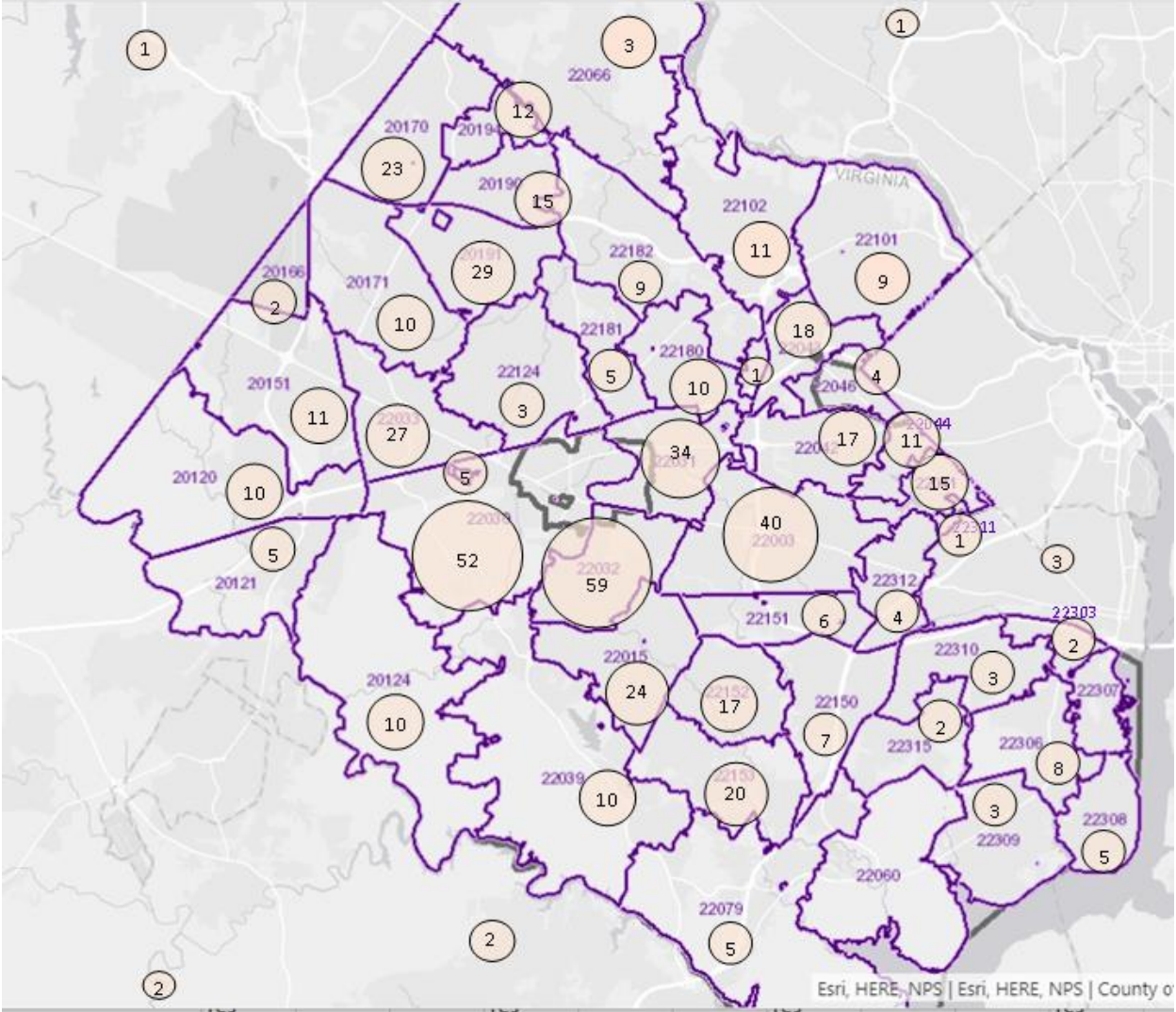


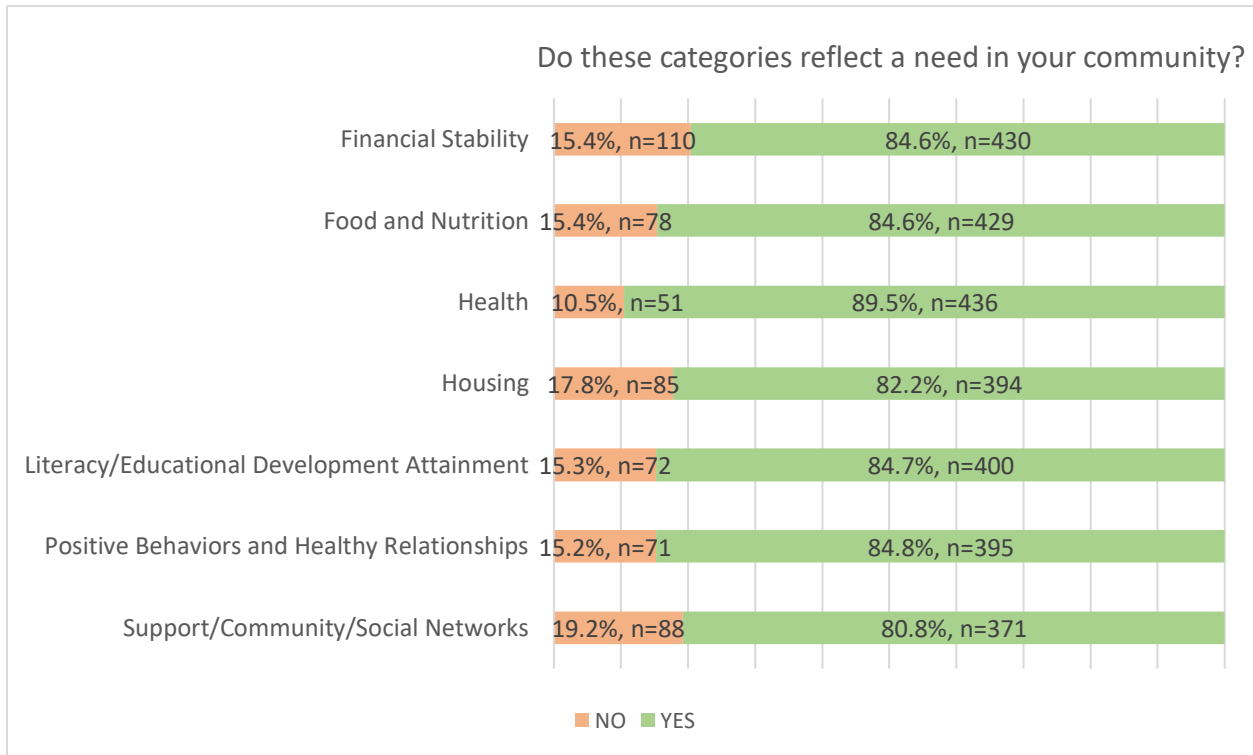
Community Feedback Survey on Funding Categories for CCFP - Results

589 responses were collected between September 29 - October 31, 2020

Residents from all over Fairfax County, and a few from outside the county, participated in the survey. As The number of responses associated with each zip code are shown in the map below; areas in the center of the county had substantially more responses than other areas of the county.



Overall, each of the categories received support from survey respondents



Respondents who indicated that they did not agree that a category was a funding priority were given the opportunity to explain why; about half of “no” responses were accompanied by an explanation. Answers were read and analyzed for themes. Some themes were identified that cut across all the funding categories, and some themes were particular to the category.

First, **themes that cut across topics** are listed with unedited exemplar statements from respondents:

1. The question/outcome statement was not clear
 - *No way to accurately determine parameters.*
 - *The sentence doesn't make sense.*
 - *Again. I do not understand this survey. The above is a phrase, neither a sentence nor a question.*
 - *Please explain what this over abstraction means if you want support.*
 - *This is poorly written and unclear.*

2. Local government should not be funding programs in these categories
 - *Unclear how this money would be spent to enhance federal and state programs.*
 - *Charity should be given willingly. Taking taxes from property owners to give to others hurts those property owners, many of whom have lost income during this pandemic. Taxes should be minimized. Charity should come from non-governmental community organizations, not local government.*

- *This is an absurd idea. There are plenty of free social networks. Many churches. The government need not spend a penny of this nonsense.*
- *Although this is a need, I am not sure that it is a government responsibility.*

The next theme is related to the one above, but responses focused more on individual responsibility to address any problems. Whereas answers falling into the above theme were generic, responses indicating individual responsibility and a lack of trying as the cause of the problem were particular to the category, as shown below:

3. This is the responsibility of the individual to solve

- Financial Stability: *The community needs to be responsible for their own Financial needs. This is coming from a person that grew up in poverty. Less assistance helps the person do more for themselves.*
- Food and Nutrition: *There is information about nutrition and food access all over the County. The people who request this help just need to get organized and go seek it and quit waiting to be provided for*
- Health: *Dentists and doctors in every corner of Fairfax. Let them pay for their own health care.*
- Housing: *If people can't afford to live here they should move to a place that is affordable.*
- Literacy/Educational Development & Attainment: *Most in our community have the wealth needed to reach these goals. Perhaps not the drive...but the resources are there.*
- Positive Behaviors and Healthy Relationships: *Not interested in supporting druggies.*
- Support/ Community/ Social Networks: *These services are already available; it is up to the individual to use them.*

The final theme that cut across funding categories consistent of statements that the category did not represent a need, with explanations specific to each category

4. This is not an issue

- Financial Stability: *In Fairfax County most families have enough income.*
- Food and Nutrition: *The community is highly educated and has sufficient resources available to meet food needs.*
- Health: *Health is not needed.*
- Housing: *The county already has an adequate supply of affordable housing.*
- Literacy/Educational Development & Attainment: *Not needed.*
- Positive Behaviors and Healthy Relationships: *no need for healthy relationships.*
- Support/ Community/ Social Networks: *Another social BS question.*

Next, **themes that were specific to the funding categories** will be explained. Again, unedited text from the respondents is used to illustrate each of the themes.

Financial Stability

Would rather see funding put into employment assistance or job training

- *The income will only last for limited amount of days, rather, the county should assist those who are in financial need to find a job, even if temporary.*

Would rather see the funding go to another need in the community

- *Roads are a mess. Education is down. Taxes are too high*

Food and Nutrition

The outcome statement does not address the right issue

- *Kids are going hungry.*
- *Educating people about healthy eating is no replacement for giving them food. Skip spending money on this and terminate the county employees working in this area and lower property taxes.*
- *Financial stability can go a long way to ensure people have adequate food and nutrition.*

Health

Money should be spent on other health-related costs

- *Masks work, so no one should be getting sick. Just give everyone masks. It's much more practical and less expensive.*
- *MENTAL HEALTH should absolutely be included in this, as well as substance abuse treatment and programs.*
- *More focus on provision of eyeglasses and hearing aids.*

Housing

Money should be spent on other housing-related issues

- *Again equity, clean, safe and affordable housing is not available, whether we are discussing purchasing power and/or assistance of dwelling made available to individuals with lower incomes. The income ranges to qualify for assistance need reevaluation. The lowest cost single family home in Fairfax County costs approximately \$400K. A person making minimum wage cannot afford to purchase home in Fairfax County. Down payment assistance is needed to help those who have low incomes, in order to afford to purchase a home and begin building equity.*
- *There is not enough affordable, sliding-scale, housing for the very low income. What little is available is accessed via long waiting lists and other criteria. Unless you have children, or some real threat to your well being, it's hard to get on the list. The rents in our area are not affordable, for the most part, by those struggling to eat, buy medications, pay for transportation. They simply cannot afford the rents in this county without assistance.*

Literacy/ Educational Development & Attainment

Fairfax County Public Schools is already or should be addressing literacy

- *The many billions of dollars the FCPS receives are to address this, no?*
- *We have FCPS already, thanks.*
- *Feel sufficient to provide public education.*
- *This should be a requirement of FCPS. They receive more than enough money each year due to a combination of State and local funds. They should be spending less on ESOL and more on basic financial planning.*

Positive Behaviors and Healthy Relationships

Compared other funding categories, this seems less important

- *Rating it with the other needs listed, it is not as strong a need.*
- *There is so much greater need. FEED people. HOUSE people. CLOTHE People. CARE for people. And teach them to read.*
- *Money should be directed towards more basic needs in needier communities.*

Support/ Community/ Social Networks

Compared other funding categories, this seems less important

- *Low priority for scarce funds.*
- *If you have to choose where the money goes, health and housing are the most important. People can co-op childcare with their neighbors.*

Finally, all respondents were offered the opportunity to suggest additional funding categories. About a quarter of respondents suggested topics for funding categories.

Topic	Percentage of Responses
Green spaces, parks, environment, recreational spaces	13.9%
Mental health, substance abuse, crisis intervention	11.0%
Support for seniors, elderly	10.4%
Support for immigrants, especially legal supports	8.7%
Transportation	8.7%
Basic needs (food, housing, utility assistance)	8.1%
Reduce taxes by cutting funding for programs like these	7.5%
Childcare	5.8%
Job training	5.2%
Racial and social equity	4.6%
Police/safety/crime prevention	3.5%
Schools and education	2.9%
Support for people with disabilities	2.9%
Support for organizations that assist the community	2.3%
Domestic violence, child abuse	1.7%
Performing arts and culture	1.7%
Contraception, abortion care, reproductive healthcare	1.7%
Technology and internet connectivity	1.2%
Legal services	1.2%
Animal welfare	1.2%
Young adults aging out of foster care	1.2%
LGBTQ+ support	0.6%