



Budget Priorities Survey Fiscal Year 2025

Findings Report

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Presented To
MECKLENBURG COUNTY,
NORTH CAROLINA

March 2024

Contents

Section 1: Executive Summary.....	3
Section 2: Charts and Graphs.....	12
Section 3: GIS Maps	
By Zip Code.....	27
By Commission District.....	45
Section 4: Tabular Data.....	63
Section 5: Open-Ended Comments.....	73
Section 5: Survey Instrument.....	128



Executive Summary

2024 Mecklenburg County FY 2025 Budget Priorities Survey Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Overview

ETC Institute conducted the County's 2024 Budget Priority Survey to help determine fiscal year 2025 budget priorities for programs, services, and facilities. This is the first year that a statistically valid survey has been conducted for the budget development process. The survey was designed so the County could use ETC Institute's Priority Investment Rating (PIR) as the primary methodology for analyzing input from residents. The PIR survey methodology is designed to help local governments set budget priorities based on (1) the importance residents place on County services and (2) the needs for each service. The results of this survey will help County leaders understand whether major County services are meeting the needs of residents and what investments should be prioritized for next year.

Methodology

The County's survey was administered to a stratified random sample of 1,941 Mecklenburg County residents by mail, internet, and phone (mobile and landlines) and email in both English and Spanish. At least 300 surveys were completed in each of the County's six districts. The results for the random sample of residents have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/-2.2%. The table below shows the number of completed surveys collected from each of the 6 districts.

Council Districts	Completed Surveys	Percentage of Total
1	341	17.6%
2	302	15.6%
3	303	15.6%
4	321	16.5%
5	348	17.9%
6	326	16.8%
TOTAL	1,941	100%

Random sampling ensures all residential addresses within the County's boundaries have an equal opportunity of being selected to participate. ETC Institute purchased a list of all residential addresses within the County based on a master USPS mailing list and selected a random sample of those to be invited to participate in the survey. The demographic questions were tracked and

ETC Institute followed up with residents to ensure the demographics of the respondents mirrored the Census estimates for the County. In addition to the random sample, another 3,391 residents opted-in to complete the survey as part of the non-random sample. These results will be used to better understand the needs of specific areas of the County and key demographic groups. The findings of this report are based on the random sample, but the results of the non-random sample are available on the dashboard that ETC Institute has prepared for the County.

Survey Findings

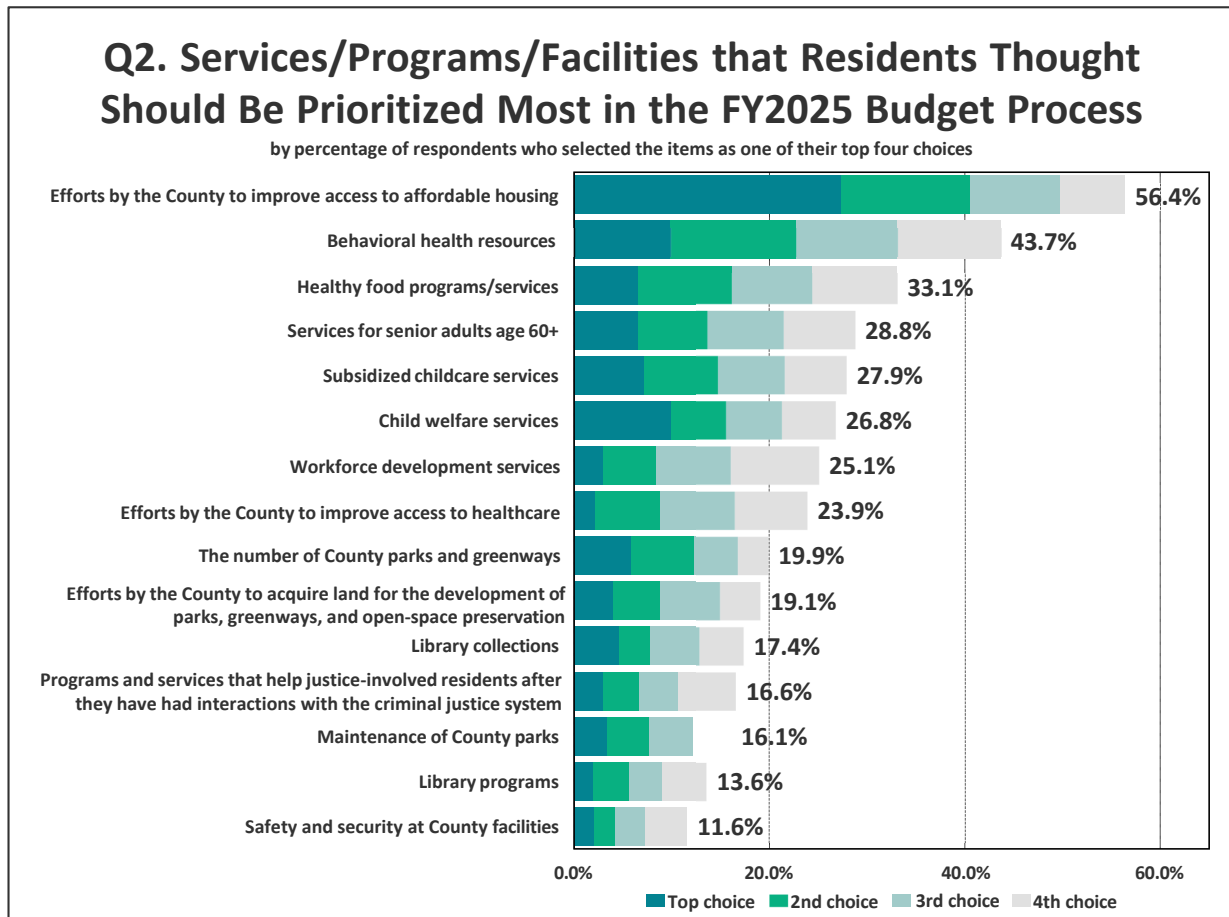
The survey was designed as a two-part assessment which measured (1) the importance of and (2) the needs for County programs, facilities, and services. The major findings for each part of the assessment are described below.

Part 1: Importance of County Programs, Facilities, and Services in the FY 2025 Budget

ETC Institute assessed which County programs, facilities, and services residents thought should be prioritized most in the FY2025 budget process. Based on the sum of the respondents' top four choices, the five services that residents thought should be prioritized in the FY2025 Budget Process were:

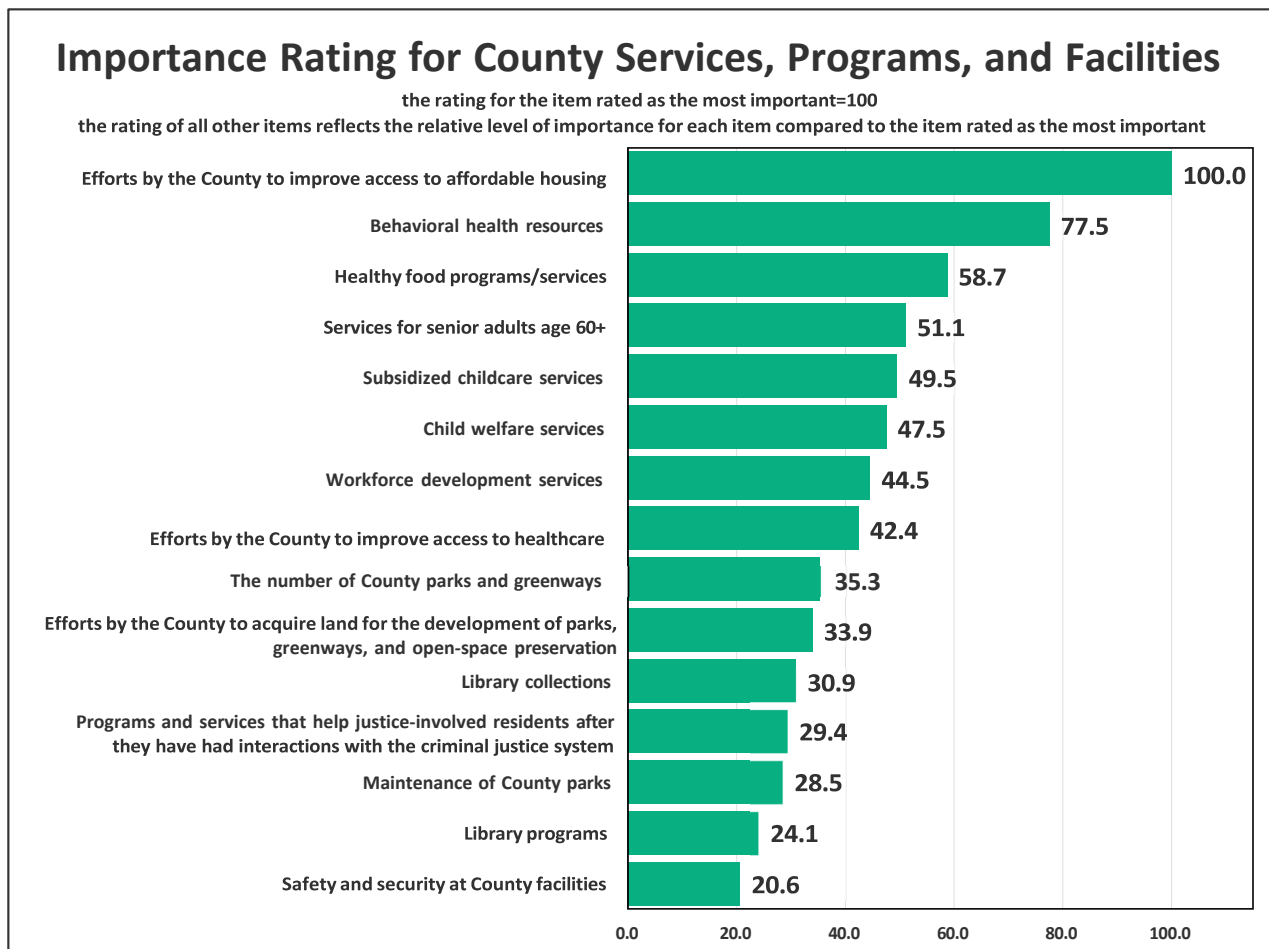
1. **Efforts by the County to improve access to affordable housing** (56.4%)
2. **Behavioral health resources** (43.7%)
3. **Healthy food programs/services** (33.1%)
4. **Services for senior adults ages 60+** (28.8%)
5. **Subsidized childcare services** (27.9%)

The percentage of residents who selected each service, program, or facility as one of their top four choices is shown in the chart below.



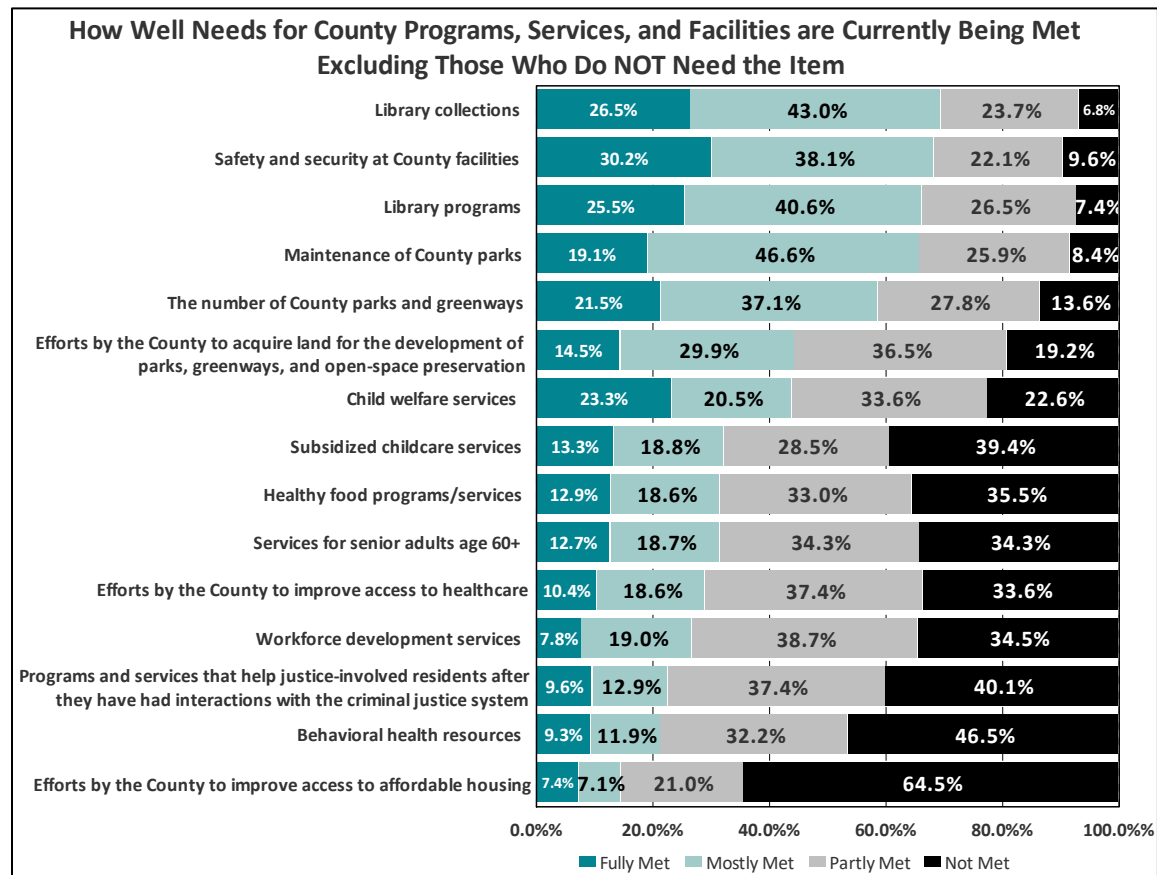
Importance Rating: ETC Institute then calculated the Importance Rating for each of the 15 programs, facilities, and services that were assessed on the survey. The Importance Rating uses a 100-point scale that illustrates the importance of each service as it relates to the program/facility/service that was identified as the most important to residents. In this survey, efforts by the County to improve access to affordable housing was identified as the number one service to prioritize in the FY 2025 budget by most residents, so efforts by the County to improve access to affordable housing received 100 points. Other services were allocated points based on the proportion of residents who chose each program, facility, or service relative to those who selected efforts by the County to improve access to affordable housing. For example, 43.7% of respondents selected behavioral health resources as one of their top choices, so affordable housing received 77.5 points which is 43.7% divided by 56.4% (the percentage for efforts by the County to improve access to affordable housing) multiplied by 100.

The chart below shows the Importance Ratings for County services, programs, and facilities.

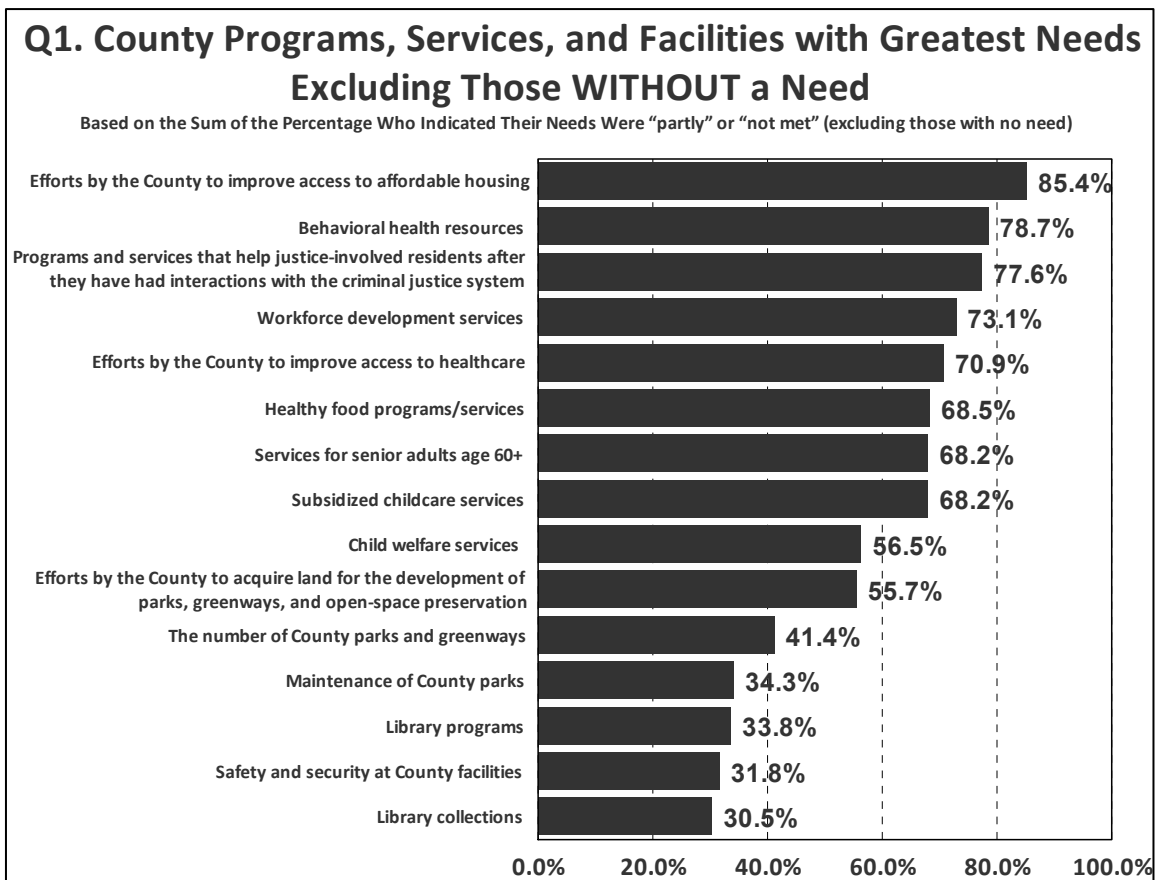


Part 2: Assessing Needs for County Services, Programs, and Facilities

The second part of the survey analysis involved measuring needs for County services, programs, and facilities. This was accomplished by asking residents if they had needs for each of the 15 programs, facilities, and services that were assessed in the survey, and if so, how well their needs were being met. For example, among the 11% of all residents who had a need for child welfare services, 56.2% indicated that their needs were not being met or were not being met at all as shown in the chart below.

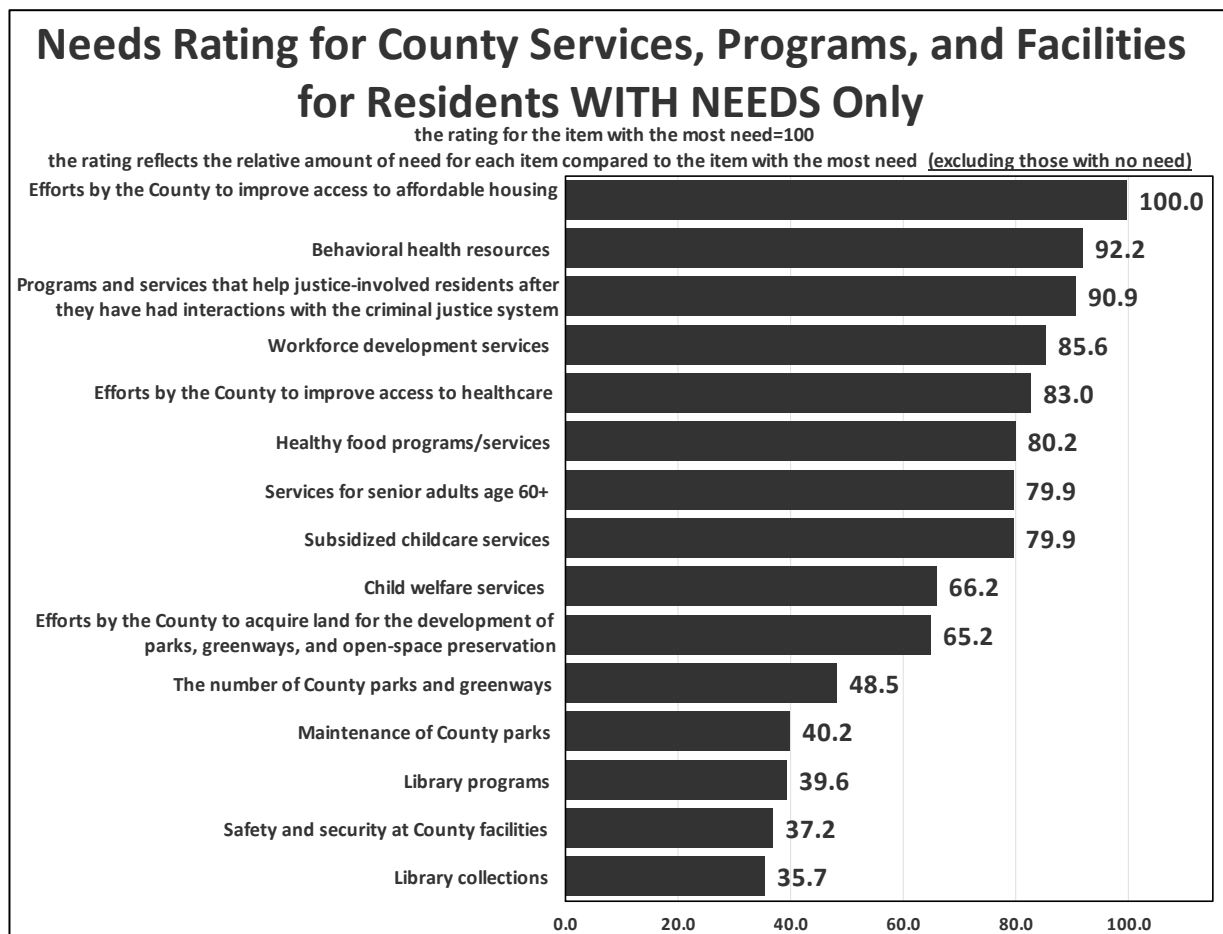


The chart below shows the percentage of residents whose needs for each service, program, and facility are being met or are only partly being met.



Needs Rating: ETC Institute then calculated Needs Rating for each of the 15 programs, facilities, and services that were assessed in the survey. The Needs Rating uses a 100-point scale to show the relative need for each service/program/facility to the service/program/facility with the greatest need.

- **Need Rating for Residents WITH NEEDS.** Efforts by the County to improve access to affordable housing had the highest percentage of respondents (85.4%) who indicated their needs were not met or were only partially being met, so this item received 100 points. The percentages for all other 14 services were compared to this percentage. For example, 78.7% of respondents indicated their needs for behavioral health resources were not met or were only being partly met, so behavioral health resources received 92.2 points, which is 78.7% divided by 85.4% (the percentage for efforts by the County to improve access to affordable housing) multiplied by 100. The unmet need ratings is shown in the chart at the top of the following page.



Survey Recommendations

Overview of the Priority Investment Rating. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) was developed by ETC Institute to provide governments with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on investments. The PIR is designed to provide an objective method for incorporating community feedback in an organization's budgeting process. The PIR is based on a 200-point scale. The rating uses two key inputs that are equally weighted.

- This relative importance of each service is reflected in the **Importance Rating**, which contributes 100 points to the total score.
- The relative need for each service is reflected in the **Needs Rating**, which contributes 100 points to the total score.

Based on the results of the survey, ETC Institute calculated the Priority Investment Rating (PIR) for each of the services, programs and facilities that were assessed for residents with needs. The PIR equally weights the Importance Rating (up to 100 points) and the Need Rating (up to 100 points) for each of the 15 major County programs, facilities, and services that were assessed on the survey. The maximum PIR score is 200 points.

How to Interpret the Priority Investment Ratings

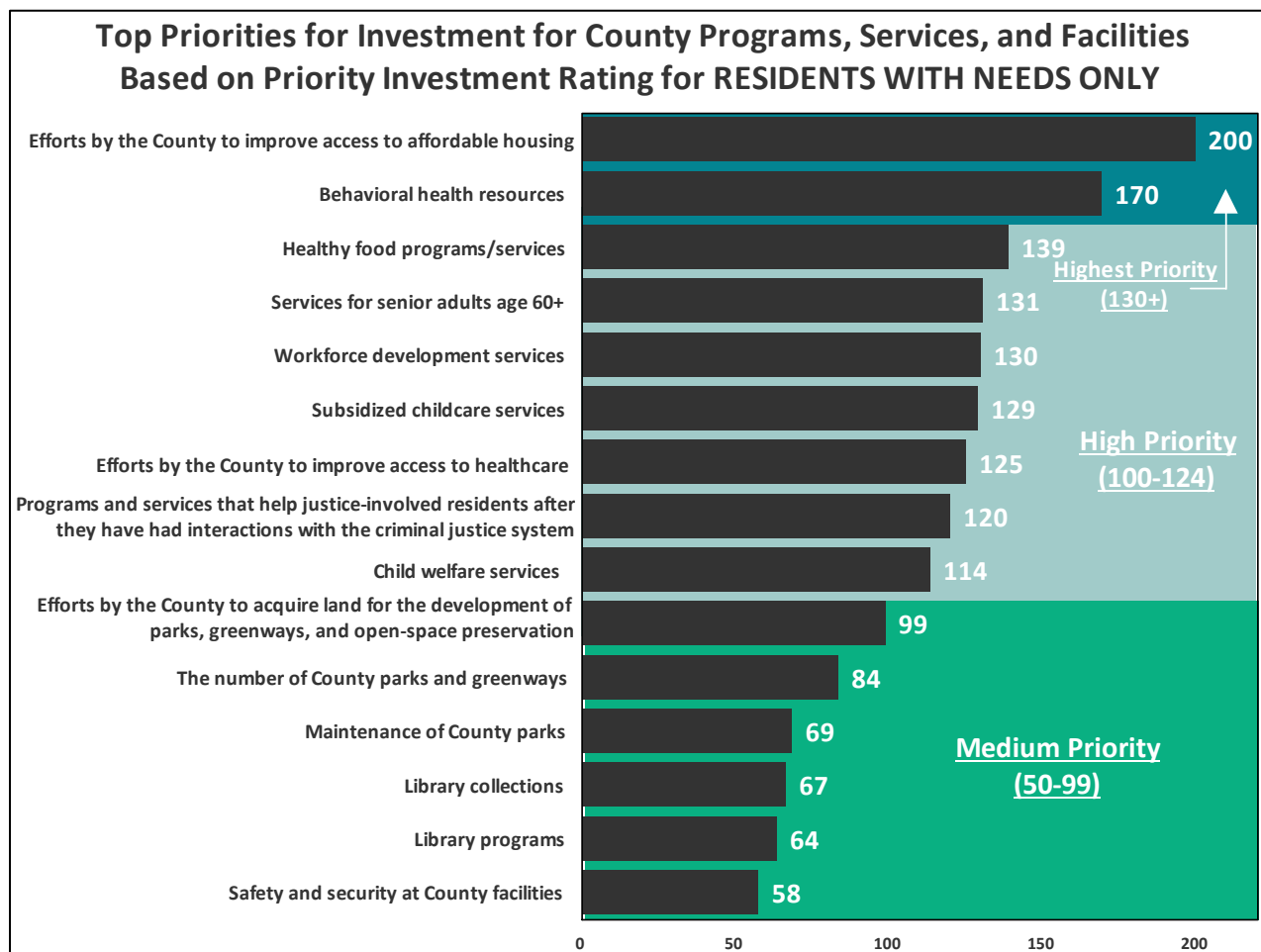
The services that were rated in the survey were divided into four categories based on their overall Priority Investment Ratings. Below is a guide on how to analyze the Priority Investment Ratings.

- **Highest Priority Areas** are those with a PIR of more than 130. A rating of more than 130 indicates there is a very high level of need and residents think it is very important to fund improvements in this area. Improvements in this area will have a positive impact on the largest number of households.
- **High Priority Areas** are those with a PIR of 100-130. A rating between 100 and 130 indicates there is a high level of need and residents think it is an important area to fund. Improvements in this area are likely to have a positive impact on a very large number of households.
- **Medium Priority Areas** are those with a PIR of 50-99. A rating in this range generally indicates there is a medium level of need or a significant percentage of residents generally believe it is important to fund improvements in these areas.

Based on the FY2025 budget priorities on the needs of all residents who have needs for county services, programs, and facilities, the top five priorities based on the PIR (Priority Invest Rating) are:

1. Efforts by the County to improve access to affordable housing (PIR=200)
2. Behavioral health resources (PIR=170)
3. Healthy food programs/services (PIR=139)
4. Services for senior adults age 60+ (PIR=131)
5. Workforce development programs (PIR=130)

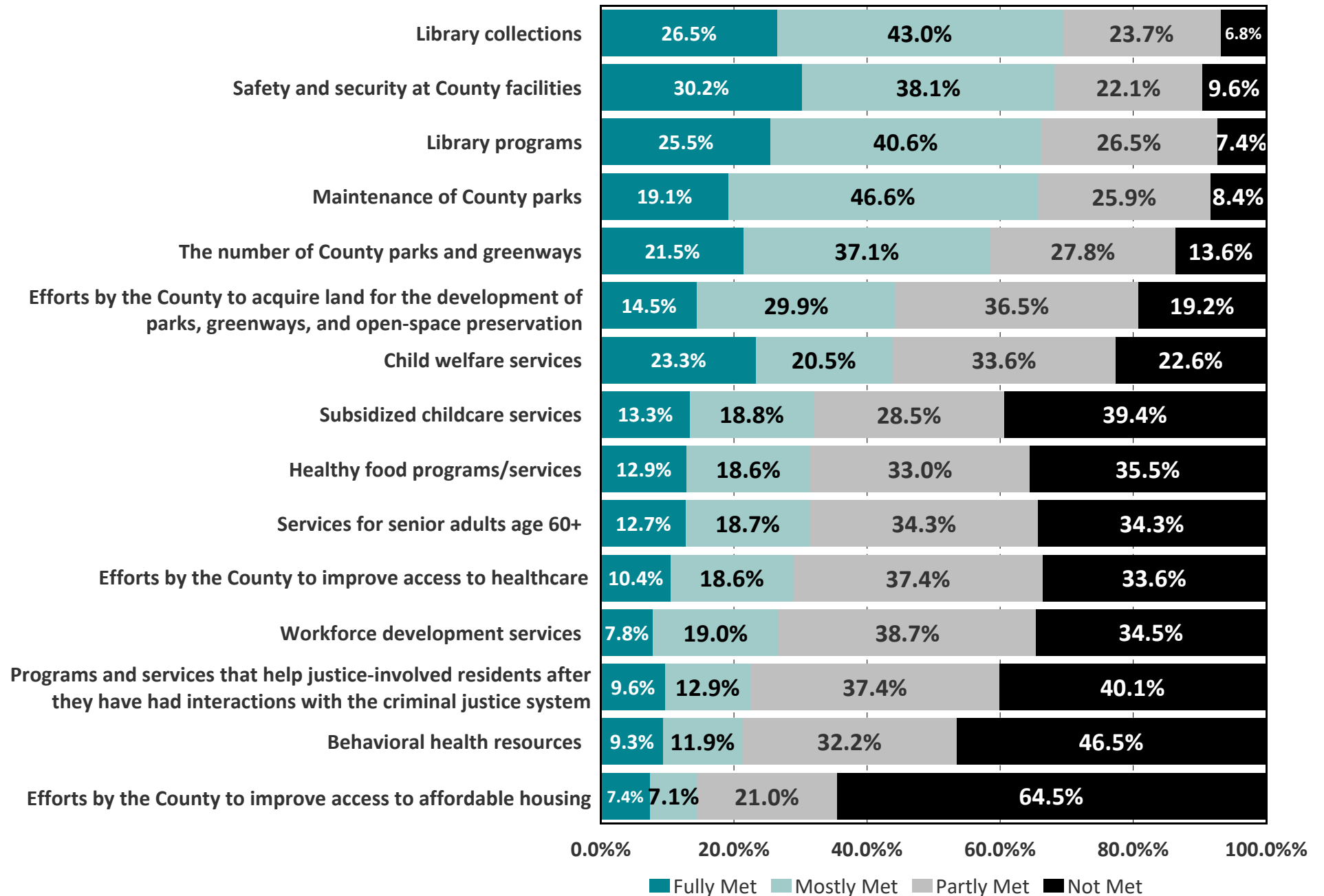
The chart below shows the Priority Investment Ratings for each of the 15 programs, facilities, and services that were assessed on the survey based on the needs of residents who have a need for the item assessed.





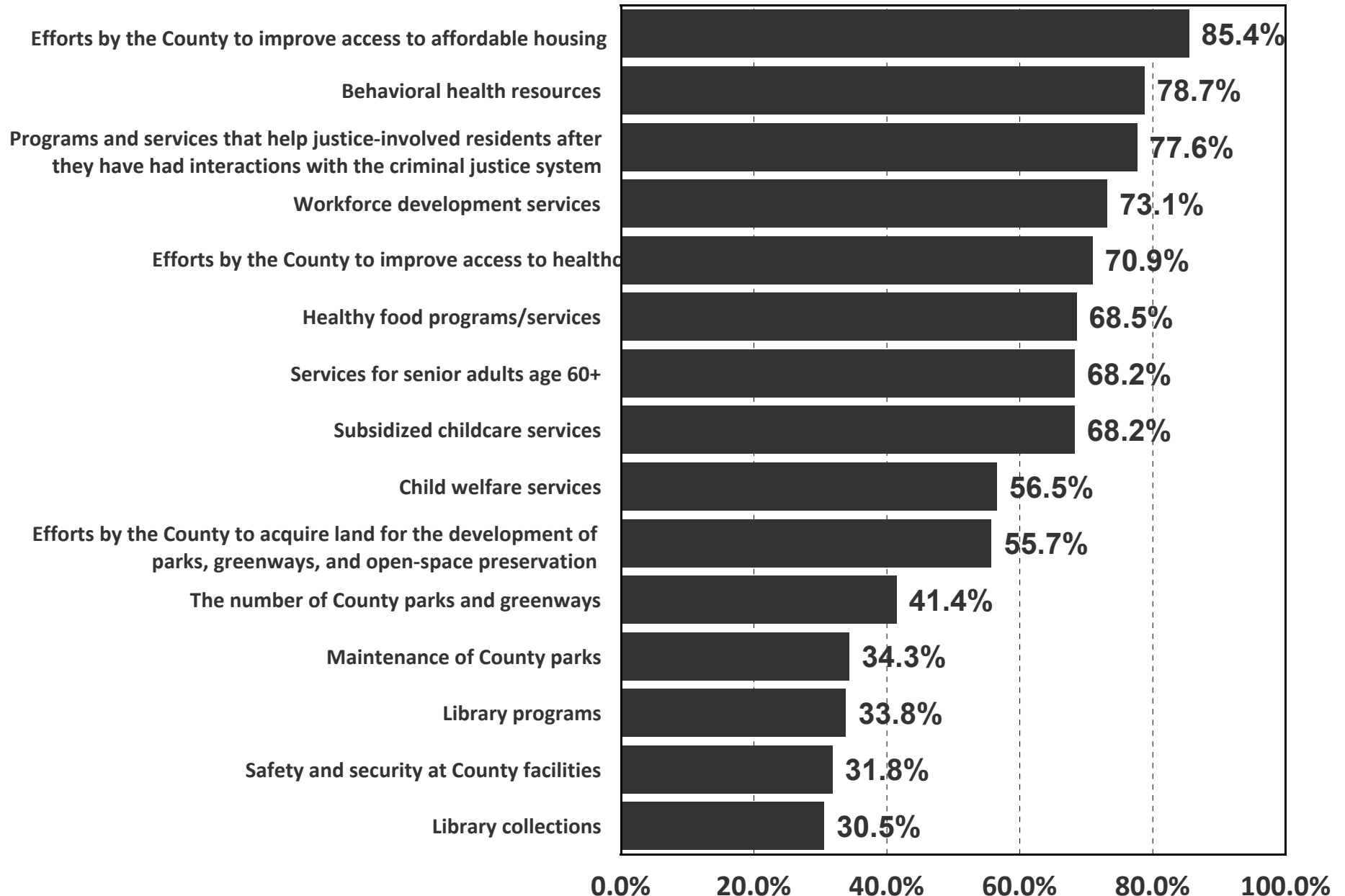
Charts & Graphs

How Well Needs for County Programs, Services, and Facilities are Currently Being Met Excluding Those Who Do NOT Need the Item



Q1. County Programs, Services, and Facilities with Greatest Needs Excluding those WITHOUT a Need

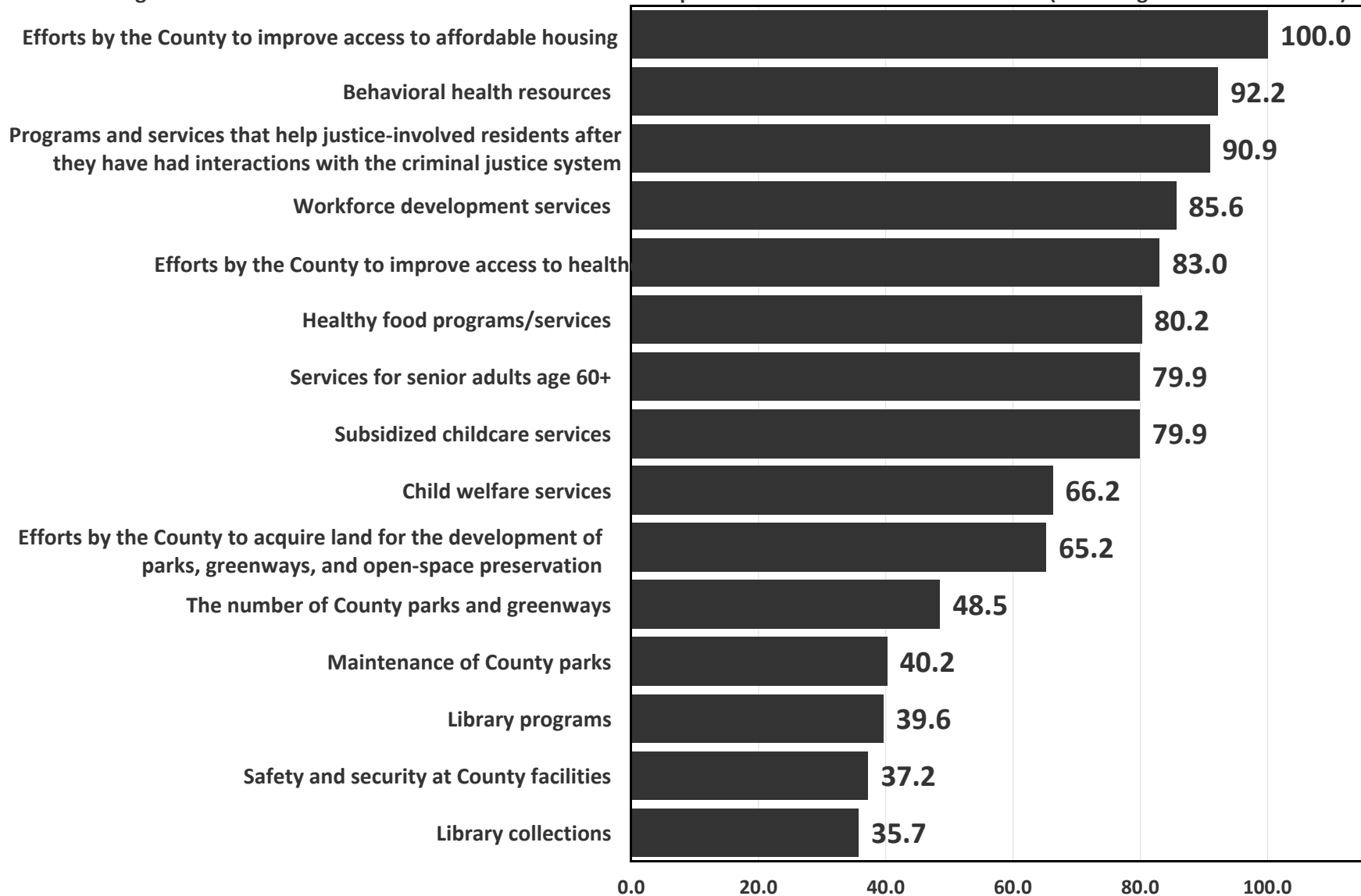
Based on the Sum of the Percentage Who Indicated Their Needs Were “partly” or “not met” (excluding those with no need)



Needs Rating for County Services, Programs, and Facilities for Residents WITH NEEDS Only

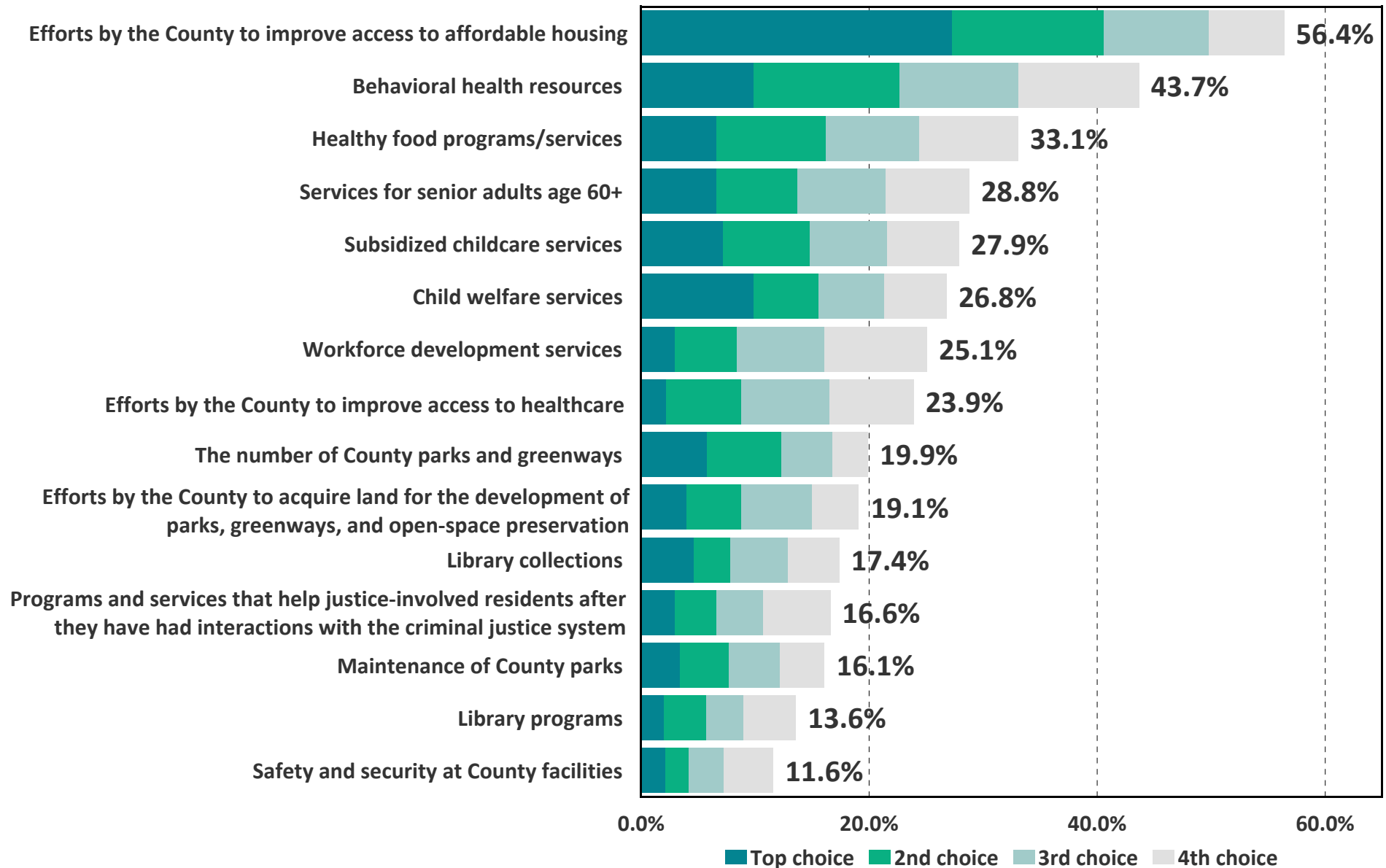
the rating for the item with the most need=100

the rating reflects the relative amount of need for each item compared to the item with the most need (excluding those with no need)



Q2. Services/Programs/Facilities that Residents Thought Should Be Prioritized Most in the FY2025 Budget Process

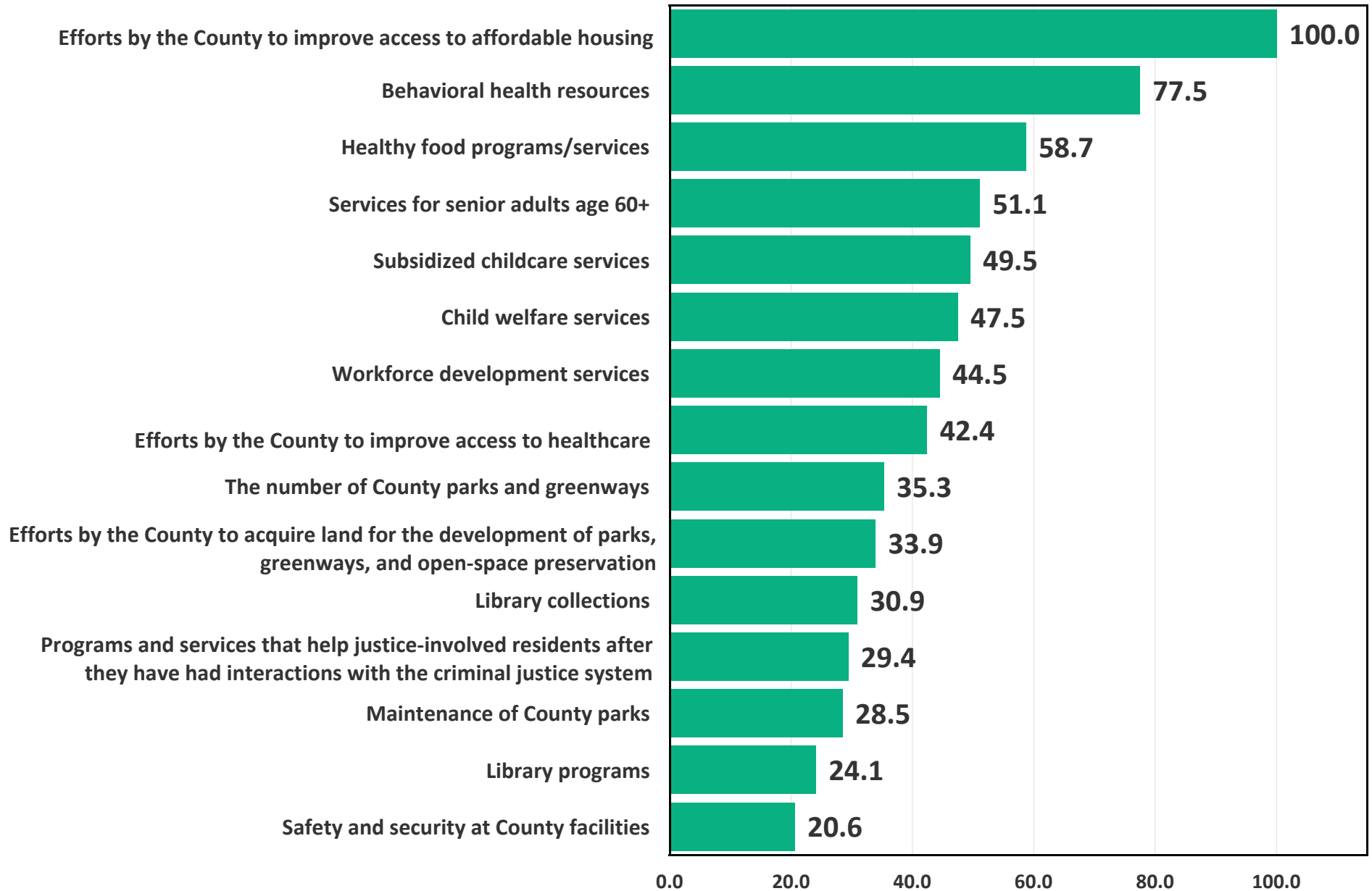
by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top four choices



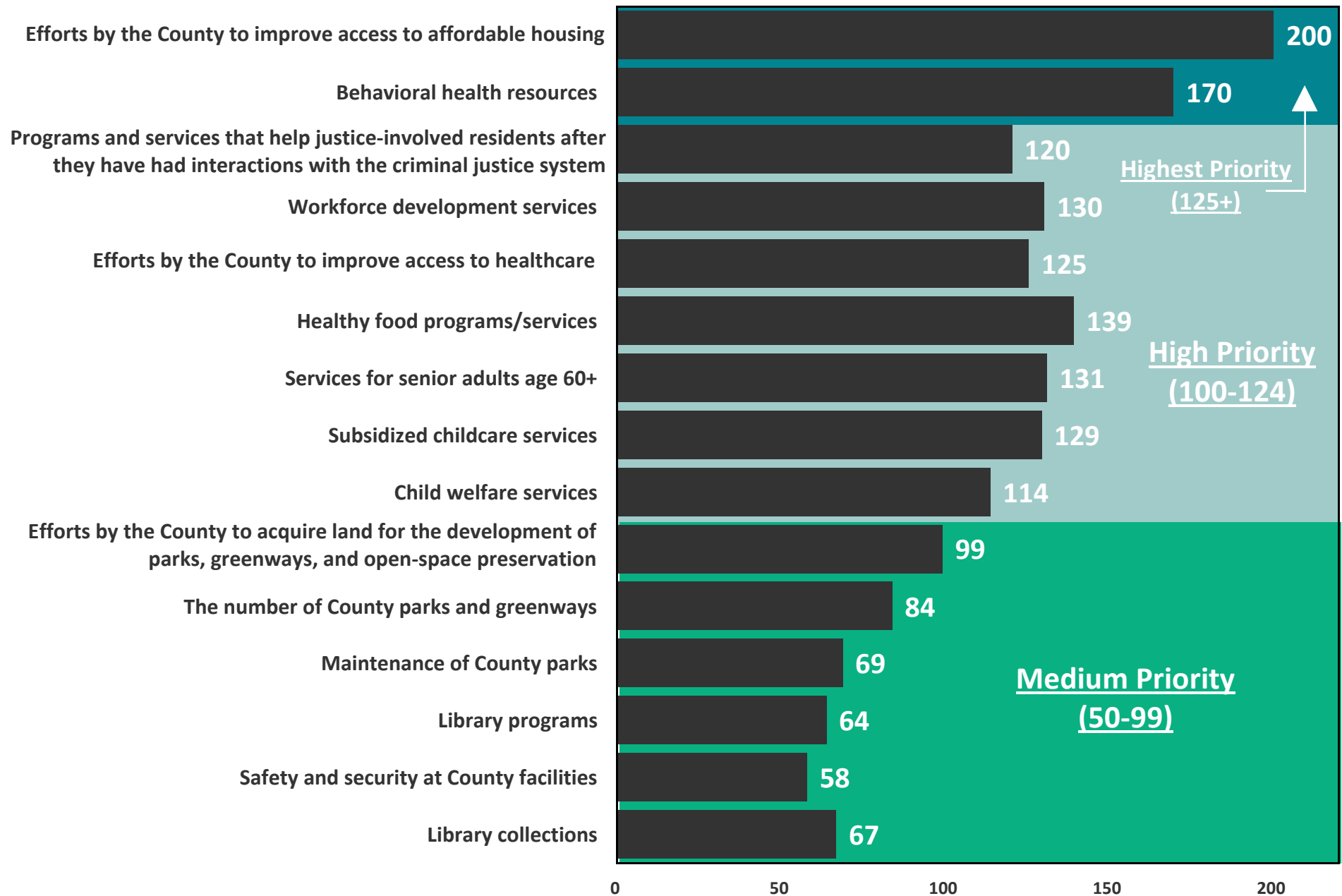
Importance Rating for County Services, Programs, and Facilities

the rating for the item rated as the most important=100

the rating of all other items reflects the relative level of importance for each item compared to the item rated as the most important

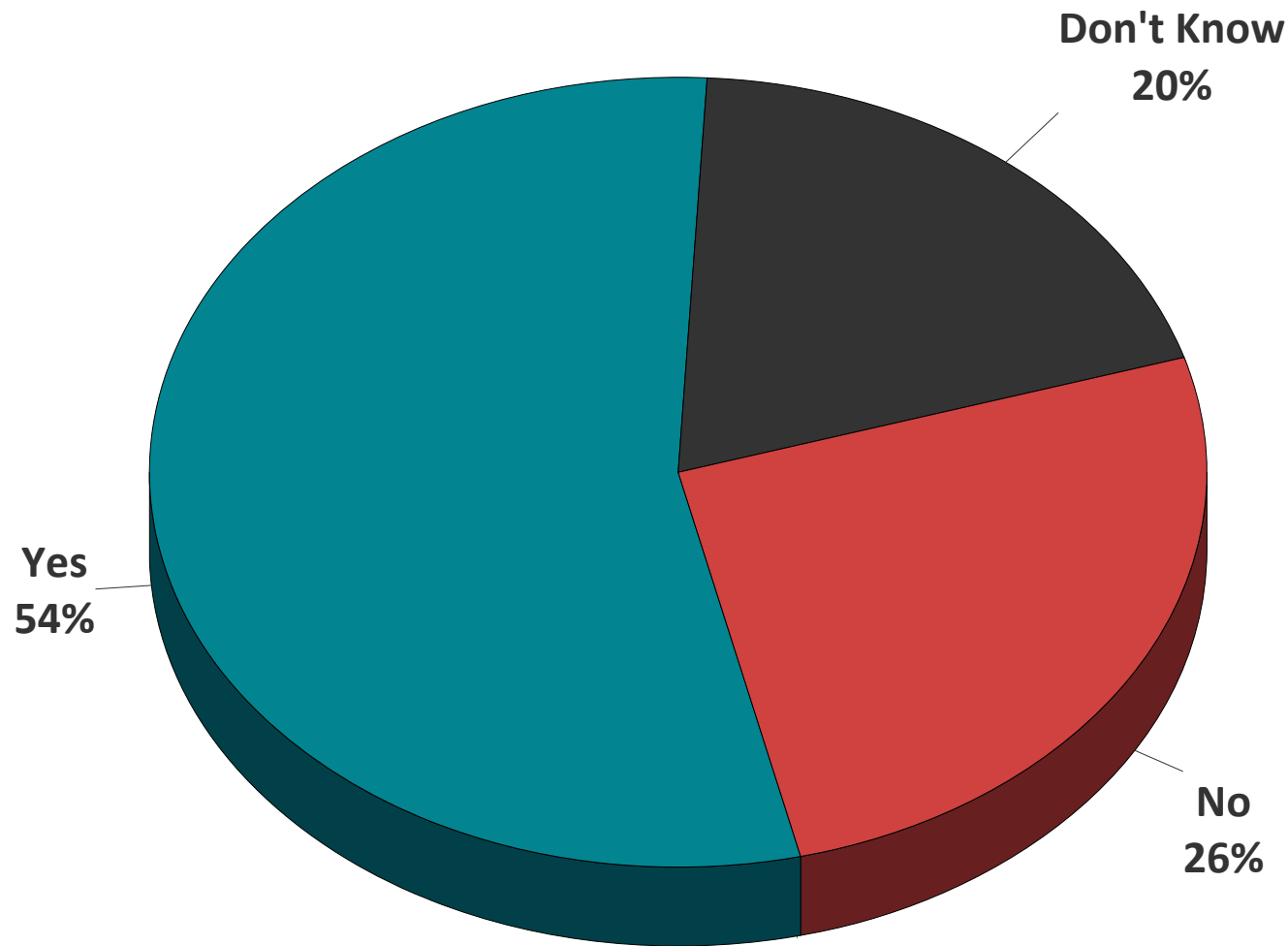


Top Priorities for Investment for County Programs, Services, and Facilities Based on Priority Investment Rating for RESIDENTS WITH NEEDS ONLY



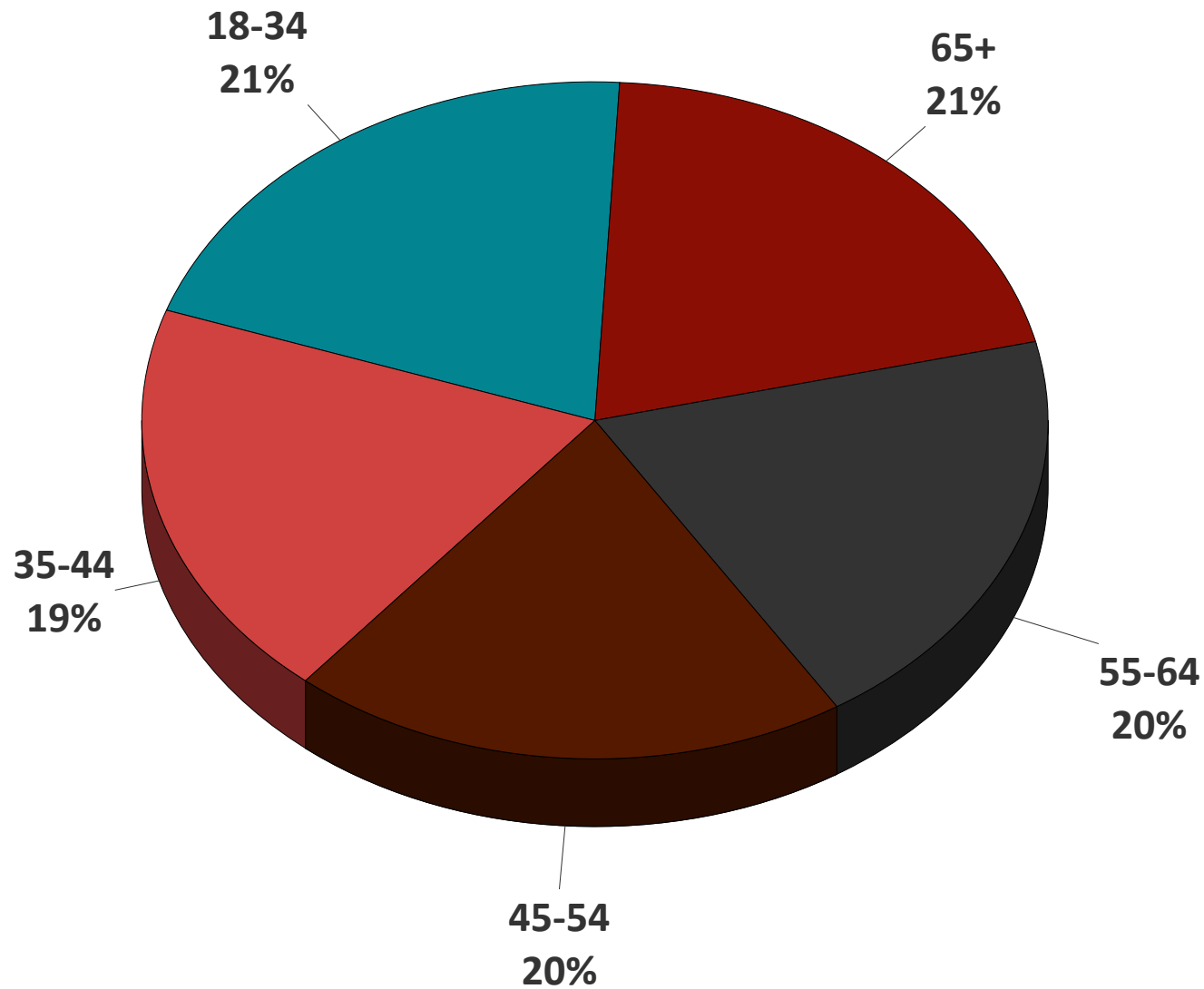
Q3. Would you be willing to pay a slight increase in taxes to help fund improvements in the services/program/facility you selected as your top priority in Question 2?

by percentage of respondents



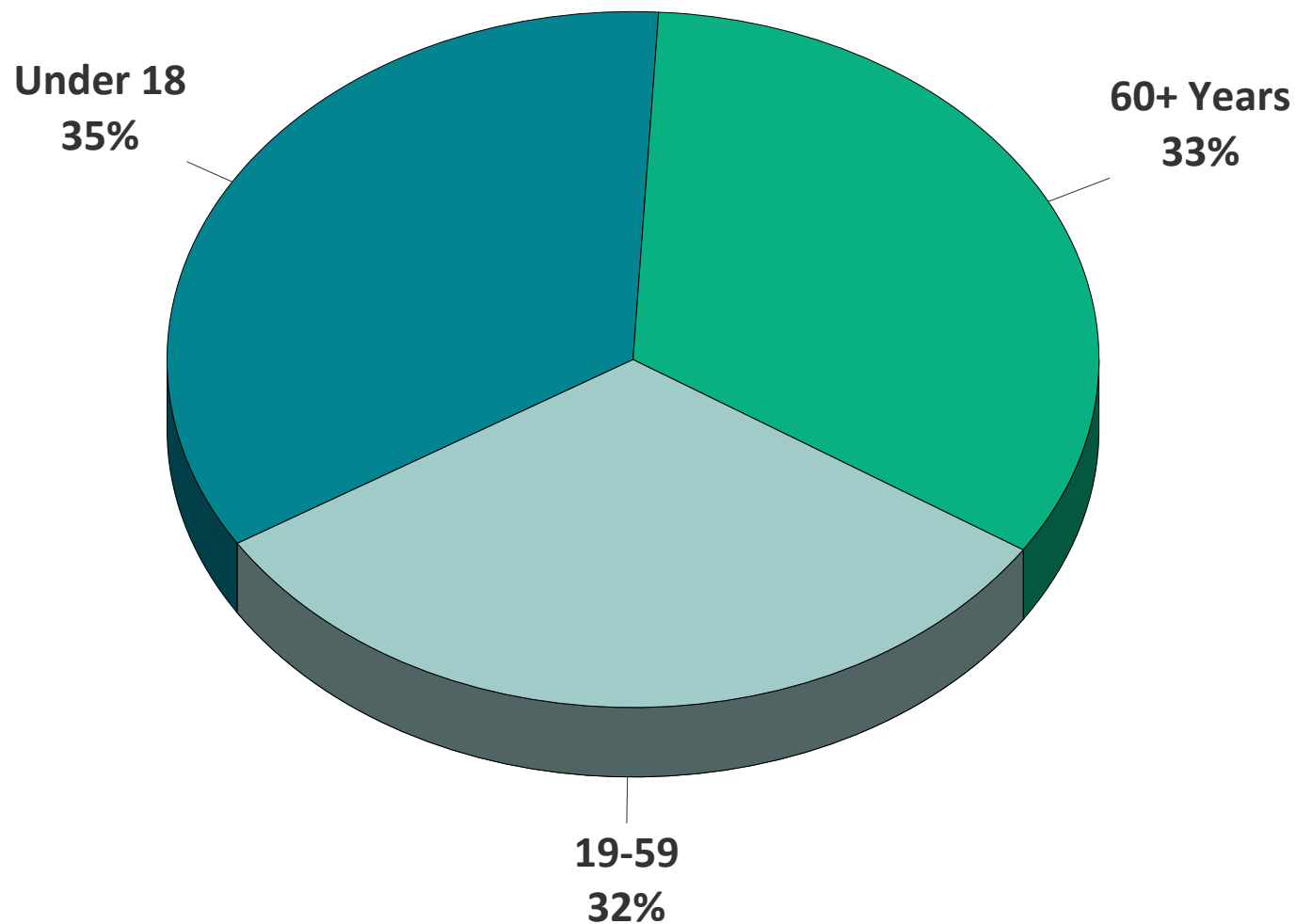
Q6. What is your age?

by percentage of respondents



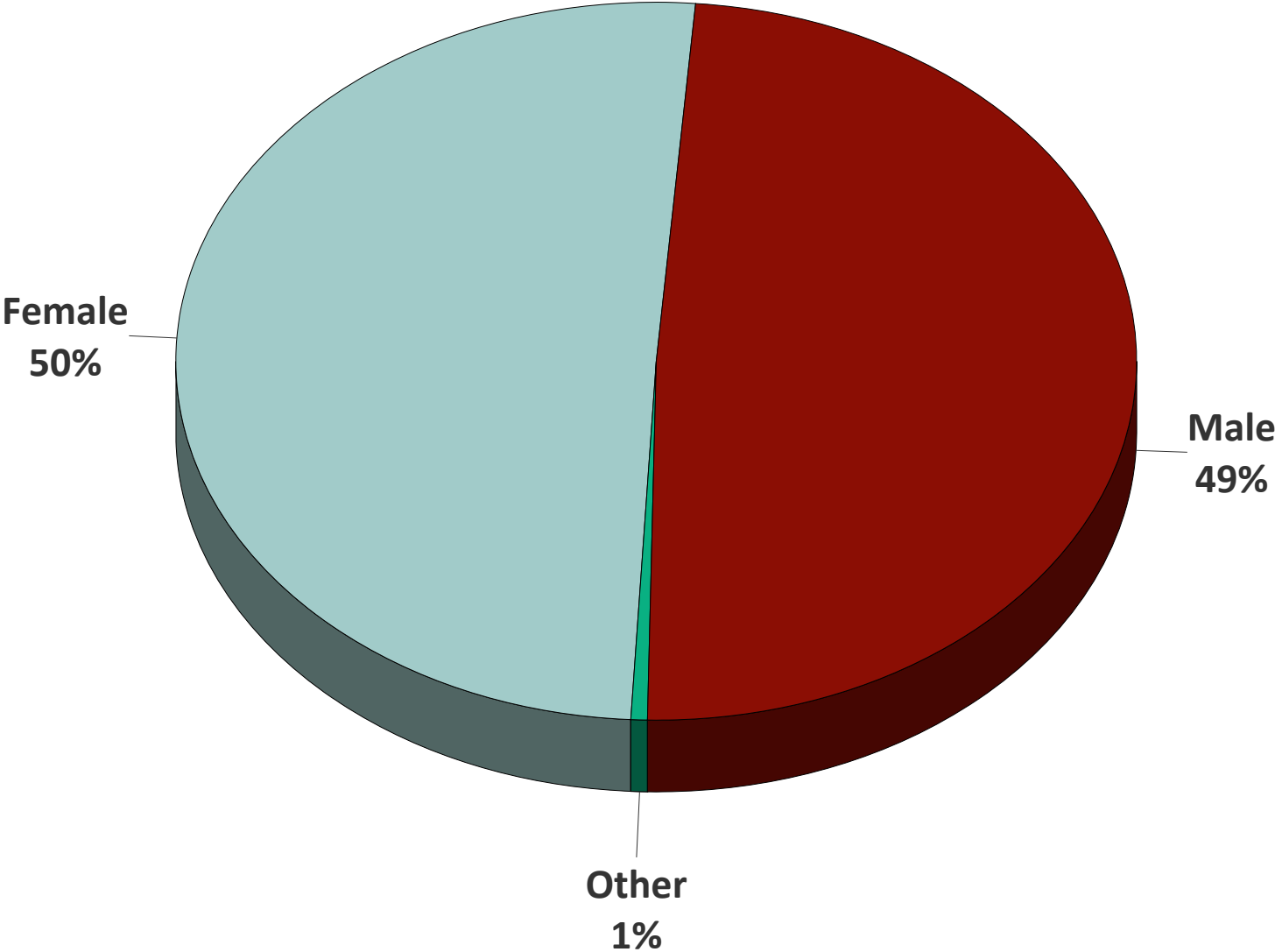
Q7. Please Check the Age Groups That Are Represented in Your Household

by percentage of respondents



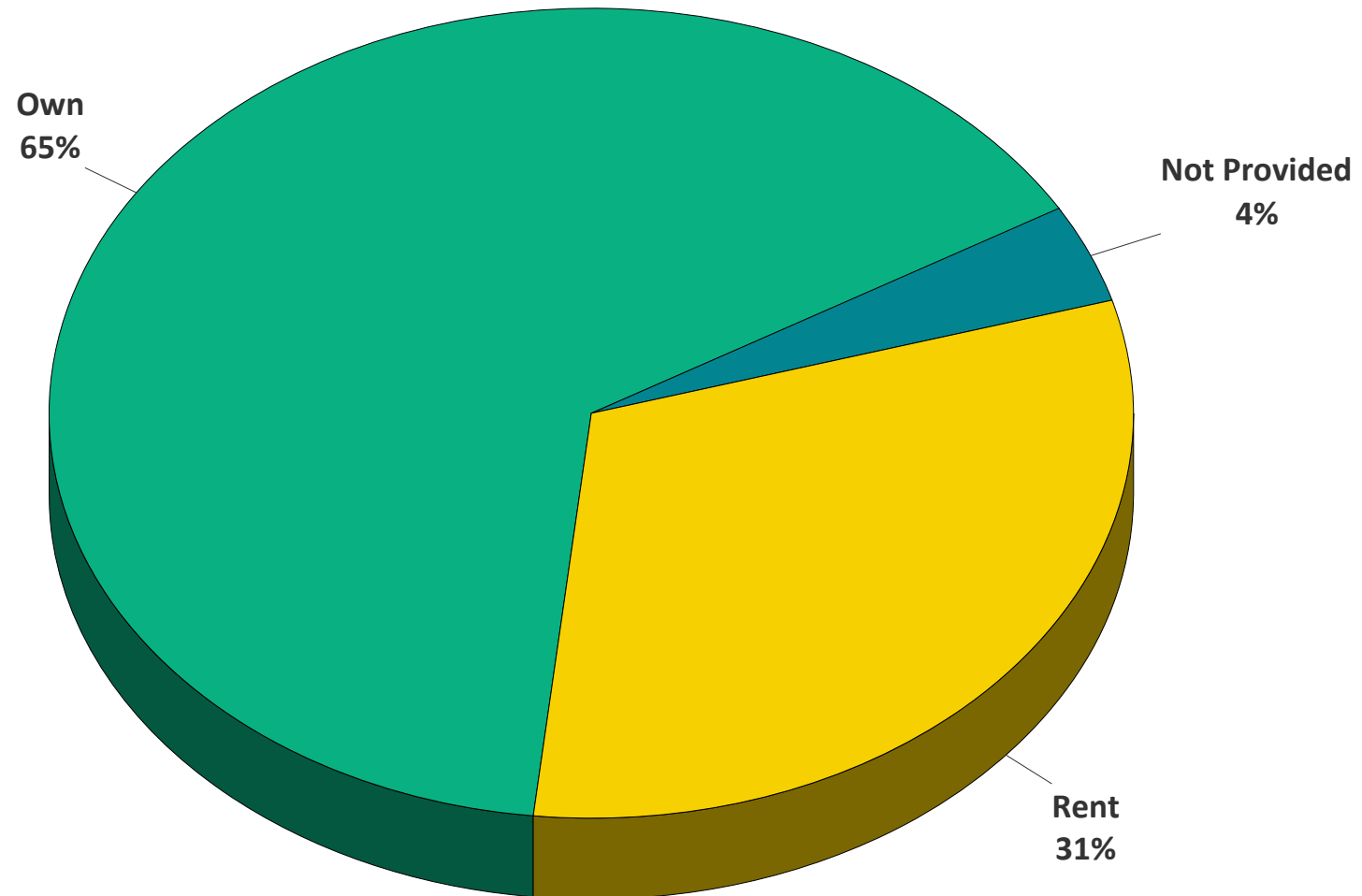
Q8. Gender

by percentage of respondents



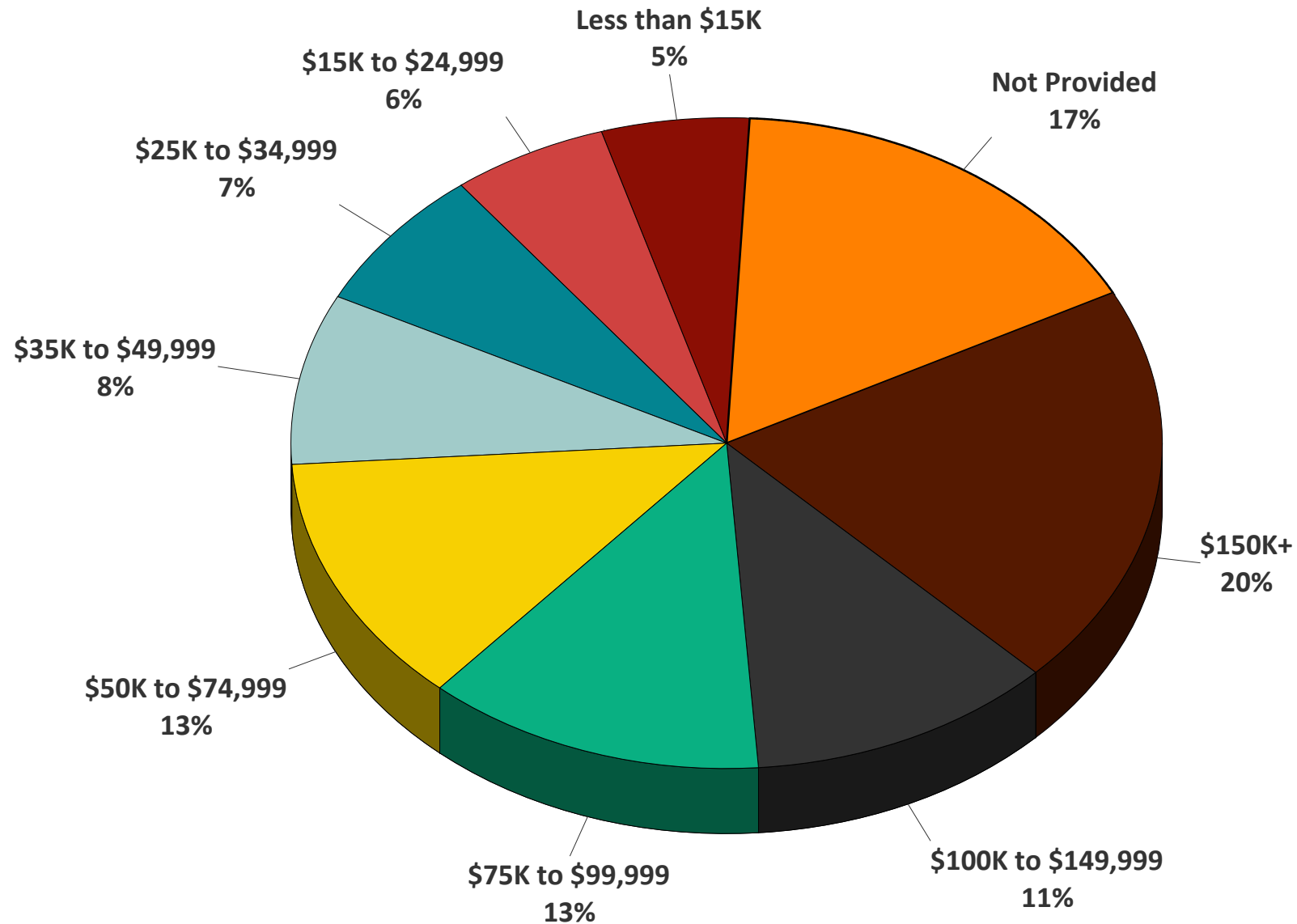
Q9. Do You Own or Rent Your Home in Mecklenburg County?

by percentage of respondents



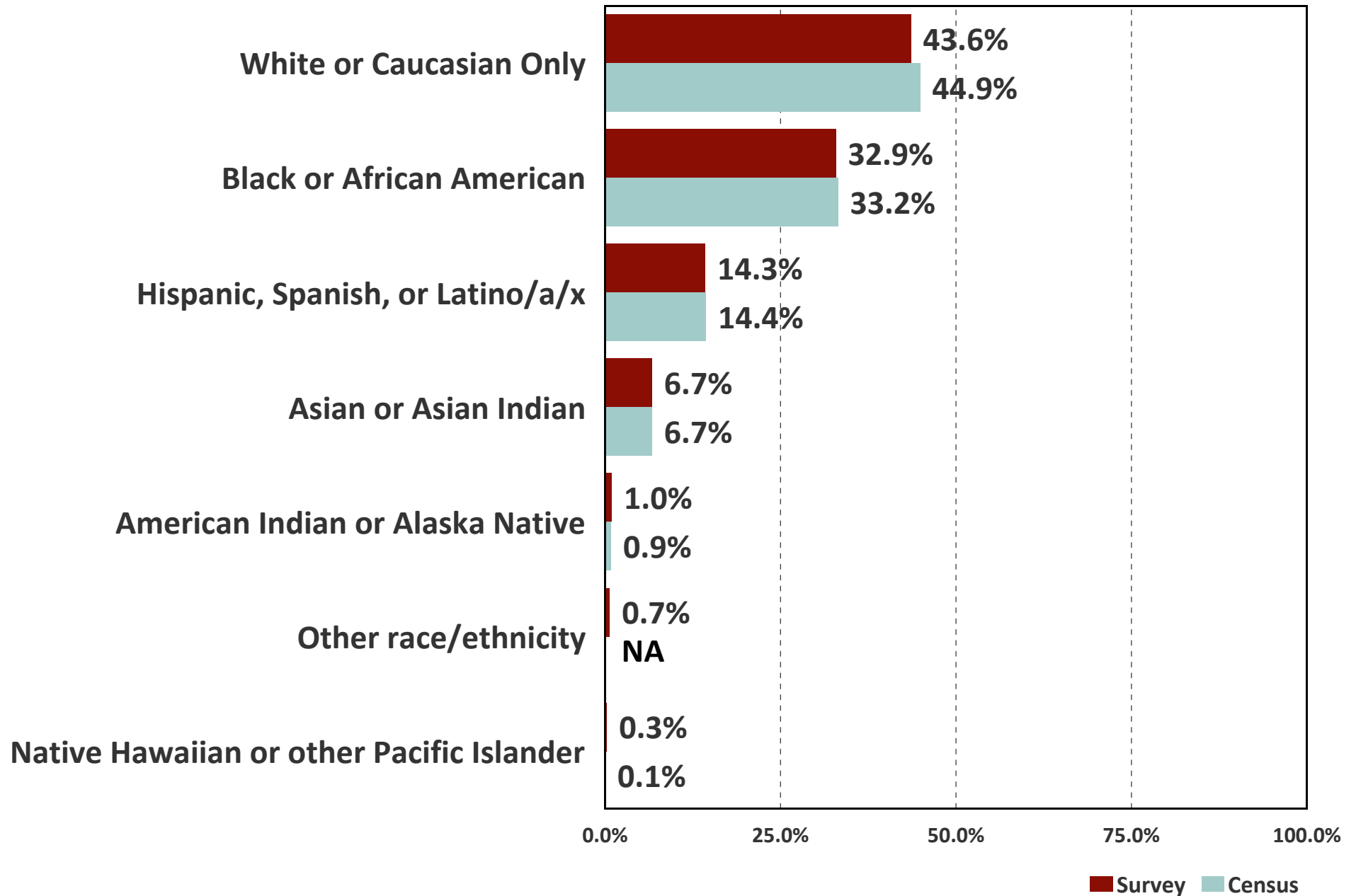
Q10. Household Income

by percentage of respondents



Q11. Race/Ethnicity

by percentage of respondents





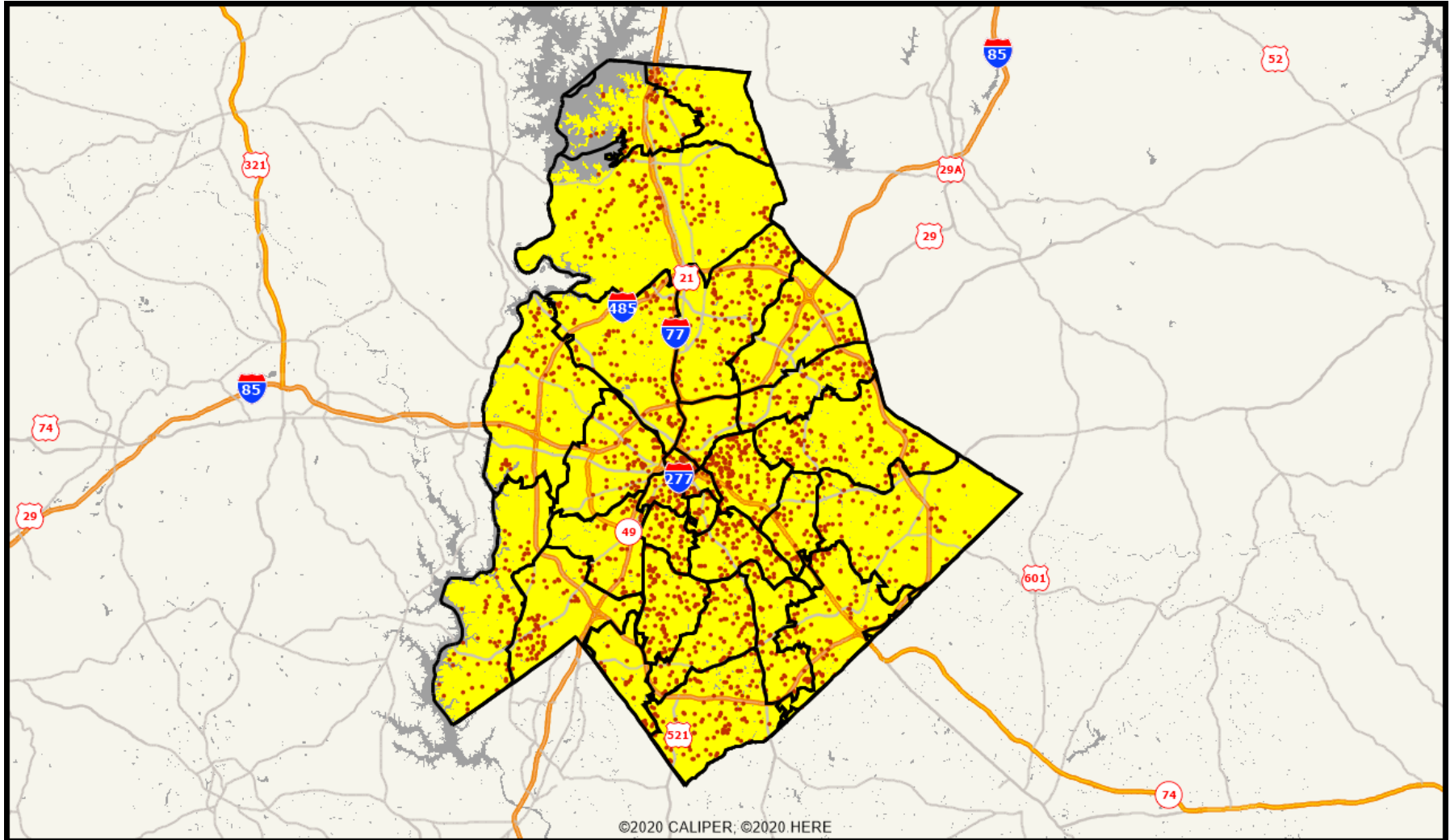
GIS MAPS



GIS MAPS

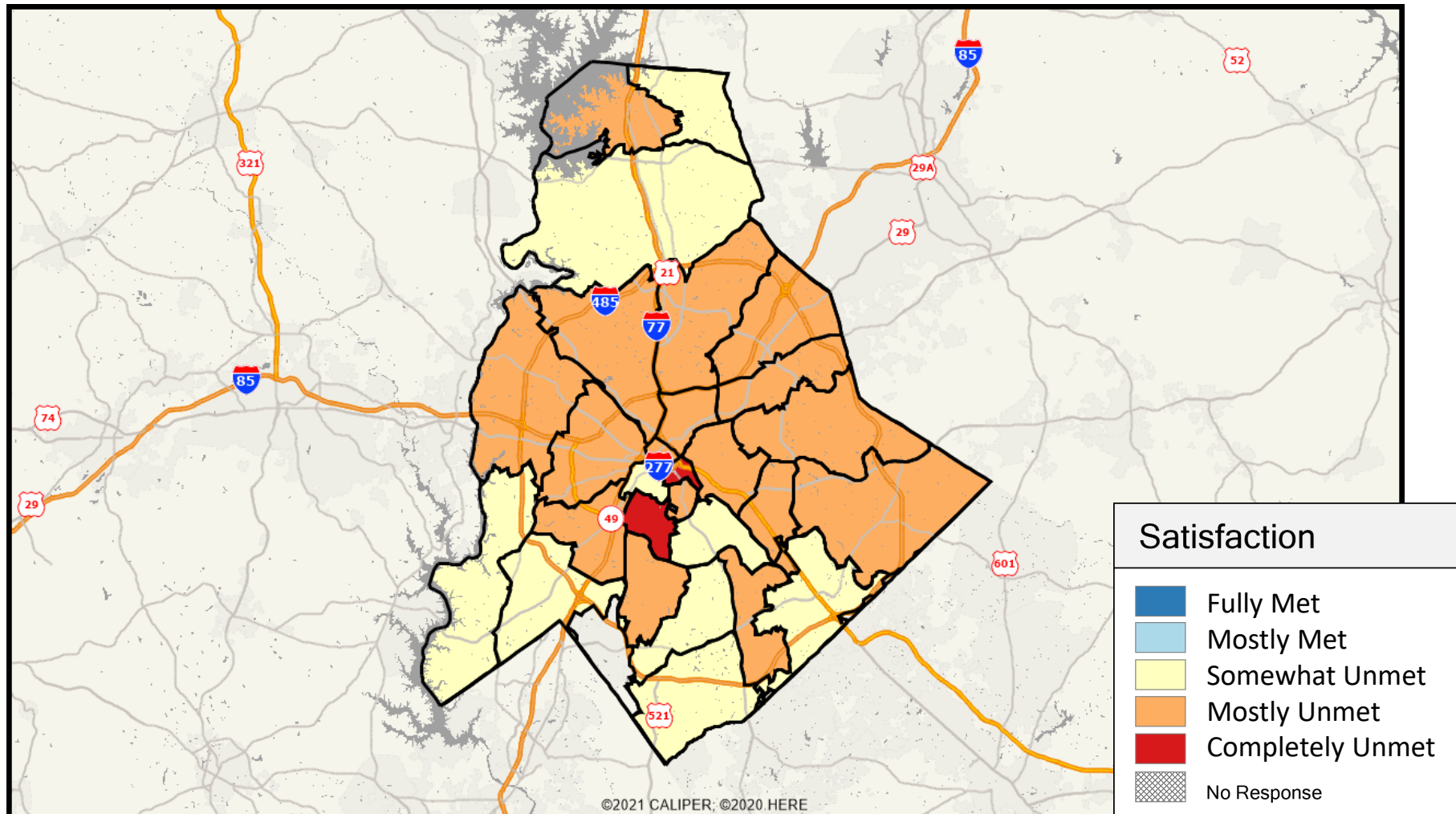
by Zip Code

Location of Respondents (Boundaries Show Zip Codes)



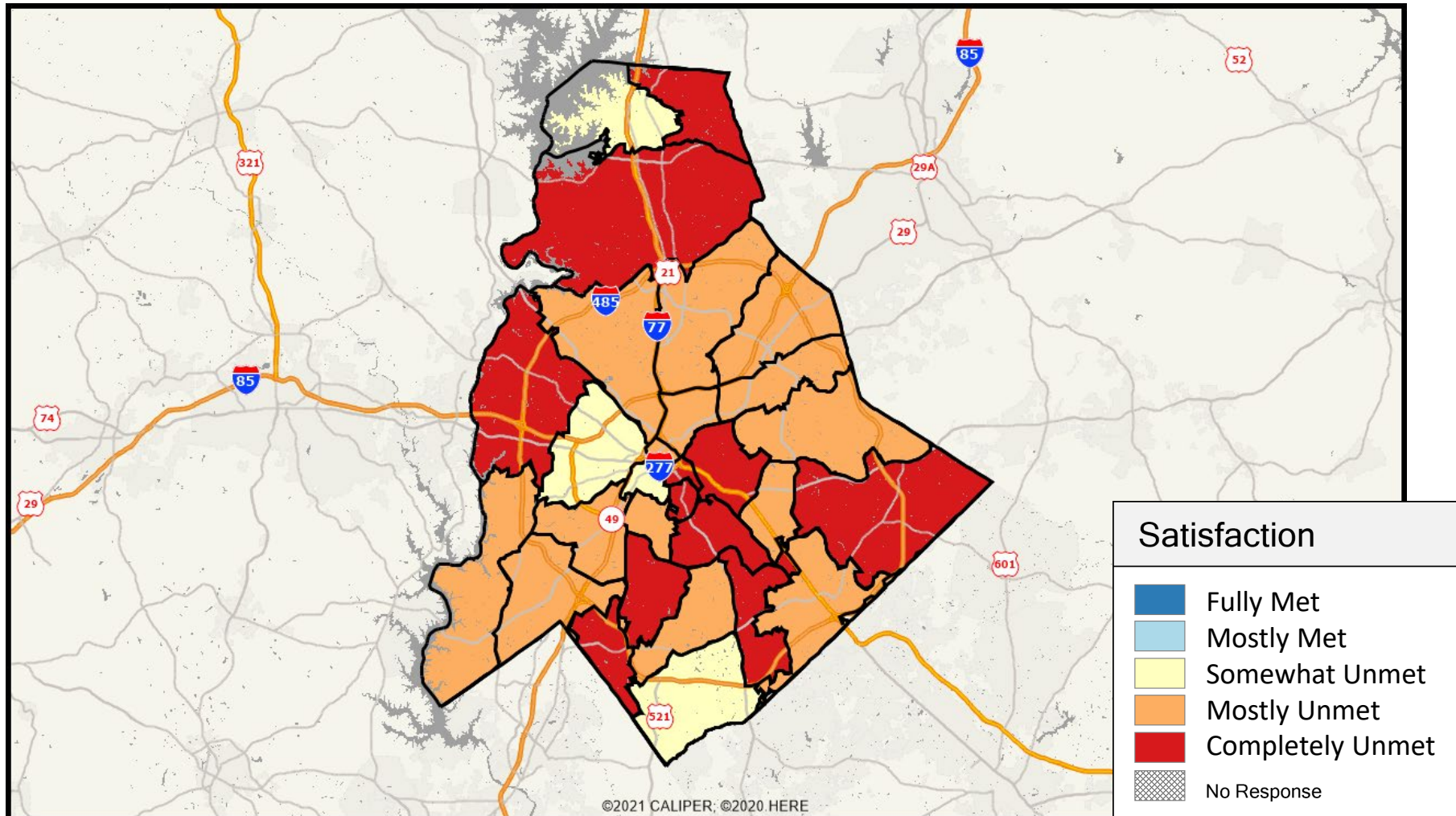
Q1-01. How well needs for child welfare services are being met

(excluding those who did NOT have a need)

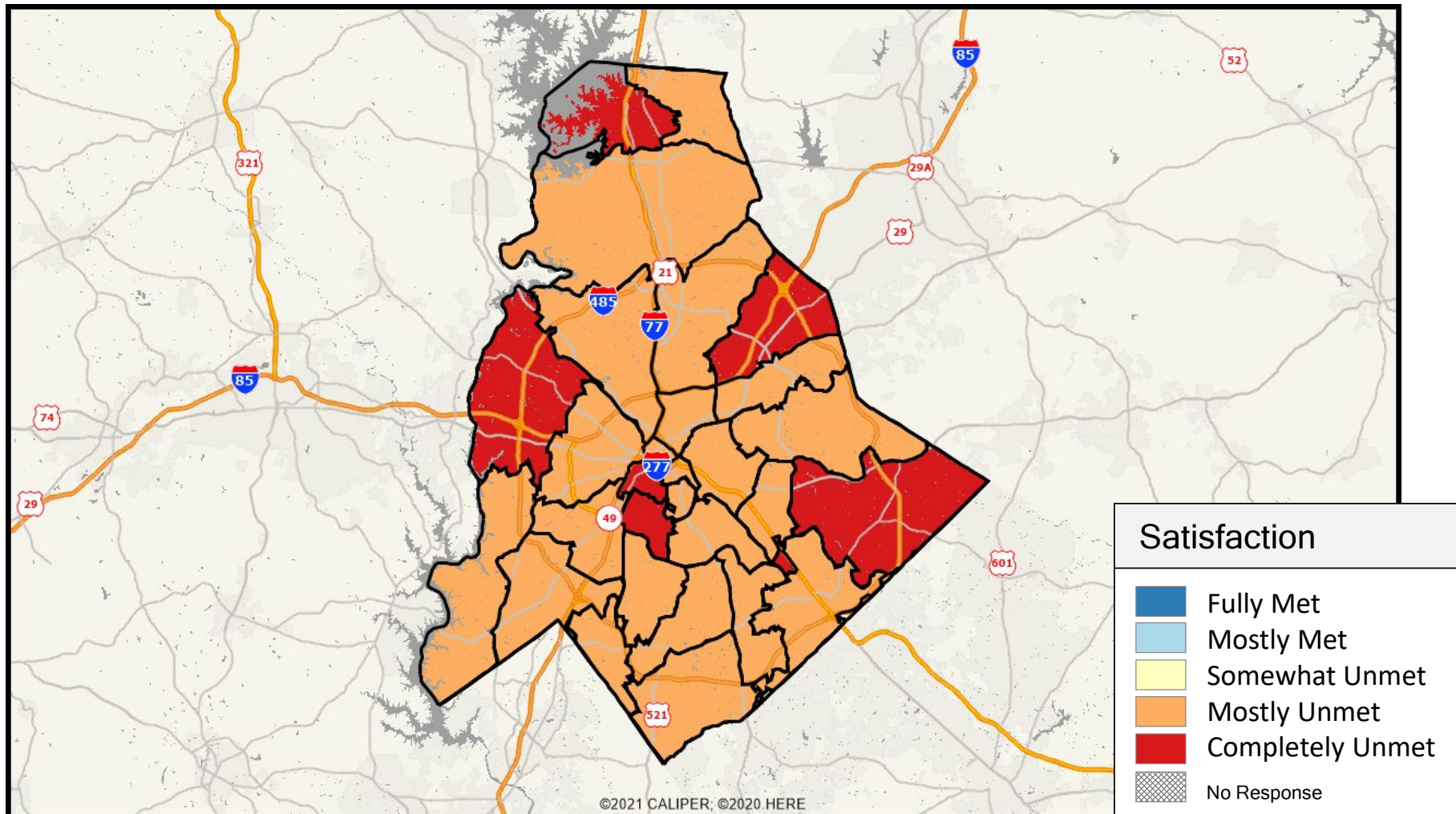


Q1-02. How well needs for subsidized childcare services are being met

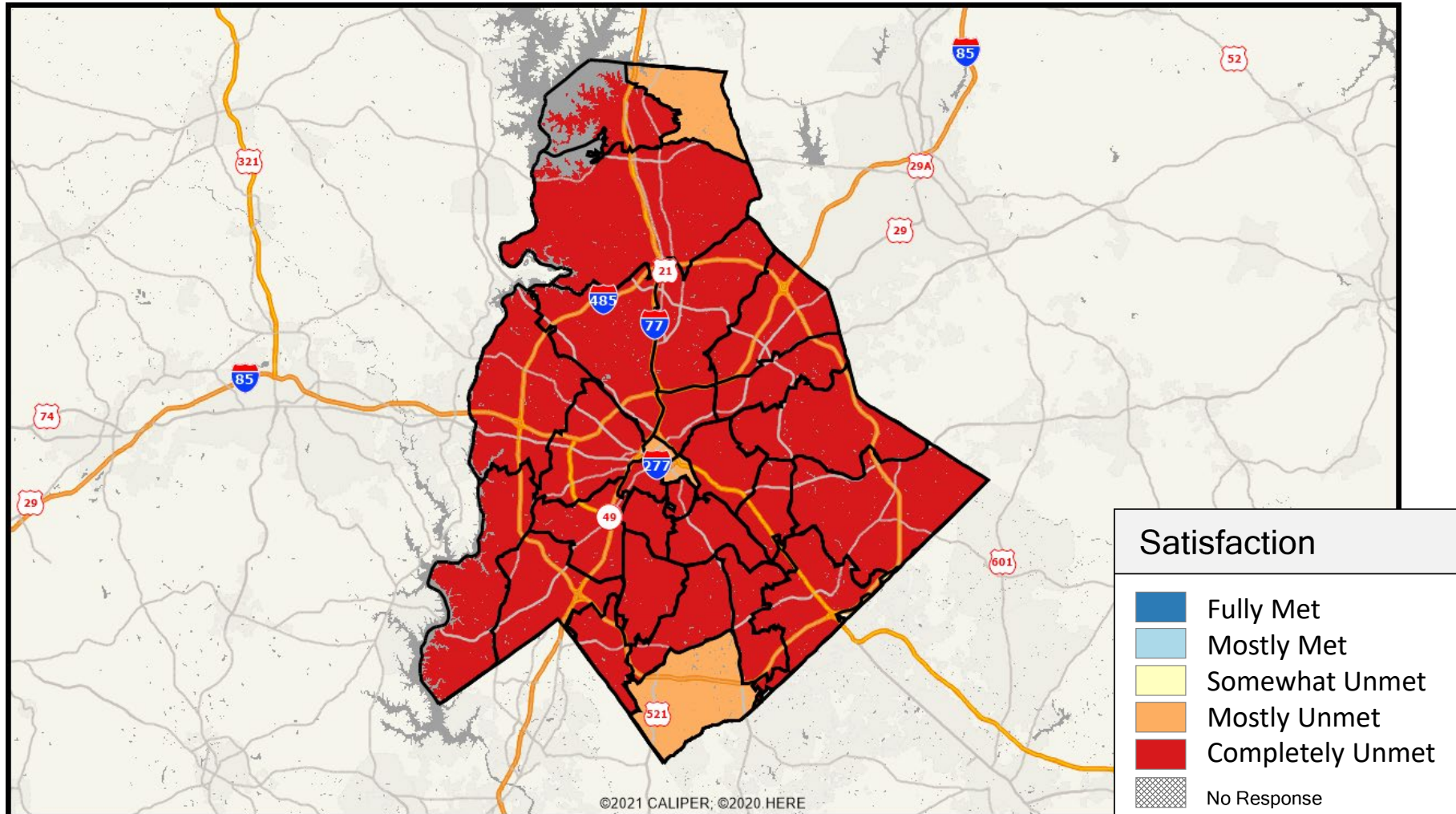
(excluding those who did NOT have a need)



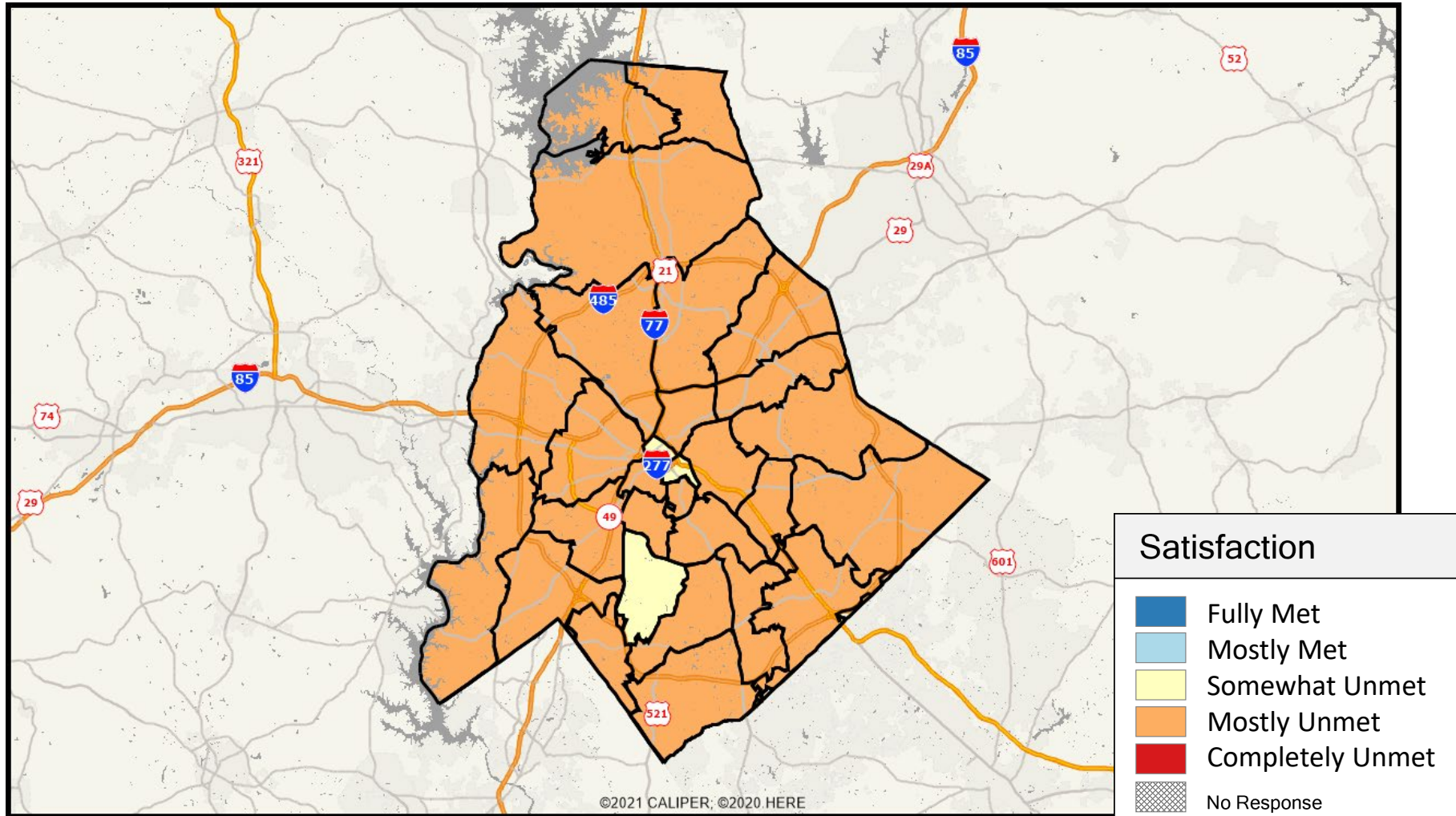
Q1-03. How well needs for services for senior adults age 60+
(includes services like adult day care, nutrition, transportation,
and in-home assistance) are being met
(excluding those who did NOT have a need)



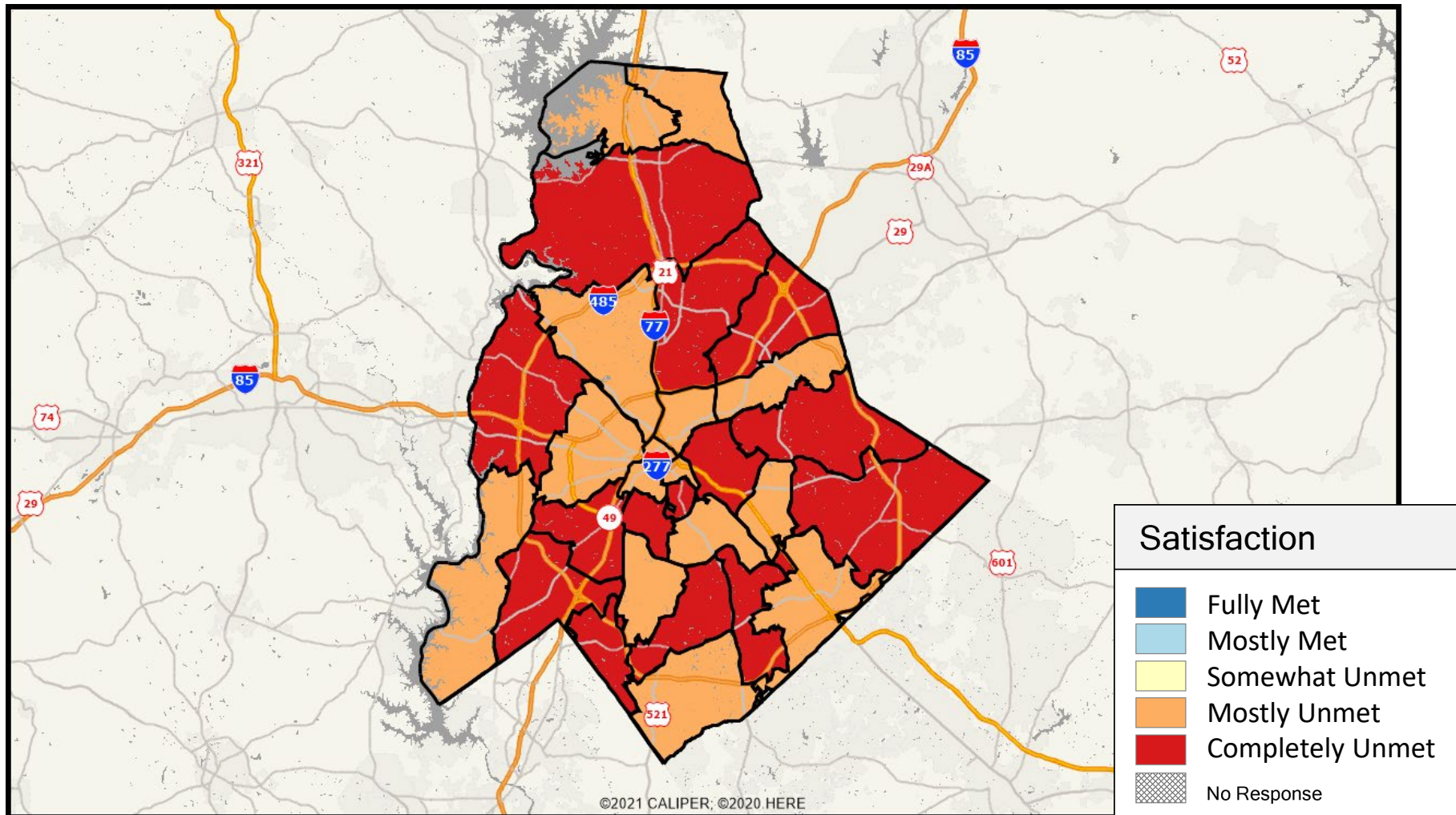
Q1-05. How well needs for Efforts by the County to improve access to affordable housing are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)



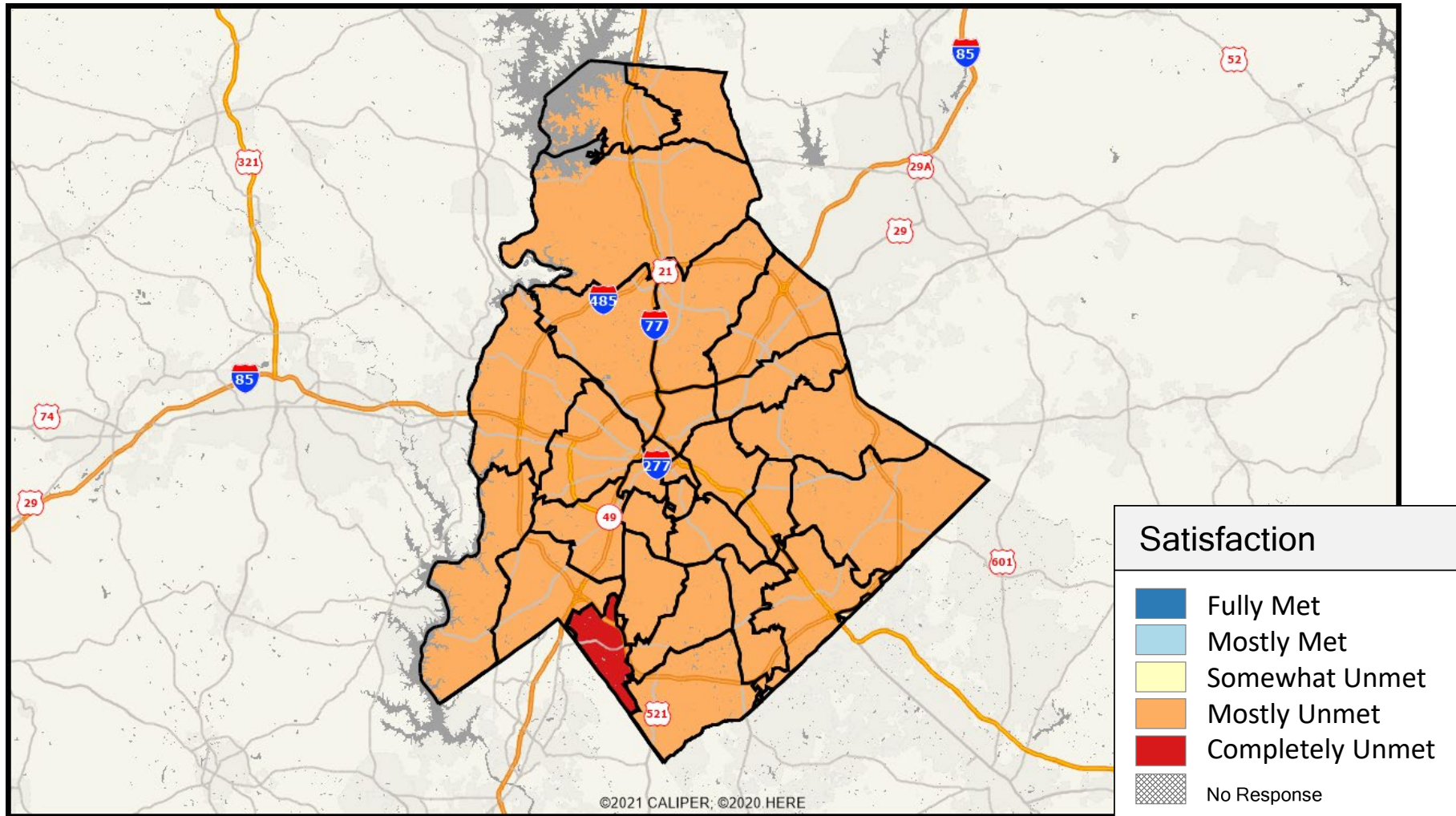
Q1-04. How well needs for programs/services that help residents get access to healthy food are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)



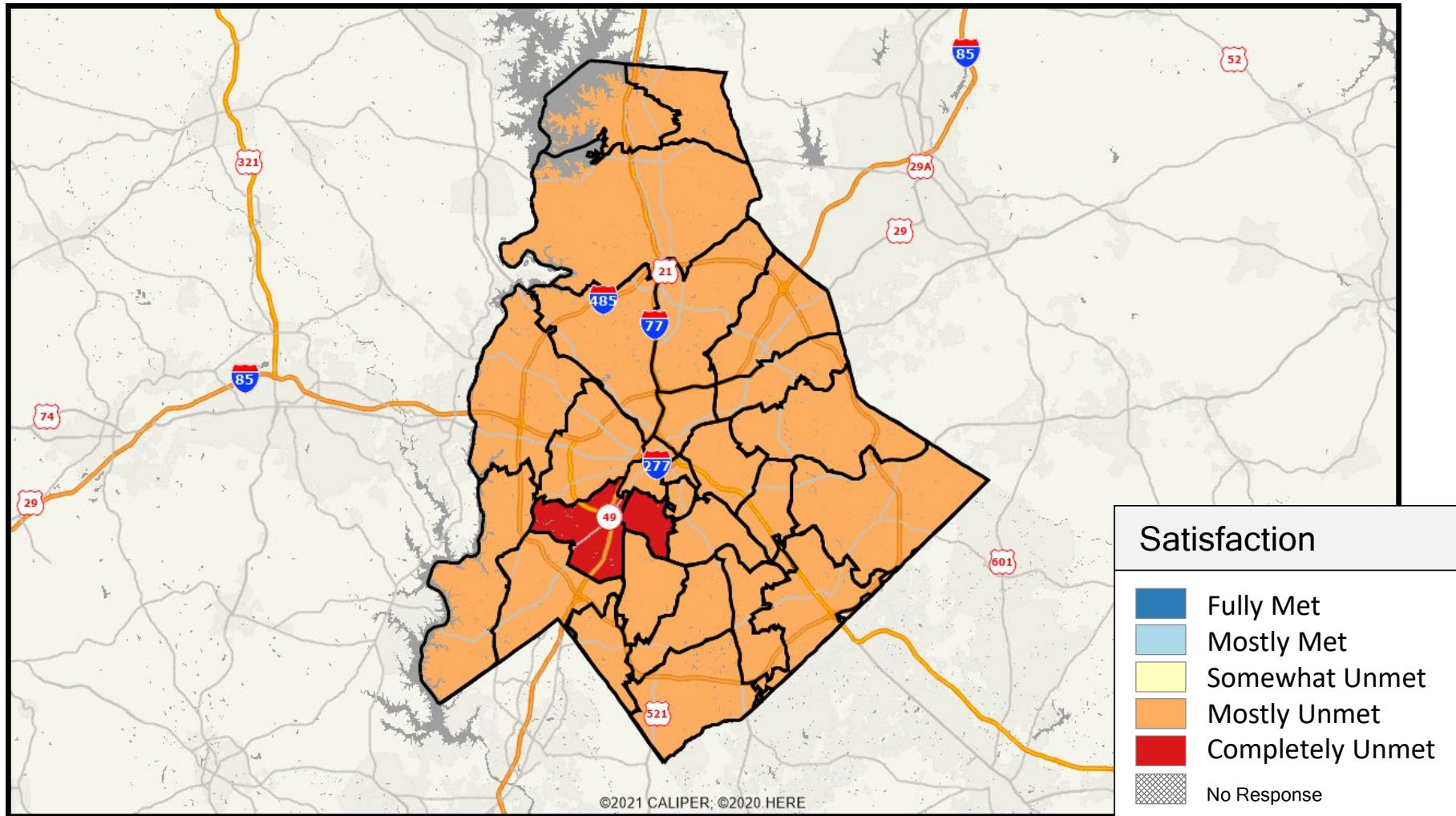
Q1-06. How well needs for behavioral health resources that help with the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental health, substance use disorders, life stressors/crises and stress-related physical symptoms are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)



Q1-07. How well needs for efforts by the County to improve access to healthcare are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)

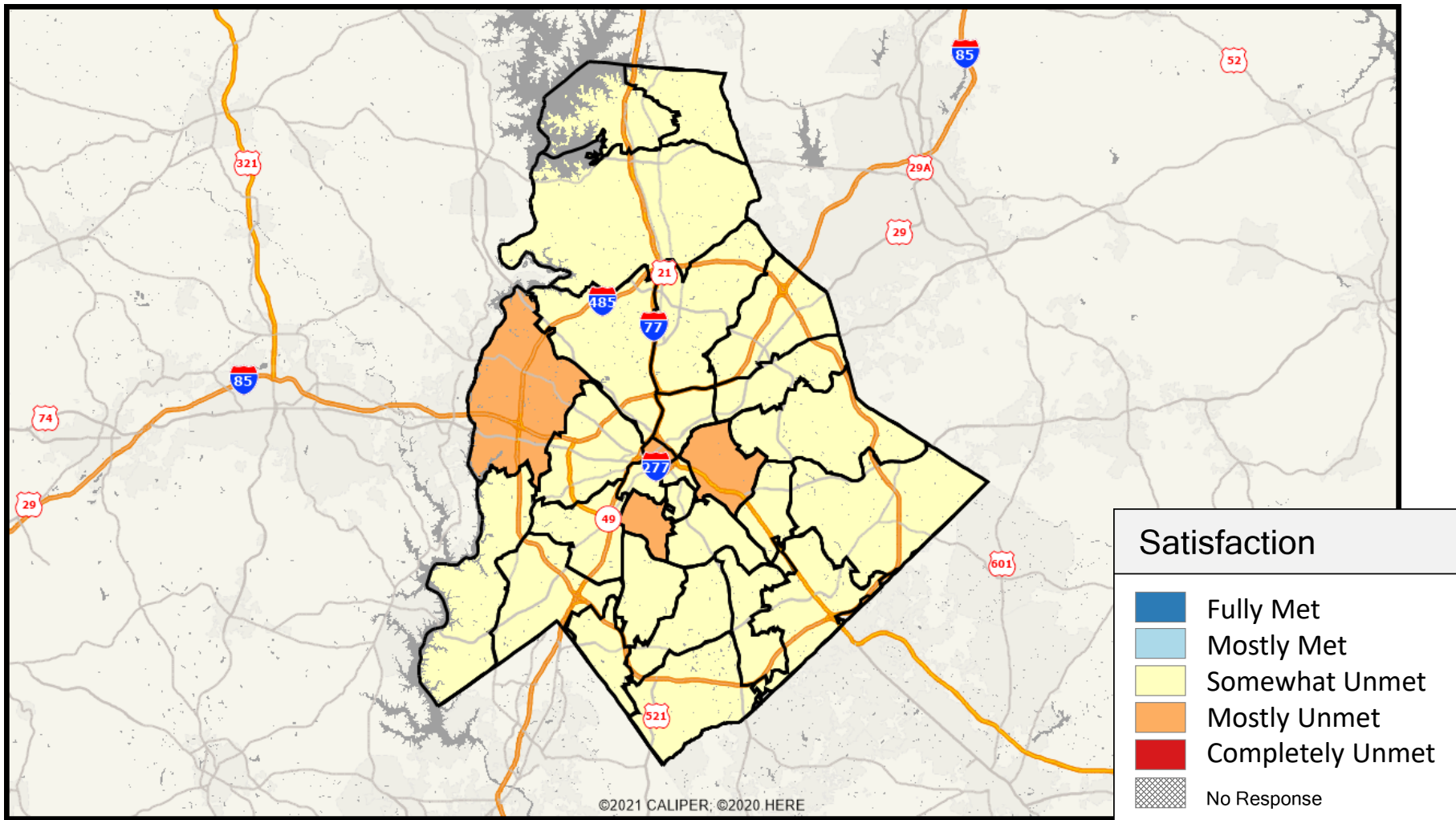


Q1-08. How well needs for workforce development services that provide training and support to help residents get jobs and/or enhance their careers are being met
(excluding those who did NOT have a need)

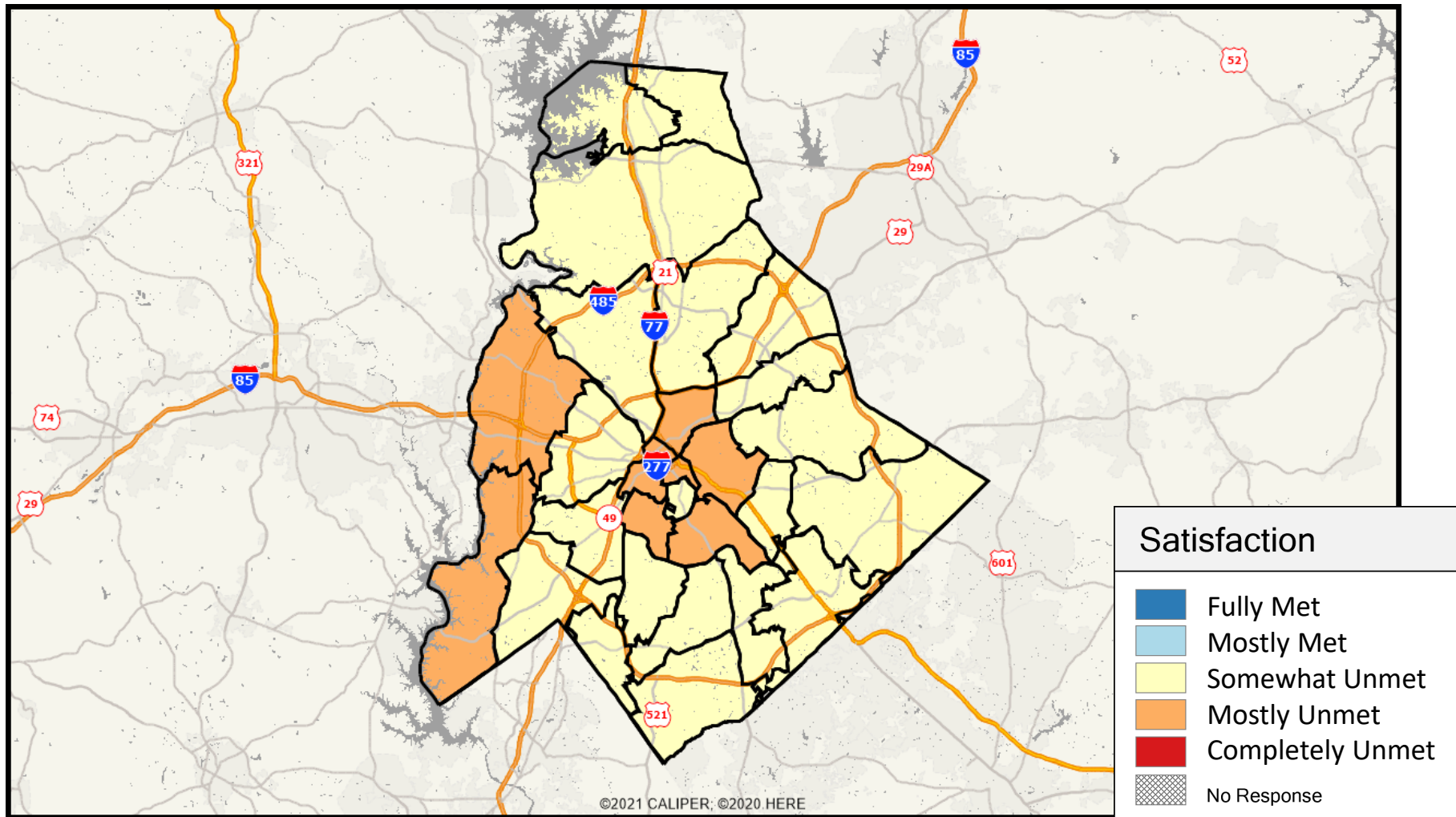


Q1-09. How well needs for maintenance of County parks are being met

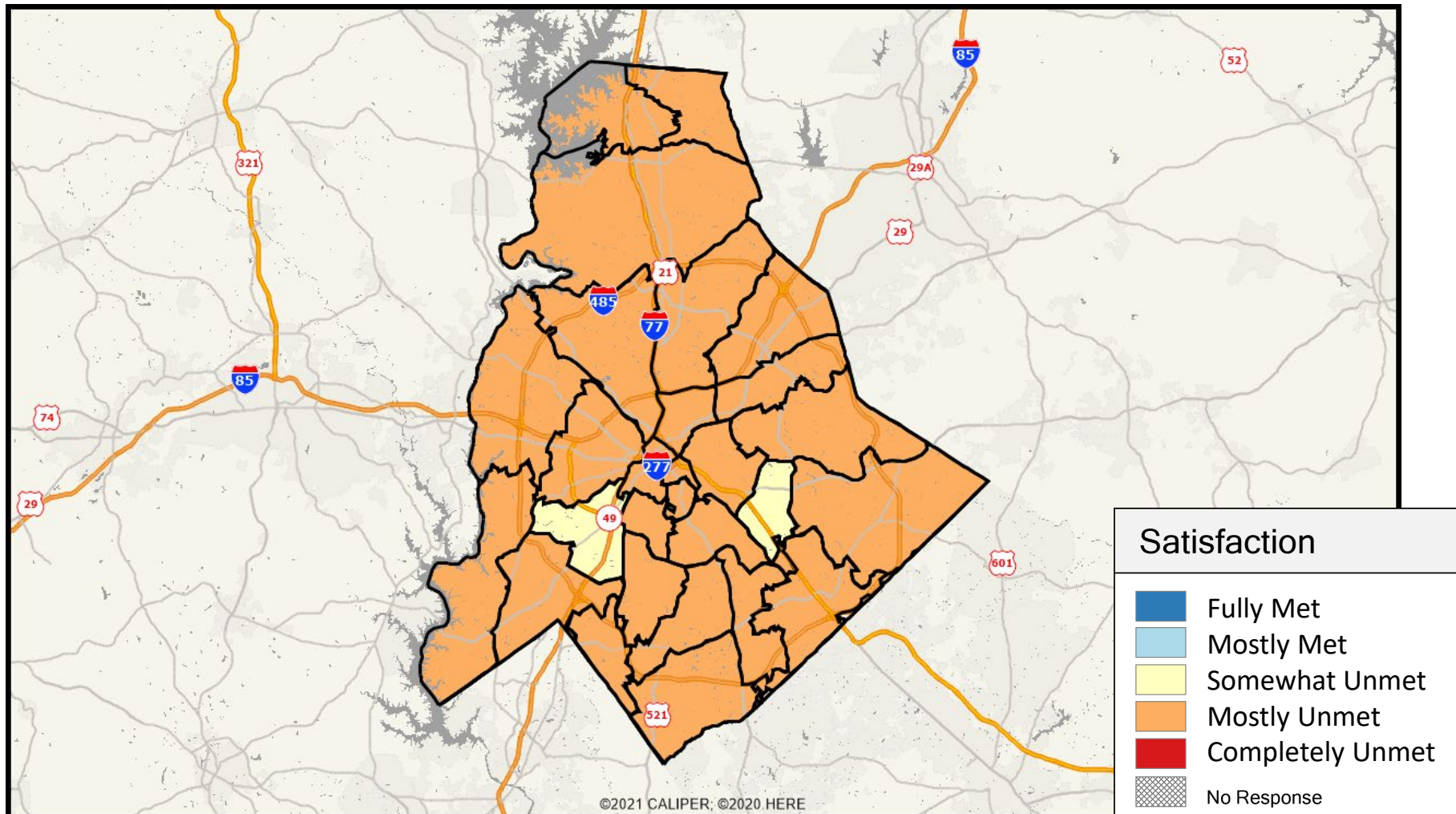
(excluding those who did NOT have a need)



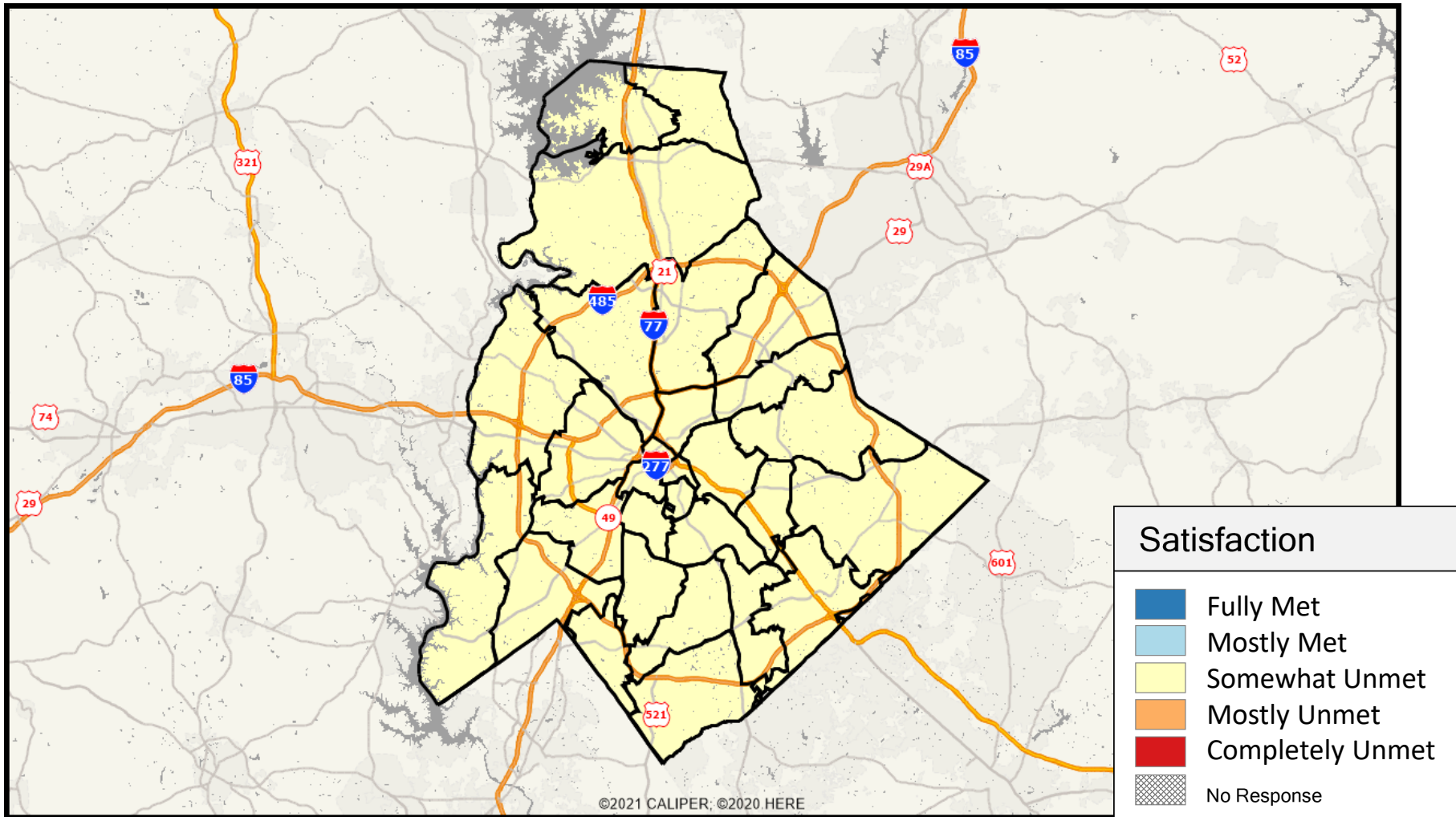
Q1-10. How well needs for the number of County parks and greenways are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)



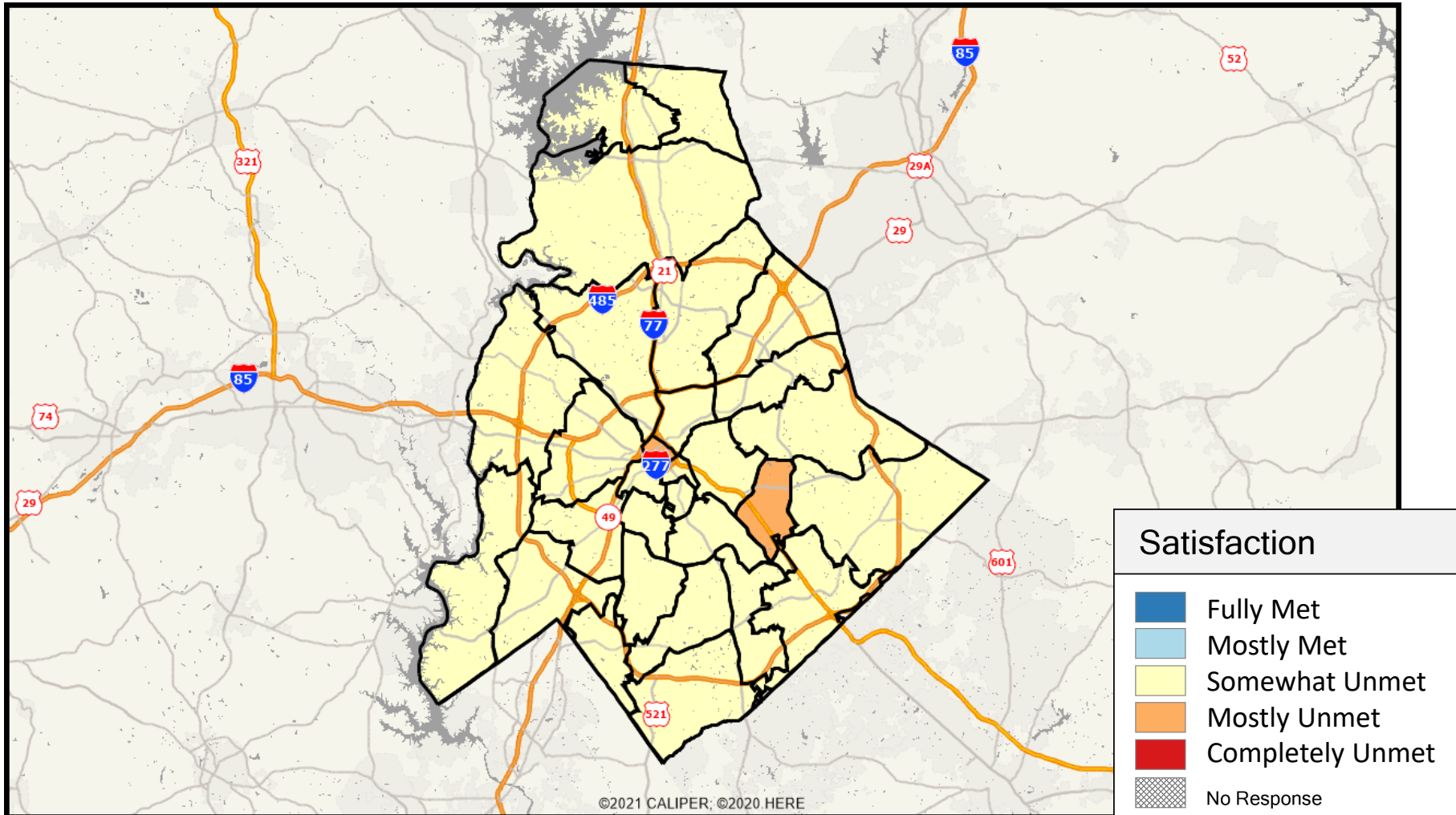
Q1-11. How well needs for the efforts by the County to acquire land for the development of parks, greenways, and open-space preservation are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)



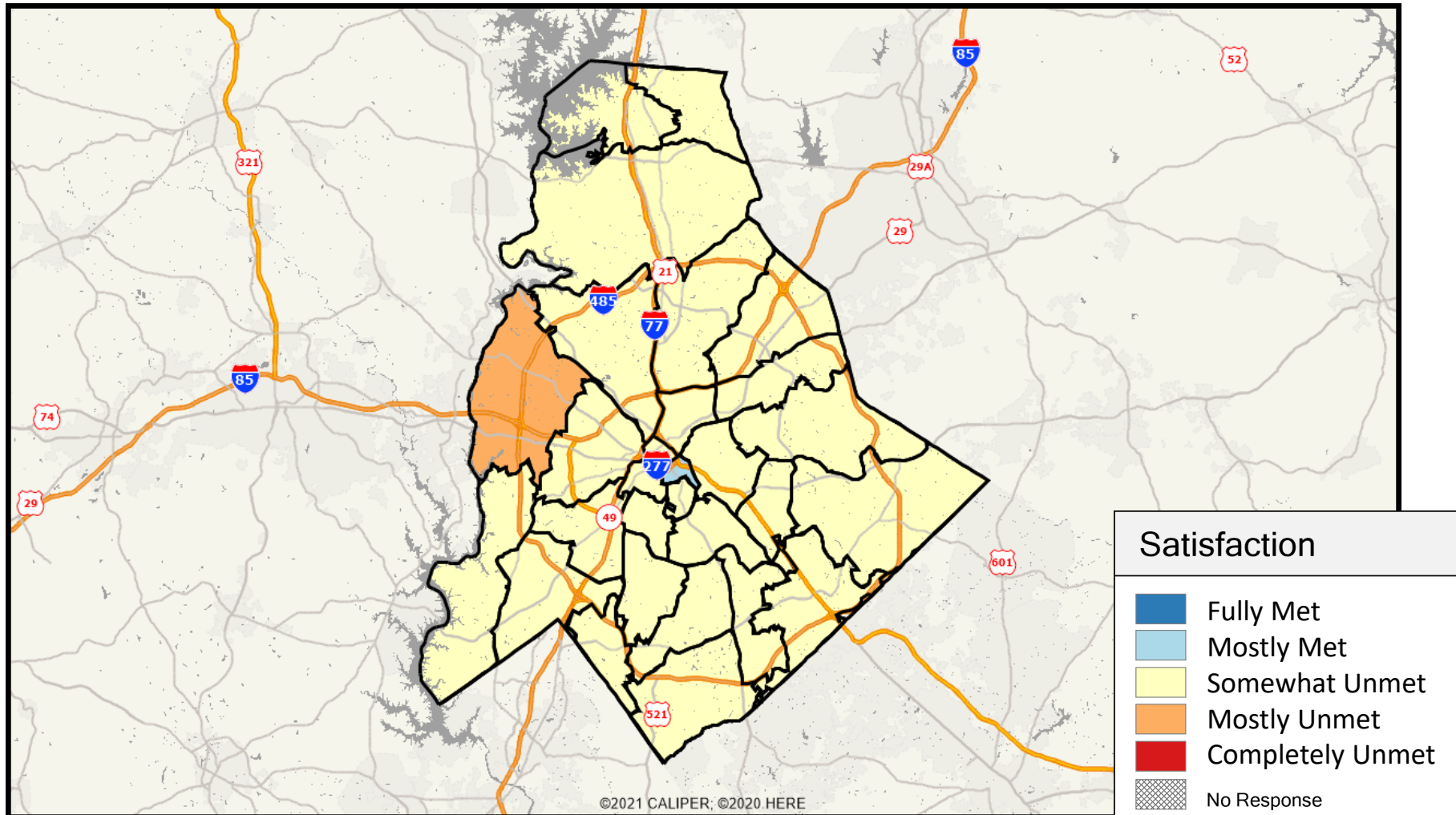
Q1-12. How well needs for library collections (books, e-books, audiobooks, periodicals, music, videos, etc.) are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)



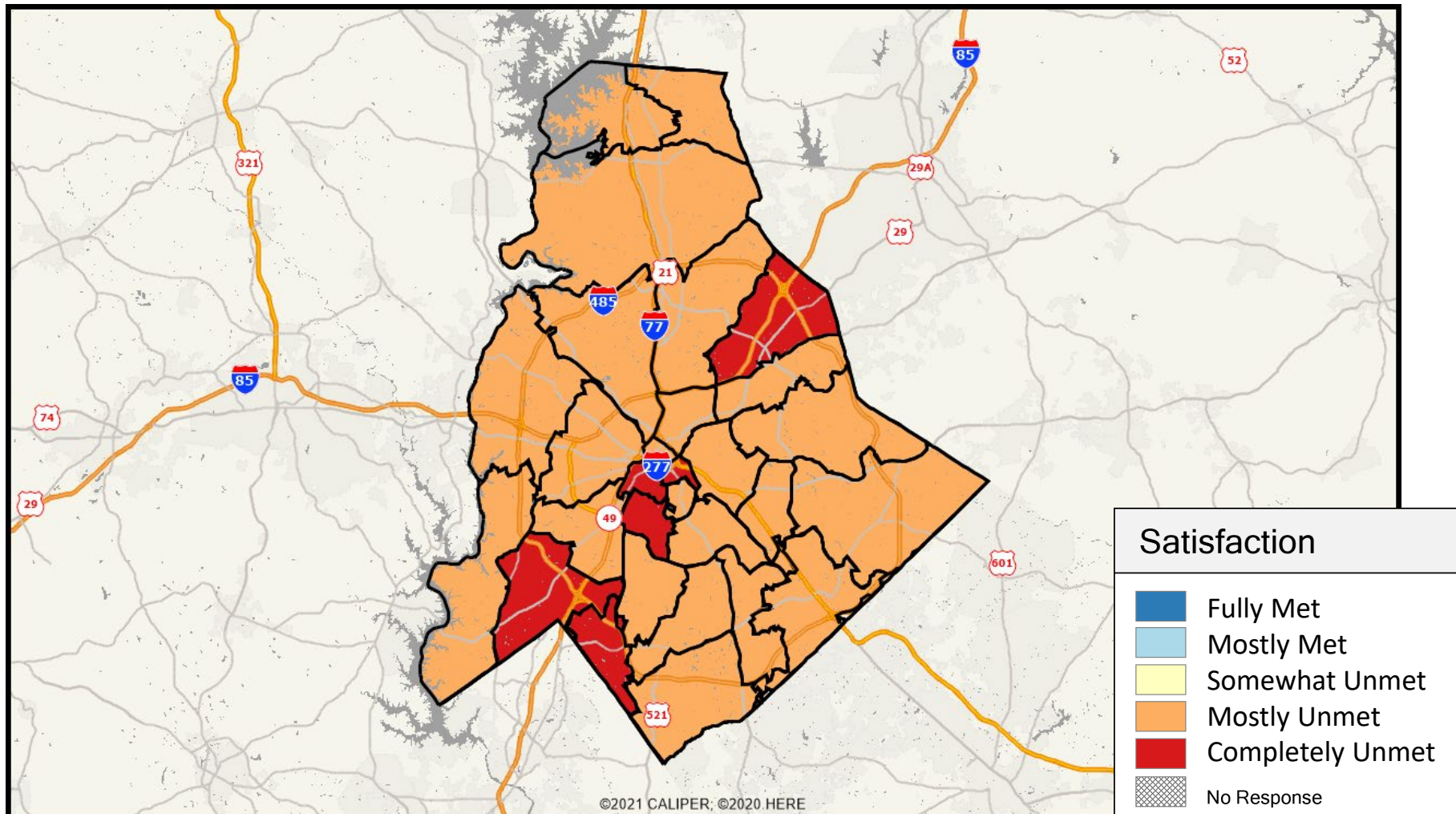
Q1-13. How well needs for library programs for children, teens, and/or adults are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)



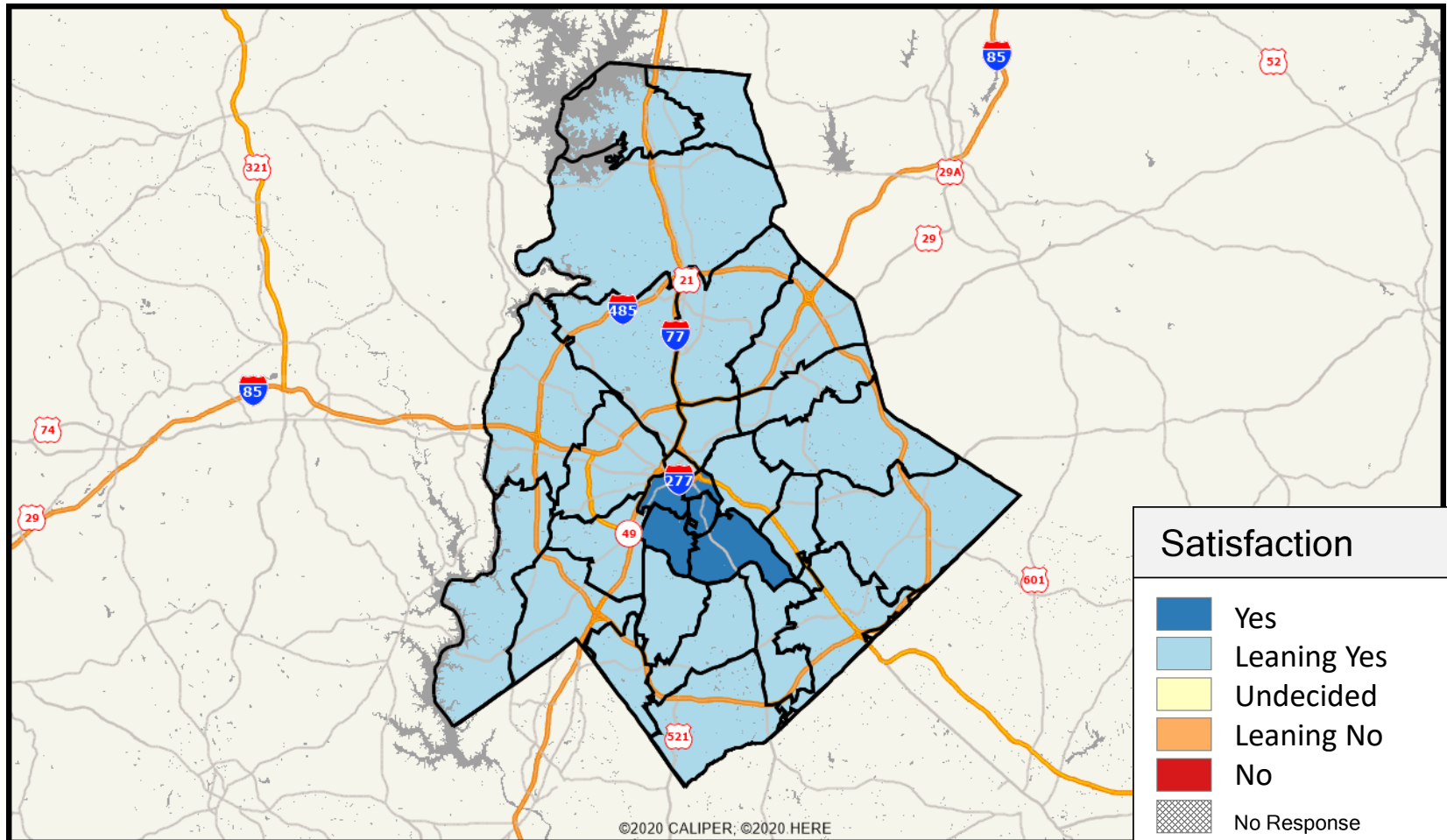
Q1-14. How well needs for safety and security at County facilities like libraries, recreation centers, and County offices are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)



Q1-15. How well needs for programs and services that help justice-involved residents after they have had interactions with the criminal justice system are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)



Q3. Would you be willing to pay a slight increase in taxes to help fund improvements in the services/program/facility you selected as your top priority in Question 2?



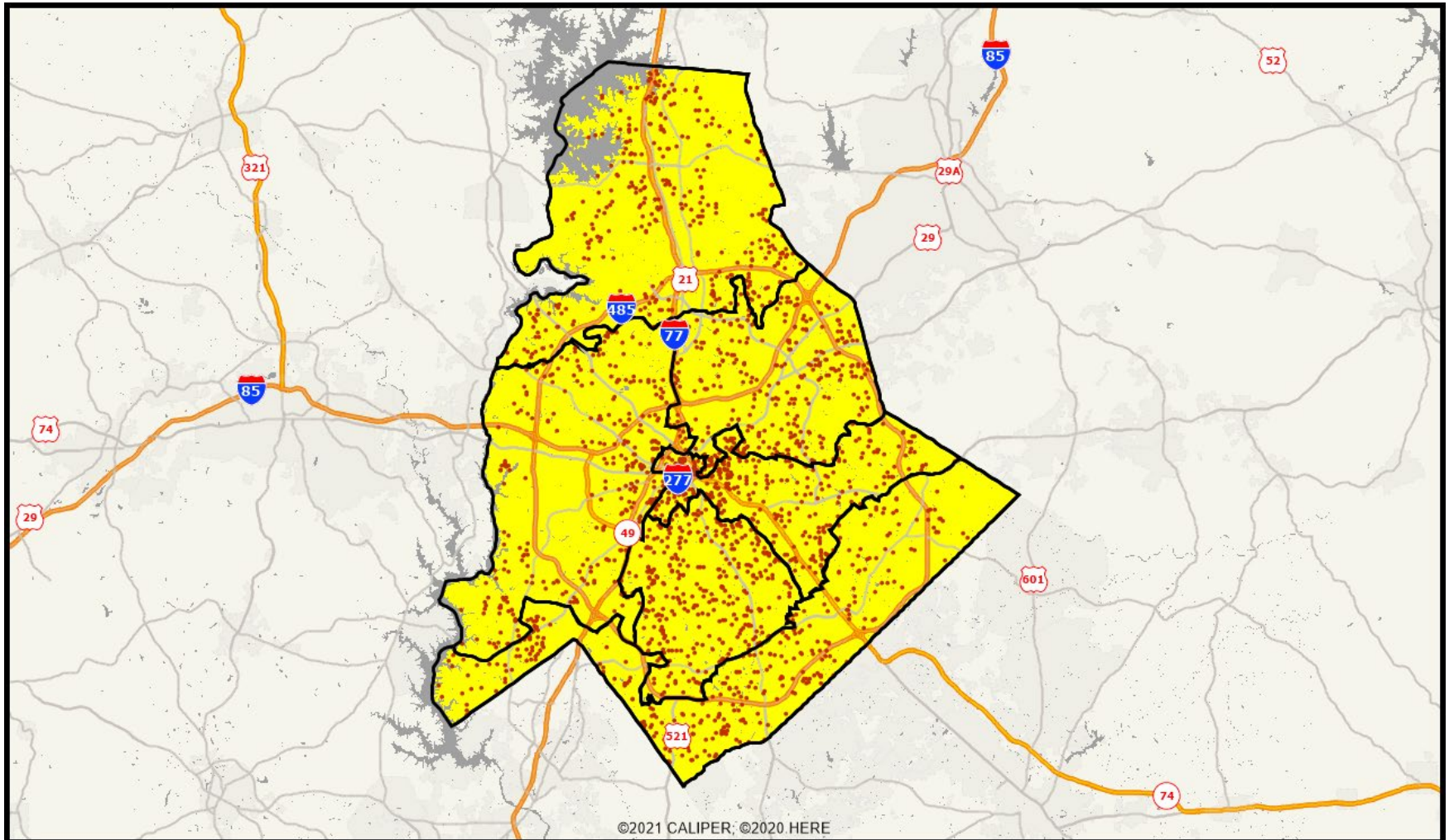


GIS MAPS

by Commission District

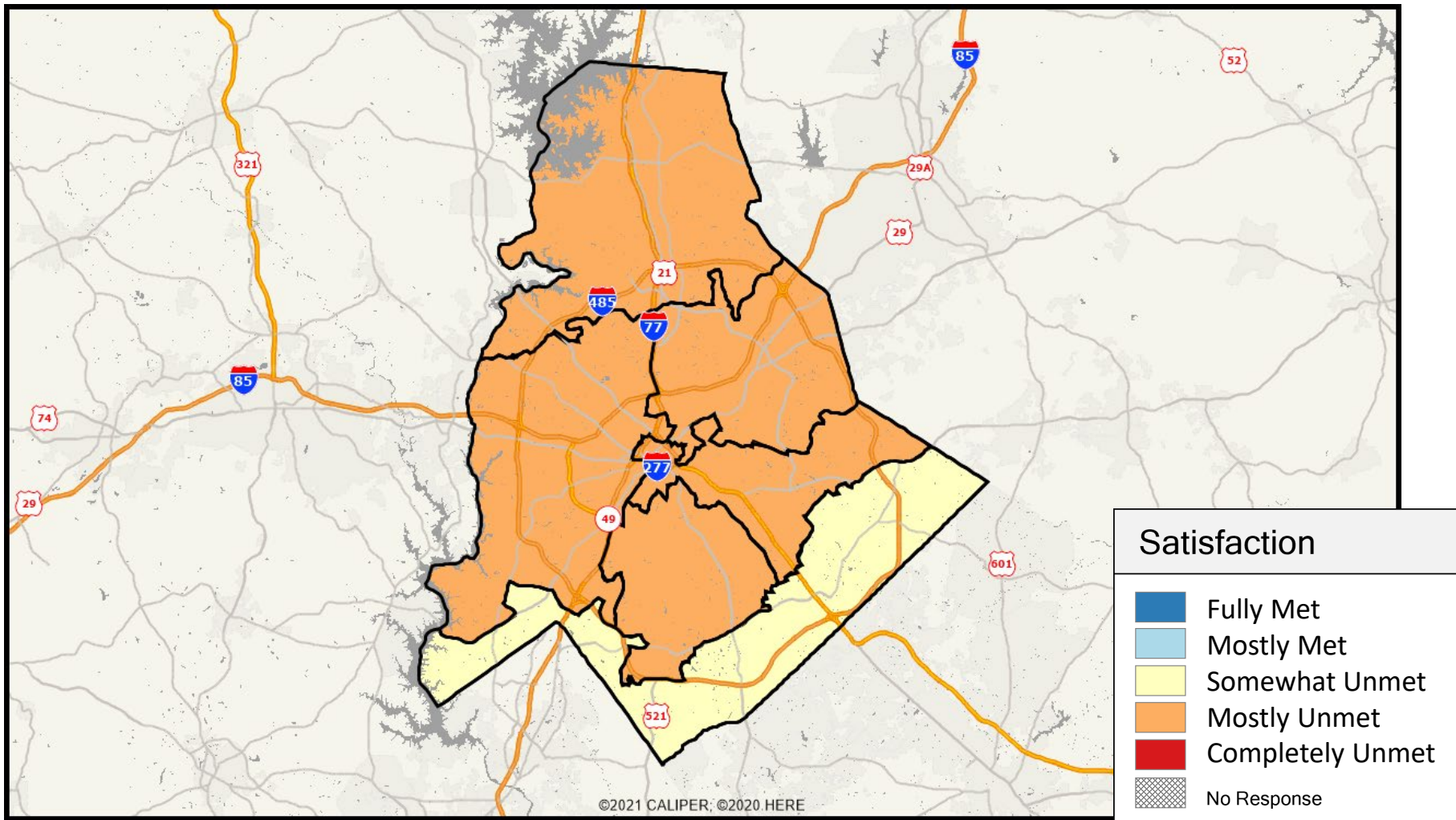
Location of Respondents

(Boundaries Show Commission Districts)



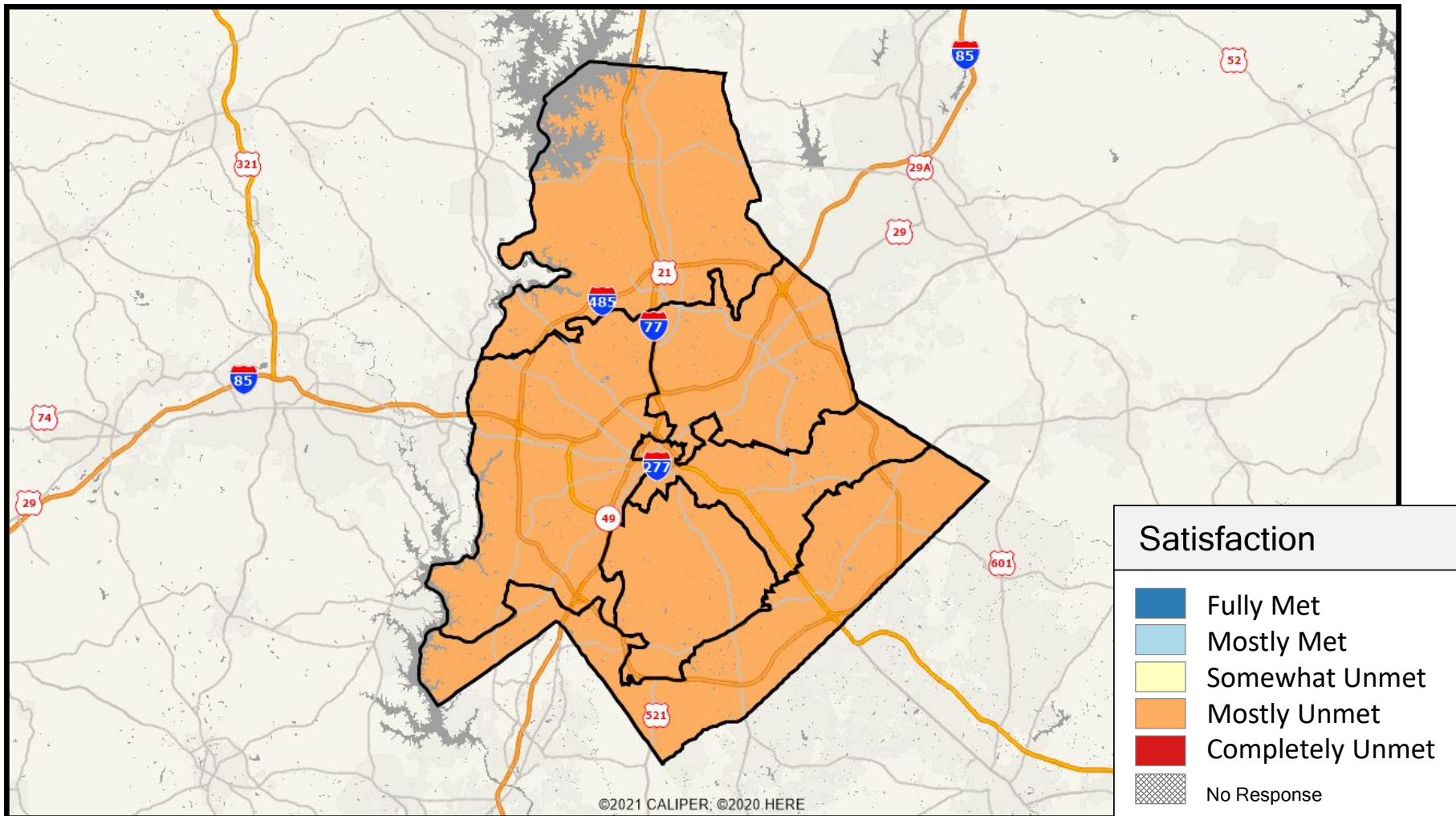
Q1-01. How well needs for child welfare services are being met

(excluding those who did NOT have a need)

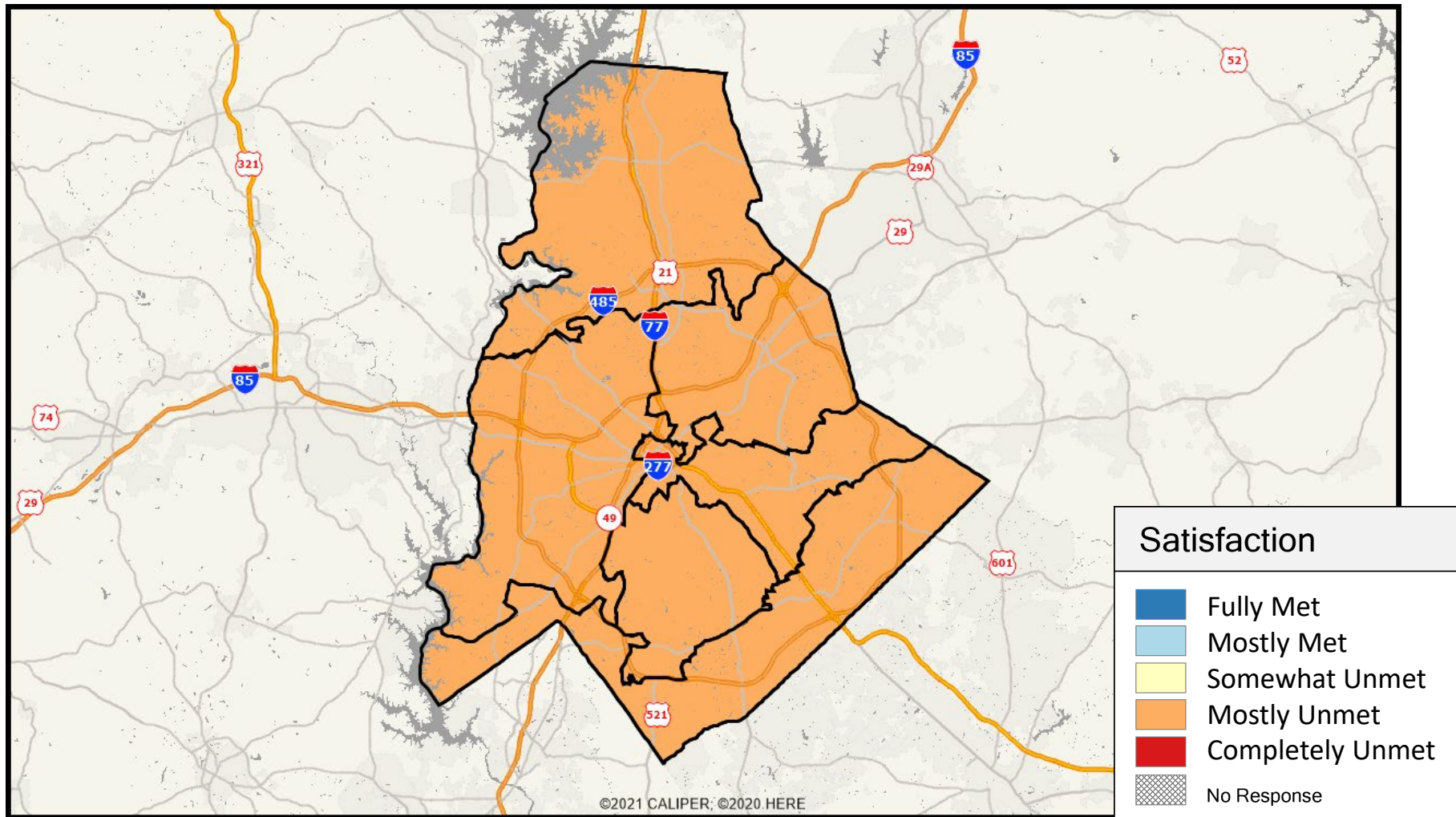


Q1-02. How well needs for subsidized childcare services are being met

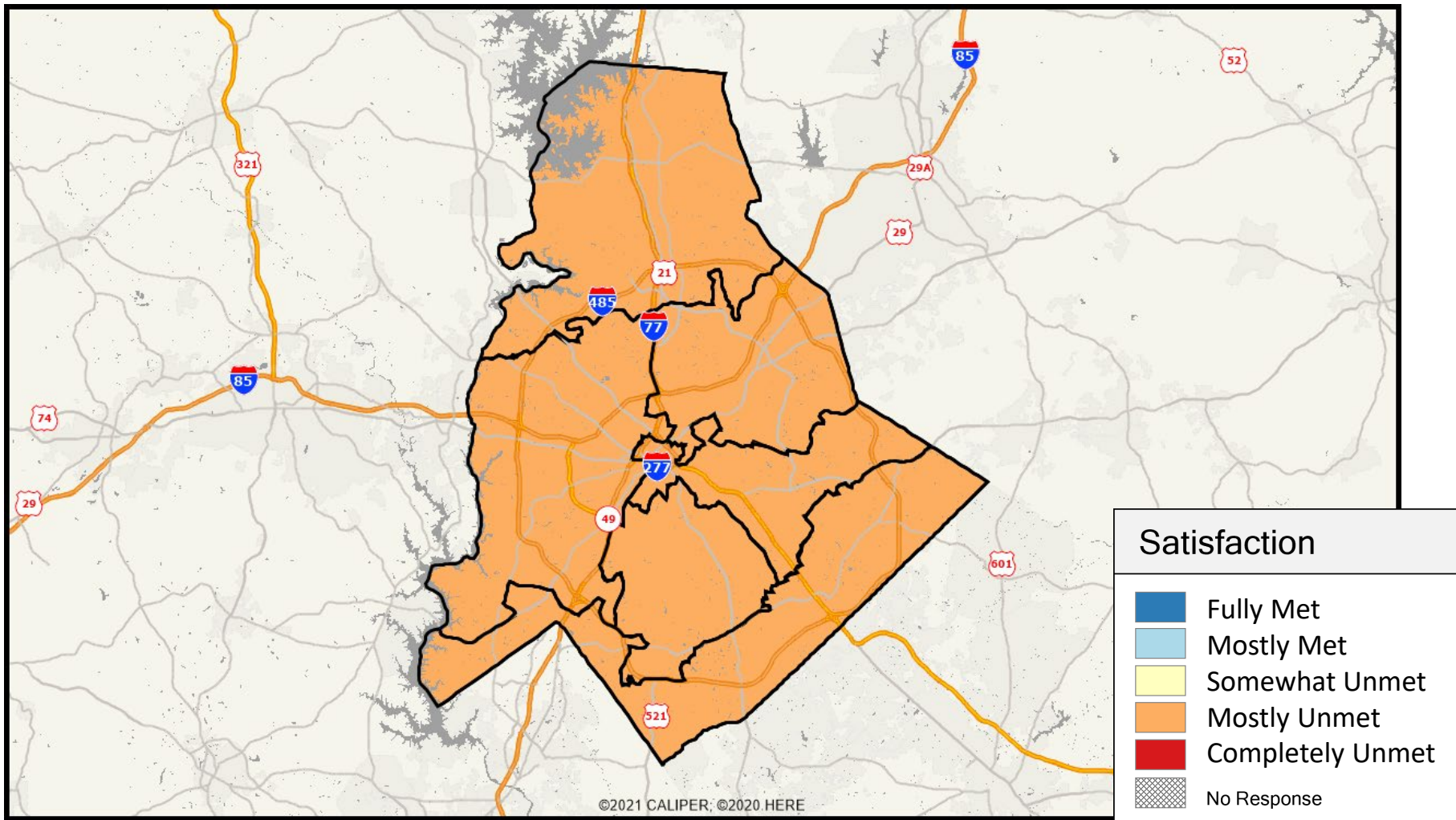
(excluding those who did NOT have a need)



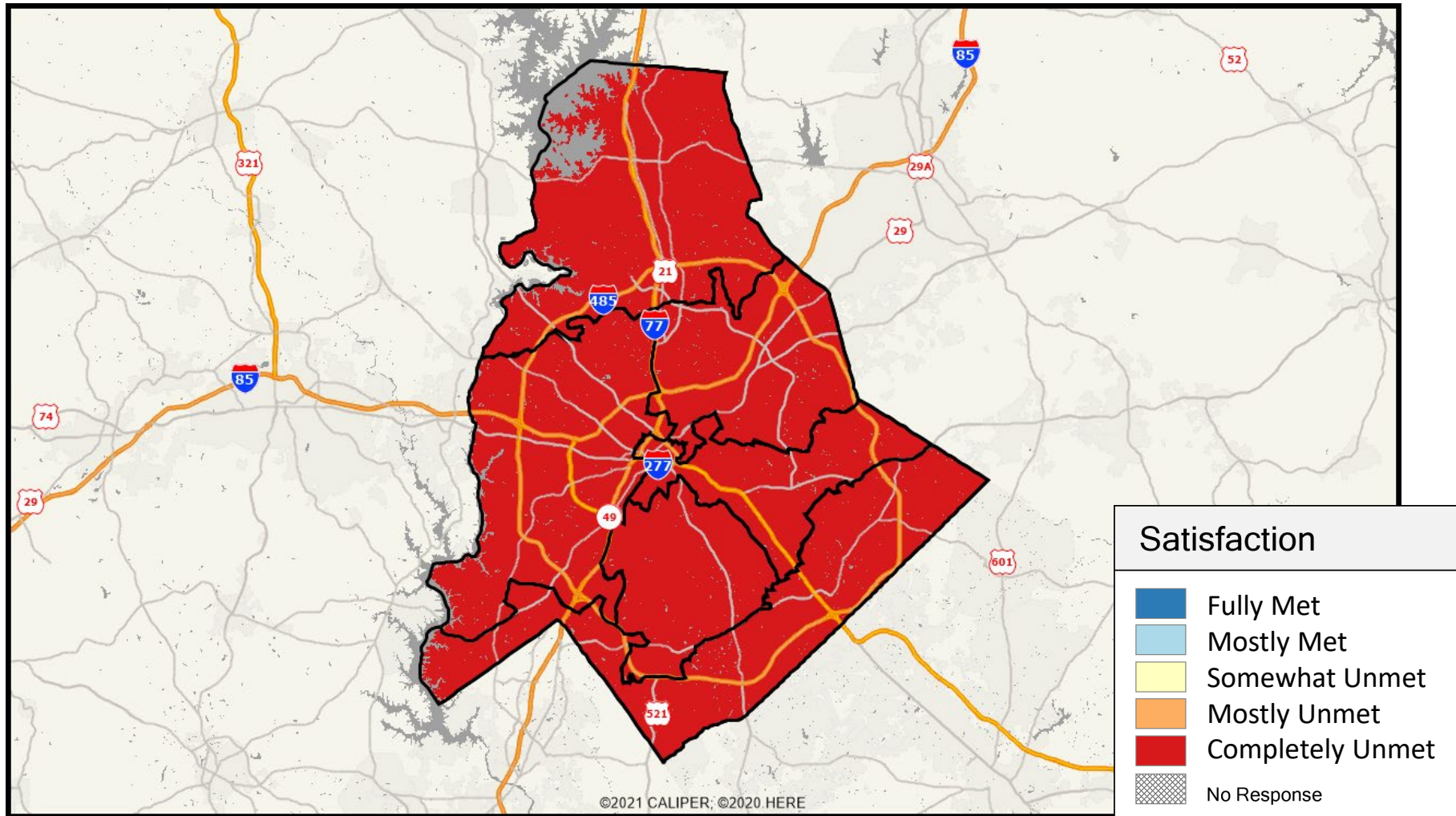
Q1-03. How well needs for services for senior adults age 60+
(includes services like adult day care, nutrition, transportation,
and in-home assistance) are being met
(excluding those who did NOT have a need)



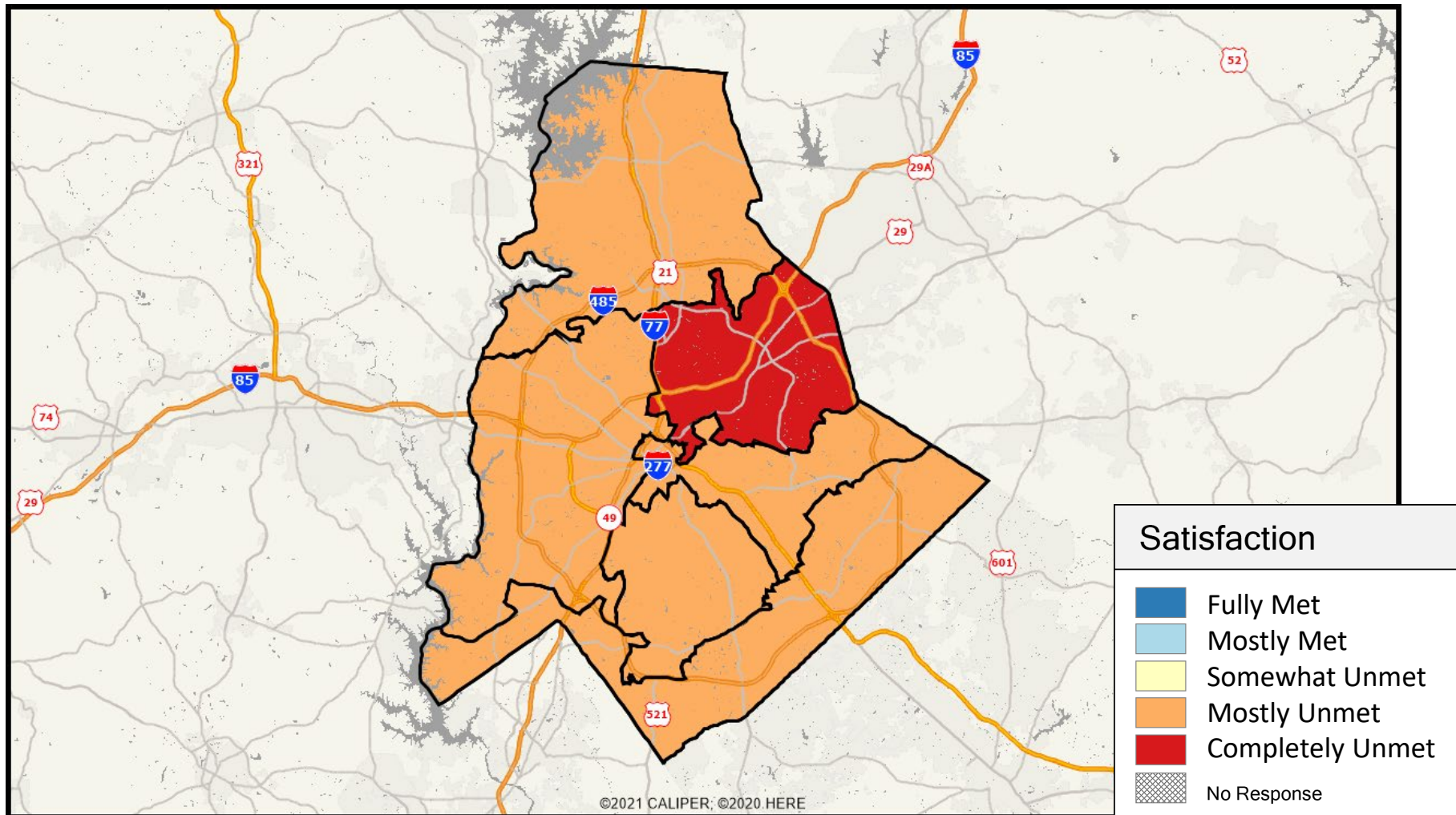
Q1-04. How well needs for programs/services that help residents get access to healthy food are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)



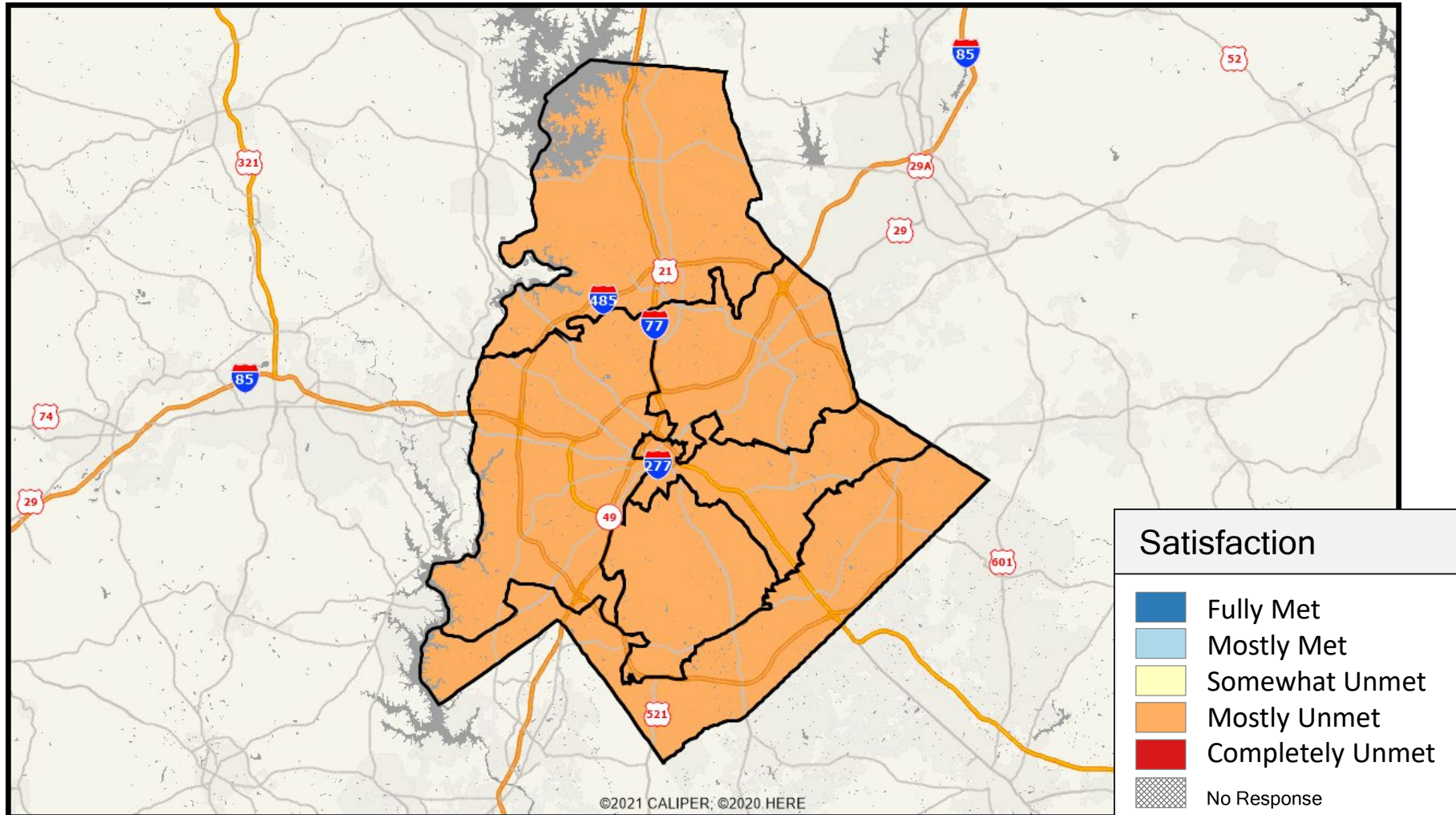
Q1-05. How well needs for Efforts by the County to improve access to affordable housing are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)



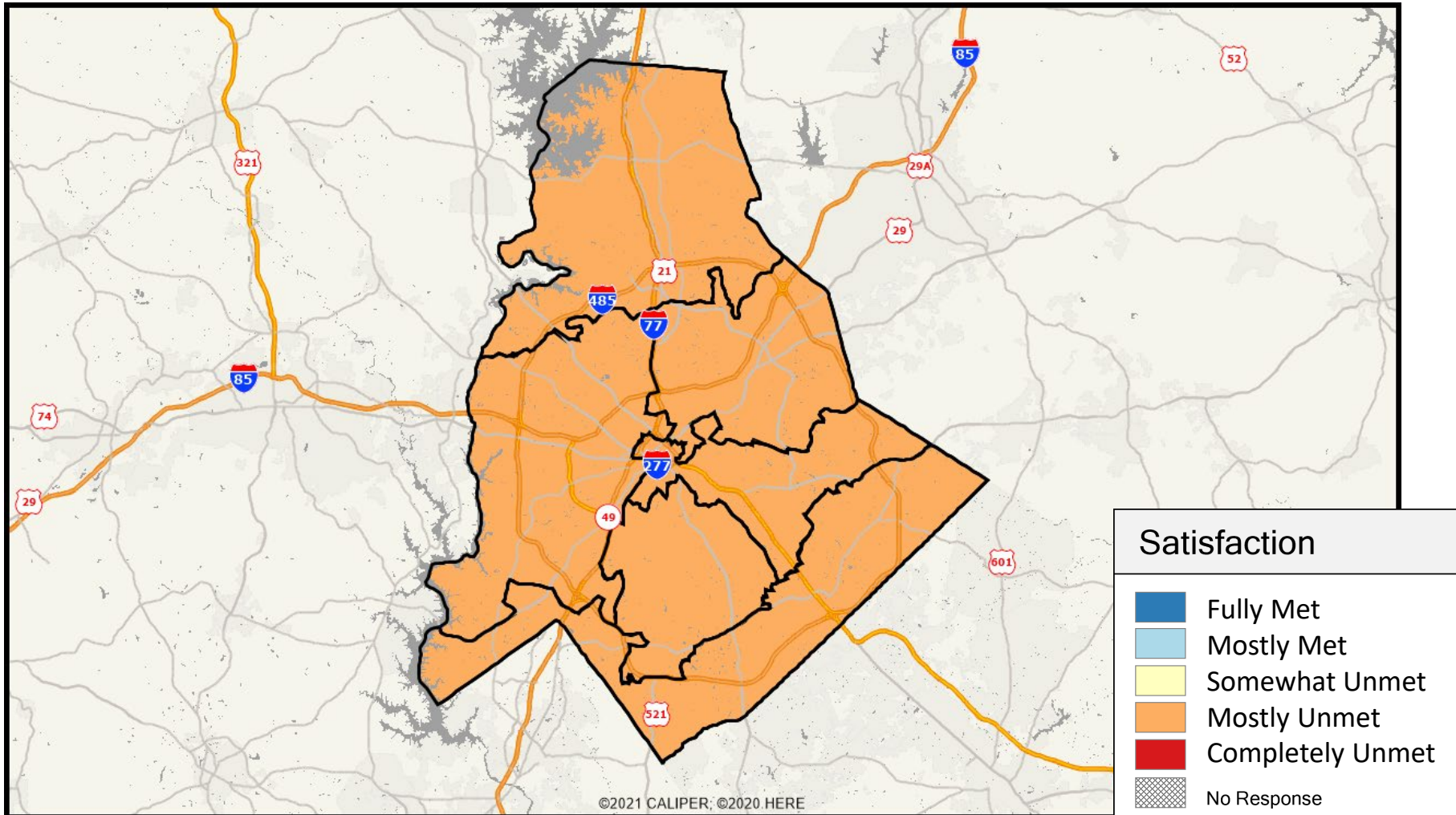
Q1-06. How well needs for behavioral health resources that help with the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental health, substance use disorders, life stressors/crises and stress-related physical symptoms are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)



Q1-07. How well needs for efforts by the County to improve access to healthcare are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)

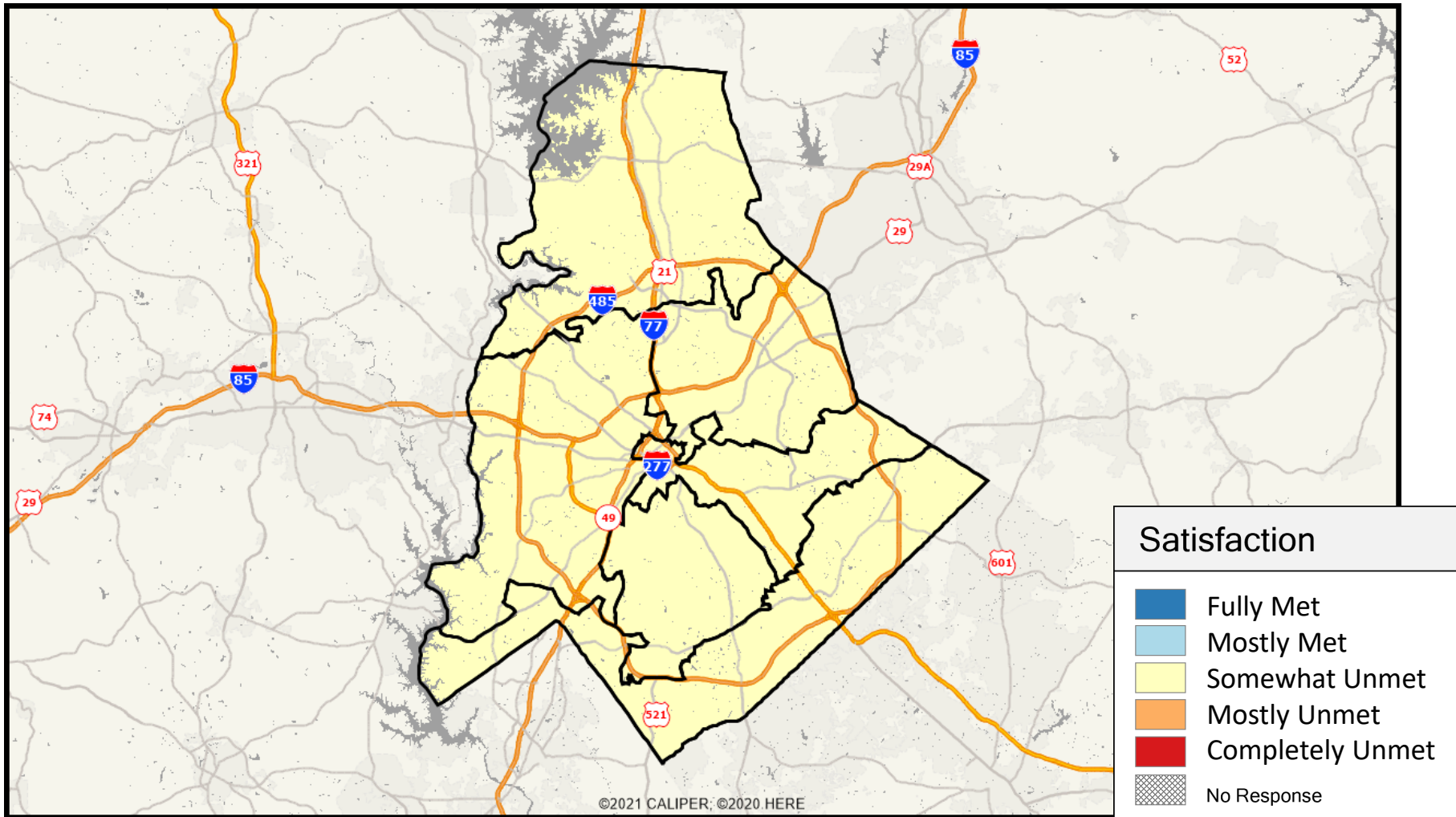


Q1-08. How well needs for workforce development services that provide training and support to help residents get jobs and/or enhance their careers are being met
(excluding those who did NOT have a need)

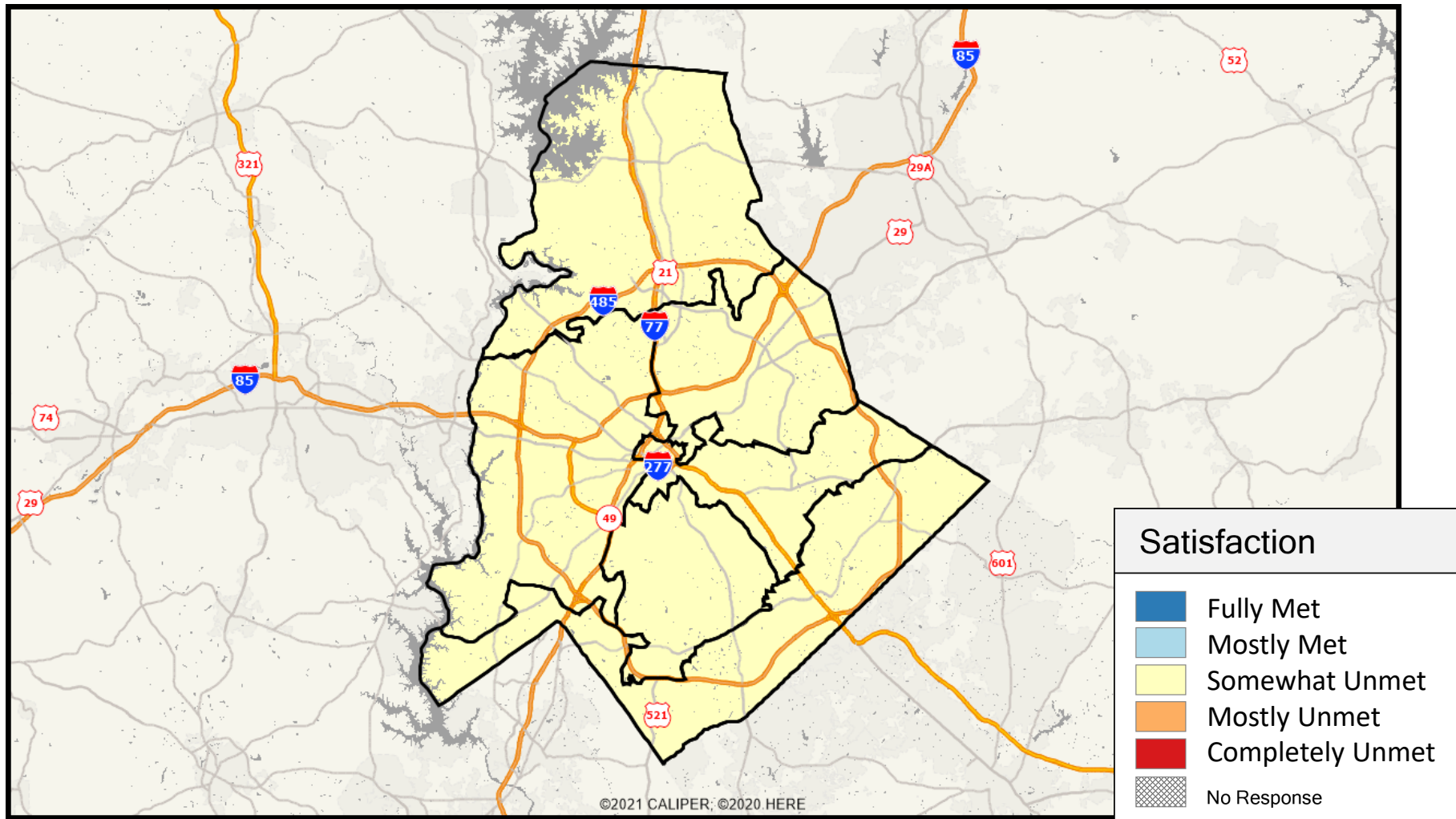


Q1-09. How well needs for maintenance of County parks are being met

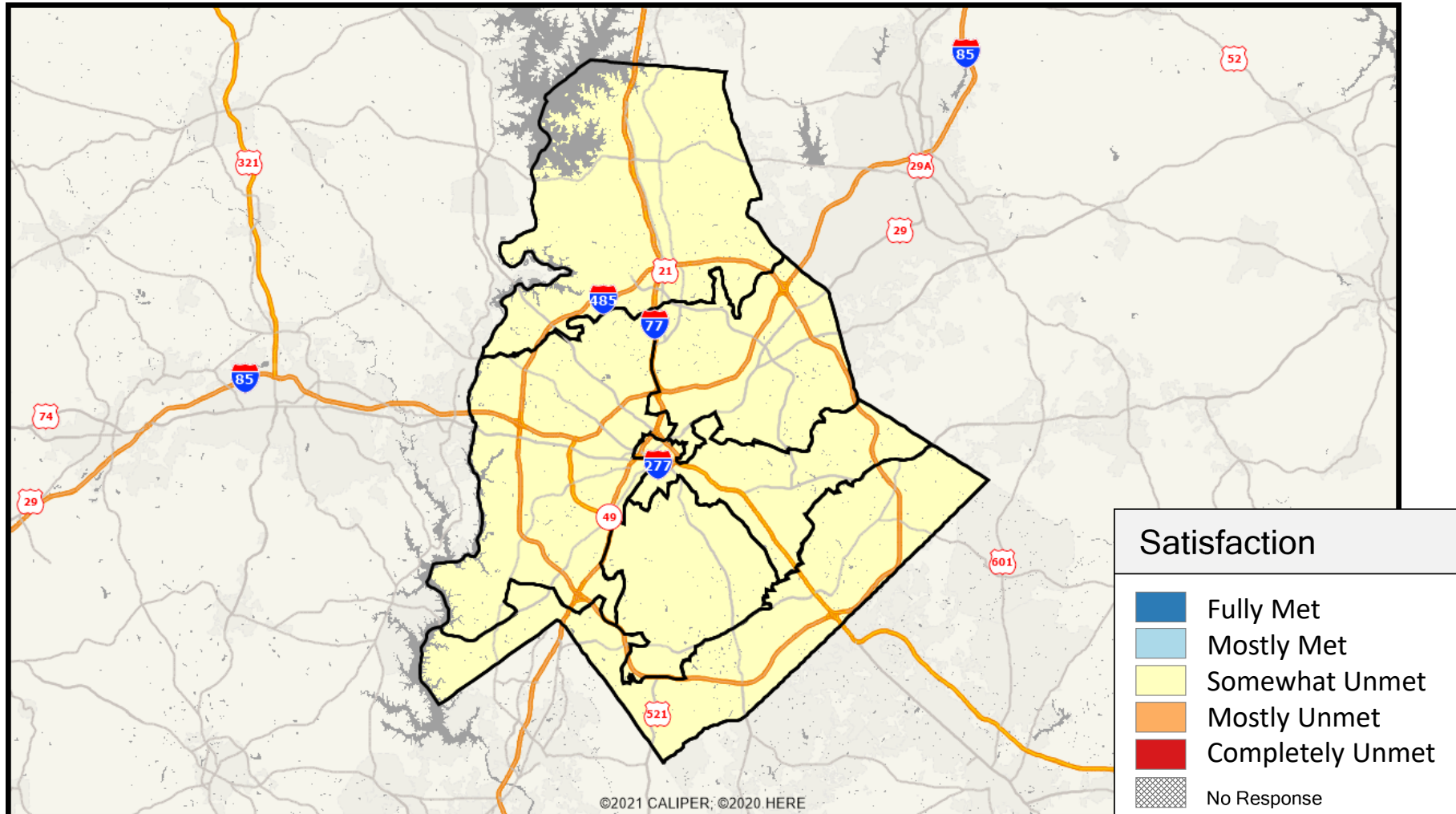
(excluding those who did NOT have a need)



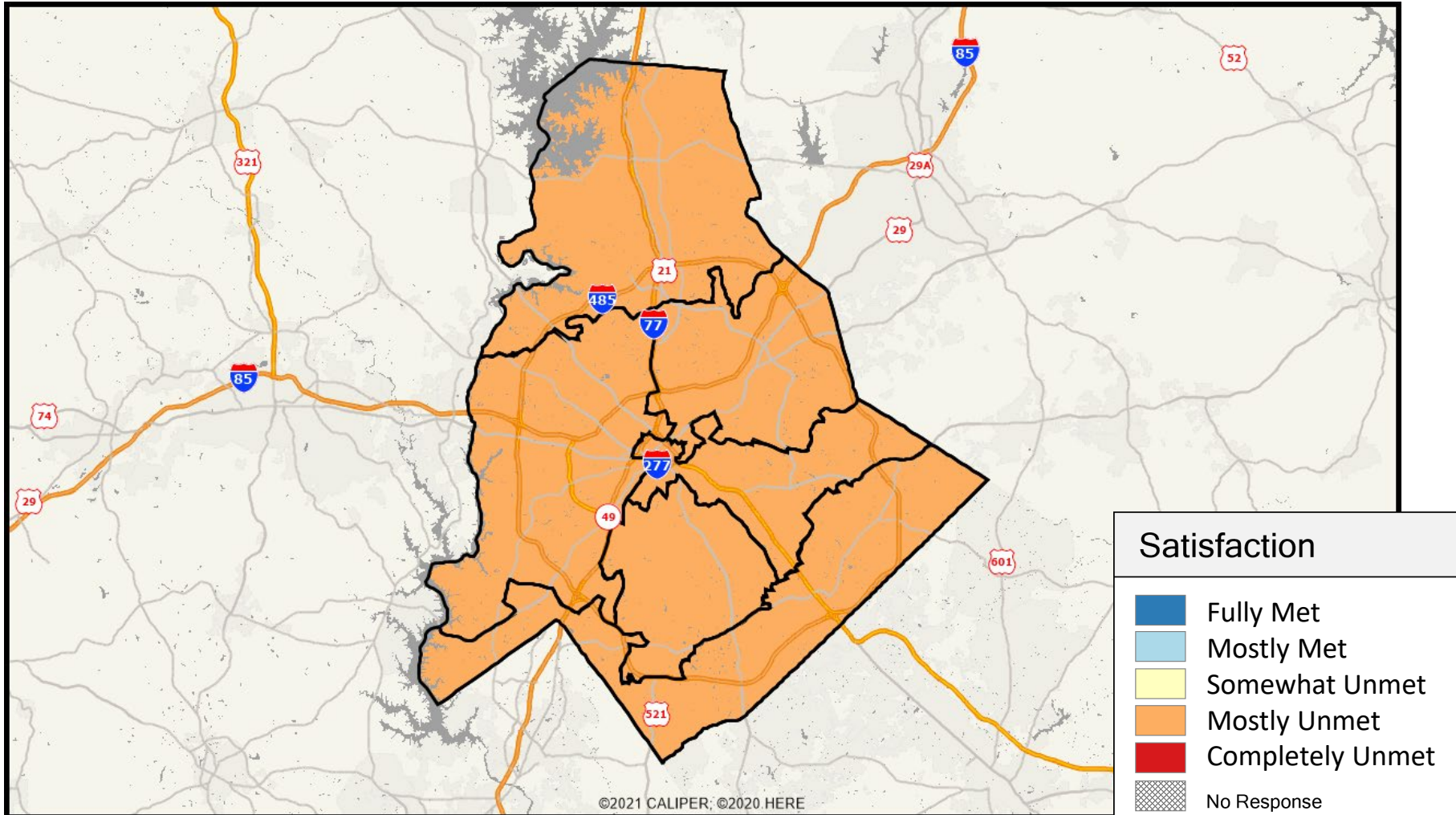
Q1-10. How well needs for the number of County parks and greenways are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)



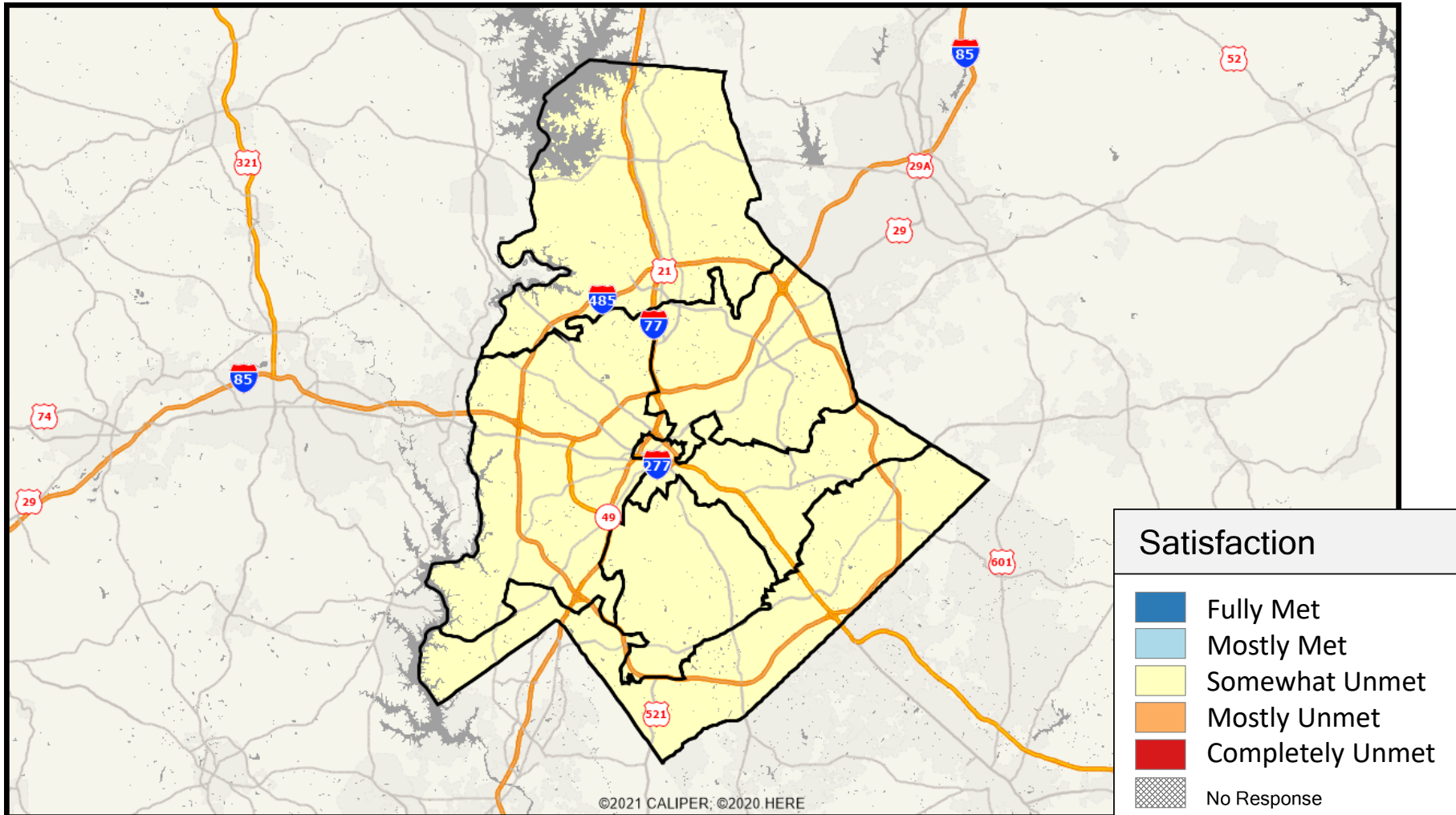
Q1-11. How well needs for the efforts by the County to acquire land for the development of parks, greenways, and open-space preservation are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)



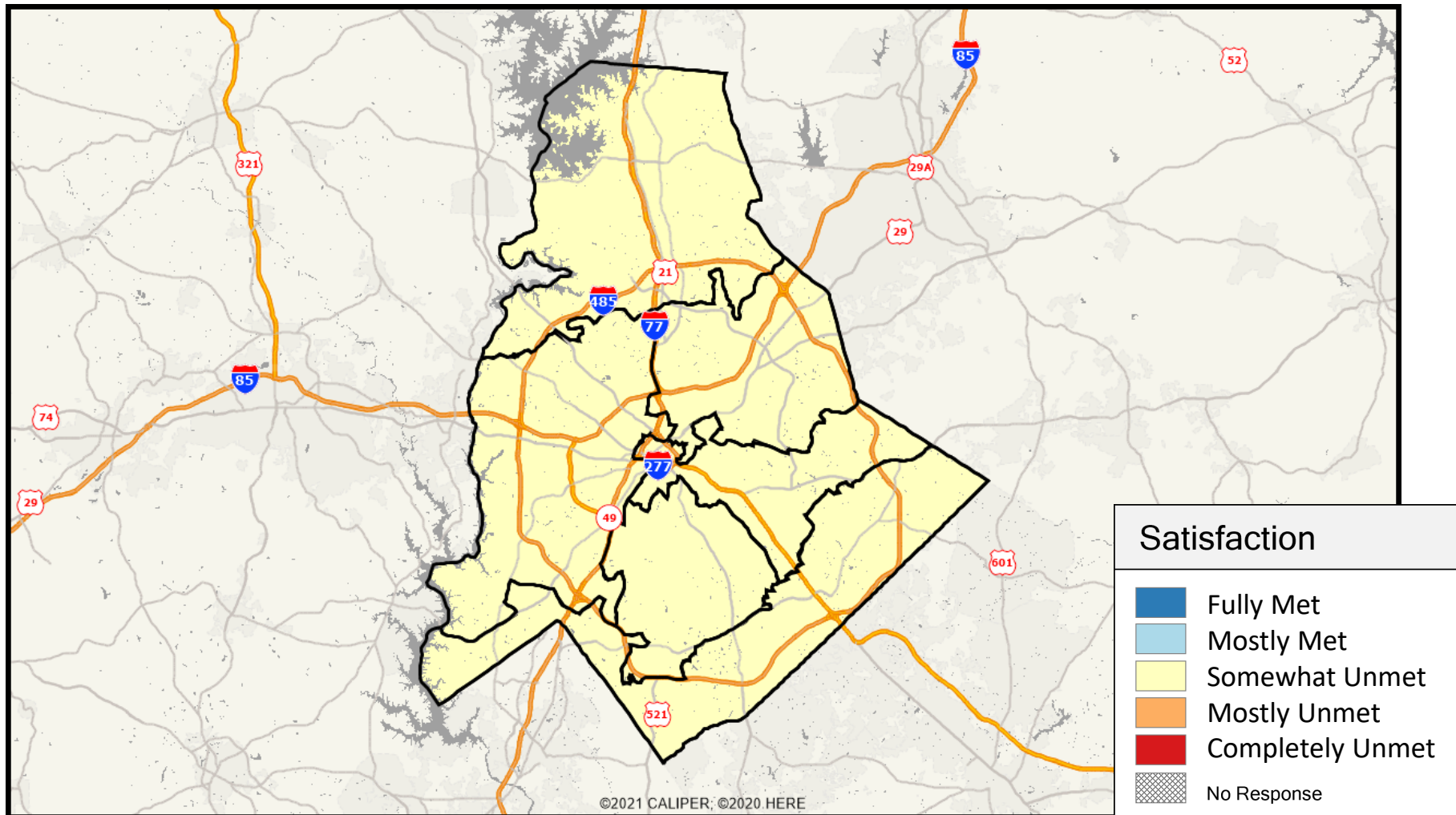
Q1-12. How well needs for library collections (books, e-books, audiobooks, periodicals, music, videos, etc.) are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)



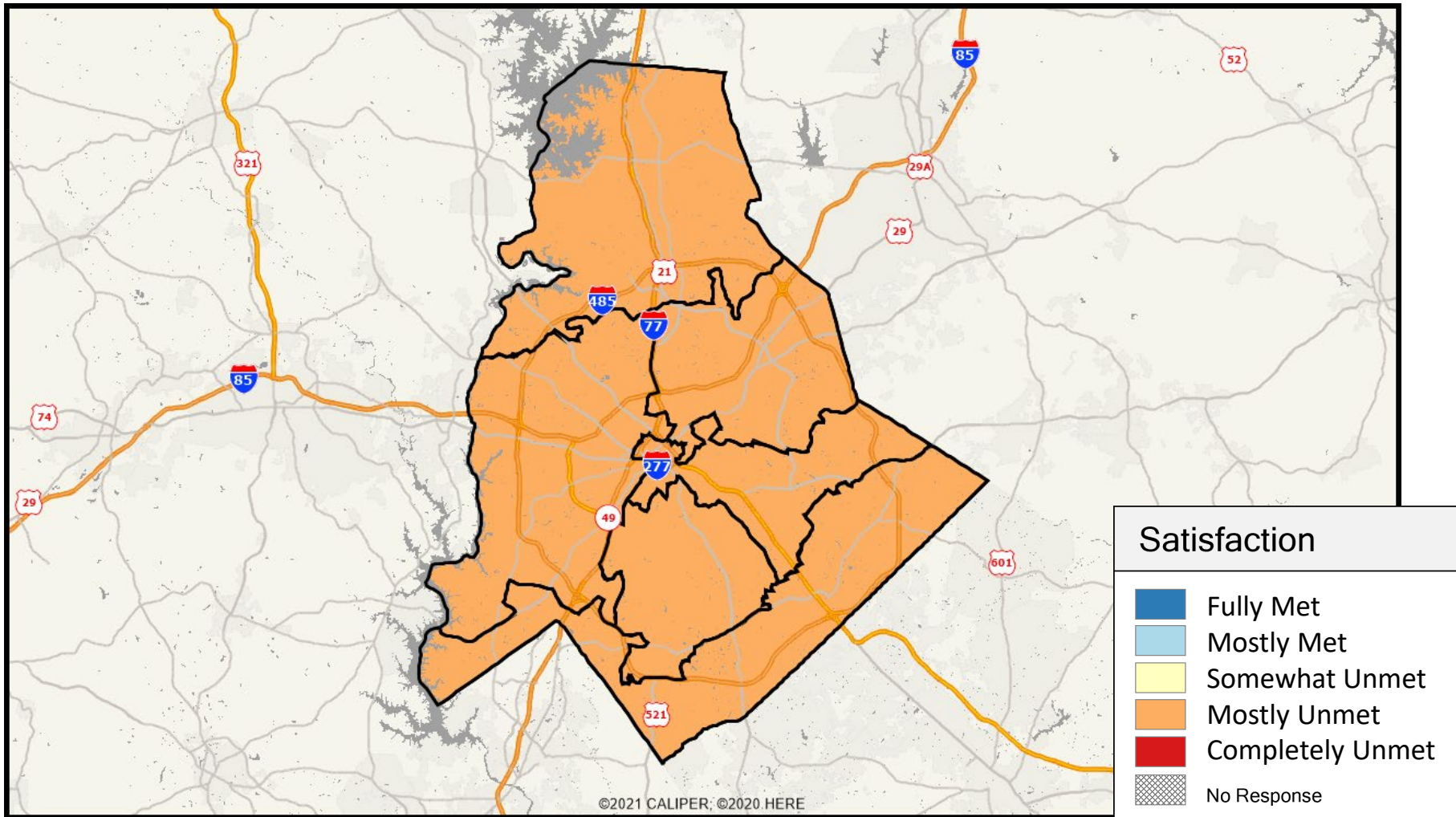
Q1-13. How well needs for library programs for children, teens, and/or adults are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)



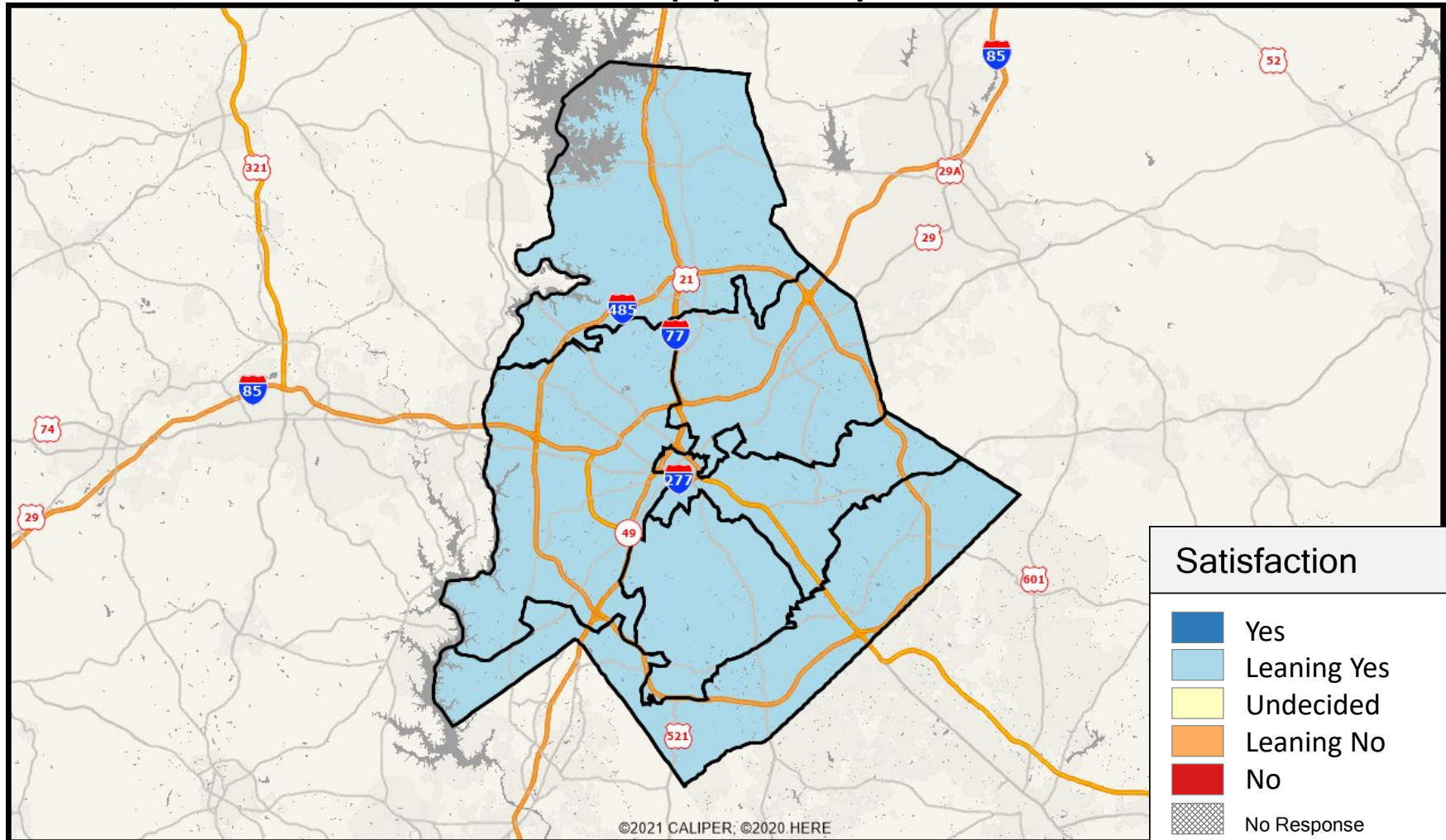
Q1-14. How well needs for safety and security at County facilities like libraries, recreation centers, and County offices are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)



Q1-15. How well needs for programs and services that help justice-involved residents after they have had interactions with the criminal justice system are being met (excluding those who did NOT have a need)



Q3. Would you be willing to pay a slight increase in taxes to help fund improvements in the services/program/facility you selected as your top priority in Question 2?





Tabular Data

Q1. Please indicate how your household's needs for the programs, services, and facilities listed below are being met.

(N=1941)

	Fully met	Mostly met	Partly met	Not met	No need
Q1-1. Child welfare services	3.4%	3.0%	4.9%	3.3%	85.3%
Q1-2. Subsidized childcare services	2.2%	3.1%	4.7%	6.5%	83.5%
Q1-3. Services for senior adults age 60+ (includes services like adult day care, nutrition, transportation, & in-home assistance)	3.2%	4.7%	8.6%	8.6%	74.9%
Q1-4. Programs/services that help residents get access to healthy food	4.5%	6.5%	11.5%	12.4%	65.0%
Q1-5. Efforts by County to improve access to affordable housing	3.2%	3.1%	9.1%	28.0%	56.6%
Q1-6. Behavioral health resources that help with prevention, diagnosis, & treatment of mental health, substance use disorders, life stressors/crises & stress-related physical symptoms	4.0%	5.1%	13.8%	19.9%	57.2%
Q1-7. Efforts by County to improve access to healthcare	5.0%	8.9%	17.9%	16.1%	52.0%
Q1-8. Workforce development services that provide training & support to help residents get jobs and/or enhance their careers	3.0%	7.3%	14.9%	13.3%	61.4%
Q1-9. Maintenance of County parks	17.4%	42.4%	23.6%	7.6%	9.0%
Q1-10. Number of County parks & greenways	19.9%	34.4%	25.8%	12.6%	7.4%
Q1-11. Efforts by County to acquire land for development of parks, greenways, & open- space preservation	12.2%	25.2%	30.8%	16.2%	15.7%
Q1-12. Library collections (books, eBooks, audiobooks, periodicals, music, videos, etc.)	23.6%	38.3%	21.1%	6.1%	10.9%
Q1-13. Library programs for children, teens, and/or adults	19.1%	30.4%	19.8%	5.5%	25.2%
Q1-14. Safety & security at County facilities like libraries, recreation centers, & County offices	26.4%	33.3%	19.3%	8.4%	12.5%
Q1-15. Programs & services that help justice- involved residents after they have had interactions with criminal justice system	3.3%	4.4%	12.8%	13.7%	65.8%

Q1. Please indicate how your household's needs for the programs, services, and facilities listed below are being met. Excluding those who did not have a need

(N=1941)

	Fully met	Mostly met	Partly met	Not met
Q1-1. Child welfare services	23.2%	20.4%	33.7%	22.8%
Q1-2. Subsidized childcare services	13.1%	18.8%	28.8%	39.4%
Q1-3. Services for senior adults age 60+ (includes services like adult day care, nutrition, transportation, & in-home assistance)	12.9%	18.9%	34.1%	34.1%
Q1-4. Programs/services that help residents get access to healthy food	13.0%	18.6%	33.0%	35.5%
Q1-5. Efforts by County to improve access to affordable housing	7.5%	7.1%	20.9%	64.5%
Q1-6. Behavioral health resources that help with prevention, diagnosis, & treatment of mental health, substance use disorders, life stressors/crises & stress-related physical symptoms	9.4%	11.9%	32.1%	46.6%
Q1-7. Efforts by County to improve access to healthcare	10.5%	18.6%	37.3%	33.6%
Q1-8. Workforce development services that provide training & support to help residents get jobs and/or enhance their careers	7.9%	19.0%	38.7%	34.4%
Q1-9. Maintenance of County parks	19.1%	46.6%	26.0%	8.3%
Q1-10. Number of County parks & greenways	21.5%	37.2%	27.8%	13.6%
Q1-11. Efforts by County to acquire land for development of parks, greenways, & open- space preservation	14.5%	29.9%	36.5%	19.2%
Q1-12. Library collections (books, eBooks, audiobooks, periodicals, music, videos, etc.)	26.5%	43.0%	23.7%	6.8%
Q1-13. Library programs for children, teens, and/or adults	25.5%	40.7%	26.4%	7.4%
Q1-14. Safety & security at County facilities like libraries, recreation centers, & County offices	30.2%	38.1%	22.1%	9.7%
Q1-15. Programs & services that help justice- involved residents after they have had interactions with criminal justice system	9.7%	12.8%	37.6%	40.0%

Q2. Which FOUR of the services/programs/facilities listed in Question 1 do you think should be the top priorities for funding in the County's FY 2025 Budget?

Q2. Top choice	Number	Percent
Child welfare services	193	9.9 %
Subsidized childcare services	140	7.2 %
Services for senior adults age 60+ (includes services like adult day care, nutrition, transportation, & in-home assistance)	128	6.6 %
Programs/services that help residents get access to healthy food	129	6.6 %
Efforts by County to improve access to affordable housing	529	27.3 %
Behavioral health resources that help with prevention, diagnosis, & treatment of mental health, substance use disorders, life stressors/crises & stress-related physical symptoms	193	9.9 %
Efforts by County to improve access to healthcare	42	2.2 %
Workforce development services that provide training & support to help residents get jobs and/or enhance their careers	58	3.0 %
Maintenance of County parks	66	3.4 %
Number of County parks & greenways	113	5.8 %
Efforts by County to acquire land for development of parks, greenways, & open-space preservation	78	4.0 %
Library collections (books, eBooks, audiobooks, periodicals, music, videos, etc.)	90	4.6 %
Library programs for children, teens, and/or adults	38	2.0 %
Safety & security at County facilities like libraries, recreation centers, & County offices	40	2.1 %
Programs & services that help justice-involved residents after they have had interactions with criminal justice system	59	3.0 %
None chosen	45	2.3 %
Total	1941	100.0 %

Q2. Which FOUR of the services/programs/facilities listed in Question 1 do you think should be the top priorities for funding in the County's FY 2025 Budget?

<u>Q2. 2nd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Child welfare services	110	5.7 %
Subsidized childcare services	147	7.6 %
Services for senior adults age 60+ (includes services like adult day care, nutrition, transportation, & in-home assistance)	138	7.1 %
Programs/services that help residents get access to healthy food	187	9.6 %
Efforts by County to improve access to affordable housing	258	13.3 %
Behavioral health resources that help with prevention, diagnosis, & treatment of mental health, substance use disorders, life stressors/crises & stress-related physical symptoms	248	12.8 %
Efforts by County to improve access to healthcare	128	6.6 %
Workforce development services that provide training & support to help residents get jobs and/or enhance their careers	105	5.4 %
Maintenance of County parks	83	4.3 %
Number of County parks & greenways	126	6.5 %
Efforts by County to acquire land for development of parks, greenways, & open-space preservation	93	4.8 %
Library collections (books, eBooks, audiobooks, periodicals, music, videos, etc.)	62	3.2 %
Library programs for children, teens, and/or adults	71	3.7 %
Safety & security at County facilities like libraries, recreation centers, & County offices	41	2.1 %
Programs & services that help justice-involved residents after they have had interactions with criminal justice system	70	3.6 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>3.8 %</u>
Total	1941	100.0 %

Q2. Which FOUR of the services/programs/facilities listed in Question 1 do you think should be the top priorities for funding in the County's FY 2025 Budget?

Q2. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Child welfare services	110	5.7 %
Subsidized childcare services	132	6.8 %
Services for senior adults age 60+ (includes services like adult day care, nutrition, transportation, & in-home assistance)	152	7.8 %
Programs/services that help residents get access to healthy food	159	8.2 %
Efforts by County to improve access to affordable housing	178	9.2 %
Behavioral health resources that help with prevention, diagnosis, & treatment of mental health, substance use disorders, life stressors/crises & stress-related physical symptoms	201	10.4 %
Efforts by County to improve access to healthcare	150	7.7 %
Workforce development services that provide training & support to help residents get jobs and/or enhance their careers	150	7.7 %
Maintenance of County parks	87	4.5 %
Number of County parks & greenways	88	4.5 %
Efforts by County to acquire land for development of parks, greenways, & open-space preservation	121	6.2 %
Library collections (books, eBooks, audiobooks, periodicals, music, videos, etc.)	99	5.1 %
Library programs for children, teens, and/or adults	65	3.3 %
Safety & security at County facilities like libraries, recreation centers, & County offices	61	3.1 %
Programs & services that help justice-involved residents after they have had interactions with criminal justice system	79	4.1 %
None chosen	109	5.6 %
Total	1941	100.0 %

Q2. Which FOUR of the services/programs/facilities listed in Question 1 do you think should be the top priorities for funding in the County's FY 2025 Budget?

<u>Q2. 4th choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Child welfare services	107	5.5 %
Subsidized childcare services	122	6.3 %
Services for senior adults age 60+ (includes services like adult day care, nutrition, transportation, & in-home assistance)	141	7.3 %
Programs/services that help residents get access to healthy food	169	8.7 %
Efforts by County to improve access to affordable housing	129	6.6 %
Behavioral health resources that help with prevention, diagnosis, & treatment of mental health, substance use disorders, life stressors/crises & stress-related physical symptoms	205	10.6 %
Efforts by County to improve access to healthcare	144	7.4 %
Workforce development services that provide training & support to help residents get jobs and/or enhance their careers	174	9.0 %
Maintenance of County parks	76	3.9 %
Number of County parks & greenways	60	3.1 %
Efforts by County to acquire land for development of parks, greenways, & open-space preservation	79	4.1 %
Library collections (books, eBooks, audiobooks, periodicals, music, videos, etc.)	88	4.5 %
Library programs for children, teens, and/or adults	90	4.6 %
Safety & security at County facilities like libraries, recreation centers, & County offices	83	4.3 %
Programs & services that help justice-involved residents after they have had interactions with criminal justice system	115	5.9 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>8.2 %</u>
Total	1941	100.0 %

SUM OF TOP 4 CHOICES

Q2. Which FOUR of the services/programs/facilities listed in Question 1 do you think should be the top priorities for funding in the County's FY 2025 Budget? (top 4)

<u>Q2. Top 4 choices</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Efforts by County to improve access to affordable housing	1094	56.4 %
Behavioral health resources that help with prevention, diagnosis, & treatment of mental health, substance use disorders, life stressors/crises & stress-related physical symptoms	847	43.6 %
Programs/services that help residents get access to healthy food	644	33.2 %
Services for senior adults age 60+ (includes services like adult day care, nutrition, transportation, & in-home assistance)	559	28.8 %
Subsidized childcare services	541	27.9 %
Child welfare services	520	26.8 %
Workforce development services that provide training & support to help residents get jobs and/or enhance their careers	487	25.1 %
Efforts by County to improve access to healthcare	464	23.9 %
Number of County parks & greenways	387	19.9 %
Efforts by County to acquire land for development of parks, greenways, & open-space preservation	371	19.1 %
Library collections (books, eBooks, audiobooks, periodicals, music, videos, etc.)	339	17.5 %
Programs & services that help justice-involved residents after they have had interactions with criminal justice system	323	16.6 %
Maintenance of County parks	312	16.1 %
Library programs for children, teens, and/or adults	264	13.6 %
Safety & security at County facilities like libraries, recreation centers, & County offices	225	11.6 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>2.3 %</u>
Total	7422	

Q3. Would you be willing to pay a slight increase in taxes to help fund improvements in the services/program/facility you selected as your top priority in Question 2?

Q3. Would you be willing to pay a slight increase in taxes	Number	Percent
Yes	1057	54.5 %
No	504	26.0 %
Don't know	380	19.6 %
Total	1941	100.0 %

Q4. See page 78 (Section 5: Open-Ended Comments)

Q5. See page 109 (Section 5: Open-Ended Comments)

Q6. What is your age?

Q6. Your age	Number	Percent
18-34	398	20.5 %
35-44	369	19.0 %
45-54	383	19.7 %
55-64	380	19.6 %
65+	395	20.4 %
Not provided	16	0.8 %
Total	1941	100.0 %

Q7. Please check the age groups that are represented in your household.

Q7. Age groups that are represented in your household	Number	Percent
Under 18	513	26.4 %
19-59 years	1392	71.7 %
60+ years	662	34.1 %
Total	2567	

Q8. Your gender:

Q8. Your gender	Number	Percent
Male	943	48.6 %
Female	970	50.0 %
Prefer to self-describe	10	0.5 %
Not provided	18	0.9 %
Total	1941	100.0 %

Q9. Do you own or rent your home in Mecklenburg County?

Q9. Do you own or rent your home in Mecklenburg County	Number	Percent
Own	1262	65.0 %
Rent	602	31.0 %
Not provided	77	4.0 %
Total	1941	100.0 %

Q10. Your household income:

Q10. Your household income	Number	Percent
Less than \$15K	104	5.4 %
\$15K to \$24,999	114	5.9 %
\$25K to \$34,999	141	7.3 %
\$35K to \$49,999	162	8.3 %
\$50K to \$74,999	244	12.6 %
\$75K to \$99,999	243	12.5 %
\$100K to \$149,999	222	11.4 %
\$150K+	388	20.0 %
Not provided	323	16.6 %
Total	1941	100.0 %

Q11. Your race/ethnicity:

Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Asian or Asian Indian	130	6.7 %
Black or African American	638	32.9 %
American Indian or Alaska Native	20	1.0 %
White or Caucasian Only	846	43.6 %
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	5	0.3 %
Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino/a/x	278	14.3 %
Other race/ethnicity	13	0.7 %
Not provided	11	0.6 %
Total	1941	100.0 %

A graphic for section 5. It features a dark blue horizontal bar. On the left side of the bar is a white circle containing a large, bold, dark blue number '5'. To the right of the circle, the text 'Open-Ended Comments' is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

5 Open-Ended Comments

Open-Ended Question Responses

Q4—"If you indicated that your household's needs were not being met for an item in Question 1, please list the item number and briefly describe why your need is not met. *[If your needs are not being met for more than one item, please address your concern about the item that is most important to you.]*"

- #06: I wasn't even aware that the county had facilities or resources (or capacity, for that matter) to help with the prevention & diagnosis of mental/behavioral health issues, especially stress-related ones. Beyond getting locked away in a straightjacket for the most extreme cases, I don't know what other resources are out there.
- #10 - I live in Mint Hill and have participated in past planning for a future county park close to my home - Ezell Farms. When is it coming? At the end of the planning sessions that included a decision on the park design, a timeframe was given but we are well past that. I believe the only county park in Mint Hill is Stevens Creek Nature Center. Given that our county taxes include parks, I find the availability of one county park in Mint Hill does not meet my needs.
- #11 - I would like to see work pursued to open the planned future greenway running alongside McAlpine Creek.
- #13-wish there were more programs for adults. #10-wish there were more open-space preservation instead of retail and home developments
- #3 services for seniors, it is hard to find information on what is available to seniors. Senior centers I have looked into are not very pleasant, clean and smelly.
- #3 was my not met Issue. I'm over 60 can't get into some to the programs I really wanted to access, I called the numbers I was given to contact the center the calls go unanswered & get a message to call back, this went on for several days I gave up trying.
- #4 and #5, I don't see a push for this or information.
- #5 - Our adult daughter has a full time job but lives with us because she can not find affordable housing.
- #5 - you can't find a decent safe place to live here for less than \$1,500 and no one can afford a \$400,000-\$500,000 home. I don't think I will ever be able to own a home and it's sad because my husband and I together make well over six figures.
- #5 & #6 are my top issues - not for me personally, but for a lot of people.
- #5 Housing & employment for special needs adults (e.g. autism)
- #5 There isn't affordable safe housing here. There's not enough jobs or wages to afford \$1300 in affordable rent in Mecklenburg County.
- #6 No beds available when needed.
- #8 dealing with retirement.
- #9 maintenance of county parks - on several occasions, equipment has been damaged and a danger to children for an extended period of time. It was externally difficult to call the county to find out who was responsible for reporting and managing reports. Then, there was no time frame for repairs. This needs to be fixed. A sign should be placed at each park to report damages and safety concerns, and the county should immediately repair the equipment.
- 04 - PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO OBTAIN HEALTHY FOOD - THE SERVICES NEED TO BE EXTENDED BY INCREASING THE LOW INCOME RANGE OR AT LEAST GRANTING TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE AT TIMES.

- #8 is what mostly applies to me. I've been unemployed since Oct. 2023 and mostly unemployed since the pandemic but have been actively applying for jobs every single day. I've barely gotten any interviews and I am a college-educated adult. I don't feel as though I know about or have access to any help in this matter (not regarding unemployment pay as I've already gotten that, back in 2020 after being laid off from my job of 15 years). I see that there are places to help veterans and people with disabilities but I don't fit into that category. I'm desperate to get back to working a good, full-time job, and despite there being thousands of jobs listed and despite applying for hundreds of them, I'm just not getting anywhere. I wish there was a program to help regular functioning adults get back to work or get help with career services. I've tried nc.gov but it just shows me everything I'm not a great match for and doesn't tell me what I need to do. I know my resume is in good shape so that's not the kind of service I require.
- (5) My concern is that people who live in Mecklenburg County and are renters are paying too much money because landlords are raising rent prices that are not reasonable for the properties that they are renting out. The more money you make the more of it is going to rent.
- 02 - Need more options in north city
- 04. Healthy and Whole food already cost more than their processed counter-parts. Reducing the sales tax on these products (like fresh fruits & vegetables, and lean meats) would make it more financially possible to gain access to healthy food.
- 04. Programs/services that help residents get access to healthy food- I don't think enough effort was put into helping residents get access to food stamps and other programs aimed to help with food insecurity. 05. Efforts by the County to improve access to affordable housing- I do not believe the county does enough with this.
- 08. Workforce development services that provide training and support to help residents get jobs and/or enhance their careers- More could be done in Mecklenburg County. "
- 04-we make too much to qualify.
- 05. Affordable housing continues to be a big need. New affordable housing should be in areas that are near transportation and near work places (and not concentrated in certain parts of the city).
- 05. affordable housing. It is very difficult for young adults (or any adult/family) to live comfortably in the current housing market in Mecklenburg County. I'm trying to figure out where do all the people work who can pay these rental and mortgage payments. Housing is supposed to be 30% of someone's income. We cannot pretend that is the case here. I have people in my family who have a difficult time living on their own without being house poor.
- 05. Efforts by the County to improve access to affordable housing. This need is not being met because the price of apartments/housing in Charlotte is comparatively high compared to the quality of the apartments/houses available for sale. In addition, the current construction trend in Charlotte is predominantly focused on apartment complexes, with very few houses being built. Notably, the housing developments are largely excluding the west side of the city. This area, in general, has not seen much improvement despite the significant potential for development and economic growth.
- 05/Where is the housing for Senior Citizens on a fixed income?
- 05-HARD TO GET INTO AFFORDABLE HOUSING BECAUSE OF THE WAITING LIST
- 10. Wish east side Mecklenburg got same attention as inner and west side when it comes to amenities.

- 05. From May 2016 to August 2017 I was homeless. The Salvation Army did not pay the security deposit and 6 months rent they promised to pay after I found an apartment. My rent is paid by my monthly Social Security benefits each month and I have no money left over to save. I am a 61-year-old senior with no money for retirement due to the outrageous amount I have to pay for rent and the Salvation Army's not following through with financial aid.
- 1. I am concerned about neglected children. Although I live in senior housing it appears that there are children living here that do not attend school. 3. and 4. More seniors are essentially homebound. It is important that services like food and healthcare come to the home. In particular, I would like to see income physical therapy. 5. At a time when Charlotte has gained notoriety for being in last place for mobility; it doesn't make sense that we are in the top ten most expensive rental market. Employees that provide valuable services can't live here. They are priced out of the market or homeless. 12. and 13. I am distressed that several library locations and too many of the Regional Libraries are not close to public transportation. They are not at light rail locations and do not have dedicated bus stops. Further, the facilities do not meet accessibility standards (especially for larger adults). Chairs and tables should be rated for adults at least 300 pounds. Chairs with arms and at least 19 inches from floor to seat should be prevalent at all locations. Finally the large print book collection should be increased. Our libraries must keep up with the technology but many of us are loyal to books. More classes with a technology focus could bridge this divide.
- 10, 11: The number and quality of parks in Mecklenburg is pitiful. Greenways, while nice, don't count as parks. Plus, developments near greenways (e.g., South Charlotte) are negatively impacting the "nature" experience of greenways. In other words, buffers should be kept or expanded around greenways.
- 10. It would be nice to have a splash park in the SouthPark area, there are none close by.
- 10. Mecklenburg county is way behind similar metropolitan areas when it comes to parks and greenways. There needs to be significantly greater interconnecting trails and walkways between parks.
- 10. Mecklenburg County obviously gives priority to cutting down more trees, razing wooded lots, and giving developers free reign to build more eyesores. How is it that our biggest city park green space near the city center is Freedom Park? How does a city this size not have a major city park that rivals those like Central Park or Golden Gate Park? The reason is we have not prioritized our natural resources and green spaces, which is oddly enough one of the main reasons people highlight when they move to Charlotte from another part of the country. I'm lucky enough to have Freedom Park just a mile away from my doorstep, but that isn't the case for so many people in the county who do not live close to a nice green space or park. Let's do better.
- 10. Paucity of opportunities and overcrowding of existing bike trails.
- 10. The number of greenways and parks is low for the size of the city. Great strides have been made on the little sugar creek greenway and some other areas, but progress is slower than molasses. 11. Same as above, progress is slow.
- 10. There's almost nothing on this side of town. We can't even get basic sidewalks in place. Or quick police responses
- 10. We need more parks throughout the county. Builders should be required to put additional money into park creation funding

- 10/11 I generally believe that there should be a park / greenway in the near vicinity of the house which is either walkable or bikeable to. We have a trail about 2 miles from our house that we can potentially go to but it is a smaller trail 0.5 miles and there is a section of road with heavy traffic / no sidewalk that needs to be crossed in order to get to this trail. I would like the ability to utilize greenways which are larger and where we can commute to using bikes / walk to. Currently if I need to utilize existing greenways, I need to load up bikes in my car. We have 4 people in the house so only 1 or 2 of us can go vs the entire family to use it as a recreational activity. It just makes it difficult.
- 10/11. I am new to Charlotte and the county (and the state) AND I live in Uptown where available open and green space is understandably limited. I would like to see more parks and programs that encourage residents of all ages to get out and take advantage of them. Kudos to the programs already offered and the staff that runs them and maintains the facilities. It can't be easy.
- 11- my community has limited access to adequately developed parks, limited connectivity to greenways in Mecklenburg County, urban areas lack sufficient green spaces.
- 11- stop building so many houses and retail area and focus on buying some of the land to keep Huntersville green!
- 11. There are large portions of the city that are miles away from anything resembling a park. Needing to get in a car to travel five miles for access to safe areas to walk or ride a bike is too much. Having to cross major highways to get to a park increases danger for pedestrians.
- 11. I feel there is too much high density development going on here and too much commercial zoning and development in our residential areas. I like Huntersville as a rural town and wish it to remain as such.
- 11. I'd like to see land management practices that consider natural ecosystem preservation more, not just recreational use. Specifically, managed woodland and prairie land spaces. 13. I'd like more language development classes (Spanish) and more kids programming on weekends / weeknights
- 11. We see a lot of development of new stores of goods and services but very little new recreation areas and green spaces which positively impact well-being.
- 12. I use the online apps for the library (Libby, Hoopla) a lot, but wish there were more current non-fiction books available.
- 12. We need a library in the Hoskins/Thomasboro area. 13. And programs at the library for community residents.
- 13. Library programs for Children, Teens, and Adults.
- Parents and Caregivers of young children ages (0-5) specifically, are always looking to the library for educational and fun programs. We currently take our two children (21months and 3 years old) to ""Story Time"" every day that is offered at our local library. Story Time is only offered Monday - Thursday. We would like the County to provide for Monday - Friday. To give perspective, the early hours of the day for children 0-5 are crucial for learning and maintaining developmental needs. We need these library program services. We need the programs to be offered every day during the work week (Monday - Friday). We need the library staff member who is running the program to enjoy working with young kids and enjoy enrichment activities.
- 13. Need more programs on weekends or evenings for working parents
- 13. Weekend children's programs at the library have not been reinstated after COVID

- 14. The vital records office on College St is unwelcoming, the parking lot and building grounds are very dirty with lots of random people around outside
- 15 - There have been several incidents of burglary and carjacking in my neighborhood, but it's very hard to get cops to investigate these. We need more security.
- 15 Crime is out of control.
- 15--WE NEED TO KEEP SOCIETY SAFE. I HAVE NOT BEEN FEELING COMFORTABLE WALKING IN NEIGHBORHOOD DURING NIGHT
- 2. Finding available and affordable childcare has been an ongoing for our family and many others. Both my children are on multiple waitlists with no solid start-dates and my oldest has been on multiple waitlists for coming up on 3 years. One will be starting CMS pre-K in August, which I'm thankful for, but it doesn't negate the childcare insecurity I have for my newborn when we return to work. We will be finding private childcare for them until they get into a preschool, which is unaffordable and unsustainable long-term for our family and will affect our household's quality of life.
- 2. I applied for childcare subsidy when my family moved to Charlotte in 2013. At the time I was applying for my 4 and 2 yr. old children. I was told that I qualified but there wasn't adequate funding and we were put on a waiting list. I reapplied every year and was consistently told the same thing. I had a third child in 2015, I applied for all three of my children and again was given the same answer. My family was never approved for CCRC and my children have all passed the age of qualifying. 5. The cost of housing has astronomically risen since 2019, while wages have slowly or not increased at all. It is very difficult to find affordable & safe housing in Charlotte unless you have an income of \$60,000 or more. When my family moved to Charlotte in 2013 we could afford any house we wanted to rent, however, now we are forced to live only in the house we can afford and with rent going up every year it is making it harder and harder to find a home suitable to raising children. Charlotte is forcing families to move to locations such as Kannapolis, Gastonia, or Rock Hill because housing opportunities aren't as scarce. People should be able to work full time and afford a comfortable home.
- 2. Subsidized child care ... I am the guardian of a child with special needs. There are no out of school time programs for him and provide the special care that he needs. Therefore, I can work to provide everything that we need.
- 3. I am not aware of any program that would assist me in the home as a 60+ person.
- 3. I am the full time caretaker for my two 91 year old parents, one of which has stage 6 Alzheimer's. I called the county to find out what services are offered for respite care, and it was so little, that it really wasn't worth the effort to apply for it
- 4 - surrounded by convenience stores with highly processed foods. Going to the grocery store requires a car. 5 - neighborhood often has many drifters and there is no outreach for long term solutions. Residents rely on non-profits for short term help. 7 - behavioral health is healthcare. Lack of free clinics or pop up units for basic care.
- 5. Access to affordable housing is something that has not been met in my household. I am struggling to become a homeowner even while being employed full time and having money for a down payment. Housing prices in Mecklenburg county are driving the Charlotte population to move out of state.
- 5: housing remains extremely expensive; continued development needed. 10/11: parks and greenways are lovely but more can be done to connect Charlotte-Mecklenburg communities

- 5. I have lived on a dead-end street in Mecklenburg County for 40 years. My area has enjoyed hundreds of natural acreage until recently. I have watched as you have approved more and more developments. The homes being built are between \$300,000 and \$500,000 in my area. Even the lowest priced homes are unaffordable to many county residents, myself included. Developers are buying up all the land they can find, including 1-3 acres, building as many houses as possible. Even my dead-end street is being opened up to traffic from a new housing development within the next year or so. So, when I hear the buzz phrase ""affordable housing"", I have 2 questions: (1) What does that even mean in today's inflationary market?, and (2) affordable for whom? The answer to the 2nd question will way heavily on the answer to the 1`st question.
- 5. I am a retiree, but have a good pension that I live on. I don't have savings, annuities, investments or any other means to rely on in case of a "rainy day." I've been renting for many years because I no longer desire home ownership at my age. However, I do want to downsize into a smaller rental home. But I'm scared to do so because a smaller home will most likely cost me more in rent than where I am now living. Also, I'm worried that if the owners of the home I currently rent should decide they want their home back - and that could be likely since EVERYONE is feeling the pinch of inflation for groceries, home maintenance and upkeep, residential taxes, etc., then I'd be screwed (excuse my French). I can foresee that I could be homeless.... and I'm feeling some hopelessness about it. I can only imagine what others that don't have the financial income as do I must feel.
- 5. I have adult children living with me that cannot afford to even rent an apartment (let alone purchase a home) because the cost is so high. 6. Once you become an adult, mental health services are unattainable. One of my adult children struggle with mental health issues and even if you go to the county for help, they charge you a co-pay even when you live below the poverty level and they have limited services. People with mental illness often need preventative services. 8. We all need better paying jobs. NC and the county could raise the minimum wage. I've seen cities raise minimum wage when their states refused to do so. NC and the county could also end the ""right to work"" law and eliminate employers using ""contractual jobs"" as with those we have to pay all the taxes and we cannot draw unemployment and employers can get rid of us for no reason. I was laid off of a job after working there for more than 10 years and because I was a contractual employee, I was not allowed to draw unemployment. 9. When you go to the ""food bank"" you get sent to a church or place where they give you a bunch of packaged food. You can get plenty of cookies but no eggs, butter, milk, lettuce, apples or broccoli. It is no wonder that poor people are fat when we can get an Oreo but not a carrot. Also, that is limited to people whose household incomes are a percentage of the poverty level. If you happen to make \$10 or \$20 a year more, if one of your adult children who is living with you and saving to try to get an apartment sends your income up too high, you can't even go to the pathetic food bank.
- 6. Family member had 2 Dui's...no help
- 9, 10, and 11. The increase in greenways throughout the city in recent years has been a very positive development. More remains to be done, and I hope the progress continues so the greenways become more interconnected while not detracting from the maintenance of existing parks and sports fields.
- 9. Albemarle Road Park near my neighborhood has no amenities to speak of and some wooded areas are full of poison ivy and very poorly maintained.

- 5. I think the county should put mechanisms in place to assist the elderly and retirees with the exponential increase in property taxes, help use remain safely in our homes. There should be a property tax waiver for seniors who live on fixed income and have been home in their homes 20 years or more trying to build some security, now we will be pushed out of our neighborhoods because we are being inundated with corporations buying up the properties and raising the rents and property taxes. I am all over the county every week, I see new apartments being built all the time all over the county. Why can't the county require that 10% of the units being built be set aside as income based units. Many other jurisdictions use this method around the country . That would have probably wiped out the number of units needed for the working poor.
- A few years ago, we had parents who got evicted from their apartment for not being able to pay rent. They applied for housing assistance, but the waiting list was so long that it may as well have not existed. We ended up having to purchase a townhome for them to live in, because there was no other option for them, and rents across the city were way too high for them to afford.
- Access to affordable housing, with all of the expansions and complexes being built families continue to struggle to find adequate accommodations. It may be due to not understanding how to approach the systems in place and being intimidated by lack of understanding. These suspicions are evidence by the constantly increasing numbers of homeless persons including youth, veterans, and the mentally ill.
- Access to greenways and park services are important as transportation options are generally limited for those who walk and do not drive. Having more access to greenways and spaces that are not exactly right next to the road but still help you get from one place to another are beneficial as they are less noisy and less crowded and less dangerous.
- Access to parks is not fairly spread out across the county. We need more parks and green spaces with safe ways to access them on foot or by biking. It astounds me that of the parks we do have, many are not safely accessible to people without a car, even if they live within the adjacent area. There should be walking and biking paths throughout ALL neighborhoods, OPEN to everybody, whether you live in the neighborhood or not, to access public green spaces. And for goodness sakes, connect the bike paths around the city. Beginning and ending abruptly with no safe connections for cyclists is just a waste of a bike lane. This county needs to prioritize moving people safely over moving traffic quickly.
- Access to SAFE public transportation for people with disabilities, including more light rail availability, or connections to light rail stops from affordable neighborhoods (not just wealthy ones). Accessible/safe walking paths connecting transportation that is not just for bikes.
- Access to transportation and elder services like senior centers in the Steele Creek area. Affordable fruit and veggies would be helpful such as a monthly box for elderly citizens
- Access to walkable, community activated parks is the top priority for me. Availability of affordable childcare is also very high in importance. Current wait lists for child care are over 2 years long.
- Admittedly, this is a national rather than local issue, but the cost of childcare is simply astronomical these days. All families would benefit from greater public support, such as subsidizing childcare and pre-K schooling.
- Affordable and accessible housing for Seniors. Houses without steps, showers for bathing and in locations where transportation is available
- Affordable housing

- Affordable housing - I'm living off a monthly SSA income of \$1,200. My monthly rent is \$1,400 and it goes up by \$100 every year. My total household expenses of \$2,000 leaves me one step of bring homeless. I'm having to rely on donations and help from others. It's been difficult finding work, I guess because of my age of 66, even with a Master's degree. Affordable housing needs to be priority to prevent and eradicate homelessness.
- Affordable housing and nutritional food. There Also needs to be help for home repairs.
- "Affordable housing cannot be renting! It has to be ownership!!!!
- Please convert buildings in uptown into condos, not apartments!!!"
- Affordable housing DOES NOT EXIST for the average resident due to increased cost of living and stagnant minimum wages. It's a MASSIVE ISSUE and should be considered a top priority.
- affordable housing for seniors
- Affordable housing has been a key factor of consideration when determine to sell and purchase new construction.
- Affordable housing is a huge concern. Not just for the unhoused but also for young people who are saving to buy their first home. We need fewer luxury apartments and perhaps more condominium options or neighborhood with "starter homes."
- Affordable housing is the most pressing issue in Charlotte. I was priced out of an apartment I lived in for 6 years. Companies are taking advantage of and wages are not increasing with the cost of living.
- Affordable housing, I live on a rent to rent basis. I haven't been able to save up for a car due to school, rent, and food expenses. I have been living 2 years without a car and almost 1 year with a broken phone unable to afford to save.
- Affordable housing, it does not exist here.
- Affordable housing. It's probably the market's fault but it seems like a lot of people are needing to work more than one job or have roommates to live in decent places nowadays. Ridiculous.
- Affordable housing. Right now, it takes 100% of my paycheck to pay rent for one bedroom. I use lifetime savings to pay for electricity, food, gas and everything.
- Affordable housing. While not impacted as much as others the cost of rent and housing in general has put a strain on my finances. I can pay, but have had to reduce in many other areas, one being food. I am able to but groceries, but I cannot afford to eat healthy with fresh fruits and vegetables due to the cost of those.
- Affordable housing: there are very few places in the county with space that have rented affordable to a lower income household. Additionally, the cut off income for assistance is so low that a household would have to be starving and homeless to qualify.
- AFFORDABLE HOUSING-THE WAIT LIST IS OVER THREE YEARS LONG; BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
- Affordable or free healthcare is a gap
- Afterschool programs should be readily available and accessible or at no cost for working families.
- All your services are trash. The employee who serve the people in need are rude and uninformative. Then act like your nothing them when you need help
- Animal welfare is sorely underfunded. Dogs are being euthanized due to lack of county resources.

- Areas around SouthPark, Myers Park, Dilworth need new street lights. Cleanliness lacking along sidewalks. A good trash pickup is needed along major roadways
- as a home owner I am appalled that no entity is policing rules 47F for HOA bully's. I am sickened by the number of single family homes owned by investors, some that don't even live in the USA... I am shocked that the state will allow someone receiving SEC 8 to buy a home and or have 80% of their rent paid, yet homeowners who did everything right, paid taxes and were upstanding citizens, now elderly and/or disabled have HUD liens on their homes. There is no assistance for us... what about US!!!!
- As a working middle class citizen making only 35,000 annually, I still struggle with providing healthy groceries for my family as well as finding affordable childcare so that I may increase my work hours. Unfortunately, the income restrictions for programs that support and address these needs make it impossible for me to qualify even though there is still a need.
- As Americans, we hear All the time about being 'the richest country in the world.' When I've been in Western Europe & some other countries it seems help for the elderly is much more readily available to their people.
- Audiobook selection is lacking many popular books
- Based on needs of students and families in at risk and poverty area of Charlotte.
- Because housing in general is expensive as is in North Carolina the law states no more than 2 people per room right so families with 3 people like single mothers with two children are forced to get a 2 bedroom apartment that now they are costing \$1,500 and above on top of that they have to pay for a 250 dollar energy bill if they rely on piedmont gas for heat it's another 200 dollar phone bill that ranges 45- 150 WiFi services that escalate pricing every year gas prices increasing by the minute so if her tank used to get filled with 15 now she's filling her gas tank with \$40 has to make sure her kids look good because the father doesn't help so with whatever it's left she buys a pair of jeans shirts for her children yet she may or may not have a job and if she does the most that she is earning is minimum wage. Which now could be 15\$ an hour you don't know that. All she knows is that a month she needs about 6,000 and all she gets a month from her job is 4,000 she will forever be short on money. If housing food and gas prices were cheap she wouldn't mind going to therapy and have a solution for her financial trauma but because everything is elevating just so the CEOs of company could have a living you forget about the people. The governments focus should be on us not making themselves rich.
- Because we're responsible parents and have this notion of 'personal responsibility.
- Behavioral Mental issues are now being recognized more than before, and it is critical especially for young adults because of how much negativity and fear is spread that later on produces these imbalances in their day to day life.
- Behavioral health and healthcare costs need to be lowered to be affordable by all residents
- Being a senior in Charlotte and working does not allow me to afford to live on my own. There is not enough Affordable Housing for Seniors. The housing that is available is not for low-income Seniors that make under \$60,000 a year. Seniors should be able to live in neighborhoods that are safe and putting low-income housing in areas that are not Senior safe is not a helping.
- Berryhill Forest Preserve needs to be cleaned up and have illegal and prohibited activity discouraged. It is becoming a nuisance and a safety issue for our community. There is regular target shooting, ATV and UTV usage throughout, camping with campfires in unregulated areas, and no oversight of the property.

- Child subsidies- I'm a foster parent and we need help with this child care and situations
- Childcare is outrageous - it's the same cost as a mortgage and finding quality, consistent, and caring childcare is even harder! It seems like a perfectly aligned, high need, worthwhile tax expenditure to invest in county-operated or county-supported (subsidized) child care facilities across the county. It's particularly important that the subsidies come with some price controls and are mandated (not opt-in). While this may sound harsh, the reality is without a full implementation then the divide between the haves and have-nots will grow tenfold.
- Completely finish the greenway would be a priority number one for our household
- Computer and technology literacy
- cost of housing is way too high, often exceeds 1/2 of families monthly income
- Cost of livings
- County park playground equipment can be updated.
- Create more partnerships with private sector to expand community needs for deficits and help CMS meet academic needs of community and track.
- Disable parent and because of her limited income limit she disqualifies for a number of medical service. Medical transportation is the worse. I work for the county as a regular part time. Medical coverage isn't offered and don't qualify due to my income which isn't much. Childcare services would be helpful. As a county resident and employee I can not afford for my child to attend our great camps at our local recreation center.
- doing a good job at increasing county parks and greenways, still in progress
- EBT program is very hard to get into and people are denied leaving families and children in tough positions when choices are made to make career changes to fit family current needs or other reasons (aside from being fired). What options are there to help support in this transition to ensure families and children are not hungry and going without basic needs met? Justice system is a run around with the entire process and if you are not educated on the laws and practices you can easily get mixed up and not get answers. The processes seem over complicated rather than simplified and more streamlined to help.
- Educational/career training... need to offer more up to date info and training on modern programs - starting a small business, ChatGPT, LinkedIn, how to use social media for business. All very relevant in today's biz world. Also - our county NEEDS more mental health services, especially for kids, teens and families. Having info at the library of where/who people can contact when needed and offering programs to teach coping skills, stress relief, family nights out, etc. are just a few ideas.
- Efforts by the County to improve access to affordable housing. The reason this is not being met is because for myself to work everyday as a contributing citizen and the only place I can barely afford is a two bedroom on Shoot em up West Blvd for a three people. The affordable housing is located in the most violent areas of Charlotte. There are not places that are affordable outside these areas. This leads to depression because my family and I are too scared to walk to the store less than two minutes away on foot because of the fear of my caught in gun fire. We need more places that are in safer neighborhoods that are income restricted to individuals that make too much to receive assistance but not enough to save towards home ownership.
- El precio de la comida
- Environment, sustainability, and climate change solutions are a top priority: taking measures to reduce pollution, offer composting services, and improve the environment county-wide. Should

be considered as part of the permitting process and possibly incentives or grants for local governments and nonprofits.

- It is worrying to see how many green areas are being deforested, leaving the few animals that live there homeless and causing them to die from being run over, they are letting companies build wherever they want and that seems wrong to me.
- I am satisfied with the service and above all I ask that you continue like this
- Even though I had a gig job that doesn't pay much but I work many hours 8-10 hrs., 6 days a week, I was removed from SNAP for not meeting Able Body work requirements
- Even though I have what I need in life I want to live in a place that supports all in need and I am willing to pay more taxes for that. Thus... in every category there is room for improvement.
- Every single piece of land that has any trees/green space in South Charlotte is currently being rezoned as high density housing. Efforts should be made to KEEP our green spaces, not develop every inch of land for expensive/cheaply built housing.
- Everyday in the region hundreds of mature trees are cut down and wildlife habitat is destroyed.
- Following through and starting with a plan is key and it has not been done more solution instead of ack Acknowledging the problem
- Food and nutrition assistance should be revised to assist families my size with my income better.
- Food Lion is horrible, yet a convenience store every 100 yards.
- For any question which I answered "no need" it is because the topic does not relate to me personally, not because I do not think there is a need for others - I just cannot speak to it, since I do not experience it.
- For item number 8, if there are plenty of good programs for developing the workforce and training, I would say there needs to be a bigger effort to advertise this. Of course people should be looking on their own, but too often do people not take advantage of opportunities allowed to them due to simply not having any idea they exist. Advertising online, emails, signs in public areas, and maybe even direct suggestions given by county employees during their work interactions with county residents to look into a workforce development program that is available. This last suggestion would feel something like when a fast food employee asks if you've tried their new item, but in this case for example maybe the librarian that just helped you check out a book could ask if you've heard of a certain program by the county for workforce development or training. LinkedIn Learning offered through the library is a much appreciated perk, hopefully enough people know about it.
- For the 2 items I listed as Not Met, it may just be ignorance on my part. For security at city-county facilities ... my sense is that what we currently have is not enough. I do understand that defining what IS enough without being wasteful is not easy. I definitely feel that in the case of justice in our legal system, justice is rarely what we receive. Some have said that we do not have a justice system in our country; we have a legal system. Wish I could be more helpful in my response.
- Greenways are too small.
- Greenways are limited & short
- Health coverage could be better or health insurance could be partially subsidized more.
- Healthcare
- Help with taking down property taxes they are too expensive
- Hold taxes flat. Lowering taxes is far more important to me than further service enhancements

- Homeless drug addiction is rampant and spiking. Greenways need completion to be useful.
- Homelessness and crime along i85/sugar creek/North tryon
- Homelessness is a major issues as a result of inability to find affordable housing unless you can find a suitable roommate (hopefully not a stranger) and low wages. Rising behavioral health issues including depression, anxiety, and addiction are attributing to the complex issue as well. Especially with a lack of resources if you find yourself in an episode. I also find that living paycheck to paycheck, and stressing about my ability to make rent each month brings me to the brink of a breakdown or worse. Each month. Community resources such as those found at the public library help to alleviate this stress.
- Homelessness, food scarcity, access to preventative healthcare, and access to affordable childcare remain issues for the underserved in this community
- household does not have that need.
- Housing is a problem for many of Charlotte/Mecklenburg citizens... affordable housing that is- many people can not pay the rising costs of rentals , nor can they afford to purchase homes in the area. Even the new housing being built is way beyond their means. When your rent is 80% of your income, it becomes a problem of whether to eat or pay your utilities- or maybe do without medicine- take your pick.
- Housing is incredibly expensive in this city. I'm making do just fine, but I'm a single person earning \$80,000 annually. I have no idea how people making less than me (and that's a lot of people) can afford to live here. From the economic news lately, it looks like rents are going down, which is fortunate to see, but they need to keep moving that direction. As the city grows, that downward pressure on rents is critical to maintain.
- Housing solution for residential challenged individuals who are living outdoors in central Charlotte.
- I am a foster parent. My foster child's social worker is so overloaded with cases. More social workers need to be hired.
- I am a recent Ph.D. graduate from UNC Charlotte. I am in the weird spot where, I do not make enough to rent in the safe Dilworth neighborhoods if prices increase this lease... but, I make more than that would allow me to have subsidized housing. So, I either overpay and live outside of my means of \$52k/year, or I move somewhere unsafe.
- I am a senior looking for affordable housing and I have been on waitlists for years
- I am at the shelter and been waiting for an apartment, they ran out of funds.
- I am fortunate that I don't need many social services at this point in my life (50's). I do foresee needs as I get older. The library is crucial. It broke my heart that they stayed closed during Covid. My husband and I work in healthcare and of course had to go to work. My young adult daughter worked at Trader Joe's - never had a day off. The state liquor stores never had a day off. What a missed opportunity for libraries to prove their worth to the community. Limited access would have been understandable but closed for years- serious BS. The message was libraries are not important - untrue when they were MORE important than ever. And, I am upset that libraries (like the hospitals I work in) are morphing into social service organizations for people in distress. Yes, we need these services - but they should be run by organizations with the training and resources . Please let the libraries just do their job
- I am not aware of County services to assist seniors with in-home care. I would definitely like to know more of what's available.

- I am unaware of what is being done to help those who are returning to society after being incarcerated. Those programs are not advertised or widely shared.
- I am very fortunate not to need the safety net items directly, but I can see throughout the community the crying need to address complex issues of homelessness and workforce development. I would love to see our community continue to grow and blossom with more parks and greenways, and to have Even better library selections.
- I answered ""not met"" for question #5 and it wasn't for me personally but in my work with dealing with affordable housing. It is a huge concern for working residents who just don't make enough to pay market rents. Many don't have the credit, background, or make twice the rent to qualify for a market apartments. Also, I answered ""don't know"" to the question on if I'd be willing to pay a slight increase in taxes to help fund. That would depend on what ""slight"" equated to. I have been a home owner in Mecklenburg County for about 7 years now and in the last to reevaluations, I've seen a very significant raise in taxes and to be asked to pay even more may not be feasible for me as a single person with one income.
- I benefit greatly from the Meck pre-K program, however after care was not guaranteed and the school closes at 2:30 PM. I also wish the county could expand aftercare programs in parks and recreation facilities. I see that Eastway regional has an after care program for Won elementary school. There's no aftercare program offered for my elementary school.
- I chose not met or partly not met from a community perspective. I would like to see more extensive resources for everyone in the area and being part of that community I feel like as a community we're not fully meeting The needs.
- I cited maintenance of county parks, since that was the closest I could get on the issue of bike lane maintenance in Char-Meck. Bike lanes are safe so long as there is a modicum of maintenance for them, but we haven't done this and I feel it every day as a regular bicyclist. People are hurt every day due to debris/glass/rocks, etc./ left in the bike lanes, often for weeks at a time.
- I continue to hear reports of crime on the greenway. I have limited my visits there due to this and hope we can get more patrolling to curb this issue.
- I didn't indicate that any needs were fully unmet, but for the ones that I indicated as partially met, I would like for my bike/pedestrian transportation options to be improved by expansion of the greenway system. To me, this is the safest way to get across moderate distances in Charlotte while using a bicycle. Most of the road-based routes do not feel safe enough.
- I do not have a need but do feel the county should support others needs in this area.
- I don't find the emphasis on "affordable" housing to be as important as encouraging more housing and flexibility for developers to build denser housing. Please don't waste money subsidizing single family homes.
- I don't have a need for services for children
- I don't have kids yet.
- I don't have a need for affordable housing, but I can see the cost of living in Charlotte steadily increasing. The apartment complexes being built do not appeal to low-income residents and seniors. Where is a list of affordable housing if I want to refer someone? How is "affordable" defined?
- I don't have any needs that are not being met. I am looking at the news and responding to the mess that is out there.

- I feel like housing costs continue rising exponentially, and I am not even someone who does not have at least moderate financial means. I also believe we need better mental health resources, as there are still limited resources and funding options. Finally, I feel less and less safe in public spaces due to violence I witness in my neighborhood (West Charlotte).
- I feel that the services offered are not spread out to all areas of Meck. If you are interested as a senior you can not get there because of transportation. Even nominal amounts of money to participate in an activity is too much
- I feel that there is a lack of green space in Charlotte and would love to see small parks here and there throughout uptown, plaza, south end, etc. More greenways would also be fantastic to provide safe running and biking trails.
- I greatly appreciate what the County has done for parks and greenways - but there is a great need for connectivity that is safe. Increased coordination with the City of Charlotte so that bike trails connecting to greenways have pedestrian/cyclist triggered stop lights at key crossings (e.g., Sharon Amity & Emory, Rama & Brace) which would make continuous use easier and safer. Also - there are no crosswalks at the MEDIC building on Wilkinson Blvd - seems counter intuitive.
- I have a full time job and provide for my child yet daycare is so substantive that it almost keeps you from affording other basic necessities. I work two jobs so that I can pay bills and afford quality childcare.
- I HAVE A HOMELESS, SUBSTANCE ABUSER AND UNEMPLOYED IN MY HOME. MOST DIFFICULT TO FIND HELP AND RESOURCES FOR HIM-I AM ON A LOW FIXED INCOME
- I have an 18 year old with a disability who has no housing options for him at all from the state or county that are support housing in nature. he does not need a group home setting.
- I have no need for the service.
- I left some of the questions as "no answer" because of how the choices are presented. For example, my household doesn't need child welfare services, but I would argue it is a priority for our community. Let's just say my need to be able to respond to these issues from a "good of the many" perspective is not fully met.
- I need affordable housing, and I just don't see anything that is actually affordable the cost of living has went up but not the employee's paycheck, thanks for taking time to find out what we need-- but how long will it be before we see change?
- I NEED HOME IMPROVEMENT FOR MY HOUSEHOLD NEEDS
- I own my own home. However, if I had to purchase a home and/or rent a three bedroom home/apartment, I couldn't afford to buy and/or rent with the salary of a teacher. There needs to be more affordable homes for the average folks in good neighborhoods. We need to stop the NIMBY philosophy.
- I put no need.
- I selected "no need" for many areas because my household does not have a need. This does not mean these items shouldn't be a priority.
- I think continued investment in infrastructure for our kids and families is a great way to show our values and build for the future.
- I think the rent is a little too high and need to be affordable.
- I utilize the Library system and the recreation center system extensively. These programs enhance my life and keep my mental and physical health in check, and saving me from having to utilize other county funded programs.

- I was a widow whose husband left me no money. There was a short period of time when I wasn't employed when I depended on county services, and were it not for the services I received, I would have been unable to support myself and my children.
- I was evicted. Charlotte price of living is high
- I was not able to access bus service for my disabled relative that I take care of because only an express bus goes by my neighborhood. This caused me a lot of stress and ruined my health. Charlotte needs to do better for the disabled and for us care takers!
- I work for the education system and the kids that are put in group homes are not having any improvements with their mental health or functioning. There needs to be an increase in welfare services for children and more auditing at these foster cares or group homes. Also, there are too many homeless people to say that affordable housing has been impactful because it has not. There needs to be more direct interaction with people so that the county can provide better services. With the rise of mental health concerns, there needs to be more services providing mental healthcare for children, adults, seniors, and anybody who needs it.
- I would like to bike to work without risking my life on unprotected bike lanes and roads without shoulders. Too many bicyclists die each year from motor vehicle incidents.
- I would like to see greenways added for the residents of Steel Creek. Steel Creek is growing quickly and is being left behind by the rest of the County. We need sidewalks, bike lanes and bike paths to get people out moving and ease congestion on roadways.
- I would love to see the library have tools and other things available. For example, a sewing machine, a circuit, power tools, baking tools, etc.
- I would say that trash collection and littering is pretty bad in my area.
- I'd like to see more social programs for young adults to connect, share, and learn. And better promotion of those events across a variety of channels. Easier access to the schedule
- I'd like the city to continue building it's cycling infrastructure and adding more parks and Green space is always a good thing
- If I'm making enough for groceries that are expensive I would not know where to get money for food. Not eligible for snap
- If there are work force development programs and adult library programs, it doesn't feel like the word is getting out about them.
- If you raise my taxes any more, I will not be able to afford to live in Mecklenburg County.
- I'm making assessments in an overall way, not my specific needs that are not necessarily being met. For instance, I don't need housing, but I know there's a dearth of affordable housing available. When I worked at a subsidized housing property for the elderly, there were food programs to help them meet their needs, but it wasn't enough. Generally, I feel the least of us, and the most vulnerable (elderly and children) are being overlooked to an alarming degree.
- I'm very concerned about the county (and city) allowing so much land to be developed. Especially land that abuts current greenway or public use land. Shameful and scary that developers are so powerful and not citizens. There should be buffers for most and for some the plans should just be denied because of fragile land and inability to support infrastructure.
- In general please address need for more police presence. Hire more officers.
- IN MY COMMUNITY, THERE'S NO SAFE OR ANY PARKS, WHERE I CAN WALK THESE OLD LEGS, OR SIT ON A BENCH TO VIEW BEAUTY
- In some libraries, don't feel safe and secure. Need more security at libraries.

- Improve access to healthcare. I am a dependent wife of a retiree waiting to find out if I will be eligible to purchase healthcare insurance at the rate we agreed to at the time of retirement. The prospect that these agreed upon benefits may be reduced or even taken away has caused undue stress and worries about our future. We are taking care of elderly family members and chose for my husband to retire based on the promise of certain benefits as a retiree. Please take steps to permanently approve retiree dependent healthcare coverage at the lower rates that we all were told we would have.
- Inflation is out of control. Charlotte as a sanctuary city is costing us all more money. Crime is horrible and police are treated poorly. Criminals are back on the street the same day. Even council members have been arrested. This is not a good example for our children.
- Is great to help people, but some people just take a advantage of this help and decide no to work so to me is not helpful I know government try to help us which is good but at the same time try to make people to work so everything could be better for them and for the country everyone have to cooperate.
- It is impossible to live in a nice, modern, good neighborhood with updated amenities as the pay for the citizens, do not match the cost of housing. You barley make it in a single income household. When will the housing market understand that every individual household is not a traditional two income household. Why do week work so hard to live like we are in poverty when we aren't. Even though the Medicaid extension is available, the community knows that the qualifying individuals need more than a yearly screening and planned parenthood. There are far more concerns with individuals' health than an STI. Even a yearly physical can detect other concerns, what are they supposed to do then? There has to be a better system than denying ex-offenders' jobs, housing and benefits just because of a past mistake. After they serve their time, why do they need to come home and continue being punished? The community wants to have access to more legitimate job opportunities and trainings. Everyone doesn't want to be a CNA, MEDICAL CODER, obtain a CDL or get trained in HVAC. Provide a broader range of available trainings that fit the need and skills of the individual.
- It would be nice to have more / better parks and trails. Believe the county have done something in NW Charlotte but I'm not sure how to access the trails
- Item #11. Char Meck is behind other cities like Pittsburgh, Annandale, Richmond in building bike trails and ensure safety of the bike paths
- Item #11: I believe the county should acquire more land not just for greenways and parks but also more land for building more public transport such as rail lines and improve bus stops by adding shelters and seating areas at bus stops. Item #10: We need more greenways and parks.
- Item #4 - Eating healthy is very expensive these days which makes it difficult to maintain a healthy diet.
- Item #5 (Affordable Housing) - I have housed multiple relatives and friends who were unable to afford housing, even though they were working. This created a hardship for me, PLUS was a big blow on their self esteem. They're part of the "working poor" who can't afford to rent a place to stay!
- Item 1 Childcare services: No school aged children in this household.
- Item 14. In general criminals should be held accountable instead of running wild in the streets.
- Item 7. I'm not aware of any programs by the County that improve access to healthcare and certainly have not benefitted from any.

- Item 5 I feel is not being met. Housing costs continue to rise exponentially and the increases do not reflect any cost of living increases. Affordable housing does not appear to be a priority, and if there are facilities, they have long waiting lists and/or are not in areas where I want to raise my child.
- Item 5: the county continues to not focus on ensuring residents have access to affordable housing. There continues to be development in the core of each city without a focus on providing access to lower income residents to this housing. Where are the residents being displaced by the new ""luxury"" complexes supposed to go? The further away from the cities they have to move, the higher their cost of transportation will be Item 10: having more Greenway available would create much needed green space for residents to use as hubs for relaxation, socializing, and for general transport. When the county continues to not provide appropriate pedestrian/bike infrastructure through the cities, the Greenway become the safest way to travel by foot/bike between hubs.
- Items 10 and 11 are not met for me as my main mode of transport is by foot or bike as well as I am an avid long distance runner. I do not have the ability to properly commute via greenways and am forced to use my car. Greenways are also needed to increase the quality of life in Mecklenburg county. Most importantly, as a teacher at Coulwood STEM Academy, I see the inability for student to access school on bike or foot. Students are forced to ride the bus or be driven by a parent. As a majority low-income school, this is a major issue. These neighborhoods have been divided by I-485 and major roads such as Brookshire Blvd, Mt Holly Rd, and Mt Holly Huntersville Rd. There is a planned greenway that could connect this community to each other, and most importantly to their school. This would help with the student body's overall mental and physical health. And this would allow me to officially establish a safe route for students to get to school (widely known as a bike bus).
- ITEMS 4, 5, 6 NEED TO BE MET FOR MY COMMUNITY WHICH IMPACTS MY HOUSEHOLD
- Its clear that we're losing a lot of greenspace in central Charlotte and the greenways are barely "green" just grass lined walkways.
- It's difficult to meet the income requirement for rent as Charlotte prices are soaring. I don't see any options that aren't on the outskirts or in completely different cities that are affordable for students or individuals.
- It's hard to tell what is County and what is City held parks and greenways. The 4th of July at Romare Beardon Park was embarrassingly out of control with unsupervised young teens, There was no real attempt at curtailing it and the police and deputies were lethargic at best when addressing the issues, if at all. Further, the greenways need to be patrolled more often by bicycle and motorized bikes. This is especially true at the McAlpine Greenway and Boyce Park on the wooded trails where I have personally witnessed unlawful activities.
- It's nearly impossible to find affordable housing as an adult. There needs to be more option as it's nearly impossible now to live on your own. This affects people with mental health issues because they are sometimes stuck in a living situation that's not conducive to growth.
- It's too many people having stressful situations in there lives and they're exhibiting signs of it and nothing is being done to help them
- Just because we are in a higher income bracket, doesn't mean we still don't need help with childcare. And the teachers at early childcare need to be PAID MORE!

- Just watching the news, it does not look good that the county is not taking care of there retiree's. It is hard to believe the county has lots of money for the county manager, and her bonuses, but not the retiree's.
- Lack of marketing and promotion of basic services offered by county
- Libraries are critically underfunded and serve as one of very few indoor spaces that offer free programming and services. They serve entire communities; men, women, children, the elderly, the homeless, veterans, mothers, preachers, etc. They should be receiving as much funding as possible.
- Libraries are valuable tools for supporting and developing community literacy, education, digital skills, and neighborhoods. Charlotte needs more libraries and more resources inside them (physical and digital).
- Library collection is listed only because it is sometimes frustrating to get access to popular e-books. Putting on hold is frustrating because one must drop what they are reading when it becomes available. Completely understand the cost hurdles of e-books, however.
- Library system: would love to see more books/materials that are originally in Spanish (not translations of English books). In our family's case, I'm referring to children's materials.
- Library wait times for new release audiobooks is usually very very long.
- Limited access to behavioral health services throughout the county. Either by not accepting new patients or not enough ER hospitals for mental health crisis. There is no subsidy to assist families.
- Living close to shelter facilities, I can see the abundance of people that are in need of behavioral assistance and substance abuse treatment.
- Food is too expensive and the snap assistance is not enough to cover the month, the rent for subsidized apartments is expensive, I am 61 years old disabled and my SS check is not enough, they should help a little more, thank you
- Maintenance of county parks- My nearest park is shuffletown. The amenities don't meet the desires of the community. We need basketball courts and walking trails.
- Greater safety by car arrombamiento
- Making sure affordable housing is available for all sectors of our county.
- Many services are should be available in multiple languages so families are able to access. As well as transportation services to and from places so that it can be accessible, you can give the resources, but if families can't get there, it is a gap that should be filled. Child care services should be no cost to families who are working and cannot afford to continuously send their kids to daycare. It is an extra cost. There should be MORE fresh healthy food available and I am sure that many grocery stores and markets have thrown away many things. Groceries have become very expensive and should be a right not a privilege, I would be willing to pay extra taxes if they were going to resources that would be no cost to low income families.
- More free vaccine for Flu COVID 19
- Meck county should focus on programs versus buying land in Meck County, specifically in Huntersville (i.e. Phillips farm, land in Pottstown, etc. paying millions for land, top dollar, and increasing the tax rate is unacceptable. Huntersville needs more schools which should be built. The recent land purchases will serve 1% of Huntersville. 5 million dollars spent on land when we have needs.
- Mecklenburg County needs to reduce the property tax rate.

- Meck drivers are atrocious. It's barely safe enough to drive around here...it is unsafe to bike or even walk around large parts of the city. We need **protected** bike lanes and reliable public transit to more parts of the city. We need to design the city so cars are not going 50 miles per hour in an area right next to pedestrians. We need bike lanes that are safe to bike on at night. We need to connect the greenways. For example, there is no safe, direct way to get from the little sugar creek greenway to Plaza Midwood. The opportunity to address these deficiencies is now. Before more buildings are built. Stop letting cars injure or kill us. You are the only people who can do something about this.
- Mental health in my community resource for addiction in the youth, drug education, mental behavior.
- Mental health support is essential in current times (people haven't really been the same since the pandemic, though the issue existed long before then,) and it affects everyone and can cross racial and socioeconomic classes. Unfortunately it still remains relatively inaccessible due to costs or waitlist waiting times for free services.
- Mental health support is virtually nonexistent. Even with Medicare and insurance Co pays and transportation made health support unaffordable. I had to take a personal loan just to cover my CO-PAYS!!!
- Minority owned business getting access to certification process to grow their business for their family.
- Monthly pay cannot cover decent living arrangements in Mecklenburg county. More support is need for early childcare from birth.
- More affordable housing for seniors over 60 years of age.
- more enforcement of ordinance laws on residence homestead in violation. more enforcement on cleanup of our road and highways - to much trash and garbage on our roads and highways.
- More green space needed for growing population.
- More open space in the University area in Charlotte
- more parks, greenspaces; more availability of ebooks
- More police to monitor communities
- More programs made available
- More story time or educational play and children activities.
- More transit services
- Most of my needs have been met by the county.
- Most of our family's needs are met, would like to see help going to other families who do need help.
- Most of the crimes committed are based on persons mental health needs are not being addressed or met in a timely manner
- Most of the household needs are met.
- My concern is number 5 most of my household paycheck going towards housing. I think that is the most important because it affects everything else. If I can't pay for my home how can I pay for everything else?
- My daughter has been on the waitlist since she was born for early headstart and now she's not going to be eligible.

- My family does not need many of these items. We do use the parks. I am tired of paying taxes to give handouts to people who continue- time and time again to have their hand out. The county needs to STOP spending money on helping people who will not work, continue to use a majority of the resources and contribute nothing to the economy. I can barely afford groceries and people are hitting me up in the grocery store selling their food stamps, etc.
- My family, which consists of two working parents, a working young adult (24) and a freshman in college, has our needs met. However, my spouse and I earn nearly \$160,000/year combined. This is a good wage! However, the gap between us and some of the more vulnerable in our community is immense. Just as is the gap between the mega earners who dot the Country Clubs, Myers Park, and all of these mega neighborhoods in and around Charlotte where home values start in the upper six figures. Our city has become one of the fastest growing cities in the country over the past 1/4 century. However, we are still one of the WORST when it comes to economic mobility, helping residents escape poverty, and subsistence living. We need to do better as a community. What about public schools? Vouchers, and white parents fleeing to charters, privates and home school. This is not sustainable. Time for Meck County to take care of ALL residents consistently AND PAY YOUR EDUCATORS for God's sake!! Who will teach in 5-10 years. The state of attrition in public schools is horrible. Can't recruit enough, and can't retain enough. Ya'll on the Board need to STEP UP and FUND education.
- My food benefits under SNAP have dropped so low that but for assistance of my parents, being able to shop for groceries wouldn't exist. Why are my benefits so low because I'm disabled and because I own a home, which mortgage takes 1/2 of my disability check, I'm not able to get more than \$60/mo.. That needs to be changed or improved,
- My household needs were not being met for affordable housing in Mecklenburg County, so I had to purchase a house outside of the county. I would have preferred to live in Mecklenburg County but as an Employee of Mecklenburg County, I couldn't afford to purchase a home in the which I work.
- My household volunteers time and money to clean up greenways and parks near our home, but our efforts during our time not working are not enough to keep up with the upkeep of these areas.
- My household's needs are being met but I am aware that doesn't reflect the need of many others in Charlotte
- My household's needs were being met, but my elderly father's were not being met. He was diagnosed with Alzheimer's last year, but was living on his own in Mecklenburg County until about 5 months ago. My sister and I had a difficult time finding ways to help him get food, transportation, care, and just general advice and guidance on how we could help him. I feel there is a great need for this in the county.
- My needs and my family's needs were not met by several of the questions. My family is now homeless and hungry and victims of a crime that took place in mecklenburg county. North Carolina has done nothing to help us with all of these concerns.
- MY NEEDS ARE MET
- My needs are met because I have my own healthcare but some do not. Crime (theft, car break ins, etc.) is IMO the biggest issue we have in Mecklenburg County.
- My needs are met but I know that many people in Mecklenburg County need help for their children - healthcare, safe child care, safe homes.

- My needs and the needs of my family regarding access to healthy food, affordable housing, improving access to healthcare, and workforce development training are not being met. As we seek training to improve our station in life, all that is available far exceeds our budget. Everything here in Charlotte has gone up in price except for our salary. Finding and accessing affordable healthy food is a real challenge because grocery stores with the best fresh produce are located outside of our local area. Moreover, once there, we can't afford to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables due to the increase in cost. As our needs pertain to affordable housing, our rent has increased by 40% this year and it consumes more than half of our salary. We hoped to purchase a home and become first time home buyers however that can't happen now because of the high interest rates, the need for down-payment assistance and spending our saving to make ends meet due to inflation. The cost of healthcare has gone through the roof. We have insurance however the cost to see the doctor is astronomical and now we have to truly consider whether we can afford to visit the doctor. We are seeking career development programs, training and or professional development courses however they're expensive and out of our budget or are only available during the day. Trying to find free workforce training in the evening is proving to be impossible.
- My needs are being met.
- My needs are not met because of the county budget prioritizing police/swat budget
- My needs are not met with subsidized childcare because you either make too much or have to work a certain amount of hours for assistance. Some people are salary based.
- My personal needs are being met because I am white, 82, own my home, and currently have some savings to sustain myself. I do not have a pension because I chose to continue teaching full time as a part-time (adjunct) at CPCC and UNC-Charlotte. (State-supported institution continue to widen the gulf between full-time and part-time income and benefits.
- My senior neighbor is struggling to get by and several community members experience periods between their EBT benefits when they have no access to healthy foods.
- My sister has been on the waiting list for housing for 5 years.
- My son has served his time, he can't find a job because of his record. Our society and justice system is set up to fail.
- My youngest was adopted from foster care. I appreciate the county's support for vendor payments. However he really struggles with long term trauma and we have a hard time finding appropriate services to support him.
- Naturally existing affordable housing stock has been greatly diminished for the sake of development. Developers should pay the previous highest tax value of a dwelling to an affordable housing trust or move homes at their expense to be granted demolition permits. Too many perfectly fine homes are torn down, to sell properties that families who have been in communities for generations cannot afford. Mobile homes are not allowed in 98% of the county. "Affordable housing" is not 500 square foot apartments on top of a brewery. Overdevelopment is also causing flooding never seen before. Our tree canopy has been decimated. Ugly eyesores on every corner. Housing is the largest issue in Mecklenburg
- Need more support for working families and families that are acting as guardians of non biological children. As a working family, we don't often qualify for the much needed help for services like food assistance, childcare subsidies and affordable housing.
- No conozco ningun tipo de ayuda de estas caracteristicas

- No large park In Charlotte like how every major city in America has. The greenway doesn't count
- Not easy to get information on services for senior. A health advisor gave me a phone number and email address, but I would like web pages to give information before I reach out
- Not effecting me personally, but, I feel the county and city has not done enough to address the need for affordable housing.
- Not enough affordable childcare and activities in Charlotte.
- Not enough playgrounds in Ballantyne
- Not many parks or activities in the southern Steele Creek area to take my toddler to.
- Nothing interesting or revolutionary is being done (to my knowledge) on any of these issues. The housing that I have seen pop up in my area is all "luxury" apartments, and they are even more expensive than the options we already had. Nothing has been done regarding criminal justice or healthcare to my knowledge, though those are major issues that must be fundamentally radicalized and rebuilt from the ground up on a federal level in order to be just and rid of evil.
- Number 5
- Número 8 empleo, actualmente no tengo empleo a pesar de tener permiso de trabajo no he conseguido porque cuido a mi hijo con autismo y solo podría trabajar turnos de tarde o noche me gustaría encontrar uno
- Our needs are met
- Our parks & recs facilities are in bad shape - all pools need massive maintenance and improvement - what's the point of having them if they are not being kept at top shape?! Then they just become sources for disease spreading!!!
- Our parks need to be maintained more frequently.
- Owning a home is difficult is private developers are just developing for the wealthy leaving the ones with fewer resources out. Having a home or making the system more equitable must be a priority.
- Park Road Park could be a jewel in Mecklenburg's crown; instead, the pond looks terrible (though we are regularly told it will "soon" be dredged), there is minimal beautification or landscaping, people complain it is not safe because there isn't much visibility from the street, and it is underutilized (put a dog park there!). PLEASE do something with PRP!
- Park system needs improvement. Overall other child support is more necessary.
- Parks and greenways have not kept up with the growth in population and are not logically connected with one another to expand usage where I live.
- Parks and recreation funding needs to increase for improved facilities, pools, maintenance across all facilities and more neighborhood parks throughout the city and county, on-going expansion of greenway system and connections. Library system needs additional funding for continued expansion of collections, digital collections and services.
- PARKS GREENWAY DEVELOPMENT TOO FOCUSED ON A FEW BIG PROJECTS. MORE SMALLER CONCEPTS
- Personnel heading up priorities must meet standards and have knowledge of county itself
- Police are needed. Huge increase in crime.
- PRICES TO RENT AND OWN ARE OUT OF CONTROL-ITS UTTERLY RIDICULOUS AND ITS A SHAME
- Probably fairly minor but I would be very excited to see development of the Back Creek Greenway

- Programs and transportation services for senior citizens
- Programs full, can't take new members or unavailable.
- Property taxes on main resident for retired or disabled should be not be allowed to increase more than% of cost of living.
- Provide a lower property tax option for senior citizens on social security and fixed income. Most recent property evaluation increased. our property taxes by \$900. Not sure how we can maintain a residence in Mecklenburg county.
- Provide free or low cost training for new careers.
- PROVIDING CHILDCARE SERVICES; INCREASE IU PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITY
- Q.1 A bit personal: my son's Down Syndrome doesn't allow him to fit into any programs because he is healthy and a little independent. However, we cannot allow him in the house by himself because of his labeled condition. Need help placing him among his pairs so he feels achieved and inclusive.
- Q12 - Compared to other spaces we have lived, many collections seem aged and limited to content
- Q15: Saw/reviewed footage and had closed door meeting. Nothing was resolved.
- Q3 We don't provide enough assistance to those families that have to care for their aging family members. There should at least be some incentive for them. Not all agencies are wanted in people's homes. And not everyone is trustworthy either.
- Question #4- The Grier Heights community only has one grocery store, which is not easily accessible to all residents. My family would like other options as well as healthier restaurants to overcome diabetes, hypertension, obesity and cancers that communities of color have higher numbers with these illnesses than other races/ethnicities.
- Question1 Subsidized childcare - isn't offered at all for my income and the cost is nearly 1/2 my paycheck.
- Questions 12 - 14: I am against censorship of reading materials whether in schools or public libraries.
- Raise taxes other than real estate
- Reduce homelessness
- Rent is high, homelessness is at an all time high, need more affordable housing
- Rent is out of control in the Charlotte area. My rent just increased \$200per month more during my lease renewal in February 2024. I am spending almost 50% of my monthly income on rent. On my street, a unit that is 550 square feet with no central heating and air conditioning is \$1,100 plus water & sewer. As a teacher, I cannot afford the rent in the Charlotte/Huntersville area.
- Rent is ridiculously high
- Rent prices are insane in CLT. We can barely afford where we live now. If there are mental health resources for the community, I don't know what they are. I would love to see more programs at the library for the community to engage in, as an adult, I haven't seen many tailored to adults (mostly children and teens). Also many ebooks at the library have super long wait lists (most are around 8 weeks generally), so more access to ebooks would be great since clearly the community is using those resources.
- Rent prices, investors/corps purchasing single family homed and lack of affordable options

- Room for improvement exists, even when the need within the household is not significant. I am most concerned that older works from the library inventory are being lost, and would hope some form of digital archive technology could be applied.
- Safety at parks. Open drug use. Homeless living on county property. Number of indecent exposures and sex assaults at parks/greenways. Unruly juveniles taking over basketball courts not allowing others to use.
- Safety is important in all aspects. Access is extremely important-safe access.
- Safety, security, maintenance, and cleanliness, especially in the center city and western and northern neighborhoods around uptown is sorely lacking.
- Seniors are always lumped with other low income groups and housed in environments that are not safe and poorly managed. There is only one low income apartment management company in Charlotte and it has a Better Business Bureau rating of F. Why is the city allowing this. Don't seniors deserve better?
- Seniors don't get enough help. They have worked hard all their lives and gets nothing without still paying a fee
- Services depend on where you live. In northwest services were a lot of apartments being built there are few services and access to healthcare and transportation are limited. If driving people into an area then there needs to be attention to that area. Every corner now holds beggars and empty lot has squatters. No services so have to take matters into own hands and steal or beg.
- Services for seniors especially those with dementia are lacking. My mother-in-law attends adult daycare which is much appreciated and we're very grateful for that service. It would be nice to also have some home health care and respite services for caregivers so the senior doesn't end up a ward of the state bc caregivers have no other supports.
- SERVICES FOR SENIORS, UNAWARE OF PROGRAMS OFFERED IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY FOR RETIREES/SENIORS
- Some of the Green ways and parks in North Mech need attention.
- Start with the people who excessively speed on roads like Independence and run red lights with reckless abandon. Stiff fines for these people could be used for all these projects as well as make our roads safer. I literally watched a car in front of CPD run a solid red light and the cop did nothing. Speeder with no tag on Independence blew past CPD and again nothing. Accosted by homeless Uptown at Trade and Tryon in front of CLT Sheriff again nothing. Let's make CLT safer before tackling parks and social supports on tax payers dime.
- Stop with the home insurance increase.
- Subsidized childcare services - I do not know how to access these services.
- Subsidized childcare services. I think that daycare is too expensive and I consider my household middle-class. I can only imagine what it is like for working-class families and single-parent households.
- Taxes are high in Mecklenburg county already.. Money is being wasted on roads in Balentine in South Charlotte area.
- Taxes were increased for 2024 and will increase at least twice more with passage of last year's bond package. Please stop asking to increase taxes! And we're going to be asked again to increase sales taxes to fund transportation plans. Please stop!!! Prioritize needs and live within budget. Stop trying to emulate New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Why do you think people are fleeing those states?

- The amount of funding and access towards behavior health is minimal. Essential workers in this field such as therapists make barely any money unless they accept private insurance which causes great turnover in this field.
- The city is fast developing and the time to expand parks and availability is now. More focus on pocket parks or fully invest in a grand vision like Queen City Park. Our peer city's infrastructure of parks far outpace us and need more connectivity of bikes and social engagement at the parks.
- The cost of living continues to increase, while teachers salaries decrease or stay the same. We need Safe and affordable Housing !!
- The county (as well as the city) are focused on meeting the GROWTH goals and are asking/expecting the current residents to fund the requirements of this growth. Enough is enough! Let's put a halt on ANY efforts to grow and allow it to occur naturally. Let the builders and developers who are profiting from the growth pay the associated costs!
- The county is way behind on building out its greenway plan and Charlotte has too few parks in comparison with other similarly sized cities
- The county MUST invest more in parks and green spaces. The population boom here in Charlotte is not being handled appropriately- we should be investing more in green spaces, road improvements, schools, and public transportation, so that Charlotte REMAINS an attractive and desirable place to live. Particularly in the Steele Creek area, where unchecked growth is resulting in poorer quality of life for all.
- The County need to work to create new parks in areas where parks do not currently exist to increase equity for access to open space. The County need to continue to increase greenways and safe bike lanes/routes. While there have been improvements for biking, it would be nice to have safe commuter routes for bikes for main corridors. The County could begin by filling in routes where only partial bike lanes exist. One example is the connection from the Eastway Regional facility to the Autumnwood neighborhood. This is a major route for those of us in Plaza/Myers Park etc. to get to the UNC Charlotte area. The most direct route (Plaza to Old Concord) has few bike lanes and lots of traffic. Backroads and greenways are present but require using Orr Rd to Grier (to Old Concord to Farmfield). Orr is better than Old Concord (wider) but it is still pretty scary with no bike lane.
- The county needs to do a better job at preserving green space.
- The county should make more effort in providing access to affordable housing, better healthcare, services for mental and behavioral health, and programs to help bridge people who have interacted with the Justice system. All of these things are directly connected, so when one need isn't met the other areas are negatively affected.
- The crisis of behavioral health (wellness, mental health....) is at the heart of the more extreme problems we're experiencing in the County. The prevalence of crime in our youth populations is a canary in the coal mine indicator that we have ignored how we are developing, engaging and listening to the struggles of our children. The fog, coming out of the Pandemic, may be a factor but regardless we have to do more to improve this. It will only get worse.
- The government is for the people, the citizens. Please clean up or clean out the homeless that prevent people from using parks and greenways safely . There are libraries I cannot bring my kids into because of the homeless population. I pay taxes , they do not. Why are tax paying citizens being hurt by people who are not citizens and or non tax payers? You should be ashamed that you do not care about the good of the people and only care about the image of the city.

- The greenways are the best part of Charlotte. Unfortunately, I live in East Charlotte (off of exit 39) and have to drive pretty far to get to a greenway. My community would really benefit from a greenway system, especially as it would finally give this area its own amenity. It also makes a lot of sense to focus efforts on this part of town as the land is still cheap and there is lots of greenery and space between subdivisions for shaded greenway infrastructure. It would go a long way towards contributing to the livability, and interconnectedness of the subdivisions. Regarding parks in general, it baffles me that there isn't a public tennis pickle ball court in this part of town.
- The greenways flood when it rains and can't be used for days. The current ground cover doesn't hold back the soil and results in mudslides that block the paths. Couldn't the arborist or someone on their staff find a better alternative? Also, why is grass planted instead of native plants or clover that doesn't require maintenance? The cost for landscaping to mow and blow grass could be drastically reduced.
- The growth of the greenway network, especially when it can be used as transportation by connecting functional destinations and neighborhoods has been noticeable, but it has not been growing at the pace needed to catch up to where a city/county of this size needs to be, much less growing at the pace necessary to account for the growing population.
- The housing market in the county is broken. We know that more families are moving to the county and will continue to do so. There is a lack of affordable housing options and yet it seems we continue to approve projects that will not meet the needs of affordable housing. We continue to let developers push their own agenda to put more money into their pockets and not invest in the city. The rich get richer while the poor get poorer is full on display in this county with no signs of trying to attack the problem at its roots.
- The issue in Mecklenburg County not a need for more money (taxing overtaxed residents) it is how resources are allocated. The way this city/county conducts business has resulted in a healthcare provider shortage and increased crime. As a 10-year resident I have witnessed the declined our city and politicians need to own that the policy of throwing money at a situation does not solve a problem.
- The job training and development, I don't even know if we have that. I know a lot of people need a job, myself included, so training is very important to me.
- The library constantly has 10-20 week hold times for books. Even if they aren't new or popular.
- The Maintenance of County parks is a top priority for our family. With the growing population and overcrowded schools, it is a healthy requirement to be outside and play. Being at a local park helps us nurture our kids imaginations and helps us recharge from the work day. Every time we go to a park there is not enough trash cans and restrooms, and the equipment is usually dirty and/or rusted. In the summer, there is not shade to cool the equipment and many times our children will burn their hand from touching something on the playground. We also feel the number of County parks and greenways are not sufficient for the big populations in Charlotte. Every time we go to freedom park, or park road, the parks are over crowded and there is not enough equipment for all children to play on. We feel Charlotte can use double the amount of parks and green spaces that it current has. We also feel that the current parks should be upgraded with better equipment that meet the needs of kids above the age of 8. Last, we feel the Efforts by the County to acquire land for the development of parks, greenways, and open-space preservation is not sufficient. We would like to see more greenways, parks and open spaces for playing. We would also like to see more public soccer fields.

- The middle working class, has unfortunately turned into the poor working class because of inflation. Consequently, this section of individuals do not qualify for assistance with current income thresholds.
- The Nations Ford/Arrowood Corridors are integral parts of our community that have been overlooked in county investment. The county must prioritize additional support in these areas. Currently, there's a notable absence of initiatives aimed at enhancing the well-being of residents. To address this, the county must engage directly with citizens to understand their specific needs. This means actively walking the streets of these neighborhoods, listening to residents, and incorporating their input into decision-making processes. After all, how can we effectively support a community without spending meaningful time within it? One pressing issue is the growing homeless population. While there has been some progress in creating affordable housing units, the lack of investment in essential infrastructure and services exacerbates the burden of housing costs on residents. We must prioritize the development of recreation centers to provide safe spaces for residents, particularly our youth, to engage in constructive activities. Moreover, mental health support is paramount, especially given the rise in violent crimes affecting our young people. Investing in accessible mental health services can help address underlying issues and provide much-needed support to those in need. Additionally, implementing free before and after-school programs can offer valuable educational and recreational opportunities for young people while also supporting working families. Additionally, investing in workforce development programs can empower residents to secure stable employment and achieve financial independence. In summary, the county must allocate resources and attention to the Nations Ford/Arrowood Corridors. By actively engaging with residents, addressing homelessness, investing in infrastructure and services, and prioritizing youth and workforce development, we can work towards creating a more equitable and thriving community for all.
- The need for affordable housing isn't a personal need, but I see apartments being built all over the city, but I still see so much homelessness. There should be a stipulation that the apartment builders allow for a number of affordable housing. I don't understand all of the apartments going up and not all of them are being filled before another group is being built.
- The needs for affordable housing will increase quickly as the population grows, new homes are built, and market prices for rents and homes will go up, while the services need a larger number of low pay employees.
- The needs for my household have been met. However, I am a social worker who supports survivors of human trafficking and affordable housing is the biggest barrier all my clients face. They are blocked from the private housing market due to poor credit and lower income but they also are not eligible for HUD housing subsidies. I believe this issue is now elevated now that city council has reinstated laws around sleeping in parks and public urination, i.e. criminalizing homelessness. But how can the county criminalize homelessness when there aren't enough resources to end homelessness?
- The only thing that Mecklenburg County needs to improve are the personal care items such as feminine products and cleaning products.
- The recent property tax increase and bond issue for the schools was almost unbearable. It resulted in a net loss of income for many people and wiped out cost of living increases in benefits for people on fixed incomes.

- There are adults who would like services
- There are food deserts within the county. Recidivism is an issue, and the county is socioeconomically segregated. Healthcare is available, but its high cost means it is not accessible - although, this is largely a federal issue.
- there are limited programs for seniors who need help with basic in-home assistance. Private care in an assisted living community is outrageously expensive. There needs to be more programs for in-home nursing care that is affordable for seniors so they can stay in their home and still have affordable care. It's not that care isn't available - it's usually not affordable. More assisted living or independent living facilities should be opened up. It could be a huge money maker for the county to offer affordable assisted living.
- There are no parks in the Steele Creek area. We must go to South Carolina to get to a nice pickleball court. Everywhere you go there are pickleball and tennis courts nearby but there is nothing in Steele Creek for us. I feel as though this area is being neglected. Thank you.
- There are unacceptable numbers of homeless people in Charlotte/Mecklenburg County. The vast majority are suffering from some form of mental illness/disability. This affects the quality of life/experience of all residents/visitors.
- There aren't enough good green spaces
- There aren't that many greenways close to where I live they are within driving distance but nothing close near the intersection of old statesville and WT Harris. There also aren't many free therapy or other kinds of behavior health assistance for citizens. And also a concerted effort to engage children and adults with special needs that are free or low cost.
- There is a dog crisis in CLT w 20+ dogs a day coming into the CMPD ANIMAL SHELTER. THEY have no funding to handle this, having to rely on fosters and volunteers to find homes for and temp housing for these dogs. Charge each household of adults a small fee and give it to the shelter NOW. There are 800k adults in Meck Co. Think what could be accomplished if each household paid \$50. It IS EVERYONES problem. The shelter has to fix, license and microchip these animals. More community awareness of taking care of these animals is needed.
- There is no Affordable housing. I have tried to find Affordable. The parties involved on making decisions are being made by these that are financially well off.
- There is no timeline for many of the greenway segments and previous estimations were missed.
- There is not a library within 15 drive of me.
- There needs to be a change in guidelines for eligibility for senior adults 60+. The currently guidelines really focuses solely on ADLS and if seniors can perform them independently. Many adults can but still need in home assistance with house keeping, managing their chronic illness, grocery shopping, light house keeping, transportation with appointments since they may not drive. These types of services would be helpful to seniors who are living with family members who work full time. Having support services for seniors who have lost their significant other.
- There needs to be mental health facility near PARKTON Road. 28215. Drug rehab too. I've seen people shooting needles into their hands on the railroad tracks parallel to parkton.
- There seem to be more and more homeless individuals of all ages that have no where to go. A lot of these people are families who have to beg on the street.
- There seems to be a housing crisis in Mecklenburg County and finding affordable housing is next to impossible even if you have a stable income.

- There seems to never be any development, including parks, greenways, and other outdoor community spaces in the area of Westchester, where I live. I'd like to see something added here. Even just a walking/cycling trail.
- There should be more consistent and transparent communication about Parks and Rec programs. Also, we need more indoor playground spaces for ages 1-6
- These single mothers need all the help they can get for the children. Food, childcare, and housing. Women who were born here can't afford to live here. Resources are hard to access because they can't get off their jobs to go to get help without losing pay or maybe their job.
- They were met
- This region has no understanding of the preservation of the environment. Real estate and infrastructure development favors clear cutting trees and replacing some of those trees with invasive species and non-native plants. Your zoning and ordinances does nothing to preserve habitats for wildlife, plants or trees. Its absolutely shameful and appalling. Why do you endorse planting trees under electric lines? Seriously!!! So many trees are butchered by pruning to maintain the electric poles and are so lopsided and don't have a chance for healthy growth. Why do your city policies continue to allow for such practices?
- This seems like a detail, and one that probably won't change, but it is concerning to me that so much classic literature is no longer available at the libraries as hard copies, but only as ebooks. This change keeps me from reading. A library is supposed to have...BOOKS, especially of some of the finer literature. Also have a strong concern about affordable housing, believing that our communities need the economic diversity and texture that lower income citizens bring to us, and also that those who desire to live and participate in and enjoy Charlotte-Mecklenburg communities should be able to do so.
- Though we may not have the issue of concern, directly in our household, there are many in our community that need the supports and the supports available are either nonexistent or need more funding.
- Too many individuals panhandling around Uptown with obvious mental health issues.
- Too many trees and green spaces are being ripped down. We are losing our tree canopy. We need more parks to protect green spaces. We need more trees.
- Too much emphasis on non valued added activities like DEI and other programs that show little or no positive impact to the community.
- Training and help enhancing job/career. It's not easy finding a job that pays decent money to be able to afford the cost of living in Charlotte. The company that I worked for 20 years closed during Covid and I have had problems securing a permanent position since. I'm currently working a contract job. It would be awesome if I had options to secure permanent employment for a position that pays well in today's market. I have attended some of the virtual classes offered by the Employment Security Commission but I need something a little less generic.
- Trying to buy a small home in a safe neighborhood for my sister and me, both seniors, has proven impossible. Neither can we afford the rents at 55+ communities. Senior housing is lacking in space and amenities, such as in apartment washer and dryers. We are able to care for ourselves but we are in our seventies. Financial assistance in purchasing a home would be most appreciated.
- Unaffordable housing/rent prices and the homeless lingering and not having opportunities for housing. They are everywhere and especially bad on Woodlawn Road.

- Very difficult to find quality mental health services in Mecklenburg & state of NC...especially if have a crisis but not giving rise to involuntary commitments. This is regardless of having financial resourcescan only imagine how abysmal it is for folks with few resources.
- Vines on the Stewart creek greenway are choking out the trees there. The trees will eventually die if the vines are not removed. Expansion of the greenway beyond the current parks would increase economic development in the area but may come at the cost of higher rents (see importance of affordable housing above).
- We allowing corporation come in and displace the Native of Charlotte in housing.....price them out.
- we are rapidly loosing a critical resource in our county, open space and land. Once gone, this resource which improves the lives of all residents cannot be recovered. Also, it was not clear at all where to go to find affordable housing and assistance for my elderly relative. focusing on FINDING the information could be a cheap and effective way to go.
- We don't have children or grandchildren in Mecklenburg County
- We have a 2 parks near us, both of which could use some updating, including shaded play spaces and an increase in cleaning. We have found unsafe items at both, and shade is minimal in the hot summer sun, making some play structures unsafe when the days get hot.
- WE HAVE A CHILDCARE PROGRAM WHICH SERVES AFTER SCHOOLERS AND THE CHILDREN NEED A LIBRARY PROGRAM TO INCREASE READING HABITS
- We have needs, but we don't expect the government to help us. And also, I don't want to pay taxes for the money to help people that just don't want to work.
- We have private health care, and it is still not enough to battle our woefully inadequate health care system. I feel for anyone who does not have the smarts, and funds to advocate for themselves and bend the rules if needed. Therefore I believe this is a huge community need. County, Atrium and Novant behavioral health services are horrible. I don't know what the answer is here.
- We live in Steele creek and use the baby and toddler story times at the library. Additionally, parks with toddler gyms and the airport overlook park are items we use frequently.
- We moved from Cincinnati, Ohio and have been so disappointed in the lack of parks and green space in the city
- We need access to mental health in CMS from Pre-K thru 12th Grade.
- We need access to more food for those that do not get food stamps. Middle class doesn't have any resources.. we need more programs for dental .. it is not fair that we have nothing to help when it comes to our teeth.
- We need more budget and head count for Charlotte police.
- We need more security at the parks.
- We would like to see the greenways connected from little sugar creek to mallard creek.
- WHEN I MOVED FROM NY TO VA, I HAD A CELBRASY DAUGHTER, NOW 35 YEARS. NO STATE GAVE ME ANY HELP-IT WAS S&D BUT NOW I'M BLESSES TO DUE TO ONE LADY FROM VA-NOW SHE MOVED TO FLORIDA AND I HAVE WORKED ALL MY LIFE SINCE I WAS 12
- when you don't desire to have adult children living with you for reason they cant afford housing, more places are being built but not affordable

- Where I live in Steele creek there are very few options for affordable housing and what seems like very little involvement from the city to support soaring rent and home prices. Additionally the closest public park is 15 minutes away.
- While I agree that other county services are a higher priority, the Park and Recreation department is severely underfunded. These are important community resources that aren't staffed and maintained at appropriate levels. They are also not keeping up with growth and haven't acquired sufficient land in the densely populated areas of the County.
- While I did not answer "not met," a lot of the options are things I don't know much about as far as what the county has to offer. Increased education about county services would be wonderful.
- While I use the library and parks/Greenway a lot and would love to see more, housing , food, Healthcare and the need for job training to help people become contributing members of society rather than another park
- Would love expanded library hours (especially Sundays at branch locations) and more kids books would be great. We use the libraries a lot!
- WOULD LOVE MORE GREEN/OPEN SPACE
- Would love to see trash pick up for the unincorporated areas
- You need greater capacity for psychiatric care. I'm tired of being stigmatized. This will not continue. I will be patient because I appreciate the progressed gained. However, I will not be complacent.
- Young children with autism
- YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS SHOULD BE THE FOCUS

Q5—"Not all County programs/services/facilities are listed in Question 1. If you have comments or suggestions about other County programs/services/facilities that should be high priorities in the FY2025 budget, please describe them below."

- 1. Public safety. 2. Get the woke nonsense out of schools. Educate our children. Stop indoctrinating them. 3. End "sanctuary" nonsense. 4. Public safety 5. NEVER repeat COVID tyranny, ever again.
- 5. The updated housing evaluations were very flawed and made houses appear worth way more than they actually are worth. This increases taxes dramatically and makes it hard for homeowners to pay taxes on older homes. And young people can barely find suitable housing at a reasonable rental rate.
- A mentorship program please. Empowering women, empowering men, empowering humans of this county to meet, grow, celebrate, uplift, network together. It is a struggle for all humans in this area. It is a area of opportunity.
- Access to SAFE public transportation for people with disabilities, including more light rail availability, or connections to light rail stops from affordable neighborhoods (not just wealthy ones). Accessible/safe walking paths connecting transportation that is not just for bikes.
- Accessibility and prevalence of public transportation should be a priority. Please bring the light rail up to Cornelius/Huntersville.
- Addressing and reducing criminal behavior and reducing taxes should be a priority.
- Affirmative options for CATS in the Charlotte suburbs. I understand that ridership is not high, but these are integral routes to many residents who are being neglected because they do not use cars. Additionally, the amount of pedestrian incidents and close-incidents are unacceptable. Enforce the traffic laws.
- affordable healthy foods organic
- Affordable housing and childcare services are the two biggest needs
- Affordable Housing for all.
- Affordable housing for Native Charlotteans and senior housing went up 100.00 at one time no improvement in the unit.... senior are having carpet in the unit for 10 plus years.
- Affordable housing should be a top priority also as housing in Charlotte is extremely expensive for the pay or a livable wage increase should be provided.
- Affordable housing should be top priority. Not subsidized just affordable. More attention to vulnerable youths, trying to get programs that keep them occupied.
- Affordable Housing, Raising minimum wage and getting rid of 3 times the rent requirements.
- Affordable or free dentist services
- Airport overlook park and other outdoor spaces for children are becoming increasingly important as charlotte grows.
- All libraries need to have the same resources no matter the area in the city. One library I visited had access to 3D printers, a sewing machine, and much more. However, another library I visited (in a less affluent area) did not have access to any of these materials. All residents should have equal access to resources through the library. Second, affordable housing needs to be a higher priority. From what I've read, money is being allocated to it, but the proof is not shown around the city. Affordable housing is imperative. The amount of people that are unhoused should be a high priority as well. Perhaps more money could be dedicated to shelters to temporarily house people. To educate and try and support those who need help in hopes that they can secure affordable housing and/or employment.

- Animal Care & Control seems to be grossly underfunded evidenced by their constant pleas for help for dogs in need
- Animal care and control needs significant funding for the large number of animals it takes in, shelters, and sees through to adoption.
- Animal Care and Control needs to be a much higher priority in the budget. This is not just a dog issue, but a whole society issue. Low socioeconomic status individuals do not have access to affordable pet care or education. Dogs get dumped without being neutered and the shelter ends up extremely overcrowded. We DESPERATELY need a larger shelter space and more services to the public.
- Animal Care and Control was left of this list and I find that criminal and disgusting with how much the volunteers have shown up at city council and pleaded. Shameful.
- Animal Care and Control! The situation is unacceptable. Too many dogs and not enough staff to meet the need. Also, the answer is not a bigger facility, but spay neuter laws & harsher animal cruelty laws!
- Animal Care and Control. They need another facility - plus funds for more staffing!
- Animal care and control. Why isn't more money being allocated to this branch? Why aren't stricter animal laws being enforced ?
- Animal Shelter
- Art programs for adults
- As a couple over the age of 65, our taxes keep going up, but our income is fixed. This dynamic will force us out of our home.
- Any and all services that impact our community's children and elderly should be a priority. Childcare to permit parents to work and provide for their children. Healthcare to maintain a healthy child ready for learning. Educational resources to aid children to reach their full potential. Outdoor spaces to allow children and their families to enjoy away from the grind. Senior citizen programs to not only help the seniors, but in turn to help those in the sandwich generation - responsible for children and elderly family members.
- Assistance with public school needs so that they are equal across the district...
- At the end of the day, the county / relevant cities should continue to prioritize the following outcomes (in the following order):
 - Safety / law / order
 - Core infrastructure (roads / water / sewage / electrical / telecom)
 - Core Education (schools)
 - Supplemental Infrastructure (Public transit)
 - Supplemental Education (libraries / museums / programs to facilitate success poor, special needs , & gifted students / after-school programs))
 - Anti-poverty programs (targeted towards evidence-based remedies)
 - Parks + nature
 - Speculative Anti-poverty programs (programs lacking historical evidence of working)
 - Arts + culture"
- Lower the price of groceries
- Because I can't get those services
- Behavioral health resources
- Behavioral Health services are BEYOND lacking and insufficient in our community and state.
- Besides getting mental health treatment for homeless people who need it, helping the homeless people who are homeless for the various other reasons and causes.

- Better job promoting public transportation and commuting by anything other than a car
- Bike infrastructure
- Build places closer together so we can walk or bike to them. There are too many cars on the road!
- BUILD ROADS -NOT TOLL ROADS WHICH ONLY BENEFIT PEOPLE WITH MONEY
- Can we please get some of the city ordinances regarding nuisance, houses, yard care and code enforcement out in the county. We have some real messes out here that would not fly in the city, but no one cares how people trash places in the county. And you can have the police at a house over and over again Without any consequences. we need considerably better code enforcement in the ETJ area.
- Char-Meck Animal Care and Control needs more funding!! CMAC&C needs a new, larger shelter and resources - such as spay/neuter clinics to help reduce the number of animals coming into the shelter.
- Clean up the trash.
- Clear cutting land for housing and commercial development. The land that is being clear cut for development has eliminated significant tree cover in the county. I am concerned that our once beautiful county will be changed irreparably.
- CMACC - Needs effective management, removal from under control of the police, and adequate funding. Is an embarrassment.
- CMPD Animal Care & Control and any animal welfare programs!! The animal shelter needs more funding and resources and space! Also better/more laws in place for animal welfare and protection from cruelty, abuse, neglect, etc.
- CMPD Animal Care and Control is severely underfunded
- CMPD animal shelter
- Community development for adults/children.
- Continue to fund programs and facilities for seniors. Keep recreation facilities open
- Continue to grow and fund the Office of Violence Prevention
- Continued support for the Mecklenburg County Office of Violence Prevention
- County roads need to be better lit and striped for safety
- Crime needs to be addressed. I have lived in Charlotte all my life and never imagined that crime would be so bad.
- Crime prevention
- Crime prevention needs attention - offenders need to be punished. Police deserve to be respected and supported
- Crime...public safety...not sure how this isn't a county priority? Watched someone defecate today on private property in uptown Charlotte less than 200 yards from the jail and Sheriffs Department
- Cut the police budget in half and use the overage for senior/childcare and income based housing.
- They should create literacy programs for people who are entering the county and prepare them to be able to work, lately there are many people asking for food on the streets and many people are entering who drive horrible with plates from other states that there is a regulation that updates the plates with residence.
- Do not raise property taxes. We are on a fixed income. Appealed revaluation 3 times and were denied appeals 3 times.
- Domestic Violence victims are not being protected by the county nor the state

- Driver Education is in very poor shape. Too many people have either no respect for or a severe lack of knowledge on right-of-way on the road, amongst other very bad driving habits. Voluntary re-education or refresher courses based on incentives to encourage participation would be very beneficial. Charlotte has very many residents from a wide variety of driving environments, and few of them are suitable to the tight traffic of this city. Another related point is that Mecklenburg Driver's Ed classes for high school students need serious scrutiny. From what I have been told by long-time residents, the instructors for these classes are seriously lacking in self-discipline and responsibility. They will fail to properly instruct students on road laws and etiquette while being unfocused and distracted by social interaction with the students. Then at the end of the course when the students have a very low average scores that do not meet passing criteria, they are made to pass anyways by these instructors. This results in a very uneducated native Mecklenburg driver population.
- Education
- Education should be a top priority
- Educational and support mental illness - more effective without increase cost for people.
- Educational opportunities, quality teachers with good pay
- Educational program to help close the performance/achievement gap. Many CMS schools are currently operating as F schools and not meeting yearly growth standards. What programs and/or initiatives are in place to help mitigate this so our students are not lost to the numerous private and charter schools popping up across the city. How can we become more involved to help?
- Educational services, we still want to grow.
- Eliminate the State law requiring property values be re-assessed, and base the assessed value on the last purchase price. This will help keep housing affordable, eliminate the need for the Office of the Tax Assessor, and have those who pay more for their homes pay more taxes than those who paid less for their houses. More activities can go to fee-based.
- Enforce the law, fix the roads this is basic stuff and don't mind my tax dollars going to. While a registered Democrat would vote Republican if it meant I didn't take my life into my own hands every time I drive to work or attempt to dine in uptown after a show, and I work uptown. This if not addressed is the start of a downward spiral.
- Access to housing may improve, rental prices have increased considerably and options are becoming fewer
- EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE A SUBSIDY FOR OUR PROGRAM, I THINK THAT THEY NEED TO INCREASE THE SUBSIDIES FOR ALL CHILDCARE PROGRAMS BECAUSE THE COST OF LIVING HAS GONE UP
- Expand light rail to the airport. Come on, this is so basic. I realize that ridership is down now, but the fact that we have this limited north/south line with zero extensions is probably one of the biggest reasons for that... you really can't get everywhere around the city without getting off a train and walking or getting another type of transportation.
- Expand the rail lines - traffic is steadily getting worse, including around the schools where hundreds of parents are hovering as schools let out. Increase or modify school bus.
- Expanding Medicaid so working parents/family can receive coverage. Improve care and services for the disabled.
- Facilities that help take care of the people do a different schedule or additional evenings or Saturdays to be able to get the help that's needed
- Follow-up needed on communicable diseases through health services
- Food stamp deberían de subir por que el costo de vida y de los alimentos cada día es más alto

- Fund all medical benefits for retirees and their families.
- Fund light rail, commuter rail, and trolley. No more widening of roads
- Fund the County's long term obligations. Retirees that served the organization and County residents should be in a fist fight to maintain the value of benefits they earned. County management appears to have made this personal and, quite frankly, were caught reporting half truths (at best) to the Board.
- Funding for the Culture Blocks program for the arts and science council remains a critical need. Additional funding for the individual grants for artists/creatives help ensure a vibrant cultural scene but also results in economic development opportunities. Please consider maintaining and expanding this funding.
- Funding positions and salaries of teachers and social workers. Affordable housing programs more job programs, working people cant afford housing or today's cost of living.
- Greenways, Parks, Natural and green spaces should always be a priority for county governments
- Group homes for individuals reentering society after incarceration.
- Get the homeless off the city streets, provide mental healthcare, and help them get back into the workforce. The homeowners are suffering increased property taxes year over year due to irresponsible spending and misappropriation of funds. I'm nearing retirement and will be forced out of my home because of the high property taxes. Be responsible and don't spend money blindly.
- Give those with low income ability to apply for food stamps and not be declined
- Government of this region is poorly educated and focused on the environment. Your recycling program is deplorable. Here are examples from other parts of the country to learn about and implement to step into the 21st century. New Connecticut Recycling Center Makes It Easy for Residents to Return Bottles, Cans. A new, state-of-the-art recycling facility has opened in Stratford Conn. that has the ability to handle 50 million containers a year.
<https://www.waste360.com/waste-recycling/new-connecticut-recycling-center-makes-it-easy-for-residents-to-return-bottles-cans>. Deposit Bottle & Can Recycling. There is a five cent deposit on carbonated soft drink, beer, malt beverage, and sparkling water containers sold in Massachusetts. Find out where to return them for a refund. <https://www.mass.gov/deposit-bottle-can-recycling>
- Gun violence is a growing problem. However, the Mecklenburg County Office of Violence Prevention is a benchmark program that became the template for the state. Increase funding for the Office of Violence Prevention so they can hire more people and enact greater change in our community.
- Have better programs for homeschooled students.
- Having enough traffic cops to slow down speeding and reckless drivers. Policing public parks for safety issues, such as public displays of alcohol, drunkenness, and urination.
- Health care is a priority. I have insurance and had to make an ER visit in December. I'm retired and I had to pay more than \$3k out of pocket... people can't afford to go to the dr. That's not right. I wish our country cared more about people than greed
- health department
- Help for the homeless
- Help for those that are disabled.
- Highway infrastructure and public transportation needs to be addressed. Charlotte's increasing population density has led to overcrowded streets and highways, exacerbated by the growing number of apartment complexes. While I-485 South is undergoing expansion, the slow progress

is causing a daily backup of over 30 minutes during peak hours. Exit 9 on I-85 South, is also constantly backed up as well due to the complicated merge. Implementing public transportation, particularly trains, would significantly ease this issue. Additionally, adding additional lanes to roads/highways (in under a year), would help. Another solution would be to create dedicated bus lanes to streets to prevent buses from blocking roads when stopping to pick up and drop off passengers. These measures would improve traffic flow and reduce congestion in the city.

- Home improvement - electrical, plumbing, crawl space adjustments
- Homeless mental health is huge for long term health of Charlotte.
- Homelessness has to be addressed. "Housing First" policies exist in a number of places across the country, and should be studied in Mecklenburg County to determine the most effective way of implementation here.
- High priority - global warming. The county could pass laws that allow and encourage everyone to get rid of their lawns (even those in HOAs). Mowing a lawn and covering it with chemical fertilizers and weed killers is contributing a lot to global warming. If we are allowed to bring our yards back to what nature intended, we could cut down on pollution. We should also have projects that encourage native plants and pollinators and the county could have a seed saving program where people could get a certain number of free seeds and free information that encourages and educates people on ways to get rid of the stupid grass and grow native plants and give native pollinators a home and food. This isn't a hard issue to solve. High priority - healthy food. If we address the global warming issue above - we can also encourage residents to be growing food for themselves and to donate to those in need. It's not that hard. I would be willing to help others - it would give me a lot of joy. High priority - housing. I would gladly allow someone to live in a tiny home in my backyard but the county is going to have to pass a law that allows me to do so and provides subsidies (or free) tiny houses. Maybe the person could pay rent to the county that would be put toward the cost of the tiny house. I see so many homeless people and it hurts my heart to see anyone in that situation in this country. There are also a lot of families who are bunked up together with relatives or friends where people are sleeping on their couches and living in their cars in someone's driveway or even in the road. Who are we? Why do we allow this to happen. Many countries have solved the homeless issue. Some of those people here are single parents and veterans. We need to take care of our own people. I would let you put 3 or 4 tiny houses in my backyard but I cannot put one in only to have the town I live in kick them out and make me move the housing unit. Also, we need to be able to rent a room in our homes without fear that the towns are going to make us kick the unrelated person out and fine us. I would gladly take someone in my home but I cannot even afford to feed them. I have an empty bedroom. The county could run a program in which the person is screened for drug or alcohol use or abuse and make sure they have a secure job (another problem with right to work and contractual work) and make it quicker to have them removed if there is some kind of problem like acts of violence or theft. I also don't want anyone here with a gun. I want to help others but I cannot afford to get in trouble. I could really benefit from getting rent from someone and they could benefit from having stable housing. Come on! We certainly can work this issue out for the benefit of everyone. There are some strings but that can all be dealt with and contacting other cities and counties that are already doing these things and learning from them should be the first step so we don't have to reinvent support services every time we want to impact society for the good. Contact me when you are ready to put a tiny house in my yard or let me rent a room to an unrelated person (aharlan855@gmail.com). It will take a commitment and I'm willing to commit. Are you?
- HOMES FOR HOMELESS AND VETERANS

- Hospital
- Housing & employment for special needs adults (e.g. autism)
- I am a senior living on Social Security and have a small 401-K. Financial assistance to seniors who have lived in their own homes for many years need financial assistance. Help with things like roof repair/replacement costs, HVAC repair/replacement costs, tree removal or trimming costs, etc. These expenses can be devastating for people living on a fixed income.
- I am fortunate to not have a need for some county services listed above. My biggest concern currently is to allocate county \$ for land acquisition for future parks and greenways while we still have undeveloped land.
- HUD... shut Billingsley down and start anew for mental health care. Stop passing out felonies like candy. because those who have had issues with the justice system, can not get jobs can not get housing, this creates homelessness, mental health issues, poverty, crime, recidivism and PTSD... create an unsafe environment for all they have to eat.. Don't condemn anyone for a mistake for life... also many end up with felonies because they can not afford proper legal representation and or fear. Judges and DAs say, take this or you may get ten years if you lose. . this must end. More funding for Guardian Ad Litem and volunteers. mandatory now
- I am in favor of affordable housing but not at the risk of parks and greenways. Overcrowding and over use of land is never a good idea and doesn't make for good quality of life. Convert unused office and retail space into housing.
- I am not sure where the CATS transportation system falls and whether or not that is within county jurisdiction (and I apologize if it is not) but I would love to see improvements and expansions made to the light rail!! I know an airport expansion is a possibility but the sooner that gets done the better; I also think that the blue line would benefit from adding a third train car during morning and evening rush hours as it gets very crowded. Thank you for all the services the county does provide - I love the libraries!!!
- I believe more funds should be allocated to the animal care and control . They are vastly under funded and low on space and staff a result. More money allocated for education about animal welfare within the community would help on the burden at the shelter itself.
- I believe that one of those programs that should keep existing is the increase of food stamps especially when kids are not in school because it helps a lot. Also for the residents that are in the snap program I think it would be helpful if you also help with money so they can have an extra income coming their way for necessities and or maybe paying a bill. I believe healthcare insurance cards should give an option to providing their recipients some money as well in order to help them with medications because sometimes insurance does not cover. Jobs should provide bonuses for employees whom get to work on time as well as a reward for good achievement
- I believe that the Child Welfare Services area should be a big focus. With an average of 113 people moving to Charlotte every daily; the budget is always behind. Only July 1, 2024 Mecklenburg County will be behind the eight ball if they do not take this into account. Child Welfare is in need of more Workers to account for this influx of families.
- I believe the county is purchasing land for greenways and parks. I think these are important for mental health and well-being. I would like to see public use green space expanded and programming within these spaces expected for people.
- I do not know if there is a sanitization facility, but the parks are very dirty and I think instead of police trying to petrol the area, there needs to be people cleaning all the parks.

- I don't understand why the need to assist with animal shelter is not on here. The growth of Charlotte has unfortunately also brought the growth of unwanted pets as well as neglect. The shelter is too small and does not have the money to meet their needs. Please add as a priority. Thank you
- I don't know enough about the entire city/county budget to comment. My assumption is, like most municipalities, there is a lot of waste and misspent money, but I feel the city/county also operate about as well as can be expected.
- I don't know if there are any programs oriented for kids with learning disabilities, such as Autism, programs that will help those kids at schools , or specialized behavioral clinics.
- I don't know if this is a part of the county services, but more public transportation is always a plus!
- I don't know where the money would come from but it would be interesting for the County to support residents to buy e-bikes for commuting or borrow them? I have no idea how this would work.
- I feel like mental health services take a back seat in this county. Maybe some talk of it but access to testing and diagnosis is so hard to get. On top of that there's little in welfare support for those struggling even while working 40 hours a week
- I feel that the County should fund non-profit organizations that support resume writing, job hunting skills, interview skills as well as job development skills.
- I guess if I was aware of all county program I might be able to comment. My expectations of county support to public is for programming to support those in need. Housing, food, healthcare and job training are key to assisting those in need to get on their feet. Senior services are for those who can no longer work and afford to live in a decent way. I think financial training is needed as well but starting in mid school as you have to learn young to be responsible with money and working.
- I have noticed lots of trash in the streets and in parking lots throughout the city. It is really disheartening. I would really like to see more street sweepers and ways to keep our streets clean. Also, I wonder if landowners and managers are being held responsible for keeping their properties clean? I noticed the city getting ""messy"" but now it is leaning towards ""disgusting"". I also hear the city is down officers which increases road dangers. I notice dangerous driving daily. Please consider offering more money or pulling officers from other areas.
- I said my peace in Q4. To reiterate: Pay EDUCATORS, for real. Do it now, or in 5-10 years, wait to see what our public schools become. Take care of EVERYONE in the community. Wealthy and affluent earners continue to wax poetic about paying too much in taxes, blah, blah, blah. Yet, they are still vacationing, buying fancy cars, etc. Been to the airport lately, no slow down there. Work TOGETHER Dammit! This bi partisan bull shit over the past 8 years is the worst in 60 years. Ya'll got to work together to bring us together, not divide us. Government is supposed to be for all, not some. DO IT.
- I think instead of 4 it should be 6 most important. There are many things I care deeply about that don't directly affect me yet I would like to show that I support money being focused on needs.

- I think that mental health is a serious issue and we need rehab. However, in my experience, the government programs usually assist the person in becoming dependent on the government or prescription medication. The government usually spends a lot of money to put a bandaid on the cancer. There are many great religious organizations in Mecklenburg County that give a hand up, not a hand out. If money was set aside to help those organizations that have actual solutions, then I would say that a part of the budget would be great to go towards addiction and mental health.
- I think that one that is excluded here is sidewalks and general walkability of the city. Many sidewalks that are going to popular retail stops grocery stores just end in the middle of a roadway and leave no place for the pedestrians to go besides on to the road creating a hazard or into the woods creating a safety issue. Also while many of these services address the core issues, homelessness as a whole should be addressed more directly specifically preventing people from becoming homeless or helping them quickly get out of it as persistent homelessness is much more difficult to deal with than temporary homelessness.
- I think the priority needs to be in the Animal Care and Control. The shelter hasn't been expanded in over 30 years, and the population of Charlotte and Meck County has grown DRASTICALLY! We need help to save the innocent animals, programs to educate, and hold people accountable for mistreating their animals. The shelter is desperate for an expansion, it's just simply not enough room and unfair that the animals suffer.
- I think your current budget is more than sufficient to address every need and want outlined above which will be funded by an already too high tax assessment. I think you should focus on implementation WITHIN the current parameters and reduce operating expenses first thru personnel reductions.
- I use and enjoy the offerings by the parks department for staff-led hikes, but would appreciate more offerings for canoeing, kayaking, and paddleboarding on Lake Norman. A garden park - like Glencairn park in SC - would be appreciated. I would love to know if my drinking water is safe. Many of the new housing units being built seem to be ""luxury apartments"" that trap young people in a cycle of renting.
- I would like to see increased funding for police officers, both in terms of having more police officers and paying them well, and training for them related to how to work with mentally unstable individuals, specifically the ability to identify quickly so they can de-escalate situations before anyone is harmed.
- I would like to see more adult exercise equipment being installed in county parks, especially along greenways and running/ walking trails. Can include pull-up bars, dip bars, sit-up benches, monkey bars, rings, balance beams, etc.
- I would like to see some of the older county facilities like Albemarle Road rec center updated to include exercise room with treadmills, exercise bikes, rowing machines, weight lifting machines, stair master machines
- I would like to see the county provide special housing for the homeless. It may be a small house community that they could live in while receiving training and guidance to become more independent.
- I would love to see more greenspace. I would also like to see bike lanes in the road and a lower speed limit signs through out the county because there is a lot of speeding and accidents happening due to driver high speed.
- I'm a college student who is privileged to have parents paying my way, so I have limited insight as to the efficacy of programs discussed.

- I'm not sure if this falls under child welfare services but free lunch should be offered to all children regardless of income.
- Improving transportation to lessen the load on the interstates light rail from the city up along I 77 would help a lot also light rail out to the airport
- Increase funding for CMS.
- If I got to pick a top 5th item (after the question about the top 4) I would select the libraries. They're actually doing a fabulous job but we should just continue to support them. P.S. I needed access to a MacBook or apple specific computer to complete a free certification that would help me with my career and when I called 4 branches of the public library (& CPCC), all of them said they didn't have any that I would be able to use which was disheartening because I can't afford to buy one. So having one of those for public access like the other desktop computers would be cool, but that's a very minimal problem in the grand scheme of issues to care about. Just thought someone should know
- If there is a county service focusing on sidewalk and cycling infrastructure, they should be a high priority. I have seen so many people walking in the street because they have no other option, and it would be nice if we could construct sidewalks or multi-use paths that people can use. I worry a lot that someone will get hit trying to walk down Harrisburg Rd one day. Sidewalk and cycling infrastructure should also be separated with physical barriers from the road. It's impossible to feel safe when a strip of paint is all that separates you from the speeding SUV.
- Increase funding for senior services including transportation
- Increase funding for sustainability measures: such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, electric vehicles and landscape equipment for county government operations, and especially for schools.
- Increase in Animal Care and Control space, spay and neuter programs, no kill rescue and foster, assistance with food programs for pets, vet services and licenses.
- Increase Prep, ART and Doxypep usage
- Increase public school teacher supplement and increase pay for police and fire department employees; think about creating a housing program where public employees (police, firefighters, teachers, etc.) can rent apartments, or own homes with subsidized support from the county. This benefits everyone who lives in Mecklenburg county having public employees live in the community they serve, and being able to afford to live in Mecklenburg county.
- Increase the county stipend that you give teachers.
- Increase the police presence on our streets and highways. Far too many speeders in our neighborhoods. Yes increase the taxes to provide better response to our 911 service. It is very frightening to be put on hold to with emergency services.
- Increased animal care and control resources. More staff, larger and updated facilities.
- Increased recycling would be great. We recycle so few items. Is there a way to expand that? What about small grants/help for homeowners to do property upkeep in working class areas so homes don't get rundown or fall into disrepair. Can the County encourage residents to do tree maintenance? I'm tired of my yard being filled with tree debris from trees that aren't even in my yard and not getting any Summer sun in my yard because neighbors trees block it. Sorry, I'm just complaining now. I don't know if the County handles this but what we need most is 1) sidewalks! 2) slowed down traffic (more lights and real intersections) 3) left hand turn lights instead of yields that cause accidents. Charlotte is not at all friendly to disabled people (sidewalks/ramps/crosswalks with no lights, etc.. Can someone be assigned to look into that and make changes?

- Increased reckless driving has been the cause for many fatal accidents. Something needs to be done about it!
- Infant and early childhood mental health
- Infrastructure is a major problem. Many farm roads can support the development going on and need sidewalks/multipurpose lanes to support walking and/or biking.
- Infrastructure maintenance and improvements
- It is impossible to walk through the Uptown parks (First Ward in particular) without being harassed by homeless people. These people need a place to live and the resources to be successful there.
- It would be great to have more usage of recyclable products. The county could foster increased usage of recycled materials to help defer landfill deposits of recycled materials.
- Job education for those unemployed or looking for better jobs
- Just more security and have control over the guns.
- Juvenile crime has exploded. We need facilities to place criminals instead of releasing to parents.
- Keep supporting access to high quality Pre-K.
- Keep tree canopy as full as possible.
- Knowledge based and recreational activities for our youth to lead them in a positive direction
- The priority I always ask is to ensure county residents are always safe on public streets and in parks.
- LAW ENFORCEMENT - SPECIFICALLY TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS - NON EXISTENT - A DANGEROUS CITY TO DRIVE IN - NO - TAGS, NO RESPECT FOR LAWS / NO TAXES PAID, NO INSURANCE - TOTAL DISREGARD FOR THE LAW AND OTHER DRIVERS!
- Let's start with Fiscal Responsibility. My "perception" of our government is one that is actively driving to increase the revenues and capital resources it has but a distinct lack of oversight, cost controls, transparency on the enormous spending in education, transportation and construction initiatives. If Government were run as a public business, there'd be better accountability for results that would drive better oversight and management of the enormous budgets it has the privilege of managing.
- Libraries, parks, greenways are critical for good health. Break the myth that books are going away and increase funding to the libraries to further promote and publicize the many services (beyond books) that are available. Developers are destroying this formerly, livable city. Get the green space and demand/enforce developers who destroy our land and do not replace trees and natural landscaped beds (not turf, vegetation and trees).
- Library is a county service that we use the most and value the most. I would like it funding to be kept / increased so that we can get access to high quality books for people in all walks of life. I
- Litter cleanup is needed almost everywhere
- Long term would love to see light rail access to the suburbs, but more importantly a light rail to the airport would be amazing.
- Longer customer service hours.
- lower our taxes
- Lower real estate taxes! Be more transparent and diligent with tax money. Too much waste!
- Maintenance of county roads, enforcement of tractor trailer trucks in unsafe areas

- Making the city more walkable and bike friendly is critical, especially for the areas of the city where public transportation is lacking. I see this in my area of Sunset Road and Oakdale Road if there were more walkable areas that were safe, people could get to the local grocery stores and access what they need much more easily.
- Many of Charlotte's well-traveled roads are being poorly maintained. There are dips in the roads. Unpainted lines on Tyvola near I-77. Manhole covers that are too high or too low, causing the pavement surrounding them to dip, which lead to tire damage and vehicle front-end alignment issues. Unless this issue is addressed, the infrastructure will continue to deteriorate at the rate that Charlotte is growing.
- more English classes in libraries to help newcomers integrate
- More programs where the community is educated, more Health fairs!!
- More police surveillance there are many robberies in the county Meck Co public education system is broken and is failing most students not attending schools in high income areas. County commission MUST do more to work with CMS and all other county municipalities to ensure schools have the resources they need to properly educate students at all levels.
- Meck PreK is an incredible program, but working parents of infants still struggle with huge childcare fees. Does the County offer tax incentives to corporations that offer childcare stipends, etc.? Maybe there should be more communication about Meck PreK so more people know about it?
- Mecklenburg Pre-K needs there budgets looked at. Schools are getting over!
- Medic, EMS.... The health care part is associated with them but they are an essentially part of the equation and need to be funded better then they have in the past
- Mental health classes or seminars for children in school is a necessity. Even though I don't have children I see and hear about children having more and more mental health issues.
- Mental illness and finding away to address it in my community.
- MH Services, Library services, green spaces
- More access to menstrual products and education for youth and young adults to eliminate period poverty. Providing these products and services in school, community agencies, libraries, and public spaces will help those who are struggling financially with meeting basic needs.
- more audio book options. this helps people who have failing eye sight, those with reading disabilities, and also can get young kids interested into books without the struggle of reading.
- More connected greenways
- More control over rental companies taking over small neighborhoods. Owners getting pushed out due to the poor management of tenants that they rent properties to. I was once a Respectful renter who maintained the property as if it were my own. Lawn maintenance should be folded into the corporate owners rent assessment. They should take prompt action when their tenants become a nuisance or face steep city fines. It feels a part of a purposeful strategy on the part of the corporate owners to take an anything goes approach so more owners opt out. This ultimately has a negative impact on affordable housing. Enforce ordinances already on the books and protect the citizens of this county.
- More cops in the streets - tired of seeing people littering, dangerous driving, stealing and graffitiing.

- More funding for police to get a handle on rising crime. Would be nice to replace the do nothing DA that is soft on punishment for the criminals that need it. The rest of this list won't matter if you don't get a handle on crime. It won't be long before people start moving away, already hearing of many people considering it, just have not made the move yet.
- More Group sessions for Mental Health that are free or based on income.
- More law enforcement officers everywhere, and more traffic stops for speeding and running red lights.
- MORE LOW AFFORDABLE APT AND HOUSES FOR HARD WORKING PEOPLE LIKE I WAS AT ONE TIME
- More resources for the unhoused population. One "emergency" shelter for women and children is not enough.
- More resources need to be provided to address the impact of climate change, air/water/land pollution that negatively affects the health and quality of life of vulnerable communities in Mecklenburg County
- More roads needs repairs in Northeast Charlotte.
- More senior income restricted housing is needed here
- More services for veterans. NO services for illegals-no healthcare, no education, no housing, no food assistance, NOT A CENT until our veterans are 100% cared for. This goes for grants, federal/county/city funds. These resources should be utilized for American citizens before anyone else.
- More street lights for better night visibility and security
- More tree canopy, water & soil preservation, please!
- Most important ones were listed in my opinion.
- Most of my needs have been met by the county. Not sure what else I would recommend.
- My first priority would be to increase teacher pay. We should increase the supplement for certified teachers and add back Masters Degree pay. I'm really curious why Education wasn't even an option.
- My recommendation is to look at other counties of which there are several and mirror a program for the Down Syndrome population in Mecklenburg including transportation. Such programs should include all things art. For example music, dance, fine art, cooking, and safety in independent living.
- Need a continuous bike/hike path of 8 miles or more.
- NEED MORE PLACES FOR FISHING
- Need to have walk paths along all roads
- Need to support domestic violence non-profits as County partners
- Need transportation services for senior to attend library classes, to get to safe park and recreation programs and greenways. Need this help so seniors without transportation or who are not completely ambulatory to be able to socialize and learn things they need or want to know about activities around the county. Reduce the isolation of seniors who suffer depression and other negative physical and mental health issues due to isolation and lack of knowledge. Plus not all seniors have access of interne or devices like computers to find out about the services and activities available.
- Not making accessibility so easy for investors and larger businesses so that the small business and everyday citizen can thrive. This includes residential and commercial real estate, programs, and services.

- Not that I know of
- Nothing for now. All are covered. Thank you.
- NRRC best thing for north Mecklenburg, Should have been built larger, may need second one soon since getting way overcrowded
- One area that needs help is the educational needs of our children and their mental health. More local support to assist with in school tutoring. Licensed counselors on staff at schools should have in school workshops to help students identify issues that they may not have deemed as requiring assistance.
- Our biggest problem in our area is flooding caused by Mecklenburg County authorizing developers to dump their storm water on our neighborhood (policy during the late 20th century). We pay monthly a fee to Storm Water Department and that should have been used to correct the problems created by developers.
- Our county needs to provide for more funding, training, resources, and personnel for our county Sheriff.
- Our education system is failing our students today which will fail our county in the future as they become part of our adult society. We are graduating students who cannot even read, much less do basic math. I have been into stores many times where a young cashier did not know how to count out the correct change. My heart goes out to them because, in spite of our school system failures, they still have the determination to work. I believe we need a do over in our school system. I received my education starting some 70 years ago. I learned reading using Phonics. In the past 3 years my great granddaughter was taught reading using Phonics. By the time she was 3 she could sound and blend to read "cat in the hat" type books. I also have a 23 year old NC college graduated granddaughter who, until recently, had never heard about the Holocaust. What happened to the REQUIRED math, reading, US History and Word History being taught in our schools and colleges. There is nothing wrong with emphasizing from time to time specific periods of history, but not to the exclusion of everything else. The county budget for our school system should be reflected to correct the years of harm in our methods of teaching and our school system itself get back to the basics. The budget should also better prepare the students who will not be going to college by offering trade school options. Our goal should be that every student who graduates from high school can read, write, know how to do at least basic math. They should be prepared to attend college or be ready to enter the workforce with a prepared skill.
- Our needs are met. I'm impressed with the County programs
- Our recreation centers are few and far between. Having several more facilities with gyms, pools and play space like the Eastway Rec Center, and offering affordable and numerous programs, would provide many fitness, learning and social opportunities for our children after school and on weekends; and for the general public throughout the week.
- Out Public Transportation is TERRIBLE. We have Bus Stops with no cover for rain or sweltering heat & some are not even on flat ground. I pick up people my own age - over 70! - in miserable weather conditions & no one has EVER refused a ride. Rather disgraceful.
- Parenting support is needed. Parents need better understanding of their role, responsibility and parenting community resources.
- PARK AND REC CENTER FOR ALL THESE KIDS IN MY COMMUNITY. THAT CAN DO WORKFORCE PLACEMENT AND TRAINING FOR YOUTHS WITH OR WITHOUT DISABILITIES

- Pay teachers more who work in alternative schools.
- Pickleball courts in the Steele Creek area.
- Pineville-Matthews Road between the hospital and McMullen Creek greenway parking lot REALLY needs some sort of crosswalk or pedestrian bridge over the street.
- Plan development around mature trees. Stop building and clear cutting.
- Please continues to consider funding for arts and culture, LGBT equality initiatives (hiring, non-discrimination policies), and media literacy programs.
- PLEASE CUT THE BUDGET ALLOTMENT GIVEN TO LAW ENFORCEMENT. Too much of our budget goes toward law enforcement and there's no data that supports that ridiculous level of expenditure. Rather, the data shows the so much money going to law enforcement only harms the community and divides the non-law-enforcement citizens from the citizens who are in law enforcement. Also, we need to be concentrating on common sense gun laws at the local level, since the state government is insanely pro-gun.
- Please please please invest more in mixed-use vertical buildings. Every building that is purely residential rather than commercial on the first floor and residential above is a missed opportunity.
- Please prioritize non-car modes of transportation like protected bike lanes and busses and commuter rail, that could help alleviate parking concerns for popular public venues like birkdale village and ease traffic congestion
- Please stay conservative in your approach to serving our community. Having lived in Seattle, please don't go down the route they did to "solve" issues, it only made it worse!
- Please tackle the crime, murders, and homelessness in Mecklenburg County. 30 years ago it was rare to see a shooting or murder in Charlotte. Now it's almost a daily occurrence. The homeless are gonna gradually spreading out all over Charlotte and now many appear to be young, in good shape, and able to work. Maybe the County can put them to work for housing and give them some self esteem.
- Please take steps to hire more lifeguards and water exercise instructors in our aquatic facilities. Increase water exercise classes and include weekends. Please extend hours in all locations to allow for more open swim times. Especially, in the warm pools.
- Police presence in Dilworth neighborhood to deter crime. As the southend area is being developed, it brings with it more people, including criminals. There has been an increase in criminal activity that spills into Dilworth. Example - On 2/13/24, there was a drive by shooting on Atherton street, where 4 shots were fired from a pick up truck, in the middle of the day (around 2:14pm). Thankfully, no one was hurt. This is a short block where over 25 children reside. A few months ago, there was a citizen arrest a little after 11pm, due to a male trespassing into a resident's property on the same short block. This criminal activity will only increase unless there is an increase in police patrolling and appropriate consequences for offenders.
- POLICE TRAINING-INCLUSION-STRONG INCLUSION OF SHOOT TO DISABLE-NOT TO KILL
- Preserving land/trees/wildlife and housing instead of constantly tearing down and building overpriced condos , apartments and housing!
- Prioritize road safety by placing directional lights in all existing and newly developed areas

- Priority v service to contact under age mothers who need to learn how yo parent so that their children are disciplined well and do not end up as 12 year old kids who hang out on the streets to kill or be killed.
- Primarily: The Charlotte-Mecklenburg School system is laughably under-funded. Specifically the amount our teachers get paid. The obvious solution to me is to increase the teacher's salaries, which would incentivize higher-caliber teachers to WANT to work in our system, which would in turn produce better youth and adults in the next generation. Secondly: We should defund abortions. Regardless if we call it ""women's health"", ""planned parenthood"", or ""family planning"", it is unethical to use tax money to help people murder pre-born children. Abortions should be illegal, abortion is killing and a fetus is a child.
- Programs and facilities for those with intellectual/developmental physical disabilities.
- Programs and services that are in need of the people shouldn't be based off of tax dollars we should have an allotment petitioning from our senate our governor to get access and funds to make this happen
- Programs that help justice involved residents, it should be a priority to get them back working, as soon as possible.
- PROPERTY TAXES SHOULD NOT BE INCREASED. ALSO, THE PROPERTY TAX GRANT SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO COUNTY/CITY EMPLOYEES WITH A HIGHER INCOME. THE AMOUNT IS NOT BASED ON THE FINAL FROM THE INCOME TAX RETURN, WHY IS A COPY BEING REQUESTED?
- Provide ramps for seniors, help with physical therapy visits. Free access to swimming pools for seniors.
- Providing support for veterans and the Men's Shelter. Providing affordable housing for seniors and the disabled. Transportation for ALL of Mecklenburg County.
- Public safety. Charlotte is becoming a more and more dangerous place to live. It is important to keep it a safe place for everyone! Lots of robberies and car break ins in our area which has everyone on edge all of the time.
- Public transit
- Public transportation
- Public transportation and bike lane infrastructure improvement
- Public transportation needs to improve. Buses should pass more frequently and more reliably. We need more protected bike lines on our roads and we need more light rails. The blue line is great, but we need more rail lines all over the city. Traffic is getting bad.
- Public transportation really needs to be improved. Having to take over an hour to travel by bus when your destination is ten minutes by car is really bad.
- Put professional sports last. Do not want my tax dollars supporting this.
- Question 11: does the county even try to provide additional parks and recreation. It seems a focus of the city not the county.
- Quit spending money on ridiculous projects. For example, building a sidewalk on Kemp Street that juts into the road in two places where the road loses one lane in both places. Another example was pouring concrete for a sidewalk for the greenway on Rockland Drive (near Autumnwood Lane) and then removing it to add a planter strip.
- Recreation Center, Library
- Recreation Centers are not adequately staffed with 3 full time staff.

- Red line transportation.
- Reduce taxes.
- Reduce the ever growing regulations and costs associated with new home construction and existing home repairs. This includes new Charlotte city zoning's increasing and over reaching regulations on homebuilding.
- Regarding food insecurity - I would be willing to pay slight increase in taxes if that went to support nutritional food for our communities specifically through Nourish Up (used to be Loaves + Fishes Friendship Trays)
- Regardless of the priorities everyone needs to keep in mind that taxpayers only have so much to spare. As housing, food, insurance and every other cost increase for citizens it unfair to attached additional burden of increased taxes. Increases taxes causes families that are barely making to approach poverty, food insecurity, and or homelessness. Please STOP assuming homeowners are wealthy and can just pay more taxes, it is pushing families out of the area.
- Reinstate traffic light cameras. This will improve safety and generate revenue that could used to subsidize law enforcement or other departments.
- Rent control and property tax control are needed. We need to stop all these damn buildings in this city so the city can flow and get a rest.
- resources to reduce over population of deer.
- Respite care for caregivers tending to a senior with severe neurodegenerative diagnosis
- Road improvements and public transportation MUST be addressed, to adequately meet the needs of our rapidly growing population.
- Road improvements for cars
- road maintenance
- Road maintenance is my number one priority.
- Road maintenance. Service potholes on major streets.
- Road repair and parking are a problem in Matthews
- Road repairs, storm drainage, infrastructure.
- Road safety, e.g. crosswalks, expansion of bike lanes, larger sidewalks and pedestrian-friendly streets.
- Roads
- Roads are terrible. 80% of them just destroy the car. West 4th street, all uptown roads need repair.
- Safe, clean, affordable housing for seniors 65+.
- See above. Help us buy a home. We are preapproved for less than market prices.
- See the above - and when I say law enforcement, I mean enforce the laws, not create another program to avoid holding people accountable.
- See the above about allocating funds for CMPD ANIMAL SHELTER. All the \$\$ is currently going to the Humane Society and they don't take nearly enough of the abandoned dogs.
- Child safety
- Separate out homeless with mental illness and unable to care for themselves. In order to get them into facilities for treatment. Then Charlotte can focus on individuals need job placement but are capable of taking care of themselves.

- It would be good to have more special recreation spaces adapted for children with autism and neurodiversity since there are currently very few places. SERVICE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS
- Service the roads, schools, infrastructure.
- Services for seniors to have access to gyms or discounts for keep fit clubs.
- Shelter should be cleaner, more hours of service.
- Sidewalks
- Something for the teenagers to do.
- Spaces to highlight the accomplishments of African American leaders and communities that contributed to the growth of Charlotte.
- Sports and programs for Teens
- Steel Creek area needs connectivity to greenways. Large gaps between neighborhoods with no sidewalk on South Tryon. We should build a greenway that parallels South Tryon from the Lake Wylie bridge to Rivergate and connect to the exiting greenway by Target and up to the Outlet Mall. Extend the greenway behind Target to connect to the Little Sugar Creek Greenway. We need to get people out and moving!
- Stop building all over Charlotte and focus your funds on CMS school system!!! Our schools are in bad shape and require better teachers and better facilities!!! And we can't bring more people into Charlotte without making sure we have room in proper schools for their kids!!!
- Stop building CRC's...many services are available online and spending County tax dollars on huge building - THAT ARE NEVER FULL - is a waste of money.
- Stop overdevelopment. Hire more police and let them do their job. Make sports teams and developers/con artists pay for their businesses the same as everyone else. Stop actively trying to get people to move here
- Stop spending tax money on junk.
- stop the spending. there is so much waste in county government, stop the tax increases. you are bleeding residents dry
- Street repairs, add streets in high traffic areas and maintain landscaping. There is too much litter, weeds and debris. All of this gets into sewer drains and damages the city water supply infrastructure.
- Subsidizing retiree health care for current and future retirees who were promised this benefit. Enhanced transportation services for seniors and adults w disabilities.
- Supplementary educational opportunities for any schoolchildren with particular interests that aren't addressed during the school day could be offered at regional "hubs" (like libraries, e.g., or school spaces not being used for afterschool activities). The focus in education is so intensely on passing EOG tests and on standardized academic testing that very little room in school day schedules is given to creativity in teaching and learning. If quality teachers paid well could teach and involve students in areas of fascination and passion, it would balance out the grit-teethed, bland rigor that is being offered in most schools on most school days. Poor kids.
- Support for County retirees and maintaining the insurance coverage they have.
- support for our unhoused populations
- Support for working families affected by inflation. It is becoming increasingly difficult to buy sufficient groceries, pay rent and child care. But we fall in the "donut hole" of making too much to qualify for help but not enough to cover the rise in prices.

- Support of Mecklenburg County Retirees
- Supporting CMS as post pandemic recovery continues
- Supports for small businesses
- Take money out of the budget for police in the city and use it for programs that actually help people, whether it is to keep them safe, provide healthcare and affordable housing, or anything that is beneficial. Anything is better than a bunch of cops wasting time and money pulling people over for victimless crimes like speeding.
- Teachers need support. We have to make education a priority. Does the County still have Civics field trips lead by County employees at the Government center? Those were great
- Technical training and apprenticeship programs for teens
- Technology access
- Thank you for the Meck PreK program, it made public preschool an option for our family.
- Thank you thank you thank you for the work that's been done on the Little Sugar Creek Greenway on my side of town. I use the LSCG almost every day as I'm a bicycle rider. I often say ... if you want to find happy people in Charlotte, go to the greenway. People are out there walking, running, cycling, skateboarding, etc. with their families, dogs, cats ...
- The amount of continued growth in the county necessitates wider roads and more efficient traffic patterns. County needs to address this BEFORE approving permits for new apartment complexes and housing developments. Always playing catch up after the fact inconveniences and impacts everyone.
- The Arts! We need more.
- The city needs to improve street lighting and sidewalks throughout entire city.
- The County does a lot of great things and gets a lot of things right. I know this after living in Connecticut, Baltimore and Chicago. Perhaps, it should focus on better fleet management where most apparatus, trucks and equipment all seems to be quite new with lots of bells and whistles. Maybe hold onto each of them for an additional year and put those funds toward higher and better uses.
- The county needs programs to help families get children back from foster care. There are many programs for the foster parents but few for parents with kids in foster care.
- The County needs to move much more quickly to put solar panels on County buildings to generate clean energy and acquire more electric vehicles for the county fleet and more charging stations for electric vehicles. We need to do our part to fight climate change.
- The county should start helping to fund charter school facilities
- The court system needs to be overhauled. Letting criminals out with a slap on the wrist is unconscionable.
- The greenways are amazing in this city. Please keep investing in them! They allow me to take my bike to work and even to the hardware store and various shopping complexes! This is downright incredible! I'm also impressed with how quickly downed trees are cleared from the greenways after a bad storm. I think there's room to also invest in protected bike lanes that would make me willing to ride on the road. I live off JW Clay and am aware of a project that's been on the agenda for years at this point to give the street a much needed facelift on walkability and bikeability that I'd love to see come to fruition.

- The Libraries need free printing. Richland County Public Library in Columbia, SC where I'm from is not a big city like Charlotte and they offer the first 10 pages free and they are doing phenomenal on resident and children programs from job workshops to a small recording studio for patrons to rent.
- The library needs more programs to help teenagers prepare for work rather its certification or helping with GED for those who dropped out.. the youth have nothing to do and we need to get them involved. The kids should have more reading parties with pizza involved or movie night about a book they just read.
- The neighborhood matching grant should continue to be funded to support many of the established communities in Charlotte.
- The number one high priority should be the elimination of wasteful programs than are focused on very small groups of citizens or programs that show no progress towards solving the problem (s) they were created to solve. Way too many useless programs that serve mainly to employ people. Better program for reporting back to county residents what monies were expended on programs, where the money was spent and what has been achieved by those programs.
- The opposite is true- stop trying to fund everything. Prioritize what's important to fund and cancel low priority programs.
- The parks department is very mediocre. My mind is still blown that they sold Marshall Park to a developer. If Charlotte is serious about being a world class city it needs to step up. I'm surprised there isn't a not for profit involved like there is in NYC. The Central Park Conservancy not only turned the park around but impacted livability for all (and they give to parks in underserved communities as well). Parks and libraries - so important to quality of life. They make citizens feel valued.
- The provision of parks and recreation facilities need to be expanded and diversified to meet youth needs with private sector
- The rent for a single home in Mecklenburg County is not feasible for the middle working class. Drastic improvements are needed.
- The schools! The county can't withhold needed funding because the school board sucks and you especially can't tie test scores to need or success of schools. Teachers are burnt out and leaving rapidly. Good teachers. That don't have replacements lined up to take their place.
- There are no major green spaces in Charlotte. Like a Central Park in NY or a city park in Denver.
- There are so many unhoused people in this city. Helping them should be priority #1. Closely followed by finishing the resurfacing of 277.
- There is a desperate need in the county for adult literacy programming for ELL families and non-ELL families.
- There is no county wide service for mental health. Everything is private and costly
- There needs to be public bathrooms and garbage bins in higher quantities. And those bathrooms need to be policed so that they're not taken over by the homeless and can be used for everyone.
- There should be a focus on waste removal - a city wide composting program should be implemented.
- There should be a school nurse in every school.
- There should be more intention to offer families equitable early care and education options. This includes supporting Family Child Care and Kin Care options for families. Incentives for providers to offer services and non-traditional hours in communities lacking affordable options.

- There should be part of the budget that is allocated toward the needs of immigrant and refugee families. I especially want there to be more culturally responsive mental wellness programs for people arriving from major conflict areas.
- This is a general comment that applies to every County agency: Please look at the salary balance between administrators and frontline staff.
- Top priorities would be to provide therapy and social work to help people actually be better and have better lives.
- Traffic / Roads / Transit - within North Mecklenburg and into uptown. Business development - family friendly restaurants & breweries
- TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT NEEDS TO BE HIGH ON THE LIST. SPEEDING, AGGRESSIVE DRIVING, IGNORING TRAFFIC LAWS IS A THREAT TO ALL OF US
- Traffic, street lights,
- Transit that works for the (largely underserved) community, please!
- Transportation - safety, better access to light rails, speed limit reductions for pedestrian safety, etc.
- Transportation for school age children has become a major obstacles to families this school year with CMS Shuttle Stops. Students were forced to leave their magnet schools and return to their homeschools because they could not secure transportation. CMS should work with the county to provide high school students with bus passes for CATS in the morning (6am-8am) and in the afternoon (2pm-6pm) to provide equity for all high school students.
- Transportation for shopping and doctors appts.
- Transportation improvements to get more cars off the road. Tree canopy needs to be expanded.
- Transportation services for the disabled. Charlotte is not doing enough. I can't get my disabled family member to his doctor appointments. The services don't cover all of Charlotte but I'm paying property taxes and not getting what I need.
- Transportation system needs to be cleaned, as well with the lack of accessible charging stations. Sometimes my phone dies at night and I have to walk alone at 2am. Having an access to an outlet or clean train it will help feel more secure
- Trash pickup and doing something about gun fire. Even if people aren't being shot there is a tremendous amount of daily gun fire in neighborhoods.
- Trash pickup. The streets of this city are full of unsightly trash.
- Upkeep and staffing of public transportation
- Upkeep of roadways, especially in the Eastway and Central areas. The potholes are insane, and the lack of lines in the roadways in some places make driving at night and in the rain more difficult.
- Utilization of parks and other easily accessible county facilities to administer these programs
- Violence Prevention department made up of citizens and law enforcement.
- Vision zero initiatives need more budget so I can safely traverse the city on foot and by bike without being hit by a car. Bike lanes need way more priority so I can get around the city for cheap and while getting some fresh air. I need speed tables, bollards, and elevated crossings. Our city needs to fund infrastructure to reduce car use.
- WATER, SEWER, TRASH, RECYCLE

- We did not list things for children (i.e.. elementary age and adolescents) outside of childcare. There needs to be more access to programs for youth during the summer who cannot afford the cost of summer camps.
- We feel that there is much waste in the government budget and that money is often mismanaged. With the high taxes we pay in Mecklenburg County, we expect our public parks to be pristine, fun, and in abundance. We also expect for heavy police presence in public spaces to ensure safety and for more police in general. We do not feel safe in many areas of Charlotte and it's frightening for us when there is no police in site. Please reduce waste and allocate more money to police and safety.
- We have an increasing population of homeless families and children who suffer from food insecurity. Programs to address food insecurity should be a priority for Mecklenburg County.
- We have got to help the homelessness problem. That is my #1 concern!!!
- We need a law in regard or rent and requirements. The government is allowing these agency to do whatever they want and taking people hard earned money know they are not going to rent to you
- We need a reck center near Mt. Holly Rd.
- We need case workers to proactively be involved in the community and connect people to resources when they're experiencing crises. I recently helped my neighbor order a new ebt card because she got locked out of her cell phone and has no phone for the time being. I also helped her order a new phone, but she's needing to use my phone. She also has no way of transportation.
- We need more county recycling locations. More efforts to assist bulk item pickups.
- We need more police. There are far too many cars on the road with illegal mufflers. It is getting ridiculous how loud it is at night because of young people speeding around in these cars. Something must be done about them. They know nothing will happen to them, so more people modify their cars to be loud. It is bad for mental health.
- We need more sidewalks along the main roads in the University area between WT Harris Blvd and PNC Music Pavilion. We also need speed enforcement done in this area.
- We need to fund CATS for better transportation.
- We need to get rid of the homeless people and criminals that are lurking in our community in areas such as the intersection of West Boulevard and Remount Road, and other known open-air drug trafficking locations. The answer is not to give people more resources for free that enable their lifestyle in place
- We need to promote more home OWNERSHIP. Not rentals. Home equity is a great way for people to get financially stable. The opposite can be said of rental. Renting only ruins finances. Kick out the corporate rental companies!!!
- We should be bundling improvements around greenways/parks and schools. School pickup lines are a policy failure and we should encourage kids and teachers to have an option to walk, bike, or rollerblade to school. Activity before school has been proven to increase independence and improve readiness for classroom learning.
- We should move to a model of free use recreation centers for city residents similar to how Raleigh operates.

- Weatherization of older structures and replacement of appliances in low income neighborhoods to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption. Incentivizing landlords to make those upgrades, especially in affordable housing would be excellent as well. Accessible and affordable composting opportunities would be nice as well.
- When I call the police they either do not show up or show up very late and then laugh that they will never be able to apprehend the person responsible for break ins or theft or anything. We have defunded the police and our city has suffered greatly. Bring the death penalty for theft . Make the fine for litter to be 1 million dollars. Cod something before our beautiful city turns into New York or San Francisco
- Why is public education not listed as an item? It is very important to me that our public schools are prioritized and funded.
- Widening of roads and new sidewalks in South Charlotte are desperately needed.
- With cap 400,000. I want to live out my life in the home I have known since 1976. I was born here, never lived out of co. Line!!!
- With the population growth we will have many more seniors living in our area. They will need more and more in-home services and old age housing.
- Would love to see trash pick up for the unincorporated areas
- Your security question didn't address parks and other public spaces. The county is dangerous and that should be a top priority. Even driving is hazardous as most traffic laws are not being consistently enforced.
- Youth age activities to produce more productive young adults. Something like teen court where teens being charged as adults or teens being charged as minors are actually judged by their peers. More activities that is free of cost that will help these teens figure out what they want to be in life besides a sport star or music star. Give them insight, have activities that have to do with the tax office, government official positions. Maybe that will decrease the amount of gun violence amongst our teens

6 Survey Instrument



MECKLENBURG COUNTY
North Carolina
County Manager's Office

Dear Mecklenburg County resident,

Each year, Mecklenburg County develops an annual operating budget that reflects the priorities of the County Commission and the community. We are currently developing the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, which starts July 1, 2024, and ends June 30, 2025, and **we need your help!**

Your input on the enclosed survey will help us understand whether your needs for selected county services are being met and which services should be prioritized for the next year.

This survey will take **less than 10 minutes to complete, and your responses will remain anonymous.** There are three ways in which you can respond:

1. By mail: please return the enclosed survey within one week in the provided postage-paid envelope
2. By phone: please call toll-free at 1-888-801-5368
3. Online: please scan the QR Code on this survey or go to MeckCountyBudgetSurvey.org

To show our appreciation, you will have an opportunity to enter a **random drawing for one \$500 Visa gift card at the end of the survey.** The drawing is limited to one entry per household and the gift card will be sent via email.

If you have questions or problems related to the completion of the survey, please call Mike Rich, the survey manager from ETC Institute at 913-254-4598 or mike.rich@etcinstitute.com. If you have questions about Mecklenburg County's budget process, please contact our Budget Director, Adrian Cox, at adrian.cox@mecklenburgcountync.gov.

Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback with us.

Sincerely,

Dena R. Diorio
County Manager

Mecklenburg County Budget Priorities Survey

Mecklenburg County is developing the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025). We need your feedback to help determine how the County's funding for selected programs, services, and facilities should change. Your responses to this survey will be used to objectively assess the needs for County programs/services and the priority residents place on these programs/services.



This survey will take less than 10 minutes to complete, and to show our appreciation you will have a chance to enter a **random drawing for one \$500 Visa gift card** at the end of the survey. If you would like to complete this survey online, please scan the QR code to the right OR go to MeckCountyBudgetSurvey.org. We appreciate your time and value your feedback.

1. Please indicate how your household's needs for the programs, services, and facilities listed below are being met using a scale of 4 to 1, where 4 means your needs are "Fully Met" and 1 means your needs are "Not Met" at all. If you do NOT have a need for an item or would not expect the County to support your need for the item, please circle "9" for "NO NEED."

Needs for County Programs/Services/Facilities		Fully Met	Mostly Met	Partly Met	Not Met	NO NEED
01.	Child welfare services	4	3	2	1	9
02.	Subsidized childcare services	4	3	2	1	9
03.	Services for senior adults age 60+ (includes services like adult day care, nutrition, transportation, and in-home assistance)	4	3	2	1	9
04.	Programs/services that help residents get access to healthy food	4	3	2	1	9
05.	Efforts by the County to improve access to affordable housing	4	3	2	1	9
06.	Behavioral health resources that help with the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental health, substance use disorders, life stressors/crises and stress-related physical symptoms	4	3	2	1	9
07.	Efforts by the County to improve access to healthcare	4	3	2	1	9
08.	Workforce development services that provide training and support to help residents get jobs and/or enhance their careers	4	3	2	1	9
09.	Maintenance of County parks	4	3	2	1	9
10.	The number of County parks and greenways	4	3	2	1	9
11.	Efforts by the County to acquire land for the development of parks, greenways, and open-space preservation	4	3	2	1	9
12.	Library collections (books, e-books, audiobooks, periodicals, music, videos, etc.)	4	3	2	1	9
13.	Library programs for children, teens, and/or adults	4	3	2	1	9
14.	Safety and security at County facilities like libraries, recreation centers, and County offices	4	3	2	1	9
15.	Programs and services that help justice-involved residents after they have had interactions with the criminal justice system	4	3	2	1	9

2. Which FOUR of the services/programs/facilities listed above do you think should be the top priorities for funding in the County's FY 2025 Budget? [Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 1.]

1st: _____ 2nd: _____ 3rd: _____ 4th: _____

3. Would you be willing to pay a slight increase in taxes to help fund improvements in the services/program/facility you selected as your top priority in Question 2?

____(1) Yes ____ (2) No ____ (9) Don't know

OPTIONAL OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS. If you do not like responding to open-ended questions, feel free to skip Questions 4 and 5 below.

4. If you indicated that your household's needs were not being met for an item in Question 1, please list the item number and briefly describe why your need is not met. *[If your needs are not being met for more than one item, please address your concern about the item that is most important to you.]*

5. Not all County programs/services/facilities are listed in Question 1. If you have comments or suggestions about other County programs/services/facilities that should be high priorities in the FY2025 budget, please describe them below.

Demographics: Please answer the following demographic questions about yourself. Your information will remain completely anonymous and will only be used for classification purposes and to ensure that the results are representative of the County.

6. What is your age? _____ years
7. Please check the age groups that are represented in your household. *[Check all that apply.]*
 ____ (1) Under 18 ____ (2) 19-59 years ____ (3) 60+ years
8. Your gender: ____ (1) Male ____ (2) Female ____ (3) Prefer to self-describe: _____
9. Do you own or rent your home in Mecklenburg County: ____ (1) Own ____ (2) Rent
10. Household Income:
 ____ (1) Less than \$15,000 ____ (4) \$35,000 to \$49,999 ____ (7) \$100,000 to \$149,999
 ____ (2) \$15,000 to \$24,999 ____ (5) \$50,000 to \$74,999 ____ (8) \$150,000 or more
 ____ (3) \$25,000 to \$34,999 ____ (6) \$75,000 to \$99,999
11. Your race and/or ethnicity?
 ____ (01) Asian or Asian Indian ____ (05) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 ____ (02) Black or African American ____ (06) Hispanic, Spanish or Latino/a/x
 ____ (03) American Indian or Alaska Native ____ (99) Other race/ethnicity: _____
 ____ (04) White or Caucasian
12. Would you like to be entered in a random drawing for one \$500 Visa gift card and/or participate in future surveys sponsored by Mecklenburg County? The drawing is limited to one entry per household and the gift card will be sent via email. *[Check all that apply.]*
 ____ (1) Yes - Enter me in the drawing ____ (2) Yes - I'd like to participate in future surveys ____ (3) No
- 12a. If you selected YES for either item above, please provide your contact information below:

Mobile Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

This concludes the survey. Thank you for your time!

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope addressed to:
 ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061

To learn more about Mecklenburg County's Budget, please go to: budget.mecknc.gov