

# THE COMMUNITY SURVEY IN THE MAHONING VALLEY

THE RAYMOND JOHN WEAN FOUNDATION

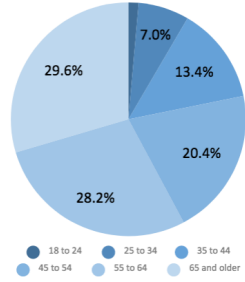
77.3% of 150 Respondents

Have a Positive Perception  
of the Foundation's Commitment to  
Race Equity and Inclusion



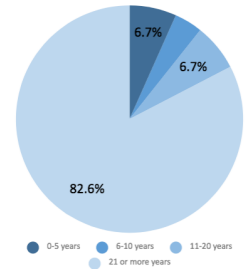
## AGE OF PARTICIPANTS

The youngest participant for the survey was 21 and the oldest was 93. The average age was 54.48.



## LIFE SPENT IN THE MAHONING VALLEY

Over 80% of the participants have lived in the Mahoning Valley for 21 years or more.



## RESPONSES ON RACE EQUITY AND INCLUSION

*"The Foundation is already the best in their commitment to race equity and inclusion. Conversations in the schools and the honest teaching of subjects dealing with these critical issues would definitely be a plus."*

*"To demonstrate its commitment, the Foundation should seek the voice and opinion of those they seek to better serve. Maybe more roundtable discussions and open dialogue to hear the needs and better understand the racial divide that exists in the Mahoning Valley."*

*"I think it's going really great"*

## ISSUES TO ADDRESS

Participants found issues with "community" and "blight" to be the most compelling. Both words were the most used for this question.



- Blight
- Economic Growth
- Poverty
- Failing Education
- Education
- Lack of opportunity

## THE MAHONING VALLEY IN THE PAST 5 YEARS

The results for the past five years were mixed with both positive and negative responses. The most used word was "improving", however, words like "declining" and "struggling" recurred frequently.



### The community has been....

- Disintegrating
- Changing
- Struggling
- Improving
- Challenging
- Complacent
- Decimated by job loss
- Progressing

## THE MAHONING VALLEY'S FUTURE

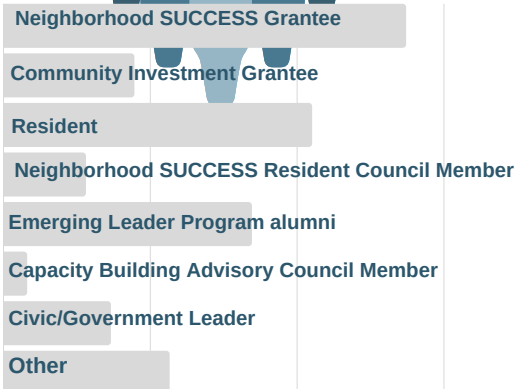
The community members have a generally positive outlook for the next five years. They believe the community could be "better" and "safer". However, doubt was present in several of the responses.



### The community could be....

- "safer, smarter and more prosperous"
- "more diverse"
- "a lovely place to live"
- "more progressive"

## Primary Affiliations



# Strategic Priorities & Systems Change

## COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION



100% of those who selected this primary area found "Strategies that rehabilitate blighted, vacant residential properties" to be most important.

The least favorable response, 85.4%, was "Strategies that rehabilitate blighted, vacant commercial properties"

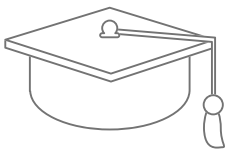
## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



94.8% of those who selected this primary area found "Access to qualify jobs, job training and job placement" to be most important

The least favorable response, 80.3%, was "Policy Reform"

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY



Interestingly, all those who selected this primary area found "Access to quality programs/services targeting grades 6-12", "Attainment of skills to qualify for and succeed in postsecondary job training/apprenticeships", and "Connections among providers and agencies serving students and families" to be equally important at 94.3%

The least favorable response, 79.4%, was "Policy Reform"

## PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERSHIP



88.2% of those who selected this primary area found "Achievement of excellence in operations, governance, strategy and leadership" to be most important.

The least favorable response, 73.1%, was "Policy Reform"

## Greatest Potential to Shift Conditions That Hold Problems in the Mahoning Valley

The policies, rules and regulations of government, institutions and organizations.

The practices and activities of institutions, networks and others

The allocation and distribution of resources, money and information.

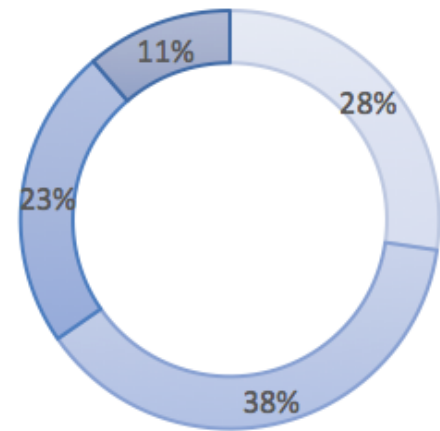
The quality of relationships and connections, especially among those with differing backgrounds and viewpoints.

The power dynamics, where one side has more or less power in a way that's unbalanced.

The deeply held beliefs and assumptions that govern our behavior.

0% 10% 20% 30%

## Mahoning Valley's Most Important Strategic Priorities



- Community Revitalization
- Economic Opportunity
- Educational Opportunity
- Public Sector Leadership