ALL IN ALLEGHENY – COMMUNITY SURVEY

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the All In Allegheny survey.

On January 2nd, 2024, Sara Innamorato was sworn in as the next Executive of Allegheny County government. In the Innamorato Administration, the community's priorities will be the County's priorities – we are interested in hearing from people from every corner of Allegheny County about what they want and need from County government. Your answers to this survey will inform County government's priorities. This survey will ask about nine issue areas we believe are important to the people living in Allegheny County and will take less than 20 minutes to complete. Visit **AlleghenyforAll.com** to stay involved, find information about upcoming community conversations about survey results, and share more of your ideas for County government.

ABOUT YOU

We are asking a few demographic questions at the beginning and end of the survey to help us make sure we are reaching a diverse and accurate representation of the people who live in Allegheny County.

1. **In which zip code do you live?**

2. **In which municipality do you live?**

3. **Please select your age range. (Select one)**
   - ☐ 17 or younger
   - ☐ 18-24
   - ☐ 25-34
   - ☐ 35 - 44
   - ☐ 45 - 64
   - ☐ 65-74
   - ☐ 75 or older

4. **Which of the following best represents your gender identity? (Select one)**
   - ☐ Woman
   - ☐ Man
   - ☐ Non-binary or non-conforming
   - ☐ Gender identity not listed here
   - ☐ I prefer not to answer this question

5. **What is your approximate annual household income? (Select one)**
   - ☐ Less than $25,000
   - ☐ $25,000 to $39,999
   - ☐ $40,000 to $59,999
   - ☐ $60,000 to $74,999
   - ☐ $75,000 to $99,999
   - ☐ $100,000 to $149,999
   - ☐ $150,000 or more
   - ☐ I prefer not to answer this question

6. **What is your racial and ethnic identity? (Select all that apply)**
   - ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
   - ☐ East Asian
   - ☐ Southeast Asian
   - ☐ South Asian
   - ☐ Middle Eastern or North African
   - ☐ Black or African American
   - ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
   - ☐ White
   - ☐ Hispanic or Latino/a
   - ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
   - ☐ Other (please describe)

7. **Do you identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, or Asexual (LGBTQIA+)? (Select one)**
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No
   - ☐ I prefer not to answer this question

8. **Do you identify as a person with a disability or other chronic condition? (Select one)**
   - ☐ Person living with a physical disability
   - ☐ Person living with a learning disability
   - ☐ Person living with a mental health problem or illness
   - ☐ Person living with low vision/vision disability
   - ☐ Person who has difficulty hearing
   - ☐ Person with a chronic condition
   - ☐ Person living with a disability not listed above (please describe)
   - ☐ No
   - ☐ I prefer not to answer this question

HOUSING FOR ALL

Almost 30% of Allegheny households spent more than 30% of their income on housing costs, making it hard to afford other necessities like groceries, transportation, and health services (IPUMS USA). Allegheny County's government has several powers that could help people access and remain housed, such as operating a public housing authority and transitional housing for people experiencing homelessness and offering tax relief to help older adults stay in their homes.

9. **What should the County do to help people stay in safe, affordable housing? (Select up to three)**
   - ☐ Provide legal protections and expand housing services to people facing eviction or foreclosure
   - ☐ Create additional legal protections for renters,
     crack down on illegal evictions, and help renters to know their rights
   - ☐ Protect against housing discrimination, including for race, incarceration history, and eviction history
   - ☐ Expand funding for home repairs for low-income homeowners
   - ☐ Provide emergency financial assistance for people facing eviction or foreclosure
   - ☐ Create programs to incentivize more affordable housing development
   - ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
   - ☐ Other (please specify)

   _____

10. **What should the County do to help create more affordable housing for middle- and low-income residents and families? (Select up to three)**
    - ☐ Create more affordable, accessible, high quality rental options
    - ☐ Create more pathways to homeownership
    - ☐ Invest in renovating existing buildings to be used as affordable housing
    - ☐ Make it easier and faster to build affordable housing, and to allow denser and taller buildings to create more units
    - ☐ Create programs to incentivize more affordable housing development
    - ☐ Use County-owned land to build affordable housing
    - ☐ Preserve currently affordable housing so residents do not become priced-out
    - ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
    - ☐ Other (please specify)

    _____

11. During the last two weeks of January, the County counts the number of people in emergency shelters and experiencing unsheltered homelessness. In 2023, there were 913 people, 139 more than in 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic (Department of Human Services). **What should County government do to better meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness? (Select up to three)**
    - ☐ Increase access to permanent housing that includes services like healthcare and employment support
    - ☐ Increase the number of emergency shelter beds
    - ☐ Expand access to mental health and drug treatment services
    - ☐ Expand outreach so that people at risk of eviction or housing insecurity know how to access services that could help them stay in their homes
    - ☐ Expand access to rental assistance
    - ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
    - ☐ Other (please specify) _____

STRONG AND EQUITABLE ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The unemployment rate in Allegheny County is at a historic low of 3.7%, and there are currently more job postings than there are unemployed people in the county ([Pennsylvania State Department of Labor](#)). However, around 38% of households in Allegheny County live below the poverty line or below the ALICE threshold, meaning that they earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county and struggle to cover the costs of household essentials like housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan ([ALICE Pennsylvania Dashboard](#)). County government has several tools it can use to attract new employers, support local entrepreneurs, and support workers.

12. **What should the County do to help local entrepreneurs start and grow small businesses? (Select up to three)**
    - ☐ Increase access to loans and grants for small businesses
    - ☐ Make it easier for women-, minority-, and locally-owned small businesses to contract with the County by simplifying the process and offering technical support
    - ☐ Make it easier for small businesses to share their needs and ideas with the County
    - ☐ Make it easier for small businesses to find trained workers looking for jobs
    - ☐ Create a one-stop-shop that connects small businesses to all necessary applications, permits, and programs
    - ☐ Provide training on technology for interested small business owners
    - ☐ Make it easier for small business owners to access training and mentorship programs
    - ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
    - ☐ Other (please specify): _____

13. **What kinds of programs, services, and amenities would make it more likely for you to stay in Allegheny County or do you think would encourage people to move here? (Select up to three)**
    - ☐ More access to low-cost community arts, such as theater and music
    - ☐ More access, especially via public transit, to parks and green space
    - ☐ More access to public transportation and improved bike lanes
    - ☐ More access to housing that is affordable for low- and middle-income residents and families
    - ☐ Vibrant downtowns or neighborhood commercial corridors that feel safe, welcoming, and interesting for all
    - ☐ More access to high-quality education
    - ☐ More access to good jobs
    - ☐ More services to welcome immigrants, including multi-lingual services
    - ☐ More events and programs that celebrate cultural diversity
    - ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
    - ☐ Other (please specify): _____

14. **What should the County do to address the needs of workers? (Select up to three)**
    - ☐ Expand access to guaranteed income for people experiencing un- or under-employment
    - ☐ Increase access to affordable childcare and care for older adults to make it easier for workers and people participating in workforce training programs
    - ☐ Help low-income workers get to work through reduced-fare public transportation
    - ☐ Protect the rights of workers and strengthen enforcement of anti-discrimination policies in hiring and in all workplaces
    - ☐ Incentivize large employers to create more good-paying jobs in the county
    - ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
    - ☐ Other (please specify): _____

HEALTHY FAMILIES AND HIGH-QUALITY HUMAN SERVICES

One important indicator of health is life expectancy, and in Allegheny County the average Black resident has a life expectancy of just 71 years, down from 73 years in 2015 (CDC WONDER | National Equity Atlas). The average White resident in the county has a life expectancy of 78 years. One major contributor to lowered life expectancy is the opioid crisis: according to the most recent data from 2022, 689 people died from drug overdoses across Allegheny County. The County has several tools that could be used to reduce health disparities and improve the health of all residents, such as addressing the increasing access to overdose prevention services, making sure the county's food supply and environment are clean, hiring community health workers to connect individuals to available services, enrolling people in low-cost health insurance programs, and providing crisis services for people experiencing mental illness or substance use disorders.

15. **Which actions should the County take to improve health outcomes and life expectancy in Allegheny County? (Select up to three)**
    - ☐ Make it easier to access mental health services, especially for young people
    - ☐ More effective, affordable treatment for substance use disorders, including more overdose prevention services and more recovery services
    - ☐ More community-based health clinics so residents can access health care near their homes
    - ☐ Make it easier to enroll in programs that help low-income residents access mental healthcare, food, housing, substance use disorder services, utility assistance, disability services, or other social services in a crisis or non-crisis situation
    - ☐ Improve access to safe and affordable abortion and reproductive health services
    - ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
    - ☐ Other (please specify): _____

16. In 2020, Allegheny County Council declared racism a public health crisis, citing that "more than 100 studies have linked racism to worse health outcomes." (Allegheny County Council). For example, for Black women in Allegheny County, pregnancies end in fetal death more frequently than in 94% of similar U.S. cities (City of Pittsburgh Gender Equity Commission). **What approaches should the County prioritize to reduce racial and social inequities in health outcomes and improve the health of residents in the county? (Select all options you support)**
    - ☐ Expand free and low-cost home visiting and birthing services, which have been shown to improve health outcomes for pregnant people and infants (City of Pittsburgh Gender Equity Commission)
    - ☐ Expand programs that address the health concerns associated with the greatest racial and ethnic health disparities in the County, such as maternal and child health, chronic disease, and obesity
    - ☐ Hold health and insurance systems accountable for disparities in coverage negatively affecting Black, Brown, Native American, and low-income residents
    - ☐ Expand programs that address the social determinants of health, such as poor housing quality, food insecurity, or exposure to pollutants
    - ☐ Expand free and low-cost programs that address the health needs of LGBTQIA+ residents
    - ☐ Support municipalities to send mental health professionals instead of police for non-violent cases or instances involving people experiencing mental health crises
    - ☐ Make it easier to access affordable, effective programs for people experiencing substance use issues, including overdose prevention and naloxone distribution
    - ☐ Make it easier to access mental health support for youth

- ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

17. Following a 2021 nationwide settlement with major pharmaceutical companies that inflamed the opioid crisis, counties and cities across the country are receiving money to prevent future public health emergencies related to opioids. Allegheny County will receive at least $82 million by 2038 ([Allegheny County](#)). **What programs should the County expand to help people dealing with substance use disorder? (Select up to three)**
- ☐ Dispatch trained health professionals to respond to substance use crises instead of or in addition to police
- ☐ Expand training in and distribution of naloxone (also known as NARCAN), a medication that can help to reverse an overdose
- ☐ Hold health insurance providers accountable for covering treatment costs, where they are required to by law
- ☐ Expand youth mental health support, including offering new services in schools and community centers
- ☐ Create more low-cost, effective treatment programs
- ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

RELIABLE, MODERN TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Pennsylvania has some of the oldest infrastructure in the county, and there are many needed repairs to bridges, roads, stormwater and wastewater systems across the state. For example, 51% of roads in Pennsylvania are in poor or fair condition ([American Society of Engineers Infrastructure Report Card](#)). Allegheny County could be eligible for hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding for new infrastructure projects over the next several years.

18. **What types of infrastructure projects would make the greatest positive impact in your community? (Select up to three)**
- ☐ Projects that improve air quality
- ☐ Improved maintenance of County-owned roads and bridges
- ☐ Reliable, affordable public transportation options
- ☐ Safe and connected trails, bikeways, and sidewalks
- ☐ Improved water quality
- ☐ Projects that create sustainable energy for homes and buildings
- ☐ Improved waste reduction and recycling
- ☐ Reliable, affordable high-speed internet
- ☐ Replacement of lead pipes throughout the county, beginning in communities most impacted by lead exposure and other environmental injustices
- ☐ Projects that address flooding, landslides, and the impacts of extreme weather
- ☐ Improved parks and more greenspaces
- ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

SAFE COMMUNITIES AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

The County works with many other entities – such as the Sheriff, the court system, the police and fire departments of every municipality – on strategies that are supposed to promote safety and justice.

19. **What actions would you like the County to take to promote safety in your neighborhood? (Select up to three)**

- ☐ Work with municipalities to send mental health professionals instead of police for non-violent cases or instances involving people experiencing mental health crises
- ☐ Reduce blight and vacant properties, including through developing affordable housing on currently vacant properties
- ☐ Expand programs to prevent and reduce gender-based violence and support survivors of intimate partner violence
- ☐ Expand safe, supportive, equitable, and high-quality programs for youth that include recreation and job opportunities
- ☐ Increase access to programs and events in public spaces (including parks, plazas, and community centers) and enhance lighting, accessibility, and maintenance of sidewalks
- ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

20. In 2023, 71% of people detained in Allegheny County Jail had mental health needs and 58% had previously received services for a substance use disorder ([Allegheny County](#)). **What actions should the County take to reduce the number of people experiencing mental illness and substance use disorder entering or reentering the County jail and reduce the overall number of people detained in County jail? (Select up to three)**
- ☐ Expand diversion programs that offer people treatment in the community instead of admission to jail
- ☐ Adopt the most modern, data-driven approaches into the jail to improve outcomes for people detained in the jail and safety for workers in the jail
- ☐ Appoint people with direct experience in the criminal legal system to the Jail Oversight Board
- ☐ Hire more medical staff within the Allegheny County Jail, including specialists in mental health and substance use disorder treatment, along with supporting staff overall
- ☐ Expand housing, health, and employment support for people after they leave jail
- ☐ Increase funding for public defenders
- ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND A GREEN ECONOMY

The average resident in Allegheny County is exposed to more cancer-causing air pollutants than 86% of residents in the rest of the United States ([U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Air Toxics Assessment](#)). The County has tools it can use to regulate pollution, upgrade buildings to be more sustainable, and grow and attract businesses that work towards cleaner air, water, and energy.

21. What should the County do to address the needs of communities most impacted by pollution? (Select up to three)
- ☐ Require polluters to have a permit for and pay for any pollution they contribute to Allegheny's air, water, and environment
- ☐ Invest money into the communities most impacted by pollution to help them create programs that reduce the harm of pollution
- ☐ Keep major sources of industrial pollution away from vulnerable areas like schools, childcare centers, senior housing, and residential neighborhoods
- ☐ Strengthen monitoring of polluters
- ☐ Remove lead, mold, radon, and other toxins from Allegheny County homes
- ☐ Share more information with residents of communities most impacted by pollution
- ☐ I prefer not to answer this question

☐ Other (please specify) _____

22. **What should the County do to support interested workers in accessing jobs that make our air, energy, and water cleaner? (Select up to three)**
   ☐ Make it easier and less expensive to participate in training and certification programs for jobs that support green construction, energy efficiency, and clean renewable energy
   ☐ Require that all major clean air, energy, and water projects that receive funding or tax breaks from the County contract with local businesses and hire local workers
   ☐ Expand opportunities for youth and students to gain skills that could help access jobs that make our air, energy, and water cleaner
   ☐ Attract new businesses to the county that will employ residents and make things like solar panels or electric vehicles that could make our environment cleaner
   ☐ Commit to making all County—owned buildings and vehicles clean, and hire local workers for these projects
   ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
   ☐ Other (please specify): _____

ROBUST EDUCATION, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND YOUTH INVESTMENTS

To help prepare for the future, Allegheny County supports a range of childcare, education, and training programs to support the 250,000 people under 20-years-old living in the county, close racial and ethnic gaps in high school and college graduation, and support adult workers who want to move into growing industries and jobs that pay a living wage.

23. **What actions should the County take to give children in Allegheny County the strongest start in life? (Select up to three)**
   ☐ Make sure every family can access affordable childcare, including providing financial assistance to families
   ☐ Expand high-quality before- and after-school programs, and summer programs, for students in kindergarten through 12th grade
   ☐ Improve language accessibility and cultural sensitivity in County programs that serve young people and their families
   ☐ Expand high-quality, free and low-cost recreation activities for young people
   ☐ Increase pay for childcare workers, so we can hire the workforce needed to serve the families of Allegheny County
   ☐ Expand access to healthy food for young people and their families
   ☐ Expand mental health services for young people and their families
   ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
   ☐ Other (please specify): _____

24. **What should the County do to help people increase their access to good-paying jobs? (Select up to three)**
   ☐ Expand supportive services that help people get to work, such as free or low-cost transportation options and free or low-cost childcare options
   ☐ Provide fundamental skills training (such as reading, math, and job readiness) in multiple languages
   ☐ Invest in free internet, computer access, and technology skills training
   ☐ Create training for and improve access to employment in County government
   ☐ Expand paid training and work experience opportunities to help people prepare for good-paying jobs in growing industries

- ☐ Expand investment in the staff, facilities, and programs at the Community College of Allegheny County
- ☐ Advertise training opportunities so more residents know about them
- ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

VIBRANT DEMOCRACY

25. In 2022, only 41% of eligible, registered voters cast their ballot in Allegheny County ([Board of Elections](#)). Since the County's Board of Elections is responsible for administering our elections, **what can the County do to increase participation in our elections and encourage eligible citizens to cast a ballot? (Select all that apply)**
- ☐ Create additional locations to return mail-in ballots, such as drop boxes and satellite election offices with a range of daytime, evening, and weekend hours
- ☐ Improve safety by protecting the freedom to vote without intimidation
- ☐ Expand opportunities to return mail-in ballots before Election Day and before and after standard working hours on Election Day
- ☐ Improve access and resources for individuals with physical and developmental disabilities or mobility issues
- ☐ Introduce mobile voting units, which are set up temporarily in places like parking lots and plazas
- ☐ Recruit more election day workers from the community
- ☐ Provide more information about voter registration, important dates, polling places, and races
- ☐ Ensure ballots, information about how to vote, and hotlines are in multiple languages to engage a diverse community
- ☐ Communicate more about how the County approaches vote counting, security of ballots, and ways to ensure election outcomes are accurate
- ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE GOVERNMENT

26. **What, if anything, has prevented you from sharing your needs and ideas with County government leaders in the past? (Select all that apply)**

- ☐ Before this survey, County government leaders have not asked for my input
- ☐ I have not felt, in the past, that County government leaders care about my input on topics relevant to me
- ☐ I have not had enough information about what the County government does
- ☐ I have not had enough information about how/where I can get involved
- ☐ County programs, policies, and actions are not shared in a format that I can easily understand
- ☐ County programs, policies, and actions are not presented in a way that is accessible to me (such as websites are hard to navigate, no closed captioning for videos or screen-reader friendly content, content has not been translated into the language I speak)
- ☐ I have heard about opportunities to share my needs and ideas with County government, but these opportunities do not work with my work schedule, or it is too difficult to participate because of transportation or childcare issues
- ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

27. **How would you like to receive information about County services and opportunities to share your needs and ideas with County leaders in the future? (Select all that apply)**
    - ☐ A simple website that makes it easy for me to figure out if there is a County program or service that meets my needs and makes it easy for me to get in touch with a person who can help me access the service or program
    - ☐ Easy to understand information about how the County spends its budget and the County's major decisions and activities
    - ☐ Invitations to community meetings with County leaders where I can learn more about their work and where I can share my needs, opinions, and ideas
    - ☐ Live translation and interpretation services at public events
    - ☐ Easy access to the County's written materials translated into the most prominent languages spoken in Allegheny County
    - ☐ A text system that sends me updates on issues I care about, including notifications of meetings I can attend
    - ☐ A phone number I can call to ask questions, report an issue, and be directed to the County programs or services I need
    - ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
    - ☐ Other (please specify): _____

28. **Would you participate in in-person or virtual meetings to share your thoughts on priorities for Allegheny County's budget?**
    - ☐ Yes
    - ☐ No
    - ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
    - ☐ Other (please specify) _____

ADDITIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

29. **Which of the below best describes your housing situation? (Select one)**
    - ☐ I own my home/apartment
    - ☐ I rent my home/apartment
    - ☐ I rent a room/living space/garage within a house or apartment
    - ☐ I live with someone but do not pay rent
    - ☐ I am currently unhoused, living in a shelter, or living in another non-permanent place (such as a car or tent)
    - ☐ I am currently in an institutional setting (such as a jail, prison, hospital)
    - ☐ I am in a long-term care facility (such as a nursing home)
    - ☐ I live in a dorm
    - ☐ Other (please describe):

      _____

30. **Please describe your current employment status (Select all that apply)**
    - ☐ I work full-time as an employee
    - ☐ I work full-time as a business owner (including self-employed services)
    - ☐ I work part-time as an employee
    - ☐ I work part-time as a business owner (including self-employed services)
    - ☐ I am a gig worker/short-term worker for on-demand services (Uber, Lyft, Grubhub, etc.)
    - ☐ I am a member of a union
    - ☐ I work for Allegheny County government
    - ☐ I am a student
    - ☐ I am retired
    - ☐ I am unemployed
    - ☐ Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
    - ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
    - ☐ Other (please describe):

      _____

31. How long have you lived in Allegheny County? (Select one)
- ☐ Less than 1 year
- ☐ 1 - 3 years
- ☐ 4 - 6 years
- ☐ 7 - 9 years
- ☐ 10 - 20 years
- ☐ 20+ years
- ☐ I prefer not to answer this question

32. Please describe your current medical insurance status (Select one)
- ☐ Insured
- ☐ Uninsured
- ☐ Partial insurance
- ☐ I prefer not to answer this question

33. How many people do you live with? (Select all that apply)
- ☐ I live by myself
- ☐ I live with one or more other adults
- ☐ I live with one or more children
- ☐ I live with one or more older adults
- ☐ I prefer not to answer this question
- ☐ Other (please describe):
  _____

34. Which languages do you speak at home? (Select all that apply)
- ☐ English
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Chinese (including Mandarin and Cantonese)
- ☐ Japanese
- ☐ Vietnamese
- ☐ Korean
- ☐ Nepali
- ☐ Burmese
- ☐ Dari or Farsi
- ☐ Pashto
- ☐ Uzbek
- ☐ Russian
- ☐ Ukrainian
- ☐ Arabic
- ☐ Hindi
- ☐ Swahili
- ☐ French
- ☐ German
- ☐ Portuguese
- ☐ Sign Language
- ☐ Other (please specify)
  _____

CONCLUSION

35. Are there any ideas you would like to share with the County government that have not yet been captured in this survey?

THANK YOU!

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this survey. Visit **AlleghenyforAll.com** to stay involved, find information about upcoming community conversations about survey results, and share more of your ideas for County government.

Enter your email here to receive project updates for All In Allegheny:

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