



MCPHERSON COUNTY  
**Community  
Foundation**

# 2024 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](http://www.mcphersonfoundation.org)



**Innovation Economy Partners**  
OUR FOCUS: IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

Betsy Davis | [betsy@mcphersonfoundation.org](mailto:betsy@mcphersonfoundation.org)

## What Makes Our Community Special?

"The people. Everyone is so kind and helpful. True neighbors. True community."

**Rosetta Bartels**

"Inman is a very close-knit community and is always there to help everyone out."

**Kenton Sallee**

"The people! Everyone is typically kind and looks out for each other."

"Small town feel, very quiet, feels safe, good people."

"The caring people which leads to great support of education, sports, community activities, and churches."

"Small town living with most of the amenities of a larger town - grocery store, gas station, restaurants, hair salons, library, museums, doctors and dentist, nursing home, churches, and the list goes on."

"Small, friendly, mostly Christian community that takes care of its own residents and property."

"People in Inman are friendly and welcoming."

**Jim Toews**

"We are a rural community that is currently redefining itself as not only an agricultural community but also a growing hub for business. We are growing in family connections and educational opportunities as well."

**Amy Thiessen**

"People look out and help each other. Morals still matter here. When there is a need, the community rises and comes together."

**Stephen Jowers**

## The Leaders That Make Our Community Special





Innovation Economy Partners  
OUR FOCUS: IMPACT AND OUTCOMES



MCPHERSON COUNTY  
**Community  
Foundation**

# Executive Summary:

Inman's community survey reveals strong personal commitment and a desire for economic and community development. Economic confidence varies, with mixed views on business conditions and employment opportunities. Residents prioritize attracting new businesses, improving infrastructure, and enhancing safety services. Community engagement is seen positively, but leadership pathways need improvement. Diverse respondents highlight both challenges and opportunities for growth.

pg **4, 5**

## Economic Confidence

Residents have mixed views on current and future business conditions and employment opportunities, with income expectations varying widely.

pg **6, 7, 8**

## Community Engagement Confidence

Community members show strong personal commitment and belonging but have mixed feelings about leadership effectiveness and community vision.

pg **9**

## Critical Community Priorities

Top priorities include attracting new businesses, improving infrastructure, expanding affordable housing, and developing community pride through events and programs.

pg **10**

## Survey Respondent Profile

Respondents are mostly long-term residents, predominantly female, aged between 20-59, with varied educational backgrounds and employment in both public and private sectors.

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.**





Innovation Economy Partners  
OUR FOCUS: IMPACT AND OUTCOMES



MCPHERSON COUNTY  
Community  
Foundation

# Confidence In Our Local Economy

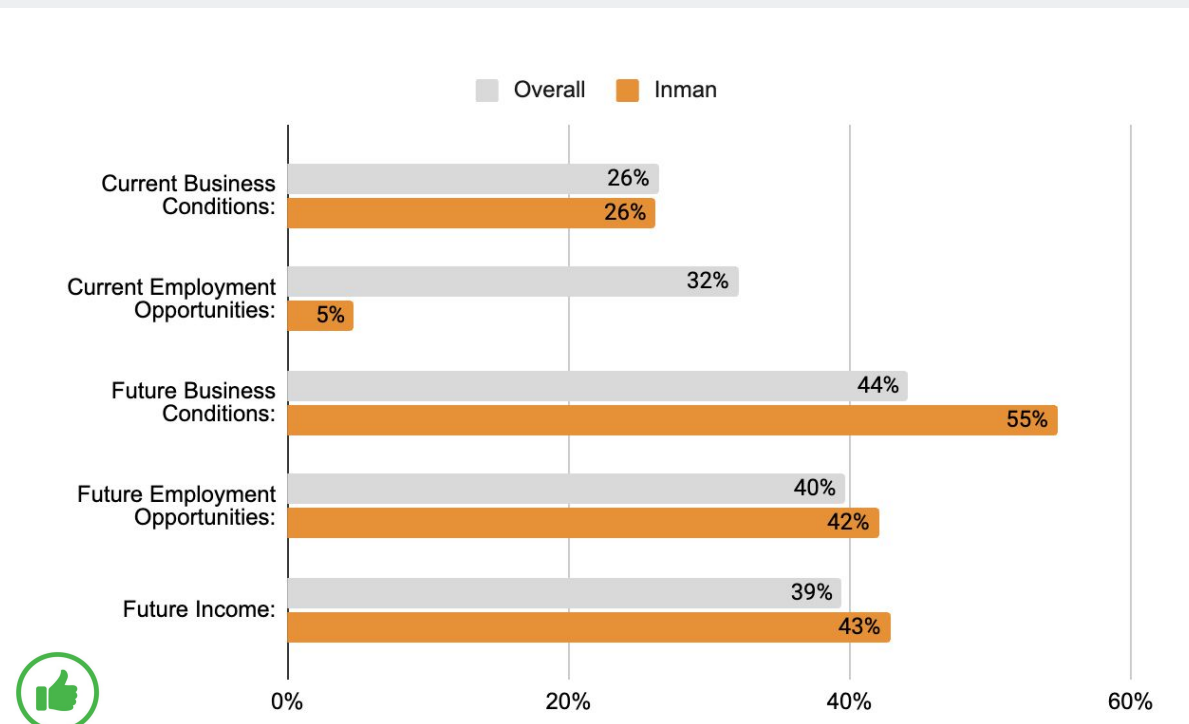
## Economic Summary:

Economic perceptions in Inman are varied, with current business conditions seen as normal to good, but future conditions and employment opportunities are uncertain. Some expect incomes to decrease while others foresee an increase. To address these concerns, focusing on diversifying the local economy and attracting new businesses is crucial. Encouraging local entrepreneurship and expanding existing businesses can create more jobs and improve income stability. Additionally, enhancing workforce development programs and providing training can help residents adapt to changing economic conditions. Improving communication between local businesses and the community can also build trust and economic confidence.

## Businesses Needed In Our Town:

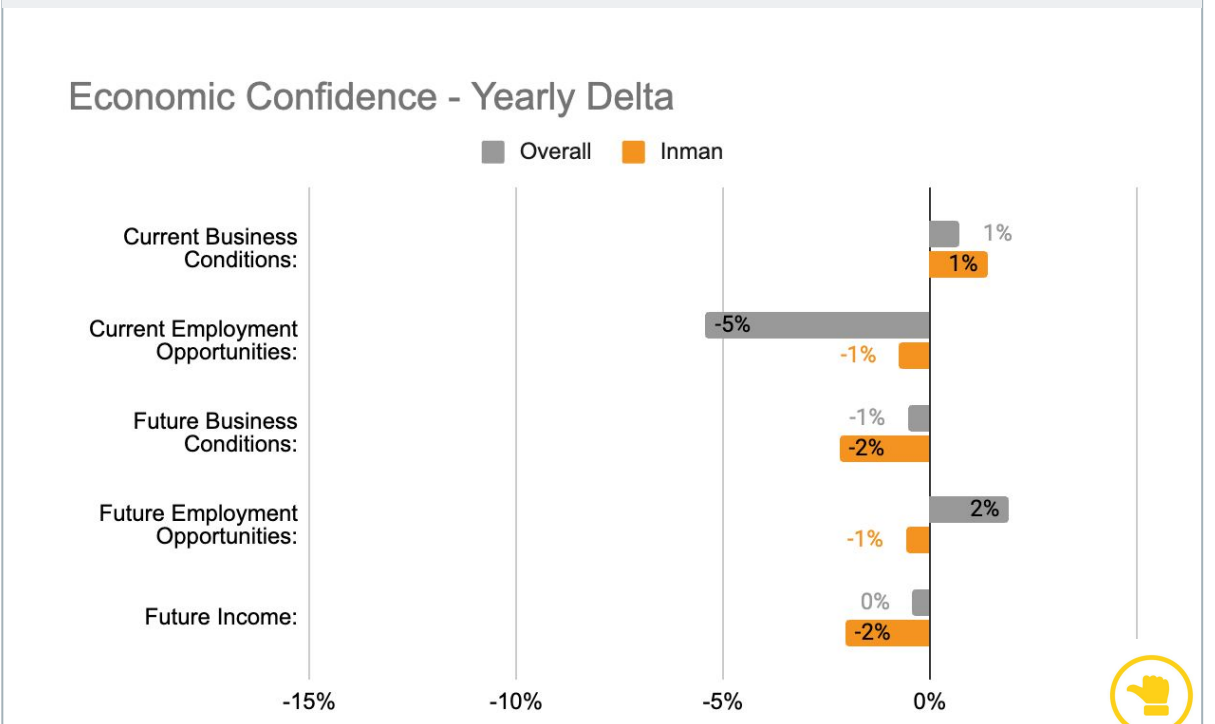
1. **Childcare Center** - Affordable and accessible childcare.
2. **Affordable Ethnic Restaurant** - Serving Asian, Mexican, etc.
3. **Manufacturing Plant** - To create job opportunities.
4. **Indoor Children's Play Space** - Safe play area for kids.
5. **Local Art Gallery** - Showcase local artists.
6. **Clothing/Variety Store** - Apparel and general goods.
7. **Flour Mill** - To support local businesses like Tortilla King.
8. **Car Wash** - Convenient local car cleaning services.
9. **Public Pool** - Community swimming facility.
10. **Thrift Store** - Affordable second-hand items.

## Our Economic Perceptions



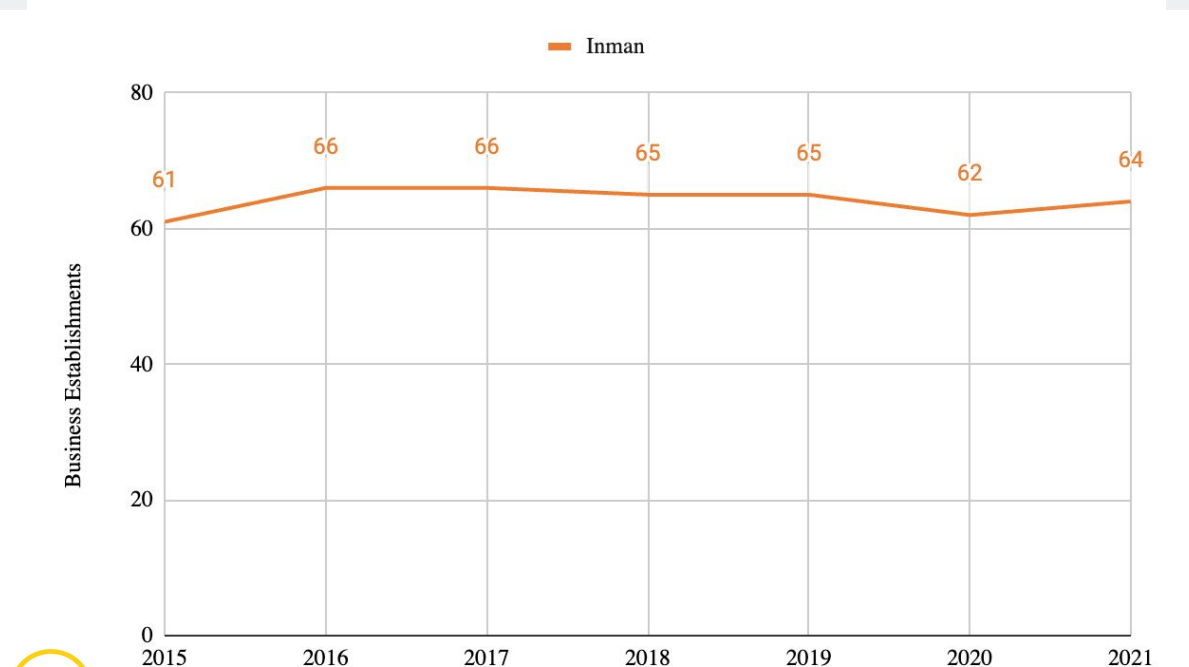
Although residents don't see many current employment opportunities, the future is bright

## Year Over Year Change (2023 vs 2024)



Inman residents didn't see much shift from last year to this year.

## Businesses in Our Town



Data source:USCB, County Business Patterns

Levels have stayed pretty much the same although residents would like to see this increase, reflected in the priority programs and metrics.

## 10 Year Shift in Local Jobs



Data source:USCB, County Business Patterns

This is another metric leading residents to desiring more businesses in town.



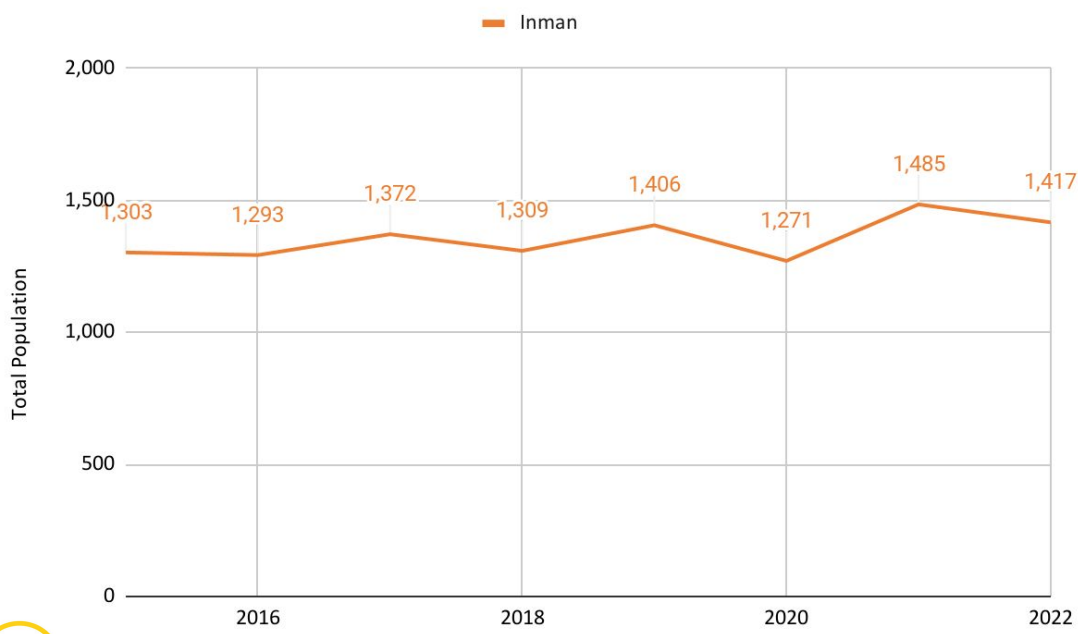
Innovation Economy Partners  
OUR FOCUS: IMPACT AND OUTCOMES



MCPHERSON COUNTY  
Community  
Foundation

# Local Economic Indicators

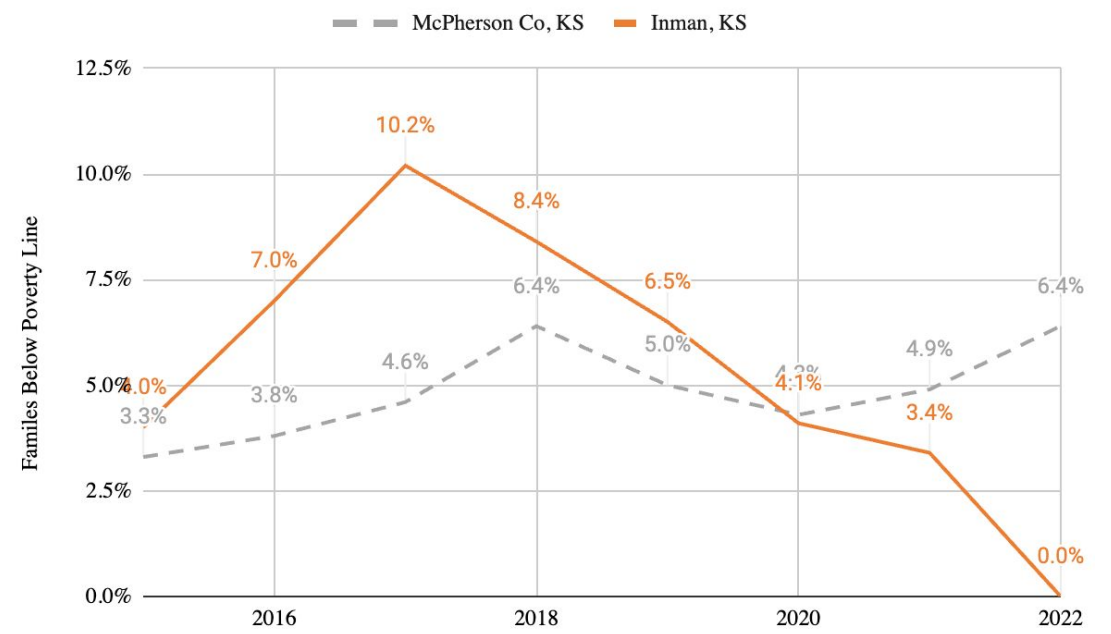
## Overall Population Trend



Data source:USCB, ACS 5-Yr Avg



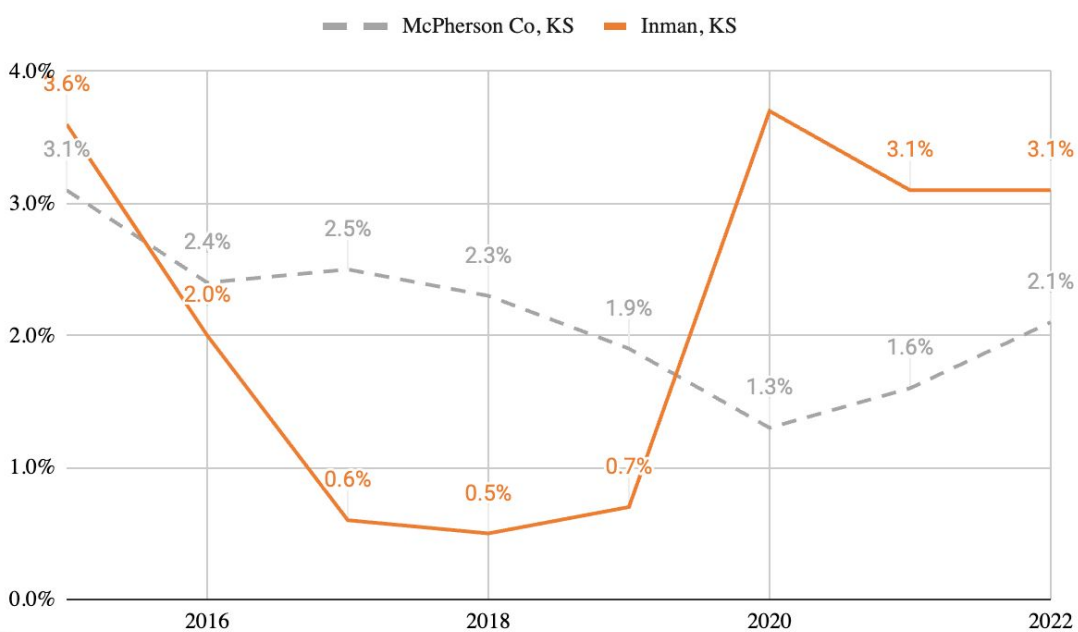
## Local Poverty Rate



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



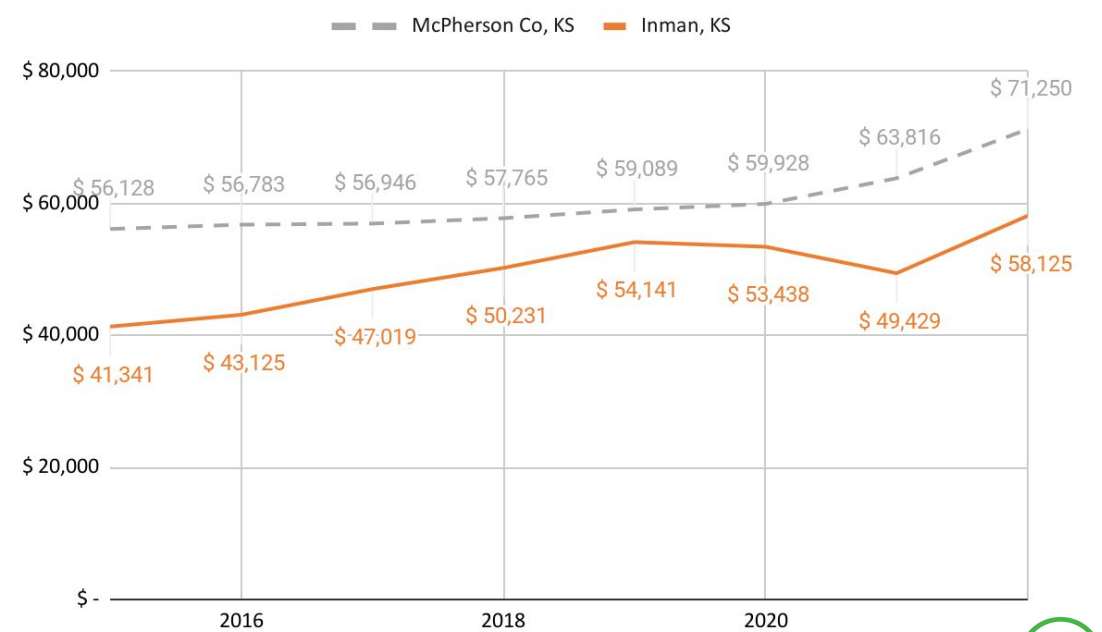
## Local Unemployment Rate



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



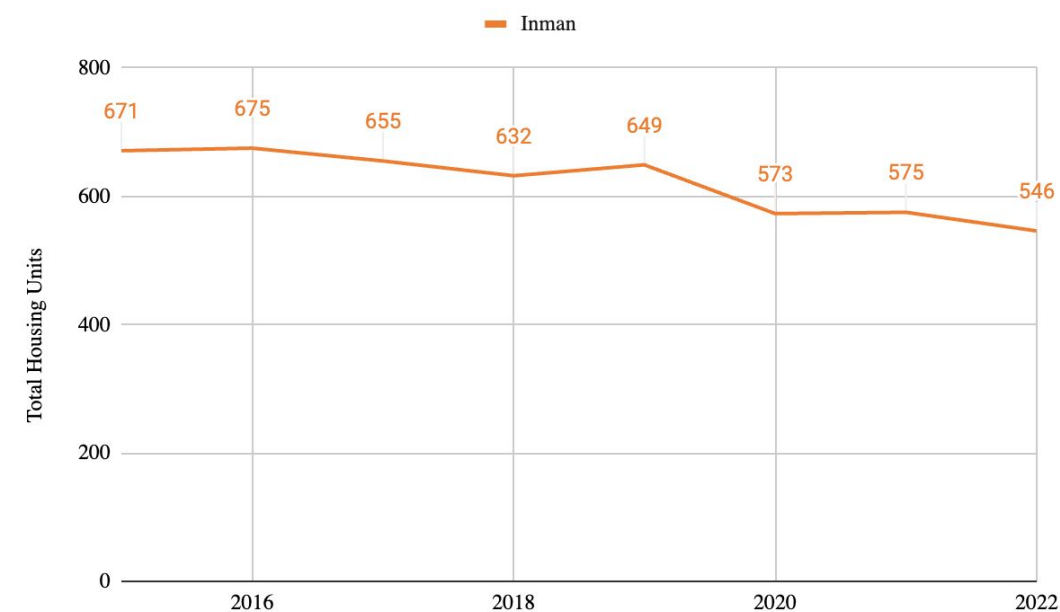
## Median Household Income



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



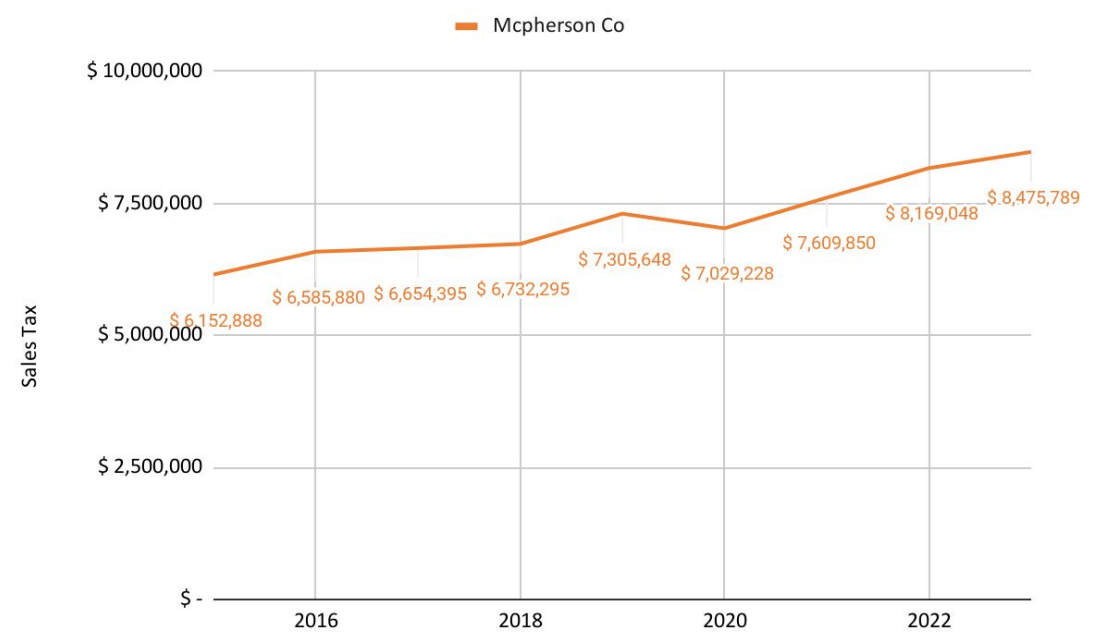
## Total Housing Units



Data source:USCB, ACS 5-Yr Avg



## Annual Sales Tax Collection



Data source:Kansas Dept of Revenue





Innovation Economy Partners  
OUR FOCUS: IMPACT AND OUTCOMES



MCPHERSON COUNTY  
Community  
Foundation

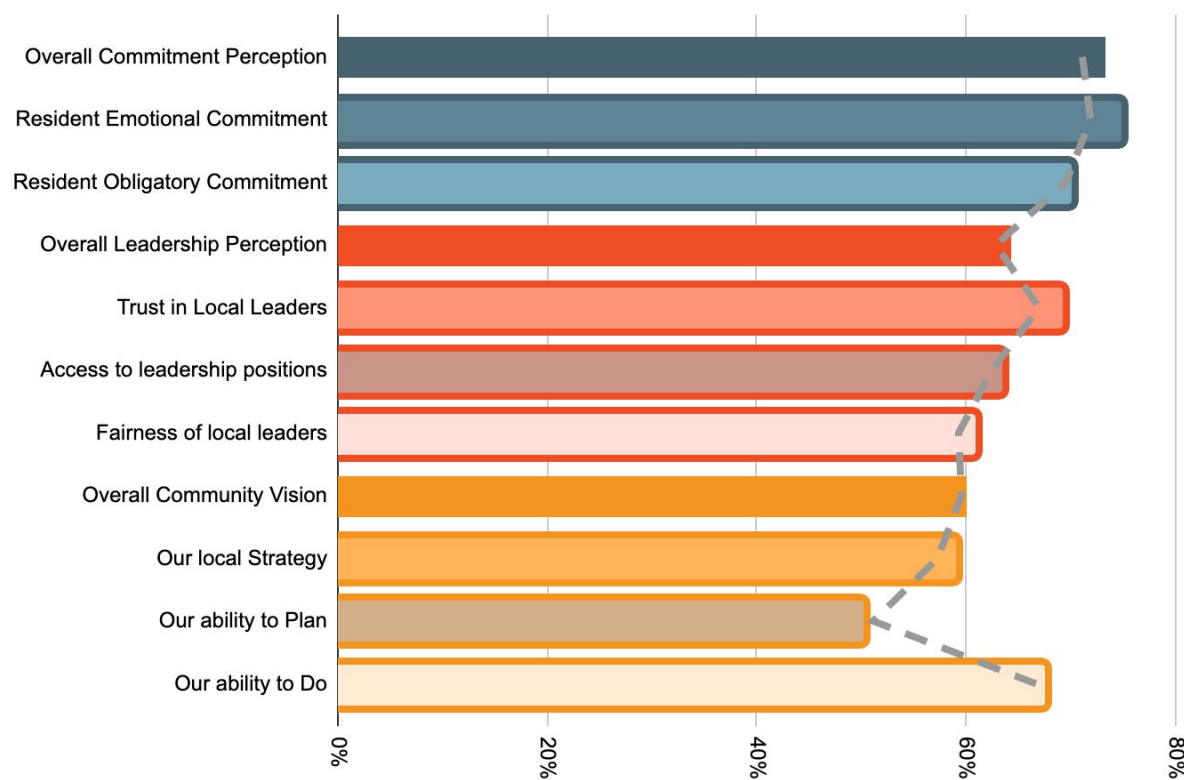
# Confidence In Our Local Community

## Engagement Summary:

Residents of Inman generally feel a strong personal connection to their community, with many expressing happiness to spend their lives there and a deep sense of belonging. However, perceptions of local leadership are mixed, with some residents comfortable speaking to leaders and others seeing a need for more effective communication and decision-making that reflects community needs. Strengthening leadership pathways and ensuring decisions serve the broader community interests are crucial. Enhancing transparency and involving more community members in leadership roles can foster greater trust and collaboration, driving collective progress.



## How do our residents view our community?

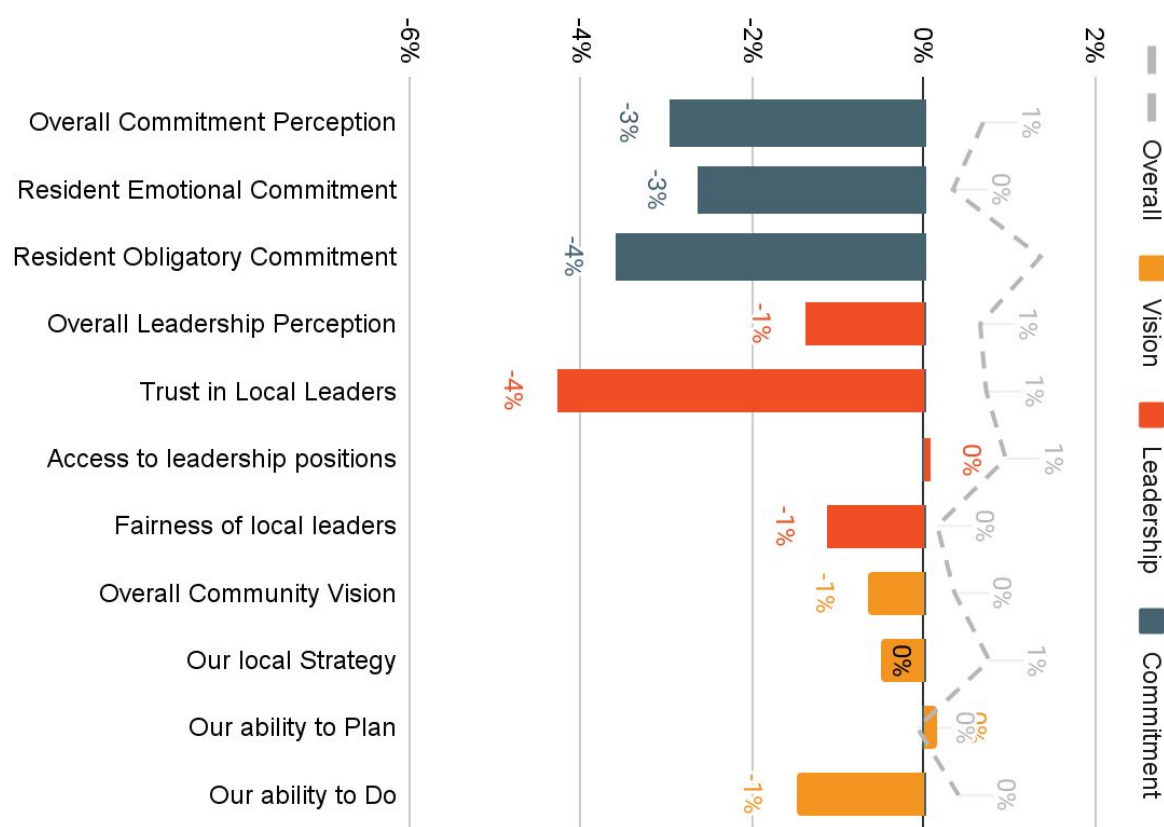


The two biggest perceptions of Inman that stand out are the Emotional Commitment as well as the Ability to Plan. Fortunately, since the commitment perception was the highest rating across the board, this shows leaders that residents are ready to commit to the town and its future success. The first area to make that happen would be in the planning stages.

### Questions.

- How can planning sessions be more open and communicated to the residents of Inman?
- How can you capitalize on the perception of the “ability to do” with regard to encouraging residents that when plans are made, results follow.

## Year Over Year Change (2023 vs. 2024)



The majority of the perceptions of the people of Inman decreased. Several key points should be recognized:

- Trust in local leaders was the highest decrease. Did something happen?
- Although the commitment perceptions are 3 of the 4 lowest decreasing perceptions, their current levels are still high. However, this is still an area that needs to be regularly maintained and monitored. Would a commitment from leaders inspire a positive change in the commitment of the residents?



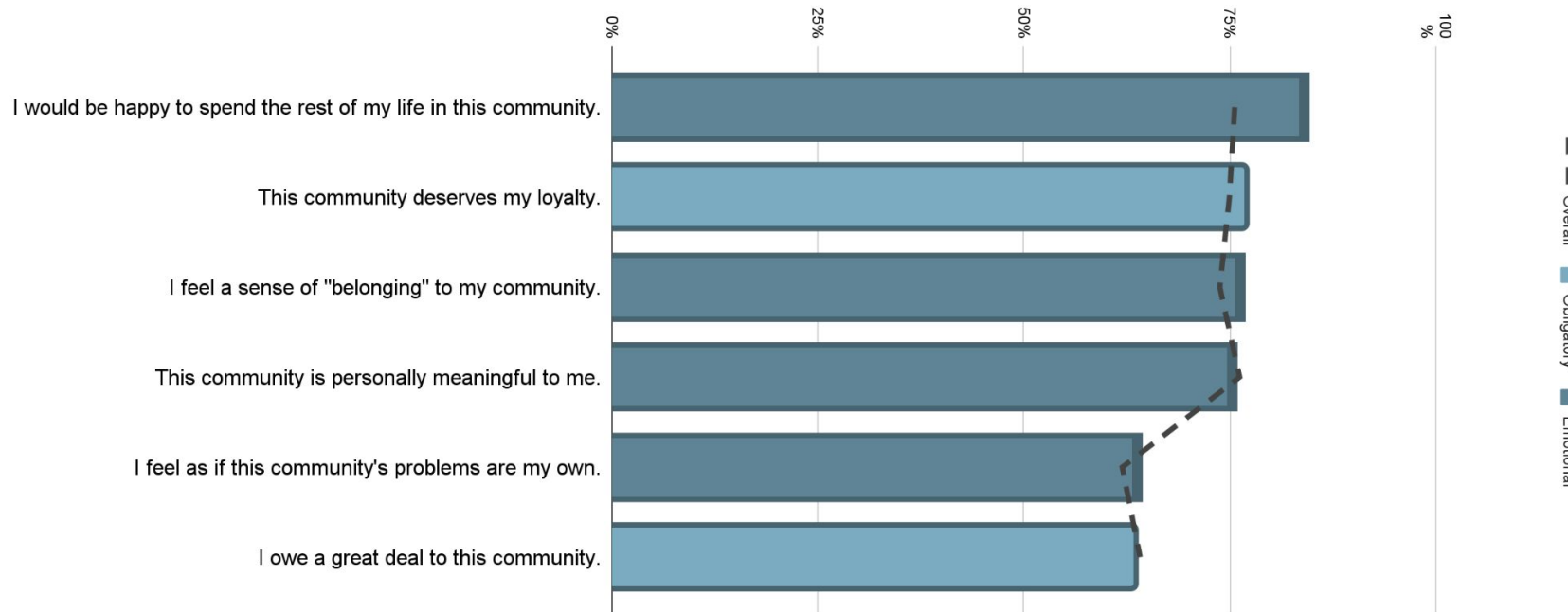
Innovation Economy Partners  
OUR FOCUS: IMPACT AND OUTCOMES



MCPHERSON COUNTY  
Community  
Foundation

# Confidence In Our Local Community

## Community Confidence: Personal Commitment

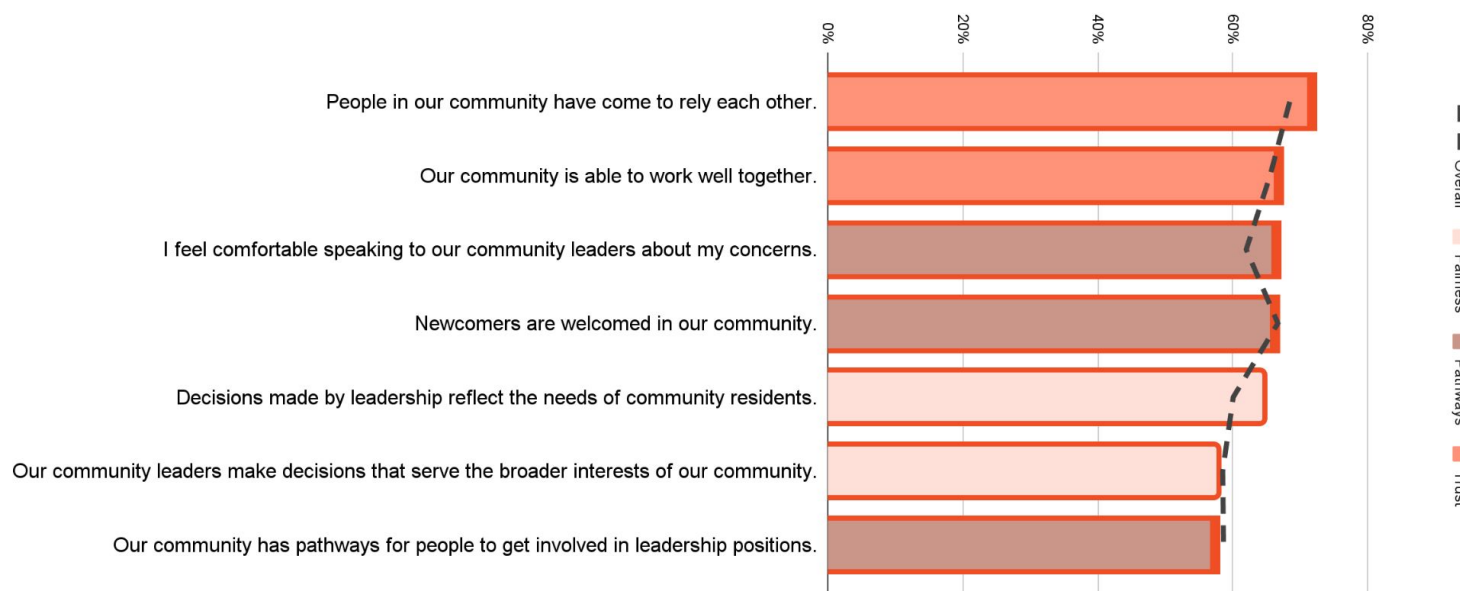


The biggest challenge is ensuring that all residents feel their problems are shared by the community. The opportunity for growth lies in harnessing the high sense of personal meaning and belonging to foster greater community engagement.

### Discussion Questions:

- What does Inman have going for it that would make it stand out above the other areas in the overall community?

## Community Confidence: Local Leadership

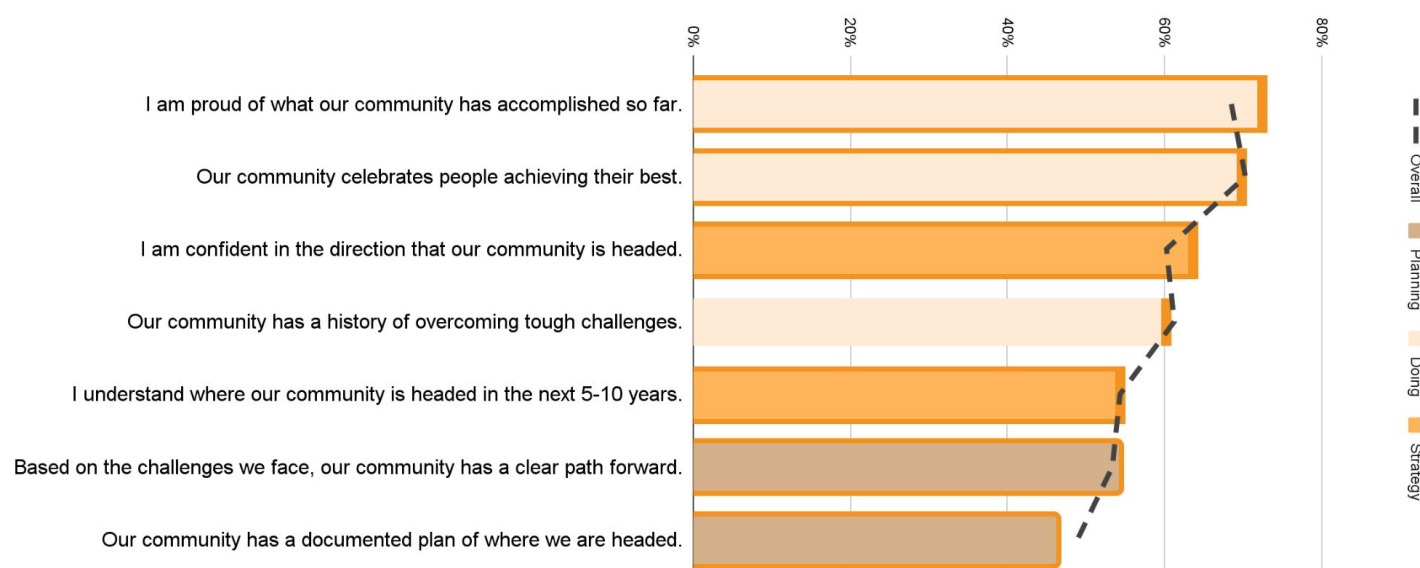


The biggest challenge is improving pathways for community members to get involved in leadership positions. The opportunity for growth lies in enhancing communication and decision-making processes to better reflect community needs.

### Discussion Questions:

- What's the most effective form of communication for a Inman resident and how can that be capitalized to gain insight into community needs

## Community Confidence: Vision



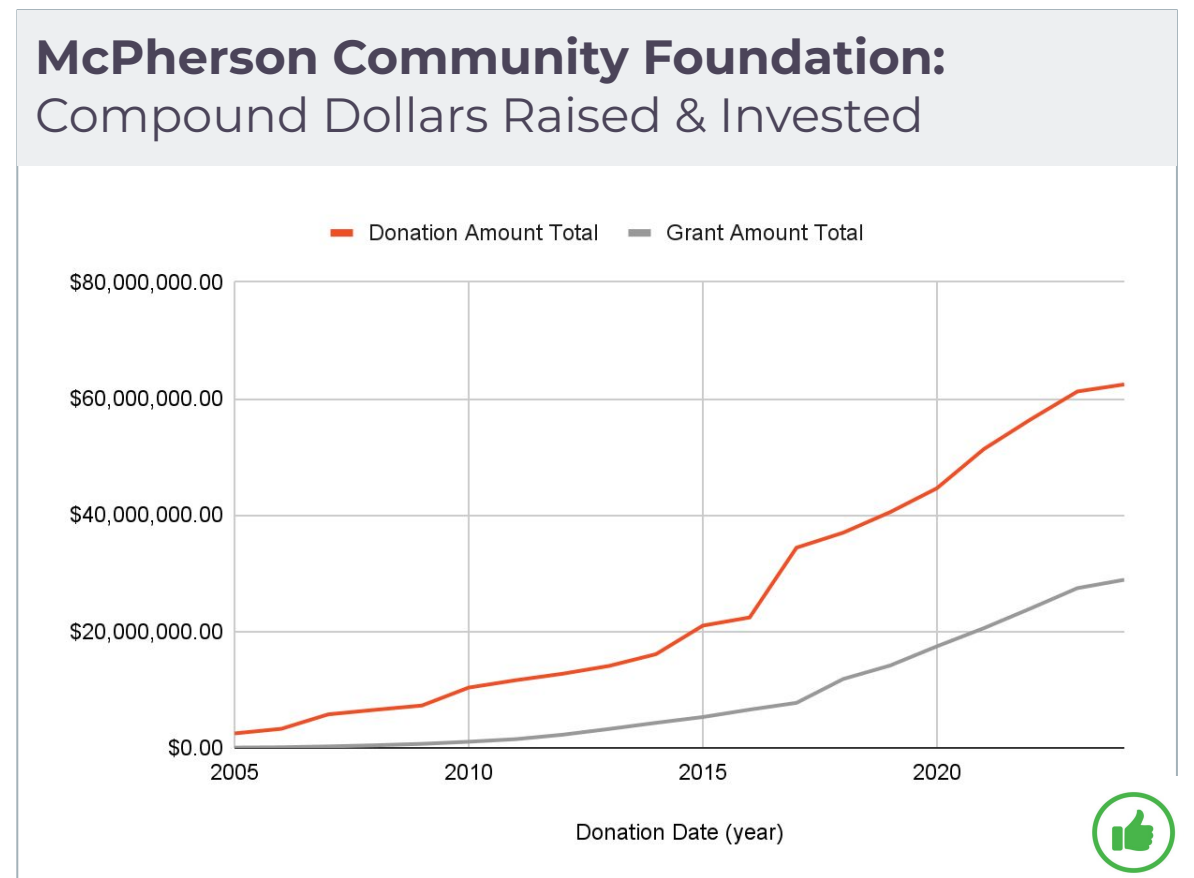
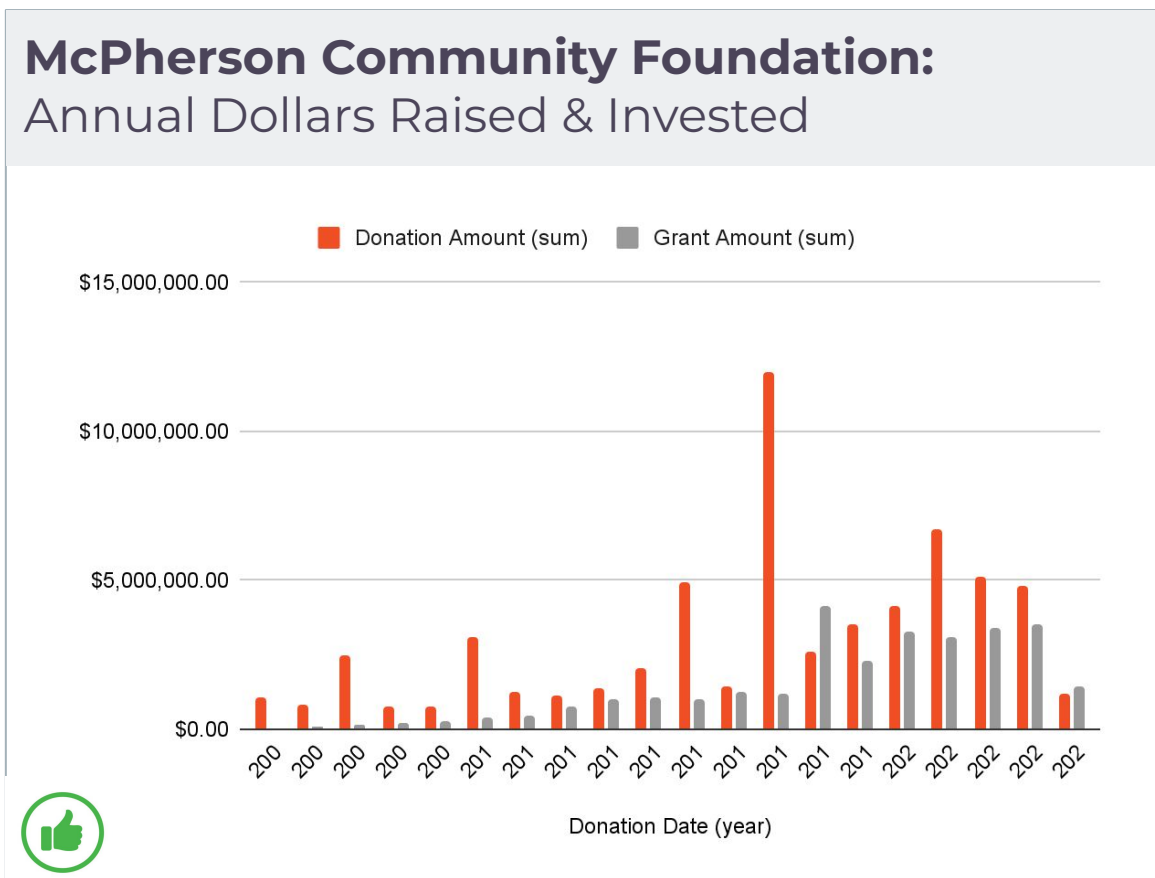
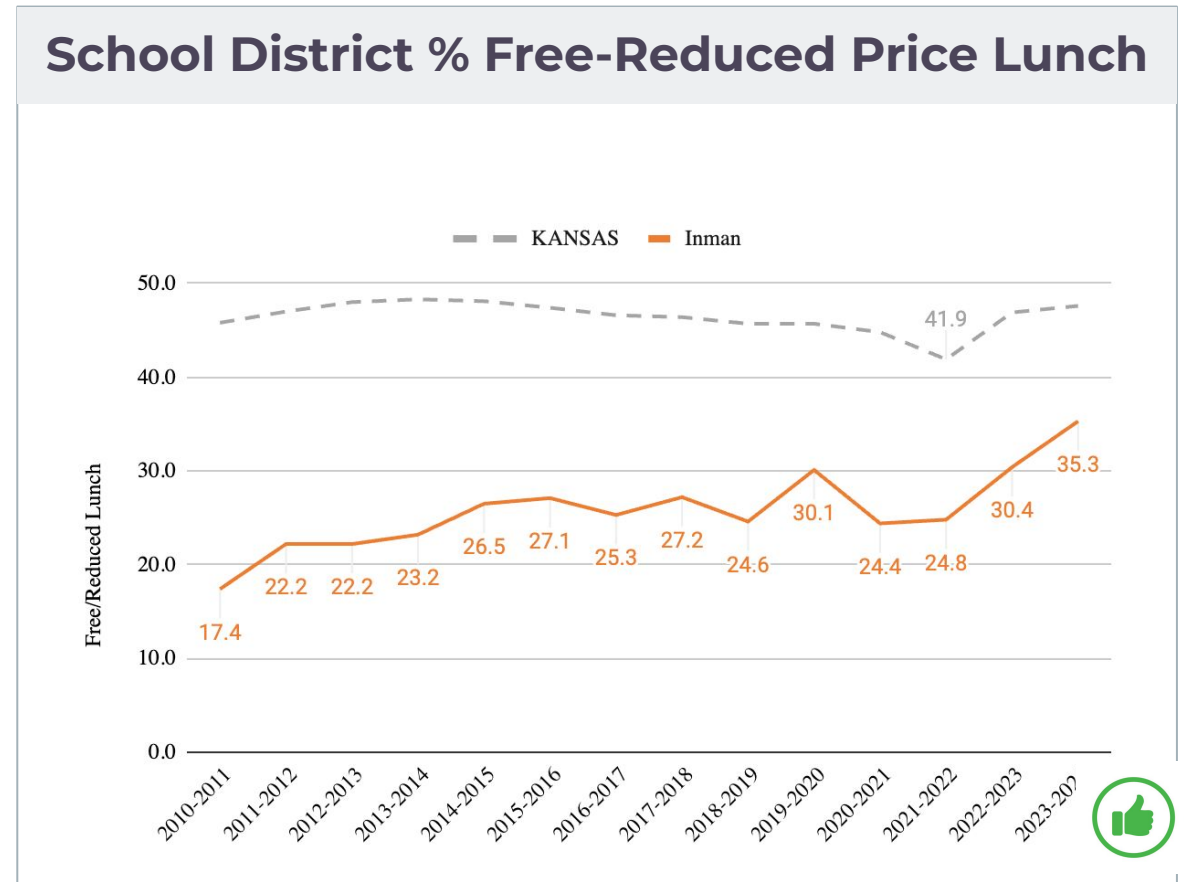
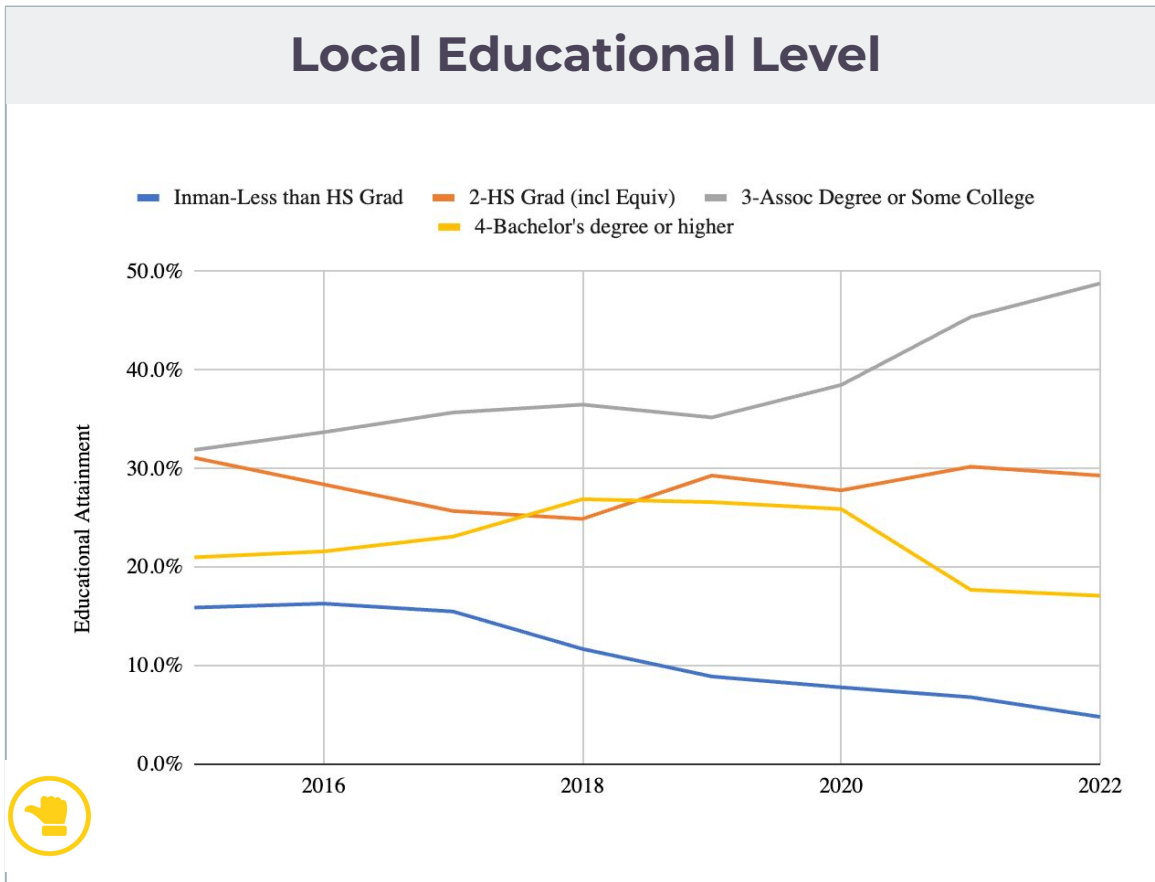
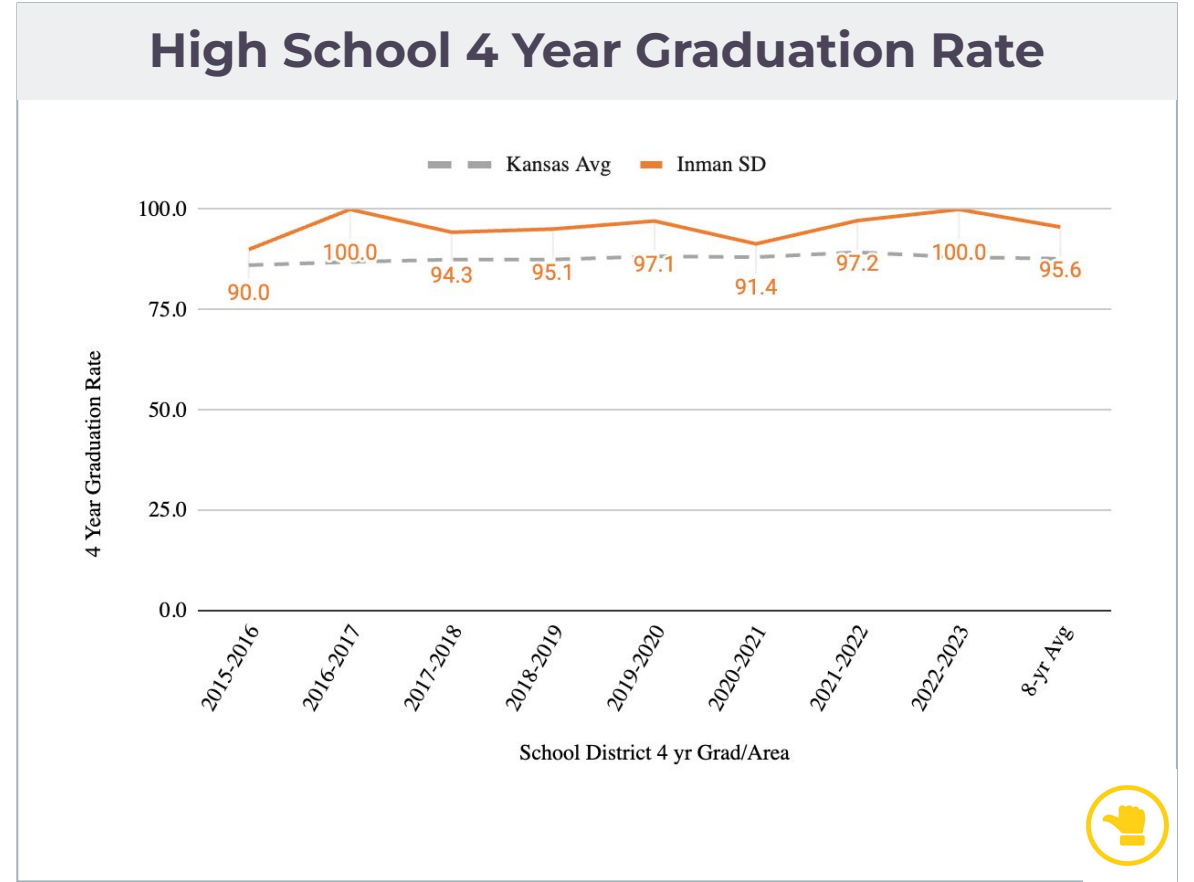
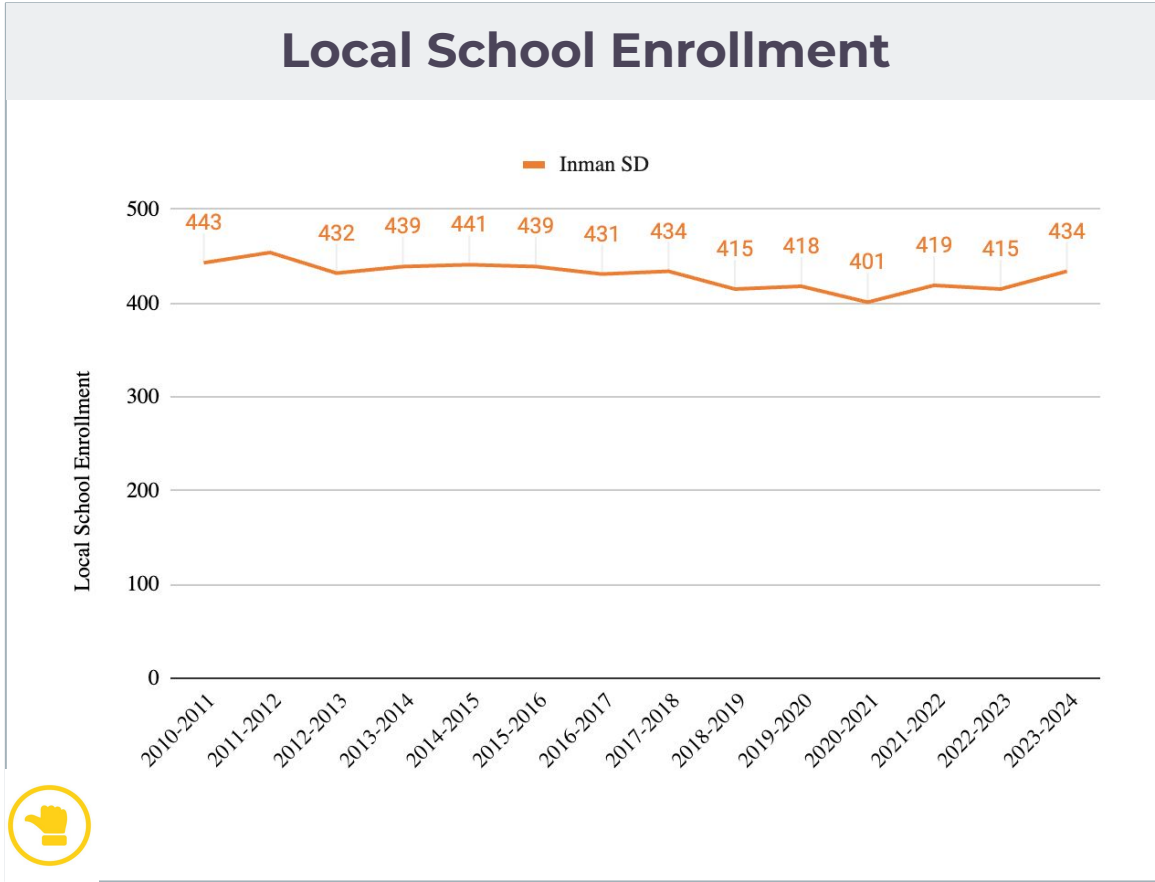
The biggest challenge is increasing awareness and understanding of the community's future direction. The opportunity for growth lies in developing and promoting a clear, documented plan for the community's future, celebrating achievements, and building confidence in the direction of the community.

### Discussion Questions:

- Are there plans that the community wants that aren't being addressed?

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

# Local Community Indicators







Innovation Economy Partners  
OUR FOCUS: IMPACT AND OUTCOMES



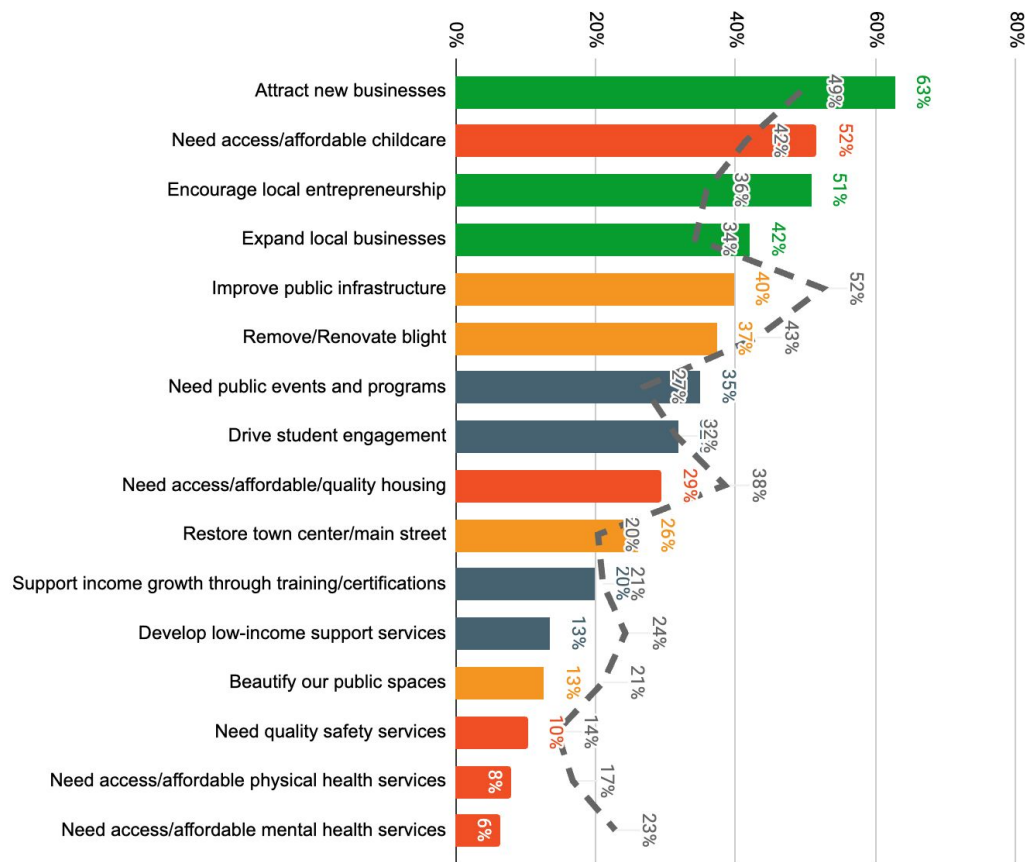
# Community Priorities

## Priorities Summary:

Residents prioritize a resilient economy by attracting new businesses and encouraging local entrepreneurship. Vibrant place initiatives like removing run-down properties and beautifying public areas are also key. Engaged citizens programs focus on improving student engagement, developing community pride, and providing support for low-income families. Healthy citizens priorities include expanding access to affordable housing and improving emergency services. To address these priorities, strategic planning and investment in infrastructure, education, and health services are essential. Collaboration with local businesses and organizations can drive economic growth and enhance the quality of life in Inman.

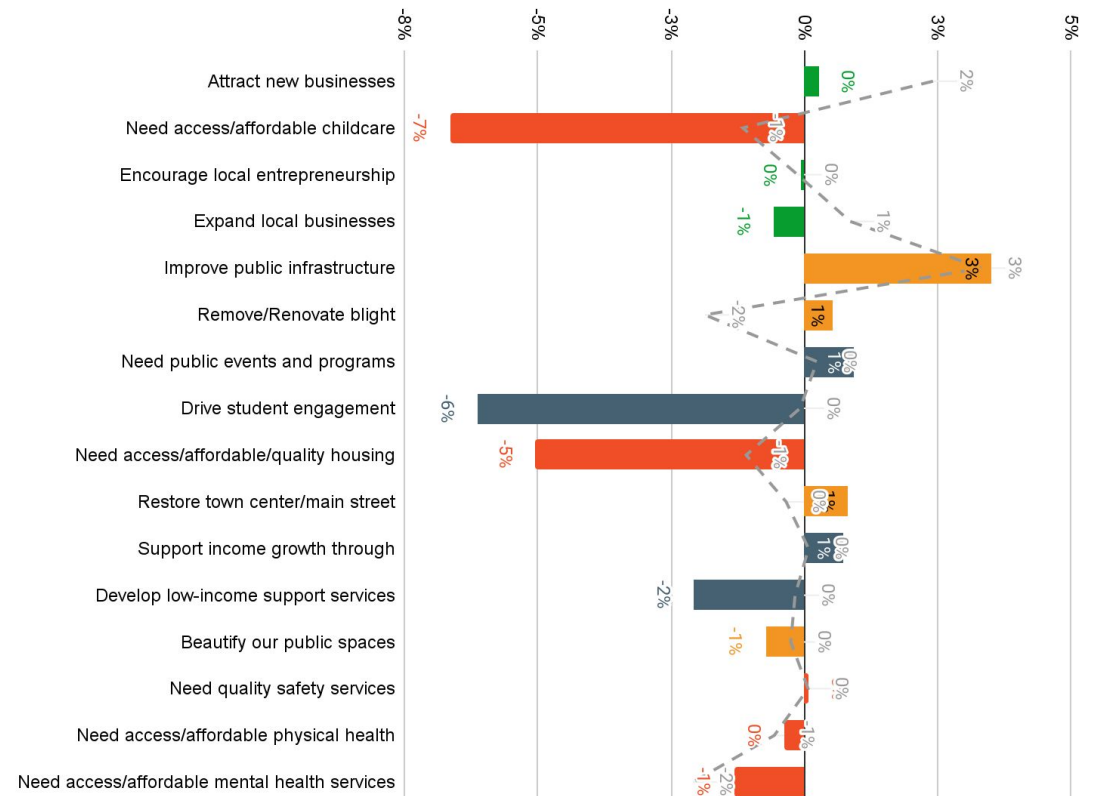
Health Placemaking Economy People Average McPherson Score

### 2024 Program Priorities



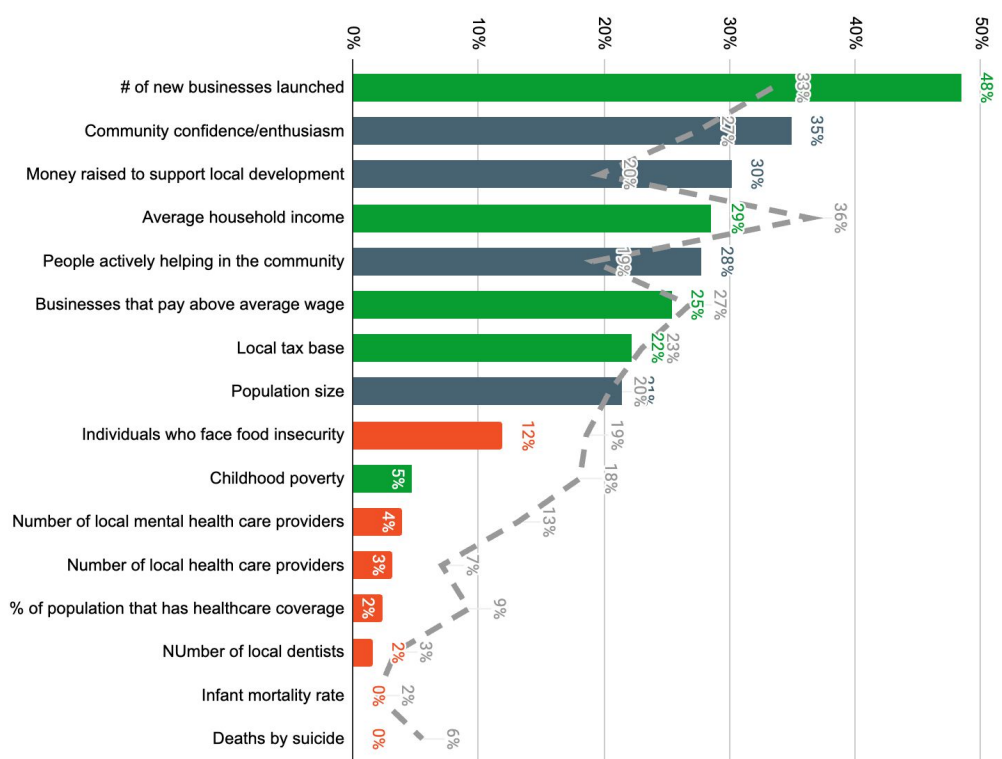
Economic priorities are definitively #1.

### Priority Shift (2023 vs 2024)



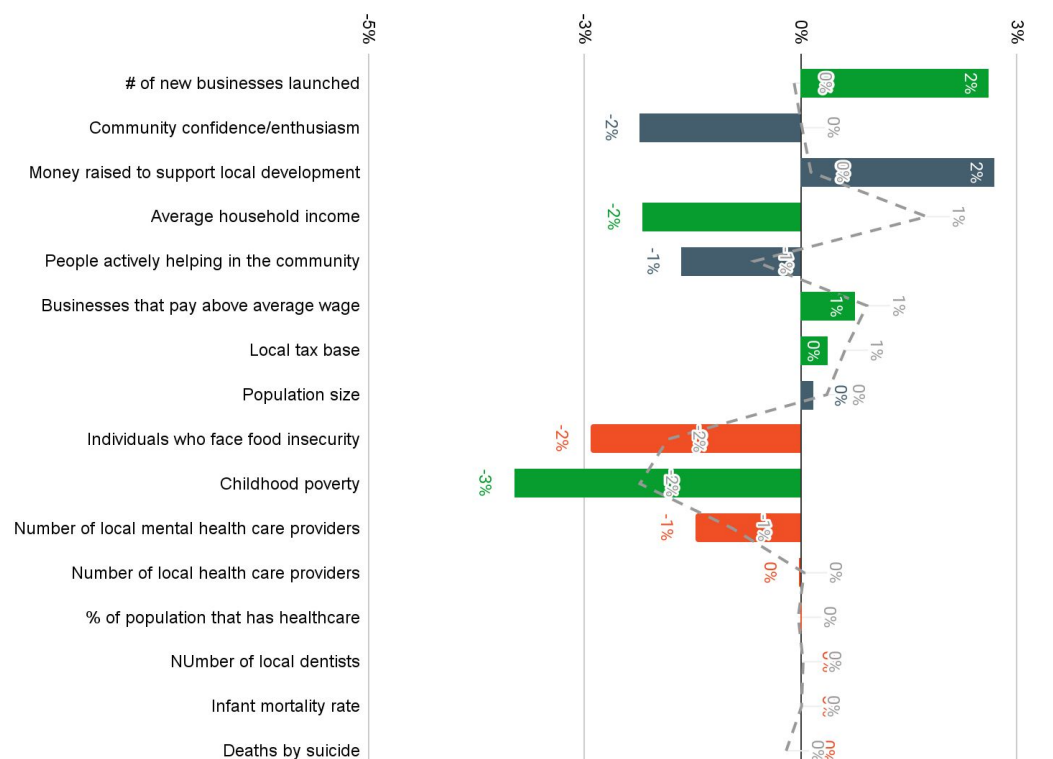
The childcare priority decreased the most but is still in the top 2.

### 2024 Priority Metrics



Economic and community metrics are the highest priorities

### Priority Metrics Shift (2023 vs 2024)



How can you launch new businesses that support local development?

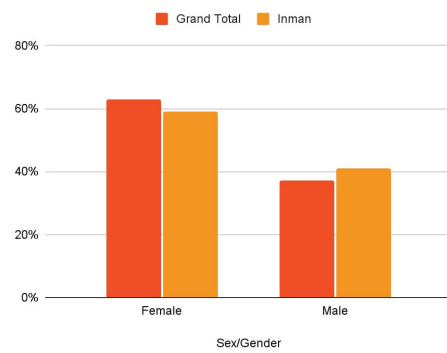
# Survey Respondents

## Number of Participants



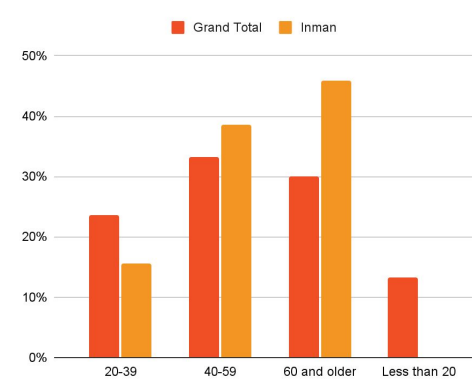
The survey captured a diverse demographic, with the largest group being long-term residents who have lived in Inman for over 20 years.

## Gender



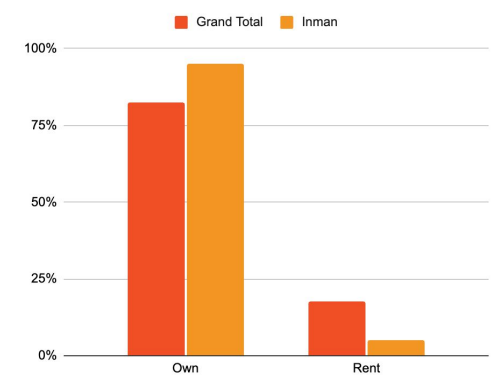
The biggest takeaway is that female respondents tend to express a higher sense of personal commitment and belonging compared to male respondents.

## Age Profile



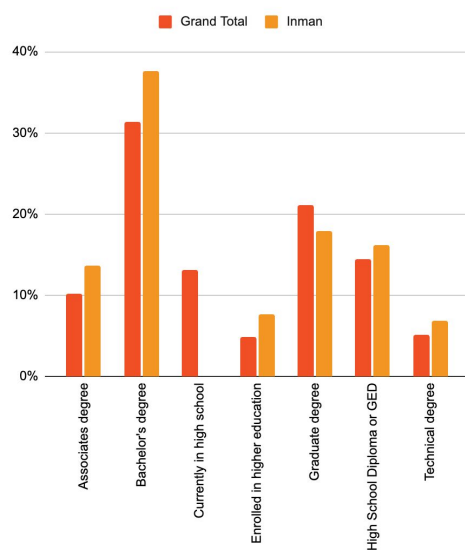
Younger respondents (20-39) prioritize economic opportunities and community engagement, while older respondents (60+) focus on maintaining the quality of life and community services.

## Residential Status



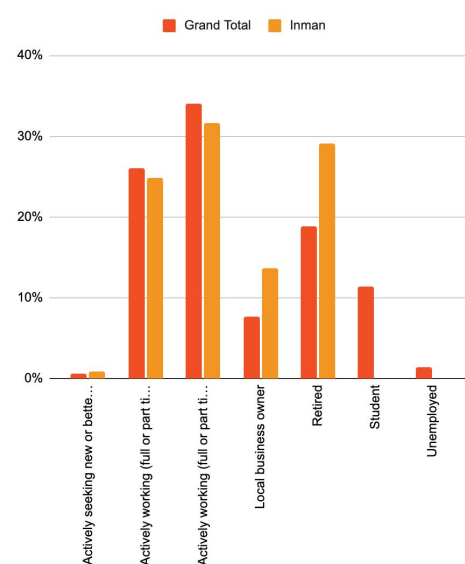
Owners tend to be more invested in long-term community development and improvements, while renters are more concerned with immediate economic opportunities and affordable housing.

## Education Level



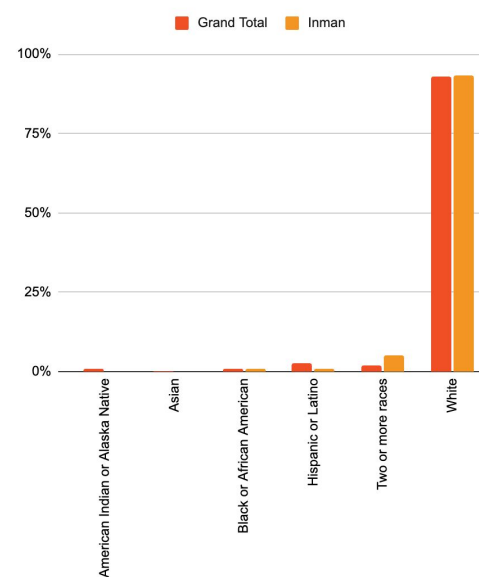
Higher education levels correlate with a greater focus on community planning and economic development, while those with lower education levels prioritize immediate community services and support.

## Employment Status



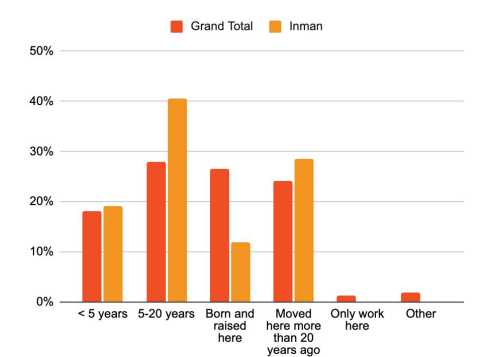
Public sector employees highlight the need for community services and infrastructure, while private sector employees focus on economic opportunities and business growth.

## Ethnicity



*Not enough data to analyze.*

## Years lived in location



Long-term residents (over 20 years) emphasize preserving community values and traditions, while newer residents (<5 years) seek improvements in infrastructure and services to enhance quality of life.

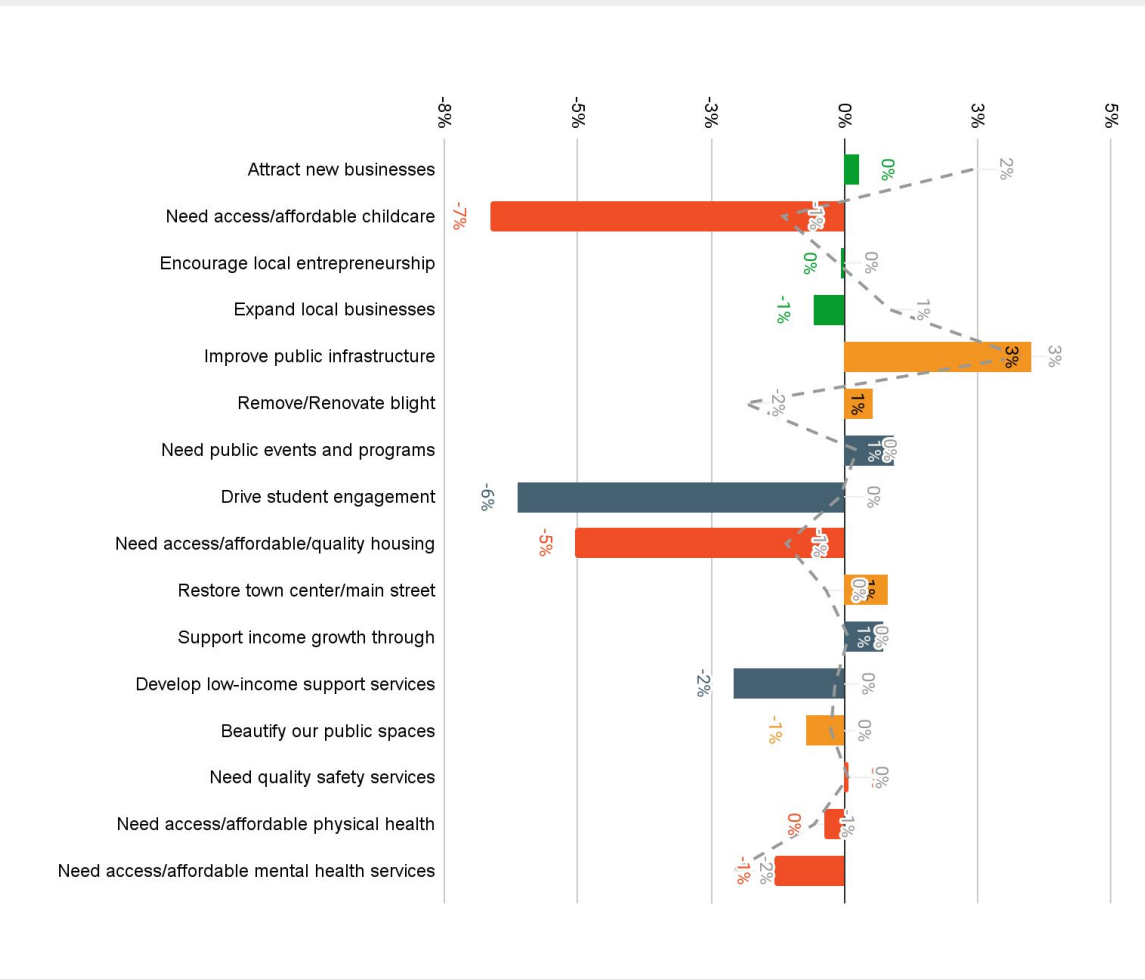
■ Town Score

■ Average McPherson County Score

**35**

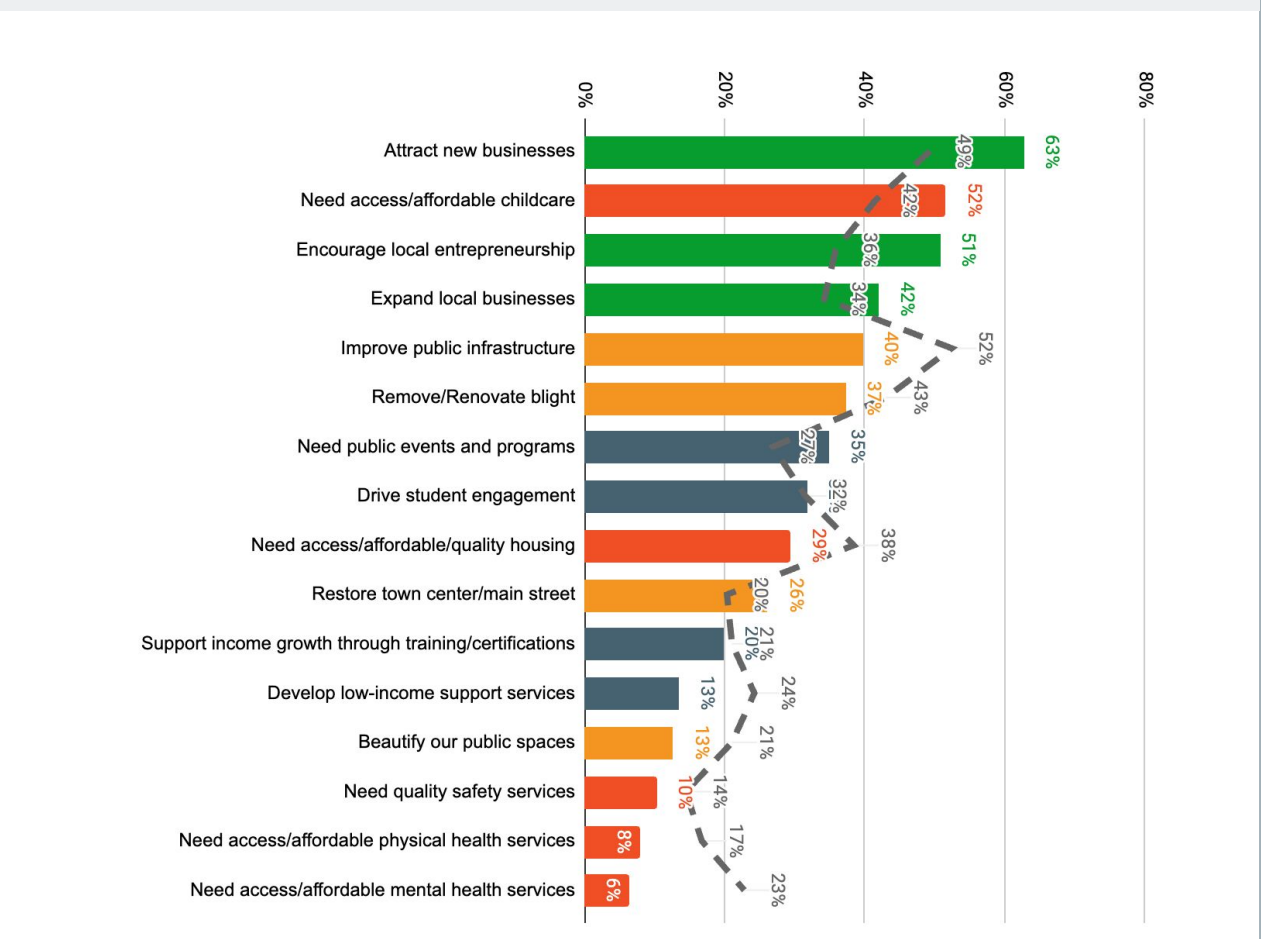
Number of people who expressed an interest in volunteering to better the community  
35 of 127 28%

### Priority Shift (2023 vs 2024)



The childcare priority decreased the most but is still in the top 2.

### 2024 Program Priorities



Economic priorities are definitively #1.