

2023-2024 Budget Engagement Summary

Community Engagement Strategy: Engagement for the 2023-2024 budget built off of similar efforts for the 2021 and 2022 one-year budgets, and evolved to reflect best practices and lessons learned from other successful engagement efforts. The OurCity webpage offered a variety of feedback opportunities based on time and interest, on-demand learning, and self-service tools. In addition, this year the City partnered with CSU's Center for Public Deliberation to host community-led conversations about budget priorities and a budget workshop focused on funding tradeoffs.

Methods:

- Animated Budget 101 videos in English/Spanish
- Budget Workshop in partnership with the Center for Public Deliberation
- OurCity project page with online engagement activities in both English/Spanish
- Website and social media promotion
- Public Hearings
- Community Survey

Participation:

- OurCity:
 - 1,600 total page visits
 - 1,100 aware visitors, 599 informed visitors, 151 engaged
 - 128 survey responses
 - 118 ideas submitted
- Social Media:
 - Facebook 24,000 impressions
 - Twitter 1,000 impressions
 - YouTube 3,400 views

Feedback Summary - What we Heard:

Survey Results:

For each of the categories below, please select whether you think the City should invest more funding, the same amount, or less funding in 2023-2024.

Outcome Area	More Funding	Same Level	Less Funding
Economic Health	36%	60%	4%
Environmental Health	63%	27%	10%
Neighborhood Livability & Social Health	47%	41%	12%
Safe Community	20%	58%	22%
Culture & Recreation	38%	60%	2%
Transportation & Mobility	48%	45%	7%
High Performing Government	10%	70%	20%

OurCity Themes:

Below are the most common theme areas for increased focus or funding, by Outcome Area.

- Economic Health: childcare, education and workforce training
- Environmental Health: air quality, water quality and river health, land conservation, climate
- Neighborhood Livability & Social Health: affordable and attainable housing, homelessness services, poverty, U+2 and neighborhood quality
- Safe Community: mental health, social services and co-responder program; park and trail safety; neighborhood safety re: homelessness; general policing and crime rates
- Culture & Recreation: maintenance, infrastructure and asset management; local performing arts support; natural areas safety, maintenance and restoration
- Transportation & Mobility: bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and safety, increased and more effective transit, especially regionally
- High Performing Government: staff pay, inflation and cost of living, especially for lower-wage workers; Council pay; cybersecurity; Equity Office staffing and programming

Community Survey:

- Top 3 outcome areas to be prioritized:
 - Environmental Health
 - Neighborhood Livability & Social Health
 - Transportation
- Which outcomes should have more funding/effort
 - Environmental Health (64%)
 - Neighborhood Livability & Social Health (62%)
 - Transportation (51%)
- Open question – top 3 themes (what's the most important thing the City should be focusing on and why)
 - Affordable housing
 - Environmental issues
 - Growth and development issues

Full Community Survey results memo from Sept. 6, 2022:

<https://records.fcgov.com/CouncilCorr/DocView.aspx?id=15545838&dbid=0&repo=FortCollins&searchid=6f047de3-2414-4292-9cca-28d8b2522113>

Attachments:

- Letters to City Council
- Full text submitted comments