

The city of Bessemer’s Economic and Community Development Department conducted a Community Needs Assessment Survey for the city of Bessemer earlier this spring.

Approximately 54 respondents took part in this online survey. Results from the survey were used to help department staff identify areas of need relative to creating and administering the FY 2020-24 CDBG Consolidated Action Plan, which has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The staff thanks each respondent for participating in this survey and submitting your additional comments.

Below are results of the survey. Respondents ranked community needs as “high”, “medium”, “low” or “no need” in the survey. Forty-seven participants identified their race as Black/African-American, while five identified their race as white and two as “other race.”

All respondents were from Bessemer. Four were veterans.

There were 40 females and 14 males who took part in the survey.

Demographics of survey participants:

Age range of respondents	Count/Total
18 to 24	1
25 to 34	11
35 to 44	19
45 to 54	13
55 to 64	8
65 and over	2

# years resident of Bessemer	Count/Total
20 or more	11
16 to 20	10
11 to 15	11
6 to 10	11
Less than 5	11

Education Level	Count/Total
High School or High School graduate	11
Some College	11
Associates degree	11
Bachelor degree	10
Masters degree	6
Doctoral degree	5

Annual income of participants	Count/Total
Less than \$10,000	7
\$10,000 to \$20,000	5
\$20,001 to \$35,000	11
\$35,001 to \$50,000	14
\$50,001 or more	17

Median Household income in Bessemer is \$31,610.

Responses on the Needs Assessment.

Housing Needs Assessment and Response areas	High	Medium	Low	No Need
Need for Apartments	20	18	6	10
Need for Rental Homes	26	18	3	7
Need for Owner Occupied Homes	34	16	2	2
Improvements for Handicapped Accessibility	24	20	5	5
Need for Exterior Property Maintenance and Code Enforcement	35	16	0	3
Assistance in Purchasing a	34	14	3	3

Home				
Housing Needs for Elderly	30	16	3	3
Housing Needs for Veterans	35	10	4	4
Need for Tenant/Landlord Counseling	28	16	5	5
Need for Emergency Shelters	39	10	4	1
HIV Needs	23	13	11	7
Mental Illness Needs	35	11	5	3
Domestic Violence Shelter	33	15	3	4
Lead Paint Testing and Abatement	29	15	6	5
Other Housing Needs	27	21	2	5
Need for Fair Housing Counseling	34	13	5	3

Infrastructure Needs Area	High	Medium	Low	No Need
Flood/Drainage Improvements	40	9	3	2
Street Improvements	45	6	2	1
Park Facilities	22	25	2	5
Other Neighborhood Facilities	28	20	3	3

Social Services Needs Areas and Responses	High	Medium	Low	No Need
Youth Services	39	12	1	2
Senior Services	37	14	1	2
Special Needs Services	38	12	2	2
Health Services	42	9	2	1
Services for Abused and Neglected Children	41	8	3	2
Services for Victims of Domestic Violence	37	9	6	2
Transportation Services	38	13	1	2
Employment Training	42	10	1	1
Crime Awareness and Prevention	45	5	3	1

Economic Development Needs Responses	High	Medium	Low	No Need
Job Creation	43	8	1	2
Commercial Rehabilitation	39	13	1	1
Business Support Services	41	9	3	1