

Berkshire Bridges Working Cities Fall 2020 Survey Answers

What do you see as some of the most pressing issues in your community?

- Lack of opportunities, lack of employment, equality in the community
- Virtual classes, as the children stay home.
- Lack of job opportunity especially for people who do not have legal status.
- A Care center for children and adolescents where they can develop different activities, such as learn about technology, learn to draw, dance, with affordable prices, projects more accessible to the families.
- Children going back to school.
- For us, undocumented people the problems are many and asking for certain changes is difficult. We understand that. Go back to school. The children are at home and some parents will not be able to work. Christmas is going to be difficult.
- Encourage business to come to Pittsfield. We are filling up the city with stores that sell marijuana, but other stores are leaving. This makes me sad and scared because reflects how the economy is.
- Lack of employment and opportunities. Services are too expensive, for example, the internet, which at this time with the virtual school cannot stop being paid. High cost of living.
- Transportation
- A difficult time is coming, the pandemic continues. With a new president, we do not know what will happen, schools are closing again and for many families difficult times are ahead. I am concerned that this will affect our community.
- The fact that people are not taking care of themselves and are increasing the risk of acquiring COVID 19
- There are no resources for young people and children, lack of greater opportunities for their development and accessible to all.
- The Pandemic and what comes next year.
- The return of children to school. It is difficult for us as parents to work and take care of our children. This Problem affects many American and Hispanic families in the community.
- I think we have a very complete community that provides a lot of assistance.
- Lack of opportunities and safety return of children to schools, certain organizations need more interpreters.
- The lack of equality in economic resources
- Lack of employment and poorly paid jobs, minimum wages.
- The community offers many programs but need to be disclosed to the community, and more translators within the organizations.
- Go back to school, the pandemic, and the insecurity in certain areas of the city
- Lack of translators
- Lack of solidarity between people
- Lack of ties between people
- The economic factor. The community “shrinks” every day and nobody does anything. Years ago when we got here, the Mall was a recreation center, shopping looked like a

development. Now is closed to place Marijuana crops. This brings development and enriches its owner, but it does not favor us. The same is probably true for Lee. The authorities do nothing, nor do they help businesses to develop further. It is very sad.

- Lack of opportunities; carry out more programs to empower those who want to have their own business. This is how the community is improved. More recreational activities are needed for children, and for young people to have access to activities outside of school, but at affordable costs.
- Trainings for immigrants
- Communication and information.
- Better opportunities for immigrants.
- Insecurity, the high cost of public services -especially water services-. Few sources of employment. The pandemic made everything even worse.
- Insecurity, transportation, more options, more equality, more translation services.
- The pandemic is going to affect us again.
- Education.
- More information and connection between Hispanics.
- More unity
- Communication among Latinos and more information.
- Create jobs and childcare options and more activities for low-income youth
- Personal hygiene in times of Pandemic. Lack of cleaning in public places. There is lack of hygiene
- Lack of awareness of the disease we are facing, lack of employment, return to schools, lack of opportunities.
- The pandemic is getting complicated again. Reduced working hours for some people.
- Communication and employment to stabilize life.
- A network to access jobs. In addition, childcare.
- It was a problem to get to live here and not have someone to help you, to guide you. Now our living condition has improved a lot.
- Changes in immigration laws
- The care of children, the lack of places for children and young people to have healthy distraction activities.
- Safety and lack of opportunities.
- The lack of job opportunities. Training programs in the area of technology since there are many people who cannot access to participate because they do not know how to use these applications.
- Empowerment of the inhabitants
- Back to school
- Provide more opportunities to entrepreneurs in our community, more access to information and loans. Help and information to establish businesses in the community. There is help from
- Transportation (DMV), so that we all have the privilege of being able to drive and make our lives simpler, but for those of us who do not have documents, life is very distressing and difficult, and we must take risks to be better.
- Back to school

- Create more connection with available jobs, opening opportunities for both the documented and undocumented community. More equity.
- Something that is worrying me, that I have been living in this area for 17 years, is seeing all the people asking for help at the traffic lights. That has me very worried.
- The city is more unsafe and there is less chance of employment. That worries me a lot.
- Lack of Information and training, Lack of translators.

What do you see as obstacles to these issues being solved?

- Find organizations that care for and work for the community.
- Get someone who wants to lead a program like that since there are places here but they are for families with economies and resources different from ours
- The current situation
- Get more help right now.
- Someone who does something to help improve the situation.
- someone who reforms/rearranges all this.
- lack of investment in public transport
- Lack of economic and social security, lack of employment. All this causes insecurity.
- Lack of responsibility in our community.
- Find resources and those who want to develop the projects.
- there are many since we are in an unusual situation.
- Our current situation
- I do not have a particular/specific problem.
- Expose the problem and find out who wants to get ahead how to fix the situation.
- Make changes.
- A change. Laws to improve the communities.
- Invite people from different organizations to each program and encourage the use of bilingual people in organizations.
- Being able to know specifically about the problem and be able to organize to fix it.
- Lack of activities that encourage integration.
- Language and lack of time.
- Someone who wants to change this new form of business.
- Institutions that want to facilitate training, and agencies that develop activities with children.
- Budget
- More spaces to provide community training.
- Legal documents
- It is a difficult thing because it all depends on the government.
- Someone who wants to invest in making those changes.
- The government is not doing enough to keep us safe.
- Language and COVID-19
- Hispanics have little information about how things function here.
- More spaces like this
- Our community needs empowerment.
- Develop more programs and have representation to expose the different situations.
- Create jobs so that people who do not have jobs can work.
- There are no resources to meet all people's needs.
- More opportunities
- Finding the solution to problems
- Have desire/be willing and communicate.
- Lack of information and more childcare centers with COVID-19 protocols

- Want to make the change.
 - The Entity that wants to collaborate by carrying out a project like this.
 - There are no institutions interested in working for the community.
 - They're not public.
 - Lack of information
 - There are not many places for childcare, and the cost is high for our income... not everyone can apply to these sites need more accessible places for childcare.
 - Change the laws and think more about us that we are part of this community.
 - The pandemic
 - Someone who leads and broadcasts this campaign.
 - I think the government should do something about this, but he/she does not.
 - People do not report these conditions, often because of our immigrant situation we are afraid.
 - Language. People who train others.
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Why or why not? (you believe Working Cities would be effective on solving those problems?)

- Because they give information to other organizations that can help make decisions
- Hopefully, they will help improve the laws of this country.
- I know they have connections to a lot of entities, but I don't know how much they can do to make it a program like this.
- We can't change anything right now.
- They can help by spreading the information.
- I'm not sure how much influence they have.
- I'm not sure.
- Because they know people who hold office in government.
- because they help us stay informed
- It's our responsibility as individuals, and everyone should do it in their family group.
- Because we know that they can expose the needs of the community and count on them to be passed on to those who can make the change.
- This is a situation that is faced daily, no one can know that it will happen.
- It's a situation that gets out of the hands of the entities, they're trying to protect our children.
- I think they help because they have connections with the government and the administration.
- They have contact with important people and can talk about it.
- Quite possibly they can present the situation to decision-makers.
- Because they can pass on our needs to people who take certain decisions.
- They're passing the message.
- They are part of the organizations; they can report the information, but it does not mean that they can fix it.
- People are more interested in their own work than helping others.
- It can generate bonds of union in the community, through these projects.
- I'm not sure because certain decisions depend on the rulers.
- They could get the necessary financial resources to support us.
- It's a space where people meet for the same purpose
- They could promote more opportunities for the undocumented people.
- It all depends on the government.
- They may pass the information but are subject to the decisions made by other authorities.

- I do not know if they could act, they have their hands tied.
- They have the resources and volunteer employees.
- Because it's a very good space where we can propose ideas and work on them
- Because many of us like this space
- Because it's a space that's already known to many immigrants
- You can transmit/send the information to the right area.
- We believe they propagate information.
- I wouldn't be so sure if they can cover all the needs.
- They work with the city.
- Working Cities connect us with resources in the community.
- By having contact with people and knowing first-hand the needs they can develop action plans.
- When people work, things can be achieved.
- Thanks to its "Community navigator Program" they have helped the community a lot.
- Well, because these decisions are made in other offices.
- Because they are part of the development of the city and propagate information
- It may be because they provide support, and it is incredibly good what they do but I think they should expand to other kinds of assistance/programs.
- Because they consider doing this kind of program.
- Because it is a space where the community can contribute ideas, educate themselves and learn.
- They work together with the city and can convey the needs of the community.
- Spread more the information because if they do, we can access to create our own businesses.
- Because this is a separate factor, I think it can support but it is hard to totally fix it.
- They are in contact with many organizations.
- Because they can pass the information directly to the officer in charge
- Because they relate to people who have important participation within the city and can express how we feel or how we see the city.

What changes would you need to see in your community to solve the above issues?

- More opportunities
- More development
- More unity, equality, equity, and solidarity
- I could not say exactly.
- More jobs, and more opportunities and resources
- More opportunities
- More responsibility plus support as a community
- More services and centers for young people and children
- I do not know.
- More opportunities workshops, learning how to make handcrafted objects and creating a space that allows them to be sold to the community so that families have an extra income.
- I do not know.
- I have answered that question out before.
- More equality
- Better paid jobs
- If people collaborate and participate in these programs, they can learn what services they can access.

- Having a more united and equal-opportunity community
- More projects that gather people.
- More development, as I mentioned before.
- More communication and interest to establish priorities well.
- More stable projects and citizen participation
- More union
- Difficult
- More change, and whoever wants to make such a change.
- More leaders
- More groups like this.
- More communication and information
- Less selfishness and more communication
- More commitment to solving problems and monitoring. I think a lot of things are talked about but there is no execution.
- More opportunities, more equality.
- More opportunities
- Opportunities
- The organizations can help the community get ahead.
- More empathy and communication
- Unity, and communication.
- More programs like yours
- More union and search for change
- More places for our children and young people
- Learn more.
- Greater opportunities.
- More Working Cities meeting attendance. Maybe engage one by one.
- More places of access for childcare and more community activities to help development. There are activities, but they are not free, and for those who work with a minimum wage it is difficult to access. I would like my child to access activities that allow him to better develop his abilities.
- More support from local authorities and more possibilities
- More union and community workers to convey this need.
- More care centers, but with safer measures for children in terms of health
- More work, better conditions in terms of economy, equity, and equal conditions
- More jobs, more cultural development, more activities for children and young people so that there is a strengthening in this part of the community.
- More social investment
- More community navigators, more interpreters.

What changes would you like to see in Working Cities' efforts?

- I do not have anything specific.
- Spread out more information such as this type of need.
- I am the example of all the good things they have done for us: I have received assistance with the help of their community navigators, they have provided food, excellent information and work of your team.
- More opportunities for everyone in general, I feel that there is favoritism in the work of community navigators.
- The work that community navigators have done in supporting, reporting as an agency is particularly good.

- I think they have done an incredibly good job with the community.
- I would not know.
- More leaders who help create these programs.
- Invite other organizations, as they are usually the same ones.
- Work on creating programs and events where we can showcase our culture through art and food.
- Make your program more public, let people know what you do.
- Other topics in your meetings
- Learn more and motivate people to create their own businesses.
- To inform this situation
- Everything they do is fine, but I think they need the community to support them more.
- More community programs.
- I am not sure.
- More organization
- Continuity/stability to projects
- Projects as new opportunities for the immigrant community
- I have not participated much, so I would not know.
- More projects for everyone not just for undocumented people
- More assistance or different resources
- More Latino people
- More continuity to projects
- More one-on-one communication.
- Control of compliance with activities.
- To be more visible/noticeable. They should have more publicity so everyone will know about the important role they do with the whole community.
- I'm not sure.
- More support programs.
- I don't have anything special.
- Programs for people in need to learn English.
- Receive more information about their activities.
- Receive more support from other organizations.
- I'm not directly connected; I'd like to but because of my work schedule I can't. I appreciate all the collaboration and support they gave us during this difficult time, especially to their group of community navigators.
- I don't have anything definite.
- More programs of general interest. Not just talk about programs assistance because some of us can't access them. Get information about other topics within the community, for example Habitat, what do they do, what programs they have, and the community doesn't know about. The same goes for other organizations, we're immersed only in talking about how to get help and that's boring.
- Let the programs be concrete/ be visible
- More one-on-one contact with people. Spanish portal or Working Cities page in Spanish
- Creating these places because in our community there are many people who can provide great learning to our children More help, entrepreneurship support.
- I think they work well, and they do a lot for our community especially for us who don't have legal documents.
- They worked extremely hard to help families. I would not have to add anymore.
- I 'am not sure.
- More action in this situation.

- I think they should do more educational programs; a lot of people often do not participate in the meetings because they don't know how to do it using a cell phone. This is an important part of community development.
 - Continuity to projects through work teams and people who lead each project.
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Do you have any other comments you would like to share?

- Great work for your community navigator group
 - Make support calls to be more visible/noticeable in the community.
 - They have been an important support for the community, in this time through their community navigator program.
 - Thank you for all your help.
 - Not currently
 - Hopefully, they can work on these projects that are of great help to the community at large
 - Please try to create events/programs that help us get ahead.
 - I think they have provided an important service to the community.
 - Give more leadership classes.
 - Thank you for taking an interest in the needs of the community.
 - Not for now.
 - I really like WC
 - It's a very good project.
 - Thank you for your work.
 - Create more opportunities in special jobs.
 - With my knowledge and skills, I would like to be able to help my community.
 - Incredibly good work
 - Excellent
 - Help us to improve our skills and connecting people for this type of learning.
 - It is the best platform for our immigrant community.
 - Please try to run programs like this so that in the future we have a better community.
 - It would be incredibly good if they dedicate one of the meetings to talk and provide information on how to create a business, that would be of great help and motivation.
 - I would like this idea to be communicated to the governor to support us and if it would be possible to make a change of law.
 - Thank you for all the help and information provided to assist the community.
 - It's one of the best meetings for the immigrant community.
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