



MCPHERSON COUNTY
**Community
Foundation**

2025 Community Benchmark Report City of Inman, KS

Be The Movement!

Connect with local changemakers, local community projects, resources & grants, and much more.

www.mcphersonfoundation.org



Innovation Economy Partners
OUR FOCUS: IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

What Makes Our Community Special?

"Very clean and inviting community. People take pride in the work they do and how the community looks."

"Supportive, proud and generous community. Very clean and has fun events. Loves outdoor things to do for family and children."

"The willingness to help one's in need. Supporting local school, senior center, and local businesses."

"Everything"

Alex

"Great people"

Matt

"Small town pride! People care about each other and support school activities!"

"Our community is very supportive and comes together in times of need without fail. As a community we lift people up, and encourage people."

Addie

"Living in Inman is the best! The community always rallies around those that are in need, we have great schools, our city wide events are a hit (bringing in people from other towns as well), and we are expanding with new businesses and job opportunities! I don't see my family ever living anywhere else."

"We are a small town with a big heart! One of the most welcoming communities I know. When we moved here we instantly felt we were at home and decided this is where we want to stay for as long as possible!"

Kelsey

The Leaders That Make Our Community Special

shane williams tim nichols
dwight carter justin friesen
doug neufeld lisa thimmesch
kelli regehr keith neufeld lance sawyer
dennan schroeder larry froese
michelle neufeld bruce thiessen bill garst
terri bornholdt emme butler
orlin martens lucas sawyer kevin reimer
staci eddy daniel knapp bob yates
dave thiessen shane ralph vogel
don froese dana bremsing max fuqua
kim baldwintyler schroeder jim toews
shivawn schierling lori kearns
stephen jowers melissa funk
mark toews darren schmidt bev froese
keith ensz katie sawyer jim ostlund
marci penner neil schierling ron regehr
linda mahr nicholas martiskob barb tuxhorn
josiah wuerffel andrew wuerffel scott shriner
charlie prieb andrea johnson
kristin jernick kathy reinecker darin pote

Executive Summary:

Inman faces significant economic headwinds, with residents reporting declines in business activity, job availability, and personal income. Yet the town's deep emotional bonds offer a powerful foundation: citizens overwhelmingly feel connected and proud of their community. Priorities coalesce around business attraction, infrastructure upgrades, and expanded childcare, supported by metric-based goals like launching new enterprises and enhancing household prosperity. High levels of volunteerism and civic participation indicate readiness to collaborate. By channeling this commitment into targeted investments—in roads, downtown beautification, and family services—Inman can translate its strong community spirit into renewed economic vitality and long-term growth.

pg 4 - 5

Economic Confidence

Inman's economy is under strain, with marked declines in business, jobs, and income; urgent business-attraction and expansion efforts are needed for recovery.

pg 6 - 9

Community Engagement Confidence

Emotional ties to Inman are exceptionally strong, but residents seek clearer long-range planning to convert pride into purposeful action.

pg 10 - 12

Critical Community Priorities

Key community goals: draw new employers, revitalize public spaces, and expand childcare—laying the groundwork for healthier, more resilient growth.

pg 13

Survey Respondent Profile

Younger residents express optimism about future opportunities, while long-term workers report less confidence, underscoring generational differences to address.

The Community Benchmarking report has been commissioned by McPherson Community Foundation to help local residents gain a better understanding of the most pressing opportunities that the local towns face. The annual reports that are generated will help leaders determine the extent to which the efforts are having an impact on the local residents. The reports are also a way for the the various towns in McPherson County to pursue grants to help further their local efforts.

**Local leaders can use this framework to help inspire change.
This report provides the clues on what the fellow residents are craving.**



Confidence In Our Local Economy

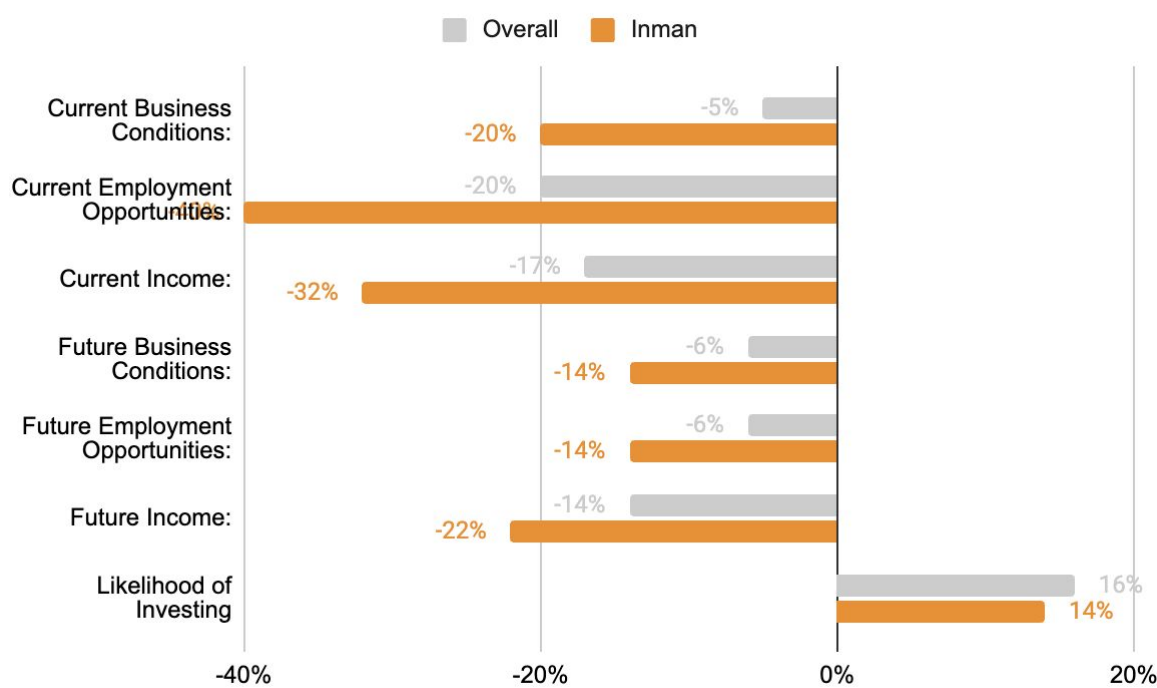
Economic Summary:

The economic outlook for Inman is concerning: residents feel that local businesses, job opportunities, and household incomes have all declined noticeably. Outlooks for the future remain pessimistic, though a modest share of the community is still willing to reinvest locally. These sentiments highlight an urgent need for stabilizing initiatives—upgrading training and certification programs, attracting new employers, and supporting income and job growth—to reverse the downward trends and restore confidence.

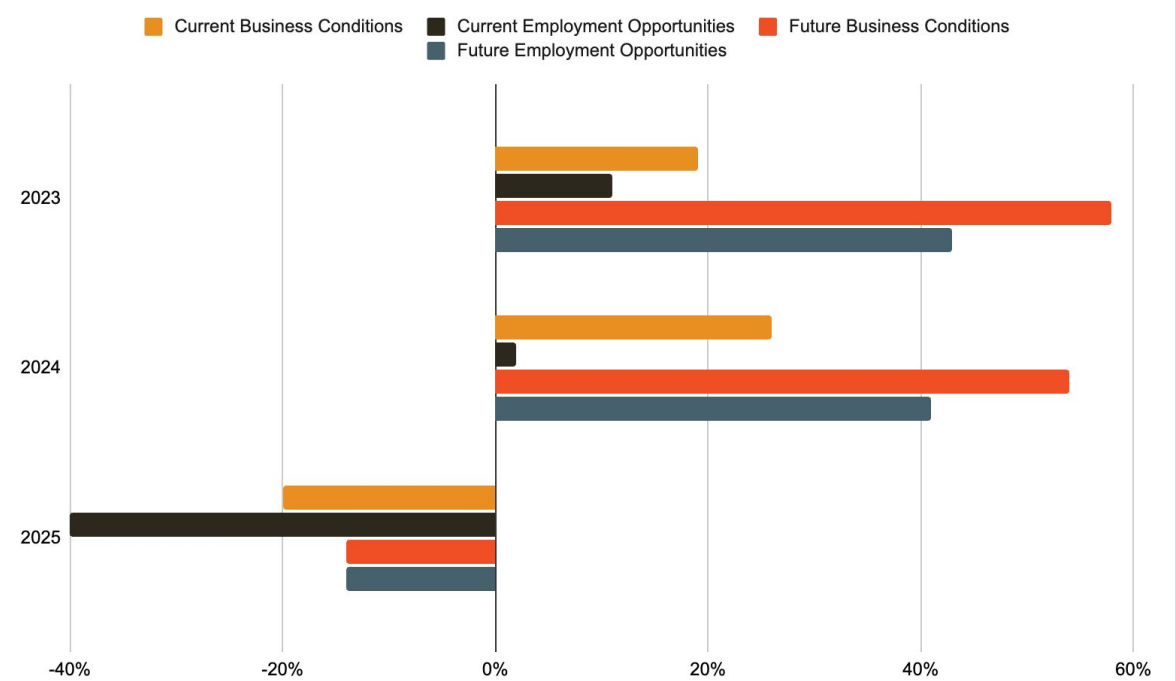
Businesses Needed In Our Town:

- Grocery store**—Provides fresh produce, bread, and local goods.
- Car wash**—Keeps vehicles clean year-round locally.
- Childcare/Daycare**—Allows local preschool enrollment and supports families.
- Restaurant/Food services**—More casual dining, ice cream, and family-friendly options.
- Auto repair & tire service**—Provides minor auto repair and tire services locally.
- Entertainment/Recreation**—Adds theaters, parks, courts, and family events.
- Swimming/Recreation facilities**—Offers indoor pool and small golf course.
- Hardware store/Lumberyard**—Supplies lumber, tools, and household repair items.

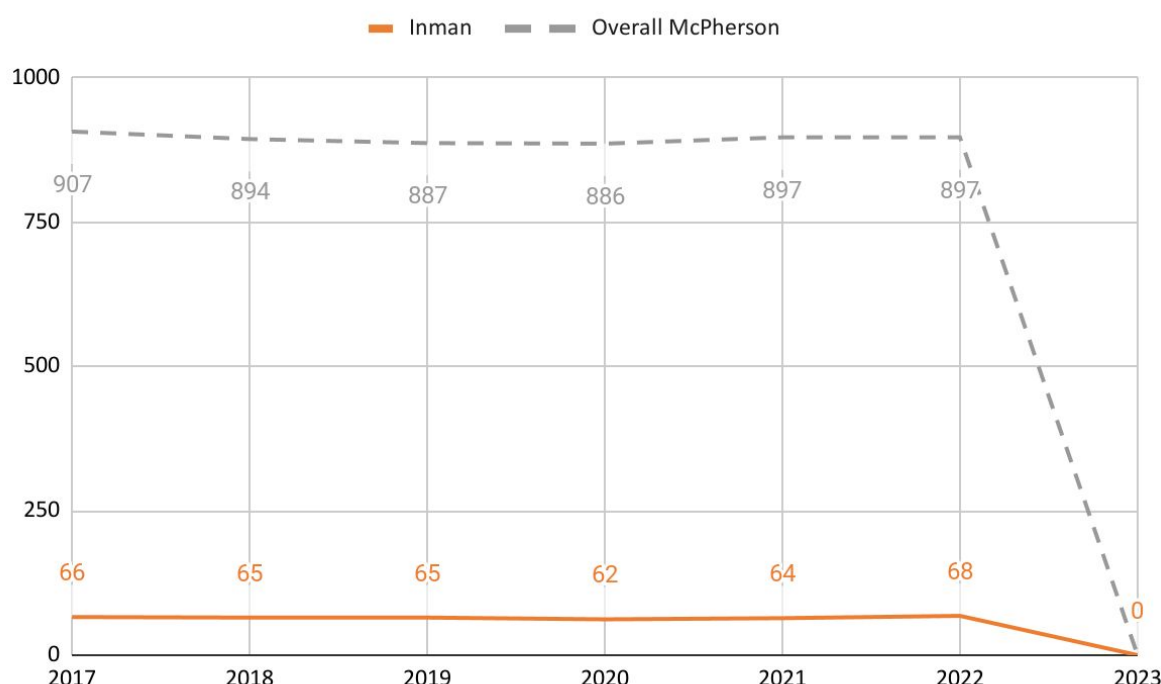
Our Economic Perceptions



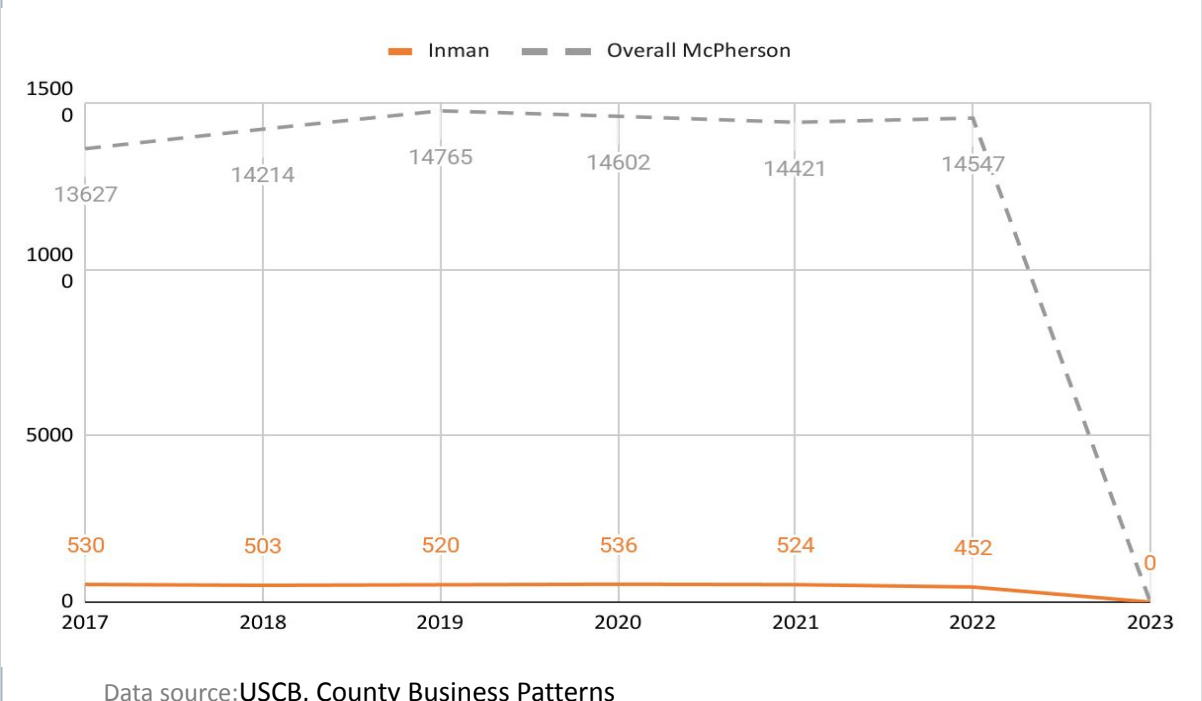
Year Over Year Change (2023 vs 2025)



Businesses in Our Town



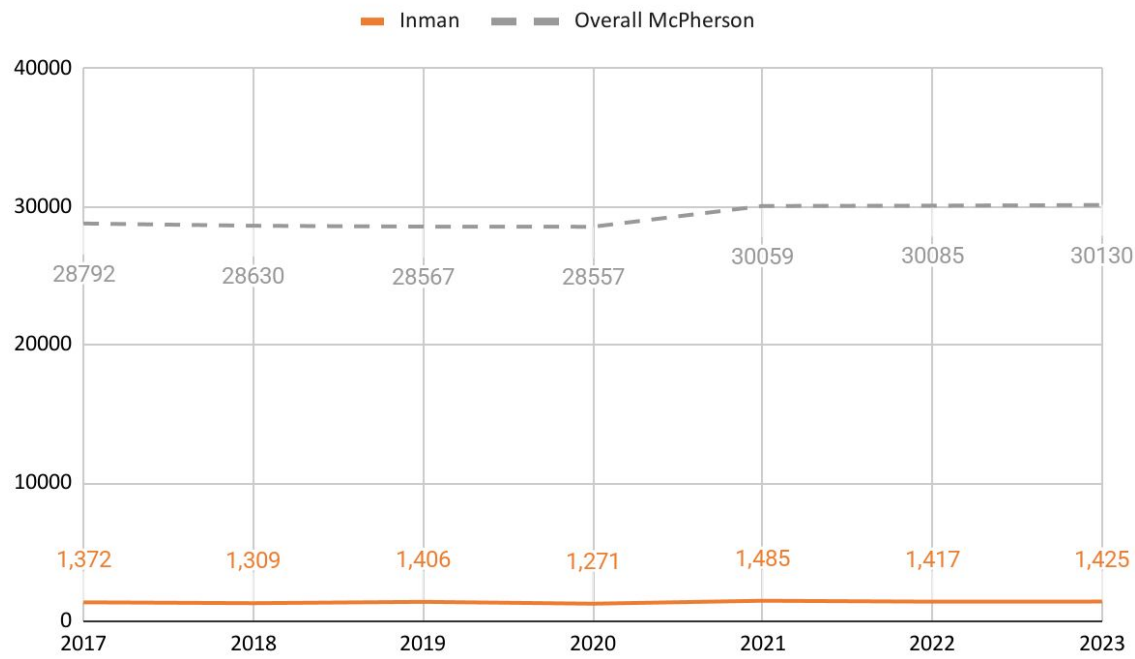
10 Year Shift in Local Jobs



Local Economic Indicators



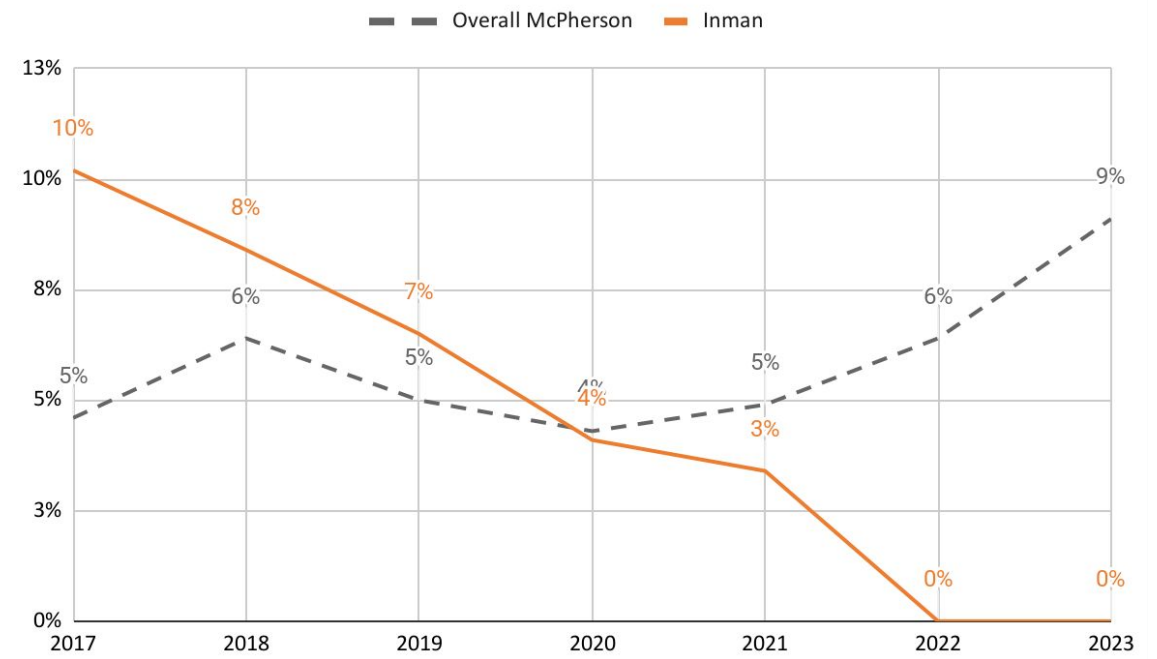
Overall Population Trend



Data source:USCB, ACS 5-Yr Avg



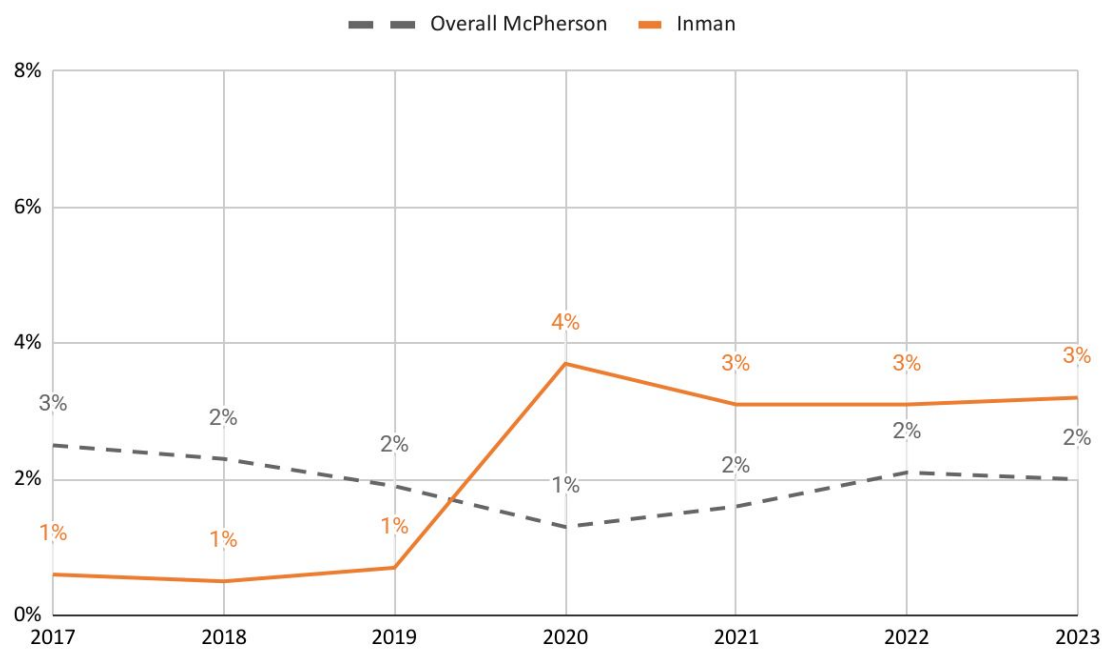
Local Poverty Rate



Data source:USCB, American Community Survey, 5-Yr Avg, DP03



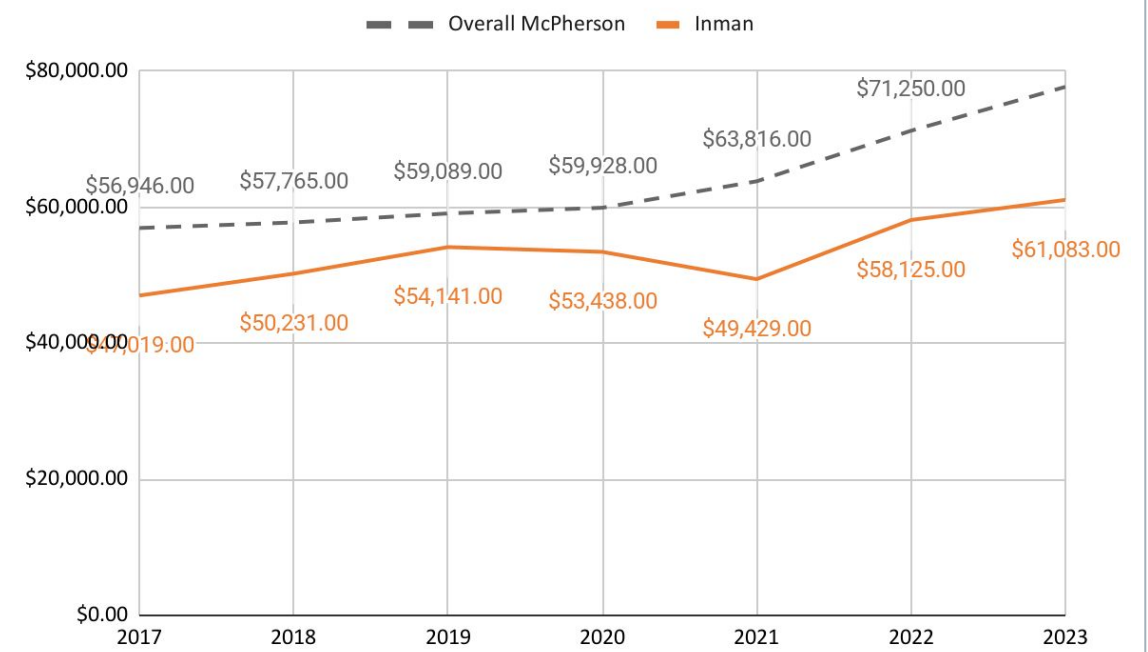
Local Unemployment Rate



Data source:USCB, American Community Survey, 5-Yr Avg, DP03



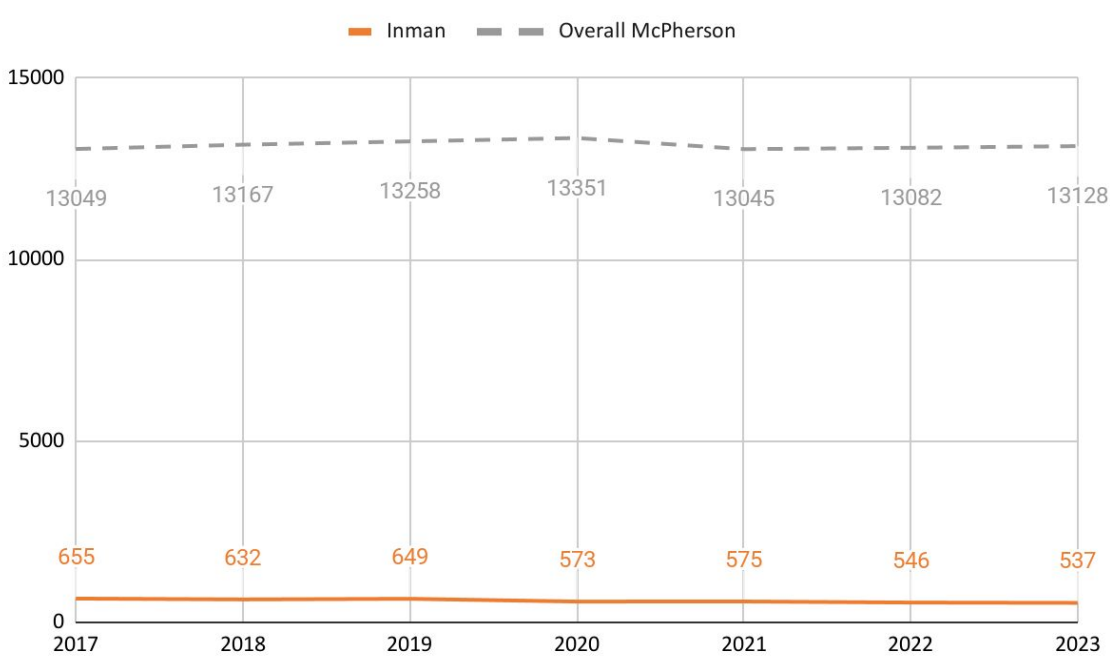
Median Household Income



Data source:USCB, American Community Survey, 5-Yr Avg, DP03



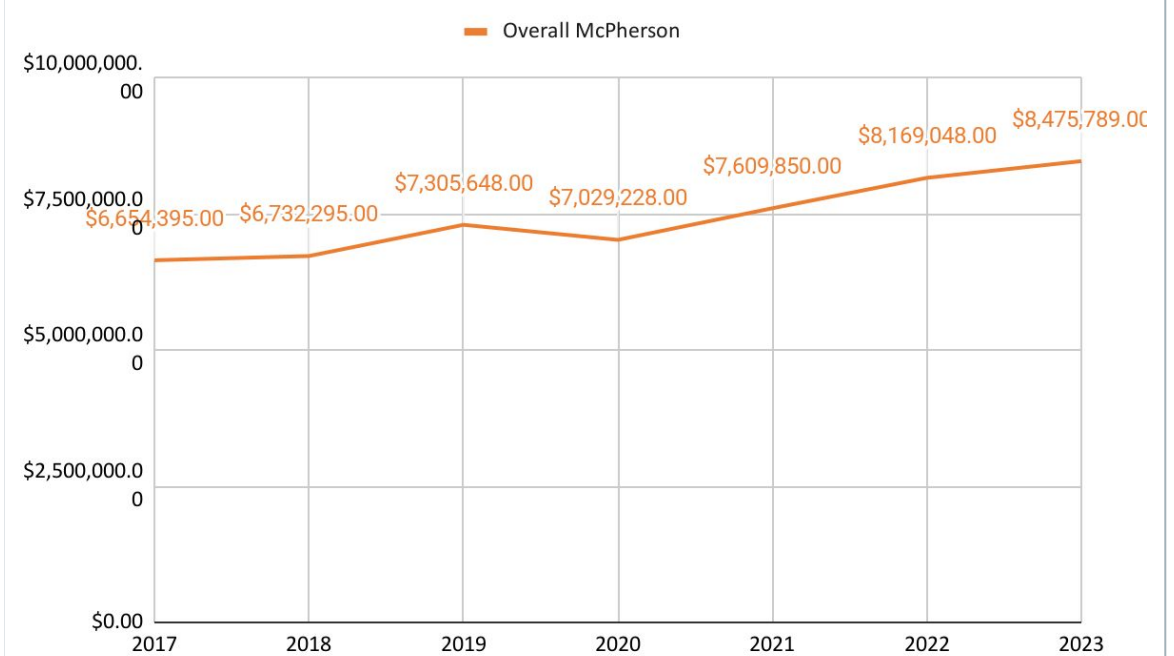
Total Housing Units



Data source:USCB, ACS 5-Yr Avg



Annual Sales Tax Collection



Data source:Kansas Dept of Revenue

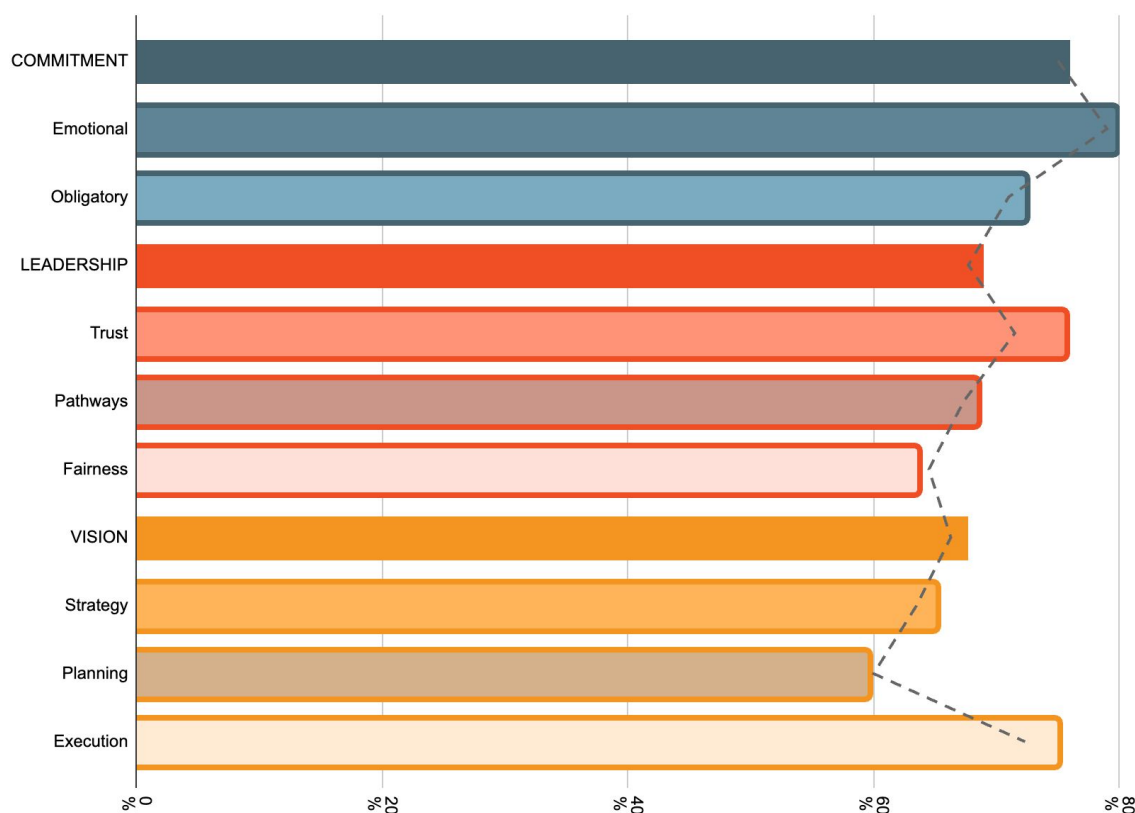
Confidence In Our Local Community

Engagement Summary:

Inman's emotional connection is its greatest asset: most people describe the town as deeply meaningful and feel a strong sense of belonging. A slightly smaller, yet still significant, portion feels a duty to support the community and emphasizes their loyalty to the area.. Residents express pride in past achievements and celebrate local successes, though many note that a clear, documented plan for the future could be more visible. Trust in leadership is high, and people generally feel welcome to engage and speak up, suggesting strong foundations for collaborative action.



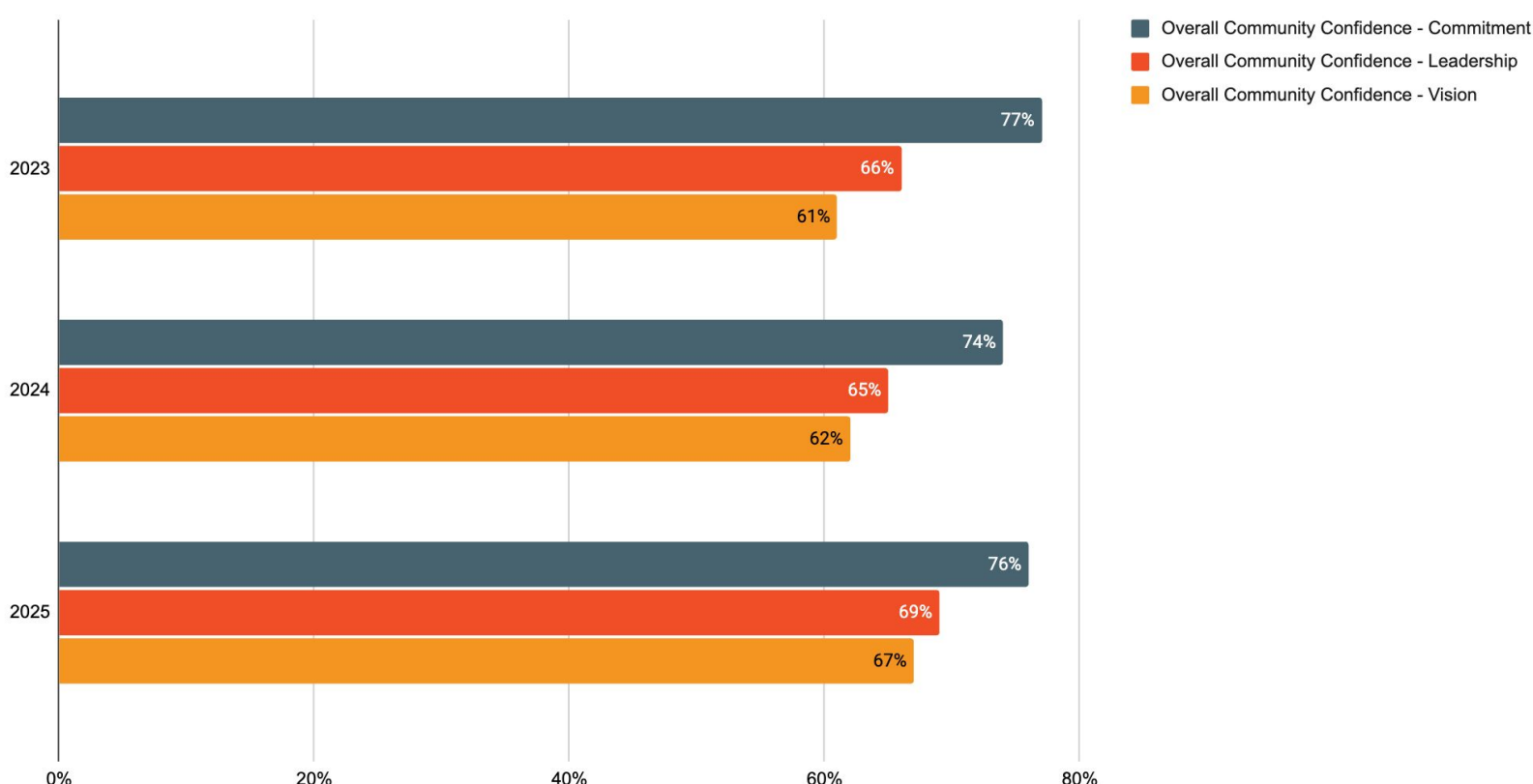
How do our residents view our community?



Questions:

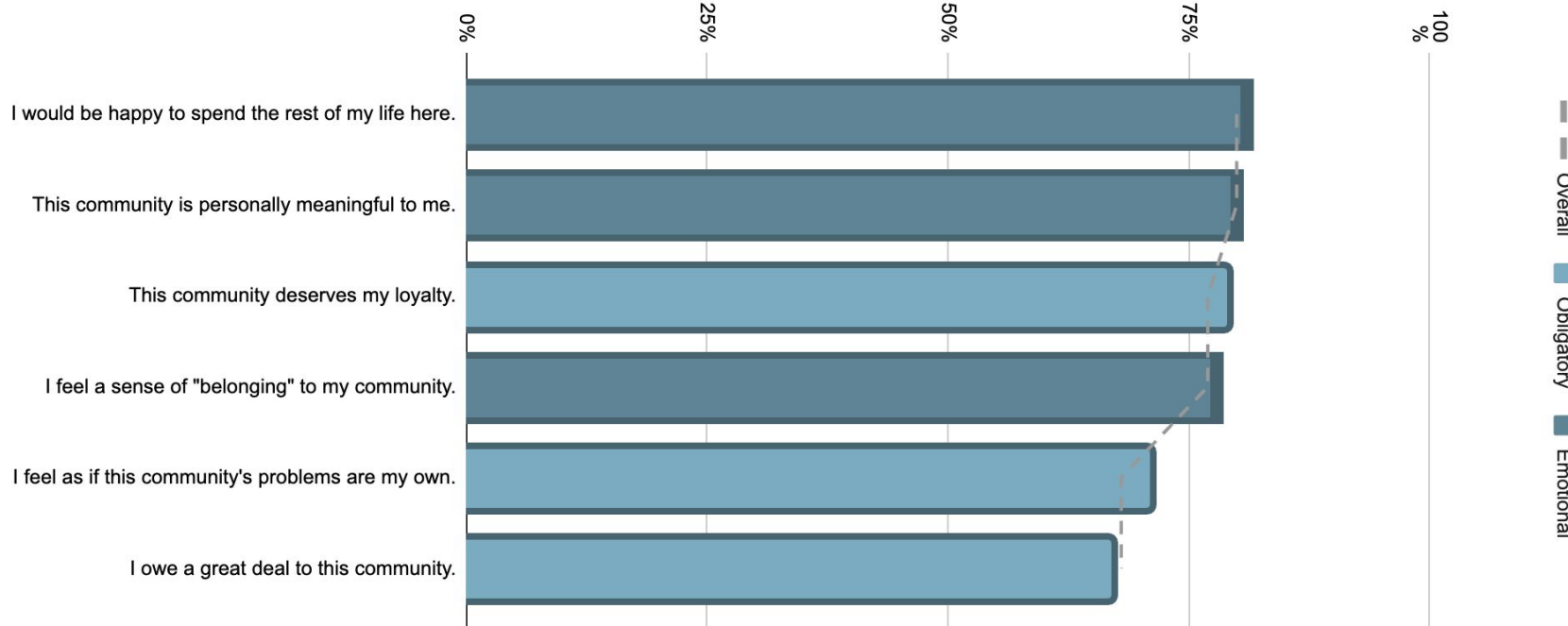
- What drives Emotional Commitment?
- What gaps exist in Planning?
- What Pathways encourage resident involvement?
- How can we keep the overall Vision score increasing into next year.

Year Over Year Change



Confidence In Our Local Community

Community Confidence: Personal Commitment



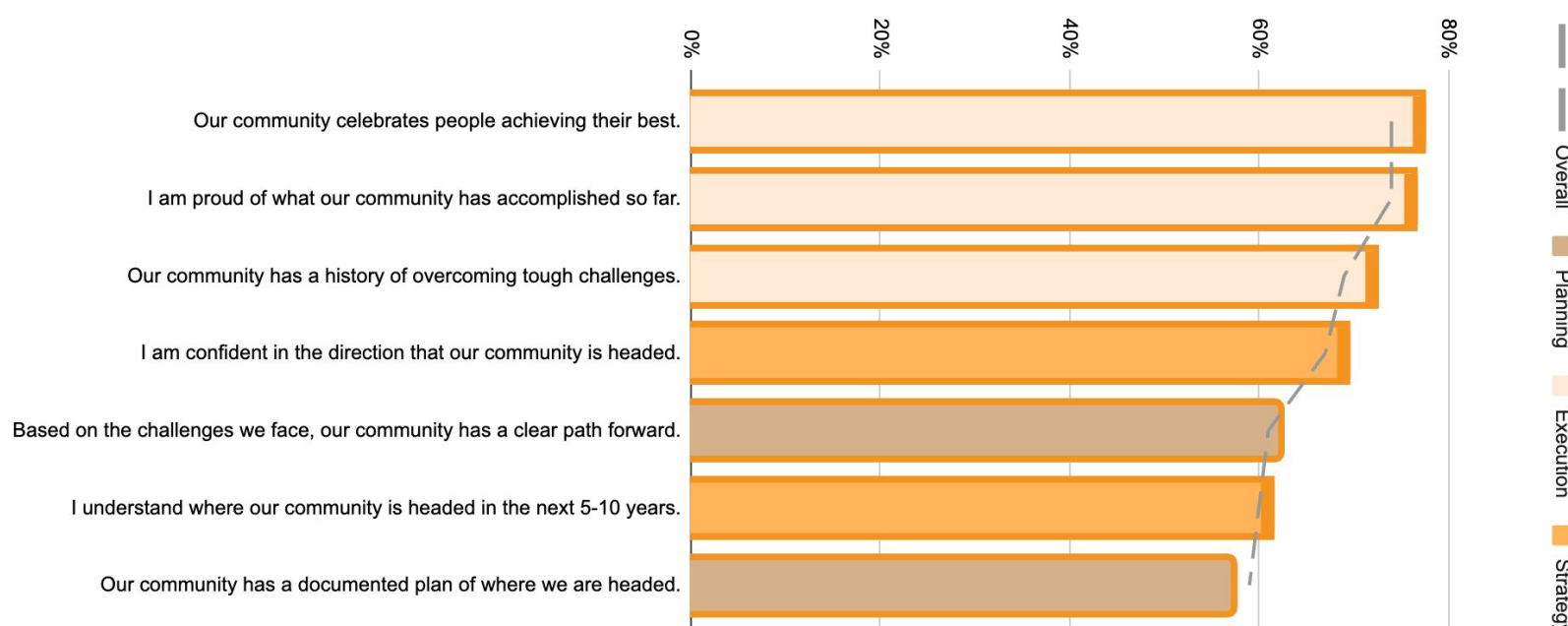
- What causes the high Emotional Commitment scores in our community?
- How can we leverage Emotional Commitment to increase residents' sense of community problems?

Community Confidence: Local Leadership



- How does Trust Leadership foster collaboration and reliance among residents?
- What actions can create new Pathways Leadership for broader involvement?

Community Confidence: Vision

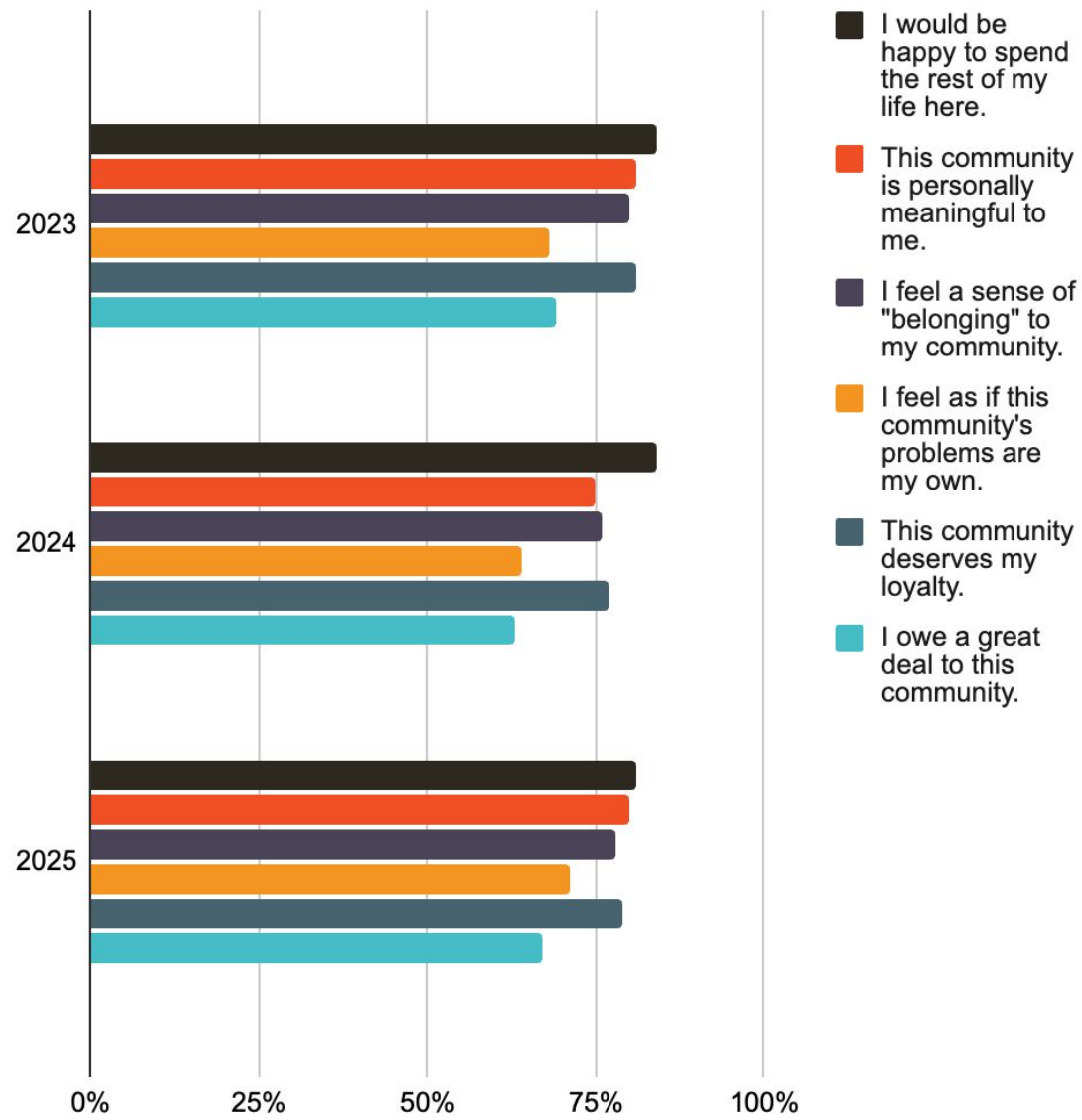


- How does Strategy Vision clarity relate to residents' confidence in community direction?
- What steps can enhance our documented plan to improve Planning Vision?

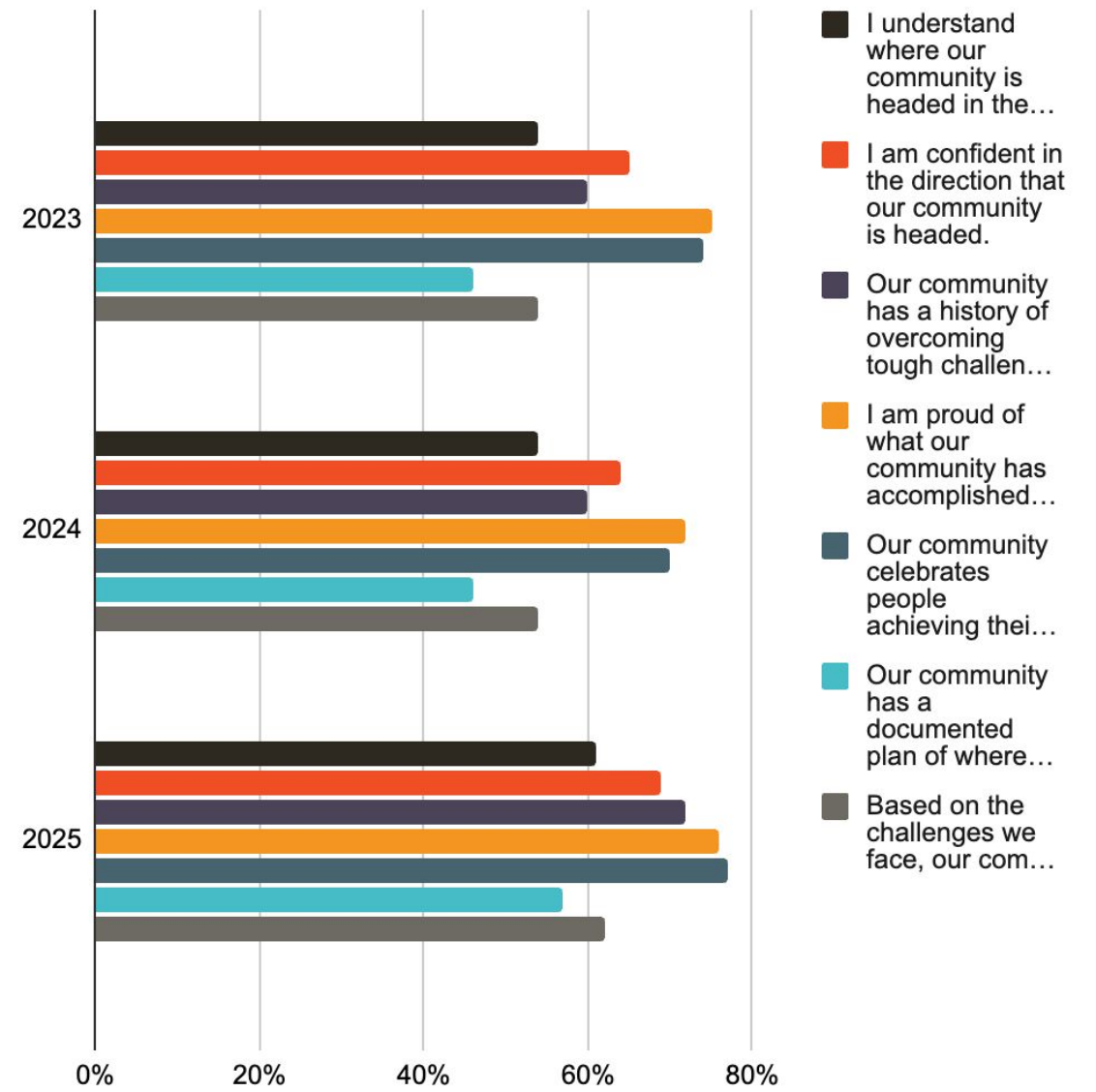
Portion of the community that is highly confident on the listed community dimensions (Rating range: 0-7)

Confidence In Our Local Community

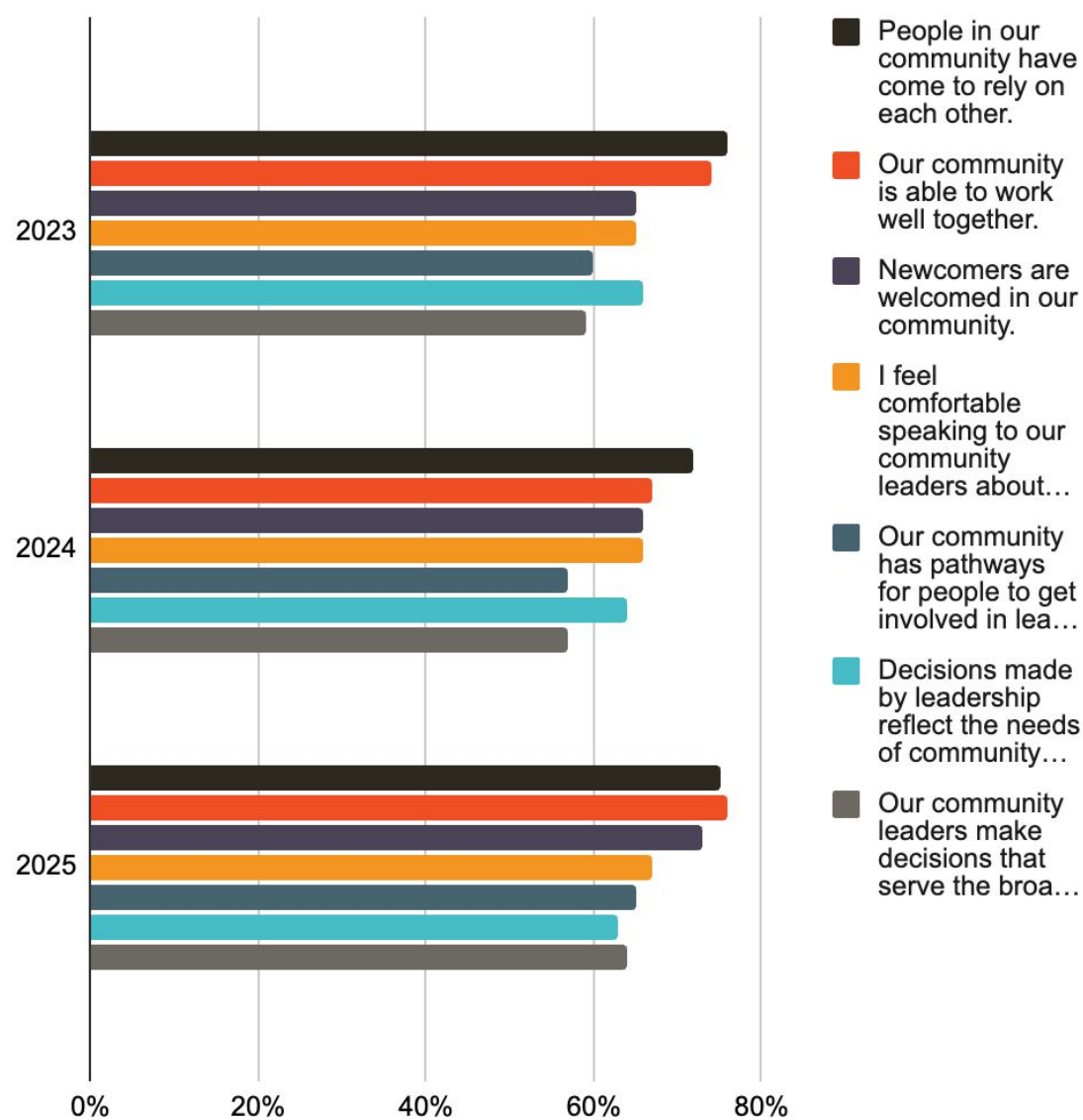
Commitment



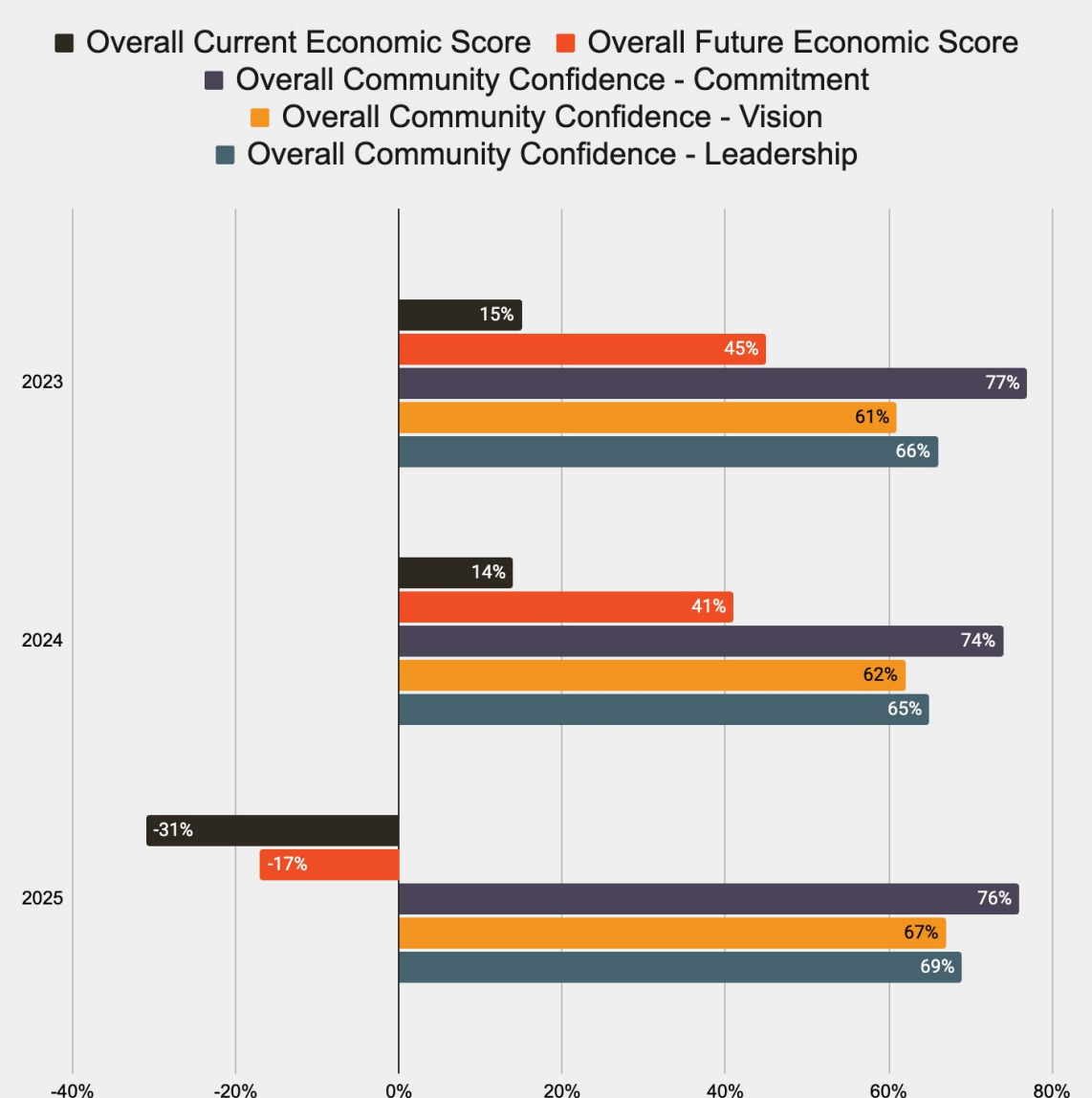
Vision



Leadership



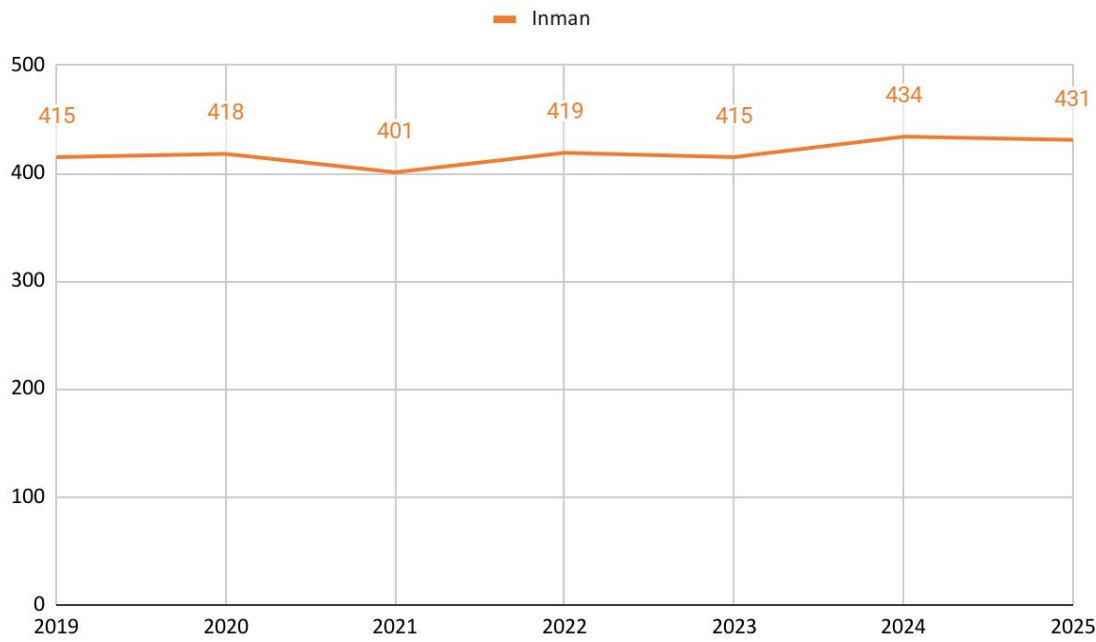
Economic vs. Community Confidence



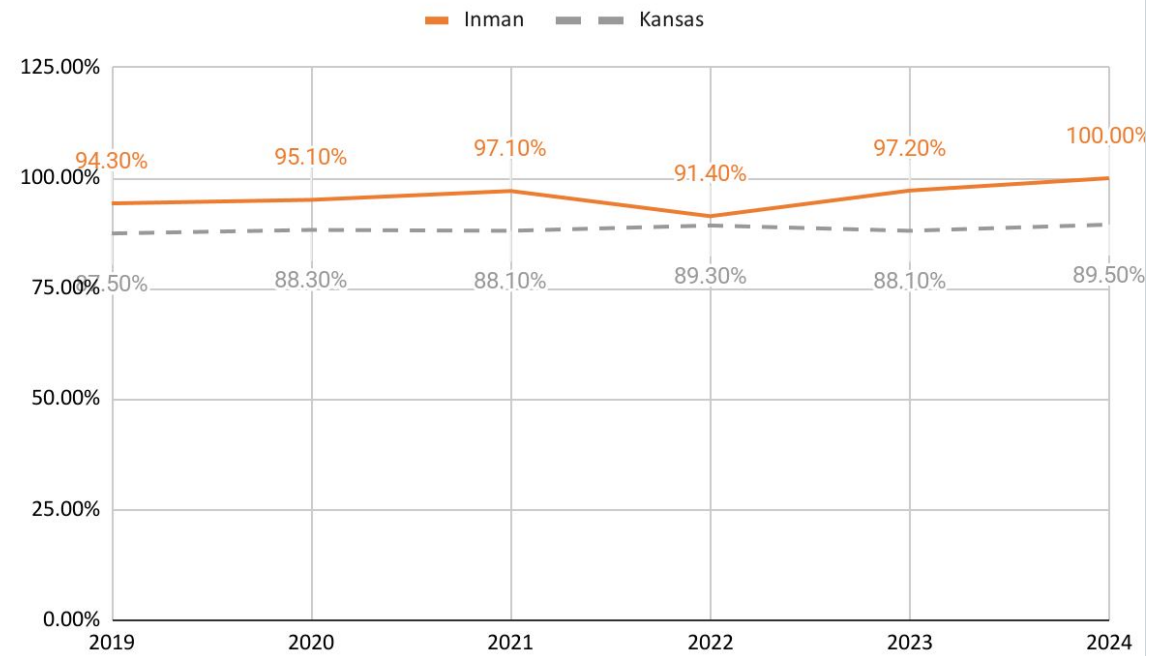
Portion of the community that is highly confident on the listed community dimensions (Rating range: 0-7)

Local Community Indicators

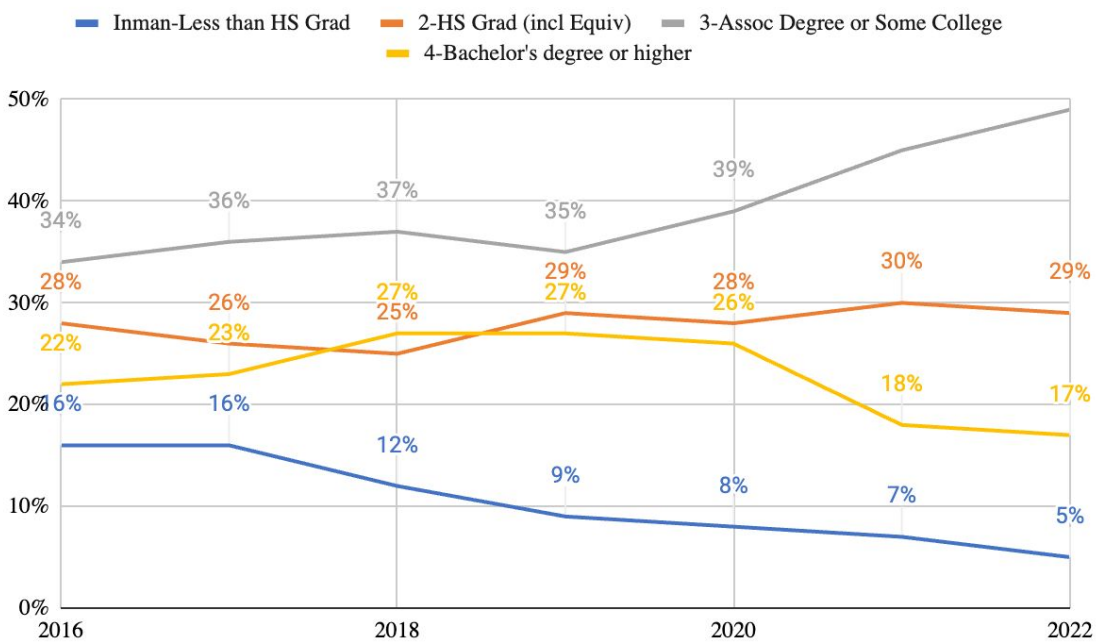
Local School Enrollment



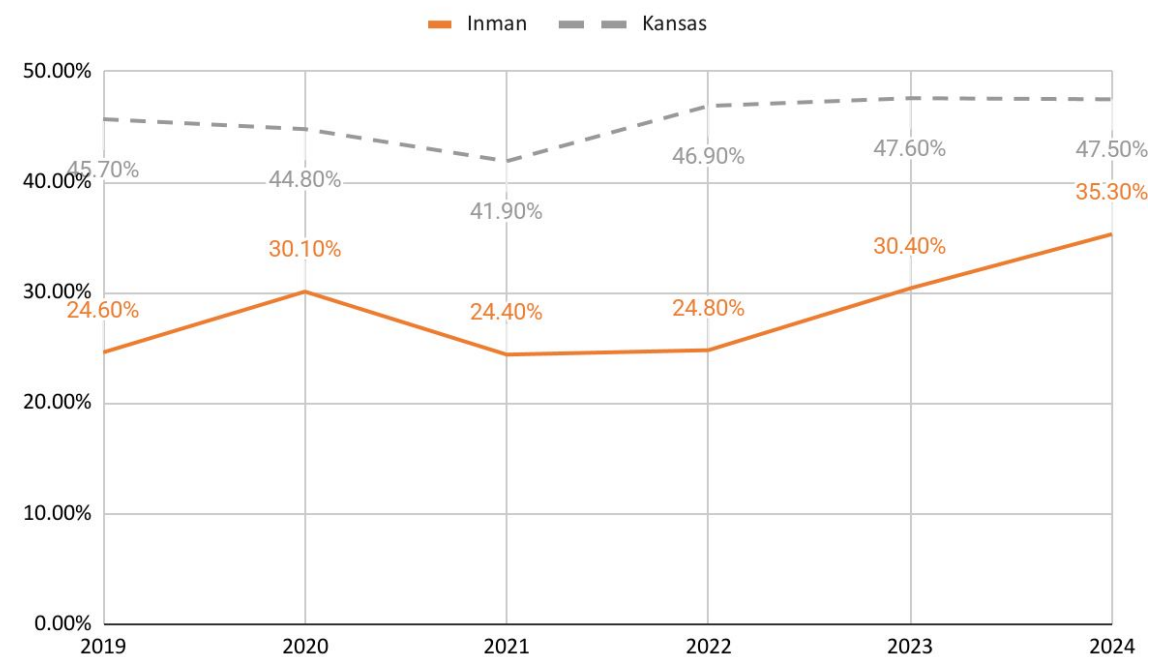
High School 4 Year Graduation Rate



Local Educational Level

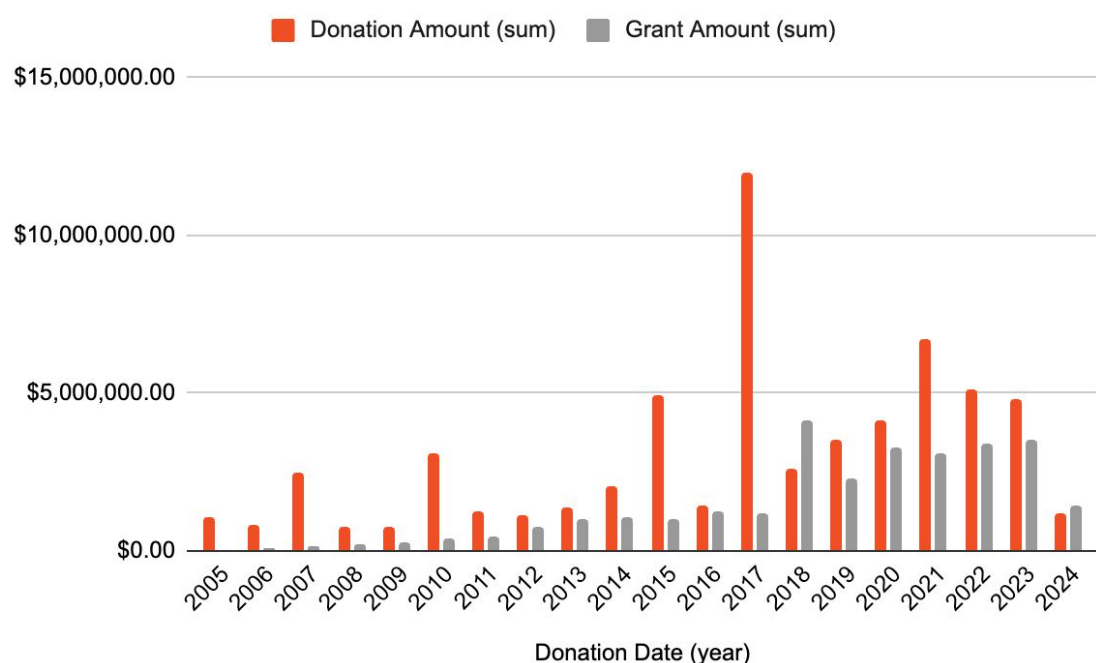


School % Free/Reduced Price Lunch

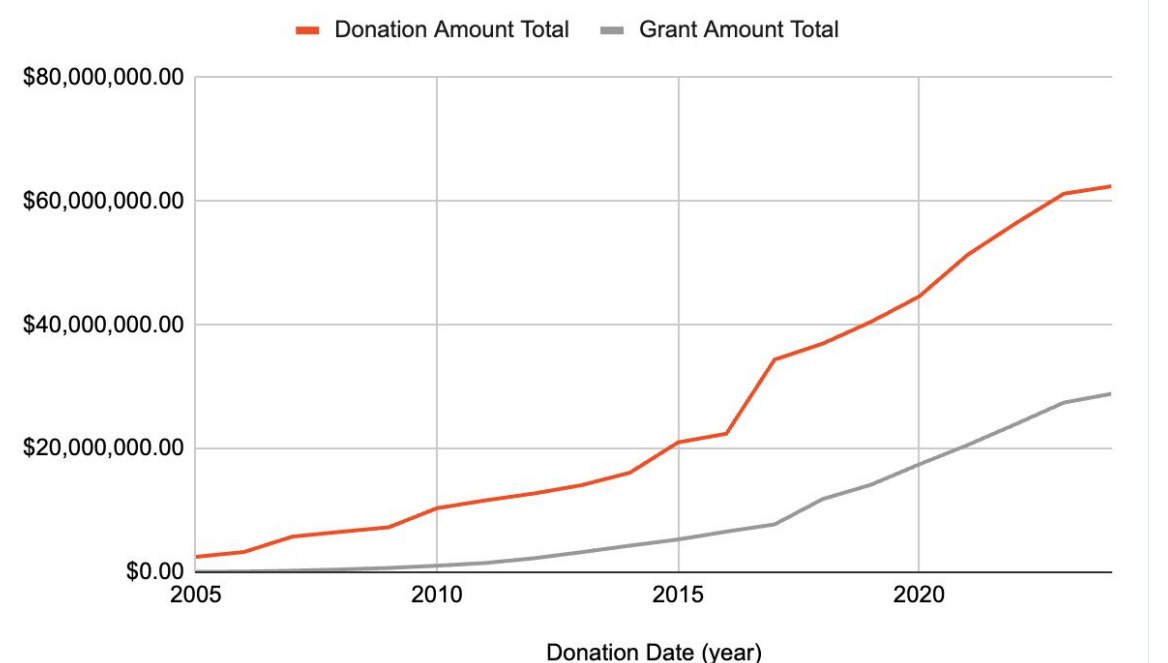


Source for all education graphs: Kansas State Dept of Education, Data Central

McPherson Community Foundation: Annual Dollars Raised & Invested



McPherson Community Foundation: Compound Dollars Raised & Invested

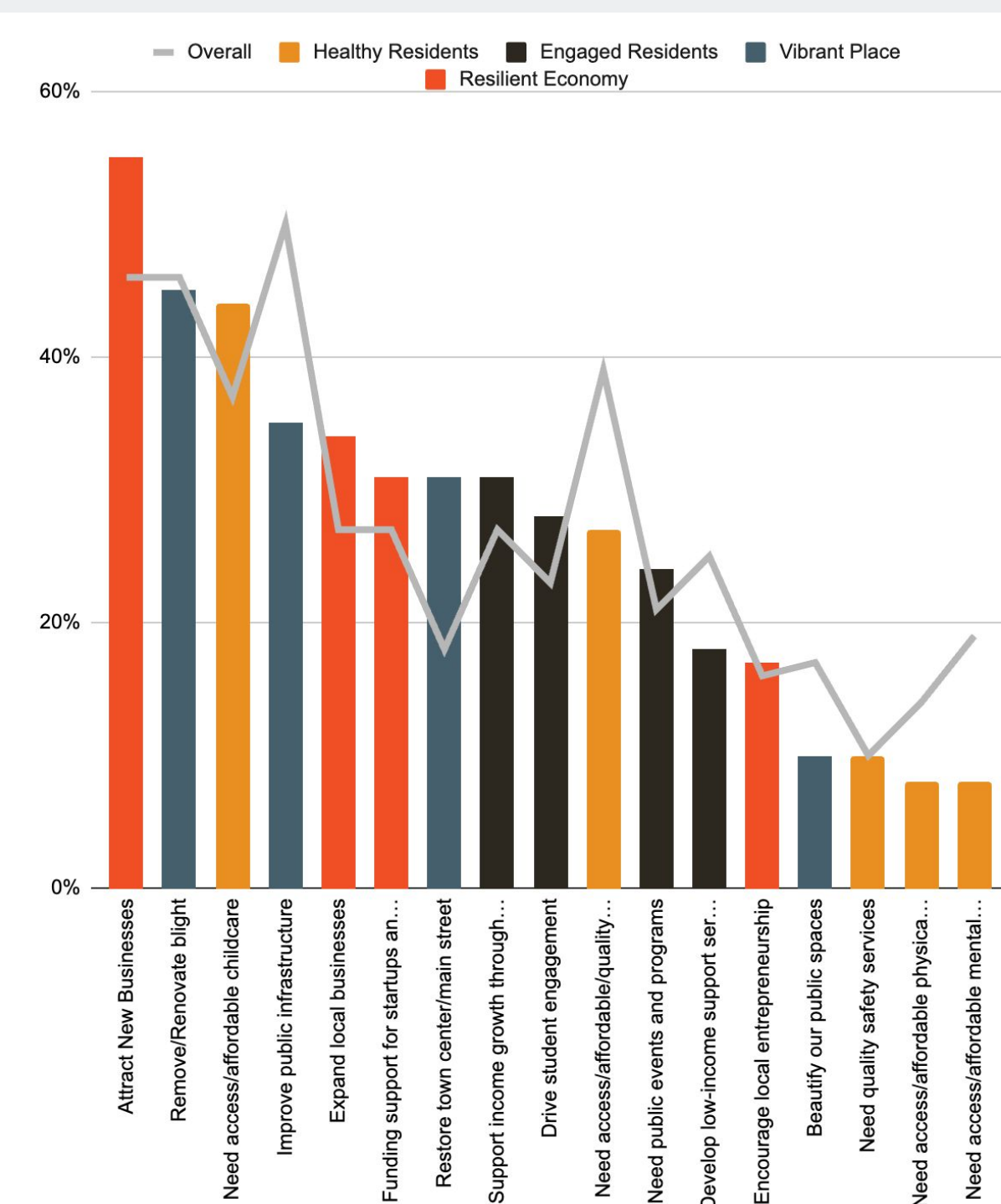


Community Program Priorities

Priorities Summary:

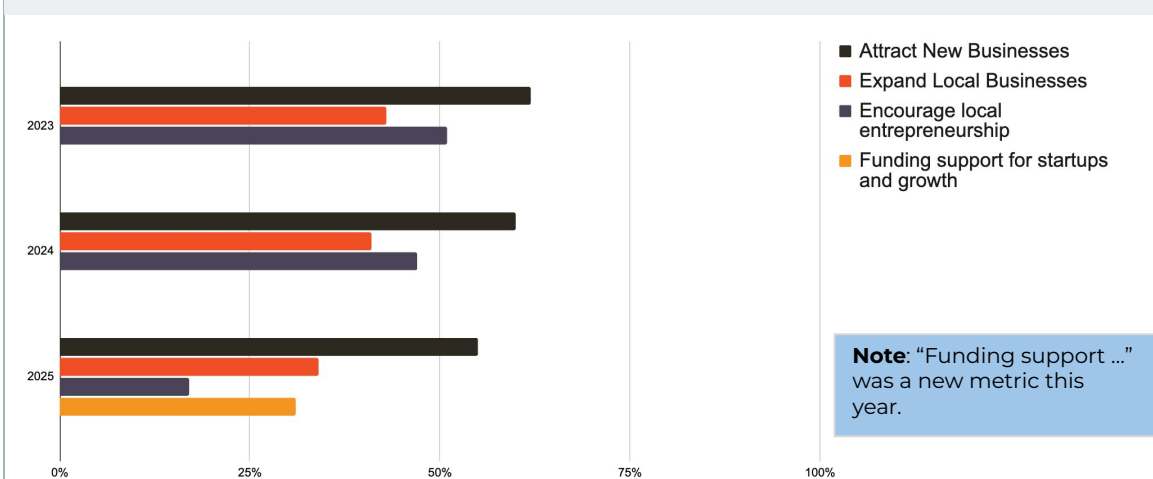
Inman residents have made it clear that their top priorities—attracting new businesses, revitalizing public spaces, fostering inclusive community engagement, and expanding health- and family-focused services—are all intertwined components of a thriving town. They envision a diversified local economy supported by targeted incentives and “shop local” campaigns, a refreshed downtown and well-maintained parks that draw both families and visitors, and a calendar of festivals, volunteer days, and youth internships that strengthen social bonds. At the same time, affordable childcare and safe recreational facilities are seen as essential to ensuring every family can contribute to and benefit from Inman’s growth.

Program Priorities

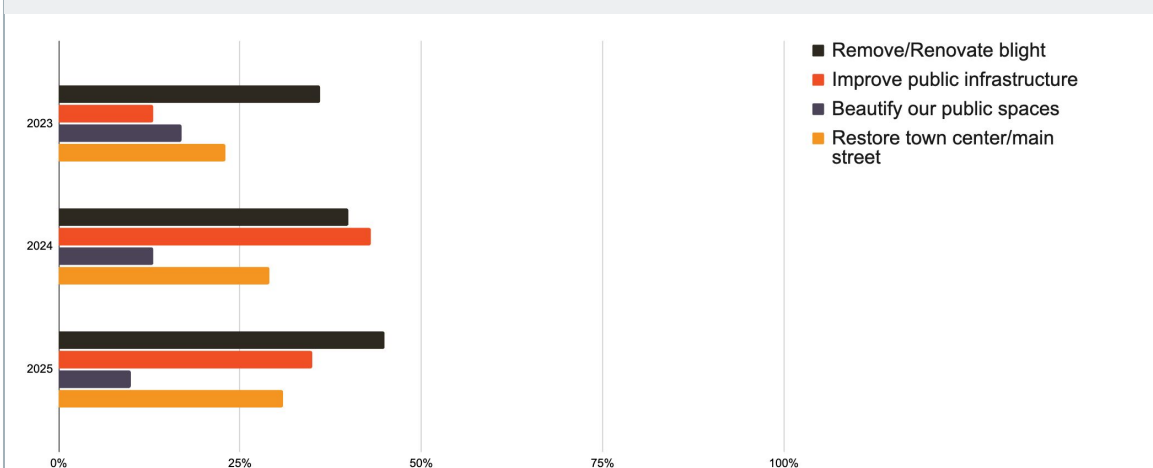


- What strategies can improve public infrastructure and reduce blight in the community?
- In what ways can we restore the town center/Main Street?
- How can we expand access to affordable childcare to support Healthy Residents?
- What initiatives could encourage supporting income growth for both economic resilience and engaged residents?

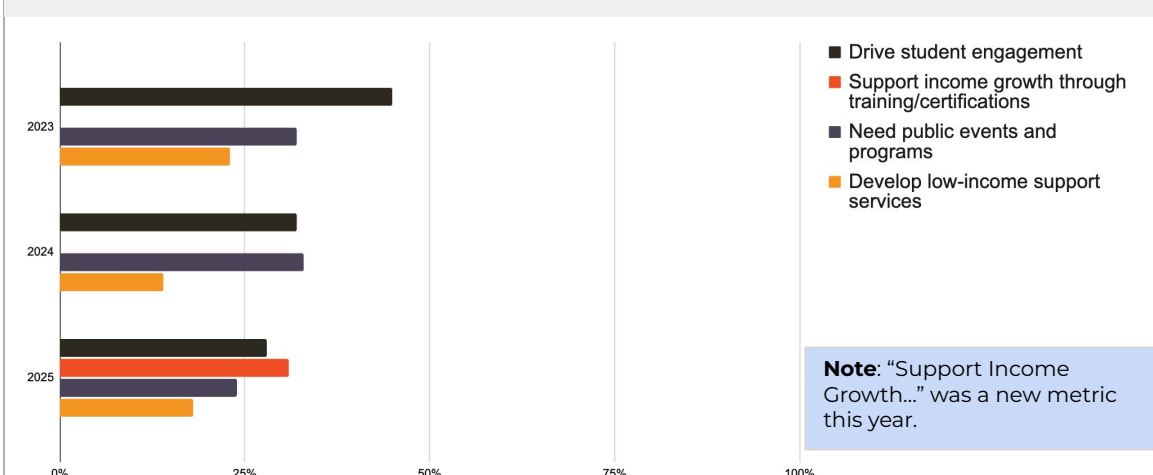
Resilient Economy



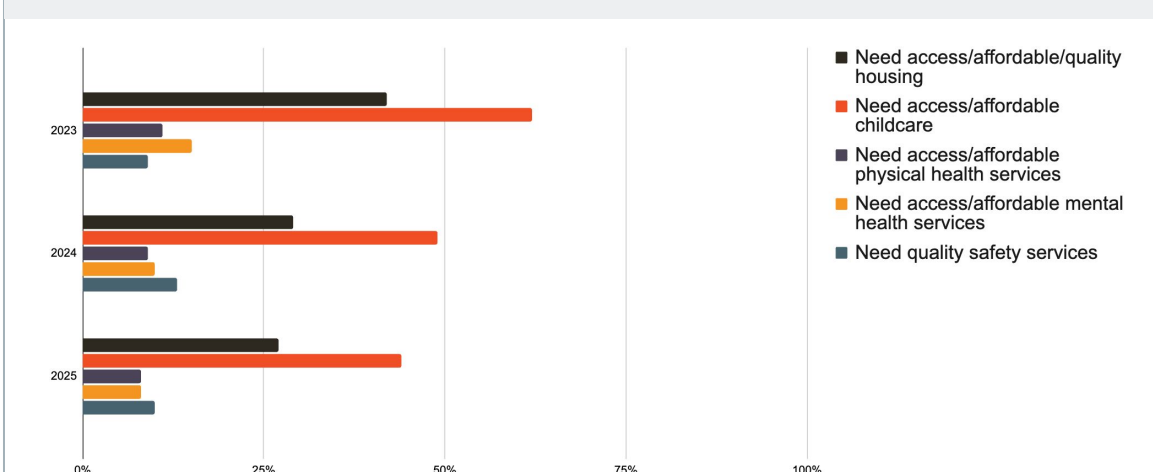
Vibrant Place



Engaged Residents

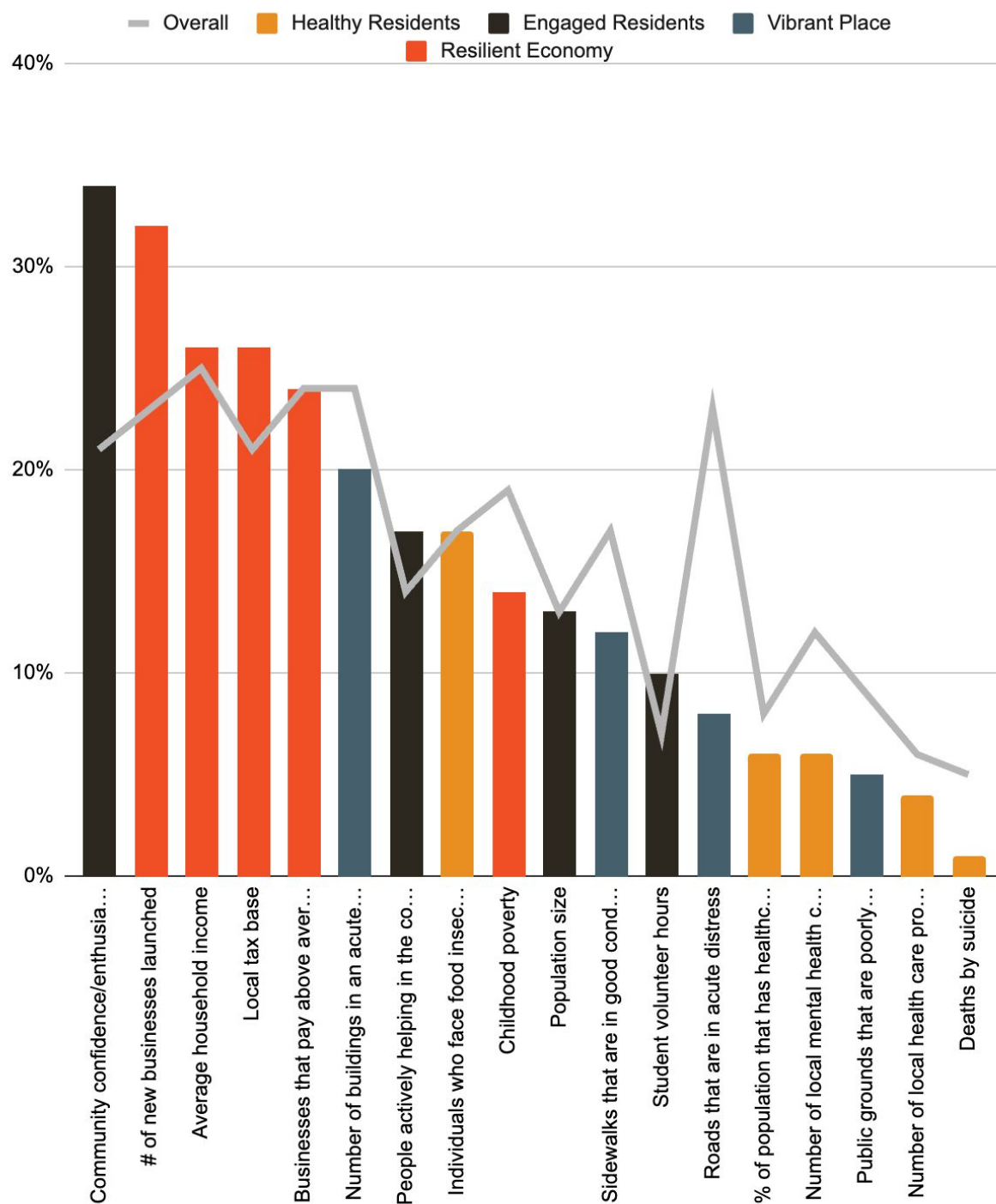


Healthy Residents



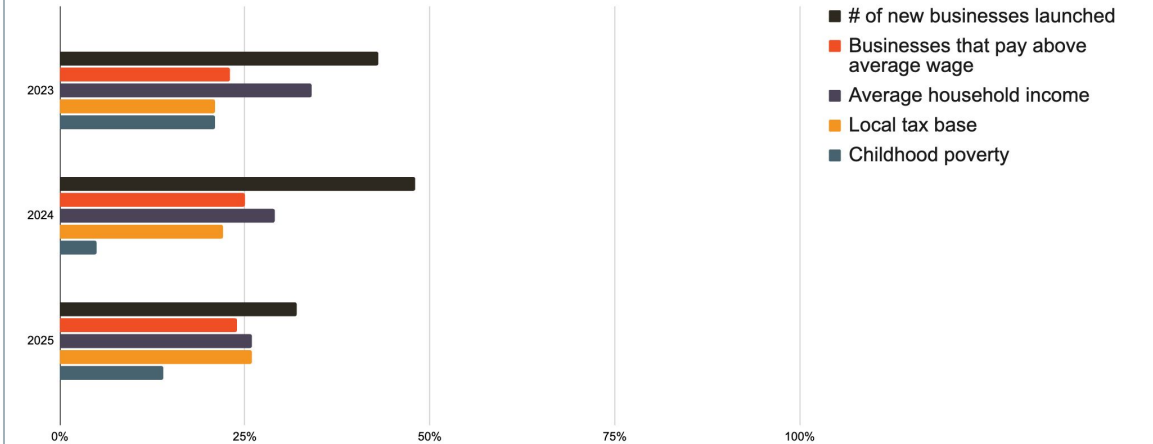
Community Priority Metrics

Priority Metrics

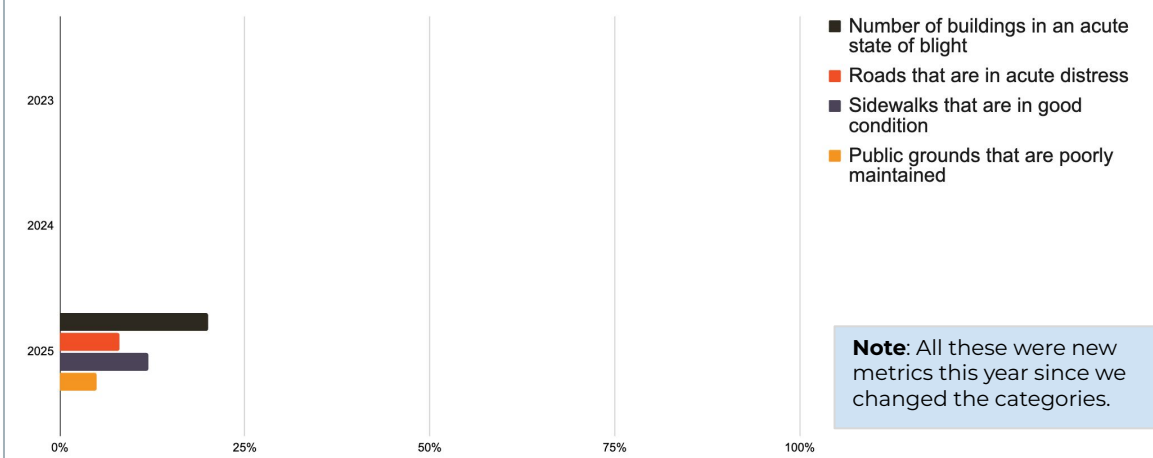


- What actions can raise Average Household Income to strengthen our Resilient Economy?
- Could Vibrant Place initiatives also influence Community Confidence and Enthusiasm? How?
- What approaches can address Childhood Poverty and Food Insecurity among Healthy Residents?
- How can we leverage Student Volunteer Hours to drive Engaged Residents and community service?

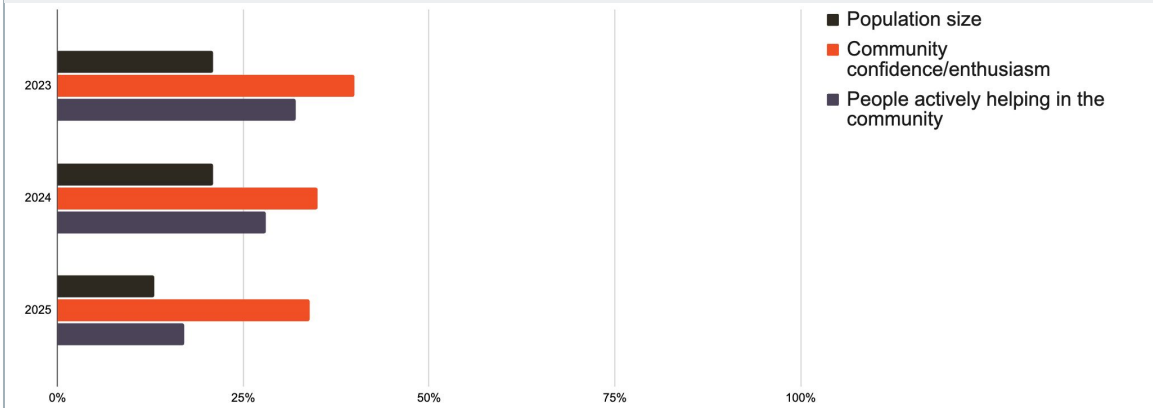
Resilient Economy



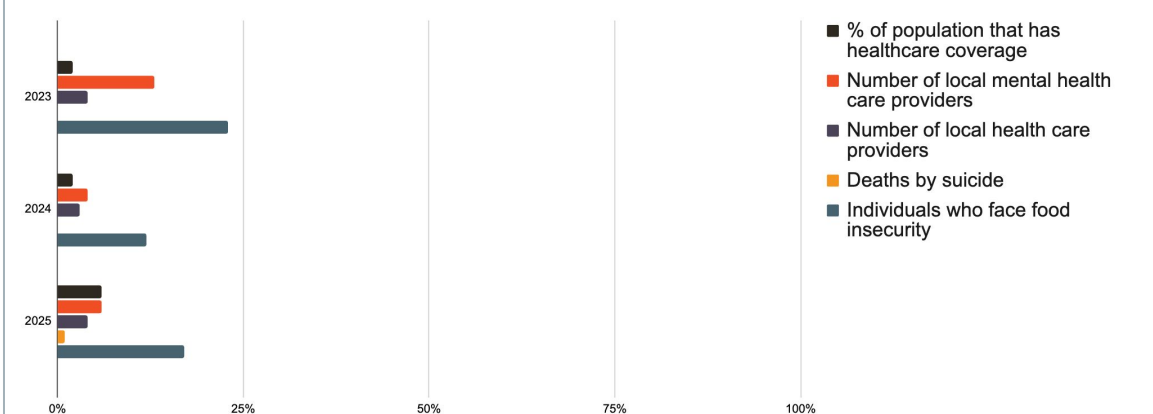
Vibrant Place



Engaged Residents



Healthy Residents



Investing In Local Priorities

What project should be undertaken locally if money, time, or skills were not a constraint? What outcome would this create in the next 2-3 years?

- Complete rebuild of Center Street and upgrade roads & utilities – improves traffic flow, safety, and attracts new businesses within 2–3 years.
- Community childcare facility for children and aging adults – supports working families, creates local jobs, and enhances care access by Year 3.
- Indoor swimming pool with basketball and pickleball courts – promotes health, youth engagement, and draws visitors over the next 3 years.
- Downtown beautification and historic building renovation – revitalizes Main Street economy, encourages tourism, and fosters small business growth.

If we could only invest \$15k in a program each year for the next 3 years, what project should we work on? What outcome would this create in the next 2-3 years?

- Infrastructure improvements – Fund targeted sidewalk and curb repairs, improving safety, ADA compliance.
- Childcare/Daycare expansion – Establish or enhance an affordable childcare center, enabling more parents to work.
- Affordable housing initiative – Seed development of mixed-income housing, increasing homeownership rates and boosting population growth over the next 3 years.
- Youth skills & apprenticeship program – Partner with local businesses to offer work-experience and internships, enhancing student career readiness.

Serving your community!

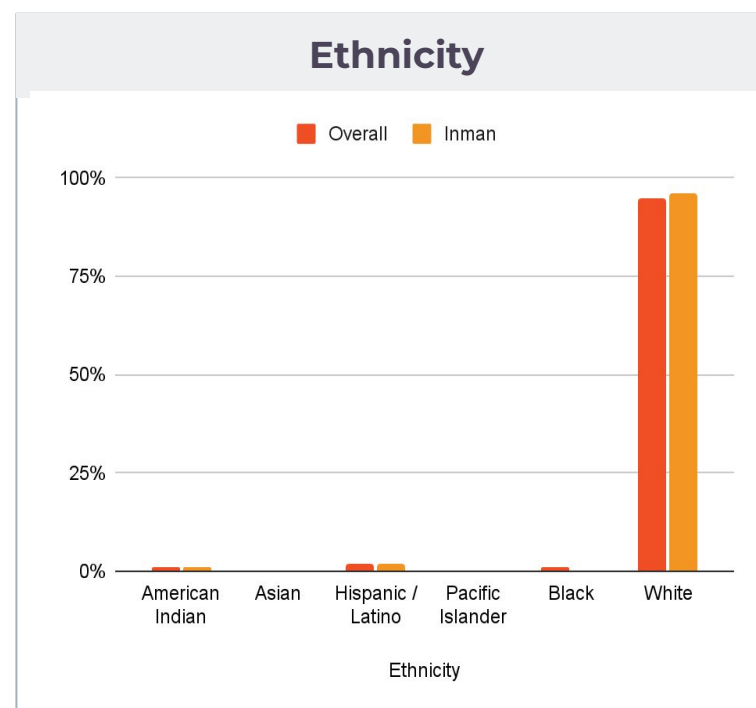
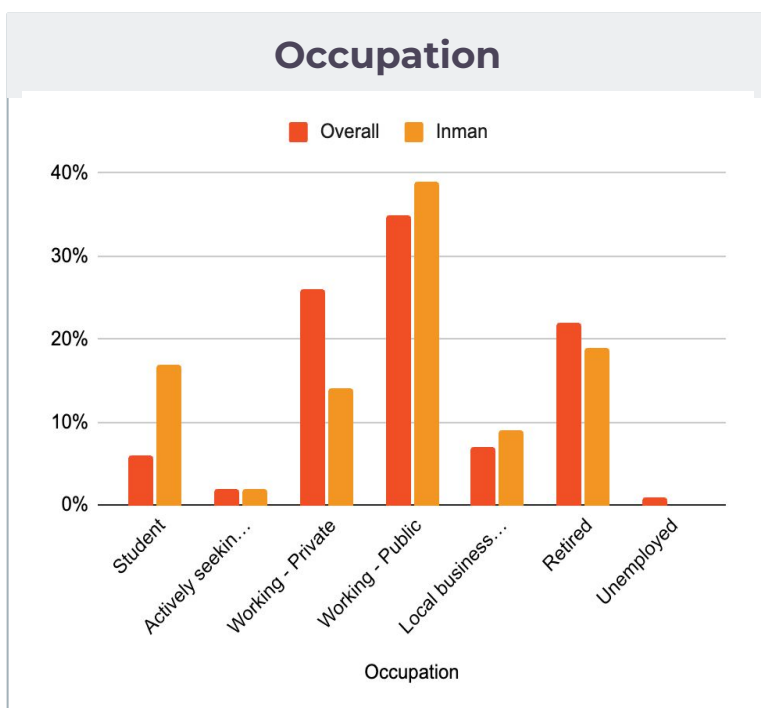
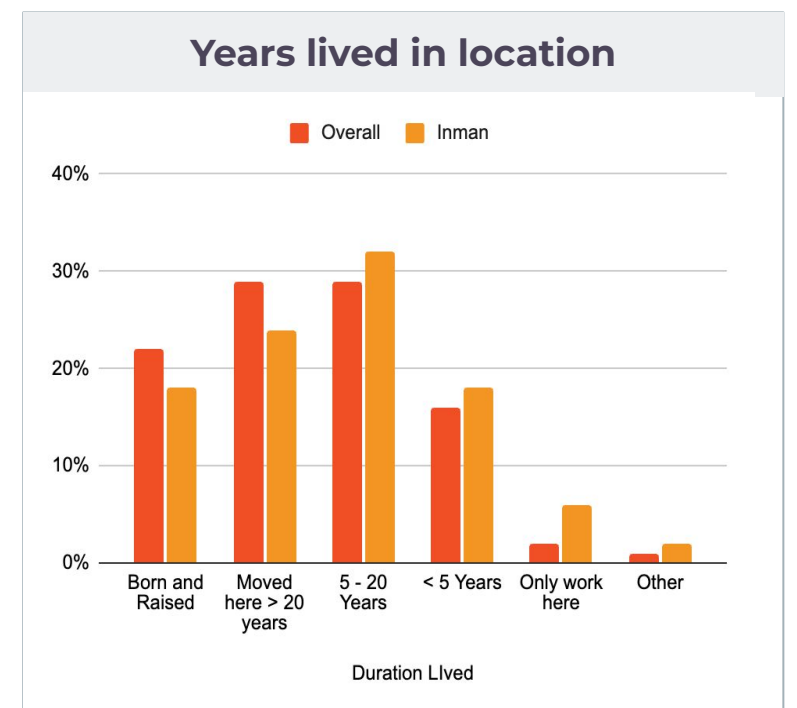
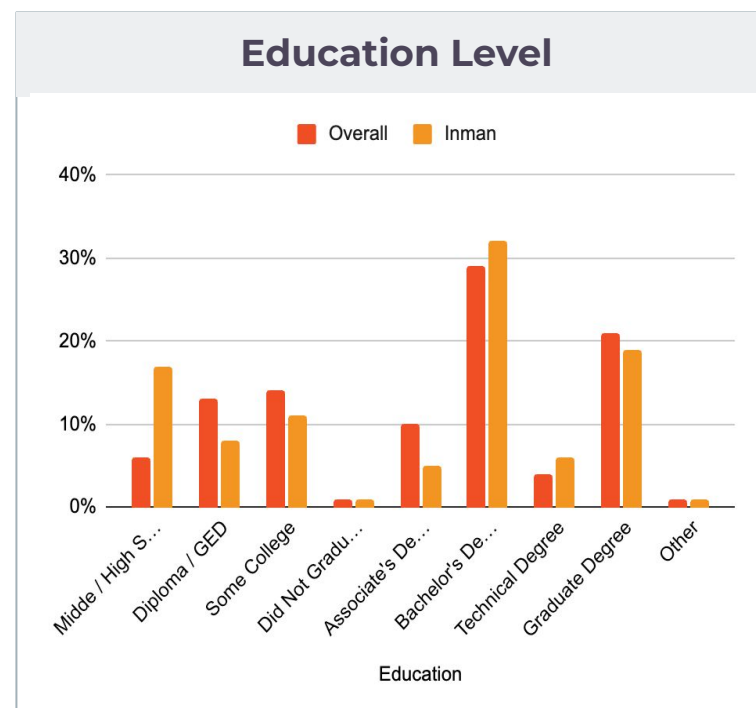
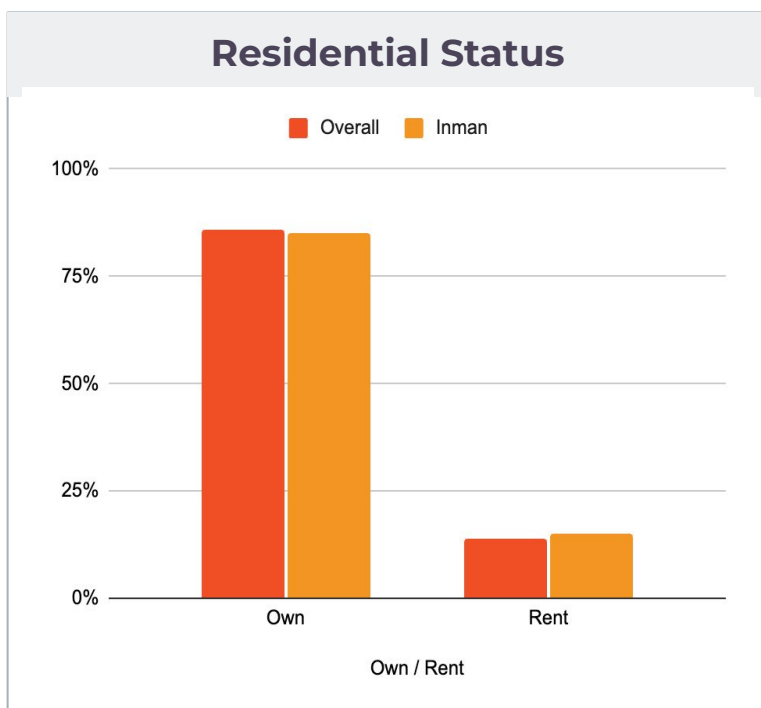
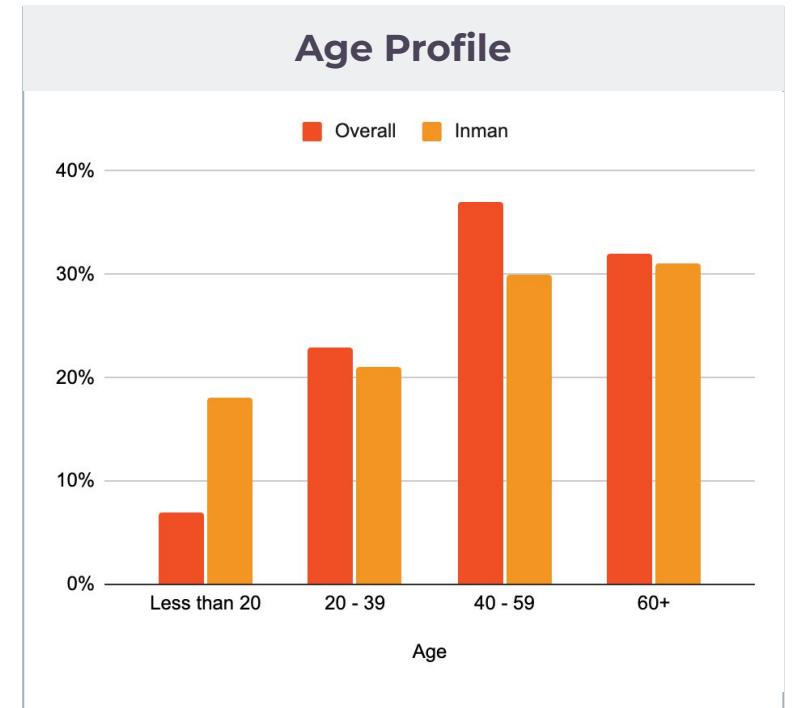
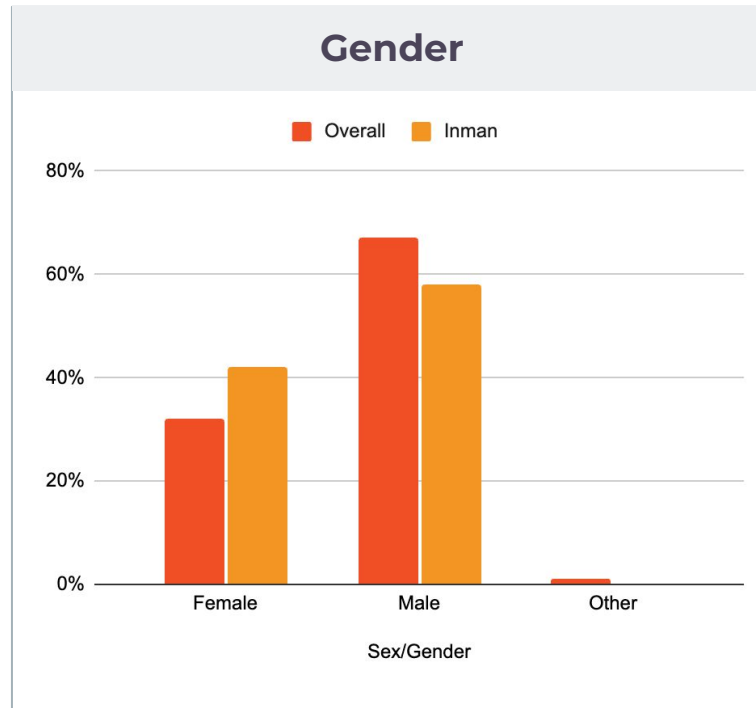
How do you serve your community today?

- Board/Civic Leadership–Community members serve on city council, school boards, and foundation boards.
- FFA & Student Leadership–FFA officers organize serve-week, community events, and Vacation Bible School volunteering, engaging youth in service.
- School & Educational Support–Teachers, PTO, and site council volunteers fundraise, assist in classrooms & coordinate programs.
- Church & Social Programs–Volunteers staff Vacation Bible School, Meals on Wheels, food pantry, and senior center outreach to aid vulnerable residents.
- Local Business Support–Residents shop locally and business owners employ staff and sponsor events, strengthening the town's economy.


How would you like to serve your community in the future?


- General volunteering–Continue and expand current volunteer roles (serve week, VBS, part-time roles) to meet community needs.
- Public service & leadership–Run for office, join city council, boards, or volunteer fire department to shape policies and services.
- FFA & youth mentorship–Increase impact as FFA officers and alumni to support serve-week, youth programs, and development.
- Community & economic development–Partner with nonprofits and businesses, apply skills to drive local growth and revitalization.
- Skills-based service–Contribute personal talents (inventing, business, photography) to innovative community projects.

Survey Respondents



- Students report +35% future income opportunities, while private sector workers report -71%, indicating a stark contrast between student optimism and working professionals' pessimism.
- Students rate leadership decisions at 5.06 versus private sector workers at 3.36, showing students have notably higher confidence in community leaders' decisions.
- Individuals under 20 years old had a 56% voting rate to improve public infrastructure. Comparatively, 20 - 39 year olds only had a 19% voting rate.

 **Town Score**

 **Average Community Score**

40

Number of people who expressed an interest in volunteering to better the community
40 of 100 (40%)