hill Community Schools' facilities?



CNAS SUMMARY – based on 35% reporting of Blue Hill households in the city limits

Demographics

- * Half of respondents were 1 or 2-person households
- * Family and small-town atmosphere indicated as primary reason they moved to community in last 5 years
- * Representation from diverse household incomes with approximately one third each earning under \$50,000, between \$50,000 and 99,999, and \$100,00 or more

City/Community Strengths

- * Favorable opinion regarding:
 - the adequacy of: fire protection, library services, baseball field/park
 - the appearance of: main street downtown, community as a whole, residential areas
 - the condition of: the Community Senior Center, residential streets

* Strong Support:

- City Park improvements such as: pavilion/picnic shelter, playground equipment, bathroom facilities
- And new covered Pavilion and Playground at the Aquatics Center with 101 households willing to contribute funds, 79 households willing to contribute labor
- * Need for Community projects supported to:
 - Improve park and playground features
 - Followed by support for Community Senior Center parking lot, hike/bike trails, downtown building exterior upgrades
- * In favor of fundraising events and private contributions to fund community projects
- 4 out of 5 households had a very positive and somewhat positive community feeling in Blue Hill

City Opportunities

- * Improve the favorable opinion regarding:
 - the adequacy of: nuisance code enforcement, control of loose pets, law enforcement
 - the general appearance of vacant houses
 - the condition of sidewalks in residential areas
- * Increase Awareness of:
- Food pantry, nearly half of households with food insecurity did not know the location
- Midland Area on Aging meal deliver, 21% of those over 55 were not aware of this service
- Volunteer opportunities at community events, including various marketing methods

Housing Strengths

- * 97% of households rated the condition of their home as excellent or good and (structurally sound)
- * 4 out of 5 renters stated their rental met their needs

Housing Opportunities

- 29 owners interested in changing their residence to upgrade or downsize, indicated lack of available housing kept them from changing
 - 17 of those households indicated interest in downsizing
 - 59 1 or 2-person households currently live in 3 to 5+ bedroom homes; may be possible interest in other options
- 7 households interested in building a new home
- * 51 households willing to apply for cost sharing assistance for rehabilitation
 - 36 of those likely qualify for assistance based on household income
- Strong support for offering housing incentives provides options to explore
- * 15 renters prefer to own their home

Housing Challenges

- 42% of households are considered "housing burdened", meaning they pay more than 30% of income towards housing each month (rent/mortgage + utilities)
- Sidewalks in residential areas are rated fair to poor by 40%
- Vacant homes rated fair to poor by 72%

Business & Economic Development Strengths

- * Strong support for the following new businesses:
 - Restaurant/café open in the evening supported by 96%
 - Followed by auto/small engine repair, appliance store/repair, handyman service
- 155 households definitely or probably prioritize shopping local
- 95% of households supported incentives to encourage business development

Business & Economic Development Opportunities

- 21 respondents interested in starting or purchasing a business
 - Lack of funding and lack of a facility indicated as top barriers
- Blue Hill Community Club focus areas have the strongest support for local events, followed by supporting businesses
- * 6 business owners are looking to transition, with all receptive to seeking assistance
- Interest in economic development focus areas continues, with support for existing and creation of new small businesses having the most support

Education & Child Care Strengths

- All 6 factors of BHCS rated as good with adequacy of school facilities as top-rated
- * 93% of respondents rated their child care as very satisfied to somewhat satisfied

Education & Child Care Opportunities

- * 75 households support a bond to improve BHCS facilities, 61 need more information
- * All 30 respondents said it was very or somewhat difficult to find quality child care
- * 20 of 30 households use child care outside of Blue Hill
- * 34 households indicated child care as the top factor to improve their employment status

Survey Comments: Economic Development

Respondents were provided a list of businesses they would utilize if available in their community. The option to add to the list as 'other' included these responses:

- · car wash
- · Income based definitely.
- · Theatre, Bowling, Shooting range, Music Venue
- · I no longer need it but there needs to be a daycare facility.
- · garden center-definitely; community garden space-possibly;
- Motel/Air B&B
- To add to a restaurant idea...food trucks parked in the lot by Ron's with a movie/game projected onto the side of the building on Fridays or Saturdays

CNAS Steering Committee

SCEDD and the City would like to thank those community stakeholders that contributed their time to selecting the 2023 Blue Hill CNAS questions.

Tricia Allen	City Clerk/Treasurer; C4K Board
Todd Brehm	Fire Department & EMT
Alex Buschow	City Council
Larry Edgar	American Legion Member, City Utilities
Travis Fraser	Business
Courtney Hansen	Blue Hill Community Club Board; Business
Tyson Jordening	Blue Hill Foundation Board; Business
Dave Karr	Business
Susan Kohmetscher	Assistant City Clerk
Jacque Kucera	Business; Blue Hill Early Learning Center Board
Patrick Moore	High School Principal, Blue Hill Community Schools
Carla Post	City Library; Ex-Oficio Blue Hill Public Library Friends Foundation
Jennifer Reiman	Business
Father Adam Sparling	Church – Ministerial

Blue Hill Town Hall Meeting Setting Priorities for Community Improvement November 16, 2023

Sharon Hueftle, LeAnn Jochum, and Lori Ferguson of the South Central Economic Development District (SCEDD), and Kelly Gewecke of (NDED) facilitated a Town Hall meeting in Blue Hill, Nebraska on November 16, 2023. This meeting was sponsored by the City of Blue Hill. Nineteen (19) community members participated in the meeting.

The Town Hall meeting opened with a review of the agenda for the evening. Results of the Blue Hill Community Needs Assessment Survey (CNAS) were reviewed as well as an overview of strengths, challenges and opportunities gleaned from the results for each of the topic areas: demographics of households participating, community/city, housing, business/economic development, child care, and education. Community participants were then asked to brainstorm community priorities.

Participants shared these observations about the CNAS findings:

- A resident was surprised of the lack of awareness of Blue Hill Community Club events, but then clarification was provided that the survey question was regarding the awareness of volunteer opportunities to support those BHCC events, which was identified as a strong need in the survey.
- A resident was glad to hear there was community support for providing both business and housing incentives, with hopes to revisit this with the Council in the future to bring businesses here, possibilities of purchase rehab programs for those community members that want to stay in their homes longer (older adults) and to address deferred maintenance.
- Inquiry as to what it takes to get a main street downtown revitalization (DTR) grant. SCEDD shared it typically starts with a Planning Grant, hiring of a Planner, conduct town halls, vision sessions, come back to Council with preliminary ideas and involves taking input from the public. The council has talked about DTR, but owner's financial kick-in is a concern; 25% match required which can be a mix of city and business owners contributing; elimination of slum and blight can elevate the project's priority. The City personnel confirmed the City is blighted. Some communities finance downtown revitalization efforts on their own and raise funds; LB840 is not here in BH that could be used to fund a revolving fund for this type of development.
- A resident shared 3 years ago our community rallied around our nursing home when it was going to close. It has gone through a couple of owners and is a significant employer, with a very recent transfer in ownership. SCEDD shared the importance of keeping the nursing home as an employer, but the inheritance tax in your community is important as it goes to the location where the persons passes upon death, so if you do not have nursing home you that can house long-term residents, you would stand to lose a source of community/city/county taxes that are used as "slush fund" for various projects. Initial conversation on the possible various uses of buildings converting for special needs adult living, or 2-bedroom apartments, or partial conversion while maintaining the nursing home.
- > Concern for lack of local authority and this needs to be addressed by the Council in the future, with reference to the low satisfaction of local law enforcement and nuisance enforcement.
- > Strong interest in park improvements.
- > Child Care is a strong need but there is a current group working on that, which is making solid progress.

Participants identified 3 priority areas for community improvement to discuss in taskforces:

- 1. Park and Recreation Improvements
- 2. Nursing Home and future
- 3. Downtown Revitalization and business incentives

Each priority was assigned to a table and participants were asked to congregate at the table with the topic of choice. Following are the plans and goals developed for each priority.

Task Force #1: Park & Recreation Improvements

Members: Patrick Moore, Rebecca Johnson, Brad Johnson, Jennifer Reiman

Who else should be involved: BHCC members as they have been working on initiative, City Council

Focus: Determine the best location for a park pavilion and possible playground equipment

Goal #1: Define location, pros and cons to each of 3-4 locations: by highway, ballpark, railroad Depot, and Aquatic Center

- Other considerations: bathrooms are needed which are high dollar and City can only focus on so many projects and the concession stand and restrooms are finishing in 2024 at the ballpark.

Goal #2: Seek Pavilion specs for recent build in Geneva, save money in design fees. Alumni Architect willing to draw plans? Research options and pre-existing plans from other communities.

Goal #3: Secure bids and funds

Goal #4: Capitalize on local volunteers willing to volunteer labor to save costs: electricians in town, concrete, other general labors (79 households indicated willingness to volunteer)

Goal #5: Fundraise (101 households indicated willingness to contribute funds to pavilion project)

Next Meeting: TBD

Task Force #2: Nursing Home & Future

Members: Carla Post, Sara Macklin, Tricia Allen

Who else should be involved: Nursing Home Administration and Owners

Focus: Retain Nursing Home in community as a valuable asset, keeping community members locally longer, and major employer

Goal #1: Reach out to new administration and owner and ask for ways the community can support

Goal #2: Explore grant funding for revitalization

Goal #3: Explore community taskforce or liaison group to meet with the Nursing Home to stay in touch with needs,

concerns, and future plans

Next Meeting: TBD

Task Force #3: Downtown Revitalization & Business Incentives

Members: Marilyn Alber, Bev Meyer, Ron Meyer

Who else should be involved: Business owners and City

Goal #1: Encourage Glenwood Telecommunications to keep their offices in town, 35 employees

Goal #2: Get to Council Meeting, publish intensions, notify public.

Goal #3: Contact businesses and create a plan to improve facades and ADA.

Goal #4: Explore funding opportunities and discuss with the City, LB840 – Sales Tax incentives.

Next Meeting: TBD

Sharon Hueftle thanked the community members for their participation and shared SCEDD was available to take these conversations further, connect to resources, and discuss opportunities. We serve communities in their development needs and encourage any members to invite us to the conversation so that these important conversations can lead to actionable steps and projects for the community.









Community Needs Assessment Survey

City of Blue Hill 2023 Report

- Survey Tool
- CNAS Promotion
- Town Hall Promotion



COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY:

Completed surveys must be turned in to the City Office or Library, no later than September 21st!

The City of Blue Hill is working with South Central Economic Development District to conduct this Community Needs Assessment Survey. Your input is valuable to the

future direction of the Blue Hill community as officials' plan, identify projects, and pursue funding through state, federal, and private sources. Please complete **1** survey per household and allow approximately 15 minutes to finish the survey.

The information you provide will be kept confidential and anonymous. All surveys are processed by South Central Economic Development District for data analysis.

Please turn in the completed survey to the City Office or City Library by September 21st – you may use the City's utility bill drop box. Or, if you choose to complete electronically, visit the library to use a public computer or visit https://www.bluehillne.com/ for the online survey link.

We appreciate your investment of time for our community!



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We appreciate your investment of time for our community!

Blue Hill 2023 Community Needs Assessment Survey

Plea	ase fill in marks like this:					NOT III	ce this:	* * *	*Complete 1 survey
Ans	swer Key: E=Excellent, G=Good, F=	Fair,	P =Po	or, d	l k =Do	n't Kno	w or No O	pinion	per household
	D =Definitely, P =Probably	y, PN	=Prol	oably	Not,	DN =De	finitely No	ot, dk =Don't Know or No Opinion	
Cit	y / Community						10.	If partial funding for the projects listed	above can be acquired
1.	Rate the <u>adequacy</u> of:	<u>E</u>	G	F	Р	<u>dk</u>		from state and federal sources, how sho	-
	law enforcement		<u>G</u> O	<u>F</u> O	<u>P</u> O	0		share? (Choose as many as apply)	vara Brac I III Tarra 165
	fire protection		Ö	Ö	Ö	Ö		community fundraising events O	bonds O
	· ·	_	0	0	0	Ö		private contributions O	property taxes O
	rescue squad / ambulance service		0	0	0	0		•	property taxes O
	library services		_					local investment groups O	
	zoning regulations enforcement	0	0	0	0	0	44	If affermed to the accommodate multiple of the	. 6-11
	nuisance code enforcement	_	0	0	0	0	11.	If offered in the community, which of the	
	control of loose pets		0	0	0	0		classes would you utilize? (Check all tha	
	Downtown City park		0	0	0	0		6	Youth Adult
	Baseball field / park		0	0	0	0		eSports gaming league/club	
	medical facilities/services	O	0	0	Ο	0		computer skills	
	local efforts toward community	_	_	_	_			photography	
	betterment	O	0	0	0	0		sewing, quilting, knitting, crocheting	
								Emergency Medical Technican class	0
2.	Rate the general appearance of:	<u>E</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>dk</u>			
	the community as a whole	0	Ο	0	0	0	12.		
	Main Street - downtown	Ο	0	0	0	0		household? *At least one time within t	• •
	residential areas	0	0	0	0	О		worried whether our food would run ou	t before we could afford
	vacant houses	Ο	0	0	0	0		afford more?	Yes O No O
•	Data the condition of	_	_	_	_	.u.	42	A	antoni la cata di incida
3.	Rate the condition of:	<u>E</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>F</u> O	<u>P</u>	<u>dk</u> O	13.	Are you aware of the community food p	-
	streets in residential areas	_	0		0			the St. Paul Lutheran Church?	Yes O No O
	sidewalks in residential areas	_	0	0	0	0		The pantry is open the 2nd & 4th Mond	
	Community Senior Center	O	0	0	0	0		7pm, or by appointment by calli	_
			_			_		Food vouchers are also available the 1s	
4.	Does Blue Hill encourage public participation - individuals							from 1-2pm at Thramer's F	ood Center.
	having a voice regarding local gover	B. B. B. B. H. A. Annual and B. Miller d. Annual and Alberta beautiful and Annual and Alberta beautiful and Annual and Alberta beautiful and Annual and An							
	decisions?	<u>D</u>	<u>P</u>	PN	<u>DN</u>	<u>dk</u>	14.	Are you aware Midland Area on Aging's	
		0	0	0	0	0		available for those age 60 or over or wit	
_								mobility needs?	Yes O No O
5.	What improvements to the City parl	ks ar	e mo	st im	porta	nt to		To order a meal delivery, call the Guid	e Rock Senior Center at
	you? (select the top 3 priorities)		, .			_		402.257.3615.	
					elter			The Blue Hill Community Club hosts man	
	bathroom facilities O pla	ygro	und e	quipi	ment	O		July, Downtown Christmas Lighting, Farm	
								Homes, and City Wide Garage Sales. Pro	_
6.	Should the community develop a Co	vere	d Pav	<i>r</i> ilion	and			fundraisers go towards the annual firew	orks celebration. BHCC
	Playground at the Aquatics Center?	_		_		_		would welcome additional volunteers!	
	Yes	O	No	0	dk	0	15.	What would encourage you to voluntee	r at more of these
7.	Would you contribute to a fund driv	o for	tha (201/01	rod			community events? more awareness of opp	ortunities O
7.	Pavilion & Playground? Yes			0		0		meeting times in the	
	Tavillon & FlayBround:	O	110	O	uk	O		meeting times in the	<u>~</u>
8.	Would you be willing to volunteer v	our l	ahar	to bo	.ln			other	O O
٥.	Would you be willing to volunteer your labor to help complete the Pavilion & Playground project to meet the							For more information on the Blue Hill Co	
	identified needs? Yes			O	et tile				
	identified fleeds?	U	INO	U				involved, please email <u>bhcommunityclub</u> their Facebook page - Blue Hill (_
9.	Are the following projects needed in	n the	com	muni	ty?		16.	Overall, how do you feel about our com	
	5 - 5 - 5 - 5 - 5 - 5 - 5 - 5 - 5 - 5 -	<u>D</u>	<u>Р</u>	<u>PN</u>	<u>DN</u>	<u>dk</u>		-	ewhat negative O
	improved park & playground features		Ö	0	0	0		somewhat positive O	very negative O
	hike/bike trails		Ö	Ö	Ö	Ö		neutral O	- ,
	Community Senior Center parking lot		Ö	Ö	Ö	Ö			
	downtown building exterior upgrades		0	Ö	Ö	Ö	17.	Why do you feel that way?	
	upgrades	9	$\overline{}$	9	9	$\overline{}$	± /.	, ,	

Ho	<u>using</u>			Rer	<u>nters</u> (continued)	
18.	Do you live in:			Ren	ters - Answer only if you prefer to own:	
	a house O duplex / townhome	0		30.	What is your price range for purchasing a home?	
	an apartment O public/assisted housing				Less than \$100,000 O \$200,001 - \$250,000 O	
	a mobile home O	, -			\$100,001 - \$150,000 O \$251,001 - \$350,000 O	
	a modile name				\$150,001 - \$200,000 O More than \$350,000 O	
10	Da very many many them 200/ of very income				\$150,001 - \$200,000 O More than \$550,000 O	
19.	Do you pay more than 30% of your income	.,	_		Miletak af Aka fallandar ana kambana ka kama ananakit	
	towards housing (rent/mortgage plus utilities)?	Yes	-	31.	Which of the following are barriers to home ownership	1
		No	O			<u>dk</u>
						О
20.	How many bedrooms are in your home?					0
	1 0 2 0 3 0 4 0 5+ 0				lack of housing in our price range $ {\sf O} $	О
					lack of available lot/building site O O O	0
21.	How would you rate the condition of your resider	ice?				0
	excellent, solid roof & foundation, contri		_			
	positively to community's housing		0	32.	If the lack of down payment is a barrier, would	
	good, structurally sound, may need minor repairs					0
			Ο			
	as shingles, paint, concrete steps, or new				that required no down payment? No	0
	fair, substantial wear, has one major issue su					
	sagging roof, missing or rotted siding, rotting wind	dows,	О	33.	Which type of housing would you prefer to own?	
	sagging				(select only one) townhome/duplex	0
	poor, overall unsatisfactory condition, multiple i	ssues			single family home O no preference	0
	such as a crumbling foundation, broken or r	otted	0			
	windows and doors, sagging			34.	Have you considered building a new Yes	0
	, 30				-	Ō
22	Do you rent or own your home?	Rent	O		110	Ť
	bo you rent or own your nome.		_			
		Own	O	_		
_					Owners Only, (Renters skip to Next Section)	_
_	Renters Only: (Owners Skip to 'Owners Only' Section	on)		35.		0
23.	Does your current rental meet your needs?					O
	Yes O (If Yes, skip to #25) No O				home?	
24.	If No, indicate the primary reason: (select only one)			36.	Have you considered changing your upgrade	О
	too small O loo	ation	0		residence to upgrade or downsize? downsize	0
	too large O q	uality	0		(If No, skip to Next Section) No	0
	cost O other		0			
				37.	If you've considered changing your residence, which type	of
					housing would you prefer? (select only one)	
25	What are you currently paying for Rent on a mont	hlv ha	cic?			0
		-\$899			·	Ö
		1,099	_			
	•				single family home O no preference	U
	\$500-\$699 O \$1,100 or	more	U			
				38.	What barriers keep you from changing your residence?	
26.	If other rental housing were available in TOWN w	hich ty	pe		(check all that apply)	
	would you prefer? (select only one)				lack of available housing	0
	no preference O duplex/mul	tiplex	0		lack of lot/building site	0
	single family home O upper story I	iving	0		lack of down payment	0
	apartment O	Ü				O
	Spanning C					•
27	How difficult was it to find your current rental?			20	Have you considered building a new Yes	0
۲٬۰	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	fficult		39.		
						U
	somewhat difficult O not difficult	at all	U		(If No, skip to Next Section)	
L						
28.	How long do you plan to continue renting?		_	40.	In what timeframe are you considering building a new	
	•	years			home?	
	1-2 years O more than 10	years	0		less than 1 year O 6-10 years	О
	3-5 years O					0

29. Do you prefer to rent or own? own O (If Rent, skip to Economic Development Section)

	onomic Development		Economic Development (continued)										
41.	Would you utilize the following businesses if they were		50. Should Blue Hill consider incentives to Yes C										
	available in our community? <u>D P PN DN</u>	<u>dk</u>	encourage housing development? No C)									
	restaurant/café open in evening O O O	О											
	remote office sharing space O O O	0	51. Should Blue Hill consider incentives to Yes C)									
	appliance store/repair O O O	0	encourage business development? No C)									
	computer, mobile phone repair O O O	0											
	auto/small engine repair O O O	0											
	home cleaning service O O O	Ō	Broadband Internet Service & Cellular Phone Service										
	handyman service O O O	Ö	High speed and reliable broadband internet and cellular service										
	laundromat O O O	Ö	are necessities in recruiting and retaining workforce and										
	lawyer O O O	Ö	economic development efforts as well as quality of life.										
	accountant O O O	Ö	ceonomic development egyons as wen as quanty of nje.										
		ŏ	52. Do you have internet service in your home? Yes	`									
	Other: O O O O	0	(if yes, skip to #55) No C	J									
	Deal the importance of the fellowing Dive 1991 Commun	••	The state of the s										
42.		iity	53. If you do not have an internet connected device in										
	Club focus areas, 1, as most important, to 4, least		home, where do you access the internet?	_									
	important:		public library O do not use the internet C)									
	Local events		work/office O I have internet service in										
	Tourism		family/friend house O the home C)									
	Supporting businesses		other)									
	Networking opportunities												
			54. What is the main reason you do not currently have interne	et									
43.	Rank the importance of the following Economic		access in your home?										
	Development focus areas, 1, as most important, to 4, le	ast	don't see a need O my device does not C)									
	important:		internet too slow O connect										
	support the expansion of existing businesses		too expensive O use internet elsewhere C)									
	support creation of new, small businesses		privacy concerns O other C										
	attract new business & industry		p	_									
	renovating downtown apartments		55. How satisfied are you with your current internet service?										
	Tenovating downtown apartments		satisfied O somewhat unsatisfied (`									
44	What would anable you to improve your ample was \$2												
44.	What would enable you to improve your employment?												
	(check all that apply)	_	not sure C	J									
	career exploration O funding for education/training	_											
	child care O computer skill training	0	56. If somewhat unsatisfied or unsatisfied with your internet										
	not applicable/ not interested	O	provider, what is the main reason for your dissatisfaction?	!									
			(Check all that apply)										
45.	Are you interested in starting or purchasing a business		cost O quality of customer service C)									
	in town? Yes O No O (If No, skip to #47)		speed O quality of performance C)									
			lack of providers O other C)									
46.	If yes, what is keeping you from starting or purchasing of	7											
	business:		57. How satisfied are you with your current cellular mobile										
	lack of funding O lack of a business plan	0	phone service?										
	lack of a facility O lack of employees		satisfied O somewhat unsatisfied C)									
	other	Ō	somewhat satisfied O unsatisfied C										
	<u> </u>	Ŭ	not sure (_									
47	Are you a business owner that will be seeking to transit	ion	not sure	_									
٠,,	out of your business in the future?	1011	58. If somewhat unsatisfied or unsatisfied with your										
	Yes O No O (If No, skip to #50)			_									
	res O No O (1) No, skip to #30)		cellular/mobile phone service, what is the main reason for	Γ									
	If you have soon do you want to turn state of		your dissatisfaction? (Check all that apply)	`									
48.	If yes, how soon do you want to transition?	^	cost O quality of customer service (
	1-5 years O more than 10 years		speed O quality of performance C										
	6-10 years O does not apply	O	lack of providers O other C	J									
40	If you whom to transition would be discovered to												
49.	If you plan to transition your business, what assistance												
	would be helpful to you? (check all that apply)	_											
	assistance establishing a value / sales price												
	assistance finding a buyer or establishing an exit plan	O											
	othor	<i>(</i>)											

50 |

Chil	d Care	<u>Demographics</u>												
59.	Indicate the number of children by age, in your household	69. What is the age of your head-of-household?												
	1 2 3+				under 19	0		3	5-44	0	65-74	0		
	Age 0-3 years OOO				19-24	0		4	5-54	0	75-84	0		
	Age 4 years-preschool O O O				25-34	0		5	5-64	0	85 or older	0		
	elementary school K-5th OOO													
	middle school 6-8th OOO			70.	How many ye	ears h	have	you li	ived in	the co	mmunity?			
	high school 9-12th OOO				less tha			-			11-15 years	0		
	no children under age 18 O					1-5 ye					16-20 years	Ō		
	0 -					-10 ye				more t	han 20 years	Ö		
60.	If you do not currently have children, are you					•					•			
		es	0	71.	1. If you moved to the community within the last five yea							ars, what		
		lo.	Ō		was your prin				•		-	·		
	•		_			job		•		-	urning home	0		
61.	Do you use child care on a regular basis?	es	0			mily			cc		ity amenities	Ö		
01.		10	_		retirem						atmosphere	Ö		
	(i) No, skip to Education Section)	••	0		retiren.		0		31110		I / education	Ö		
62.	Where is your child care located?									301100	i, caacation	O		
02.	in Blue Hill O Elsewhere	\sim		72.	Do you live:					vithin t	he City limits	0		
	in blue time of the control of			,	Do you live.						he City limits	Ö		
63.	How satisfied are you with your childcare?								00	itsiac ti	ic city illinis	O		
03.	very O not very ($\hat{}$		73.	Your zip code	٥.	69	3930	0	01	ther zip code	0		
	somewhat O not at all (73.	Tour zip coue	с.	00	930	O	U	iller zip code	O		
	Somewhat O not at all V	9		If you	u work outside	a of th	na TO	\A/NI -	araa h	ow far	do vou comm	ute one		
64.	How difficult is it to find quality shild care?			-	If you work outside of the TOWN area, how far do you commute one way? (N/A if not commuting)									
04.	How difficult is it to find quality child care? very O not very ($\hat{}$		way: 74.	1st Adult	,,,,,,,,	ıtırıy)	'		2	d Adult			
	somewhat O not at all (74.	1 to 20 m	ilos	\circ				1 to 20 miles	0		
	somewnat O not at all C	J					0					0		
C F	Miles de Side and a second a second and a second a second and a second a second and				21-35 m		0				21-35 miles	0		
65.	What childcare needs do you have that are <u>not</u> current	.ly			36-44 m		0				36-44 miles	0		
	being met? (check all that apply)		_		45+ m		0				45+ miles	0		
	before school O summ		_		not applica	able	0			n	ot applicable	0		
	after school O non-school da													
	day shift O weeken		_	75.	How many fa	amily	mem	bers	are in	your h	ousehold, inc	luding		
	part-time (less than 3 evening sh	nift	O		yourself?									
	days/week) O				1	2	3	4	5	6 7	_			
					0	0	Ο	О	0	0 0	0			
<u>Edu</u>	<u>cation</u>													
66.	Do you have children in the Blue Hill Community School	ol (P	reK-	76.	•									
	12th)?				living in your									
	Yes O No O				less than	າ \$30,	000	О			0 - \$149,999	0		
					\$30,000 -	- \$49,	999	0			0 - \$199,999	0		
67.	Rate the <u>following as:</u> $\underline{\mathbf{E}}$ $\underline{\mathbf{G}}$ $\underline{\mathbf{F}}$ deep under a dequacy of school facilities $\underline{\mathbf{O}}$ $\underline{\mathbf{O}}$ $\underline{\mathbf{O}}$ $\underline{\mathbf{O}}$	<u>Р</u> О	<u>dk</u>		\$50,000 -	- \$74,	999	0	r	nore th	an \$200,000	0		
	adequacy of school facilities O O O	<u> </u>	0		\$75,000 -	- \$99,	999	0						
	quality of teaching staff O O O	С	0											
	quality of local curriculum O O O	0	0	77.	Please feel fr	ree to	mak	e any	y addit	ional co	mments that	t you thin		
	relationship between school				would help o	our co	mmu	ınity:	;					
	personnel and the community O O O	С	0		•			•						
	relationship between students and													
		О	0											
	availability of school facilities for													
	community programs such as													
	recreation, meetings, etc. O O O	0	0											
	overall impression of the school O O O	o C	Ō											
	,	-	-	_	-, , -		, .							
68.	Would you support a bond that updates and improves	the		7	Thank you f			_		e to c e Hill!	ontribute t	o the		
	school facilities?	0:-	0						-		ala a militari			
	Yes O No O need more informati	on	U	۲r	he summary of	comi	munit	ty res	ponses	will be	snared in a t	own hall		

meeting, open to all in November, 2023. Plan to join us for this

important conversation for the future of our community.

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU



City of Blue Hill's COMMUNITY NEEDS RESEMENT SURVEY

Online Survey

https://www.bluehillne.com

1 Survey per Household SURVEY OPEN SEPTEMBER 6-20, 2023



Paper surveys available: City Office, Library, Ron's Pharmacy & Thramer's Food Center.

Results will be used to <u>guide important decisions</u> for our community.

Plan to join us for the November 16th Town Hall meeting to share the results!



FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT
THE CITY OFFICE:



402.756.2056



Scan code with phone camera for survey link!

Survey Facilitated by South Central Economic Development District, Inc.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU



City of Blue Hill's COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Online survey

https://bluehillne.com

SURVEY OPEN SEPTEMBER 6-20 Your opinion will help us plan for the growth of our community

Paper surveys at City Office, Library Thramer's Food Center & Ron's Pharmacy



ALLOW 15 MINUTES TO COMPLETE



FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT CITY
OF BLUE HILL 402.756.2056

