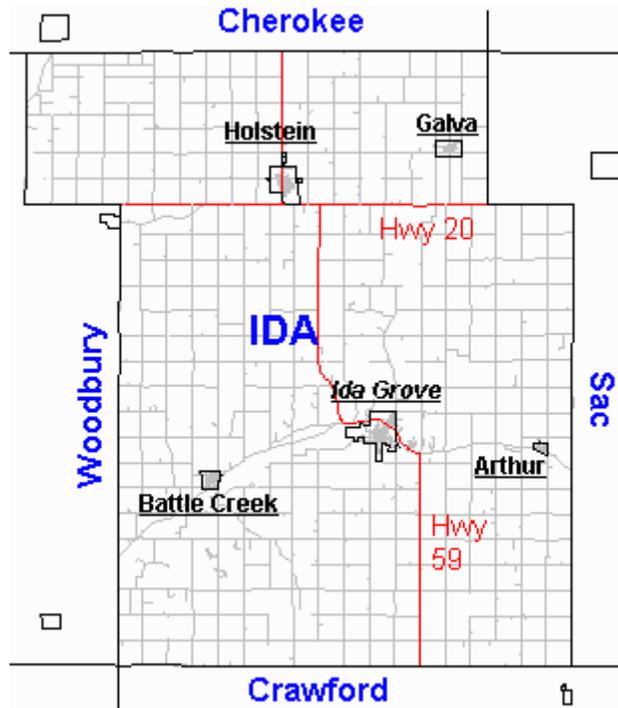


# IDA COUNTY RESIDENT SURVEY



## Brief Summary

*Presented to:*

**Ida County Community Betterment Foundation**

*Presented by:*

**Community Development-Data Information and Analysis Laboratory  
Ames, Iowa**

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
University Extension

*Helping Iowans become their best.*

**CD-DIAL No. 184  
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# Ida County Resident Survey

## Brief Summary

The Ida County Community Betterment Foundation is seeking input on community needs, and how to allocate philanthropic resources. The information will be used to develop a plan to distribute philanthropic funds received by Ida County from the state of Iowa and other sources. Decisions based upon this data will lead to an increase in the quality of life and community vitality in the county.

The Ida County Community Betterment Foundation requested technical assistance from the Community Development - Data Information and Analysis Laboratory (CD-DIAL) to conduct a survey of county residents. CD-DIAL is a unit operated by Extension Sociology at Iowa State University. The laboratory provides training and technical assistance to organizations that wish to conduct needs assessments, public opinion surveys, or program evaluation. CD-DIAL provided technical assistance with questionnaire design, data collection, and summary report writing.

A random sample of Ida County residents was selected to receive the questionnaire. This summary discusses results from 329 individuals who returned useable questionnaires.

### Survey Methodology

The Ida County Community Betterment Foundation, in collaboration with CD-DIAL, developed a 12 page questionnaire. A total of 817 households were randomly selected to receive questionnaires. A random sample allows for a known confidence level that the results will represent the residents of Ida County within a known margin of error. The sampling frame included households located

in Ida County selected from a database of all Iowa heads of households.

Questionnaires were distributed using a four-phase mailing process<sup>1</sup>. Responses were tracked using a number, which was stamped on the back of the return envelope. This procedure was approved by Iowa State University's Institutional Review Board. Confidentiality of respondents was maintained with a set of procedures that included separate case numbers for respondents and password protected files. After data entry, all completed questionnaires are shredded.

Mailings resulted in 329 completed questionnaires. Table 1 shows the disposition of the questionnaires. Seventy questionnaires were returned undeliverable, while 398 failed to respond or refused to complete the questionnaire. The adjusted response rate is 45%.

**Table 1. Questionnaire disposition**

	Number
Returned useable	329
No Response	398
Undeliverable due to address	70
Refused to participate	38
Deceased	12
Other	8
<i>Total attempted</i>	817

This summary includes responses for 329 respondents who returned useable questionnaires. Assuming respondents are not different from non-respondents, this allows us to conclude with 95% confidence that the results obtained from the survey are within +/-5% from results that would have occurred if all residents in Ida County had a chance to participate. For example, if 60%

of respondents agree with a statement, we can assume that the true population value lies somewhere between 55% and 65%. We cannot conclude this with complete certainty, but rather we can conclude this will be true 95% of the time.

Some important points should be made at this point to guide the reader in the interpretation of this summary. The term respondent refers to the person who completed the questionnaire. Percentages reported in the tables and figures typically reflect the views of those who answered the question and not other household members. The corresponding number of respondents (N) that provided answers for each item is listed next to each item in the tables and figures. Statistics based on less than 30 respondents are unreliable estimates and are not shown in the tables and figures.

### Profile of Respondents

More than two thirds of respondents reported they live within the city limits of their community (68%). Table 2 shows that nearly half of respondents live in the Ida Grove area (45%), 28% are from the Holstein area, and 15% are from the area surrounding Battle Creek. The remaining 12% is comprised of residents from Galva, Washta, Cushing, and Correctionville.

**Table 2. Place of residence (N=282)**

	Within city limits	Outside: On a farm	Outside: Not on a farm
		percent	
Ida Grove (n=127)	72	15	13
Holstein (n=79)	77	23	0
Battle Creek (n=42)	67	24	9
Galva (n=14)	50	43	7
Arthur (n=12)	42	58	0
Washta (n=3)	0	100	0
Cushing (n=3)	0	100	0
Correctionville (n=2)	0	100	0

Table 3 summarizes respondent demographics and compares those figures to the 2000 Census of Population. To determine the potential for bias, respondent characteristics are compared with 2000 Census of Population figures. This comparison is made under the assumption that, while six years old, Census figures still provide acceptable distribution ratios for county adults and households.

Half of the respondents (51%) were male. Gender comparisons with the 2000 Census show that the distribution ratio for survey males and females was similar to Census figures. The average age is 59 years, while three fourths (76%) are between the ages of 31 and 74. Survey results asking for personal impressions may under-represent impressions of those younger than 45 years old and over-represent impressions of those over 65 years old. These differences should be taken into account when drawing generalizations from these results to all Ida County residents.

The mean income range for survey respondents is between \$35,000 and \$49,999. Survey results asking for household impressions may slightly under-represent impressions of households with an income of

**Table 3. Respondent characteristics**

	Survey	2000 Census
	Percent	
<b>Sex (n=320; 17,811 )</b>		
Female	49	51
Male	51	49
<b>Age (n=314; 17,811 )</b>		
Less than 45 years	20	47
45-64	35	31
65 years or more	45	22
<b>Income (n=303; 9,385)</b>		
\$19,999 or less	14	19
\$20,000-\$34,999	22	21
\$35,000-\$49,999	25	19
\$50,000-\$74,999	22	24
\$75,000-\$99,999	9	9
\$100,000-\$199,999	6	6
\$200,000 or more	2	2

less than \$20,000 and slightly over-represent impressions of households with an income between \$35,000 and \$49,999. These differences should also be taken into account when drawing generalizations from these results to all households in the county.

## Results

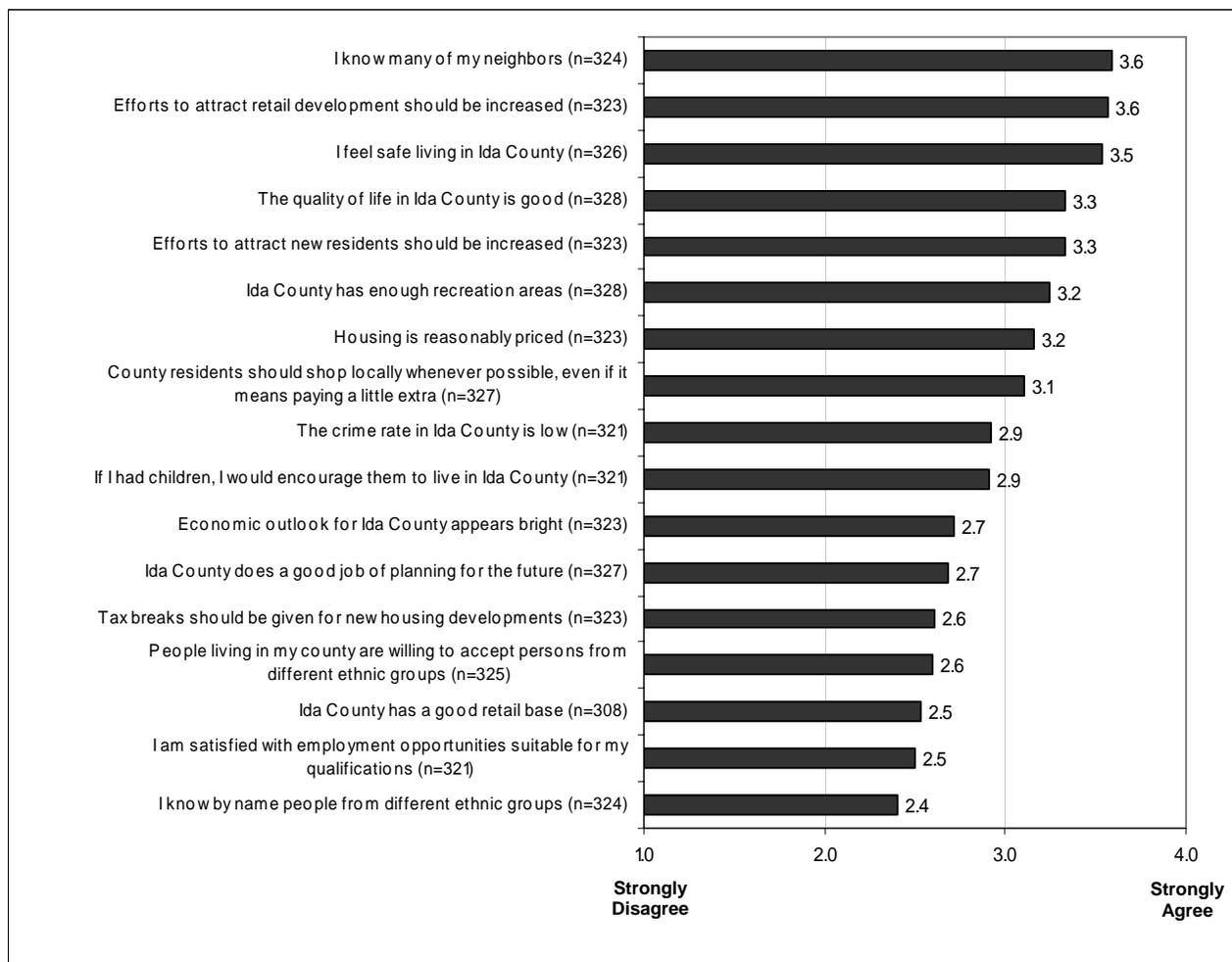
Responses for all questions in the Ida County Resident Survey may be found in Appendix A of this Summary (Percent Distributions). The survey included questions for Ida County residents regarding their perceptions, attitudes, needs, and behaviors in several areas, including quality of life,

community information and training resources, senior issues, and child care and transportation of children.

## Quality of Life in Ida County

Quality of life in Ida County was assessed by several different questions. Two of the questions addressed life and problems in Ida County. The first question asked respondents to rate how strongly they agreed with several statements on a scale of 1 to 5 (1= ‘strongly disagree’ and 5= ‘strongly agree’). An additional response category (No Opinion) was omitted for analysis. In Figure 1, the highest average level of agreement is

**Figure 1. Ida County quality of life (No opinion responses omitted)**



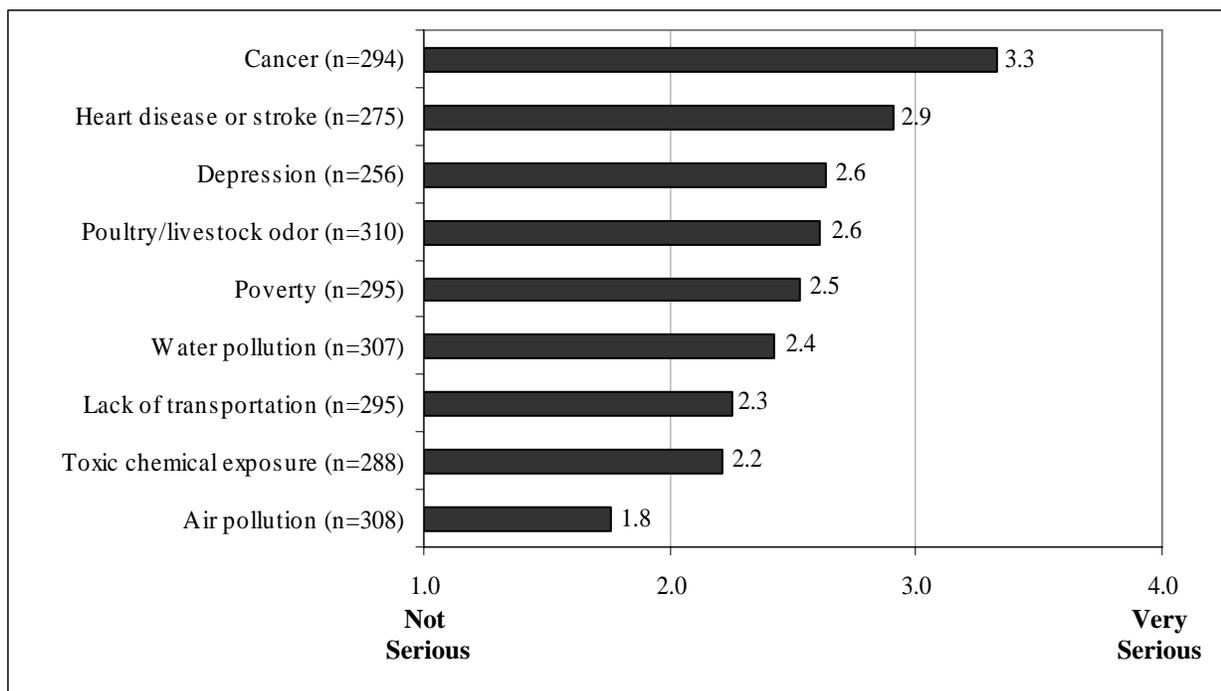
shown for “I know many of my neighbors (3.6), “Efforts to attract retail development should be increased” (3.6), and “I feel safe living in Ida County” (3.5). In support of the need to attract retail development, the third lowest average score was given for “Ida County has a good retail base” (2.5). Others with low scores included “I am satisfied with employment opportunities suitable for my qualifications” (2.5) and “I know by name people from different ethnic groups” (2.4).

Another question asked respondents to rate how serious several problems in Ida County are, on a scale from 1 to 5 (1= ‘not serious’ and 5= ‘very serious’). Respondents were also given a “Don’t Know” response option. This value was omitted in calculating the averages shown in Figure 2. The three most seriously rated problems include cancer (3.3), heart disease or stroke (2.9), and depression (2.6). The least serious issue, in the minds of respondents, is air pollution in Ida County (1.8).

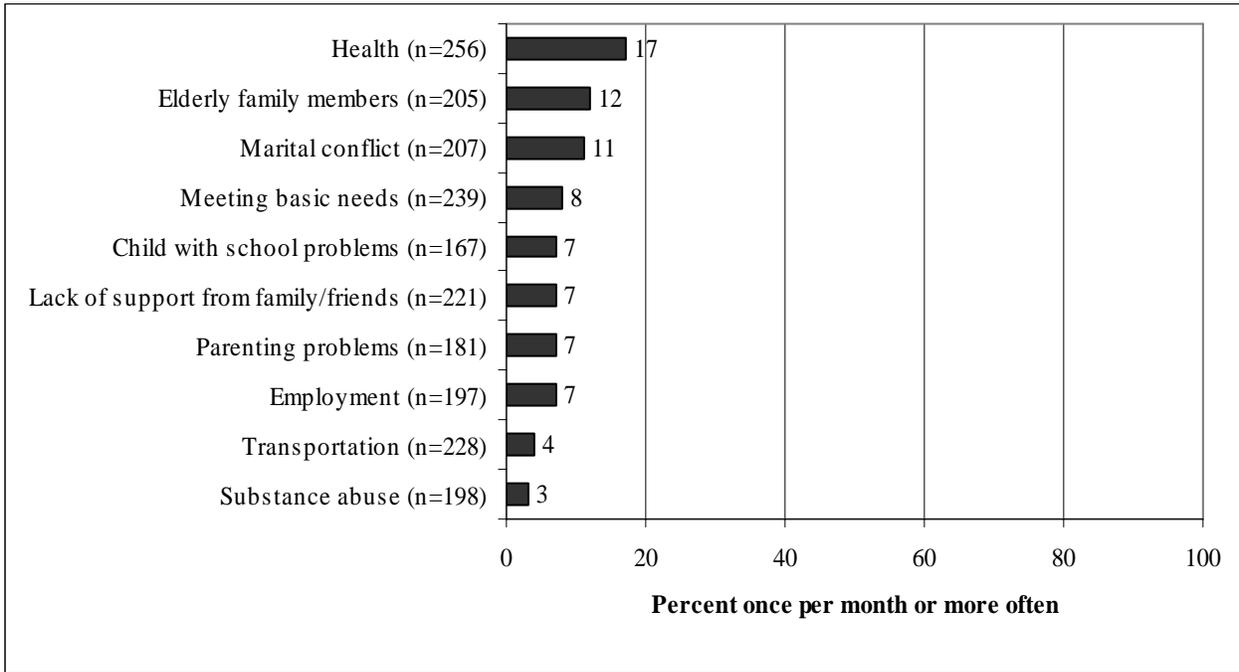
In addition to countywide problems, respondents were asked to report how often certain difficulties were experienced by their own household over the previous 12 months. In Figure 3, (page 5) the percent of households for which the situation is applicable (for instance, parents of children having problems in school), and who have experienced the problem once a month or more is shown. The most frequently reported difficulty for these respondents was health problems experienced by the respondent or by someone in their household. Approximately one in every six respondents (17%) has experienced this difficulty in the previous 12 months. Issues with elderly family members have been experienced once or more often by 12%; marital conflict by 11%. The least frequently reported problems were substance abuse (3%) and transportation (4%).

Respondents were asked to select the top five priorities for resources used to create a

**Figure 2. Average seriousness of the following problems in Ida County (Don’t know responses omitted)**



**Figure 3. Percent experiencing difficulties once a month or more often in last 12 months (in households for whom condition applies)**



high quality of life in Ida County. As shown in Figure 4 (page 6), resource allocation for police, fire, and emergency services is the top priority with an average value of 4.3 on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = ‘no priority’ and 5 = ‘very high priority’).

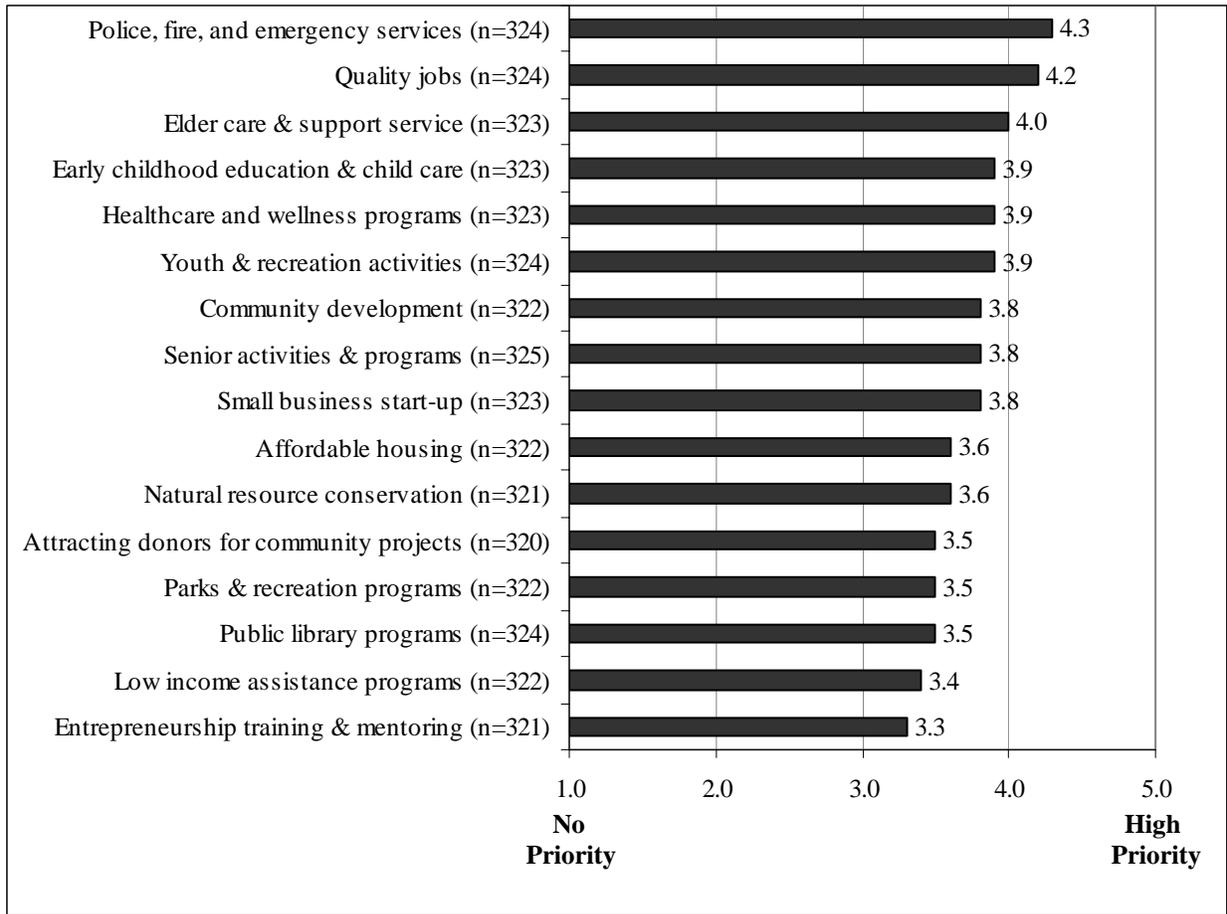
Respondents were also asked to list areas that should be given highest priority in creating 1) long term community vitality and quality of life, as well as 2) permanent endowments. Figures 5 (page 6) and 6 (page 7) illustrate the percentage of respondents who would give priority to each area to create the two sets of conditions. As shown in Figure 5, “quality jobs” is the first priority for creating long term community vitality and quality of life; whereas, “police, fire, and emergency services” is the top priority for which endowment funds should be spent.

The foundation uses several criteria in awarding requests for funding. Respondents were asked to prioritize the criteria based on which should be most important in allocating funds. Average responses for each criterion

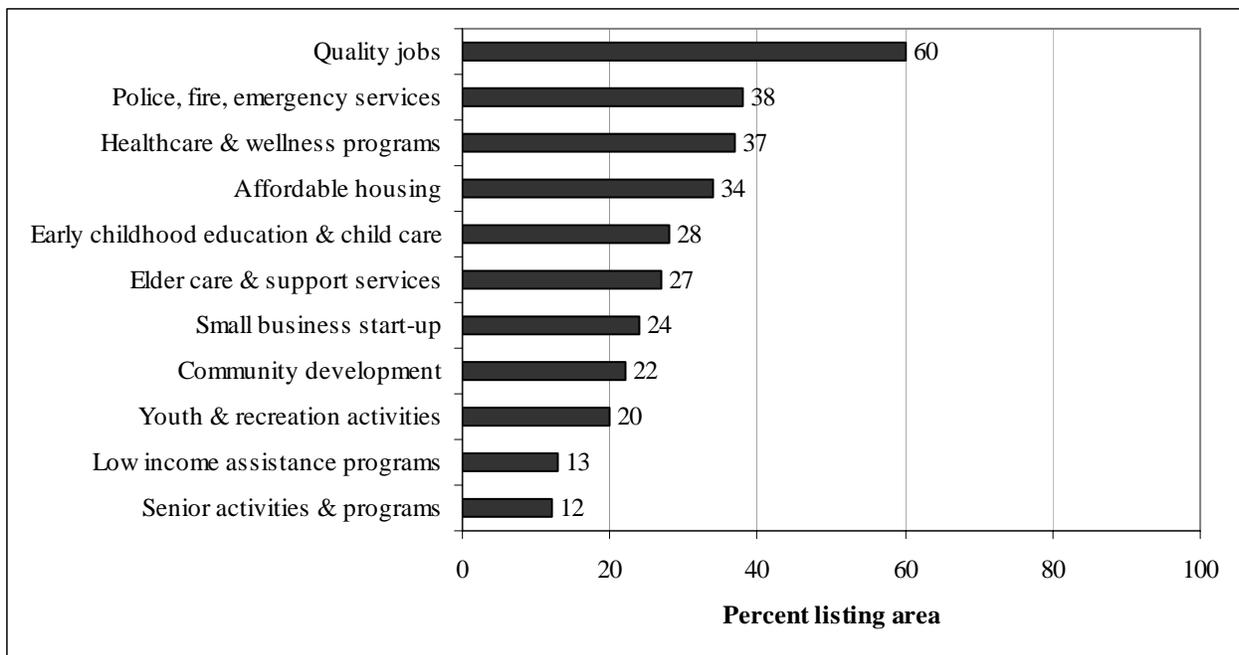
are shown in Figure 7 (page 7) where 1 is the lowest priority and 8 is the highest. Two criteria tied for the most important criteria: 1) has potential for long-term effect and 2) takes the whole community’s needs into consideration. Respondents felt encouraging collaboration and taking the needs of at-risk residents into consideration were the least important (4.7 and 4.5, respectively).

A few questions addressed the possibility of sharing services between communities in Ida County. Respondents were asked to rate the likelihood that shared services between communities in the county would result in several potential conditions. Respondents used a scoring system of 1 (Very unlikely) to 4 (Very likely) to indicate how likely it is that these conditions will occur. Strong likelihood (3.1 or more) was not expressed for any of the statements. Respondents appeared to be somewhat confused by the idea of sharing services. Respondents felt it was most

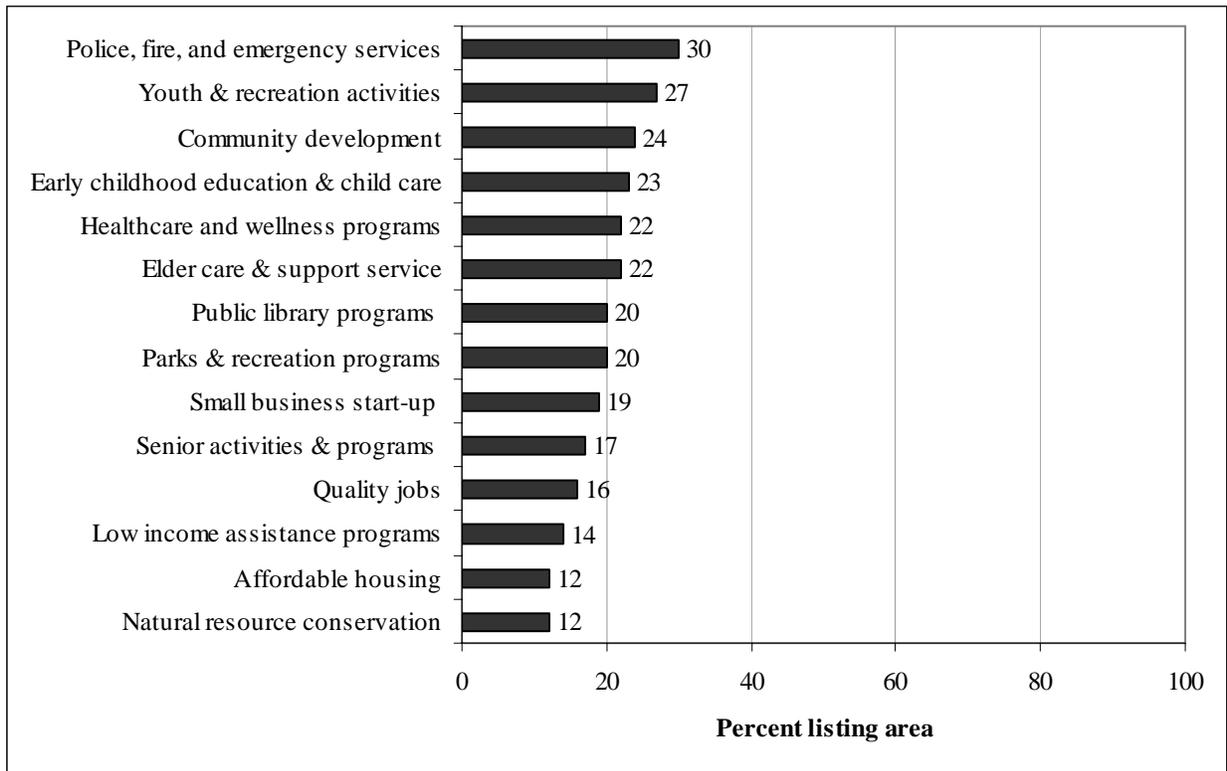
**Figure 4. Average resource allocation priorities for quality of Ida County life**



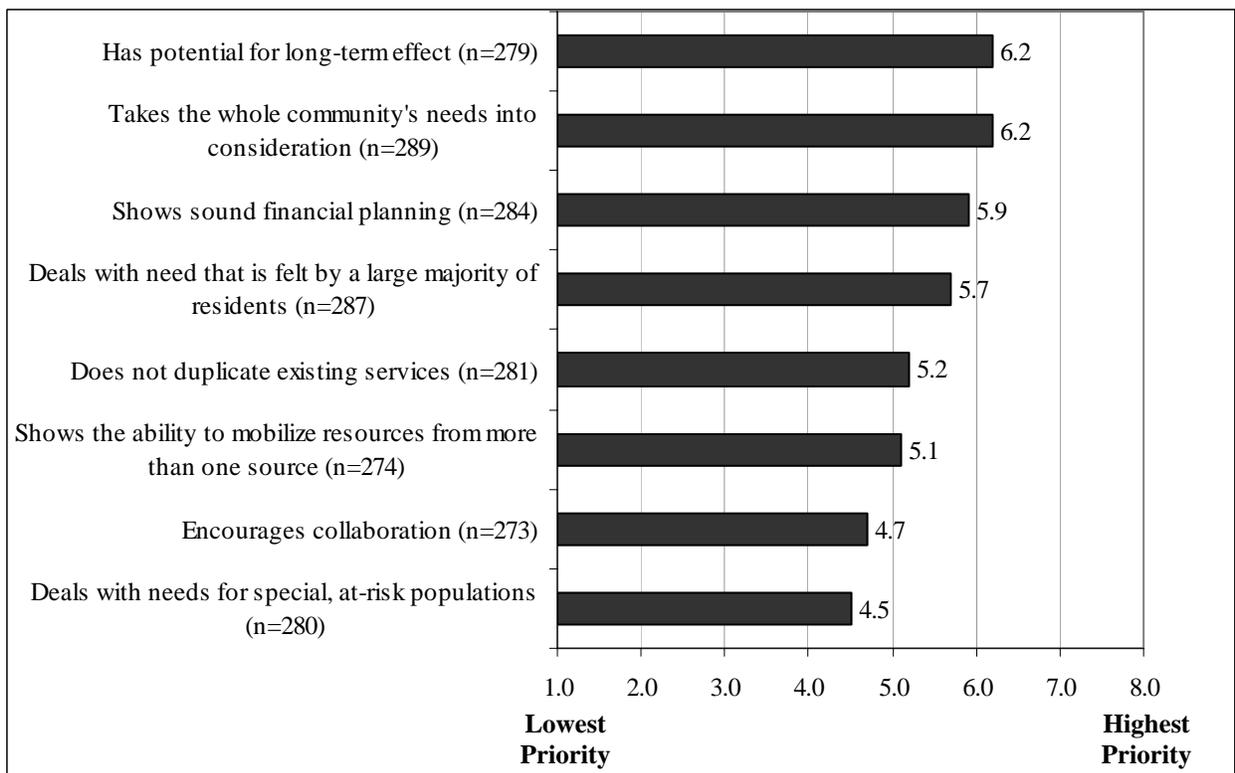
**Figure 5. Highest priorities for long term quality of life (n=329)**



**Figure 6. Areas to establish permanent endowments (n=329)**



**Figure 7. Priorities for most important criteria in fund allocation decisions**



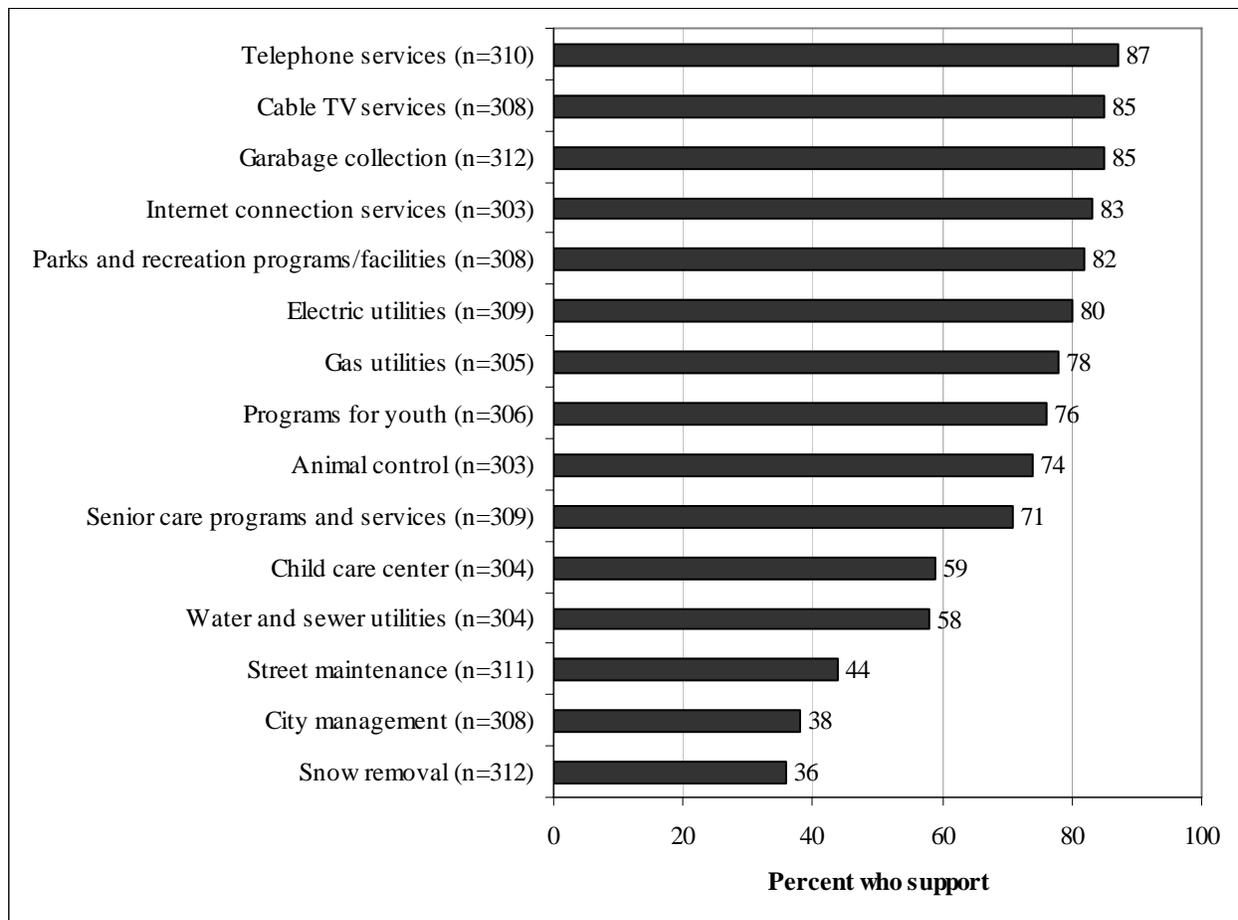
likely (2.9) that “Shared services would increase taxation rates.”<sup>1</sup> However, the average for another statement, “Shared services would improve the quality of services” was 2.8. Similarly, the statement “Shared services would use local government funds wisely,” was rated 2.7. In addition, for the statement, “Shared services would result in a loss of city identity,” the average rating was 2.4. This may be an area for future public education to help the public understand how sharing services could increase efficiency and effectiveness of local government services.

Respondents were instructed to answer the next question under the assumption that

shared services will save money. They asked if they would oppose or support sharing a list of 15 different services. In Figure 8, majority support was reported for sharing all of the listed services, with the exception of sharing snow removal (36%) and city management (38%). The strongest support levels were reported for sharing telephone services (87%), cable TV services and garbage collection services (both 85%) and Internet connection services and parks & recreation programs/facilities (83% and 82%, respectively).

Finally, respondents were asked to identify which three services/facilities should be the top priority for sharing between Ida

**Figure 8. Assuming sharing saves money, percent who support sharing services between communities**



<sup>1</sup>Don't know responses were recoded as missing in calculating these average values

County communities. Figure 9 shows aggregated responses to the question listed as “votes” for first through third priorities. Among the 15 services/facilities, a greater percentage of respondents rated garbage collection (24%) as the first priority. However, none of the proposed sharing opportunities received majority support, even if votes for first, second, and third priorities are added together.

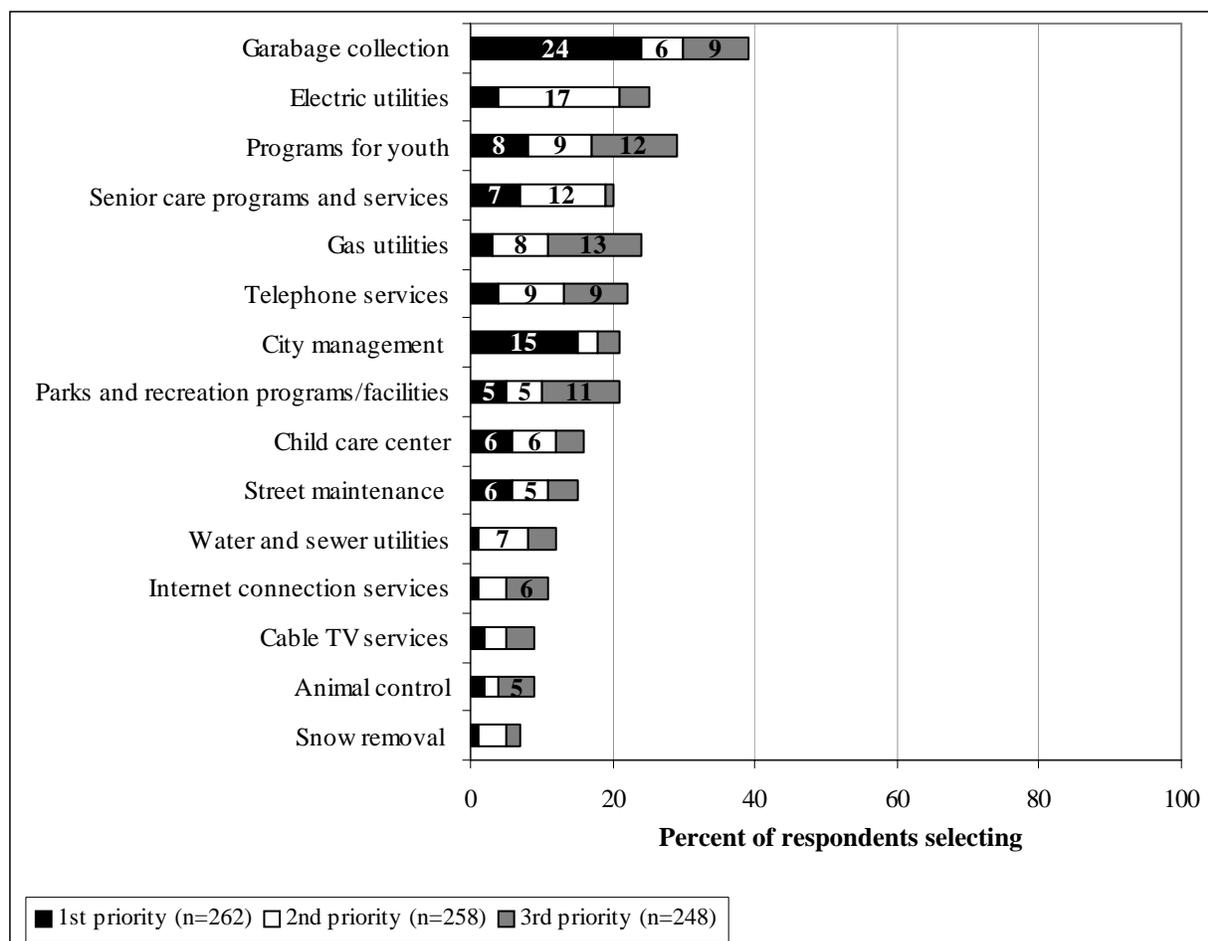
### Community Information and Training Resources

Questions addressing community information and training resources were included. Respondents were asked to rate their usage of various local community news

sources to facilitate the Foundation’s efforts to educate residents about the actions taken by the Foundation. As Table 4 (page 10) shows, over two thirds (69%) reported using the Ida Grove Courier “often” or “always” as a source for local community news.

Knowing how to get information out to respondents is only part of the process of getting a new educational event planned. Another key piece of information is the likelihood someone will participate. Respondents were asked to report the likelihood someone in their household would participate in several different education events. In Figure 10, (page 10) the average score represents how likely respondents are to participate in each type of event (1=very unlikely; 4=very likely).

**Figure 9. Priorities among proposed shared services<sup>2</sup>**



<sup>2</sup> Labels for percentages less than 5% are not shown.

**Table 4. Respondents' use of various sources for local community news**

	Never	Sometimes	Often	Always
	-percent-			
Ida Grove Courier (n=321)	9	22	21	48
Holstein News (n=302)	70	17	7	6
The Advance (n=305)	65	15	10	10
Local radio station (n=306)	41	32	16	11
Post Office bulletin board (n=318)	62	31	5	2
Chamber of Commerce website (n=313)	86	12	2	<1
Cable TV news local announcements (n=318)	53	22	16	9
School newsletter (n=314)	28	32	23	17
ISU Extension website/mail from Extension (n=314)	72	18	9	1

These responses are broken down into responses from all households (gray bars) and households with children under 18 years (black bars). When considering programming for all households, there is most interest in horticulture/landscaping (1.9) and leadership/professional development (1.8). Households with children were most interested in events that offer youth or after-school activities (2.6), that teach them how to raise successful children (2.5), and also on the topic of leadership/professional development (2.3).

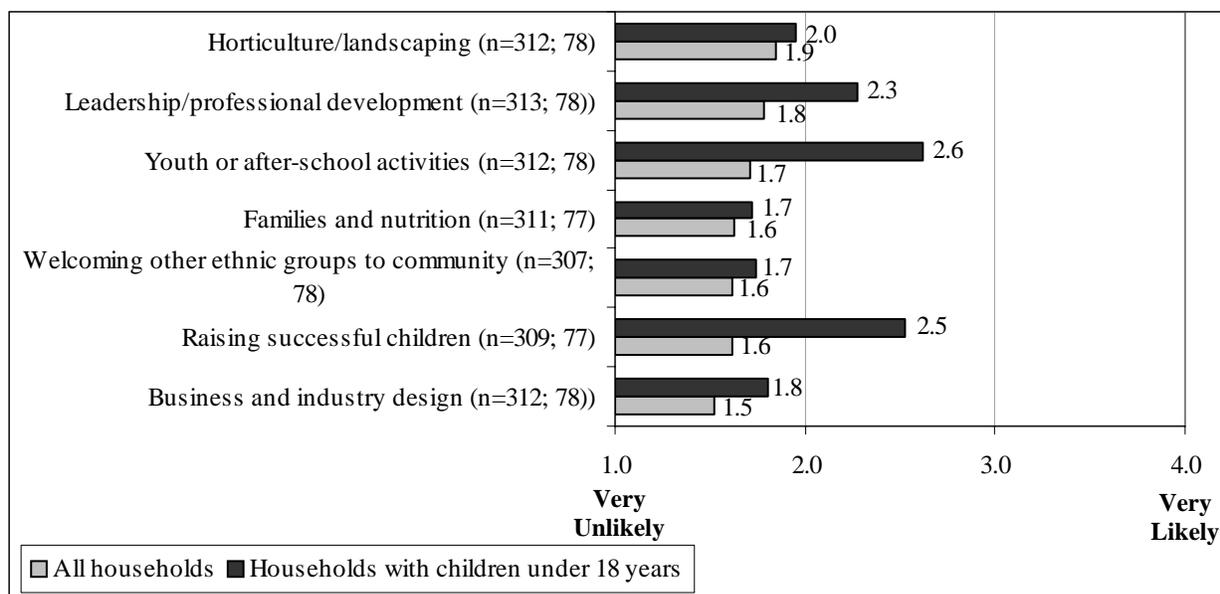
In an additional question about how

survey participants prefer to obtain educational information, nearly one half (43%) chose “face-to-face.” Internet was a close second with over one third (36%) of respondents choosing this option.

**Senior Issues**

One section of the questionnaire was devoted to senior issues. This section was completed by respondents who are age 60 or older, or who have a family member/close friend in the county who is age 60 or older. Two hundred nine survey participants

**Figure 10. Likelihood over next 24 months all households or households with children will participate in education events**



responded to some or all of the questions in this section.

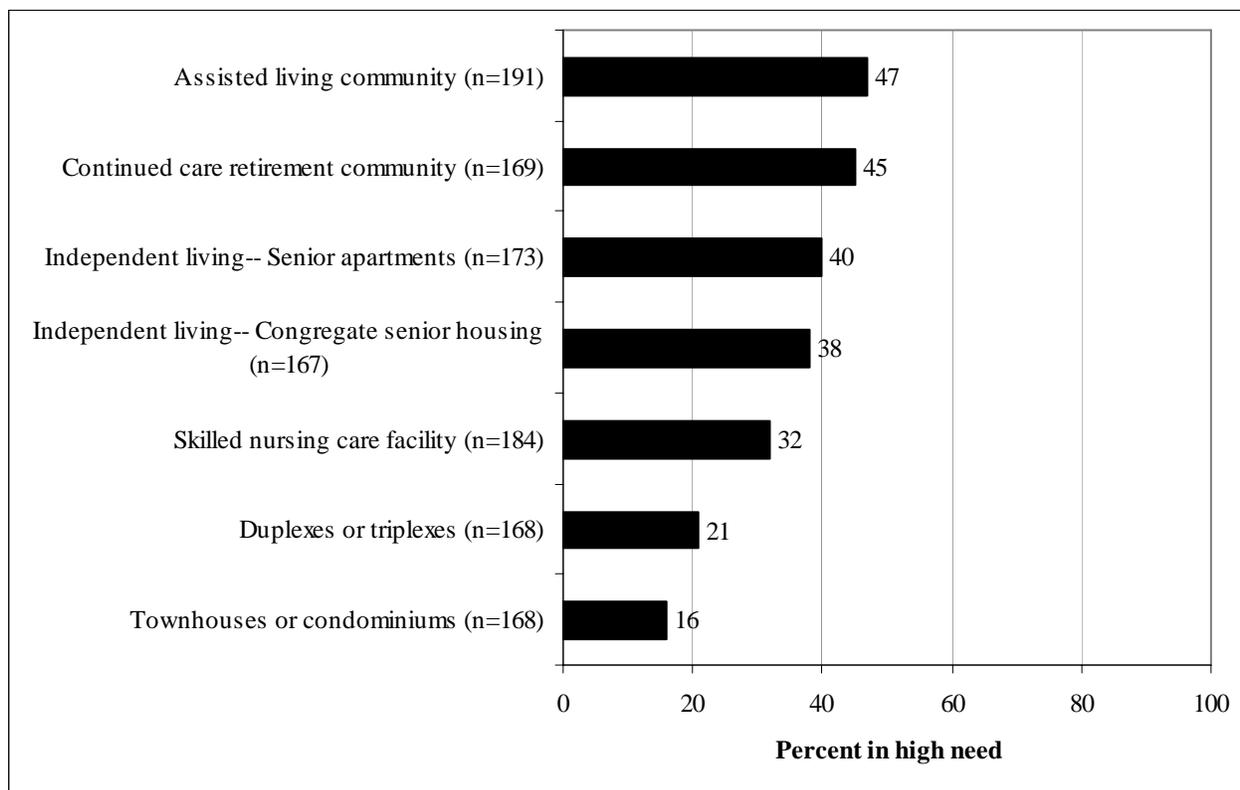
Future need for types of senior housing in Ida County within the next 10 years was assessed. Figure 11 shows the percentage of respondents who felt each housing type was in “high need.” Of those who had an opinion, nearly half (47% and 45%, respectively) reported assisted living community and continued care retirement community as being in “high need”. Respondents were asked to select the type of senior housing that is *most* needed in the next 10 years in Ida County. Over one third selected assisted living community (37%) as the top choice. Approximately one sixth chose independent living/congregate senior housing and senior apartments as the most needed (19% and 15%, respectively).

Figure 12 (page 12) depicts the distribution between those who agree and those who disagree with several statements

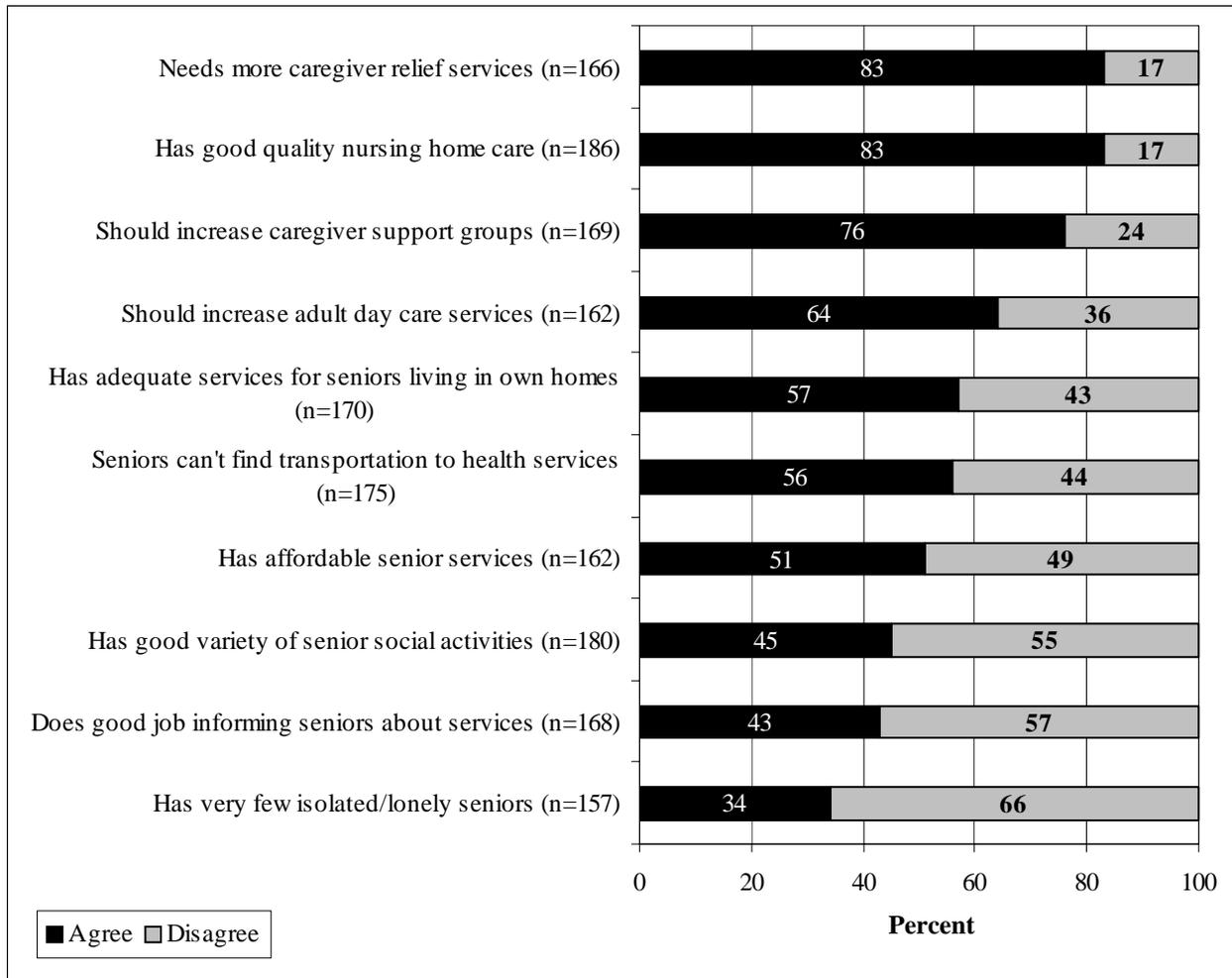
regarding senior services in Ida County. Over three fourths (83%, 83%, and 76%) agree Ida County has good quality care in its nursing homes, but needs more short-term caregiver relief services for people who care for seniors and more education and support groups for people caring for their elderly family members.

More than half (59%) of respondents answering the section about senior issues are currently retired or plan to retire in the next five years. Of those who plan to retire within the next five years, nearly all (90%) plan to make their permanent residence in Ida County. However, nearly one third (31%) either “don’t know” or plan to change housing arrangements within the next five years. The top choice for housing arrangement is a single family home (31%), second highest is an apartment (23%), and third is a townhouse or condominium (16%).

**Figure 11. High need priority rating for types of senior housing**



**Figure 12. Senior services in Ida County**



**Child Care and Transportation for Children**

A few questions assessed child care and transportation for children in Ida County. Only one fourth (25%) of respondents have children or stepchildren under 18 years living in their household (n=81). This low percentage is likely a result of the under representation of respondents ages 45 and younger. A large majority (80%) of respondents who reported children in the household have fewer than three children.

Respondents appear to be satisfied with child care and transportation for the county’s children. A majority of respondents agreed their community has adequate (52%),

affordable (67%), high quality (55%) child care. In addition, two thirds (67%) agreed their community has adequate regulations for child care.

Nearly all respondents (99% and 90%, respectively) know of a family child care provider and a child care center within a 30 minute drive from their home. However, not quite as many (63%) know a relative living within a 30 minute drive, who could care for their children. Not surprisingly then, over three fourths (77%) of respondents spend less than 10 minutes per day transporting their child(ren) to child care and very few (9%) reported problems transporting their child(ren) from school to after-school activities or between school and child care.

The information in this brief summary is information perceived to be important by CD-DIAL staff after analysis of the data and conversations with the Ida County Community Betterment Foundation. However, the information in this summary should not limit the scope of future planning efforts. Other areas of concern than those discussed might emerge that also need to be addressed. It is important now that Ida County officials interpret the information contained in this summary to begin a

planning process for the future of the county. Please refer to the appendix that follows to see a complete listing of results of the survey, including the frequency distributions and comments to the open-ended questions. This information will also be helpful in any future planning efforts.

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<sup>i</sup>The process included:

- An announcement postcard.
- A cover letter, a copy of the questionnaire, and a postage-paid return envelope addressed to Iowa State University.
- A thank you/reminder postcard, mailed to everyone in the sample approximately one week after the first questionnaire.
- A replacement questionnaire, including cover letter, and a postage-paid return envelope, mailed to those who had failed to respond two weeks after the first mailing.

## Appendix A: Percent Distributions for Ida County Resident Survey

**Instructions:** Please respond to each question with your own opinion or information. Do not include opinions of other household members. Your response is usually given by circling a number or filling in a blank. Opportunity is also provided for your written comments.

Questions in this first section are about the quality of life in Ida County.

**A. How strongly do you DISAGREE or AGREE with the following statements about life in Ida County? (Circle ONE response for each statement)**

	Strongly Disagree		Strongly Agree		No Opinion
1. The economic outlook for Ida County appears bright (n=323)..... Mean <sup>1</sup> =2.7, (S.D. <sup>2</sup> =.8), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	5%	29%	48%	13%	5%
2. Ida County has a good retail base (n=321) ..... Mean=2.5, (S.D.=.8), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	10%	36%	40%	10%	4%
3. County residents should shop locally whenever possible, even if it means paying a little extra (n=327)..... Mean=3.1, (S.D.=.9), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	6%	18%	34%	40%	2%
4. Efforts to attract retail development to Ida County should be increased (n=323) ..... Mean=3.6, (S.D.=.7), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	1%	5%	27%	64%	3%
5. Housing is reasonably priced in Ida County (n=323) Mean=3.2, (S.D.=.8), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	3%	12%	46%	33%	6%
6. Tax breaks should be given for new housing developments in Ida County (n=323)..... Mean=2.6, (S.D.=1.1), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	17%	24%	27%	23%	9%
7. I am satisfied with employment opportunities suitable for my qualifications in Ida County (n=321) Mean=2.5, (S.D.=1.0), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	15%	24%	32%	13%	16%
8. I know many of my neighbors (n=324) ..... Mean=3.6, (S.D.=.7), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	2%	7%	21%	69%	1%
9. I know by name people from different ethnic groups (n=322)..... Mean=2.4, (S.D.=1.0), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	20%	28%	24%	15%	13%
10. People living in my county are willing to accept persons from different ethnic groups (n=325) ..... Mean=2.6, (S.D.=.8), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	7%	32%	41%	10%	10%
11. Ida County has enough recreation areas (for example, parks, conservation areas) (n=328) ..... Mean=3.2, (S.D.=.8), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	6%	7%	44%	42%	1%

<sup>1</sup> *Mean* is the average of all of the responses to a question. Mean is calculated by summing the value of all responses and dividing by the total number of persons responding to the question.

<sup>2</sup> *Standard deviation* (S.D.) is a measure of the variability in the way responses to a question are distributed. The more the responses cluster around the mean, the smaller the standard deviation. A standard deviation higher than the mean represents a group of responses that are not normally distributed – i.e., not in the typical, bell-shaped curve.

**A. (Continued)**

	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>		<b>Strongly Agree</b>		<b>No Opinion</b>
12. Efforts to attract new residents to Ida County should be increased (n=323)..... Mean=3.3, (S.D.=.8), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	3%	9%	35%	48%	5%
13. The crime rate in Ida County is low (n=321) ..... Mean=2.9, (S.D.=.9), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	5%	22%	42%	26%	5%
14. I feel safe living in Ida County (n=326) ..... Mean=3.5, (S.D.=.7), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	1%	7%	28%	64%	<1%
15. Ida County does a good job of planning for the future (n=327)..... Mean=2.7, (S.D.=.8), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	9%	23%	44%	11%	13%
16. If I had children, I would encourage them to live in Ida County (n=321)..... Mean=2.9, (S.D.=.9), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	8%	20%	37%	28%	7%
17. The quality of life in Ida County is good (n=328)..... Mean=3.3, (S.D.=.7), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	2%	9%	42%	46%	1%

Mean, (S.D.), Minimum, Maximum reflect only those that did not answer “No Opinion.”

**B. How SERIOUS are the following problems in Ida County? Using a scale of 1 (Not serious) to 4 (Very serious), circle ONE response for each problem.**

	<b>Not Serious</b>		<b>Very Serious</b>		<b>Don't Know</b>
1. Air pollution (n=325)..... Mean=1.8, (S.D.=.9), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	45%	33%	12%	5%	5%
2. Water pollution (n=325)..... Mean=2.4, (S.D.=1.0), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	20%	30%	28%	16%	6%
3. Exposure to toxic chemicals (n=324)..... Mean=2.2, (S.D.=1.0), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	26%	29%	23%	11%	11%
4. Odor from poultry or livestock facilities (n=323)..... Mean=2.6, (S.D.=1.1), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	18%	26%	28%	24%	4%
5. Cancer (n=326) ..... Mean=3.3, (S.D.=.8), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	3%	12%	29%	46%	10%
6. Heart disease or stroke (n=327) ..... Mean=2.9, (S.D.=.8), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	2%	21%	43%	18%	16%
7. Depression (n=324)..... Mean=2.6, (S.D.=.8), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	7%	27%	33%	12%	21%
8. Poverty (n=327) ..... Mean=2.5, (S.D.=.8), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	8%	37%	35%	10%	10%
9. Lack of transportation (n=327) ..... Mean=2.3, (S.D.=.9), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	22%	34%	26%	9%	9%
10. Other: _____ (n=72)..... Mean=3.3, (S.D.=1.0), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	3%	7%	8%	24%	58%

Mean, (S.D.), Minimum, Maximum reflect only those that did not answer “Don't Know.”

**Other problems**

- Crime
- Real Estate is a “gamble” due to hog confinements, turkey confinements, ethanol plants.
- Need transportation on weekends
- Livestock manure management
- Good paying jobs – \$10.00-\$15.00 an hour and up
- Lack of people/population
- It’s a great town.
- Busing of students to Odebolt
- Drug problems
- Open city wide burning (fall)
- Need for more local medical doctors
- GREED
- \_\_\_\_\_ poultry birds
- Number of kids in school
- Medical care access
- Need transportation help for us that do not drive at no cost or little because of fixed income
- Everything needs to be updated.
- Drugs
- Social/Societal concerns (i.e., cliquish)
- \_\_\_\_\_ building in towns

**C. When you think about using county resources to make Ida County a high quality place to live, what should be the priority areas? Using a scale of 1 (No priority) to 5 (Very high priority), circle ONE number to show the priority you assign to each of the following areas of county life.**

	<b>No Priority</b>		<b>Very High Priority</b>		
1. Affordable housing (n=322)..... Mean=3.6, (S.D.=1.1), Minimum=1, Maximum=5	5%	9%	28%	36%	22%
2. Healthcare and wellness programs (n=323)..... Mean=3.9, (S.D.=1.0), Minimum=1, Maximum=5	3%	7%	22%	31%	37%
3. Quality jobs (n=324) ..... Mean=4.2, (S.D.=.9), Minimum=1, Maximum=5	3%	1%	13%	37%	46%
4. Community development (n=322) ..... Mean=3.8, (S.D.=.9), Minimum=1, Maximum=5	1%	7%	30%	39%	23%
5. Small business start-up (n=323)..... Mean=3.8, (S.D.=1.0), Minimum=1, Maximum=5	3%	7%	24%	39%	27%
6. Attracting donors for community projects (n=320) .. Mean=3.5, (S.D.=1.0), Minimum=1, Maximum=5	3%	12%	38%	29%	18%
7. Entrepreneurship training & mentoring (n=321) ..... Mean=3.3, (S.D.=1.1), Minimum=1, Maximum=5	8%	14%	32%	33%	13%
8. Early childhood education & child care (n=323)..... Mean=3.9, (S.D.=1.0), Minimum=1, Maximum=5	3%	6%	20%	39%	32%
9. Youth & recreation activities (n=324) ..... Mean=3.9, (S.D.=1.0), Minimum=1, Maximum=5	2%	7%	20%	40%	31%
10. Senior activities & programs (n=325)..... Mean=3.8, (S.D.=1.0), Minimum=1, Maximum=5	2%	8%	24%	40%	26%
11. Elder care & support services (n=323)..... Mean=4.0, (S.D.=.9), Minimum=1, Maximum=5	2%	5%	21%	38%	34%
12. Low income assistance programs (n=322)..... Mean=3.4, (S.D.=1.1), Minimum=1, Maximum=5	5%	13%	35%	29%	18%

**C. Continued**

	<b>No Priority</b>			<b>Very High Priority</b>	
13. Public library programs (n=324)..... Mean=3.5, (S.D.=1.0), Minimum=1, Maximum=5	3%	11%	34%	31%	21%
14. Police, fire and emergency services (n=324)..... Mean=4.3, (S.D.=1.0), Minimum=1, Maximum=5	3%	4%	10%	26%	57%
15. Parks & recreation programs (n=233)..... Mean=3.5, (S.D.=1.1), Minimum=1, Maximum=5	4%	11%	33%	32%	20%
16. Natural resource conservation (n=321)..... Mean=3.6, (S.D.=1.0), Minimum=1, Maximum=5	3%	11%	34%	29%	23%
17. Other (please specify) _____ (n=25)... Mean=3.9, (S.D.=1.4), Minimum=1, Maximum=5	12%	4%	16%	16%	52%

Lower cost taxi

In Galva, I do not have a place to burn any branches or refuse like a tree limb that drops on our property.

Small school (teacher – student ratio)

Cleaning up the way the downtown and approaches to Ida Grove should be cleaned up and made for eye appealing and (not legible). Other small towns have attractive downtown streets. They attract new business. Downtown buildings need to be made available at reasonable rents or real estate prices so businesses can afford to come here.

Main Street program

More industry for tax base

Education – all levels

Inspection and code for new construction and repair, electrical, plumbing, and all phases of home constructions/repair

Allow public display of religious beliefs. This will lead to better more well-rounded residents.

New housing development

Taxi service for elderly and/or disabled

Parent education

**D. What are the highest priorities for creating long term community vitality and quality of life? List the numbers for areas from Question C (previous page) that you feel should be the highest priorities.**

	(n=329) <sup>1</sup>
1. Affordable housing.....	34%
2. Healthcare and wellness programs.....	37%
3. Quality jobs .....	60%
4. Community development .....	22%
5. Small business start-up .....	24%
6. Attracting donors for community projects .....	4%
7. Entrepreneurship training & mentoring .....	5%
8. Early childhood education & child care.....	28%
9. Youth & recreation activities .....	20%
10. Senior activities & programs.....	12%
11. Elder care & support services .....	27%
12. Low income assistance programs.....	13%
13. Public library programs.....	4%
14. Police, fire and emergency services .....	38%
15. Parks & recreation programs.....	9%
16. Natural resource conservation.....	8%
17. Other (please specify) _____ .....	3%

<sup>1</sup>Percentages in this column represent total number of respondents listing each area as a priority for creating long term community vitality and quality of life across all five response blanks, divided by total number of respondents to the survey.

**E. “Permanent endowments” are funds permanently set aside in investments that grow over time. Five percent of endowments can be spent each year. List the numbers from Question C (previous page) for 1 to 5 areas that should be supported by establishing permanent endowments.**

	(n=329) <sup>2</sup>
1. Affordable housing.....	12%
2. Healthcare and wellness programs.....	22%
3. Quality jobs.....	16%
4. Community development.....	24%
5. Small business start-up.....	19%
6. Attracting donors for community projects.....	4%
7. Entrepreneurship training & mentoring.....	5%
8. Early childhood education & child care.....	23%
9. Youth & recreation activities.....	27%
10. Senior activities & programs.....	17%
11. Elder care & support services.....	22%
12. Low income assistance programs.....	14%
13. Public library programs.....	20%
14. Police, fire and emergency services.....	30%
15. Parks & recreation programs.....	20%
16. Natural resource conservation.....	12%
17. Other (please specify).....	1%

<sup>2</sup>Percentages in this column represent total number of respondents listing each area as a priority for permanent endowments across all five response blanks, divided by total number of respondents to the survey.

**F. Before you received this survey, were you aware of the Ida County Community Betterment Foundation? (Circle ONE response) (n=314)**

- 1. No            51%
- 2. Yes          49%

**G. When the Ida County Community Betterment Foundation considers whether to fund new programs, which criteria should be most important in their decisions? Use the numbers 1 through 8 to rank the criteria for judging new programs, where 8 is the HIGHEST priority and 1 is the LOWEST priority.**

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Assign the Priority</u> (8 = highest priority; 1 = lowest priority)
a. Has potential for long-term effect (n=279).....	Mean=6.2, (S.D.=2.0), Range=1-8
b. Takes the whole community’s needs into consideration (n=289).....	Mean=6.2, (S.D.=2.1), Range=1-8
c. Does not duplicate existing services (n=281).....	Mean=5.2, (S.D.=2.4), Range=1-8
d. Deals with a need that is felt by a large majority of residents (n=287).....	Mean=5.7, (S.D.=2.1), Range=1-8
e. Deals with needs for special, at-risk populations (n=280).....	Mean=4.5, (S.D.=2.3), Range=1-8
f. Encourages collaboration (n=273).....	Mean=4.7, (S.D.=2.2), Range=1-8
g. Shows sound financial planning (n=284).....	Mean=5.9, (S.D.=2.1), Range=1-8
h. Shows the ability to mobilize resources from more than one source (n=274).....	Mean=5.1, (S.D.=2.4), Range=1-8

**H. In your opinion, should other criteria than those listed in Question G be used to make funding decisions? (n=234)**

- 1. No 83%
- 2. Yes 17% →

**If YES, please list other funding criteria that should be included.**

Community support  
 Lower taxi costs  
 Budget  
 Desire of the community or organization to make the program a long term success  
 Meet needs of working groups  
 Environmental impact  
 Neighborhood and street cleanup (eye appeal – curb appeal)  
 Is considered a payback investment  
 Overall, Ida County needs to “perk up.”  
 Look at groups available financial reports for projects, group may not need grant funds to complete  
 Keeping schools up to par  
 Ida Grove is not getting our share of government grants like other communities.  
 Entrance and exit driving at Morningside Care Center, full-time taxi service at affordable rates  
 If people who can afford said service, don’t give it to them.  
 Source of funding  
 Immediate need! Fund problem areas first  
 Should take into consideration bigger isn’t always better.  
 Economic opportunities  
 Availability of services or opportunities in surroundings communities  
 Conservation of existing programs  
 Keep our children here  
 Personal commitment from community leaders  
 Depends upon what is being funded  
 Get more government money to bring in more jobs  
 Does not duplicate services  
 The needs of the rural area and three smallest towns should be weighted heavier than the two larger, more affluent towns.  
 Whether other funding is available elsewhere  
 Education and training of youth  
 Location in the community  
 Does it show good probability of success  
 Make it possible for people to obtain loans when buying a home.  
 City Council, \_\_\_\_\_ City Council has no future.  
 Ability to repay low interest loans  
 Will it serve the community today and tomorrow? Use it to initiate and organize, not fund forever!  
 Afford all (not legible)  
 Critical nature of the program

**I. In your opinion, how UNLIKELY or LIKELY is it that sharing services between communities in Ida County will create the following results?**

Shared services between Ida County communities will ...	<b>Very Unlikely</b>		<b>Very Likely</b>		<b>Don't Know</b>
1. use local government funds wisely (n=303)..... Mean=2.7, (S.D.=1.0), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	11%	21%	34%	22%	12%
2. reduce taxation rates (n=304)..... Mean=2.2, (S.D.=1.1), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	28%	23%	23%	13%	13%
3. improve the quality of services (n=301)..... Mean=2.8, (S.D.=.9), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	11%	21%	40%	20%	8%

**I. Continued**

**Shared services between Ida County communities will**

...	<b>Very Unlikely</b>			<b>Very Likely</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
4. result in a loss of city identity (n=305)..... Mean=2.4, (S.D.=1.1), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	23%	27%	22%	18%	10%
5. increase taxation rates (n=303)..... Mean=2.5, (S.D.=1.0), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	17%	27%	23%	16%	17%
6. result in uneven services between cities (n=303)..... Mean=2.9, (S.D.=.9), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	8%	18%	37%	24%	13%
7. make no difference in taxation rates (n=301)..... Mean=2.2, (S.D.=2.0), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	27%	24%	18%	11%	20%
8. other (Specify _____) (n=31)..... Mean=3.5, (S.D.=.7), Minimum=2, Maximum=4	--	3%	13%	26%	58%

Mean, (S.D.), Minimum, Maximum reflect only those that did not answer "Don't Know."

- Ample volunteers
- The bigger areas get everything; the smaller areas get nothing.
- Taxes are too high.
- Loss of jobs
- Be fairly done
- Create more confusion for residents
- No opinion
- Local loss of jobs
- Grow communities together
- You'll not fund any shared services.
- Ensure the service continues to be offered.

**J. If we assume that shared services will save money, would you OPPOSE or SUPPORT sharing the following services between communities in Ida County?**

	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Support</b>
1. City management (n=308) .....	62%	38%
2. Street maintenance (n=311) .....	56%	44%
3. Snow removal (n=312) .....	64%	36%
4. Garbage collection (n=312) .....	15%	85%
5. Electric utilities (n=309) .....	20%	80%
6. Water and sewer utilities (n=304).....	42%	58%
7. Gas utilities (n=305) .....	22%	78%
8. Telephone service (n=310) .....	13%	87%
9. Cable TV service (n=308).....	15%	85%
10. Internet connection service (n=303) .....	17%	83%
11. Animal control (n=303) .....	26%	74%
12. Parks and recreation programs/facilities (n=308).	18%	82%
13. Child care center (n=304) .....	41%	59%
14. Senior care programs and services (n=309).....	29%	71%
15. Programs for youth (n=306) .....	24%	76%
16. Other (Specify _____) (n=24)...	33%	67%

- Ambulance and fire
- Schools
- Law enforcement
- Churches
- Television, mail
- School district
- Law enforcement
- Any that would benefit
- Not in Ida County
- Law enforcement

**K. Which 3 services and/or facilities in Question J should be the top priority for sharing between these communities? (List the item numbers from Question J on the blanks.)**

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Priority (n=262)</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Priority (n=258)</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Priority (n=248)</b>
1. City management.....	15%	3%	3%
2. Street maintenance .....	6%	5%	4%
3. Snow removal.....	1%	4%	2%
4. Garbage collection.....	24%	6%	9%
5. Electric utilities .....	14%	17%	4%
6. Water and sewer utilities .....	1%	7%	4%
7. Gas utilities.....	3%	8%	13%
8. Telephone service.....	4%	9%	9%
9. Cable TV service.....	2%	3%	4%
10. Internet connection service.....	1%	4%	6%
11. Animal control.....	2%	2%	5%
12. Parks and recreation programs/facilities .....	5%	5%	11%
13. Child care center.....	6%	6%	4%
14. Senior care programs and services .....	7%	12%	10%
15. Programs for youth.....	8%	9%	12%
16. Other (Specify _____) .....	1%	--	--

**L. Many households experience difficulties at some time. In the past 12 months, about HOW OFTEN did your household experience the following difficulties? If you did experience the difficulty, did you FIND HELP to deal with it?**

	<b>Does Not Apply</b>	<b>How often in last 12 months?</b>				<b>Found help?</b>	
		<b>Never</b>	<b>Less than Once per Month</b>	<b>Once Per Month</b>	<b>Once per Week</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
		Percent in households where condition applies				Percent for which condition applies	
1. Health problems experienced by you or someone in your household (n=306; 256; 151) .....	14%	33%	50%	13%	4%	5%	95%
2. Employment problems (n=306; 197; 32).....	34%	82%	11%	4%	3%	63%	37%
3. Parenting problems (n=303; 181; 24) ..	40%	80%	13%	5%	2%	54%	46%
4. Conflict with your spouse or partner (n=309; 207; 41) .....	32%	71%	18%	4%	7%	71%	29%
5. Lack of support from family or friends (n=305; 221; 29) .....	26%	83%	10%	3%	4%	62%	38%
6. Problem meeting basic needs (such as food, heat, or clothing) (n=310; 239; 29).....	22%	83%	9%	4%	4%	52%	48%

**L. Continued**

	<b>Does Not Apply</b>	<b>How often in last 12 months?</b>				<b>Found help?</b>	
		<b>Never</b>	<b>Less than Once per Month</b>	<b>Once Per Month</b>	<b>Once per Week</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
7. A child having problems in school (n=307; 167; 29) .....	45%	81%	12%	5%	2%	28%	72%
8. Problems with substance abuse (n=307; 198; 8) .....	35%	94%	3%	--	3%	63%	37%
9. Transportation problems (such as to work, school, grocery store, or doctor) (n=311; 228; 20) .....	26%	90%	6%	1%	3%	35%	65%
10. Problem with an elderly family member (n=306; 205; 36) .....	32%	76%	12%	8%	4%	22%	78%
11. Other (Specify _____) (n=15; 5; 3) ...	67%	20%	20%	--	60%	67%	33%

Referring to #2 – a second job is usually very hard to find.  
 Child care when children are ill. Parents miss work. What can be done?  
 All is good.  
 High gas prices; Ida Grove needs E85 gas service. There is state aid to promote. Why don't we then?  
 Finding child care in Ida Grove  
 Medical health  
 Great year  
 An employed disability

Next, some questions about community information and training resources.

**A. How often do you use the following sources for local community news?**

	<b>Never</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>Often</b>	<b>Always</b>
1. Ida Grove Courier (n=321) .....	9%	22%	21%	48%
2. Holstein News (n=302) .....	70%	17%	7%	6%
3. The Advance (n=305) .....	65%	15%	10%	10%
4. Local radio station (n=306).....	41%	32%	16%	11%
5. Post Office bulletin board (n=318) .....	62%	31%	5%	2%
6. Chamber of Commerce web site (n=313).....	86%	12%	2%	<1%
7. Cable TV news local announcements (n=318)	53%	22%	16%	9%
8. School newsletter (n=314) .....	28%	32%	23%	17%
9. ISU Extension website or by mail from Extension (n=314).....	72%	18%	9%	1%
10. Other (Specify _____) (n=27)....	52%	7%	33%	8%

Various flyers in businesses  
 Lower senior cost of housing  
 City of Ida Grove Web Site  
 Ida Courier Web Site  
 School Web page  
 Notices in Holstein Supermarket  
 Neighbors  
 Sioux City Journal, Omaha World Herald, KTIV KCAO  
 Sioux City Journal

**Other sources for local community news (continued)**

- Reminder
- Friends
- Word-of-mouth
- Sioux Valley News

**B. How UNLIKELY or LIKELY is it that you or someone in your household would participate in education events on the following topics over the next 24 months?**

	<b>Very Unlikely</b>		<b>Very Likely</b>	
1. Families and nutrition (n=311) .....	63%	18%	13%	6%
2. Youth or after-school activities (n=312).....	65%	11%	11%	13%
3. Leadership/professional development (n=313).....	52%	24%	17%	7%
4. Horticulture/landscaping (n=312).....	50%	22%	21%	7%
5. Business and industry design (n=312) .....	67%	18%	10%	5%
6. Raising successful children (n=309) .....	68%	12%	11%	9%
7. Welcoming other ethnic groups to the community (n=307)	61%	20%	13%	6%
8. Additional ideas? (Specify) _____ (n=44).....	64%	--	5%	31%
9. Additional ideas? (Specify) _____ (n=32).....	75%	--	9%	16%

**8. Additional ideas**

- Adult athletics
- College courses (accredited)
- Adult education programs
- Job – continuing education
- Veterans Affairs
- Library speakers
- Adult education
- Parent/Teacher Association
- Actual participation in 1, 2, 7
- Computer basics
- The facts about raising livestock in Ida County
- More jobs natural fertilizer, etc.
- Career changes, continuing education
- Local health issues
- Quit smoking

**9. Additional ideas**

- American Legion
- Speakers
- Hunter education

**C. What would be the best way for you to obtain the information in Question B? (Circle ONE response) (n=281)**

- 1. CD-ROM 4%
- 2. Internet 36%
- 3. ICN (Iowa Communications Network – local classrooms with communication equipment hooked to a statewide network) 6%
- 4. Face-to-face 43%
- 5. Other (Specify \_\_\_\_\_) 11%
  - Mail
  - Newspaper

**Other ways to obtain information (continued)**

- Adult education programs through high school
- Papers
- Newspaper – T.V.
- Notices posted locally
- Newsletters at work
- Local paper
- Newsletters
- Newspaper
- Letter
- Mail
- Don't know
- Mail
- Phone
- Through church groups
- Mail
- Mail
- Newsletter monthly
- Newspaper and television
- Newspaper
- Newspapers
- Home
- Paper
- Classroom
- Trade programs and associations
- Mail
- Hypnotism
- Television
- Face to face
- T.V.

The next section asks you about senior issues. Please answer these questions if you are 60 years of age or older; OR if you have a family member/close friend in the county who is age 60 or older.

If this does not apply to you, check this box  and skip to question A on page 8. (n=324)

Does not apply =36%      Does apply=64%

**A. In the next 10 years, is the need LOW, MODERATE or HIGH for each of the following types of senior housing in Ida County? (Circle ONE response for each type of housing)**

**Need in the next 10 years?**

	<b>Low Need</b>	<b>Moderate Need</b>	<b>High Need</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
1. Assisted Living community (n=205) .....	13%	36%	44%	7%
2. Continued Care Retirement community (n=198).....	14%	34%	39%	13%
3. Duplexes or triplexes (n=195).....	28%	40%	18%	14%
4. Independent living—Congregate Senior Housing (n=199)....	15%	37%	32%	16%
5. Independent living—Senior apartments (n=197).....	13%	40%	35%	12%
6. Skilled Nursing Care facility (n=200).....	19%	38%	35%	8%
7. Townhouses or condominiums (n=197).....	47%	25%	13%	15%
8. Other (Specify: _____) (n=14).....	7%	--	36%	57%

- Senior transportation
- Access to transportation
- Senior apartments, separate from handicapped/younger, especially mentally handicap
- Home Health

**B. Which type of senior housing listed in Question A is MOST NEEDED in the next 10 years in Ida County? (n=171)**

1. Assisted Living community.....	37%
2. Continued Care Retirement community .....	7%
3. Duplexes or triplexes.....	4%
4. Independent living—Congregate Senior Housing.....	15%
5. Independent living—Senior apartments .....	19%
6. Skilled Nursing Care facility .....	9%
7. Townhouses or condominiums.....	7%
8. Other (Specify:.....)	2%

**C. To what extent do you DISAGREE or AGREE with the following statements about senior services in Ida County? Let “senior” mean people who are age 60 and older.**

Ida County....	Strongly Disagree		Strongly Agree		Don't Know
1. has adequate county services and assistance to support senior residents who live in their homes (n=202)..... Mean=2.6, (S.D.=.9), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	9%	27%	35%	13%	16%
2. has very few senior residents who are isolated and lonely (n=204)..... Mean=2.2, (S.D.=.9), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	16%	35%	20%	6%	23%
3. seniors have difficulty finding transportation to health care services (n=204)..... Mean=2.7, (S.D.=1.0), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	8%	30%	26%	22%	14%
4. needs more adult day care services for senior citizens (n=205)..... Mean=2.8, (S.D.=.9), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	7%	21%	32%	19%	21%
5. has a good variety of social activities for senior citizens (n=205)..... Mean=2.5, (S.D.=.9), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	12%	36%	29%	11%	12%
6. has affordable services for seniors (n=203)..... Mean=2.5, (S.D.=.9), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	10%	29%	32%	9%	20%
7. has good quality care in its nursing homes (n=207) .... Mean=3.1, (S.D.=.8), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	4%	12%	41%	33%	10%
8. needs more education and support groups for people caring for their elderly family members (n=204)..... Mean=3.0, (S.D.=.7), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	2%	18%	45%	18%	17%
9. needs more short-term caregiver relief services for people who care for seniors (n=202)..... Mean=3.1, (S.D.=.7), Minimum=1, Maximum=7	2%	12%	47%	21%	18%
10. does a good job of letting senior citizens know what services are available to help them (n=205)..... Mean=2.3, (S.D.=.9), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	16%	31%	28%	7%	18%

Mean, (S.D.), Minimum, Maximum reflect only those that did not answer “Don’t Know.”

**D. Are one or more adults in your household planning to retire in the next 5 years? (n=207)**

- 1. All adults in my household are currently retired. 31%
- 2. No 36%
- 3. Yes 28%
- 4. Don't know 5%

**Da. If YES, in what county do you plan to make your permanent residence when you retire? (n=59)**

- 1. Ida County 90%
- 2. Another Iowa county 7%
- 3. County outside the state of Iowa 3%

**E. Do you plan to change your housing arrangement in the next 5 years? (n=200)**

- 1. No 69%
- 2. Yes 17%
- 3. Don't know 14%

**Ea. If you might change your housing arrangement in the next 5 years, what type of housing would best serve your needs when you change? (Please circle ONE response.) (n=62)**

- 1. Single family home 31%
- 2. Townhouse or condominium 16%
- 3. Apartment 23%
- 4. Duplex or triplex 3%
- 5. Assisted Living community 12%
- 6. Continuous Care Retirement community --
- 7. Independent living--Congregate Senior Housing 3%
- 8. Independent living--Senior apartments 7%
- 9. Skilled Nursing Care facility 3%
- 10. Other (Specify \_\_\_\_\_) 2%  
I live in my home.  
Smaller home

Next, some questions about child care and transportation of children.

**A. Do you have children or stepchildren under 18 years living in your household? (n=324)**

- 1. No 75% —→ **If your answer is NO, please skip to question A on page 9.**
- 2. Yes 25% —→ If YES, how many children under 18 live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_ children (n=76)  
1=38% 2=42% 3=11% 4=5% 6=3% 7=1%

**B. The following statements reflect opinions about child care in your community. To what extent do you DISAGREE or AGREE with the following statements? Circle a number between 1 (Strongly disagree) and 4 (Strongly agree) that best represents your opinion.**

My community...	Strongly Disagree			Strongly Agree	Don't Know
1. has <b>adequate child care</b> resources (n=81) ..... Mean=2.5, (S.D.=1.0), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	16%	27%	33%	15%	9%
2. has <b>affordable</b> child care (n=81) ..... Mean=2.9, (S.D.=.9), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	7%	21%	33%	25%	14%

**B. Continued**

My community...	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	30%	33%	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
3. has high <b>quality</b> child care (n=81) ..... Mean=2.6, (S.D.=.9), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	10%			16%	11%
4. has <b>adequate regulations</b> for child care (n=81)..... Mean=2.8, (S.D.=.9), Minimum=1, Maximum=4	10%	16%	37%	16%	21%

Mean, (S.D.), Minimum, Maximum reflect only those that did not answer "Don't Know."

**C. Are the following types of child care available within a 30 minute drive from your home?**

	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
1. Family child care provider (care in the provider's home) (n=77).....	1%	85%	14%
2. Child care center (n=80) .....	8%	79%	13%
3. A relative who could provide care while you or your spouse/partner works (n=78).....	35%	59%	6%

**D. On average, about how many minutes per day do you and other household members spend transporting your child(ren) TO child care? (n=323)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ minutes per day
    - 0 minutes 1%
    - 1-5 minutes 3%
    - 6-10 minutes 77%
    - 11-20 minutes 1%
    - 21 minutes or more <1%
  2. Don't use child care 18%
- Mean=9.0, (S.D.=.2.1), Minimum=0, Maximum=30

**E. Have you experienced any problems in transporting your child(ren) from school to after-school activities or between school and child care? (n=75)**

1. No 91%
2. Yes 9% →

**Ea. If YES, please describe the problem(s) you have experienced.**

Consolidated school systems will always create times where parents need assistance in transporting their children.  
 Getting them to activities in summer  
 Couldn't miss work to take children to and from preschool  
 The transportation problems come with preschool, sports practices.  
 I come home from work and often make three more trips to town (10 miles roundtrip) on a given evening for activities. Could all be handled right after school so families can have family time?  
 Leaving work to get child from daycare provider to preschool

This final group of questions is included to ensure that a broad cross-section of people living in your county has taken part in this survey.

**A. Where do you live in the county? (Circle ONE number and FILL IN THE BLANK WITH THE COMMUNITY YOU CALL HOME.) (n=319)**

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Within the city limits of _____ (n=193)               | 67% |
| Ida Grove  | 47% |
| Holstein   | 31% |
| Battle Creek   | 15% |
| Galva  | 4%  |
| Arthur   | 3%  |
| 2. Outside the city limits of _____ on a farm (n=68)     | 26% |
| Ida Grove  | 28% |
| Holstein   | 27% |
| Battle Creek   | 15% |
| Galva  | 9%  |
| Arthur   | 10% |
| Washta   | 4%  |
| Cushing  | 4%  |
| Correctionville  | 3%  |
| 3. Outside the city limits of _____ not on a farm (n=21) | 7%  |
| Ida Grove  | 76% |
| Battle Creek   | 19% |
| Galva  | 5%  |

**B. What is your 5 digit postal zip code? \_\_\_\_\_ (n=319)**

50632 Garwin/Green Mountain	<1%	51034 Mapleton	<1%
51006 Battle Creek	15%	51061 Washta	2%
51016 Correctionville	1%	51431 Arthur	3%
51018 Cushing	2%	51445 Ida Grove	43%
51019 Danbury	1%	51448 Kiron	<1%
51020 Galva	5%	51455 Manning	<1%
51025 Holstein	27%	51461 Schleswig	1%

**C. Are you...? (n=320)**

- |           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| 1. Male   | 51% |
| 2. Female | 49% |

**D. Your age on your last birthday? \_\_\_\_\_ years (n=314)**

- |                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| 30 years or less  | 4%  |
| 31-44 years       | 16% |
| 45-59 years       | 34% |
| 60-74 years       | 26% |
| 75 years and over | 20% |

Mean=58.7, (S.D.=15.8), Minimum=19, Maximum=94

**E. Your highest level of education? (n=320)**

- 1. Less than high school diploma 5%
- 2. High school diploma or GED 37%
- 3. Some college 34%
- 4. Bachelors degree 13%
- 5. Some graduate work 6%
- 6. Graduate degree 5%

**F. Do you have a will or other legal documents that specify how your estate will be distributed upon death? (n=317)**

- 1. No 23%
- 2. Yes 77%

**Fa. If NO, how UNLIKELY or LIKELY is it that you will designate some portion of your estate to charitable organizations? (n=69)**

- 1. Very unlikely 49%
- 2. Somewhat unlikely 15%
- 3. Somewhat likely 19%
- 4. Very likely 10%
- 5. Not sure 7%

**Fb. If YES, have you made any bequests or designated any contributions to any charitable organizations for educational, civic, public, charitable, patriotic, or religious uses in these documents? (n=236)**

- 1. No 86%
- 2. Yes 14%

**G. Please indicate the AGE, SEX, and RELATIONSHIP TO YOU of each person living in your household during the majority of the year. Do not include children who lived away at college.**

<b>Household size (n=329)</b>		
Mean	2.19	persons
S.D.	1.23	
Minimum	1.00	person
Maximum	8.00	persons
<b>Respondent gender (n=280)</b>		
Male	23%	
Female	77%	
<b>Respondent age (n=280)</b>		
Average	58.3	years
S.D.	15.8	
Range	19-94	years
<b>Respondents reporting a spouse</b>		
	220	
Average spouse's age	53.1	years
Spouse age range	21-91	years
<b>Spouse's sex</b>		
Male	42%	
Female	58%	
<b>Respondents reporting one or more children</b>		
	82 cases had adult or minor child	
Average minor child age	9.5	years
Minor child age range	1-17	years

<b>G. (Continued)</b>		
<b>Minor child's sex</b>		
Male	49.6%	
Female	50.4%	
<b>Adult children</b>		
Adult children in household	26	cases had one or more adult children
Adult children's age range	19-70	years
<b>Grandchild in household</b>		
Average grandchild age	X <sup>1</sup>	case had grandchildren in household
Range	4-9	years
<b>Grandchild's sex</b>		
Male	100%	
Female	0%	
<b>Foster child in household</b>		
Average foster child age	13.4	years
Range in foster child age	2-18	years
<b>Foster child's sex</b>		
Male	0%	
Female	100%	
<b>Live-in boyfriend, girlfriend, or fiancé in household</b>		
Average live-in age	36.0	years
Range	22-50	years
<b>Live-in boyfriend, girlfriend, or fiancé's sex</b>		
Male	33%	
Female	67%	
<b>Stepchildren in household</b>		
Average stepchild age	11.3	years
Range	6-18	years
<b>Stepchild's sex</b>		
Male	67%	
Female	33%	
<b>Own parent lives in household</b>		
Average respondent parent's age	X	years
Range	X	years
<b>Respondents parent's sex</b>		
Male	0%	
Female	100%	
<b>Respondent reporting a friend in household</b>		
Average friend age	52.0	years
Range	45-64	years
<b>Friend's sex</b>		
Male	33%	
Female	33%	
Missing	33%	

<sup>1</sup> X indicates information has been omitted to protect the confidentiality of the respondent.

**H. In the last 12 months, have you made a tax deductible contribution to any charitable organizations for educational, civic, public, charitable, patriotic, or religious use? (n=316)**

- |        |     |
|--------|-----|
| 1. No  | 20% |
| 2. Yes | 80% |

**I. Income level is requested in order to understand how responses differ based on income. What was your approximate gross household income (before taxes) from all sources in 2005? (n=303)**

- |                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. \$19,999 or less       | 14% |
| 2. \$20,000 to \$34,999   | 22% |
| 3. \$35,000 to \$49,999   | 25% |
| 4. \$50,000 to \$74,999   | 22% |
| 5. \$75,000 to \$99,999   | 9%  |
| 6. \$100,000 to \$199,999 | 6%  |
| 7. \$200,000 or more      | 2%  |

**J. This space is provided for any additional comments you would like to offer about how to use endowment funds to increase community vitality and the quality of life in your county.**

**Endowments**

- People through committable organizations. We need to support and encourage these organizations, especially by not impeding them and their work.

**Better paying jobs**

- We need to make sure our librarians are well paid so they can stay at their jobs. Taxes don't provide enough money to give our librarians a living wage.
- Need higher paying job – as example – We have a small dress factory. Starting pay is \$6.00 per hour – based on 40 hour work week. Who could live on these kinds of wages? Factory is in Ida Grove. Anyone outside of town would have to drive in. You can't support any family on those wages even if you didn't drive.
- Increasing the number of high paying jobs in the county is vital to increasing vitality and quality of life.
- Bring in JOBS with \*livable WAGES (\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ is a \*JOKE.)
- Increase pay on a regular basis for our two industries in Ida Grove
- I believe that if there are good paying quality jobs available, the other factors will follow.
- Attract good paying jobs to the county level; we have more than enough average to poor paying jobs. Very few GOOD paying jobs
- Bing in good "job" or make the ones that are here pay!
- 4. Need to get wages increased

**Need to create jobs**

- We need to create jobs which will bring people to live in this county and most all other services will be taken care of by increased jobs and people.
- Would like to see more business and industry developed in Ida County.

**Quality jobs**

- Need more quality jobs
- It would seem we need to attract quality jobs that are going to bring the population back to a positive growth rate and also provide a financial gain as well.

## **Additional comments (continued)**

### **Senior citizen concerns**

- Better transportation and cheaper living arrangements for senior citizens. They deserve that and earned it all their years.
- Senior discount at recreation centers
- 1. My husband is in Morningside Care Center for four years. It's great, but I worry about the lack of an entrance and exit getting there.
- Seniors badly need a place to gather to visit to participate in activities.

### **Housing concerns**

- Also, better housing breaks for single moms when they are working and trying to improve their education to get nursing degree, etc. Thank you!
- Finding good, affordable housing (apartments) for middle class is very hard in our town. The lower income has better apartments available to them. I find this to be hard to swallow as the people that make an honest living struggle more.
- I feel we need more housing options as well as better care for our elderly population especially assisted living facility or condos.
- 3. Need to give tax breaks to people who improve the looks of housing in Ida County

### **Need recreation activities**

- Need recreation activities
- Need hunting and fishing areas
- Driving range

### **Need better parks**

- Better parks

### **Promote/support hospital foundation**

- Hospital Foundation needs more aggressive promotion!
- Give more support to "Horn Memorial Hospital Foundation." The future of our hospital is the absolute key to the future of Ida Grove as a viable place to live.

### **Spending of taxpayer's money**

- The county and local government needs to watch their spending of taxpayer's money. We are constantly wasting money. How about show our younger people about saving, honesty and teamwork, instead of greed, corruption, and self-indulgence? God help us where we're headed as a whole!
- Stop wasting taxpayer's money on silly surveys.

### **Need walking path/jogging trails**

- Walking path around town
- More walking/jogging trails

### **Better road maintenance**

- Better maintenance for roads – they need some training.
- Finish the 4-lane Highway 20 project
- Need MANY street repairs

### **More shopping opportunities/need grocery store/attract industry/businesses**

- It would be great if Battle Creek would be able to revive itself with a grocery store.
- More shopping opportunities including grocery store
- People need to shop at home. It will cost more in the long run. Miss grocery stores in Battle Creek
- Store in Battle Creek
- 3. We need another grocery store to give some competition.
- Business start-up programs could be very beneficial to the county if they show a good business plan that the community needs and shows signs for continued success. Beautification programs in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, etc. would create a buzz and eventually create opportunities for new business development and opportunities as well as continued success for existing businesses.
- 1. Need to attract industry

## **Additional comments (continued)**

### **Garbage issues**

- This garbage issue is serious. Closing dump is leaving us at the mercy of others – not very good planning.

### **Water and air safety**

- 1. Monitor water and air safety

### **Promote quality of life**

- 2. Promote quality of life for everyone, i.e., discourage animal confinement facilities

### **Schools**

- Let's keep our schools in "Ida" County. There are no questions about how it will affect our homes, parks, schools and housing if our schools are all spread out over two counties. How important is it to keep our kids close to home?? In our county??
- Our school sharing with another school soon
- After school programs/activities
- All of Ida County could be one school system in a central location.
- No mention of public schools? No one likes higher taxes. We would rather pay higher costs for fuel, clothing, food, vacations and entertainment. When are communities going to realize that a higher percent of their ever-increasing wages need to be applied to our schools to replace buildings and equipment? Education has such a low priority in our county.

### **Main Street improvements and town beautification**

- Main Street improvements
- Have a way to clean-up our towns
- We need to stop \_\_\_\_\_ from building in town. The noise and dust is so bad and there is not one thing we can do to stop them.

### **Allocation of funds**

- Funds should be used ONLY for the people who need them – not wasted on those who don't.
- I noticed when the first disbursement of funds was made that a large percentage went to the City of Ida Grove. When you consider that their tax base is growing at a faster rate than any other entity in the county, I think such action is wrong.

### **Child care/daycare**

- Need more reliable and safe daycare
- Child care

### **Tourism**

- Encourage tourism

### **Taxi service/transportation**

- 2. We are very much in need of a full-time taxi service at affordable rates. This one is run out of Sioux City and the rates are the same even though the mileage is much less. I don't drive and that presents a huge problem to me.
- Transportation for those who have to go out-of-town for medical purposes.
- Need taxi service as explained earlier

### **Survey issues**

- You have nothing in the survey about Veterans?
- Some sections were quite hard for me to do, but I tried!!!
- Just a suggestion – Why not use LARGER return envelopes so the survey doesn't have to be bent?
- I do not like surveys!
- Pretty hard survey for the smallest county in Iowa

### **Other**

- I have always believed that a sound physical person is also a sound mental person. I would like to see more effort in developing a strong youth and adult activity coordinator a long with investing in parks and recreation locations.

## **Additional comments (continued)**

### **Other (continued)**

- I would like to see more speakers (on a variety of topics) brought into the library. This would be more stimulating to those who do not play cards. One speaker could cover many towns on a small tour. Once a month or every six weeks would be fine and hopefully provide some intellectual stimulus for those participating.
- Our children consider Ida County “boon dock country” and would never give a thought to returning to college.
- Cities need help setting up and maintaining a good city Web Site.
- We need assistance for the people that are trying to make it but are behind on bills.
- We are very much a divided community or town – rich and poor. We built a recreation center. It takes \$300.00 to belong – poor won’t. Golf course is the same. Bowling is the same. Sports in the school same. Start where problem is.
- Thanks
- 2. Need to hire people to work who live in Ida County
- Family financial management and marital conflict training to reduce divorces and dysfunctional families.

### **Adult Education**

- Countywide adult education

### **City/emergency services**

- Ambulance services should have access to funds rather than training devoted volunteers of their time with no pay. Sheriff’s Department needs to be less dependent on whims of the Supervisors who try to cut those funds at every chance.
- The emergency services, EMS, fire, law are under-funded and not thought of until needed. We periodically come very close to losing quality response and a lot of the general public doesn’t understand.

### **Keep chain stores out**

- If small business is to survive in Ida County, keep major chain stores out of our county.

### **Medical care**

- Medical health – medical insurance is so out of reach for most of this community. Something in the order of a sliding scale would help a lot of people. It would allow them to see the medical doctor as needed. Health humans are productive and happy people, but when they cannot see a doctor because of lack of funds, they don’t go.

### **College scholarships**

- There is a college scholarship program in Ida County – Ida Grove which is great.

### **Swimming pool**

- Swimming pool maintenance/repair (current pool); build indoor pool

### **Veterans concerns**

- Note: Large numbers of Veterans live in Ida County. Note: Large number of guard/reserve (active) members live in Ida County, with increased deployments from Iowa Guard/Reserve. Someone needs to look at placing a regional Veterans Administration Outreach Center in Ida County; the commute to current cents is to far and too costly for older veterans.

**Thank you for completing this questionnaire!**  
**Please return in the postage-paid envelope to Iowa State University,**  
**317 East Hall, Ames, IA 50011-1070**

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