

Leavenworth Community Development Block Grant Survey

City of Leavenworth, Kansas
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The City of Leavenworth conducted a survey Oct. 30-Nov. 30, 2014 for the purpose of gathering community input for the 5-Year Consolidated Plan as part of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The Community Development Coordinator, Assistant City Manager and Public Information Officer collaborated to develop questions and write the survey using Survey Monkey. The survey was marketed on the City's website homepage, through e-news subscriptions to the website, Channel 2, the City's Facebook page and the City's Twitter. There were 125 responses. Two were written responses. NOTE: All written comments are provided "as is" with no editing.

Survey Introduction:

The City of Leavenworth receives an annual allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. CDBG funds are Federal funds administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and can be used for a wide range of activities.

Because the City receives a limited amount of CDBG funds it must prioritize the use of funds. As part of the planning process, the City is soliciting input on how it should use CDBG funds over the next five years.

This survey provides the major types of activities CDBG funds can be used for and then provides examples. Please select one activity for Questions 1-3 that you feel would be the best use of funds over the next five years. Select up to three activities for Question 4. You may also add comments or suggestions under each category.

1. HOUSING (Answered 109, Skipped 14)

- ☐ Homeowner Rehabilitation/Weatherization
- ☐ First Time Home Buyer Assistance
- Other (please specify)

HOUSING		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Homeowner Rehabilitation/Weatherization	68.8%	77
First Time Home Buyer Assistance	31.2%	34
Other (please specify)		13
<i>answered question</i>		109
<i>skipped question</i>		14

"Other" Responses to 1: Housing
13 responses

Return the money to all Leavenworth income tax payers-no matter how small of an amount. This is an example of government overreach. 11/24/2014 10:55 AM

Temporary Shelter for homeless families throughout the year until they are placed in a permanent home and help with employment opportunities and work skills. 11/10/2014 11:50 AM

Either category would be good but getting more Property Owners into cheaper properties would reduce the amount of vacant homes and landlord/tenant issues that arise in court actions. 11/9/2014 8:59 PM

Homeless prevention/ Rental Assistance 11/3/2014 8:14 AM

People treat property better if they have ownership. More home buyers give you a broader tax base.11/1/2014 10:30 AM

Affordable, yet nice, rental properties for young professionals. 10/31/2014 3:02 PM

Cont. "Other" Responses to 1: Housing

Provide assistance so older seniors can stay in their homes longer, such as grab rails in tubs and showers, widening door frames for walkers and wheelchairs, etc. 10/31/2014 2:56 PM

There are properties in this town that are train wrecks.....several along Spruce between 10th and 20th.....if we have codes we are doing a sub par job of enforcing them. 10/31/2014 12:00 AM

Leavenworth is a "satellite" city of the metro Kansas City area. In 20 years, it will be "absorbed" by KC. First time home buyer assistance is wasted because retired military personnel (like myself) can afford the cost of buying homes; to me "first time buyer" means bringing in families that are looking for inexpensive housing that (in my opinion) they will trash, default, or otherwise cost the city money for code enforcement, etc. I believe that spending the funds on preserving the homes of existing (tax-paying) citizens, especially older persons on limited income, preserves the city's integrity, maintains a tax base (however small), and preserves the city. 10/30/2014 11:41 PM

update the apartments and building at Planters II. The apartments are very outdated. The building looks like its from the 1970's and the apartments look 1990's building will be 40 next year. 10/30/2014 7:20 PM

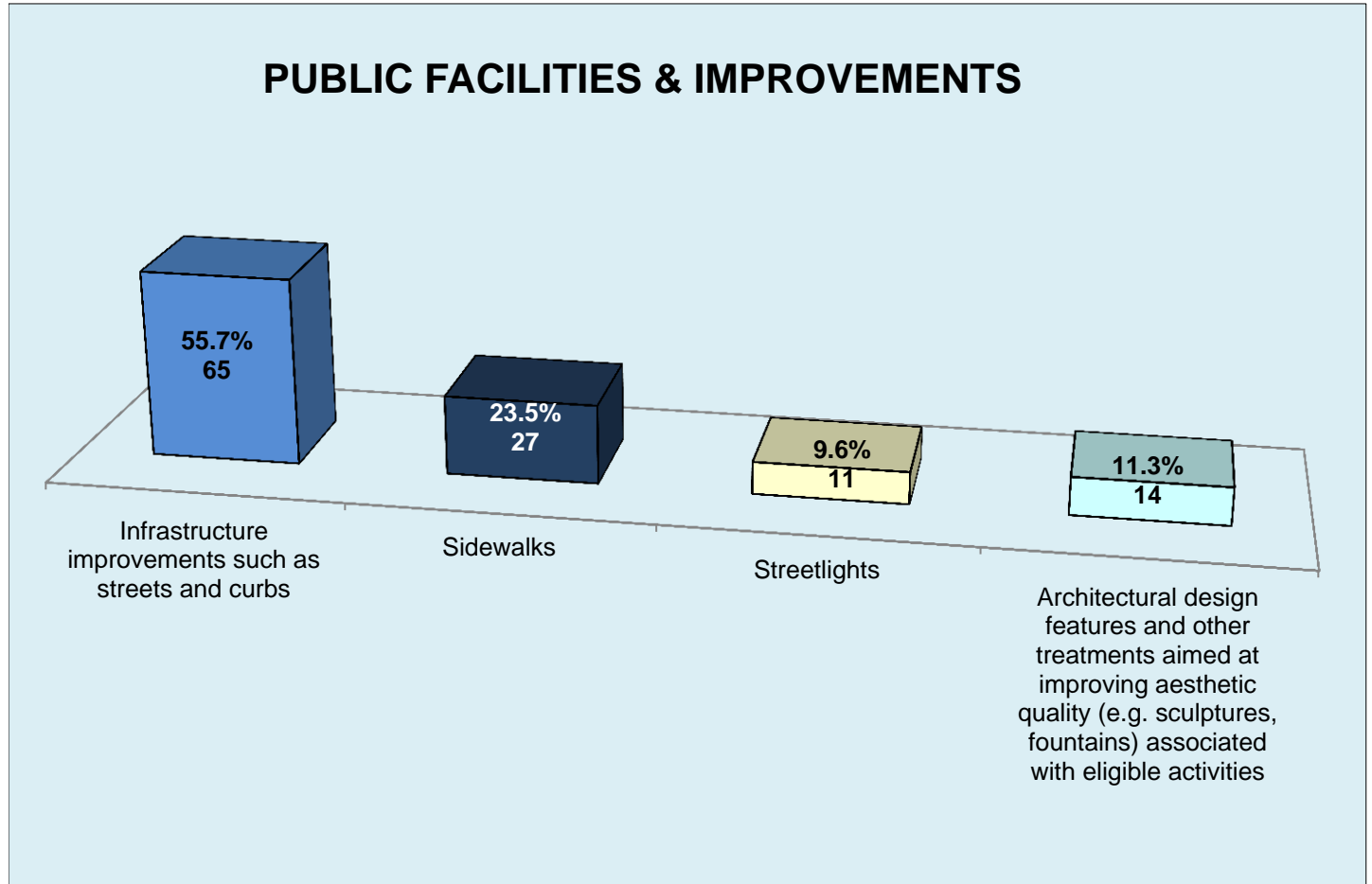
Insulation would be helpful and save energy. 10/30/2014 5:59 PM

Downtown revitalization. Our downtown looks old and dead. It's no longer a vibrant business/shopping area. 10/30/2014 3:19 PM

Creating homeless shelter 10/30/2014 2:09 PM

2. PUBLIC FACILITIES & IMPROVEMENTS (Answered 115, Skipped 8)

- ☐ Infrastructure improvements such as streets and curbs
- ☐ Sidewalks
- ☐ Streetlights
- ☐ Architectural design features and other treatments aimed at improving aesthetic quality (e.g. sculptures, fountains) associated with eligible activities
- Other (please specify)



“Other” Responses to 2: Public Facilities and Improvements

17 responses

Return the money to the pockets of the Leavenworth income tax payers. 11/24/2014 10:55 AM

Hiking or biking trails 11/12/2014 11:04 AM

Do the necessities first and then work on the beautification process. 11/9/2014 8:59 PM

park trails 11/9/2014 7:59 AM

Add to the multi use trail system in Leavenworth 11/2/2014 12:22 AM

Kiowa is in horrible shape and needs redone. Especially the 700-900 block. 11/1/2014 2:58 PM

I believe infrastructure should also include water and sewer lines, electrical, etc. Making something pleasing to the eye is a waste of money if the infrastructure collapses. Aesthetics can come later. 11/1/2014 10:30 AM

Preferable in downtown 10/31/2014 3:02 PM

Convert the old railroad beds into walking, running and bicycle trails. 10/31/2014 2:56 PM

USE SOME OF THE MONEY TO CONVERT SOME OF THE OLD RAILROAD BEDS TO WALKING, RUNNING, AND BIKING TRAILS IN THE CITY. OTHER CITIES ARE ENHANCING THESE FACILITIES FOR ITS RESIDENTS AND IT ALSO MAKES THESE SPORTS SAFER FOR THE PARTICIPANTS. BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME. 10/31/2014 11:54 AM

The last thing we should concern ourselves with is architectural design until we get the eye sores that represent this town cleaned up. Fix the ugly, then build the pretty. 10/31/2014 12:00 AM

The bally-hoo over the sidewalk “improvements” from the high school outward within the past few years (especially on Grand Avenue north of LHS) convinced me that these were wasted funds. Do not misunderstand me, please: the safety of students, especially those with the strength (or no other options) to walk home, is vitally important. These kids ARE our future! But the safety issue is one for the Leavenworth Police Department. If I was Chief Kitchens, I would saturate school zones at closing time and be brutal with tickets. But streets and curbs benefit everyone in Leavenworth, including young teen drivers, and potentially reduce accidents (oh, BTW, freeing LPD officers to “saturate” those school zones). 10/30/2014 11:41 PM

Hire a architectural engineer to inspect existing buildings in downtown historical area before another dime is spent for any improvements to determine the life expectancy of the buildings the sidewalks downtown are nice but they will be there long after the buildings of downtown collapse from natural deterioration. And also to hire a better city planner one that will actually study projected impact on infrastructure in future growth not just the growth of certain pockets on projects the city spends money on 10/30/2014 9:07 PM

I am upset that the sidewalk in front of my home is my responsibility to fix but if the city WANTS to fix it they will free of charge. I feel this process is extremely unfair. I see new sidewalks being poured all over the city and when my curb was repaired I called to see about getting my sidewalk repaired as well and was denied but offered a credit towards me having it fixed on my own. 10/30/2014 6:51 PM

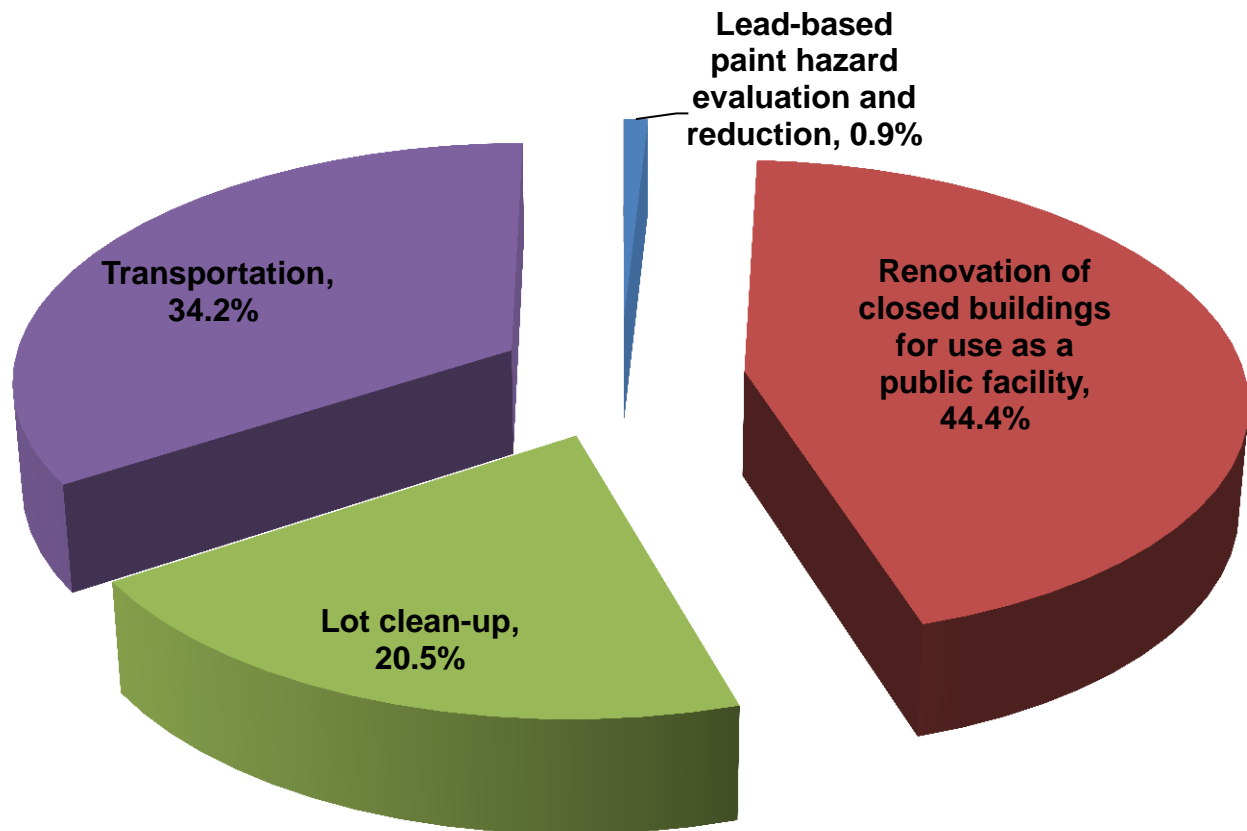
How about having sidewalks that actually run through from street to street? The city keeps putting in new patches of sidewalk around the city – mostly in the nicer, newer parts of town. But it’s somehow neglected the rest of the older parts of northern Leavenworth. And the random sidewalks on the crappy streets of Ottawa and 13th street are not enough. We need ACTUAL curbs, sidewalks, gutters, streetlights throughout the city – not just the elite few. 10/30/2014 6:31 PM

I would love to see sidewalks down both sides of the street. It would simplify walking to school significantly. 10/30/2014 5:59 PM

turning signals at VERY BUSY intersections so that traffic can flow better, we are in the stone age 10/30/2014 2:06 PM

3. OTHER PROPERTY ACTIVITIES (Answered 117, Skipped 6)

- ☐ Lead-based paint hazard evaluation and reduction
- ☐ Renovation of closed buildings for use as a public facility
- ☐ Lot clean-up
- ☐ Transportation
- Other (please specify)



Responses to “other” 3: Other Property Activities

Return the money to all Leavenworth city income tax payers no matter what the amount. 11/24/2014 10:55 AM

Renovate of closed building for use of temporary shelter for homeless families. 11/10/2014 11:50 AM

Renovation incentives for commercial structures to bring more business into town. 11/9/2014 8:59 PM

We need to have places for our youth and our seniors to congregate in different parts of the city. Crack down on landlords to maintain their property properly. They make money off the rent, they should be

responsible for putting some of that money back into their rentals. They should deal with lead paint issues, lot clean-up, etc. To me, those issues are enforcement issues, not things the city should throw grant money at. 11/1/2014 10:30 AM

Increase removal of substandard properties. 10/31/2014 2:56 PM

Tough, tough question! My first choice is not clean-up because I want the city to look as good as it possibly can - to attract and keep tax-paying residents. However, my second choice would have been "renovation of closed building for use as a public facility" because (if handled wisely) would benefit both the citizens as a whole and individual citizens. 10/30/2014 11:41 PM

Leavenworth is a low income city.as we voted ourselves to be known as the prison city the inmates and there family members are a high part of our population and most businesses in town take advantage of this by paying minimum wage therefore the low income employees are a hub in the lifeline of the city the use of public transportation would be a huge asset to the workers and the city 10/30/2014 9:07 PM

I do not understand why Leavenworth does not have a public transportation service. The taxi's that are in town are scary! We need a bus to be able to take people around to and from the grocery store and walmart areas. 10/30/2014 6:51 PM

Public transit would be amazing. 10/30/2014 5:59 PM

Leavenworth needs public transportation, especially on weekends and after 3:00 when council on aging stops their transportation 10/30/2014 5:46 PM

4. PUBLIC SERVICES. Select top three choices. (Answered 121, Skipped 2)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abused & Neglected Children Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Substance Abuse Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Subsistence Payments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless Shelter, Transitional, or Permanent Housing for Homeless | <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Tenant/Landlord Counseling |

Other (please specify

PUBLIC SERVICES. Select top three choices.		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Senior Services	30.6%	39
Childcare Services	14.0%	19
Legal Services	7.4%	9
Youth Services	32.2%	40
Transportation Services	28.9%	36
Substance Abuse Services	9.1%	11
Domestic Violence Services	29.8%	36
Tenant/Landlord Counseling	6.6%	8
Health Services	17.4%	21
Abused & Neglected Children Services	43.0%	52
Mental Health Services	32.2%	39
Subsistence Payments	2.5%	3
Housing Counseling	2.5%	3
Homeless Shelter, Transitional, or Permanent Housing for Homeless	43.0%	52
Other (please specify)		10
<i>answered question</i>		121
<i>skipped question</i>		2

It is hard to only pick 3. We need all of them. 11/30/2014 6:41 PM

None of these projects are proper concerns of the US Government return the money to the pockets of the Leavenworth Income tax payers. 11/24/2014 10:55 AM

Leavenworth has an increasing amount of homeless and most have some sort of addiction or mental health issues. 11/9/2014 8:59 PM

I admit these are all important areas, and difficult to pick the top three. In my opinion, number one is Mental Health issues. We take care of those, and many other issues will follow. 11/1/2014 10:30 AM

Increase recreation opportunities for at-risk youth. The YAC's Trips-for-Kids program is a good example of how to get kids out of the house and involved in physical activity. 10/31/2014 2:56 PM

WALKING AND BIKING TRAILS FOR THE YOUTH WILL GET THEM OFF THE COUCH AND GIVE THEM MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION. HELP CURB OBESITY IN OUR YOUTH.
10/31/2014 11:54 AM

Seriously? I selected abused and neglected children because I love kids....but I am not at ALL certain that any amount of money can fix anything through "counseling". If you are a landlord in this town you don't need counseling, you need law enforcement. 10/31/2014 12:00 AM

I'm sorry, but facilities like The Guidance Center exist to serve those with domestic violence, substance abuse (self-inflicted), and mental health services. Seniors (and I am one of those) should be able to take care of themselves, with Social Security and their own savings (if they were smart enough to think ahead). Youth services (first), health services (second), and transportation services (a distant third) are my choices of far more important priorities. Youth (YES!) and health are definitely my top two; these two are critical to our future - regardless of age. Provide EFFECTIVE and MAGNETIC youth services (not BS programs, but those that teach

youth to understand and work toward responsible contributions to self AND OTHERS like the community), and the funds will be returned in lower city costs and increased revenue.

10/30/2014 11:41 PM

CASA needs lots of help. I would also like to see the city help our homeless. There is no shelter that I am aware of and I know we have many homeless people in our community. 10/30/2014 6:51 PM

With the VA, there's simply too much accessibility to prescription narcotics and other drugs. Let's solve the problem, rather than merely treating the symptom. 10/30/2014 6:31 PM

Thank you for participating in this survey. Your input is important to us as the City of Leavenworth maps out how to invest CDBG funds for the benefit of our community.