

**10**COMMUNITY PLANNING
SERVICES PROGRAM**YEARS**

PROVIDING VALUE THROUGH PLANNING: THE COMMUNITY PLANNING SERVICES PROGRAM

County planning has been assisting the Communities of Cuyahoga County through the Community Planning Services Program (CPSP) for over ten years. As we continue to celebrate this program, we have begun reaching out to participating communities to hear their experiences, success stories, and how the CPSP can evolve to continue meeting the planning needs of the county.

We are excited to share some key takeaways from our initial community outreach survey. This short survey is the starting point for more in-depth community discussions and provides an overview of the positive impact our planning work has had for communities. These ideas and issues will be expanded in more detail in the coming months to provide a deeper understanding of how planning can help communities and highlight successful projects that can inspire and encourage other communities in their work.

Follow along with our celebration at www.countyplanning.us/10YearsofCPSP.

WHAT COMMUNITIES ARE SAYING:

Seventeen of twenty-four communities with completed plans through the CPSP responded to our initial survey. Following are some key highlights from their responses.

THE CPSP SUPPORTS COMMUNITY PLANNING

53%

Communities that were **not sure** if they would have pursued their plan **without a CPSP award**. Another 18% said they would not have.

WHY NOT?

Cost and lack of staff time were stated as significant factors.

COMMUNITIES USE THEIR PLANS TO SEEK FUNDING FOR PROJECTS

All but one community indicated they **have used, or plan to use**, their plan to apply for grant or other outside dollars. Most stated they have had at least some success in being awarded funds.

PLANS ARE BEING USED

10

Communities that stated they their plan informs their work "**Every Day**". Another 4 say they use it weekly or monthly.

COMMUNITIES WILL SEEK MORE PLANNING

14

Communities stated they will **pursue a new plan or update** their existing plan in the future.

FUTURE CPSP PROJECTS?

15

Communities said they would seek County Planning's services through the CPSP for future planning efforts.

WHAT THEY LIKED ABOUT THE PROCESS:

Communities spoke very positively about the planning process. They particularly highlighted the following areas:

- ▶ Robust Public Engagement
- ▶ Clear Organized Planning Process
- ▶ Good Communication
- ▶ Detailed Analysis
- ▶ Professional Staff

"The process involved a great deal of community input, through surveys, public meetings and steering committees."

"...the product speaks for itself. It has been the guidebook for most decisions made about capital projects and service provisions."

"The team really listened to our ideas for our city!"

"Detailed analysis identifying assets to build upon, opportunities to develop and challenges to address."

"I truly enjoyed collaborating with your staff throughout the process. Their professionalism, insight, and responsiveness made the experience both productive and rewarding."

"The professionals with the County Planning Commission are a true asset for Cuyahoga County."

WHAT WOULD HELP:

While communities were overwhelmingly positive in their feelings on their plans and the planning process, some areas where there could be improvement or additional help include:

- ▶ Funding for Implementation
- ▶ Additional check-ins and support from County Planning
- ▶ More focused projects
- ▶ Always room for more public engagement
- ▶ Phased approaches to large projects

"Funding is also a barrier to some of the ideas/ visions identified in the plans."

PLANNING IS VALUABLE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES!

10 communities stated that their plan was **"Extremely Valuable"**. Another **5** found their plan to be **"Very Valuable"**

Plans are a great tool for communities in their work. The CPSP helps provide communities those plans!



10

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