

Housing Forum – Evaluation & Response Results (Jan/2020)

Of the 254 attendees, 128 completed/submitted written survey responses at the end of the Housing Forum held on January 16, 2020 at Villa Bianca Banquet Hall in Seymour, CT.



TEAM inc.
Strengthening Communities - Making A Difference

HOUSING FORUM
JAN 16, 2020
8:00 AM-11:30 AM
SNOW DATE: JAN 22ND

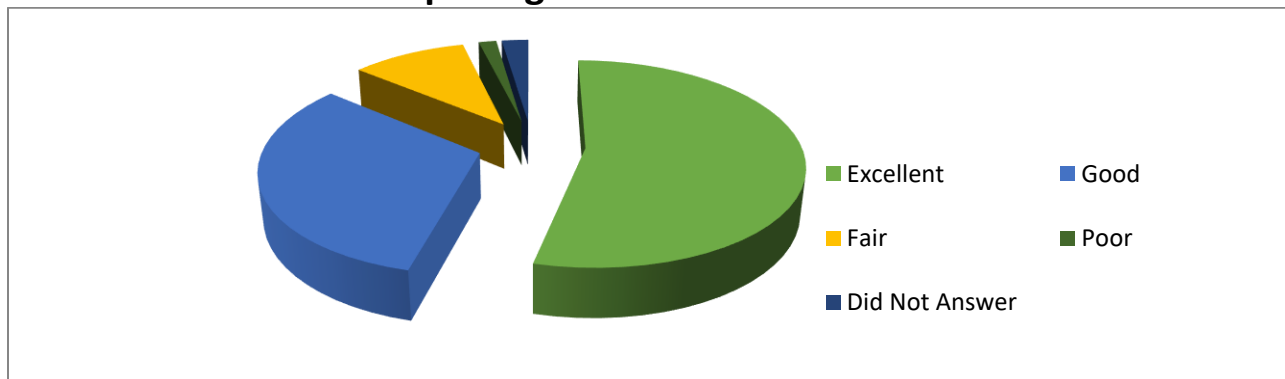
VILLA BIANCA,
312 ROOSEVELT DR.
SEYMOUR, CT

TEAM WILL SHOWCASE IDEAS, OFFER TOOLS AND RESOURCES, AND CONVENE EXPERTS

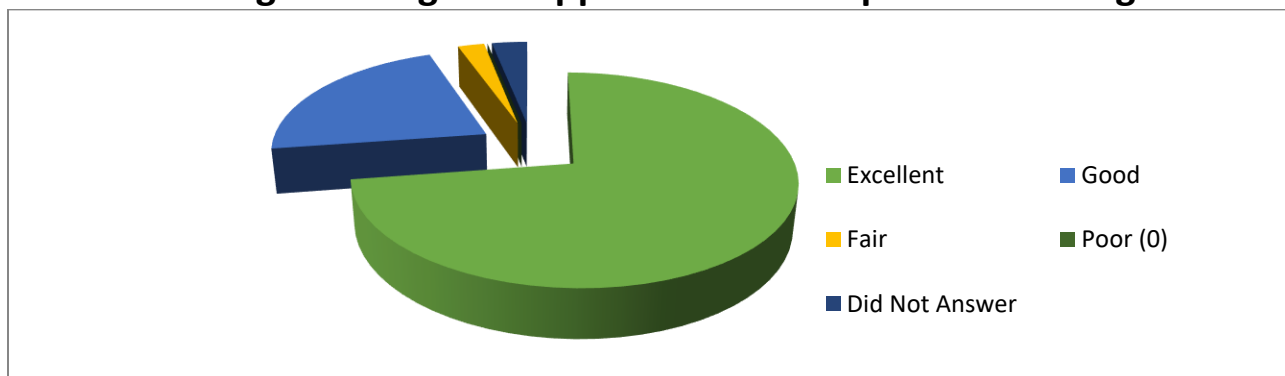
OUR TOWNS, OUR LEADERS AND RESIDENTS MUST DECIDE HOW TO CREATE THE HOMES THEIR COMMUNITIES NEED AND WANT

SPONSORED BY: **LIBERTY BANK FOUNDATION**

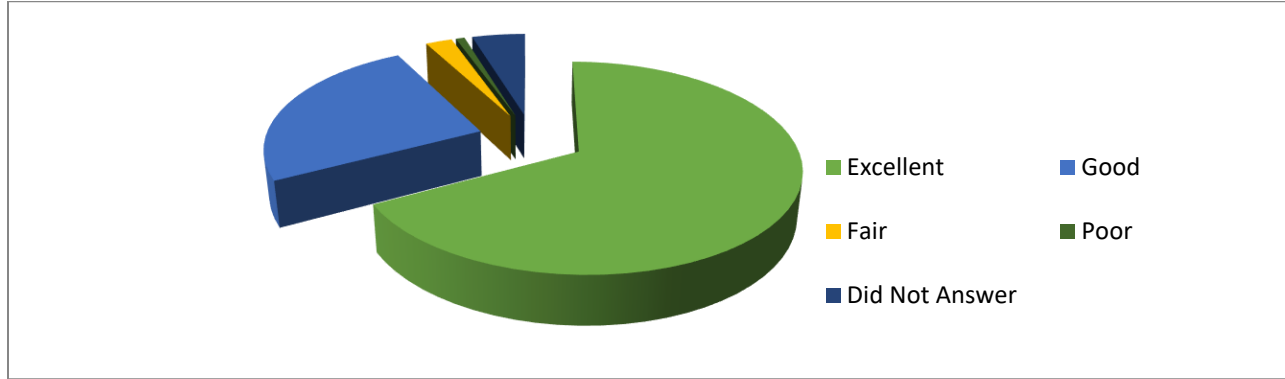
Opening Interactive Exercise



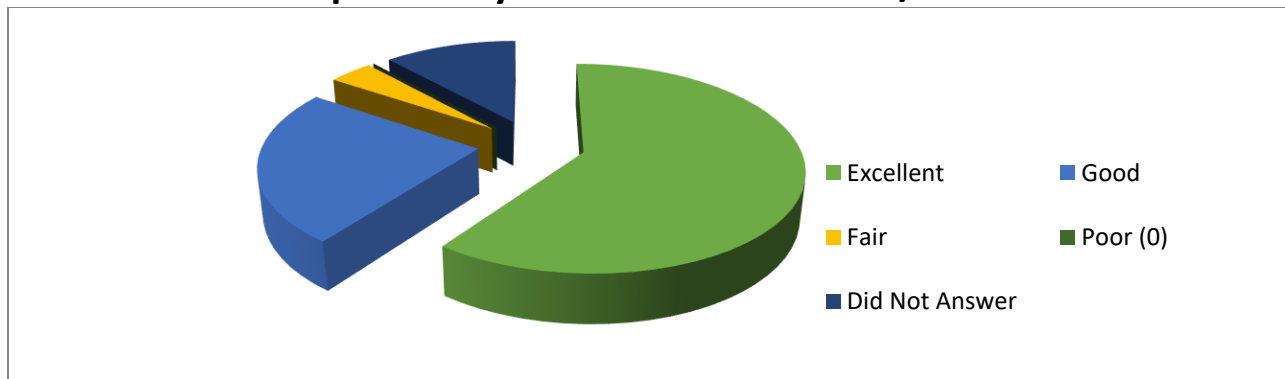
Panel 1: Housing Challenges & Opportunities – Impact of Housing Problems



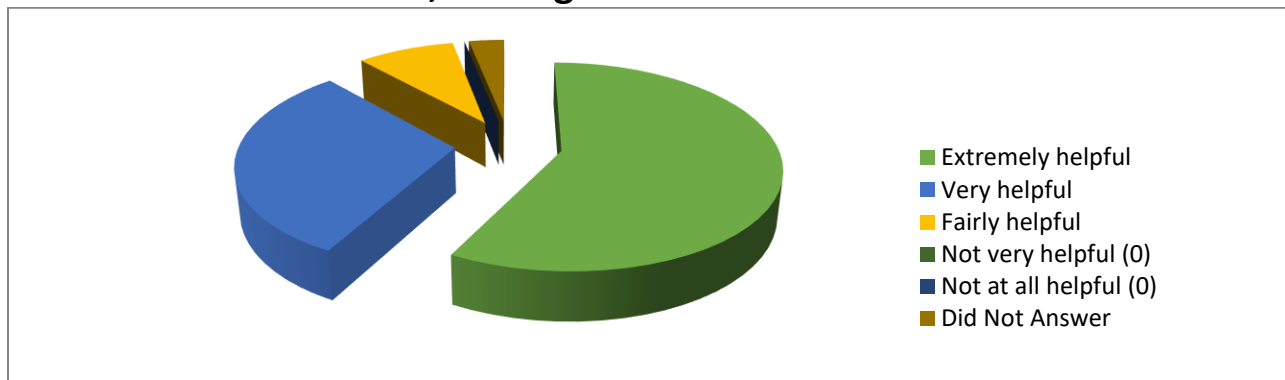
Panel 2: Housing Solutions – Municipal Education/Transit-Oriented Development



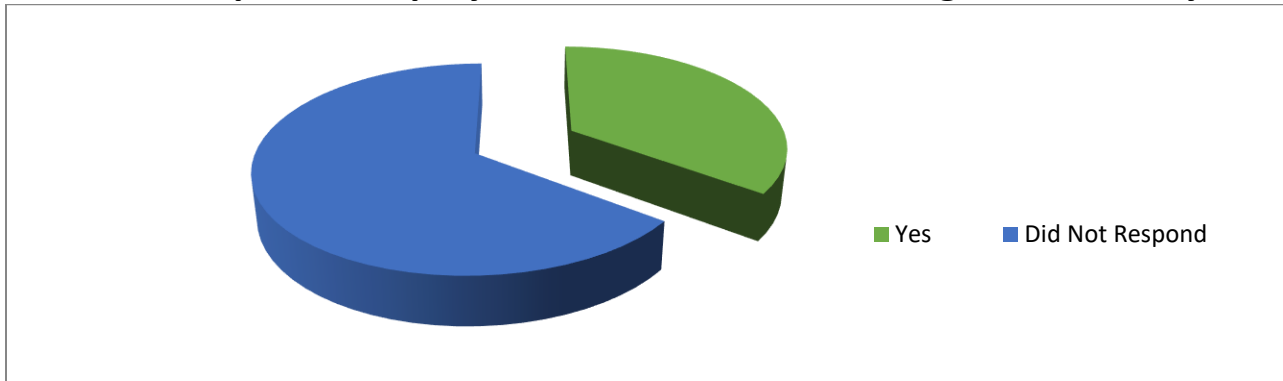
Expert Array: Resources for Towns/Cities



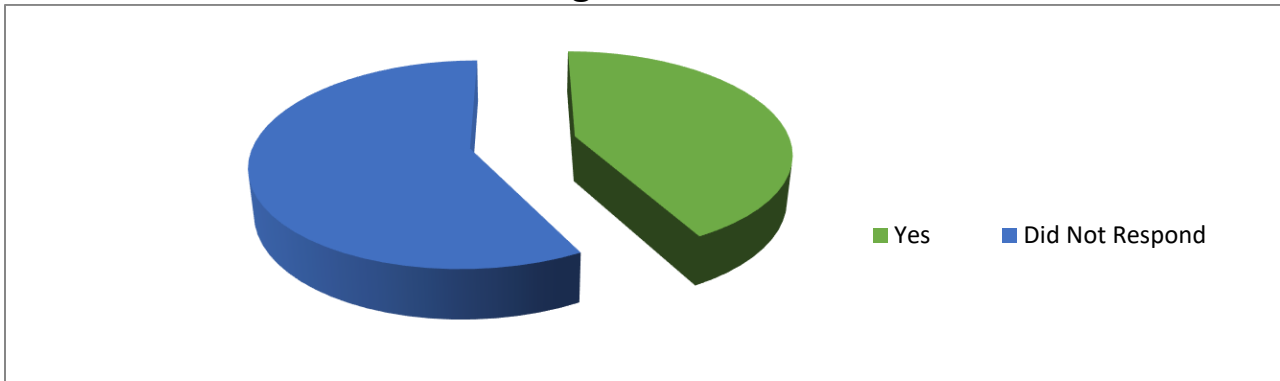
Overall, I thought the information was:



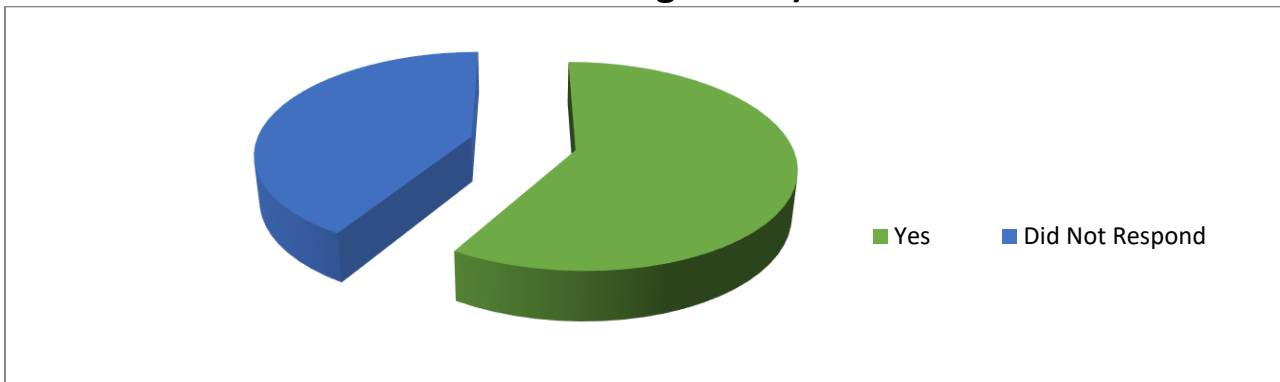
I would like to be a part of a session to learn how to assess my town’s housing needs, seek out important data and other housing information, and become familiar with options employed in other towns that might work in my town.



I would like to be a part of a group of residents and community leaders in my town to discuss our town’s housing need and how best to meet them over time.



I would like to attend a workshop tailored to meet my town’s particular housing needs (e.g. transit-oriented development, developing senior housing, increasing homeownership, eliminating blight, creating mixed-income housing, other housing needs).



What housing-related efforts should TEAM undertake in the future? Any other feedback welcome:

TEAM put on a great event. Great turnout and an impressive group of speakers.

Give action steps for attendees to start working on the issues. Form Valley Housing Action team to work together

Associates problems, parking, open space, etc.

I want to help anyway I can. I am the person in need of help with housing and transportation. So if I could give back, it's a start. I am willing to go out into my community to find out what is needed

If people are paying a rent that is = to a mortgage then more help with low income mortgage programs that help with down payments and closing costs. For multifamily homes, because it creates a safe place to live and also an income to help maintain the mortgage, that way these homeowners can also provide a place for Section 8 or Hnd residents.

Housing for homeless people

A remarkable conference

I would like to meet with a group of seniors who need/want specialized home ownership for retired persons. This means single floor home plots that afford the amenities most folks are used to in their former primate residence, but who choose to remain as homeowners in a pleasant environment.

Impact of housing problems

I think driving deeper in how municipalities successfully carried out affordable housing. Really enjoyed Rich Simmons narrative wishes he and other were able elaborate more even include community leader outlook

Cost benefit analysis on education cost – to tax benefits

Help with funding for housing (affordable housing)

A great deal of important info provided in a concise/understandable forum. Work with the Valley Interfaith Council in proving housing opportunities in the Valley

Looking forward to continuing to partner with you to get this info out and help to build continued awareness in the future

Raising the voices of those most affected. Making human connections to increase investment of those privileged enough to feel that these issues don't affect them. Making project connections and raising community awareness of initiatives in progress

Thank you for having this forum – Should be twice a year

Advocacy

Expanding affordable housing opportunities can cause community tension, many around issues of race – these are difficult but necessary conversations

As a general contractor I want to offer builders and developers another partner to build over community needs

Affordable housing municipal plan

We own 230 acres along Metro North Rail Line that we want to develop to include a housing component. Welcome collaborating

Make known (the Valley) what our community is stands for- where is it that we want it to go, most important a welcome mat that fits all

I would like to speak to you from the landlord side of affordable housing. You MUST work with the landlords. You need to address the landlord problems. Needed to have developers from the Valley who are building address the group

Great job and awesome leadership!

Senior and handicapped accessible housing in the valley

How can we help bring stability to families in Derby? Walnut Hill Community Church wants to help provide stability in our neighborhood! I would love to know how we can help!

Information for homeowners to be able to provide affordable housing. Also how to get help in order to make their homes safe

I am wondering if TEAM could collaborate with local landlords and build relationships. This could help families who are looking to rent locally

Derby downtown improvements to make any housing there more desirable

Elderly housing

Housing for people with no income= homeless and with medical needs CMH/SA/Physical need to be address- homeless a large issue that remains hidden

Housing forum was well thought out, excellent presentations, well organized. Thank you for hosting

Private owners need to be at the table. Landlord engagement coordination to improve existing housing conditions and improve living environments. DGB funds small community > Hud/State. Reduce evictions/foreclosures. Housing stability through rent/mortgage assistant security deposit.

Find responsible party (parties) from each community to lead hyper local activity. TEAM keeps them accountable and helps connect to needed resources

Time flew. This was great

Continue to press on!

Work focus housing as it relates to Naugatuck Valley TOD's

I would love help in convening a work group in Naugatuck to help with homeless/shelter/housing as part of our organization mission. Naugatuck will hold a forum with locale stakeholders, proceed plan of one stop shop/homeless shelter in Naugatuck

The more knowledge that's made public the better. Planning and Zoning boards need to understand our housing challenges and to have an open mind

We need to meet

Advocating for state funding to support new housing not just support for committees and programs to discuss housing issues. Housing developed with only for-profit funds results in "affordable housing" that is at least 50% burdensome "affordable" single bedroom units that start at \$1,500. Month not including utilities is 80%-90% burdensome for families who's income is based on minimum wage jobs and/or social security

Developing more section 8 availability

Continue education opportunities in communities where there are specific housing needs. Excellent presentation of resources this morning. Begin conversation with faith community in Seymour/Oxford. Become more active with this effort in my community

Reconvene planning group – organize next seminar by town/topic/ identify "Go Forward" Plan - Possibly convene focus groups for each town differentiate between "Boom in housing" with percent include in workforce house identity what each town wants – e.g. "gentrification" – "Bedroom community" "Housing to support workforce for local industry. Etc.

I would like to organize a meeting in oxford to address/ discuss affordable/multi income housing in rural town

A way to connect with people who couldn't make today's forum

Doing a fine job. Hope to involve people in my town

Happy to help share resources in C6B programs and with towns and property owners

Great job David, David and the rest of TEAM's team!

Assist in placement in transitional, supportive and low income housing. Assist in locating and placing disabled adults in their stipend jobs, which will increase their income without reducing their disability benefits. I am personally struggling with housing and income issues right now

Convening, connecting – getting local dialogues going

Repetition of housing slides was annoying and distracting from speakers. Would have been nice to have slides about what was being discussed

I'd like to hear more from people closer to the Valley about ways to assist patients with housing

Connect Valley Board of Selectmen to work together as a Valley plan over conflicting individual town plans

For municipalities, guidance and resources are key. If you can tell us who and what we can coordinate locally.

Habitat for Humanity – Help people have their own homes

Willing to look into assisting a local group to listen to and educate our community

Support existing truly affordable housing that providing housing to individuals at or below 30% medium income to be sustainable we are the original and not replaceable affordable housing

I'm part of EDC hold a forum

This was extremely informative. I would like to see future forums around helping individuals/families move from being housing insecure into stable housing

Well run by David Fink! Old Saybrook & Stonington speaker narratives were not helpful and repetitive of other narratives. (although energetic). David Kooris – Very good perspective.

Manage time allocations. More time for questions between groups

Awesome keeping inviting us. If there is any way for this SEDC to become more involved please let us know

Bravo Team! This is an important constellation of issues – the event was well done.

As a developer; it would be helping to know specific grants/monies to access in order to assist with costs (astronomical_ associated with building, set cleanup and infrastructure in order to build work force or elderly housing.

Very impressive event! Outstanding!

While I loved the number and quality of the panelists, there was no opportunity to ask questions

Recognition that not all towns have transit opportunities. Affordable housing made for all towns is not realistic

Town – specific fact sheets. Woodbridge needs are very different than the rest of the valley and/or case studies on towns similar to ours How do we do this and what kind of positive impacts have been seen elsewhere

Continue conversation. Define measurement tools/outcomes to report convene roles and success

Discussions on helping the veterans – housing can be (interim housing) “Group” if 2-3, etc are living under one room – combining finances to pay rent. Individually, do not make enough to afford rentals on their own

Continue to expand the constituency for affordable housing. Thank you

Need to add on parts to improve existing housing stock. Public/private partnerships convene LOCAL developers P&Z, government to discuss

Great job!

Today’s Housing Forum was incredible. Thank you so much for initiating the discussion on such a vital subject and coordinating the seminar. Onward and upward.

Today’s program was excellent. Thanks for all of your work making this happen. It was an impressive and knowledgeable group of presenters.

Thank you and your staff for holding this morning’s forum. It was excellent and inspiring. We hope to engage you on this initiative going forward.

Congratulations on a tremendously successful event. It was quite spectacular. Kudos for your careful planning, preparation, and the extensive outreach you did engaging stakeholders prior to the event. There was more collective energy in that room than I have ever seen around this issue. I do believe the event was the start of something transformational.

What a conference. Really nicely sequenced for the audience and you moved it along nicely, something not often done. A real eye opener for me to see a crowd like that.

The forum was a real eye opener for me in terms of the need and the resources that are out there to assist.

Excellent forum.