



MCPHERSON COUNTY  
**Community  
Foundation**

# Community Confidence Survey McPherson County, State of Kansas

July 2023



Innovation Economy Partners  
OUR FOCUS: IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

# Why we conducted this effort.

To help understand the following:

- How is our community unique? What are our strengths and our most pressing challenges?
- How can we create consensus on local priorities?
- How can we rally our local focus on our most pressing needs and then mobilize actions?
- How can we better collaborate across the County!

City	Number of Responses
Canton	19
Galva	21
Inman	53
Lindsborg	119
Marquette	27
McPherson	312
Moundridge	80
Roxbury	2
Windom	27
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>660</b>

## THE EQUATION THAT DRIVES COMMUNAL PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY



# Page 1 | Introduction

Community Benchmarking Report  
City of McPherson, KS | June, 2023

This Voice Of Our Community Study has been developed to help local community leaders and citizens identify the major local patterns. The data that has been captured here can be broadly classified in two categories: (1) The perceptions by the citizens of the community and (2) The numbers that measure the economic facts. The report helps identify the opportunities and the challenges, so that the community can build on what is working. **Our big observation: McPherson seems to be a tale of two cities. There are incredible positive economic factors (economic confidence, housing growth, tax collections,...) that demonstrate that the city is moving in the right direction. At the same time, however, the community confidence is much lower than the average county resident. What are some efforts that local leaders can engage in to lift the outlook of the residents?**

**What makes our community special?**  
The people  
"Small town feel" - safe place  
Just the sense of community/ one big family  
Great Community, Nice Parks, Clean and Vibrant Downtown Businesses.  
Small hometown feel, basketball legacy, refinery that supports community.  
McPherson has a rich history in which its citizens take a great deal of pride.  
It is progressive in its approach to business and is a clean community with great people.  
Mayberry Feel, Cute town within driving range of a million pop City yet not a "suburb"  
The amount of industry we have for such a small community is phenomenal  
Bikability/Walkability, Parks, Main Street, Colleges  
People are involved and willing to help.  
Generosity and kindness

**Our Most-Admired Leaders**

Sheriff Jerry Montagne  
Police Chief Golden  
Rebecca Lewis-Pankrat  
Shiloh Vincent  
Austin Regier  
Becky Goss  
Mayor Tom Brown  
Dave O'Dell  
McKenzie Murphy  
Ann Elliott  
Gary Mehl  
Sherrie Rickerson  
Rick Witte  
Dennis O'Connor - Murray  
Doreen Haskelmeier  
Jay Powell  
Jim Van Gaster  
Jim Leasing  
Laura Voshell  
Aimee Black  
Linda Galt  
Kathy Nicholson  
Ann Engel  
Farrn Hess  
McKenzie Snyder  
Huge Epping  
Gary Hess  
Kathlyn Housh  
Daphne Housh  
Cathy Housh  
Tyler Hughes  
Doug Lohrsh

**THE EQUATION THAT DRIVES COMMUNAL PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY**

1 Collaborative Leadership + 2 Committed Citizenship + 3 Community Vision & Action = Economic & Community Sustainability

Data source: Community Survey (conducted in Spring 2023)

## Reflections & Questions:

- What are the major themes in the community?
- What makes our community unique?
- Who are our most notable local leaders?

## Also:

- (1) Why do we ask the local-residents to share name of who they perceive as local leaders?
- (2) What % of people in a community need to get engaged to make a lasting change?

## Why we love our community.

Homey and easy to live in. – McPherson

**Small town, great schools, welcoming culture – Inman**

Inman offers a lot of amenities many small towns of similar size can't offer – Inman

**Canton is a small community which means people are willing to help each other out. – Canton**

How nice everyone is, helpful, willing to go the extra mile, and ultra support for the school – Windom

**Swedish cultural identity, healthy downtown, quality schools, college connection, hospital – Lindsborg**

Live in McPherson & work in Galva. As a whole, the communities are highly supportive of each other and taking care of one another. –  
McPherson

**Having attended HS, taught, coached & established a business in Moundridge, I have felt very much supported by the community. –  
Moundridge**

A good place to live. Community Pride. Vibrant Business District. Plenty of community activities. – Marquette

**Smaller community is always quiet and feels safer while being close enough to different cities – Canton**

It's where I grew up and I take pride in knowing we are a growing and thriving community. – Galva

**When there are community activities, many people get involved – Canton**

Lindsborg works together to help each other. – Lindsborg

**Moundridge has Community Pride. – Moundridge**

Sense of family. – Galva



# Our Local Leaders

City Number of people that would like to help and provided their contact information:

Canton	5
Galva	3
Inman	14
Lindsborg	24
Marquette	5
McPherson	89
Moundridge	23
Windom	9
Grand Total	172



# Speed Networking – connect with others

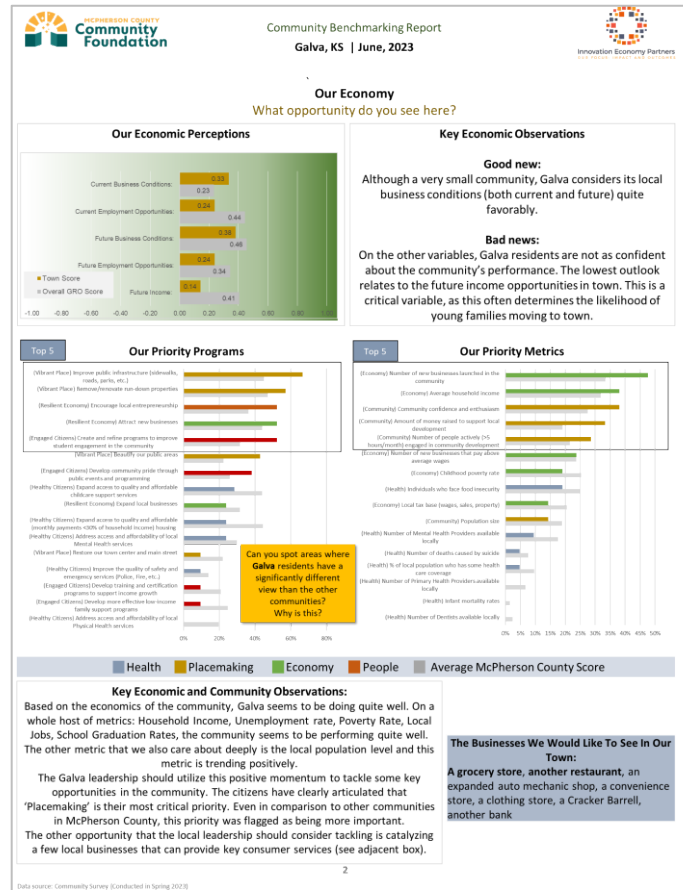
## Introduce yourself

- Name
- What community you're from
- What role(s) you play in your community

**What are you excited about in your community right now?**



# Page 2 | Economics and Priorities



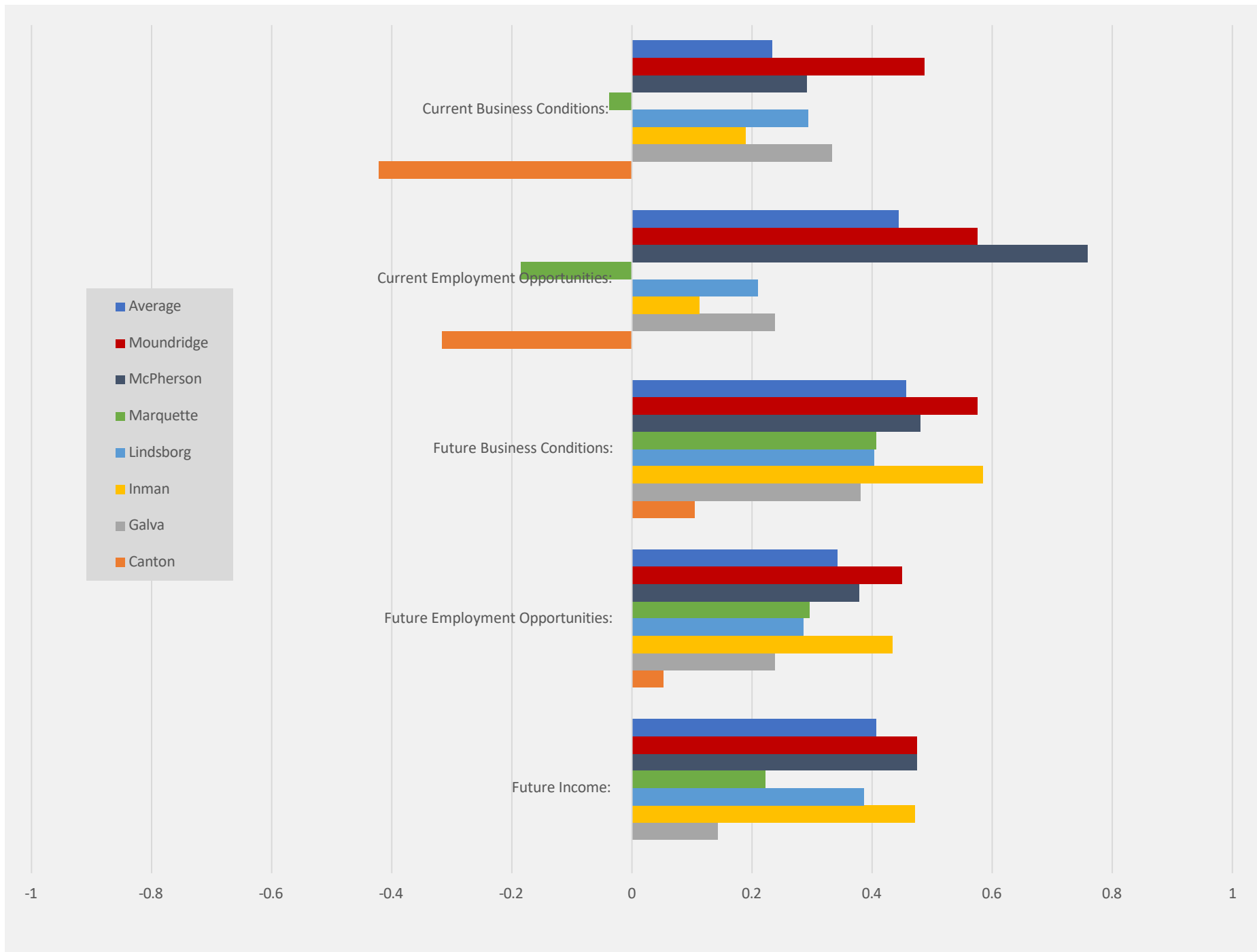
## Reflections & Questions:

- How do our residents perceive local economic confidence?
- What priorities and metrics do our residents want us to focus on?
- What type of businesses do our residents want in our community?
- How can you use the insights on local priorities to mobilize actions?

# McPherson County Prioritized Metrics

## Reflections & Questions:

- Which community is perceived as having the highest current employment opportunities?
- Which community is perceived as having the most consistent positive outlook across all the dimensions?
- How can you use this information to catalyze local economic development?

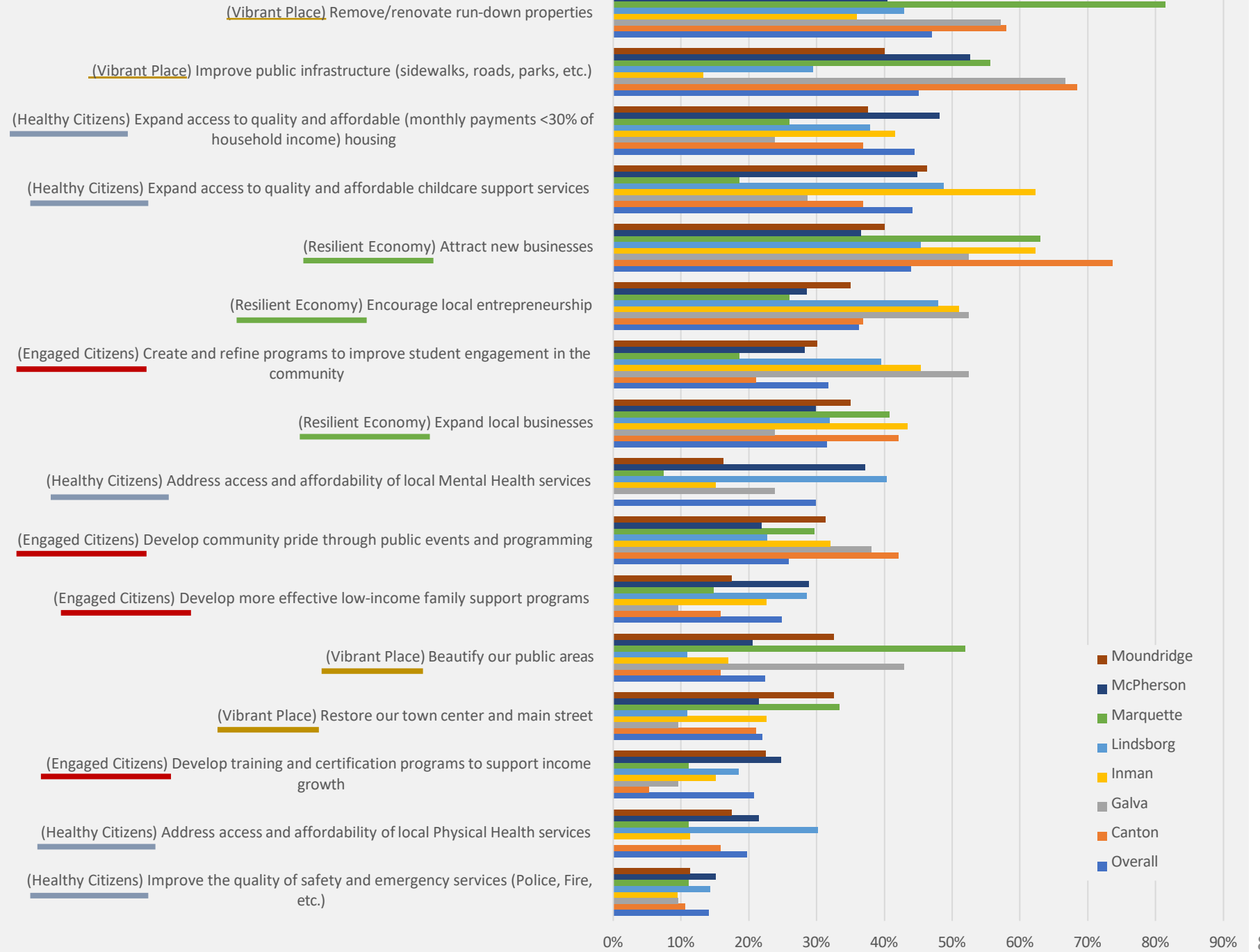




# McPherson County Priorities

## Audience Questions:

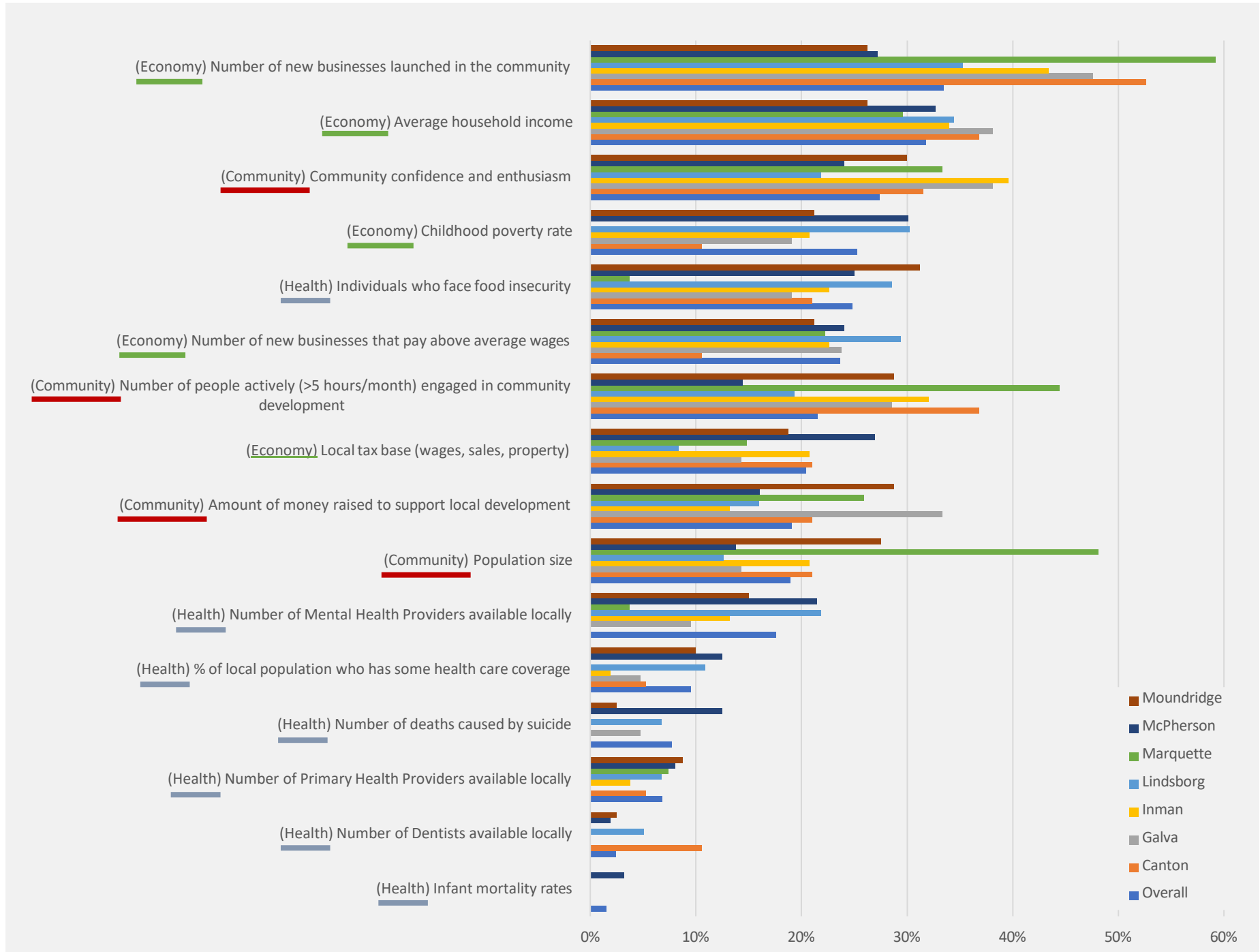
- What are the most important priorities for the residents of your community?
- In what aspects is your community unique?
- What are the potential strengths of your community?
- How can you use this information to create alignment across local leadership and activate initiatives?



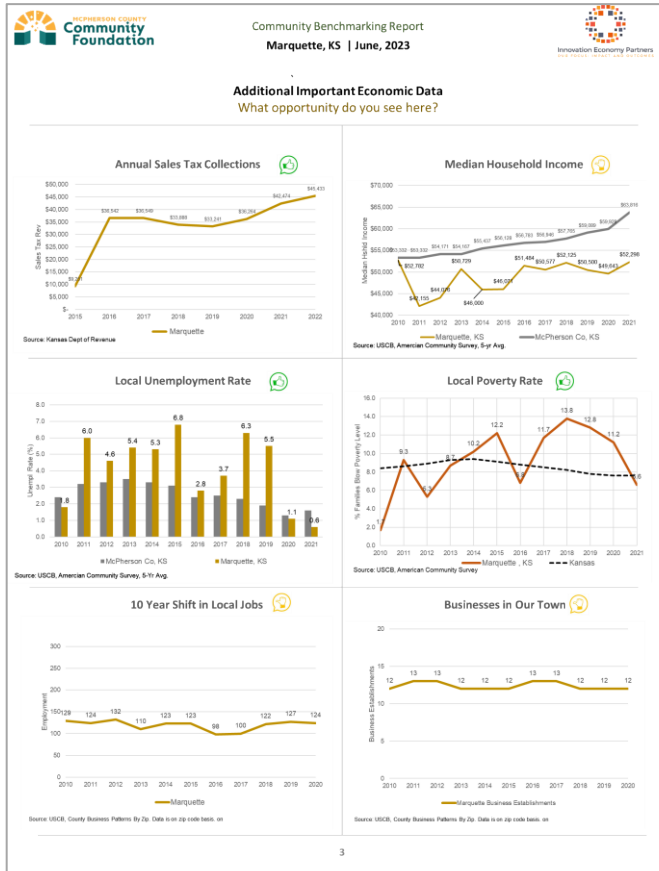
# McPherson County Prioritized Metrics

## Reflections & Questions:

- What are the unique areas where your community wants prioritize it metrics?
- Why do you think that this uniqueness lies in your community?
- What efforts are currently being taken to address this priority?



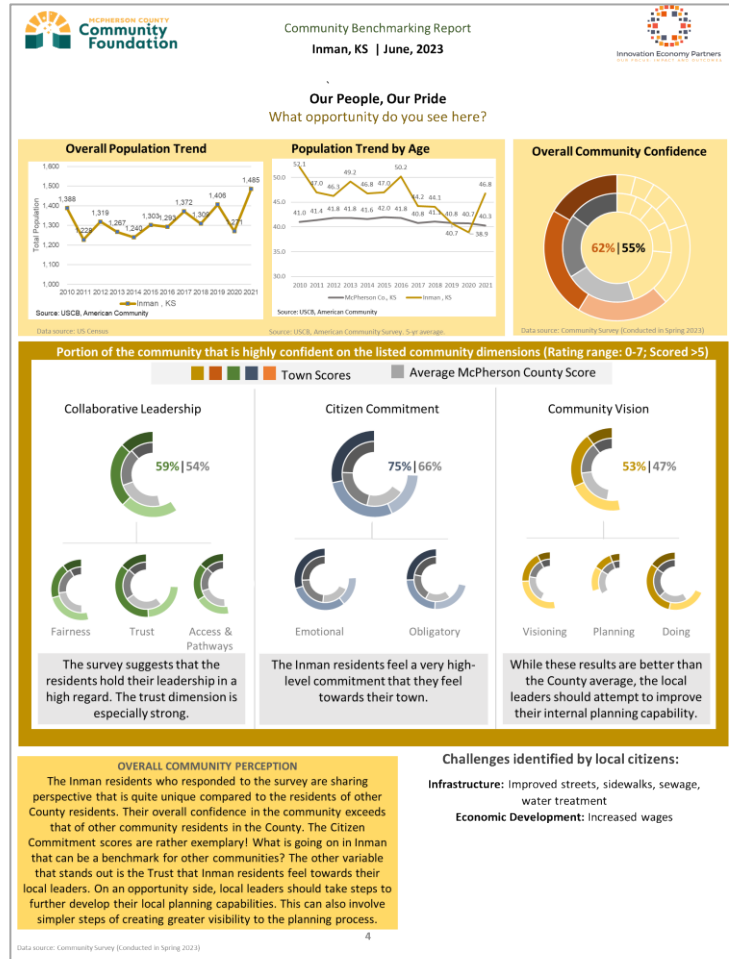
# Page 3 | Economic Metrics



## Reflections & Questions:

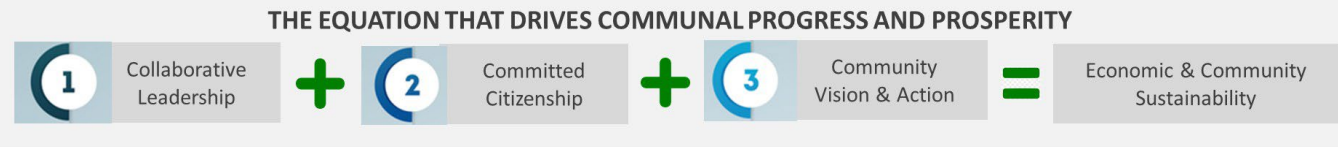
- How does the economic picture look in your community?
- What are some positive signs?
- What are some challenges?
- What is the most pressing need in the community, based just on the information on this page?
- Were there any eye-opening insights here?

# Page 4 | Community Confidence

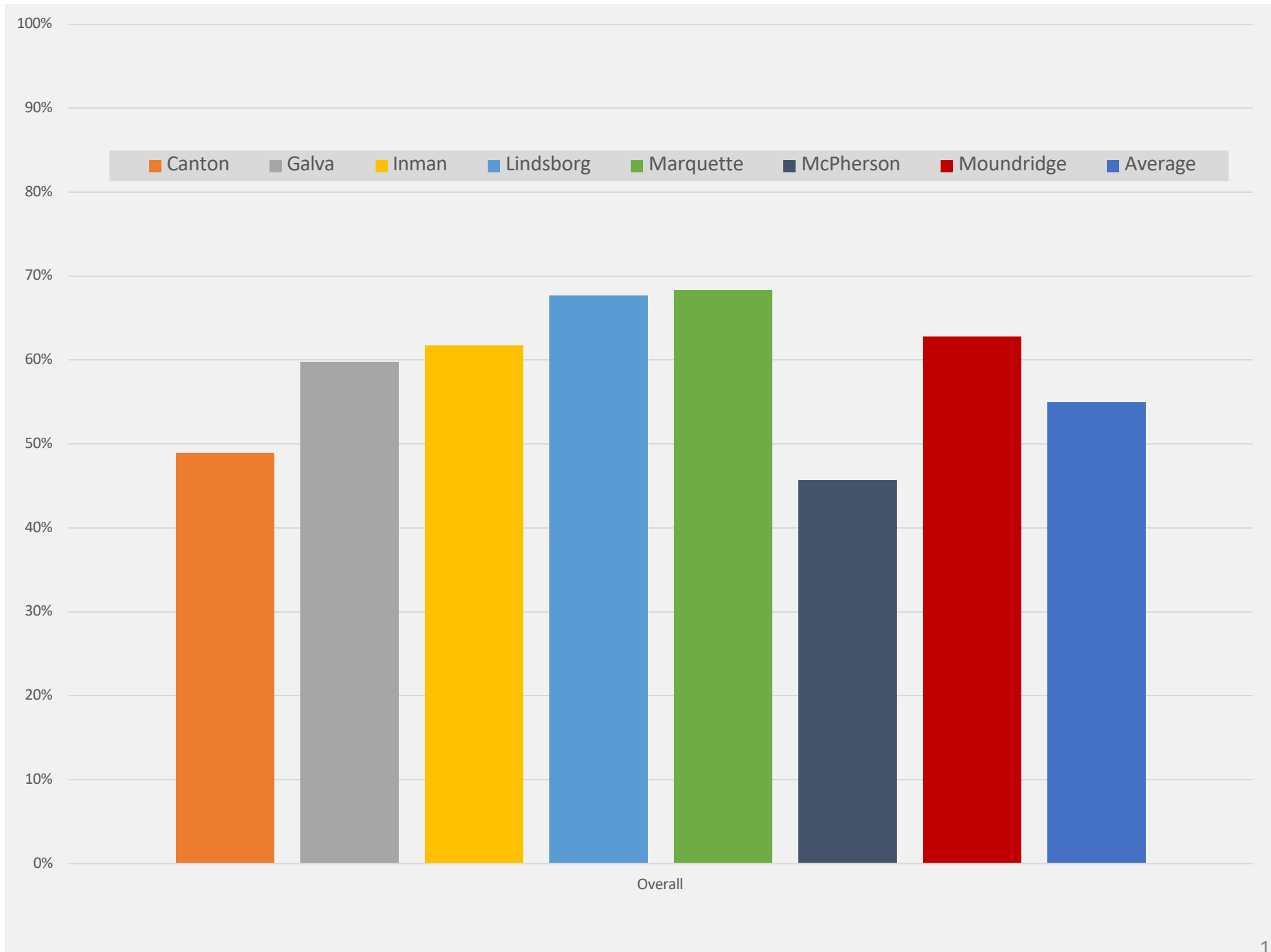


## Reflections & Questions:

- What is the area where your community has the highest confidence? Where is the lowest confidence?
- What are the relative strengths and weaknesses of your community?
- Was there any information that surprised you? Do you agree or disagree with this information? Why?



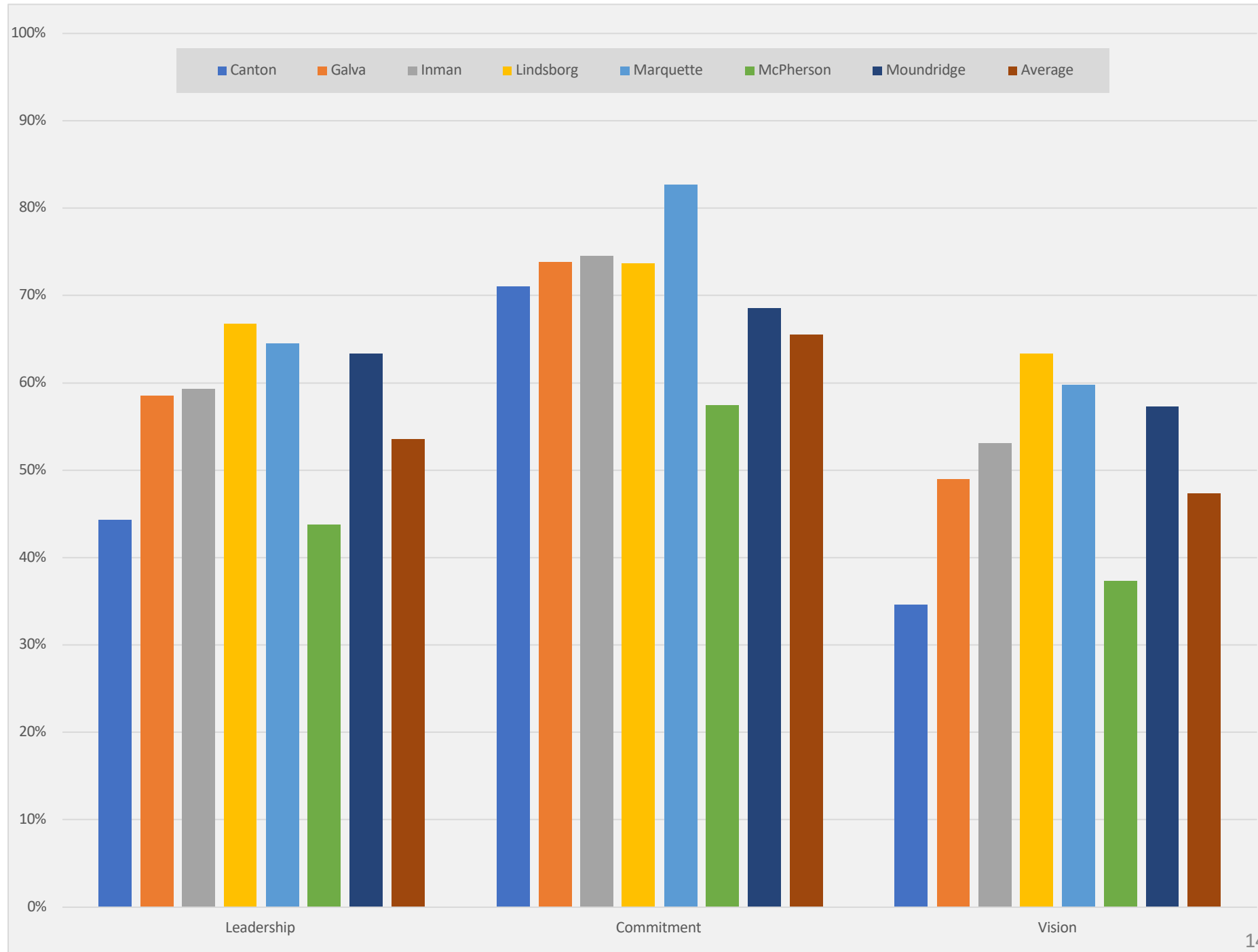
# Overall Community Confidence Ratings across the County



# Overall Community Confidence Ratings across the County

## Reflections & Questions:

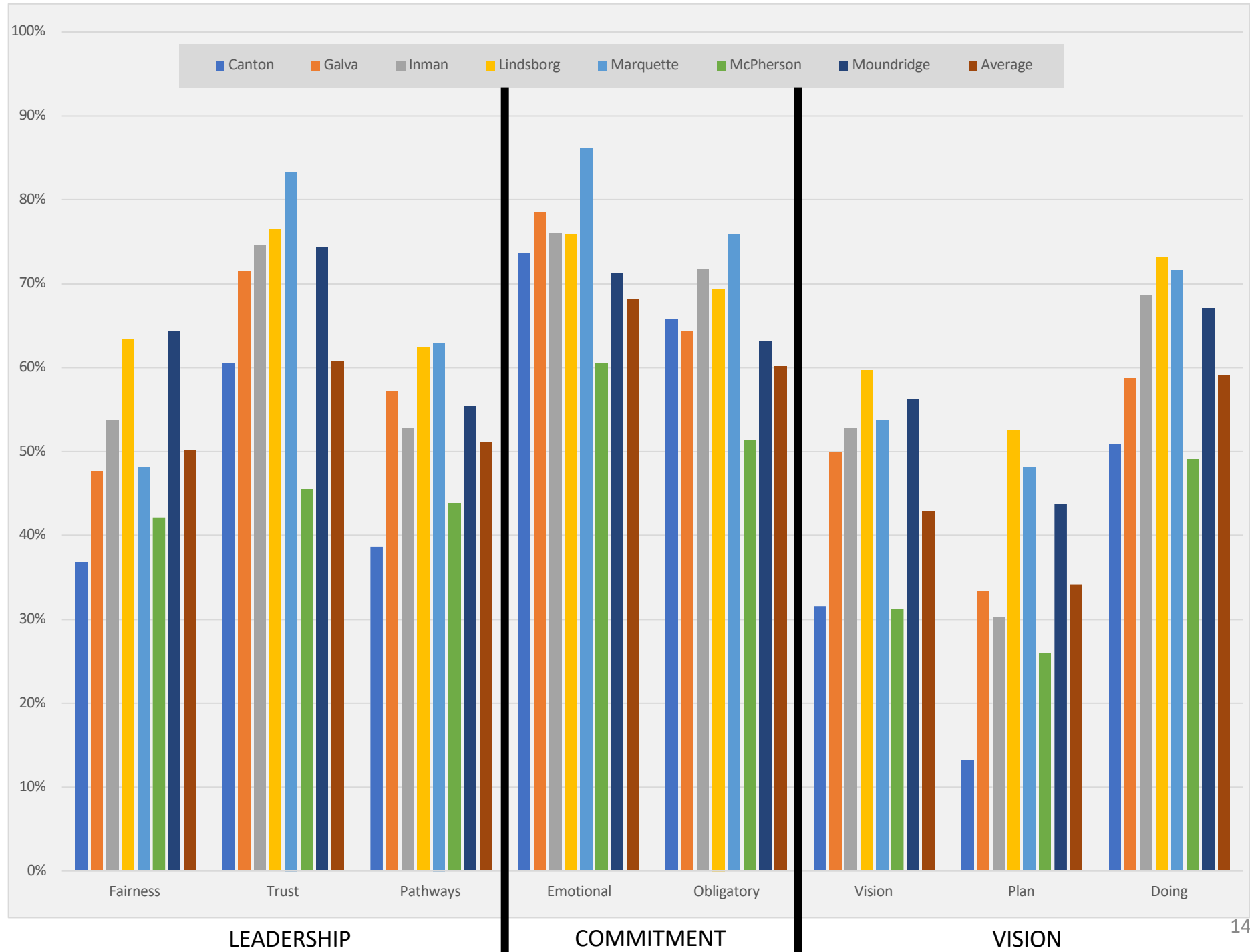
- What are the unique strengths and challenges that you perceive in your community?
- What broad patterns exist across the county?



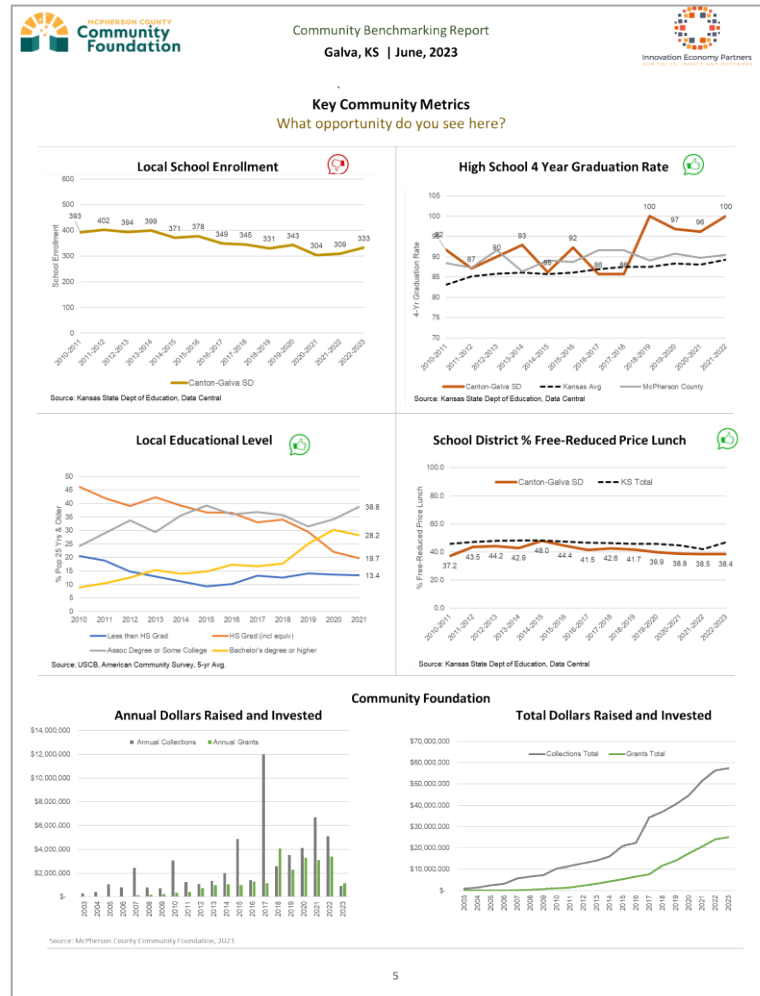
# Overall Community Confidence Ratings across the County

## Reflections & Questions:

- What are the unique strengths and challenges that you perceive in your community?
- What broad patterns exist across the county?
- What are some areas where communities across the county should be collaborating?



# Page 5 | Community Metrics



## Reflections & Questions:

- How does the community picture look in your community?
- What are some positive signs?
- What are some challenges?
- What is the most pressing need in the community, based just on the information on this page?
- Were there any eye-opening insights here?



# Page 6 | Survey Response Demographics



## Reflections & Questions:

- This information should help us better understand what patterns of thoughts exist in our community?
- What sub-group thinks what?
- Perhaps reflect on why we think these differences exist across the residents of our community.
- Armed with this insight, what is one additional step that can be taken?

# Community Discussions

- What do you see as things to celebrate?
- Do you notice any names missing on the leadership list? Are you surprised by any that are listed?
- What do you notice about the priorities identified?
- How do those align with the priority metrics?
- What disconnects do you see?
- What do you see as the most critical 2-3 issues to address?
- What is currently happening related to solving these issues?



Break – 9:30 am

15-minute  
break



# Speed Networking – Round 2

## Introduce yourself

- Name
- What community you're from
- What role(s) you play in your community

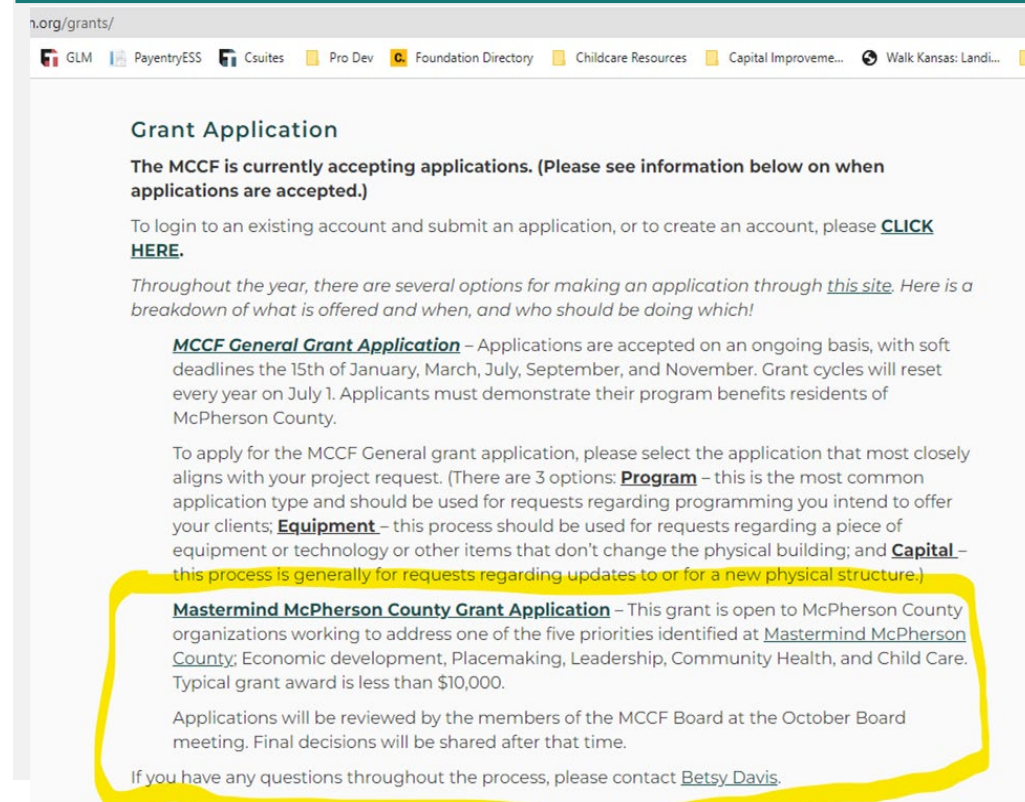
**What do you hope to learn or make progress on today?**



# Mastermind Grant Opportunity

[www.mcphersonfoundation.org](http://www.mcphersonfoundation.org)

Hover over Applications, click grant application, scroll down for instructions



h.org/grants/

GLM PayentryESS Csuites Pro Dev Foundation Directory Childcare Resources Capital Improve... Walk Kansas: Landi...

### Grant Application

The MCF is currently accepting applications. (Please see information below on when applications are accepted.)

To login to an existing account and submit an application, or to create an account, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Throughout the year, there are several options for making an application through [this site](#). Here is a breakdown of what is offered and when, and who should be doing which!

**MCCF General Grant Application** – Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, with soft deadlines the 15th of January, March, July, September, and November. Grant cycles will reset every year on July 1. Applicants must demonstrate their program benefits residents of McPherson County.

To apply for the MCCF General grant application, please select the application that most closely aligns with your project request. (There are 3 options: **Program** – this is the most common application type and should be used for requests regarding programming you intend to offer your clients; **Equipment** – this process should be used for requests regarding a piece of equipment or technology or other items that don't change the physical building; and **Capital** – this process is generally for requests regarding updates to or for a new physical structure.)

**Mastermind McPherson County Grant Application** – This grant is open to McPherson County organizations working to address one of the five priorities identified at [Mastermind McPherson County](#): Economic development, Placemaking, Leadership, Community Health, and Child Care. Typical grant award is less than \$10,000.

Applications will be reviewed by the members of the MCCF Board at the October Board meeting. Final decisions will be shared after that time.

If you have any questions throughout the process, please contact [Betsy Davis](#).



## MCPHERSON COUNTY Community Foundation

### Logon

Email Address\*

Password\*

[Log On](#) [Create New Account](#)

[Forgot your Password?](#)

Welcome to MCCF's online grants system!

**Does your organization have an account, but you need access?**  
If you believe your organization already has a profile but you are unsure of the login information, PLEASE DO NOT create a new profile. Doing so could result in loss of historical information for your organization. Instead, please contact Betsy Davis, Director of Community Services at [betsy@mcphersonfoundation.org](mailto:betsy@mcphersonfoundation.org)



Break – 10:45 am

15-minute  
break



# Breakout by County Priorities

**Economic Development** – e.g. new businesses, expanding existing businesses, entrepreneurship, workforce

**Placemaking** – e.g. housing, community restoration, streets, roads, sidewalks, parks, libraries, museums, schools

**Leadership** – e.g. connectedness, leadership development

**Community Health** – e.g. mental health, hospital, long-term care, lifestyle

**Childcare** – e.g. affordability, availability, workforce



# Report Outs and Next Steps

**Please complete your contact card with priorities.**

**Community Conversations per priority** – watch for details with links in our weekly newsletter. Sessions will begin in late August.

**Grant Application deadline** – Friday, September 15

**Award recipients announced** – Thursday, October 12

**Philanthropist of the Year Event** – Tuesday, November 14

**Benchmarking Survey # 2: March – April 2024**





# Thank You.



Knowledge is NOT power.  
Knowledge is only POTENTIAL  
power. Action is power.

Tony Robbins

## What Will You Do?

