



RECREATION, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

TO: Recreation Governance Committee
DATE: December 1, 2020 **DIVISION:** All
FILE: N/A **APPLICATION:** N/A
SUBJECT: Recreation COVID-19 Survey Results

POLICY DIRECTION:

As per their Terms of Reference, the Recreation Governance Committee (RGC) “*receive[s] updates from Administration on emerging and ongoing recreation projects and initiatives*”.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all aspects of County residents’ lives, including recreation participation, provision, and availability. In an effort to better understand the effects of the pandemic on recreational service providers and facility operators serving residents, Administration developed an online survey to collect relevant information to help guide the County’s efforts in supporting these groups during the pandemic and beyond. The survey showed:

- 32 groups responded. The majority of groups expressed concerns over sustainability through the pandemic, including revenue loss, and reopening restrictions and the associated costs.
- Though 66% of groups did not apply for provincial COVID-specific grants or support, 66% did apply for federal programs.
- Groups are flexible where possible, adapting programs to outdoor or online venues, and modifying operations and programs to align with AHS guidelines.
- 62% of groups have, or are currently developing, a business continuity plan. 58% of groups do not have one.
- Support requested from the County included:
 - Information sharing (including promotion of recreation facilities to residents and COVID-specific coping strategies);
 - Funding;
 - Capacity-building training requests; and
 - The support of collaboration amongst community groups.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends that the results of the Recreation COVID-19 Survey be received as information, in accordance with Option #1.

DISCUSSION:

On March 17, 2020, a provincial public health state of emergency imposed limitations on public gatherings, and prohibited or limited attendance at public and private facilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The state of emergency ended on June 15, and Stage II of the provincial Relaunch Strategy has allowed community halls and recreation centres to reopen. Even so, three months of closures, limits to indoor and outdoor gathering sizes, physical distancing, and enhanced cleaning requirements have had a notable impact on not only the availability of public recreation opportunities to residents, but the manner in which providers approach facility operations and program delivery.

Administration Resources

Susan de Caen, Community Services Coordinator, Recreation, Parks and Community Support



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In an effort to better understand the effects of the pandemic on recreation program providers and facility operators serving residents, Administration developed a survey (Attachment A) to collect relevant information to help guide the County's efforts during the pandemic and beyond.

Administration invited the County's recreational partners to take part in the survey; the results are presented in Attachment B.

Responses were received from 32 of 200 service providers (26 facility operators and six [6] program suppliers). Highlights of the survey results include:

Topic	Insights
COVID-19 challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Though 81% of organizations received funds between May and July 2020, 77% of the facility operators noted funding concerns. • Decreases in program and rental revenues, increases in operational expenses due to AHS cleaning requirements, and uncertainty over the future of the pandemic, have led to concerns over having sufficient operating funds.
When do organizations anticipate that they will be back to "business as usual"?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three anticipated immediately; • Five expected it would take anywhere up to 24 months; and • Ten were either uncertain, anticipating Stage III of the provincial relaunch, or simply abiding by AHS guidelines.
Non-municipal funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34% of respondents did not apply for federal funding programs. • 66% did not apply for provincial programs. • The remainder applied for a combination of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ COVID-specific grants; ○ General federal and provincial grant programs; and ○ Private arts grants.
Operating strategies during the pandemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapting programs to outdoor or online venues; • Going digital for staff and user check-in; and • Modifying operations and programs to align with AHS guidelines.
Business continuity plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58% of groups do not have business continuity plans. • 62% do, or are currently developing plans.
Support requested from the County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sharing (including promotion of recreation facilities to residents and COVID-specific coping strategies); • Funding; • Capacity-building training requests; and • The support of collaboration amongst community groups.

Given the survey feedback, Administration is proposing to deliver the following support for County recreation providers:

- Continued *Recreation Update* emails to all current and past grant applicants, and as requested by residents. These updates will continue to provide updates on:
 - RGC decisions.
 - Recreation planning and development in the County.
 - Municipal grant opportunities.
 - Changes in government responses to the pandemic that are relevant to recreation (relaunch strategies, guidelines, and provincial and federal support programs).
 - Information about capacity-building opportunities (board development, first aid, emergency response, and fund raising) as they become available.



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- How community groups are adapting to the “new reality” – sharing information such that others can learn from it.
- Work with Communications to highlight and promote recreation provision for County residents, including:
 - Locations, services, and programs provided by recreation groups serving County residents.
 - Upcoming County community and recreation events.
- As the County resumes Open Houses, Administration will organize community networking events such that similarly-minded recreation organizations can meet and share ideas.
- Provide assistance to service providers in the formulation of post pandemic plans and alternate program delivery models should they require it.
- Meet with groups should they desire to help form business continuity plans.
- Provide links and resources to better assist them in the recovery.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

There are no budget implications at this time as presentations are received as information.

OPTIONS:

- Option #1 THAT the Recreation COVID-19 Survey Results be received as information.
- Option #2 THAT alternative direction be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurrence,

“Theresa Cochran”

“Al Hoggan”

Executive Director
Community Development Services

Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT ‘A’ – Recreation COVID-19 Survey
ATTACHMENT ‘B’ – Recreation COVID-19 Survey Results



Recreation COVID-19 Impacts

Welcome to Rocky View County's Recreation COVID-19 Impact Survey

Recreation is an essential part of our lives. Rocky View County is conducting this survey to better understand our non-profit recreation providers' plans for the future and to gather information that will help guide the County's efforts in assisting with the successful realization of these goals as we move through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

We are aware that the challenges non-profits face are often related to funding shortages, and the reality is, available funds are limited. The goal of this survey is to gain a deeper understanding of your organizational needs and to determine various means by which the County can provide support.

We appreciate your feedback as it will help us understand your perspective, plans, and concerns as we keep working on our planning to better serve the needs of County residents.



Recreation COVID-19 Impacts

Organization Information

Please let us know about your organization.

* 1. Organization's name

* 2. Facility or program name

* 3. Organization contact information

Name

Email address

Phone number

* 4. Pre-COVID Employee Numbers

Full Time Positions

Part Time Positions

Volunteers

* 5. What services does your organization offer (please check all that apply)?

- ☐ Direct delivery of programs
- ☐ Facility rentals for program providers
- ☐ Facility rentals for special events
- ☐ Free access to a recreation amenity(s)
- ☐ Other (please specify)



Recreation COVID-19 Impacts

How Can We Help?

6. Please provide any comments that will better help us understand the challenges you are facing due to the pandemic.

7. How do you see your organization post-pandemic? Will you be offering the same types of services and programs? Will you be adjusting based on the potential for a "new normal"? (i.e.: more digital-based programs, smaller group sizes).

8. How could the County support your organization? (i.e.: strategy planning, promoting collaborative approach between groups, training opportunities, sharing information)



Recreation COVID-19 Impacts

Organizational Continuity

Please help us better understand your organization's continuity tactics.

9. Does your organization have a business continuity plan?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you are currently working on a continuity plan, when do you anticipate its completion?

Examples of what continuity plans can provide, along with sample templates, can be found at:

- [Canadian Ctr. for Occupational Health & Safety Business Continuity Plan](#)
- [COVID-19 Continuity](#)

Should you require assistance preparing a business continuity plan, please contact us at recreation@rockyview.ca.

10. Has your organization applied for any Federal programs? (please check all that apply)

- ☐ 75% Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)
- ☐ 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers
- ☐ Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)
- ☐ Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)
- ☐ Western Economic Diversification Canada
- ☐ Extended Work-Sharing
- ☐ Reduced or deferred tax payments
- ☐ Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)
- ☐ New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP)
- ☐ Museums Assistance Program
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other (please specify)

11. Has your organization applied for any Provincial programs? (please check all that apply)

- ☐ Utility payment deferral
- ☐ WCB premium payment deferral
- ☐ Emergency Social Services funds
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other (please specify)

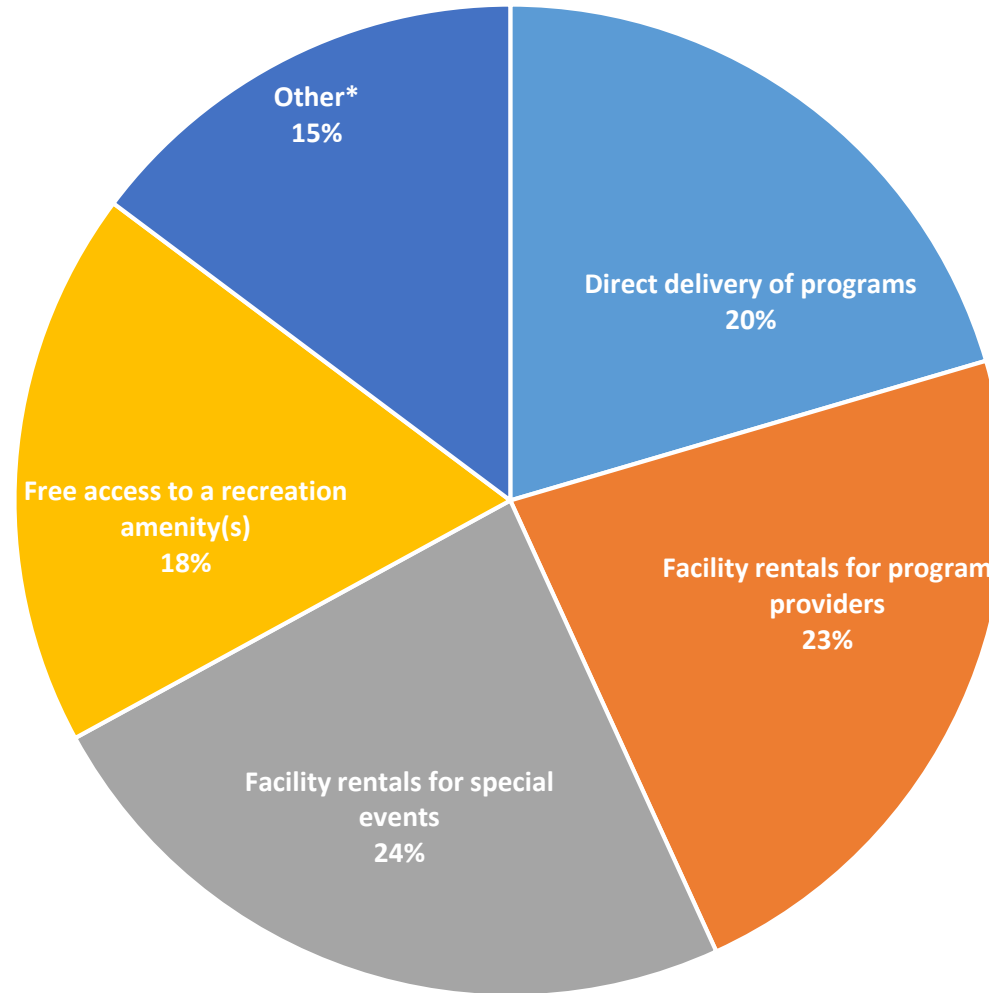
12. How long (in months) do you anticipate it take for your organization to be back to business "as usual"?

13. Do you have any other comments or concerns related to impacts of the pandemic on your organization?

Recreation COVID-19 Impacts Survey Results

- In July 2020, a survey of the County's recreation providers gathered information to help guide efforts in assisting community recreation providers as we move through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.
- The survey was made available online to all groups that have applied for County funding in the past three years.
- 32 groups responded.
- The results of the survey follow.





***Other**

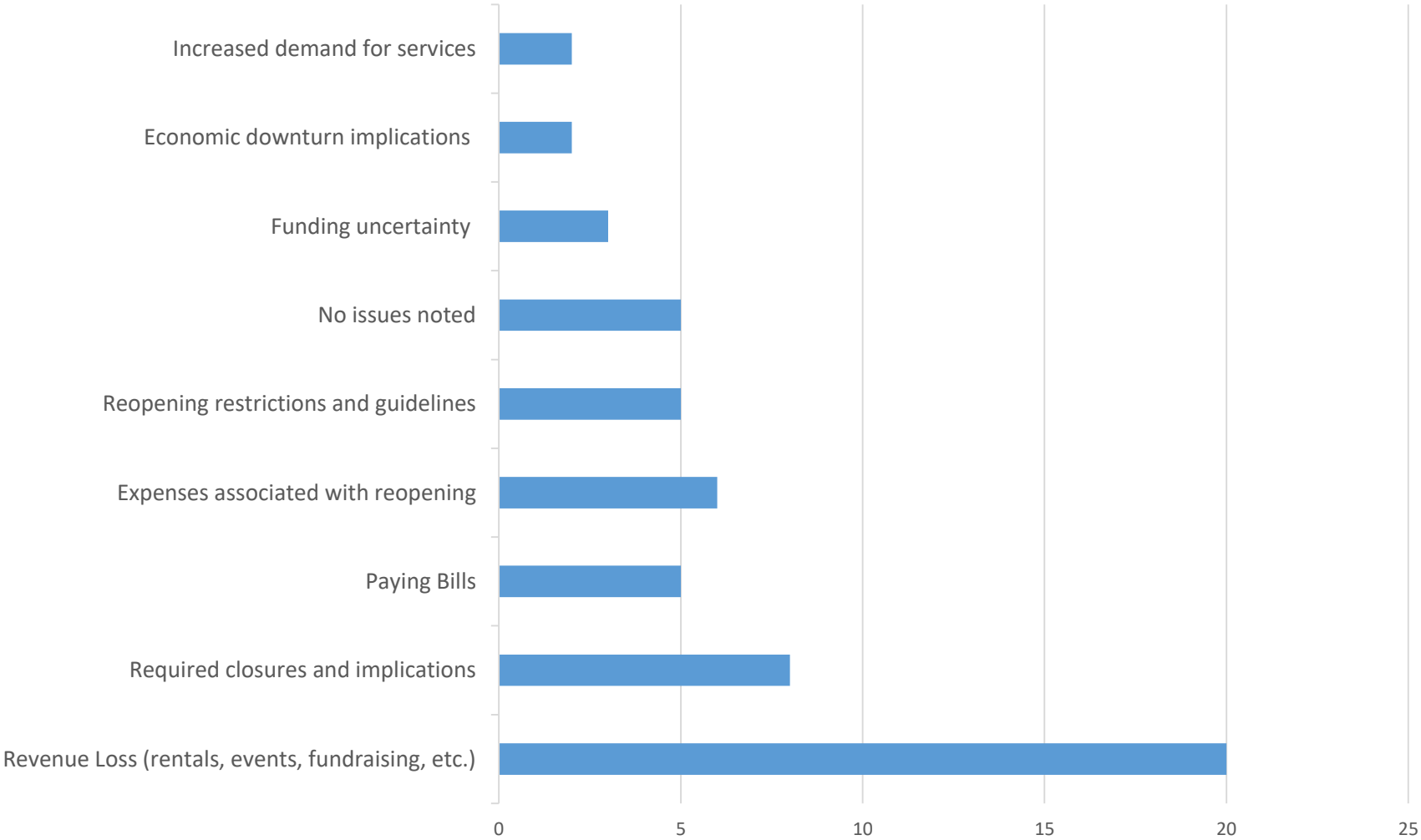
- Office and Meeting Space for Not for Profits
- Tennant rental spaces
- Workshops and education
- Access to Library, art gallery & archives
- Community events
- Farmers' market
- Information dissemination
- Cultural activities
- Trails and pathways



Please provide any comments that will better help us understand the challenges you are facing due to the pandemic.

Pandemic challenge faced by community groups

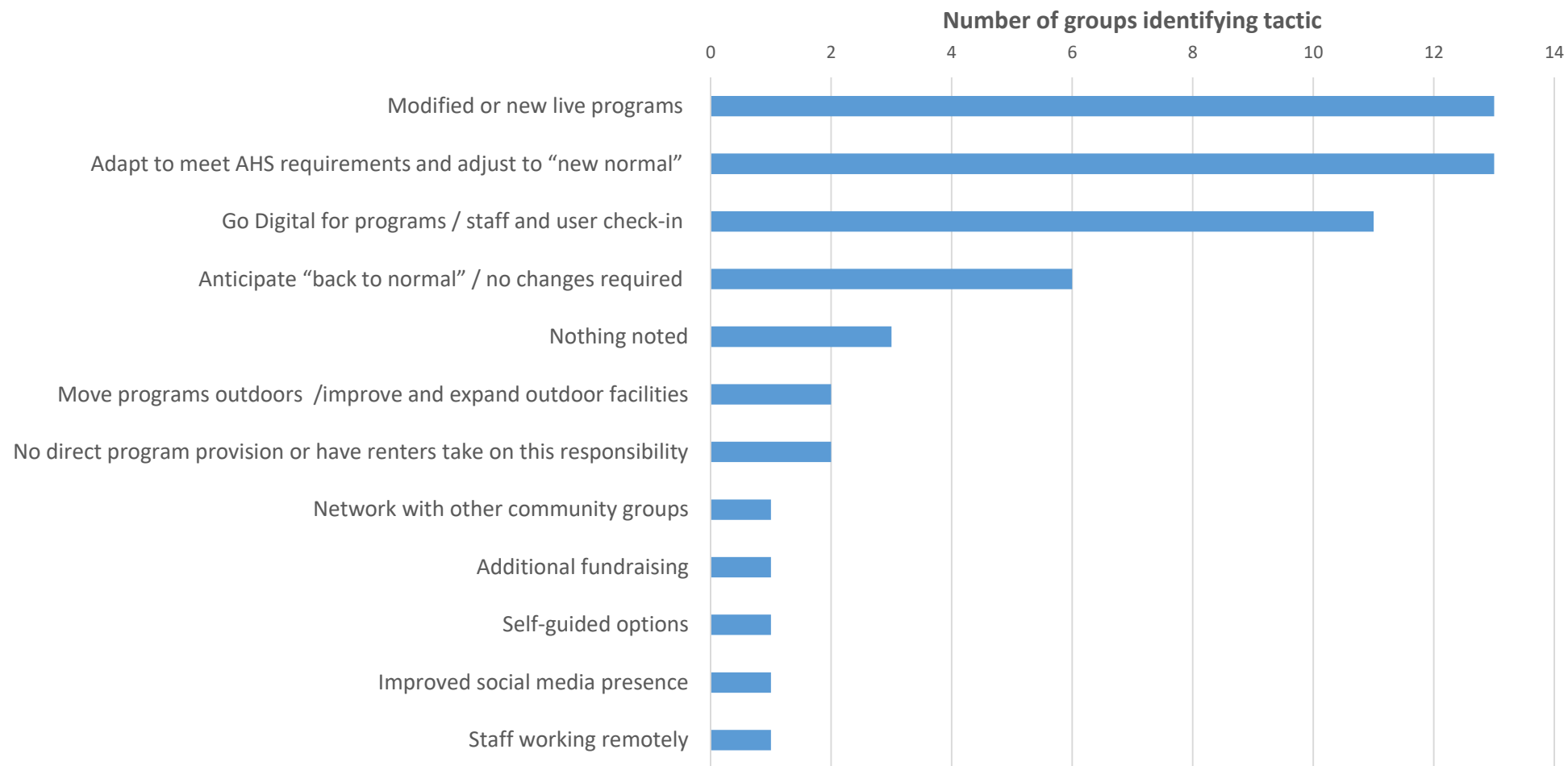
Number of groups noting pandemic challenge

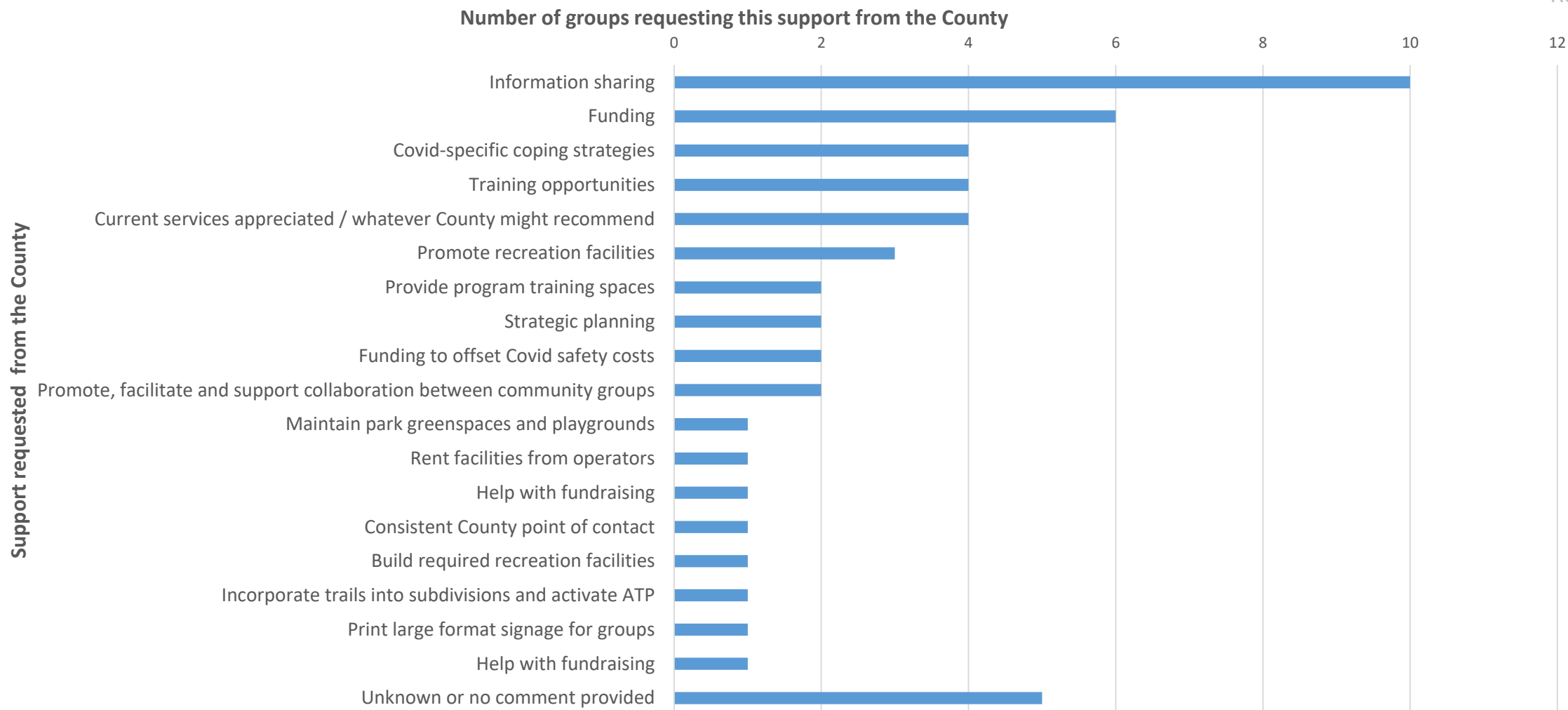


How do you see your organization post-pandemic? Will you be offering the same types of services and programs? Will you be adjusting based on the potential for a “new normal”?

29 of 32
Responded

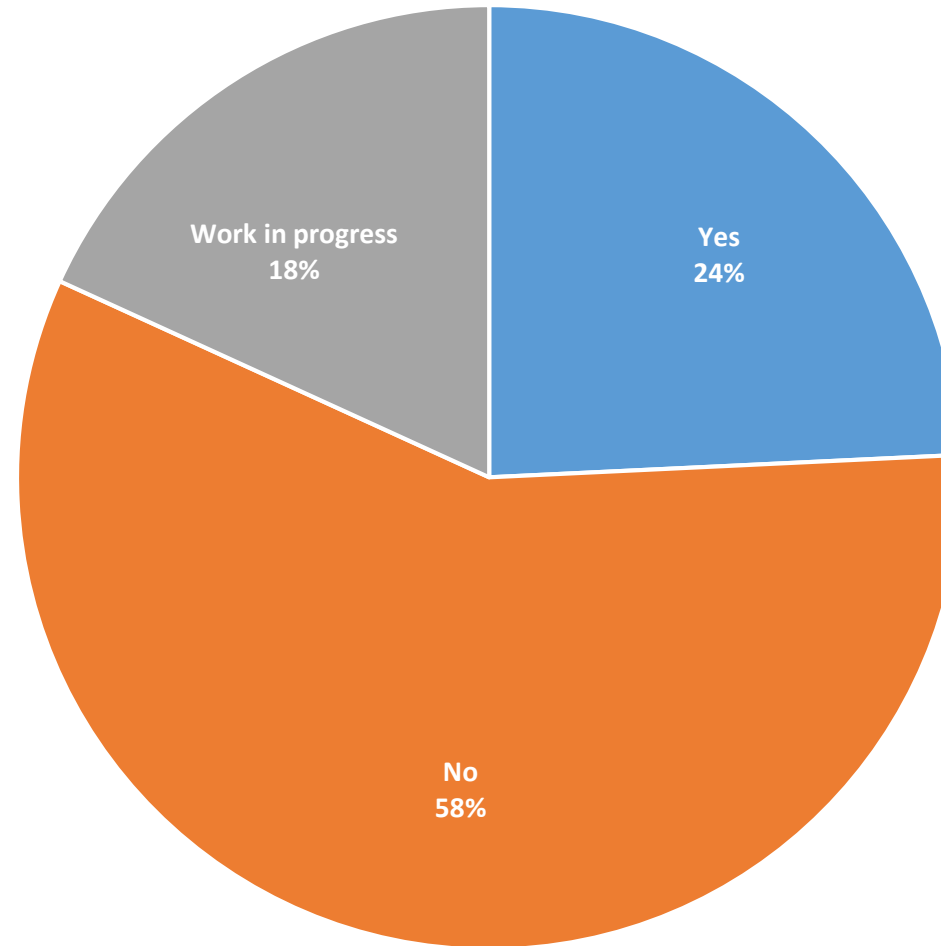
Proposed post-COVID Tactic

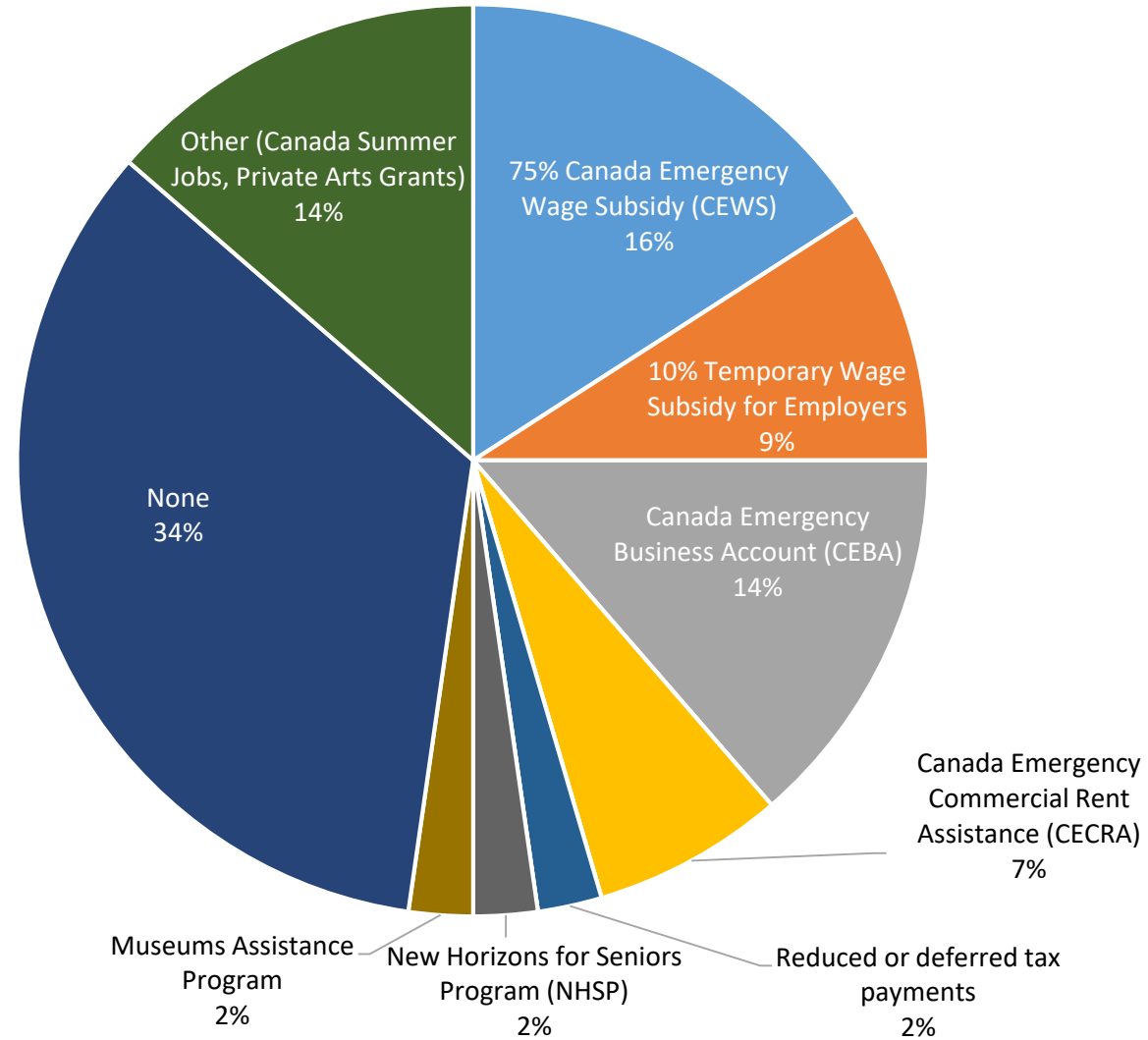


How could the County support your organization?

Does your organization have a business continuity plan?

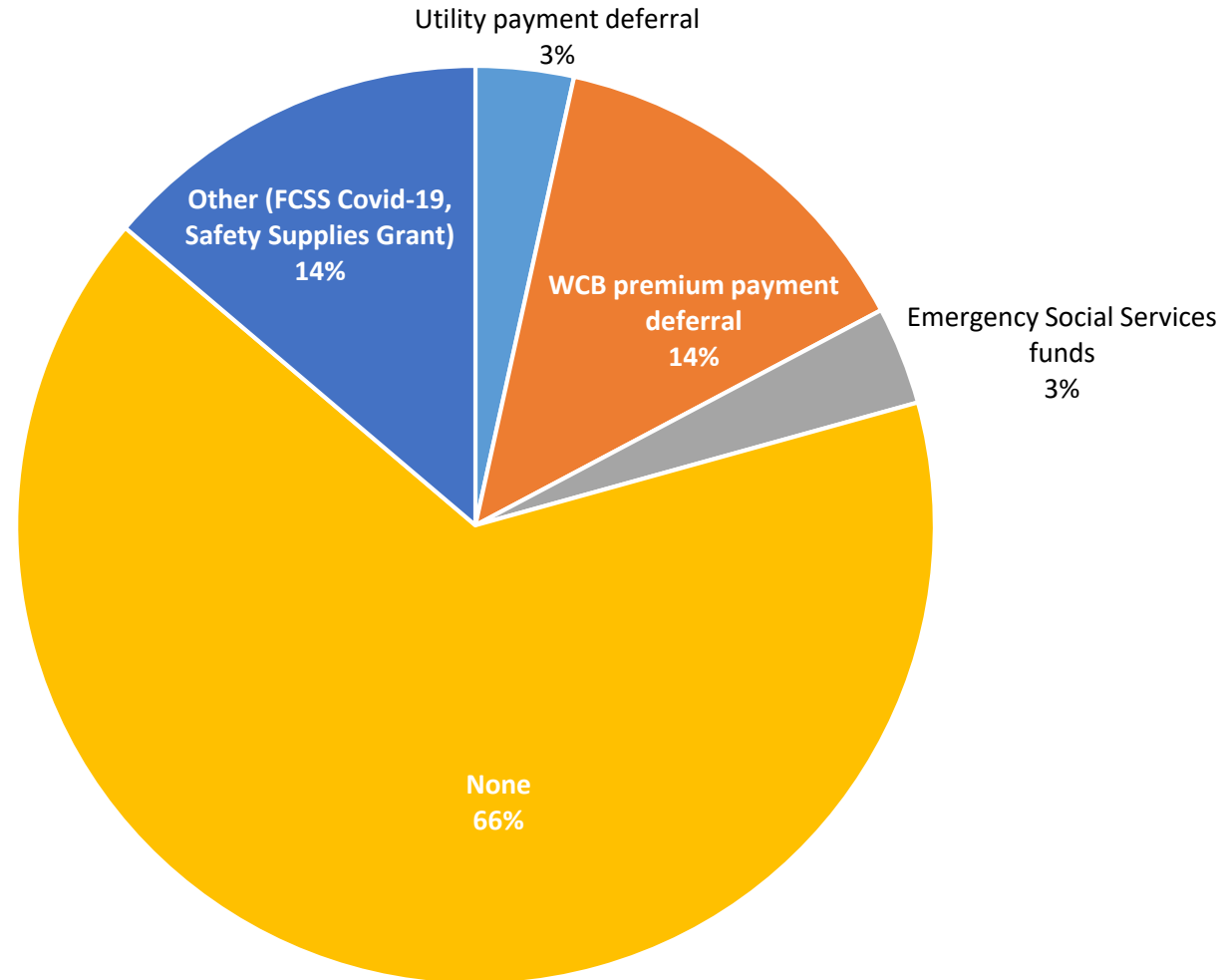
27 of 32
Responded





Has your organization applied for any Provincial programs?

25 of 32
Responded



How long do you anticipate it take for your organization to be back to business “as usual”?

28 of 32
Responded

