

# Talbot County ARPA Funds Usage Survey

## December 2021 - January 2022

John Hickman

Study Commissioned by:



Study Conducted by:

**BEACON**  
Business Economic and Community Outreach Network  
At Salisbury University

From December 20, 2021 through January 16, 2022 BEACON conducted a community survey for Talbot County on the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The short survey of 10 questions gauged citizens' views on how the county should use the approximately \$7.2 million in ARPA funds allocated to the Talbot County government. The survey distributed to broad population in Talbot County in Spanish and English; it was available in the Library and other public locations for Kiosk or Paper submission.

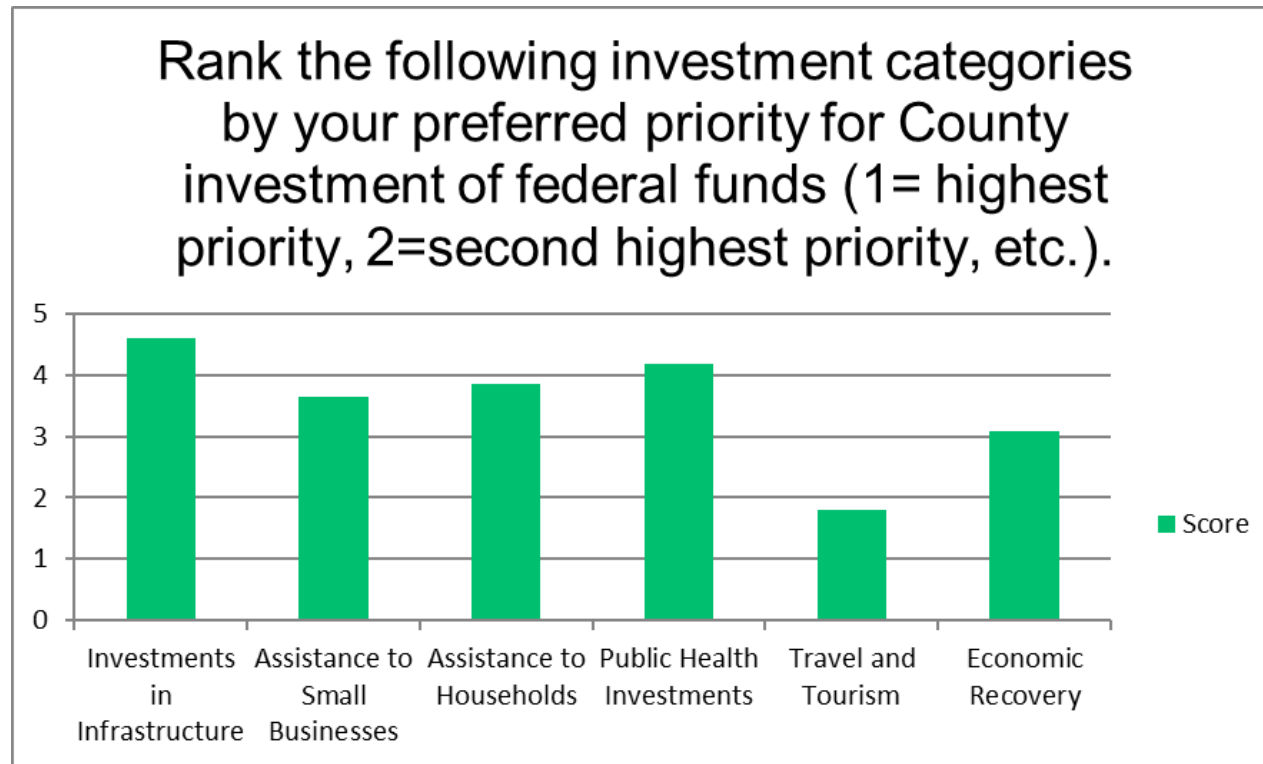
BEACON consulted with Talbot County leadership and key stakeholders to craft the questions. Specific options for spending were reviewed to ensure that the options were permissible under ARPA guidelines.

The survey received strong feedback, with 634 total responses. The two broad questions : “Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?”, and “If you could spend our ARPA funds on one project to improve Talbot County, what would it be and why?”, received over 400 narrative responses each. Most clarification Questions received over 80 replies. A full list of these responses is included as an attachment.

The feedback will be helpful to prioritize the spending, but will also assist the County in other spending planning. Leaders should review the narrative responses to understand priorities of the public that may not be allowable under ARPA, but would be important to the county. Respondents to rank the broad categories of investment, then asked them to rank selected options from those categories.

The responses came from participants throughout Talbot County, 83% of the responses are from the following 10 zip codes: Easton, Saint Michaels, Trappe, Cordova, Royal Oak, Oxford, Tilghman Island, Claiborne, Neavitt and Wittman.

Question 1: Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds (1= highest priority, 2=second highest priority, etc.)



	Score
• Investments in Infrastructure	4.61
• Public Health Investments	4.17
• Assistance to Households	3.85
• Assistance to Small Businesses	3.64
• Economic Recovery	3.09
• Travel and Tourism	1.81

Question 1: Investments Infrastructure; Public Health; Assistance to Households; Assistance to Small Businesses; Economic Recovery; Travel and Tourism.

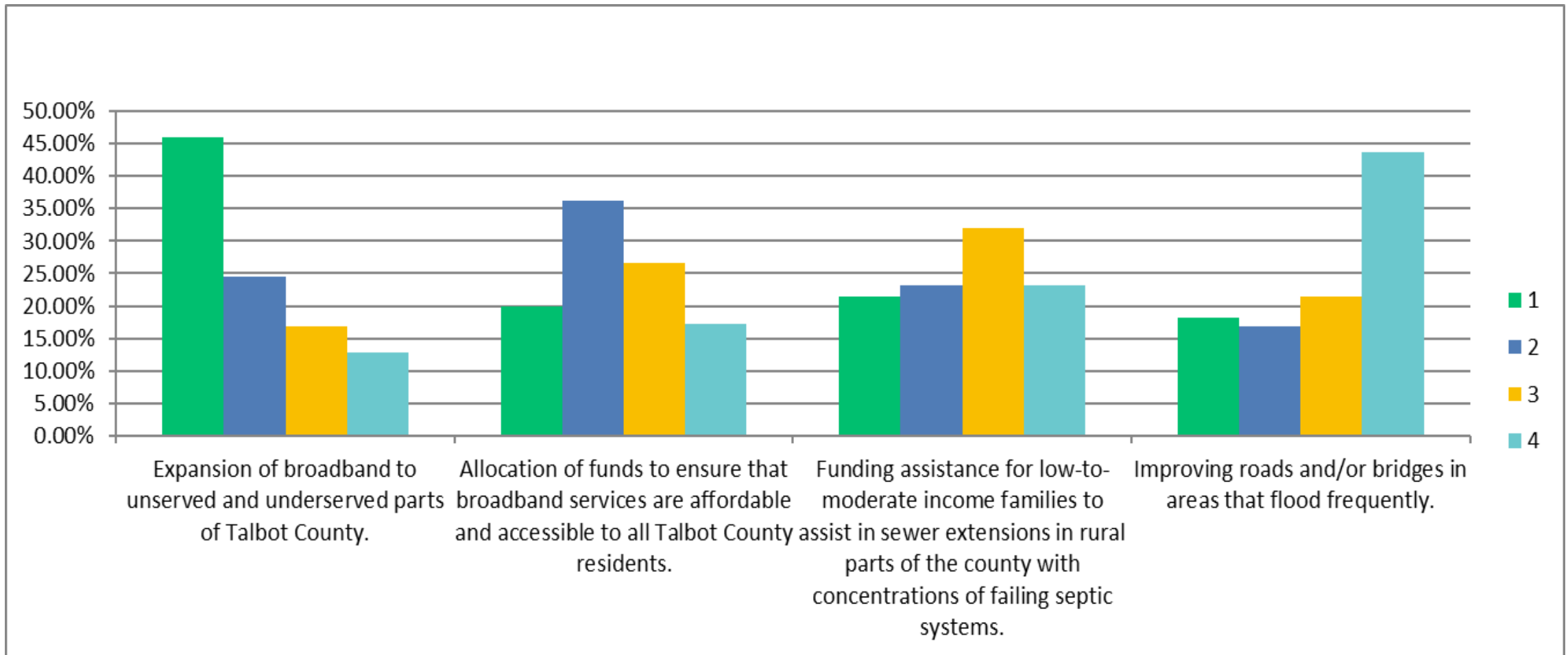
The number one priority, for 43% of respondents, was Investments in Infrastructure. Public Health Investments were a close third for #1, top for #2, and second for #3 showing a broad total support. Second place for first priority and third ranking overall was Assistance to Households. Respondents showed broad support for Assistance to Small Business which was the third choice for first priority, second choice for second priority, and remained first or second priority in choices 3 through 5. The lowest ranking was Travel and Tourism.

The County should prioritize Infrastructure and Public Health Investments, while providing support to projects assisting Households and Small Business.

Later slides will show the projects that were preferred in each category.

Note, Question 2 was the narrative reply to: “Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?” The 426 responses are in an Attachment 1.

Question 3: Rank the following Infrastructure projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds (1= highest priority, 2=second highest priority, etc.).

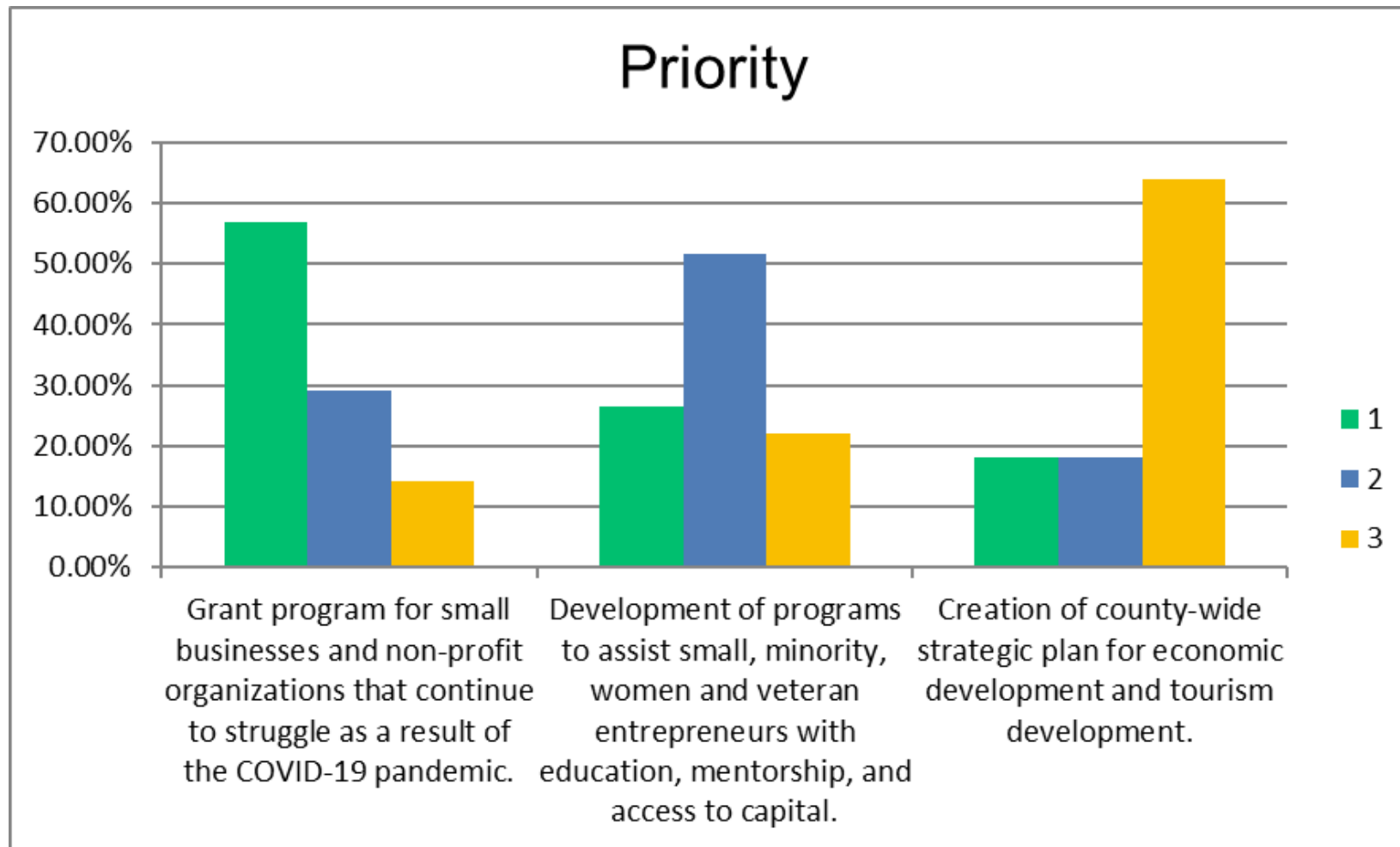


Question 3: Rank the following Infrastructure projects: *Expansion of Broadband to unserved and underserved, Funds to ensure that Broadband services are affordable and accessible, Funding for low-to-moderate income families to assist in sewer extensions, Improving Roads / bridges in areas that Flood frequently.*

Over 45% of respondents chose *Expansion of Broadband* as their #1 priority, and many others chose it as their second priority, additionally *Making access to Broadband affordable* was top for second priority and a close third for first priority reflects the support for this investment. Investments in *Roads that Flood Frequently* was clearly chosen as lowest priority for respondents.

Note, Question 3 also included the option “Other.” There were 90 replies, while many included other projects, some were comments in support of the listed options, or lack of support. The responses are in an Attachment 2.

Question 4: Rank the following Assistance to Small Businesses projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds (1= highest priority, 2=second highest priority, etc.).



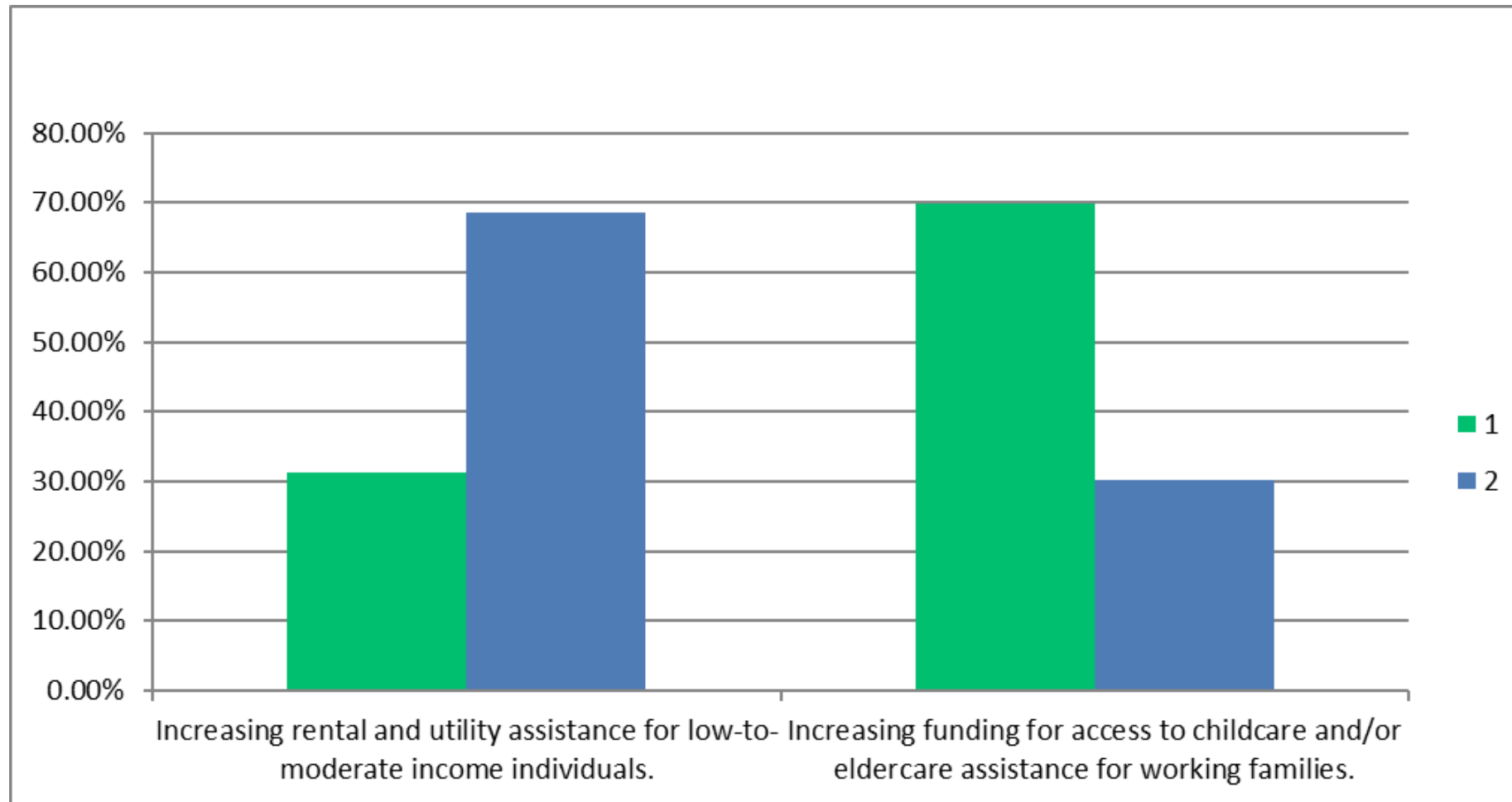
Question 4: Rank the following Assistance to Small Businesses projects: *Grant program for small businesses and non-profit organizations, Development of programs to assist entrepreneurs with education, mentorship, and access to capital, Creation of county-wide Strategic Plan for economic development and tourism development.*

Over 55% of respondents supported *Direct Grants to small businesses and non-profits*, and almost 30% chose that as their second priority, this provides clear support for that as a spending choice. The clear lowest priority was a *Strategic Plan*, it appears the respondents are supportive of activities that will have more immediate impacts.

Note, Question 4 also included the option “Other.” There were 80 replies, while many included other projects, some were comments in support of the listed options, or lack of support. The responses are in an Attachment 3.



**Question 5: Rank the following Assistance to Households projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds (1= highest priority, 2=second highest priority, etc.).**

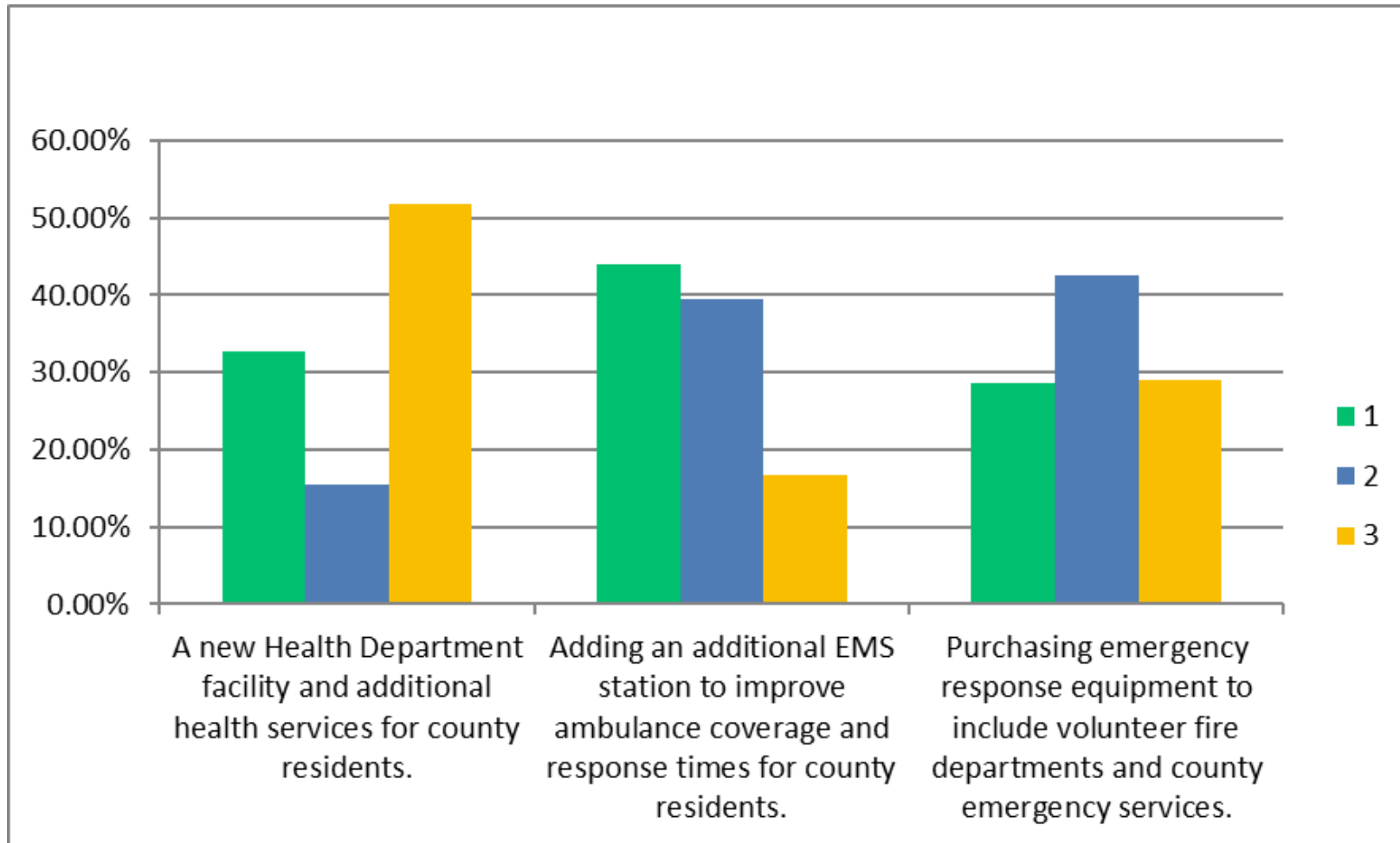


Question 5: Rank the following Assistance to Households projects: *Increasing Rental and Utility assistance, Increasing funding for access to Childcare and/or Eldercare.*

Almost 70% choosing *Funding for Childcare and/or Eldercare assistance for working families* shows clear preference over *Rental and Utility Assistance*. There were comments supportive of both, with a slightly higher preference for child and eldercare.

Note, Question 5 also included the option “Other.” There were 93 replies, while many included other projects, some were comments in support of the listed options, or lack of support. The responses are in an Attachment 4.

**Question 6: Rank the following Public Health Investments projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds (1= highest priority, 2=second highest priority, etc.).**

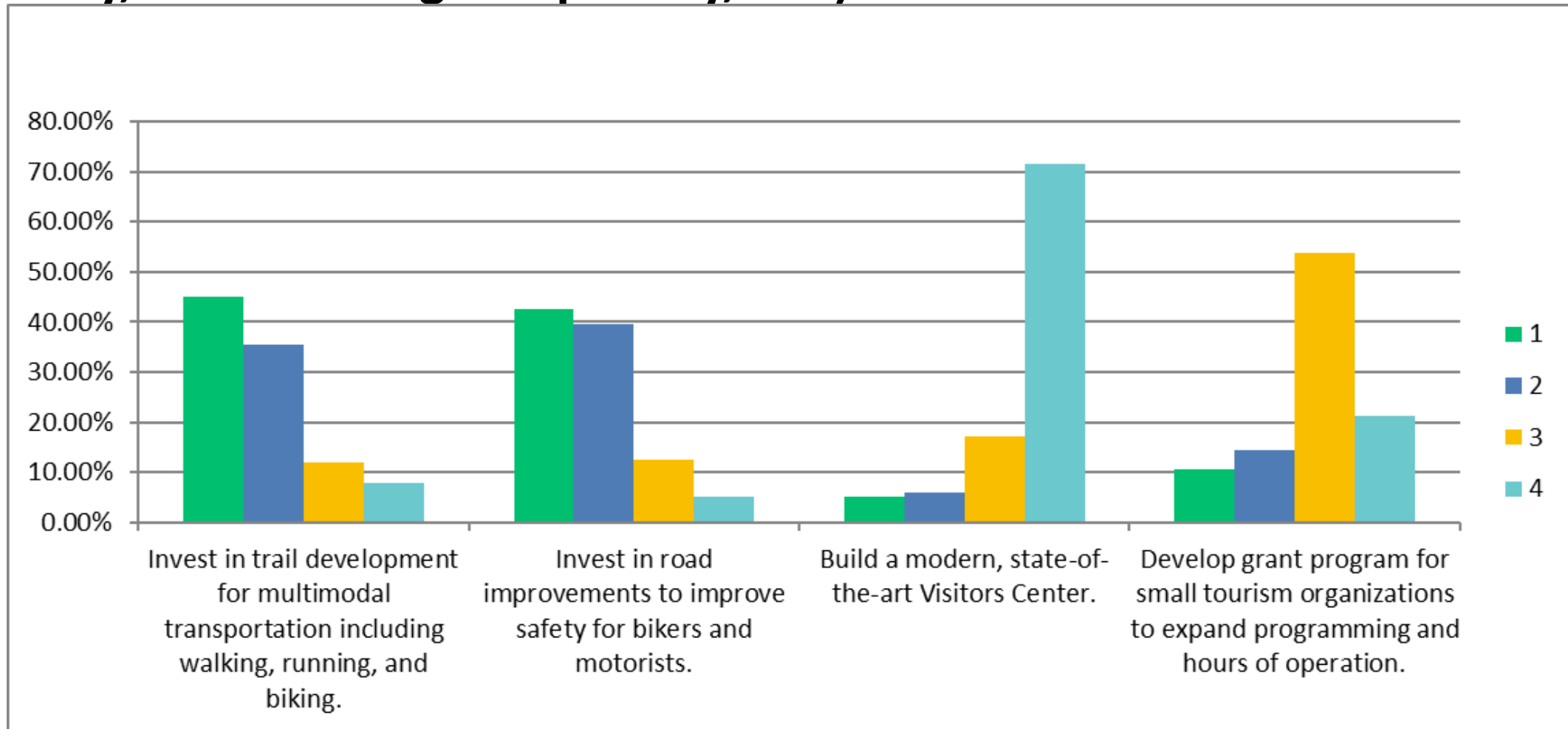


Question 6: Rank the following Public Health Investments: *A new Health Department facility and additional health services, Adding an Additional EMS ,Purchasing emergency response equipment.*

The top choice and strong second place preference was for an *Additional EMS Station* with 44% choosing this as first, and 39% having it second. The new *Health Department facility* was ranked third by almost 52% of respondents, however it was the second place choice for first priority, so this may warrant further review.

Note, Question 6 also included the option “Other.” There were 80 replies, while many included other projects, some were comments in support of the listed options, or lack of support. The responses are in an Attachment 5.

## Question 7: Rank the following Travel and Tourism projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds (1= highest priority, 2=second highest priority, etc.).

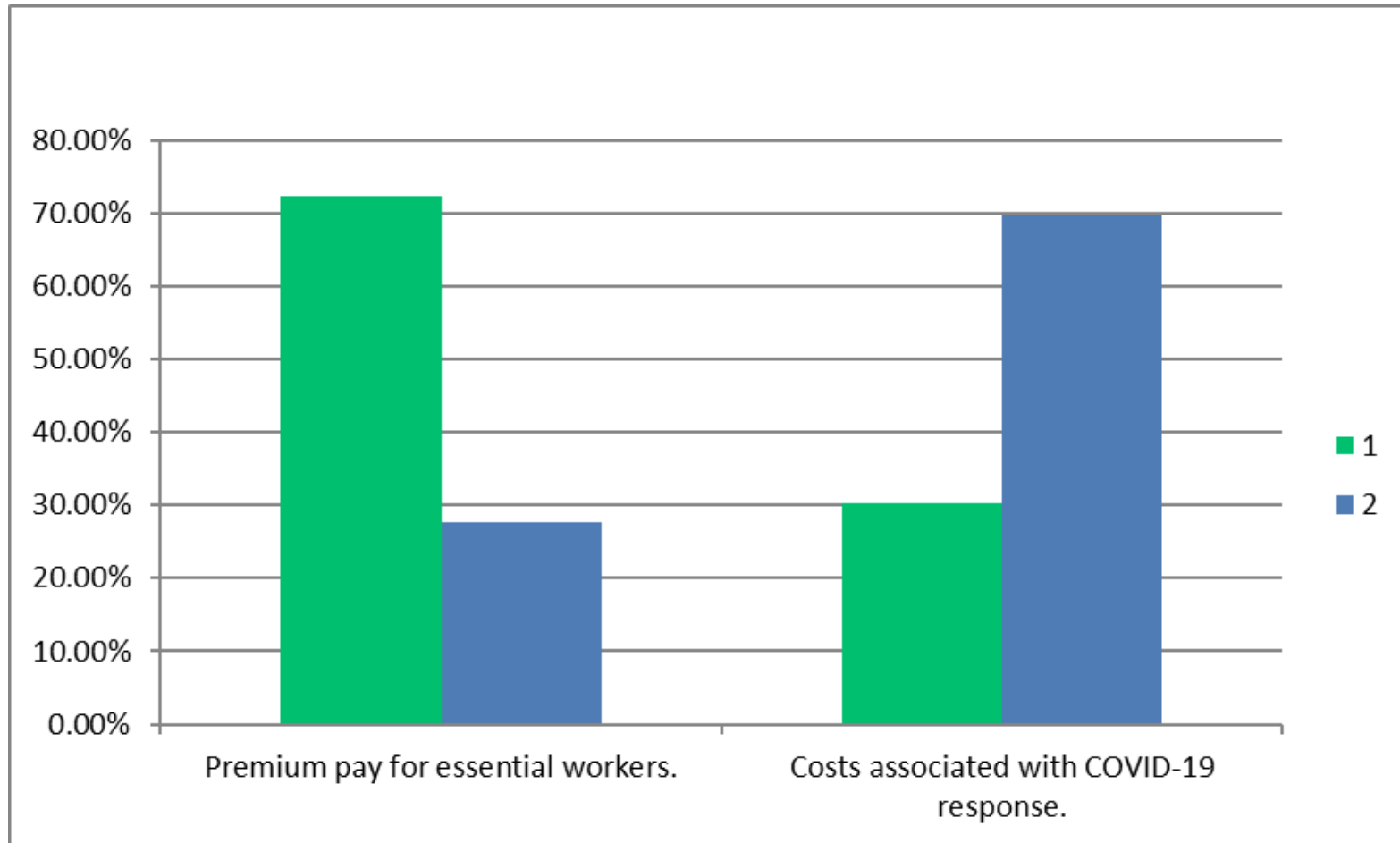


Question 7: Rank the following Travel and Tourism projects: *Trail Development for multimodal transportation, Road Improvements for biker and motorist Safety, Build a modern, Visitors Center, Develop grant program for small tourism organizations.*

The first and second place choices were very close, with a slight preference for *Trail Development* (45% versus 43%) over *Road Safety Improvements*. The county may look at ways to fund both of these. The lowest priority was a new *Visitors Center*.

Note, Question 7 also included the option “Other.” There were 99 replies, while many included other projects, some were comments in support of the listed options, or lack of support. The responses are in an Attachment 6.

**Question 8: Rank the following Economic Recovery projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds (1= highest priority, 2=second highest priority, etc.).**



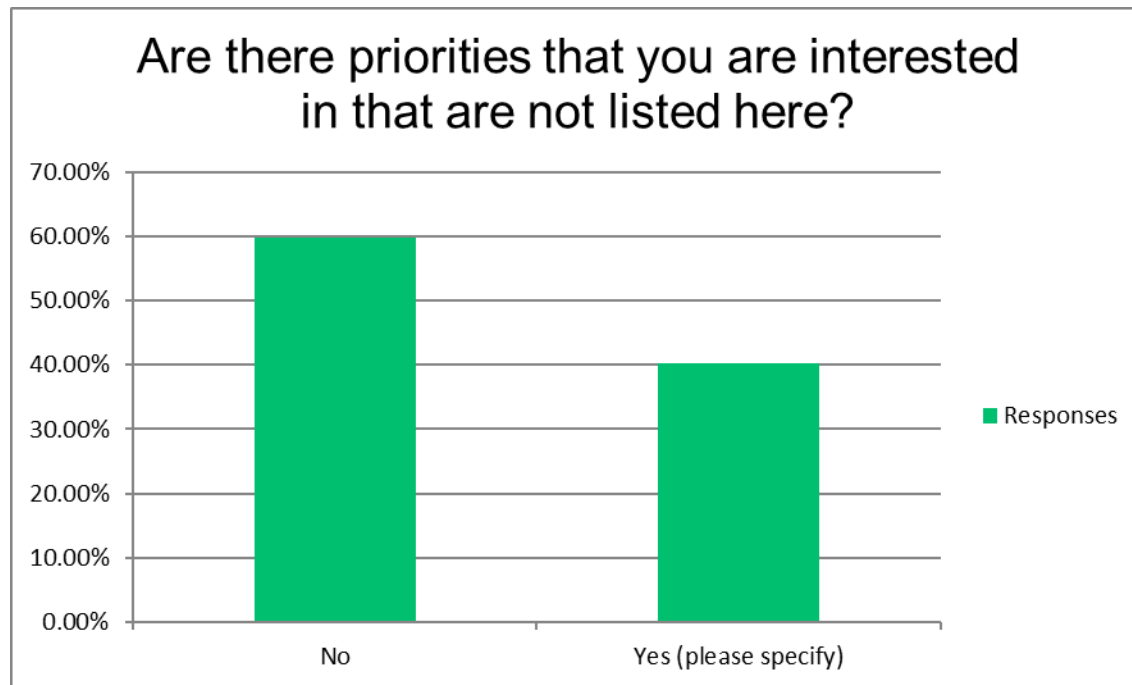
Question 8: Rank the following Economic Recovery projects: *Premium pay for Essential Workers*, *Costs associated with COVID-19 response*.

A clear majority are in favor of *Pay for Essential Workers*. In this question, and others, several respondents specially identified pay for first responders. The county should look at this and how the pay structure compares to surrounding counties.

Note, Question 8 also included the option “Other.” There were 63 replies, while many included other projects, some were comments in support of the listed options, or lack of support. The responses are in an Attachment 7.



## Question 9: Are there priorities that you are interested in that are not listed here?



• Answer	Responses	
• No	59.74%	316
• Yes (please specify)	40.26%	213
• Answered		529
• Skipped		105

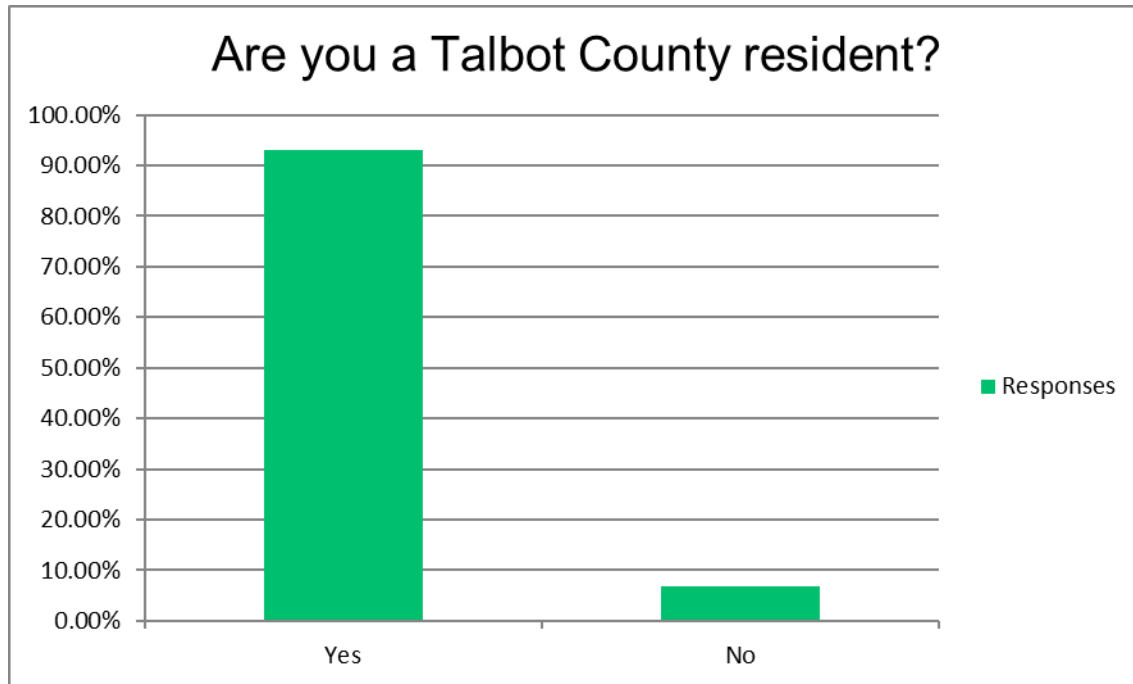
Note, Question 9 gave respondents an option to include their priorities. There were 529 replies, while many may not be allowable under ARPA guidelines, there may be projects worth other county funding or prioritization. The responses are in an Attachment 8.

## **Question 10: If you could spend our ARPA funds on one project to improve Talbot County, what would it be and why?**

- Answered 405
- Skipped 229

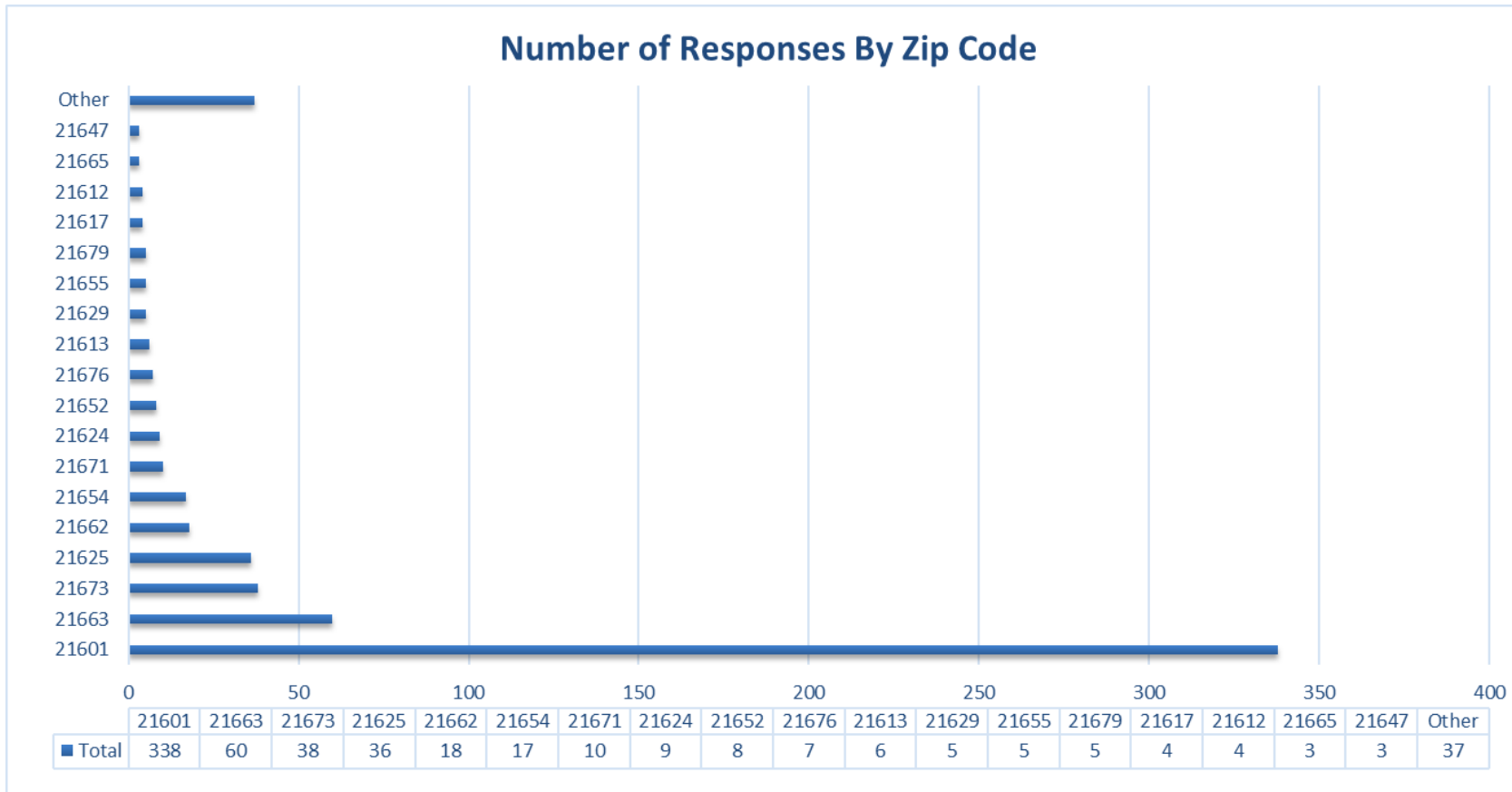
Question 10 gave respondents the ability to share their highest priority. There were 405 replies. Like question 9, the answers will give County Leadership a view of residents' thoughts on ARPA spending. The responses are in an Attachment 9.

# Are you a Talbot County resident?



Answer	Responses	
• Yes	93.10%	580
• No	6.90%	43
•	Answered	623
•	Skipped	11

# Response's by Zip code



## Top Locations

Zip code	Total	%
21601	338	52%
21663	60	9%
21673	38	6%
21625	36	6%
21662	18	3%
21654	17	3%
21671	10	2%

Note: The zip codes under other category (21620, 21638, 21632, 21653, 10990, 19938, 19973, 20008, 20814, 21012, 21044, 21336, 21525, 21602, 21658, 27705, 21801, 21640, 21666, 21626, 31601, 21657, 21660, 22207, 21643, and 21674) have less than 3 responses.

The responses came from participants throughout Talbot County, 83% of the responses are from the following 10 zip codes: Easton, Saint Michaels, Trappe, Cordova, Royal Oak, Oxford, Tilghman Island, Claiborne, Neavitt and Wittman.

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

- Reply # **Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**
- Investments in Infrastructure**
  - Public Health Investments**
  - Assistance to Households**
  - Assistance to Small Businesses**
  - Economic Recovery**
  - Travel and Tourism**

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Responses

- 
- 1 Tourism is destroying Talbot County.
- 
- 2 We need to do something about the rural roads and failing septic systems (and the cost of the replacement of the latter).
- 
- 3 Health is most important - serves everyone. Families who need help should get it. Fix problems with water drainage. Help businesses not the wealthy who buy up properties to make more money for their own interest.
- 
- 4 Households underpin the prosperity of everything. They provide people to work at all levels in any group (urban, rural).
- 
- 5 To make the greatest impact directly on people.
- 
- 6 There are many roads needing replacement (total repaving) and we should keep close watch on all pipes to prevent breakage. Small business were hit hard and now staffing them is a problem. Assistance to households is last because people need to get back to work and not rely on government providing everything.
- 
- 7 Internet access for all households is essential to closing education and economic gaps. The pandemic has, or should have, taught us that we need a robust public health system that can respond quickly to new challenges.
- 
- 8 Households need money, support, childcare. better wages

Economic recovery is ranked number one because that is what ARPA funds should be used for generally, right? Assistance to Small Businesses is two because it can likely make a large difference to the businesses that actually need it. I would encourage the ARPA taskforce to ensure the funds get to the businesses that really need it. The PPP went to a lot of businesses that likely didn't need it. This is no problem, however, since the Fed was able to create and disperse the money. With such a limited allocation, however, Talbot County doesn't have the flexibility to just give the money to the first businesses that come forward--those who likely have the most education and resources to apply for other opportunities. Assistance to Households is number three due to the sheer number of households adversely impacted by this crisis.

- 
- 10 We need to help rebuild our economy. We do not need to throw money at people, but invest in ways to help bring our entire economy and community back
- 
- 11 Public health is LAST because public & private health officials have failed every step of the way during this so-called pandemic.
- 
- 11 Infrastructure is first, but it better be TRUE infrastructure & not racist BS. Roads, bridges, sidewalks, buildings, etc. should be a priority for the entire community.
- 
- 12 Since the pandemic has permeated our lives, it is clear that those in the lower economic strata, suffer more. Nobody in this county should go hungry, experience homelessness or struggle to find childcare.
- 
- 12 Clearly, investment in building another EMS station and modern life saving equipment benefits everyone in this county.
- 
- 1 - currently no competition in broadband resulting in overpriced and/or inadequate service; need response to sea level rise particularly with regard to bridges roads and vulnerable shorelines
- 
- 13 2- covid, tick borne illnesses; tropical diseases moving north; mosquito borne diseases; lack of effective public health dep't at the state level
- 
- 3- childcare, elder care

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

**Reply # Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

14 Because I don't have a clear idea of what you would do with the funds in each category. Small Business and Economic Recovery seem to overlap. If people feel safe traveling, we have a strong and regular group who return here each year.

15 All are important to the County, but I think that #1 and #2 will do a lot to help Small businesses and households by creating jobs.

16 Trying to get help to those who need it most

17 I marked them in the order to help people with the most needs.

18 Because small businesses have the shortest window of time to make hard decisions about whether they can continue operation or shut down (sometimes 30 days or less). Empty storefronts downtown pushes buyers and tourists away to other towns/cities.

18 Economic recovery and investments in infrastructure pave the way for increased tourist appeal and securing confidence in the community. And assistance to households ensures that those that are working in service industries and those with economic insecurity can afford to stay here.

19 because that is the order of importance to me.

20 Public funds should go to those most in need and to improve public health.

21 In Talbot, there needs to be more help to those struggling with poverty. We talk about equity, and this county is not. Thus tourism is last, because the rich people will come here, regardless. And households first, and infrastructure next because it will help a vast population of struggling men, women and children.

22 I'd prefer to repair and upgrade infrastructure and public health because they aren't the glamorous things that usually get attention. I'd rather strengthen and support people who live here than cater to occasional visitors.

23 Covid is behind us, even with the uptick in Omicron, and these funds should be used to help us move forward. These funds should not be used for more testing, that would be a waste.

24 we've all learned the importance of a strong public health system, when the pandemic ends, this should not be forgotten and in fact, the "voice" of public health should be strengthened and laws changed to benefit the public for next time.

25 Very important to fund a sewer and storm water management system for the village of Claiborne.

26 People have been most impacted. They should receive assistance first.

27 I believe the money should be used first to take care of the people on the front lines then it should help people having a difficult time during the Pandemic. After those two items, the rest are all worthy of money but not as critical.

28 Climate emergency drives all decisions. Public health, pandemics, is a result of climate emergency. Infrastructure to lower carbon is vital.

29 Sound economy stems from stable climate. There is no getting around it. The short term has MET the long term.

29 It is essential to overall recovery to keep small business afloat. Both small business and Infrastructure investment create jobs.

30 If we keep things moving for our population, travel and tourism will come along.

30 We need affordable internet, and also need funds to help with sewage in the small communities on the Eastern Shore to protect the environment.

31 For travel and tourism, I would like to see investment in public spaces and safe pedestrian and riding trails.

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

**Reply # Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

Our sewers, etc. are aging as everything else. If not taken care of now, costs will only increase in future.  
Economic recovery is to the benefit of all .

- 32 Public Health is important to all.
- Small Businesses cannot survive without responsible employees.
- Need to provide housing and food for our children and elderly.
- Tourism is important to our economy

I believe we have a dire need for more accessible COVID testing. Rather than burdening our urgent cares and hospitals, we must have drive-through testing sites and increased availability of home test kits. Therefore, I have ranked public health investments as the #1 priority. In addition, many rural areas have failing septic systems. We need to extend

33 sewer to these areas.

Parents who must work from home or miss work because of quarantines and school closures need financial support to make up for lost wages and childcare expenditures.

- 34 Look, this is an emergency... Let's help people first, access to information and help second, etc. Public health workers deserve premium pay, as do teachers.... Tourism can wait its turn....

35 A sewer system that we need so badly and is taking soooooo long to get should be the highest priority.

36 The entire county benefits from the maintenance and upgrade to our infrastructure.

Please help fund the Easton Elks Lodge 1622 in their building rehab, so they are not forced to sell and develop the surrounding open land to obtain the needed cash.

Greenspace: the Elks lawns have never been developed and should remain open greenspace. There is very limited open space left in town, and to close in that open space with cheap, vinyl-sided housing is wrong.

Economic Recovery: the Elks membership levels were greatly hurt by the pandemic, thereby leaving them in tight financial straights.

- 37 Tourism: the Elks lawn has served as a venue for the Waterfowl Festival for many years, attracting visitors (and tourist dollars) to Easton and that space needs to stay open and available for this and many other community-serving purposes (soccer, football practice, open park-like space, etc.)

This is very important -- please conserve this limited open, in-town space. If it's built on, it will NEVER again return to it's current state.

Thank you!!  
Alan Meehan  
Easton

I believe the public health infrastructure is inadequate and needs to be improved to added ongoing public health needs such as variants of the COVID-19.

- 38 Small businesses need help to survive the effects of the pandemic.

Talbot County needs to increase tourism to bring needed funds into the county to support small businesses.

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

Reply # **Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

I feel the funds were meant to assist those who have been harmed by COVID. Our school children need access to reliable broadband, the less fortunate need funds to help pay their bills and purchase food, and our infrastructure to meet those needs are very important. I strongly feel that sufficient funds have been spent on tourism in our county, which from my observation has not been as negatively impacted by the pandemic.

39 Helping rural households get sewer will help not only individual households, but the Chesapeake Bay.

40 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent

Talbot needs better access to internet and cellular signals. This helps everyone.

Households need assistance. I know families in need right now with workers stuck at home with Covid who aren't getting paid because they can't work. I'm also aware of several small businesses who got thousands in Covid assistance and credits they were fully entitled to but didn't need. I'm their bookkeeper, so I know that for fact. Some of their employees are struggling due to wages that barely cover rent, before Covid arrived.

Essentials workers deserve more pay. Period.

Travel and tourism don't benefit the vast majority of Talbot county residents. Take care of the people who live here. I'm 4th generation of my family living here. I'm not wealthy but I'm better off than many who are truly struggling.

43 Sewer for neavitt and Bozman is desperately needed. Probably for other villages as well.

44 I worked at the current health department building. It is old. A new building would be more suitable for those working within it's walls. The new building should have suitable entry and sit as well as elevator for the disabled.

Affordable housing and food assistance are basic necessities.

45 Expansion of broadband has been discussed and studied for 20+ years. The county needs to actually do something to expand access to our rural areas.

46 Get the local economy and small businesses going and the rest will take care of itself

47 Important to keep infrastructure #1 as well as economic recovery. Other categories will not be able to flourish if the 1st two are not prioritized

48 Infrastructure includes broadband which I personally and professionally need and all costs associated with putting it in place should be borne by the county.

49 These rankings are more equitable to those impacted by COVID 19

50 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent

51 I see how so many small businesses suffered because they weren't considered essential. But big chains that should not have been essential were essential. Several families suffered as well and need help in recovery.

52 Outlying areas need more accessible broadband/internet.

The health Department facility needs updating or new.

53 Help families first.

54 There is a serious lack of affordable housing in this area. There is a lack of housing in general, but AFFORDABLE housing is next to non-existent. Next would be paying front line workers more and offering COVID 19 grants to residents in the area to help pay their bills. Public health investments for more available COVID 19 testing would be great.

55 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent

56 I feel that there is a tremendous need in our county to aid the elderly in living space as well as assistance with their daily needs.



**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

**Reply # Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

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Low income households face a shortage of decent, affordable rental properties, and they are priced out of home ownership. Habitat for Humanity Choptank has opportunities to make a difference in the lives of your constituents.

- Creation of New Affordable housing for LMI/VLMI Families
  - 57 - Revolving Lon Fund - assist homeowners with critical health and safety repairs
  - Provision of Housing Counseling Assistance
  - Funding for Land Purchases to support affordable housing
- 

1. Public Health-health and safety of our citizens is critical. I cannot find ANY primary care physician available that will accept new patients.
  2. Infrastructure-we need equity for access to Broadband in rural areas.
  - 58 3. Tourism is the driver for most of our business. We have millions of people within a 3-hour drive of our county. Let's get them here to spend some money! We have a gem in the CBMM, our beautiful historic towns, and waterfront opportunities.
  4. Small businesses together are strong economic engines. Let's help them out.
- 

59 Disappointed to not see increasing the education budget as part of the options. That being said we have learned from this pandemic that public health is vital

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Our first commitment is to the members of our community who are most at-risk and who have the fewest resources.

Our secondary commitment is to general public welfare, which starts with support for public health and access to health resources for the whole community.

60 Our third commitment is to the small business owners who depend on the well being of our community to support their business and thereby the local economy.

Our fourth commitment is to improving and maintaining the infrastructure used by our community every day.

Our fifth commitment is to bolster the health of our local economy, especially in these vulnerable times.

Our sixth commitment is to use the aforementioned improvements to promote tourism.

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Small businesses that directly serve customers (retail and food service) have been the hardest hit and need assistance  
61 to pay higher wages and make rent payments.

More improvements in providing a comprehensive approach to making Easton more walkable and bikeable.

62 I ranked these based on my perception of the greatest need for the community.

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Infrastructure is most vital as it will be longest lasting benefit.

63 Public health has lost all credibility and is not to be trusted. Should be defunded.

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**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

**Reply # Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

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High area housing costs force many families who provide essential services in the county to live outside Talbot County. We need more affordable housing for police, teachers, medical staff, small business employees, restaurant staff, etc.

64

Small businesses including local restaurants have been hard-hit by the pandemic. They are key drivers of the local economy providing good jobs and stability. Additional support to local small businesses (NOT including franchises of national restaurants or retail chains) will stay local.

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65 If you improve infrastructure, you attract more people through travel and tourism which in turn helps economic recovery. Small businesses who aren't willing to pay their workers a living wage do not deserve assistance.

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66 They are in order of importance

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67 Emergency Service as a whole need to be more competitive. Finding employees to work these positions and retaining the ones you have is the utmost priority. If you want the best you need to treat them like the best. Not only wages but benefits such as retirement, insurance and other benefits should be the best. Invest in your safety and the safety of our county.

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I want to have Talbot County first responder's salaries raised to have more competitive salaries with Queen Anne's County, Kent County, and Caroline County, and the Maryland State Police.

68 I want all Talbot County first responders to receive premium pay for working holidays, snow days, states of emergency, etc.

I want the Detectives at the Talbot County Sheriff's Office, to receive some sort of percentage increase for being assigned to their unit and for being in an on-call capacity. The Easton Police Department Detectives already received an approximate 5% increase in pay for being assigned to their Criminal Investigations Division in an on call capacity.

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- 69
1. Essential for everything
  2. Critical for lower income families and county economy
  3. Must have to support population welfare
  4. No way to stabilize or grow economy without it
  5. Same as #4
  6. Existing programs are sufficient
- 

70 Broadband and reliable cell service need to be a priority to all people living in Talbot County. During the recent snow storm several family friends lost their land lines and they did not have internet or cell service. We should not have to decide if we want to put ourselves and others at risk to check on a loved one in 2022.

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Infrastructure that benefits all.... such as sidewalks, parks, high speed affordable internet would be great.

71 Public health important as well to keep community safe.

Not enough day care availability in county!!!!

72 We need to help first responders

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73 Because we need to worry and take care of ourselves first

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**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

Reply #	Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds
	<p>a cost that families can afford.</p> <p>Health department upgrades are needed but seemingly must suffice as we have other needs more pressing.</p> <p>Emergency services including the health side- ambulances, staff, supplies are very much needing support. Please also do what is needed to help all fire departments as they are critical to the farming community as well as all of us.</p> <p>Small Businesses are hurting. Lack of employees due to government hand outs, Covid, etc. have caused much stress.</p> <p>74 Help is needed.</p> <p>I am ok with supporting needy families but most importantly is make sure there truly is a need- ;ike paying electric bill, supplement groceries, etc.</p> <p>My last two choices seem less important to me as the ones above take priority.</p>
75	The money needs to be used to help small businesses the most.
76	<p>Our local community who have been working the front lines have been missing out in bonuses given by other organizations. They are leaving the workforce and it's hurting our community. We need to keep our local employees local.</p>
77	Tax dollars should go back to the people (households) then to the citizens who provide jobs (small businesses).
78	Infrastructure is very costly, the County is always short funding for sewer and roads.
79	N/A
80	<p>People that live and are employed in Talbot County are the first priority.</p> <p>Help the people and businesses first then focus on bringing tourism.</p>
81	Individual households need that money in the short term. The other choices have more long term goals, I think.
82	The Health Department has needed a new facility for a very long time. They are still in an old school that is not ADA compliant
83	<p>We are farmers, the price is/was so low on cattle we could not sell but yet we had to keep feeding them. Because of someone at my husband's work-he works outside home too-came to work sick, we all got very very sick also. So my husband retired not wanting to get sick again if there's no protection at work. So we are now living at 25% of our previous income.</p> <p>-the survey only allowed me to check one box.....otherwise I'd also put household</p>
84	<p>Public Health, particularly a new Health Department building benefits all residents and folks who work in Talbot Co. Even if a person does not receive direct services from public health providers, they indirectly benefit by having a healthier community as a whole when the public health services are prioritized.</p> <p>Investing and improving infrastructure creates immediate jobs and economic activity that continues throughout the life of the projects completed. Better infrastructure also means more business opportunities in general.</p> <p>Direct assistance to households generates economic activity because most households spend their income on immediate needs and goods.</p> <p>Small businesses are already having trouble competing with global and national enterprises. Helping them helps to ensure that the benefits of increased economic activity stay within our community.</p>
85	First Responders pay should parity that of Kent, Queen Anne's, and Maryland State Police.
86	first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent County
87	Talbot Co is in desperate need of WiFi availability, particularly in the rural areas. Often, internet services are not available within miles of farms and ag businesses, and if they are, the connection cost is prohibitive. This is the classic purpose for this infrastructure bill and should be the highest priority.
88	Pay parity and premium pay to essential works and law enforcement

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

Reply #	Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds
89	Without a strong economy you have nothing. Need better pay and benefits for Law Enforcement (Public Safety).
90	First responders need pay parity with QA, Kent and MSP.
91	Increasing tourism to the county benefits businesses and helps in the economic recover of our area. Drawing in folks to Easton and St. Michaels should be a top priority. We also need to accept this won't be the last pandemic, so we need to invest in our public health systems...pandemic or not, we all know our national health system was is ill-equipped.
92	#1. Families here are struggling - need assistance with getting healthy food and rent. Underserved children and the elderly are suffering. Increased funding for child/elder care in the county. Increased food distribution to the elderly and families in need. #2. Need expanded broadband for underserved and underserved parts of Talbot County. #3. Paid premiums for essential workers. Grants to schools to help defray the added Covid expenses. #4. Increase the EMS's ability to meet the growing needs... additional facility, more updated equipment. #5. Grants to small businesses to help then survive in this economic crisis. #6. Invest in road improvements.
93	Low income households should get the bulk of recovery assistance, whether in the form of direct payments, rental assistance, electric assistance, etc. Next, internet should be available to all in the county, and heavily subsidized if not provided for free.
94	County employee pay parity with surrounding counties needs to be a priority. Growing county needs attention to roads and internet.
95	We have limited outdoor space and trails compared to other counties.
96	Put the money into public works for the benefit of all, keep it away from individual pockets.
97	We need more programs for children. The county should be investing in the community center and the ice programs to further youth participation in sports, the arts, and overall physical and mental health.
98	Travel, tourism, entertainment, and business investments will help fund education, teacher salaries, and keep taxes low. It will help promote community throughout all areas.
99	I feel that upgrading our sewer treatment plants is necessary to protect the Bay. I feel that preservation of our open spaces will promote tourism far more than a visitor center.

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

**Reply # Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

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I don't remember which Category first responders are in but their lack of pay and the state giving more and more money to get our local police officers we are in for a rude awakening. Msp is giving our 10 year veteran cops pay and time of 10 years once they complete the academy! Queen Anne (or Centreville) has already lost 5 officers to the program! Our town is next as our county. Our town has awful benefits for their cops. The town refuses to go to leops to be able to get lateral cops. The town refuses to get take home vehicles to help compete. Their pay is bottom of the barrel as is Talbot county sheriff office pay. We should pay our cops. we should design a paid fire department as well. Paramedics also deserve way more pay as do our dispatchers. Those crazy shift adjustments and they hardly make 30k a year. No one can live on that any more. New cops can't even afford a home here in our town let alone our county because of the low pay.

Our daycare facilities inhome and centers also deserve help. They have been open through the entire pandemic while schools got to shut down and work from home. Many have lost most of the families and are too concerned to add new families be it the closure by the state for Covid outbreak, or concerns families are provider jumping. Many counties not just the state have helped providers with grants to keep them Open. The health department has shut many of them down on more then one occasion while parents are left scrambling to find care and then leave because they can't rely on their providers that have no control.

Bus drivers also deserve a raise. Our county has been amazing at showing up and getting our kids unlike many other counties who had to delay school or even do virtual because of their lack of bus drivers. My concerns is this county will give it to the schools and they will just shut down again like other counties in our country have. After given millions.

Make small business grants easier to get. Going by many business tax paperwork is not helpful to them because of our write offs many hardly qualified to even cover a mortgage. Wasn't worth the time to apply going off many businesses schedule c.

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101 If the economy recovers, families will do better. Until that happens they need assistance. Nothing gets done if you are not healthy so that first. Small business helps 3 & 1.

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102 To reduce water pollution, we need all residences not tied into a wastewater plant on a functioning septic system.

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103 I think of our area as a tourist community. We lack the proper roadways to accommodate the increase in traffic between talbot county and ocean city. A bypass around Easton (overhead, like Salisbury) would be a tremendous help or people will stop coming to our county in order to avoid beach traffic.

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104 Broadband is so important to those who do not have it.

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Recovery is most urgent...then you need to be able to maintain it through public health & infrastructure.

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105 Look at what your other available funding sources are & what they cover.....avoid unnecessary duplication and try to spend on important areas that are lacking in available funding. Also look at what funds can be used as "matching funds" to get more bang for your buck!

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**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

Reply #	Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds
106	<p>Talbot County has almost 600 miles of water front. Existing small village communities along the water front have small lot sizes with poorly drained soils. There is limited area on these properties to abate public health problems associated with failing septic systems. The availability of public water and sewer to serve these communities is essential. Existing wastewater treatment facilities need to be upgraded to accommodate increased volume and better treatment.</p> <p>Funding needs to be available to enable property owners with the ability to connect to public utilities when they are available.</p> <p>The County also needs access to broadband to serve the underserved or unserved parts of the County. This has recently been a great concern during the pandemic when children were required to attend school virtually, and often did not have the internet capability to do so.</p>
107	<p>Families need assistance first, followed by business. If you have housing and daycare, and the infrastructure for the working class ...then there will be more people in the area to be able to work in the tourism industry. Then the need for promoting the travel and tourism in the area would be the next step.</p>
108	<p>The local health department has been slammed dealing with COVID and desperately needs a newer, bigger facility. This will allow give them the ability to assist more citizens who are in need of services.</p>
109	<p>I think the long term effects of the pandemic will impact those less fortunate more than any other grouping of people. Therefore I believe we should invest more in this category. In addition to the topics above, I would love for us to find a way to invest in our teachers and school staff.</p>
110	<p>Health and Safety issues should be tackled first and then economic recovery to help people get back on their feet and get jobs if they have lost them. Agencies and non-profits that assist with this work should be eligible for this funding.</p>
111	<p>Infrastructure repair and replacement will benefit all of the categories. The other responses had other means of funding to my knowledge. City streets are rough and filled with potholes. Not pleasant for those of us who live here or our visitors. Part of the funds could be used for traffic engineering to monitor and re-direct traffic in efficient patterns.</p>
112	<p>Economic recovery will assist the other categories that I did NOT vote for, even though survey monkey seems to think so!</p> <p>I ranked infrastructure as most important because I think Talbot County desperately needs broadband expanded to Cordova. My family and I live in Cordova, where we also run our small business, and high speed internet is an absolute necessity to efficiently run our business.</p>
113	<p>Investment in broadband is by far the best use of this money, everyone needs broadband to facilitate the other investment categories. Please consider paying the customer contribution and the long driveway costs as part of the grant projects in rural areas. That would help households and small businesses that may work from home (or want to).</p> <p>Internet service has become essential. The lack of broadband is causing a divide in education and needs to be addressed. With all of the funds that have recently been being discussed, discussion of broadband is always in the forefront. Investment in infrastructure to construct the facilities and then providing assistance to the individual households to make getting connected affordable is key.</p>
114	<p>Not mentioned but Seniors on fixed incomes have received zero help, while patents making mega income and not needing assistant have been receiving money every month.</p>
115	<p>Infrastructure benefits all and the many provide for the future</p>

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

**Reply # Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

Internet options are extremely limited in several rural areas of our county. Areas of Trappe and Cordova have NO options. This has a huge impact on property values and ability to manage businesses and schoolwork from homes. It is time for all residents of the county to have affordable options.

117

Many small businesses continue to struggle due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Previously, many businesses did not qualify for the grant program for Talbot County because of the method used (comparing gross incomes for time periods). While for some, the revenues remained the same, expenses increased greatly due to the pandemic, so net profits/losses would have provided a much more accurate picture of the impact COVID had on a business.

I believe that our water source and delivery is very outdated and dangerous to the health and welfare of county residents. The Sanitary situation is equally outdated and sewage systems are failing. The chance of septic systems to pollute our water source is high and dangerous. We can empower Small businesses to assist with some of these infrastructure issues. There are real health issues that result from these sorts of issues.

118

Think about what people have needed most in the last 2 years that is what to spend the money on, certainly not travel and tourism.

people need food -why were you constantly having food give aways, because people need food

health care workers didn't have PPE

119

we don't even have enough health care workers

buy medical grade air purifiers and N95 masks so the kids and the teachers are safe in schools

you couldn't have remote schooling because there is not adequate and/or affordable internet for everyone

I couldn't do telehealth because I don't have fast enough internet at my house. I use a hotspot. Get wired, fast, affordable internet to every household.

These are the kinds of things to think about

I believe that it's most important to provide a safety net to those most impacted and least able to recover from the effect of the pandemic.

120

I think the health of the community needs to be the highest priority. As a person who works with people grieving losses of loved ones and dealing with the high stress people are under, I believe some resources need to be allocated for prevention of disease as well as grief and loss counseling.

121

Starting from the ground up. Let's put more money into our local business so they can have the money to pay better wages and hire more people in order to get more people out of assistance area. Better wages mean more money to spend on services and out back into the economy.

122

Restaurants and small businesses are the heart of communities. They need help. They are struggling especially now with minimum wage going up and supply chain issues are eating at any profit they would've had.

123

We must defeat coronavirus or all else fails

124

I think having extra resources to our EMS and volunteer fire departments is imperative. Our population is expanding, which means an increase need for more Paramedic units and equipment. Amid the COVID pandemic we are seeing staff shortages, high turnover and extended wait times and transport times to facilities. Our emergency services is without question in jeopardy.

125

As a small business owner, I feel they are affected the most. Then it trickles down to the individual households and economic recovery. Travel and tourism shouldn't be in the equation at all

126

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

**Reply # Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

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127 Infrastructure is so important to increase all other aspects of economic development, education, and tourism. It isn't thought about enough by the average person but is essential and most often, local communities do not have the funds to upgrade and improve infrastructure. Road, bridges, high speed internet, reduced flooding, water and sewer.

With COVID it has become clear that the more public health systems are in place, with supplies and staff, the better off a community is.

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128 Investing in infrastructure forms the basis for the everything else. If we want to protect the land and waters, grow the economy, care for others, we must be sure we have the means to do it..

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129 Because Broadband is extremely important to enable residents to be on common ground. The County definitely needs to improve their sewer systems.

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130 I am extremely concerned about the condition of the Chesapeake Bay and aging water treatment facilities/chemical runoff, etc. I would like investment in infrastructure to maintain the health of the waterways and air.

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131 WITH COVID PUBLIC HEALTH SHOULD BE NUMBER 1.  
DUE TO COVID ASSISTANCE TO HOUSEHOLDS SHOULD BE GIVEN. A ONE TIME DIRECT PAYMENT TO COUNTY FAMILIES.

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132 There was an infrastructure bill passed for infrastructure per se. Travel and tourism in Talbot County is not just booming, the rate of growth is alarming and this is not an appropriate use for these monies. We need to be certain that our Public Health systems are strong enough to combat Covid, including where greater education is needed. People who have personally suffered, as a result of Covid related issues, should receive the help that they need. Small locally based businesses deserve help as well. Economic recovery is important, but economic development is an inappropriate investment using these funds.

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133 Helping the weakest first will provide a broader base for recovery. My 1-4 provide a basis for #5.

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134 I would have put investment in environmental protection first if you'd had that, but the categories I chose seemed the best to me for the long run.

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135 Rural broadband in outlying areas such as Cordova and Trappe is horrible.  
Small businesses are suffering some of the worst residual effects of the pandemic from workers not wanting to work, or wanting to make too much money for the skills and services they provide.  
People need to go back to work, and stop relying on the government to be their provider.

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136 Infrastructure investments, when done thoughtfully, can address multiple issues at one time;  
Assistance to households is key because despite the funds that have flowed, many households still are suffering;  
Public health investments are needed, not just to support the existing infrastructure, but to plan and appropriately fund needs for future events, which are bound to occur;  
While I believe we must support our small businesses, fortunately, they have been on the frontlines of receiving a great deal of support already;

---

137 Investment in broadband and infrastructure is key to attracting residents to the area and keeping residents in the area. There is a real weakness on the Eastern Shore when it comes to the lack of access to reliable internet. Also it is crucial to continue to work on infrastructure projects that keep pollutants from the rivers and land. Public health access and assistance to working families are also crucial for the health and welfare of the community. The pandemic laid bare our poor health systems as well as the plight of working families who struggled to provide care for their children while barely earning enough to feed them.

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138 Funding improvements to the sewer infrastructure through sewer extensions promotes economic development, improves the environment (also with economic benefits through tourism and work on the water) by removing this nutrient source from the groundwater.

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**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

Reply #	Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds
139	I feel small business need to get support as they provide employment for many.
	Important to support families at this time
140	Public health must have adequate resources Small businesses are foundational for our area and must be supported
141	Investment in infrastructure should be a priority based on the project growth of Talbot county. Utilities need to be upgraded and expanded to accommodate the growth. Assistant to small business should be second as they were most affected by the shut downs. With small business assistant there needs to be large oversight to prevent fraud.
142	I ranked infrastructure first with improving existing sewage treatent capacities in mind. I am thinking specifically about the Trappe waste water treatment plant. It is outdated, it cannot meet current denitrification and phosporus reduction standards, and frequently cannot meet its even minimal sanitary goals. Seperately, I think the county should invest in more recreational access points for people, particularly those of lesser means, so they can access and enjoy the natural resources of the county, especially its creeks and rivers. This would include additonal access points, especially on the eastern side of the county, and kayak and small boat concessions in key points that would be free or minimal cost to citizens of lesser means, especially students.
143	This pandemic era requires maximum assistance to the most needy, the most hungry, the most housing disadvantaged. Of course, sustained extra support is also needed for Public education, infrastructure, public health, emergency services and non-profit organizations. Taking care of the most urgent public needs during this covid-19 pandemic will help all of us return to a more normal existence, hopefully bringing a return to a better small business environment.
144	EvergreenCove is a 25 year local educational non profit. Recently they have expanded their out reach to utilize their waterfront location by initiating a teen rowing program. This program has inspired an adult rowing program. Plans are underway to create a boathouse/meeting facility on the property. Financial assistance is essential for this to become a reality.
	It's critical to get ahead of water rise and flooding - pick projects that will mitigate key access issue but will not soak up (pun not intended) most of the funds
145	Projects that will protect water quality in rivers and streams
	Assist to small businesses will help economy, protect jobs - but make criteria for only those businesses that or at risk so others don't get an unneeded gift
146	I ranked assistance to households the highest as affordable housing in Talbot County is nonexistent. The county needs to focus on the implementation and improvement of housing programs. The visitors center is a good idea that may funnel people off RT. 50 towards small businesses in town.
147	We need to keep our aging infrastructure secure.
148	The area should be considered a natural wonder of sorts and all efforts should be directed towards that end. The Feds can worry about their broad band initiative
149	ARP funds should be invested in projects that will continue to help residents over many years, not just enjoyed in the year is spent.
150	These are all worthy and hard to rank, but people with basic needs should be a priority along with making broadband accessible to all. It's hard to survive without the internet these days.

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

Reply #	Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds
	I am against spending these funds on a NEW Health Department facility
151	I am against spending any of these funds on travel and tourism
	I am against spending any of these funds toward rental or utility assistance for low to moderate income individuals UNLESS they can prove they looked for a job whether or not it was in their field of education, training or prior employment
152	I could not keep my selections after entering a new one further along in the survey.
	1. & 2. Town of Trappe sewer system including service lines in old town -- Matt knows why
153	3. & 4. "Assistance" needs clarification. Should be forms public works jobs for !. & 2.
	5. Integrated into more "jobs"
	6. we have enough "come heres"
154	My priorities are driven by considering increased opportunities for lower income people and increasing resilience in the face of climate change.
155	1 and 2 help all citizens of Talbots Co.
	Bike trails and improvements to roads for bikes.
156	We need to prepare for global warming.
	Covid showed needs for public health investments.
157	Long term returns on one time investment and direct impact on the most people.
158	Supporting small businesses contributes to economic recovery, travel and tourism and leads to the need for infrastructure improvement. Building a new community health center (former Safeway) would go far in supporting residents and their needs
	We need clean water. The upgrade to the Oxford wastewater management plant is a good start. Next we need to fix the wastewater management plant in Trappe before Lakeside goes online and makes an already bad situation (the pollution in LeTrappe Creek) worse.
159	If we have have clean waterways it will help keep tourists coming to the county which helps small business which in turn helps the overall economy. That creates jobs that helps households. handouts only feed a man a fish.  I wish there were a category to teach a man to fish, ie training to meet todays employee market needs, like vo-tech. We need electricians, plumbers, etc
160	Infrastructure improvements positively impact all the other categories, as does support for households
161	We can't forget that when the rest of the world shut down during the pandemic and our mental and physical health was put to the test, access to local rivers and the outdoors provided refuge, peace of mind, and a sense of security. If spent appropriately, this funding can be a driving force of change to create a county that's resilient to floods, natural disasters, public health threats, and the climate crisis. The funding can be used to address pollution from failing septic systems and wastewater issues, to address polluted runoff and stormwater flooding, and to purchase flood-prone properties for preservation and create more public access to local rivers. This ranking reflects how this use of funding could help create tourist attractions, improve health, and spur economic recovery.
162	Flooding prevention. Is a long term need and requires investment.....public health as covid response showed it requires better planning

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

**Reply # Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

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163 Access to affordable internet is one of the most tangible and immediate ways to promote education and financial literacy in underserved communities. Clean drinking water is important. The lack of access to affordable childcare is one of the many things that contribute to keeping people (especially women) in poverty.

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Although the economy is generally strong, the local impact of the pandemic has hurt low- and moderate-income families and small businesses the hardest. Making better health care available to all residents is also a priority.

164 Although hard infrastructure is generally in good shape, broadband internet should be improved and made affordable for all families, especially in the most rural areas.

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165 Replenish underfunded county employee pensions. Sewer: St. Micheals-Bozman. Fast internet.

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all of these options seem to me to just reinforce existing systems all of which do not fully serve the community in equitable forward thinking ways (with the exception of infrastructure- maybe).

Talbots neediest residents should be the focus here in all these categories, then we can work on other elements.

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167 Broadband expansion is important to me most because we don't have it down our road near Easton, and it makes us and our neighbors less connected to everything we need to know to live a safe, healthy, and productive life.

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People come first. Infrastructure second. Invest in both and the future will be bright.

168

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Investment in infrastructure and public health examples create jobs and opportunities for individuals and promote economic development. Assistance to Households is important to establish day care/elder care options to increase workforce pool and to create jobs.

169

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Substantial funds have already been provided, used, and yes - abused for small business and economic recovery. Need to focus on the future opportunities.

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Roads and low lying area bridges in our county need attention. Better drainage, rising sea levels, and deteriorating road surfaces on county roads are dangerous to all travelers, residents and visitors. Broadband service MUST be improved for everyone, residences, schools, businesses, etc. Failing septic systems and NO septic and sewer connections are NOT ACCEPTABLE at this day and age in this county. Low income families need support and children should not be living at poverty level in this county. Volunteer depts. need support with new equipment and the pandemic has hurt their ability to find raise...the health dept building is antiquated and needs updating. Small Businesses relying on tourism have been hurt by Covid last two years and need support in paying rent and making debt payments that have accrued due to pandemic

171 Investment in infrastructure and housing is critical. Improving the quality of neighborhoods and providing affordable housing options should go hand in hand.

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172 I feel money should be dedicated to helping small businesses thrive to be successful. Households need assistance because of low income and struggles within economy.

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173 All selections are important, but we need to take care of people first.

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Infrastructure investment will have the longest lasting value for the community.

Health care is most closely associated with the current problems. That is dealing with pandemics.

Household assistance will help those in need more directly.

174

Small businesses help employ those able to work.

Travel and tourism can fend for themselves. They contribute toward spreading disease by encouraging people living in urban areas to come "mix it up" with the local residents.

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**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

Reply #	Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds
	We need low income housing in Easton and around the county.
175	Transportation is difficult if you are poor. Higher minimum wage.
176	These are one-shot funds. They must be allocated to do the most immediate good, and not simply relieve the county of its continuing obligations. But to the extent that families and small businesses have lost income because of the epidemic, they should be saved from disaster. After that, we can improve infrastructure in undeserved areas of the county.
177	A thriving community requires easy access to high-speed internet.
178	I ranked them as I felt
179	We will need a work force which is equitably and locally housed and paid, with infrastructure adequate to handle existing sewage and access needs as well as future growth.
180	There is a great need for expansion of broadband which will benefit children for distance learning. VERY important for the COVID world we will face for many years. Second is to help needy families. Too many in this county need help with food and shelter.
181	infrastructure projects and investments in health benefit EVERYONE!!!
182	If infrastructure and small businesses are strengthened, economic recovery and tourism will follow.
183	I think the county is lacking most in trails and pathways for pedestrians, followed by broadband access for rural communities.
184	Infrastructure investments are 'permanent'; Assistance is temporary though clearly important
185	We should help the disadvantaged by providing them access to better internet, schools, health services Immediate assistance to individuals and families is important right now and always.
186	A bicycle path connecting Easton to st Michaels would attract visitors and young families to the area. Present situation of share the road is very scary for many visitors in & visiting our area. Bike Talbot!
187	Infrastructure here and across the nation has been underfunded for way too long, and congress can't pass needed infrastructure bills to work, use this to things that have been needed for decades

- 1 Physical Infrastructure has a long term and positive impact on economic development.
- 2 Assist households: unlike our state or our national governments, a county government has little opportunity--fiscal space - to address problems such as poverty. The ARPA gives the county a one-time chance to help out
3. Public Health: The pandemic as revealed gaps the country's public health system (this is not just an Talbot Co. challenge). To make investments in the public health system provides support to broad-based social infrastructure
4. Funding small business has merit; but there are many other federal, state, and local programs for doing this.
5. Travel and Tourism. As a general rule--other governments-- support to the tourist sector well addressed by the private sector. Talbot Co. already supports this sector, which is fine. But this is not a good use for one-time ARPA revenues
6. Economic Recovery. The best way to address economic recovery is to go to choice # 1: invest in public infrastructure.

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

Reply # **Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

189 I believe my rankings represent the most bang for the taxpayer buck in Talbot County. Infrastructure benefits households, businesses, schools, the environment, and all of the other priorities. Small Businesses provide local jobs that lift earners into taxpayers, provide needed goods and services locally, and improve quality of life. Unfortunately there will be folks that fall through the gaps, and Assistance to Households will help those that are struggling to maintain a decent standard of living and to contribute to society. Covid19 has had a terrible negative impact on our economy and, given that federal funds will be also used to assist small business, direct spending to recoup Public Health costs and compensate essential workers is the most efficient means to mitigate its effects. While Travel/Tourism and other Public Health goals can certainly be considered County priorities, I do not believe that they rise to the level of importance of the other four, and that the impact/value of federal funds should not be diluted by too many separate allocations.

190 Talbot County is a Chesapeake Bay community and in order to preserve the Bay, the watershed and its diversity, growth must be adjusted to maintain our quality of life. My choices reflect a need to maintain what we have and limit further development that clearly threatens the environment by increasing demands on limited water and sewer resources. Despite decades of work by state and local environmental groups(CBF, ShoreRivers,etc.)our water quality is marginal and any further decline will result in a change to Talbot County's rural nature that welcomes outdoor recreation.

191 Small businesses are vital to the character and functioning of Talbot County. However, without a healthy population, the county cannot maintain its workforce. Infrastructure ultimately benefits most residents and provides good jobs. Direct aid to households is important but is less critical if the first three items are in place. Travel and tourism are also vital to our county but we do not need an overload of tourism if other pieces of the puzzle are not put together first.

192 The cost of housing has skyrocketed in Talbot County. Developers direct all their efforts to high-end buyers and renters. The community would benefit from some kind of cooperative; locally administered, perhaps patterned after Habitat for Humanity's model that could provide seed money, low-interest loans, financial education and a community of mentors to provide true entry-level opportunities for "workforce" citizens. \$450,000 is not entry-level.

193 I agrAgree with most all except new Tourist Center. Development, if it meet comp. plan.

194 Business will create jobs and I am not about just handouts. If we lose our small Businesses it will affect everything else,

- #1 - particularly improving internet available across the county;
- #2 - this is a very wealthy county; there is no reason that anyone in this county should go to bed hungry or live without adequate housing, heat, etc.
- #3 - healthcare, healthcare, healthcare - and since the brain lives inside the skull which is attached to the body - mental healthcare is healthcare;
- #4 - yes
- #5 - there has been a considerable amount of support for small businesses throughout the last two years - there could be a closer look at how "small business" is defined.
- #6 - meh

196 Talbot county has so much to offer and for far to long has been only taken from. We need to bring people INTO the towns, parks and events. Downtown easton is dying, small businesses are struggling and its because we are not the destination we used to be.

People from the city should be coming here on the weekend to shop, eat and enjoy the history we have to offer.

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

**Reply # Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

197 For too many years our country under both parties have place infrastructure improvement and safety on the back burner. I f we are to remain a world power, we must have a world-power infrastructure in order to achieve economic growth. The business community has major benefits from this and should pay their commensurate share. Public health is way behind the curve. Instead of leading the world out of a major threat to humanity, we dawdled along especially at the beginning. It has to be science-based and the people must be given the confidence in it to do what is necessary for all. Whether we like it or not we are yes individuals but we do not survive as individuals. We only survive as part of the social network.  
 Not sure where this fits. We need an environmental risk analysis of our neighborhoods to determine what threats we are vulnerable to due to climate change in order to develop effective mitigation plans.

198 I worry that small businesses in Easton are going to suffer when that huge development that is including retail will be allowed to do what the developers want. The area near the synagogue. I also worry about how it will destroy an important area for wildlife. Where will the deer and fox go? Into peoples' yards!? All in the name of progress. Sigh.  
 I think a trail system, multimodal trails, single track trails, boardwalks etc all make nature more accessible and enjoyable to the community and tourists. I lived on the eastern shore for 25 years and then lived in Northern Virginia for 5 years and felt more connected with nature in Northern Virginia because I was able to access it via their robust trail system. I think trails improve the appeal and health of a community and are a great starting point to making Talbot County a destination.

200 The things listed under infrastructure like broadband benefit all. Ditto for public health. The other things should not be funded at all!!!

201 Investments in infrastructure and public health aid in creating a Talbot County that's more resilient to the public health and natural disaster impacts in the future.

202 As the roads, bridges, water & sewer, internet technology, and public buildings age, we need to be addressing these aging issues early instead of when they become emergencies. Ranking improvements that need to be done is important in planning for the future. I also believe that investing in a more nimble public health infrastructure is important given how unprepared we were for the pandemic. The State of Maryland seems to be operating an aging infrastructure for its health departments and if the county could help support computer technology and the building of a new health department, I think it could be a benefit to our population and a more efficient delivery of services.

203 High speed internet separates residents into classes that can accomplish in this culture and those that cannot.

204 Multi use outdoor exercise parks. Like a trail from St. Michaels to Easton. It would have been very popular during COVID shutdowns. It would increase tourism and safety.

205 Public health is the foundational start for all other category considerations.

206 Talbot County needs to adapt and invest in the future or it will become extinct.

207 Since this is tax payer money, let's benefit the items that we ALL use first i.e. infrastructure and health. Then small businesses and households that are still having trouble getting back to pre-pandemic stability.

208 The future of small businesses and non-profits in our area is crucial. Especially for Minority businesses and non-profits; who don't always get a seat at the table in Talbot County. Assistance to households is a very important factor as well. Many folks in our county fail to realize that there are families within this county that are homeless and children that are lacking in food. Infrastructure is important because some of the side roads are in dire need of repair and upgrading. Recovery of the economy within the county is also important; I think much more so than travel and tourism. Travel and Tourism caters to the outsiders who are in the area for a few days to a week and then they go home. What about the folks who are living here and seem to be invisible.

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

**Reply # Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

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209 A lot of people are hurting financially and this could make a big difference for them and for small businesses who lost revenues during the pandemic. The new transportation bill passed will help with infrastructure.

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210 Infrastructure upgrades have been deferred for many years - this needs to be addressed when we have access to Federal funds.

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Investment in Public Safety also needs to be a priority.

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211 Our roads and bridges need repairs, our public health department has had trouble keeping up on covid testing and taking care of our mental health issues. Travel and tourism will rebound once covid eases as will economic recovery.

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212 Working with families in need of electricity and housing assistance due to shutdowns and childcare issues. Mental health supports for families needed. Broadband/wireless coverage needed for families. Small businesses have been hit hard and in need of support.

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Serious lack of housing that is affordable and worth living in.

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213 Lack of broadband for personal and school use. I can not even get calls sometimes. Same with affordable media for at home use.

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214 Widespread access to internet is extremely important to personal success.

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215 If anything, Talbot County doesn't require improvement in tourism, people have always flocked to the county from elsewhere. Improving households is a priority that would help decrease the inequality gaps we face as a people.

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216 Buying votes is not the American way.

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217 Youth being identified in Talbot County for mental health needs has surpassed a crisis level overflow of the county's ability to meet this need. We are in desperate dire need of supportive mental health services to meet this need! THIS is A Public Health Crisis If Anyone Reads This!

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218 Health options and infrastructure in Talbot County has not kept up with the rise in the population. We keep adding residents but not the basic services.

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219 The public health system in rural county like Talbot is very thin and time to get appointments is lengthy. Also, many households are short on food supplies and the need is great as evidenced by large number of students on lunch support program.

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I feel that Talbot County needs to develop its infrastructure such as upgrading septic tanks or expanding sewer capability throughout the county. Wells need to be upgraded and water testing services should be available to residents to test their wells (public health investment). Broadband should be available all over the county.

220 Also, along 33 a bicycle and walking path from Tilghman to Easton would be safer for visitors and residents. There might be rails to trails money to assist with that.

More low income homes and apartments for those of us who can not afford real estate here in Talbot County.

To also have an area to develop a composting situation for all residents to drop off leaves, branches and other yard waste. Currently there are so many residents just burning their yard waste.

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**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

**Reply # Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

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Public health must come first. If we don't get out of this pandemic, it will effect our continued success as a thriving community. We must have robust COVID testing and vaccination programs with incentives for those who comply, and disincentives for those who don't.

221 Infrastructure investments is second, and that must include internet expansion and affordability. The internet is holding us back as a county! And why don't we allow Comcast and Verizon to offer high speed internet here? Why is part of the county limited to Easton Utilities, the other part to Atlantic Broadband? While we are lucky to be served by Easton Utilities, we are unfortunately paying \$170 per month for home internet alone!

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Need to fix sewage problems and nuisance flooding on roads.

222 Tilghman needs a sidewalk for tourists to connect Knapp's Narrows with Dogwood Harbor and the Wlyder Hotel.

Need to strengthen public health unit.

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223 Our infrastructure and public health initiatives need it the most.

224 Bring growth to area through tourism and making area more attractive to live to people who are retired, want to own business or can work virtually. Infrastructure is always important re: internet, good roads and bridges and bike paths. Working in public health in this area highlights how we need to work on obesity, diabetes, smoking, drug and etoh use, mental health and healthier mothers and babies.

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225 Everyone outside of Easton Utilities are subject to unreliable internet. Given the trend towards virtual work and school this would benefit everyone regardless of their economic status.

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226 Families are struggling and need assistance.

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227 Invest like a business do this expense for future ROI,. not one time help with no long term plan. Example visitor center who will fund after initial investment?

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228 I believe individual supports are most important, supporting our neighbors where they are during this time. Public health is next as we are in the middle of a pandemic. I think that travel and tourism is last as we need to make our community a better place for those who live here before we can focus on making it better for people to come in.

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229 My opinion.

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230 People first. Less is more when considering building projects. Low income housing needed. Not ' high on nd' food joints.

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**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

**Reply # Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

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repossessed because we missed a single payment in April. Without a car getting to work in Grasonville was impossible. We also got hit by a part of the Pandemic we never saw coming, we ended up for the 1st time in our lives having to deal with a Norwegian rat infestation & the exterminator said it was due to the Pandemic because they spread out looking for food during the shut down. Living near the airport we never suspected this but he said it was due to the Cafe, 6/12, 2 storage unit rental facilities right here, Seawatch & our close proximity to UPS. So on top of everything else we now need to replace our refrigerator & stove that we're damaged by the rats. Our fridge works but the freezer doesn't at all & if we even attempt to turn on our oven the entire house is filled with fumes from the ruin where the rats were nesting in the insulation of the oven. The stove top works fine. We also had the added cost of installing Rat Wire & rodent proof foam sealant in an attempt to prevent future infestation

There hasn't been any assistance for families dealing with this part of the Pandemic & it's something only discussed in the cities, we had NO warning it was occurring here in Easton Town Limits as well.

Add these to the notknly higher food prices overall but the stores like Harris Teeter that price gouge & get away with it.

231

Talbot is already an expensive place to live & living wages here are extremely hard to come by for most residents Renters get Pandemic assistance, there is nothing available for those of us who are homeowners. Even the energy assistance programs that are Pandemic assistance only applies to renters.

We need more Covid Testing sites & more free home tests in Talbot County. My daughter had a DEFINITE Covid exposure from Dec 26th until her father informed us after his SECOND positive test that he had Covid. I have tried EVERY test site in Talbot County multiple times a day to schedule testing for our family & can't get tested. I called the Health Dept 6 times & left 2 messages requesting 3 Covid Tests. Nobody returned those calls to schedule us. The other 4 calls had a message that the mailbox was full & hung up.

Our Doctors office is University Of Maryland Anne Arundle affiliated & they REFUSE to test for Covid. When I showed them the site for Walmart that said we can have our Primary Care call in prescriptions for the Covid Tests & have them set aside for us they have never heard of this. After reading it for themselves they tried to call 3 over & were denied authorization.

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232 Small businesses and nonprofits are the heart of the county and need assistance to maintain their businesses and keep their employees on the payroll. Nonprofits also have employees and need financial support to continue to help those in need. Families can always use assistance to maintain their household, pay their rent, heating, electricity, etc. This assistance is needed especially for those families who don't meet current eligibility criteria for federal program assistance.

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233 I feel that everyone needs access to the Internet. I agree that bridges and roadways in flood areas need to be improved. Failing septic systems? Yes, I think they need to be addressed.

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234 Health department is essential!!

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235 we need economic recovery initiatives to drive the future of the county, and pull us out of this hole. Assistance to small businesses is part of the economic recovery, which then provides salaries for households, leading to increased taxes for the county to use toward infrastructure and then travel and tourism issues - this should be last as long as the numbers of active cases of covid and influenza are high in the entire Mid-Atlantic.

Public health needs a huge overhaul - they are collapsing under the weight of this two year onslaught of illness - the building needs to be replaced, the computers can't be used, the staff is over worked and underpaid.

As a health care professional, I am tired, I know the health department staff is tired

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236 I don't want Prager turning this town into his personal Hamptons. Let's focus on what we already have in place and make it better.

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**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

**Reply # Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

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237 I believe that one way to make our community more resilient to societal upheavals such as pandemics and climate change is to promote financial security for the most vulnerable. The result of this security has a "trickle-up" effect in terms of access to information and resources that in turn benefit the entire community.

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238 The outer limits of Talbot County (Cordova, Trappe, Queen Anne, Tilghman) desperately need internet/cellular infrastructure. Chapel District Elementary's cell service is so terrible that teachers are unable to make calls from inside the building. This is a dangerous safety issue. I also believe in investing in services that directly impact the public and those who are socioeconomically in need, assistance to households and public health who do so.

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239 I believe that if infrastructure, small business and tourism thrive personal households we end up with the positive economic result

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"Economic recovery" is a vague category. Because small businesses, households, infrastructure and public health - and is thus ranked last. Travel and tourism was hit quite hard as well, but have an ability to pivot (for example - Hummingbird Inn Easton has new holiday programs... etc). This means it is ranked just below other Small Businesses. Investments in public health will truly get this pandemic over with faster, and with additional tax credits I believe this would have a bigger impact than direct monetary assistance. Assistance to Households is very important and even a small 1-time cash influx can turn a family's fortune around permanently. However preventing future damage to household economic power is paramount. By giving assistance to small businesses you are also assisting households as well which is the only reason I rank SB's higher. Infra follows behind these top 3, important priority that T&T and ECON relies on. But not as important as direct help now to assist in ending pandemic-related disruption

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241 Investment that supports opportunity for our citizens is fundamental.

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1. Have been working on bring Sewers to Neavitt since 2017. This has been a very slowww process. Certainly there are residents who could benefit from assistance in costs of doing this. Am also sure County could benefit from financial assistance in this area.

242 Affordable, high speed Broadband to all areas of the County is also a priority. I have had three different companies in the past year. Costs ranging from \$98.00 to \$158.00.travel and tourism is

Lowest priority is encouraging more tourists intl we take care of our own.

243 deduct proportionately from County property Tax for 2022.

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244 These funds are additional to the normal county revenue and should be used for some lasting projects that otherwise would be difficult to fund. Payouts that meet temporary needs may not be the best use of this money.

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We need high speed internet in Royal Oak. Our only option is satellite internet and it is poor at best.

245

Money should be used to repair crumbling and historic infrastructure.

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246 Sewer is the first priority. Then infrastructure improvement to face climate induced extremes like high tide levels and rising seas

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247 improving public health infrastructure is critical to Talbot County wellbeing. Then roads & bridges & broadband- physical infrastructure is top second choice.

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248 I feel that when the first 3 are taken care of, the next 3 are more likely to follow suit.

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249 Currently it is almost impossible to get tested immediately for covid. It is important to know

It is important to know

whether a person is positive or not in order to control its spread.

The Health Dept. needs more help to organize more frequent testing and

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**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

Reply #	Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds
250	Households include access to child care which I know is a huge issue in our county. I ranked infrastructure high because of the discrepancy of access to internet that was highlighted by virtual learning. Tourism and Travel just seems like such a low priority compared to the rest - take care of residents first!
251	I would like to see more walking and bike trails. I also want to see us help out the businesses that were most negatively impacted by the shut down and ongoing restrictions.
252	Collapsing or dangerous infrastructure is urgent. Next is keeping the economy humming by providing jobs (2 & 3) Families may need additional help, and bringing in tourists further helps the economy. The Eastern Shore has a lot of sources to turn to for help, but a better economy overall helps those organizations in their outreach.
253	<p>1)Public health is most important as Talbot would draw more investment if these services were on par with other regions.</p> <p>2)Travel and tourism will attract for local business and see the area as a good place to invest in a business</p> <p>3)We must help the underprivileged to help them selves. Help them to have pride, helps the community</p> <p>4)Inferstructurr is importation keep up. In most case we are doing that in talbot. Although sewer upgrade is needed in time, we needed to use existing money (State, County, Private) for this</p> <p>5)Tge correct run business made it through COVID. We need to continue to support our business through buy local and attract tourism, despite COVID!</p> <p>6) Economies fluctuate we always recover. Sometimes it takes longer then other times.</p>
254	There are too many area in Talbot county which do not have anything remotely considered adequate cell phone service or access to internet. Additionally, the state of our rural roads and shoulders and in desperate need of repair and expansion. Medical care, finding a primary care doctor is nearly impossible. Affordable housing for middle and low income families is nonexistent.
255	The COVID impact on our small businesses and their resultant inability to provide essential products & services to the residents & businesses of has caused severe rippling effects on virtually every facet of Talbot County. These businesses represent the backbone of our local economy - from job creation to providing countless quality of life benefits.
256	see #9 comments
257	We need to update our infrastructure (eg. sewers, bridges, flood mitigation, etc ) first
258	I think the health of everyone is of utmost priority. I would like to see more homeless homes opened, or much better access to homes that are,ore affordable to all of our workers, or we won't have anybody to work in our businesses and greet the tourists that everyone seems to want. We really could do with less tourism.
259	I am a Social Worker in the Talbot county public school system and see many families who need assistance financially, with transportation, and access to mental health and medical services. Small business took a big hit due to quarantine and covid.
260	It's important, yes. But helping the people is the most important consideration.
261	We need to make sure that Talbot County takes care of people who have had difficulty keeping a roof over their heads. A small community like ours should be able to make sure there is no homelessness. There are several food banks in the area. They can use extra help to keep people fed.
262	Town runs on small business.
262	Families need help.
263	Without public health nothing else works.
263	Because I believe that is the order of priority
264	I don't think we have a travel & tourism problem; maybe the opposite. Infrastructure and small business benefits everyone.

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

Reply #	Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds
265	Travel and tourism do not seem to be affected. Broadband is needed in many areas.
266	<p>1). People should always be first when considering such issues.</p> <p>2). Affordable Broadband is sorely needed in Talbot County. People are finding ways to use it everyday. In the future I can see more and more schools, children, small businesses and homeowners needing some form of connectivity.</p> <p>3). Some small businesses were left in ruins. Here in Talbot County small businesses are the backbone of our economy.</p> <p>4)</p> <p>5). Do you mean to say that there is no place in Talbot County that couldn't be used for the Health Department? Pardon me but I feel we could easily find an empty location if the current facility isn't compatible with what they need. I don't think we need a "new" facility, unless you were simply saying th</p> <p>6). I feel that we get so much traffic from Ocean City travelers that Travel and Tourism should be self sufficient.</p>
267	Everyone benefits from infrastructure investments. I live in Trappe and my road does not have internet access. Travel and tourism is last because Talbot County is well promoted and has many people visit the area.
268	Talbot infrastructure always seem to fall behind development.
269	<p>We need to invest in green infrastructure to prepare for and mitigate the effects of climate change, both land and sea based. Preserve and increase forest land. Industrial scale community composting to keep organic waste out of our landfills which rot and produce methane in that environment, but can be a source of low cost soil replenishment throughout the county.</p> <p>Increase public health preparedness as the current public health challenges will never really go away, they will morph into something else. Set the example to increase respect for our public health and scientific and medical professionals at all levels. Hire an environmental sustainability professional akin to and on equal status to county engineering staff. Promote local agricultural food production and distribution through the creation of a food hub.</p>
270	We have too many individuals in this county that can use assistance. They need our priority - not the rich that are embarking on our community and trying to move the more modest income out of the area.
271	As healthy people get back to work, the economy and investment will come back to a new normal. We need to look at health care delivery, too. We need to readdress many systems that failed or lacked an adequate response to the pandemic. These systems were slow to respond, lacking foresight in plain view.
272	If we don't do infrastructure now then when? We cannot continue to kick that can down the road. The time is now to invest in our future.
273	You have to have a foundation. Strong and self sustainable. Bring jobs, train people. Money not need to free. Make people feel useful. Make them want to work. Bring the stronger infrastructure.
274	Government role is to support the infrastructure network not to promote individuals or promote one group over another
275	<p>Making it a priority to assist Small Businesses enables those businesses to fully employ and support working families. Assistance to households by supporting child-care and senior-care in turn supports the working families of Talbot County. Our economy can continue to recover when wage-earners are not struggling with obstacles such as limited or no-access to child care (or senior care) facilities. Travel, Tourism and Arts is very important, especially in Talbot County, but they will always continue to be supported by the non-income earning and retired persons with expendable income.</p>
276	Improve WWTP's

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

Reply #	Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds
277	Talbot county does not have affordable housing for the majority of people that are not home owners who wish to live here. Many people that have grown up here,, cannot afford to live here.. Everything gets more expensive, food, fuel, etc.
278	Direct assistance to households positively effects the heath of the community as well as the economic recovery. Public Health and infrastructure are closely related, and I feel its the duty of the County and County Government to consistently fund these areas, and to seek additional funds for improvements.
279	First, we have to be healthy. If we are not, the other categories don't matter.
280	Invest in infrastructure like upgrading the lagoon waste water treatment plant in Tilghman or the old Trappe Plant to modern, Enhanced Nutrient Removal standards benefits all the people on public sewer by avoiding rate hikes. It also helps keep the bay clean and saves money for people experiencing poverty.
281	There are many infrastructure needs in the county. This is an opportunity to funds merchants needed projects that benefit all County residents.
282	County needs better broadband coverage.
283	Broadband improvement needs made obvious during school shutdowns
284	Because we are still dealing with excessive number of cases and the EMS system really needs help with \$\$\$
285	Over the last year many business and residents already benefited from federal grant programs. We should use this resource to build infrastructure for our residents (water, internet and health) and to attract funding for the future through tourism.
286	We have a lot of small businesses and should be looking to expand them, as well as bring in a couple large employers. I would like to see the money used in a way that makes a lasting impact. Helping to entice a manufacturer here would be a great way to use the money to make more money for the County while providing better income for the current residents. The last thing I would want to see this money used on is a project that provides no return for the community.
287	I believe full, easy access to broadband is essential like electricity.
288	Assistance with Households I marked #1 because this pandemic has effected us all as individuals in our homes more than anything. Assistance to Small Businesses #2 because it effects our economy which in turn has a huge impact on households. Economic Recovery is necessary because our essential workers are exactly that, essential and they need to be treated as such. Public Health Investments are important no matter what situation we are in. Investment in Infrastructure is important because that is an investment that has sustainability for our community. Travel and Tourism isn't as important as the others listed
289	with COVID so much has become virtual/on-line and the fact that we still do not have high speed internet for students or employees working from home in many parts of the county is ridiculous. Infrastructure also should include professionalizing fire and paramedic - with a growing area we cannot keep using small town ways to deal with growing area problems. First responders (along with mental health professionals) are beyond burnt out.
290	Corporate dinosaurs have used the COVID pandemic as an opportunity to profit even more then they have and this type of hoarding is killing our economy. You need to do everything in your power to help the small businesses build back from this pandemic and at the same time you need to stop letting white people pitch a fit every time they have to wear a mask or take a vaccine!
291	Small businesses are most often hit harder than others. We do not need more buildings or infrastructure in this county.

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

**Reply # Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

292 Many small businesses are failing and need support. This is double fold as many small mental health agencies are overwhelmed and in need of better compensation for the work the therapists/counselors are doing.

293 Mental health is so important  
The rest in the above priority

294 The health department needs a better building and resources to handle public health crises! They have worked so hard to help our community in a time they have been so badly needed.

295 Climate change and flooding is one of the biggest threats to the shore. We need to provide adequate infrastructure to cope with higher water levels and more frequent intense storms.

296 residents experiencing poverty, hunger, and homelessness deserve the bulk of the funds. tourists and business owners can and should take a backseat to the people who live and work here year round.

297 We should focus our efforts on those who have been most adversely affected by the pandemic - underserved communities including the poor, people of color and the LGBTQ community who were not even considered in this survey. Please focus on the educational, physical health, and mental health needs of these communities. And please create programs that will end the discrimination that is ingrained in Talbot County.

298 Aging adult with limited income does not qualify for assistance but needs improvements to septic system and house repairs.

299 Households in the county are in desperate need of monies for internet access, affordable housing and utility assistance  
Infrastructure is key in a county as rural as Talbot.

300 Economic Recovery is essential for low to middle class residents  
Our Public Health needs to be expanded, with focus on mental health  
Small businesses need boosting, since big-box development has been stifled  
Talbot County focuses on it's wealthier residents to the exclusion of the poor  
Tourism will provide for itself, once COVID issues are recognized and addressed

301 Broadband and sewer capabilities can no longer be viewed as a privilege but a right. As the wealth gap grows wider poorer people/families will need more assistance with technology and infrastructure in order to just keep up. A portion of these people own small businesses such as lawn mowing companies of one employee, bakeries of one employee, etc. These people usually do not get the communications they need to know how to apply for assistance, or that it is available. More effort is needed to reach these people in order to stem the aforementioned wealth gap and abate their need for public assistance such as shelters.

302 At this point we should not be encouraging high travel into the area with COVID levels rising back up again. Investment should be put into things such as health and the community overall to build back what has been damaged. Additionally I believe several areas of Talbot need to be fixed up infrastructure wise.

303 This is a public health crisis. Let's invest in our public health system. That's why public health is my #1.

304 tourism should be last

305 I feel that helping the low income haouseholds is priority as well as the small businesses.

306 Thinking about best use of funds for long term impact on the community as a whole.

307 I ranked them in the order I thought were outstanding issues (1) BEFORE COVID was even a factor to only impacted post-COVID (6)

308 There is a dire need for low income and transitional housing, know of homelessness in the area. Mental health and substance abuse problems also need to be subsidized

309 I think helping make affordable living a priority for the residents of Talbot county should be a priority.

310 Infrastructure helps everyone and it should include all public facilities-libraries, community centers, public pools, health departments, along with roads, bridges and other transportation structures. It should also include broadband expansion in rural and underserved areas.

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

**Reply # Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

311 There are too many residents of Talbot Co. who slip through the cracks, even though they are hard working. Many of them are migrants and maybe not documented or with green cards, but they work hard to provide services that are badly needed. Without them, we would be in a world of hurt for laborers. I'm not sure what the answer is. . . the Multi Cultural Services Center is a start, but it can't do it all.

Overall, I think the businesses in Talbot Co. are doing well, other than not having enough staffing. The hospital is the exception. Something needs to be done to recruit health care workers.

312 Business drives the economy, government doesn't and high speed internet is now a necessity for everyone.

313 Without public health investments, a pandemic of any sort cannot be contained.

314 Many small business suffered a great deal during the COVID crisis, Some had to close some kept there doors open at great cost to them. The homeless shelters in Talbot still operated using paid staff, NSC had to pay for hotels for people to have a place to stay, the senior center had to close and many senior did without.

315 Assistance to households, many people lost jobs, loss daycare, loss their home, Small businesses have suffered greatly and any extra money to get them through this period of time is extremely helpful.

316 Covid is far from being done. ALL citizens need help first and foremost.

317 Hiker/Biker trails have a huge payoff to the larger community in health and fitness, safety, tourism and economic development of small business. Walkable or bikeable communities are a worthy goal.

You have a failing public health department; your EMS and police wages are so low that there are always vacancies and you can't retain the talent that you train. This is a mathematical failure at every level; anyone in MD knows they can get a job in Talbot, get free training, and then transfer to a better paying department thereafter.

318 Your infrastructure is crumbling and since you can't figure out how to manage growth, you are in no way prepared for the onslaught of infrastructure needs coming with the expansion of this county.

Assisting the small businesses that exist in Talbot County will solve for Economic Recovery and Assistance to Households (who aren't already wards of the state). Travel and Tourism (advertising budget, I'm sure) doesn't need more help, you need to support the entities that attract those coming here.

You could stop there. Just because you get a few million doesn't mean you have to spread it evenly.

319 Government should first do things that individuals/small business cannot do i.e. maintain roads, provide clean drinking water, etc.

320 Without infrastructure, especially for dealing with climate change, and public health improvements, none of the other things will matter.

321 It is absurd that there are households in Talbot county that do not have access to affordable (or any) broadband Internet

322 Want to concentrate on those most immediately hurt, and projects that cannot be done by individuals (infrastructure and public health). Others could be financed with local resources, if this county weren't so cheap and tax reluctant.

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

**Reply # Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

323 My thinking is that the impact of the economic slowdown always seems to hit the working poor and marginal workers the hardest. Many of these folks work in businesses that are supported by locals, but are profitable because of tourism. The funds could be used to supplement unemployment insurance for workers idled by the pandemic and to help businesses stay afloat until economic conditions improve. The workers and their employers help make Talbot County a wonderful place to live. That's my rationale for the items ranked 1 to 4. I don't know if the Health Department needs new facilities, but they probably could use vehicles and personnel to vaccinate people who lack transportation. There's always a need for better infrastructure and the last two years have highlighted the importance of internet connectivity's importance. \$7.2 million won't go very far. Let's ease the suffering of our neighbors and preserve what makes the county special.

324 If we do not take care of what we have we will need to spend a lot more to replace it than maintain it.

325 Without sustainable households nothing else matters!

326 The people who are suffering should be helped first. Secondly, many businesses are struggling. They should be helped next and thirdly, we need to do everything we can in our community to eliminate the corona virus by funding public health.

327 Building on public health and infrastructure will benefit the economic and tourism responses.

328 We have been paying so much more money for groceries, gas, our students, that it would be nice to give back to the community it's and help with the past 2 years of trauma.

329 This was difficult to determine because there is one or two things from each category that I think are a lot more important than other things in the same category. For example, providing close follow up care to newly discharged patients is critically important for preventing readmission but I've given Public Health a #5 rating

330 Broadband has shown to be necessary to keep education functioning during Covid. It is also important to assist business growth in a challenging global market which also helps the economy recover. Individual households are getting assistance from other government programs.

331 I would love to see better broadband and cell service in Cordova z

332 The rich keep getting richer

333 We don't need help getting more tourism we have plenty of tourist. We need infrastructure that can handle climate change and deal with raising sea levels. We also need more long term rentals for residents and a pathway to affordable home ownership.

334 Households are the core of our community. Businesses keep our economy flowing.

335 Covid has not impacted infrastructure.

336 Better cell service - ie tower in Cordova

337 Health and education, which did not get included, are paramount to society

338 1 & 3. Help for small businesses would be best economic recovery.  
 2. Provide better access and delivery of public health department services across the board.  
 4. Help for struggling workers and caregivers, and their families, should be the assistance to households.  
 5. Infrastructure: replacement/renewal/removal are all in obvious need, just drive around and look! Or ask about broadband service, cell service, even electrical service.....

339 Many small businesses are still struggling due to the lack of workers and the people who still don't go out into small places.

340 Technology is absolutely key.

341 The infrastructure of this county gas not kept up with the growth, development, and increase in population



**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

**Reply # Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

342 Talbot County has crumbling roads and bridges in need of repair. The wind turbines need money for maintenance. There are many households who have suffered greatly financially in Talbot County and could use some assistance.

343 Without broadband we cannot compete with other areas. Secondly climate changes is an existential threat to the County. We should do everything possible to plan for an uncertain future.

344 Put funds toward sewer and water upgrades. Funds to renovate the Talbot County Health Dept.

345 Local government should look at its most critical services, cover the most critical and basic needs before considering the more extravagant items listed. Entice police and paramedics to stay and take care of the hardworking professionals. Attract small tech companies, create jobs, promote higher education, and watch out for unnecessary government spending.

346 Lots of families are suffering, with having to quit jobs to help their kids virtual learn, with less and less affordable rentals available in Talbot County.

Broadband is needed to telework and for virtual schooling.

347

Public health, outdoor tourism and activities should be a priority due to the pandemic.

Broadband is essential and some still don't have it while others are unable to afford it.

348 Economic recovery benefits everyone as well.

Other funding programs have been provided to help with other essential needs such as public health, residential and small business.

349 Public Health, both residents and visitors is a vital service. Support for our County EMS and local Volunteer FDs is necessary.

350 Public health has been the hardest hit during the pandemic. With first responders working round the clock and they should be compensated for doing so

351 Without solid infrastructure you can't build a sustainable municipality

352 Believe people who need help and food security should come first. Public health is now ever more urgent given the pandemic. Infrastructure especially proper waste water treatment is critical to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Other funding opportunities are less pressing.

353 Because infrastructure improvements are lasting. Assistance to individual households fleeting.

354 I live 60 miles from the nation's capital and I don't have access to broadband cable

Small businesses keep Talbot County afloat. They need help!

355

356 Our county is growing at an exponential rate. Currently the county's infrastructure cannot support this amount of growth.

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

**Reply # Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

357 If funding can be provided in the form of hazardous pay/bonuses/etc. to frontline healthcare workers and teachers who have worked through this pandemic despite the challenges and risks that they faced daily, then I think that should be the highest priority! Our hospital system in Easton is overwhelmed and understaffed (and NOT due to mandates). It is only going to get worse if the nurses and staff are not appropriately compensated for what they are doing. Teachers are also exhausted and have had to use their creativity and problem solving skills in ways they never would have dreamed of. They are dedicated to their students and trying hard to provide the best education they can in a safe way for their students. They deserve to be appropriately rewarded for all they have done. It's nice to be called a hero, but let us actually show them how much we value them and what they have done and continue to do for our community! If there is a way these funds can support them, I think they deserve every bit of what is left of these funds! I do NOT think these funds should be used to further encourage laziness, unemployment, or support of those who have taken advantage of this pandemic. The other group that I feel should be supported (albeit after rewarding frontline healthcare workers and teachers) are the small businesses that have barely remained afloat during this time. We need to start rewarding the PROPER people!!!

358 I placed public health last because our hospital fired so many hard working and brave individuals during this mess. So obviously the health gurus don't really think this is all that. Small business and start ups need help, especially after they were ordered closed but we let the likes of Lowe's , Walmart etc remain open. Infrastructure in this county is still so lacking. We need many more community hot spots so kids can do homework and those in need can have access 24/7.

359 I think investing in the community first is important to economic recovery and growth.

360 Public Health is most important in the time of Covid. Individuals and families need support to stay afloat so household assistance came next. With that comes assisting small business next, as small businesses hold our towns and cities afloat. In order for our town to function, we need working, functioning infrastructure. Failing infrastructure is a sign of a failing economy. With a better infrastructure and small business support, our economy is supported. When our economy and families are supported, people's ability to travel and those who come here (tourism) increase.

361 Broadband is still not affordable or available in lower bay 100 Sherwood-Tilghman for those on farms to run down drives cost as much as 50000.00 so they only have access to DSL or spotty cellphone internet. My son home from college when everything shut down had to drive to Easton to submit exam and homework at midnight for a hotspot with high speed service. 23 miles each way.

362 The County can't survive is basic services are nonexistent or inadequate.

363 First and foremost, it is people that need and should be able to expect help from the government. Then, investments in infrastructure have been long overdue in many parts of the county. Our essential public health workers need help, and I wouldn't say small businesses and economic recovery aren't also incredibly important -- they just in my opinion, shouldn't be the crux of who gets immediate help from the federal government. People need help and people need our systems to work.

364 I think a focus needs to be on healthcare (which is lacking), travel/tourism (which would ultimately bring in revenue), and infrastructure (a robust EMS and safe roads are important). I feel that small businesses and low income individuals have received a significant amount of assistance since COVID began and have abused the funds they've received.

365 Public Health resources are primary for recovery. Helping people comes next. Then infrastructure which is badly needed.

366 This area needs major upgrades in infrastructure. This is first and foremost. We are small business owners, so selfishly that comes next. Also selfishly, I'd enjoy better trails and things tourists enjoy.

367 Rural broad band is awful in this county. My speed in rural norther talbot county is download 2.7mbps and upload .7 mbps.....makes it pretty tough to run a business.

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

Reply # **Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

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368 We have a somatic and mental health crisis for adults and youth. We need more investment in community services and programming. Poverty level households are getting help but what about the households that barely do not qualify for assistance but are struggling more. People who get assistance have more money and comfort than the ones such as myself, who is a single mom and work full time and make just \$200 over the "limit." The culture and dynamics of the Eastern Shore is what makes it intriguing and unique. Small businesses, not just tourism ones, are an essential part of these communities. Invest more in helping the local citizens and not just the wealthy ones that come here occasionally.

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369 First and foremost: internet for rural areas. It's been 2 years and nothing has changed for those of us without real internet. It is the number one thing to improve life for our population regardless of age etc. need more cell towers in Cordova. Come out and use your cell phone if you don't believe us Small business improvement improves lives for all. Focus on the women and Hispanic populations.

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370 Why is there no category for improvement to public transportation. It's greatly needed here.

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371 It is important that all citizens have access to broadband & that our roads/bridges are in safe & hood working condition. Health care needs to be a priority, as most people can't even find a Primary Care Dr that is accepting new patients, & a robust EMS system is critical for providing emergency services. An investment in Travel/Tourism would ultimately pay for itself with the money tourist bring to the area. As a cyclist, I would love to safe bike lanes/shoulders. I ranked Small Businesses and Households lower because I have first hand knowledge of gross misuse of funds that have been received in the past through various covid funding.

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372 Individuals and small businesses are the ones in most dire need of help. The ripple effect of the financial impact of Covid on individuals and small businesses is creating a huge mental health and economic crisis. Without being able to meet their families' needs, or a small business be able to stay in business, the county is going to deteriorate.

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373 Small businesses need to stay open for our county to thrive. You also need to make sure households are helped along with keeping our healthcare facilities on top.

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374 Well, My parents live in Cordova...an area without good wifi. It is imperative, these days to be able to connect with people virtually. For work, bible studies, school, church or just connecting with loved ones without paying hundreds of dollars for "so-called high-speed dial-up". We need a tower or access to one in Cordova.

I put travel & tourism as #6 because we can barely keep up with our bills, let alone have extra money to travel. The \$1,200 stimulus went to pay overdue bills and play catch-up. I can't imagine it stimulated the economy at all.

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375 Help people directly first, then support programs, then worry about tourism that won't come back until this is done.

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376 My rating of 1, 2, & 3, I see as affecting all people in our county.

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377 I ranked them by thinking of the individual and family first. When the individual and family are secure, they are able to provide and contribute more to society.

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- 378
- 1) Broadband must be extended to all households. Need to extend sewer services into poor communities.
  - 2) Working families need help with both child and elder care.
  - 3) Talbot needs to develop a strategic plan for economic development.
- 

We need broadband in Royal Oak and other rural areas where there are no providers.

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379 Families need help. Small businesses need help.

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380 As a healthcare provider I have a passion for public health.

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**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

Reply #	Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds
381	Access to broadband is a major necessity in Talbot County rural areas. Even some areas with broadband access find it unreliable and makes it very hard to work or school remotely. Improvements to failing sewer systems would serve to both improve our environment and increase property values in the county. Travel and Tourism have already been pretty well address by private investment.
382	Because that's the way I ranked them.
383	Public health desperately needs help.
384	Help vulnerable people remain afloat and receive timely, effective healthcare.
385	The residents and our health should be the priority.
386	Roads bridges and communications need addressed. There needs to be a cell tower in cordova. There is no cell service at the chapel school which is dangerous in the current environment.
387	Covid-19 money should be used to invest in public health. It is so hard to get a Covid test right now. We need more availability of testing and investment in health related services. The last thing Covid money should be used for is tourism.
388	Because
389	I think it is most important for us to take care of the community that already lives here. This can be done by supporting our small businesses, improving our public parks and outdoor spaces, and improving our health Department services and our schools. Tourism is secondary to all of that.
390	I feel that broadband services need to be more readily available and affordable for ALL residents of Talbot County. In our current state so many students/adults don't have access. Having a proper working sewer system is critical to health and well being.
391	There are really poor people in this county that have been shoring up our service industry. Those small businesses stayed open but they cut the fat on employees and haven't increased wages in decades. Some parents don't even have cars to drive to the food banks we have.
392	Small businesses are still hurting and need your help.
393	I think those items that effect more people should be given priority over things that only affect a few.
394	Ranked by my perceived need and impact from pandemic
395	public safety workers especially corrections need better salaries along with other essential healthcare workers who worked throughout crisis with low salaries with greatest risk. also we need more services for the growing population of Talbot County.
396	Small businesses and households hurt most by pandemic. Must strengthen public health
397	A sixth paramedic unit is desperately needed with ER wait times increasing. This unit needs to be in Easton and not in the northern part of the county. When the calls are handled in Easton by the Easton units the unit designated for the northern county is available to handle those calls.
398	We need better phone and internet delivery, people need assistance, and we need to help all facets of the economy get stronger, including the farm community and ancillary businesses which support them.
399	Use every penny to assist in the housing and food for those without. Every penny should be used for the people without stable shelter or food access... things that the majority of the county residents take for granted.
400	Makes sense
401	The county needs enhanced cell coverage, especially in the Cordova area. Pull out the red tape and make it a priority. The county also needs to take an active stance in youth sports. In Cordova there is no soccer field, the baseball field and buildings at the town park are an eyesore and unusable. There is one baseball field that receives no county funding and is managed only by a few parents to make things keep going. It is noticeable in the lack of volunteers and the amount of kids that participate in youth sports in our area. It is a shame.
402	Covid healthcare workers , need adequate compensation, have not received any bonus for risking their lives taking care of Covid patients during this pandemic
403	We need bold investments in county infrastructure and direct aid to struggling households, not handouts to Paul Prager and his cronies.

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

Reply #	Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds
404	Talbot County needs to quit playing games and ensure the Health Department, Shore Regional, and Choptank Community Health all work together. There have been too many historical ego and political issues that continually hinder public trust in our healthcare system.
405	tourism and investors in the area get so many breaks but our local families who serve as teachers and police can't afford to live here. schools need more support. I'm surprised that helping our local school district is not an option. Sewer and broadband address both long term concerns for environmental health, well being of residents and the adjacent water ways. If we can make an impact here it will improve our future.
406	Broadband access in a time where we are trying and needing to do things apart from one another is essential to ensure everyone has an equal footing. In my opinion it's everyone's right to have access.
407	School need to have the best technology like chapel district needs a better cell phone reception so we need a cell phone tower
408	Infrastructure affects us all. Our roads are in need of attention, the water system in Trappe is inadequate, Our small businesses are the ones who offer jobs to our citizens, they draw tourists to our county, they serve our homes, our cars, our needs; they are the ones we turn to when we need donors for Waterfowl, or T ball. They love and serve where they live and we need to get people back to work in these businesses. This is endemic and rewarding those who have grabbed their boot straps and pushed through uncertainty to keep their doors open need to know they are supported. Supporting them will open opportunities for more jobs and it's time everyone who is able gets back to work.
410	Infrastructure and public health have both shown their holes over the last 2 years, so those clearly rank high for me. The others all sound nice to have but could wait. Health systems are taxed in this rural area and we need Infrastructure to help adapt to changing climate (i.e. better stormwater systems, lifted roads, protected working waterfronts) in a timely fashion.
411	I feel that Talbot County needs better broadband access and would love for funds to help the local fire departments.
412	Affordability of broadband is essential for our community. With more workplaces requiring work from home, and school work being done online, internet is a necessity in todays world, regardless of income level. Broadband should be affordable to all residents.
413	Put in cell phone tower near chapel elementary
414	Access to broadband was shown to be crucial for the quality of life during the pandemic. Those residents and businesses in the County need more/better access to broadband.
415	Would like to see investment in rural broadband that brings service all the way to each rural house, not just to the end of driveways. Would like to see investment in non profit school system parters like Avalon, pickering creek and art academy. They do so much and deserve assistance.
416	Infrastructure has long suffered with the loss of state highway user funds. The state and federal government has done enough to bail out small businesses, individual's, and plenty of employment opportunities for people to help themselves.
	Rails/trails provide for outdoor physical activity for use by all. Modern athletic facilities promote physical fitness and lifelong friendships.

**Question 2: Tell us more about your response. Why did you rank the investment categories the way that you did?**

**Reply # Rank the following investment categories by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

417 I live in Cordova, but am also the principal of Chapel District Elementary School. Broadband needs to be expanded in the Cordova area to support our families. This was apparent during the pandemic and virtual learning. More importantly, a cell tower is desperately needed in Cordova and near the school. Our staff and parents are unable to get service in or near the school, which creates a major safety issue. There have been times a safety issue has arose, in which we have to run outside past the parking lot to get any service. Even our School Resource Officer has expressed the need for better cell service. We've had police report to the school who are unable to get service on their phone or internet access on their computers. This is our number one priority!

418 We must invest in protecting the health of our residents to build stronger communities.

419 Coming from a rural area, it is important to have internet access AND a satellite location for Talbot DES, especially in an underserved area such as Cordova. For a very long time, ABB has had a monopoly in the area where my parents live, but refuse to run a line down their road for no reason other than greed (there would be 5 households in their 5 mile section that would use the service). This made virtual learning nearly impossible for the kids. As for the additional DES support, Cordova does rely on volunteers and have responded to many calls, however the CVFD's members are only getting older with limited younger volunteers to replace. Having an extra DES support available, it can help serve Queen Anne, the area of 404 (which is constantly riddled with accidents) and all the way over to tuckahoe bridge and cut the response time greatly. You don't even have to build a new facility, QAC DES uses existing firehouses as their home base most of the time.

420 Broadband needs to be available to all especially with teleworking and virtual learning. A new health department building is long overdue.

421 Personally my family could use a stimulus payment invest in the people who invest in the county!

422 I'd like to see small businesses and nonprofits get assistance in recovering from the pandemic, more access to outdoor activity space and water, and economic recovery for lower income families.

423 Those are the only two of the categories that I think the money should go to

424 Investments in infrastructure at top of the list because of the need for broadband for all county residents and businesses.

425 Infrastructure is an important avenue that must be taken seriously now. Climate change is here and our infrastructure now cannot and will not be able to handle the changes. Flooding areas and roadways must be updated.

426 Because I believe this is how funding should be allocated.

Reply # Question 3: Rank the following Infrastructure projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds.

Expansion of broadband to unserved and underserved parts of Talbot County.

Allocation of funds to ensure that broadband services are affordable and accessible to all Talbot County residents.

Funding assistance for low-to-moderate income families to assist in sewer extensions in rural parts of the county with concentrations of failing septic systems.

Improving roads and/or bridges in areas that flood frequently.

1 Other (please specify)

2 Reducing pollution (water, land, air) for health sake.

3 Climate resilience, carbon reductions.

4 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent

5 Some rural areas still have random cell tower signal.

6 Sewer for neavitt and bozman

7 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent

8 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent

9 Sewer extensions will additionally provide a positive environmental impact

Improvement of roads / bridges in flood areas should be accompanied by an education / awareness program on the impact of Climate Change on our area. Insurance rates - if available will rise. Property will continue to be destroyed

10 I am all for improving broadband as long as you make it free for all. If you require school kids to take classes online, you must give them access to broadband. Improving roads for ALL users, not just cars, should be a PRIORITY.

11 Increase Law Enforcement Salaries to keep good officers in the County

About broadband: We have Satellite. Cable was brought back close to our farm, the neighbors paid \$20,000 and \$15,000

12 respectively to have the cable run. We can hook up for free BUT the cost would be double our Satellite, therefore we cannot do it.

13 First Responders pay should parity that of Kent, Queen Anne's, and Maryland State Police.

14 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent...

15 Roads and bridges

16 Public Safety is paramount. Law Enforcement require pay parity in our area.

17 First responders need pay parity with QA, Kent and MSP.

18 Teachers should get housing tax credits to purchase houses. If you teach and live in the county. It should be recognized and supported. Make investments in public service jobs like teaching and community education

19 Creating more parks and protecting natural open spaces.

20 It is unacceptable in America that some rural residences have no waste management system. Sewer or septic for all!

really, I would like to make them all #1. Broadband is critical to homes and families, especially with children. Removing

21 homes from septic and switching to county sewer is critical for our bay, but the cost can not be placed on homeowners. I would also like to see Talbot County be the 1st to offer free lunch to ALL students.

22 driving in Easton is terrible.....roads are so narrow, especially when cars are parked on sides

23 County buildings

24 Again, internet accessibility is a high priority in this time.

25 The number one issue affecting quality of life in Talbot County is the quality of water in our waterways. Septic systems are having a massive negative impact on water quality, which directly impacts the sources of employment, health, recreation and quality of life for future generations. These investment are long overdue and will have an immediate positive impact.

26 All of these are important issues. Until broadband exists throughout the county in an adequate way affordability is a moot point. With the problems of children's educations, I see both as extremely important. Again, the infrastructure bill should be looked to for roads and bridges.

27 Anything that will help clean up the environment and the associated waters and promote improved water quality and environment for the animals therein.

Reply #	Question 3: Rank the following Infrastructure projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds.
28	While broadband is a laudable and important goal (I am a resident without broadband), I believe that there is an abundance of money to support this initiative from other sources. I would not want the County to use funds that they could otherwise seek. Addressing failing septic and flooding roads will not only address key issues of infrastructure, but will also protect the Chesapeake Bay water quality.
29	(1) Trappe WWTP
30	Repair and upgrade the Trappe sewage treatment facility to highest possible standards.
31	Help people who really can't handle the issue themselves: failing septic, can't get to homes because of flooding, etc.
32	Upgrades to wastewater management systems
33	We have some low lying areas which flood frequently now and I expect this will worsen based on the trend
34	Thinking proactively on ways to counter rising water levels to protect landowners from property loss and damage to homes and farmland.
35	Consider these facts. Talkie Fiber, a private company laid fiber cable in Kent County without charging residents for installation and without service contracts. According to technical staff at Easton Utilities it is privately owned and they provide no information to customers regarding any plans to upgrade from old broadband technologies to speed of light fiber. Duh!
36	All roads and bridges in Talbot Co. need to be addressed.
37	The order presented is appropriate.
38	Roads are used by everyone. Allocations and improvements should not be based on income.
39	Broadband investment combines a good way to simultaneously address the financing our county's physical and social infrastructure.
40	1 - Upgrade poorly performing sewage treatment systems (e.g. Trappe), and ensure that plants receiving new extensions are capable of effectively treating waste without violating discharge criteria
41	Internet is bad period. They did a big upgrade and it didn't improve...why give more money to Easton Utilities
42	#s 3 and 4 and more equal than not
43	3. Environmental risk assessment for climate changes risks throughout the county and develop mitigation plans.
44	I do not want to see sewers extended because it will allow significant development into the rural areas enriching certain members of council and ignoring the plan to maintain a rural atmosphere.
45	All are important.
46	Low and Moderate income housing
47	Infrastructure in terms of public health would be beneficial- more hiking and bike trails. More electric charging stations for cars.
48	Same reason as above. Also, getting failing septic systems connected to main sewer systems helps the environment.
49	Increase solar panel use from choptanks outdated lines.
50	The first priority should be for the failed Trappe wastewater plant—and other municipality sewer and septic failures—so that waste doesn't become an environmental hazard. Our waterways and the Bay should be our priority here
51	No one should have a failing septic system. Many people can not afford the upkeep. Broadband is also very important. Many services are tele now and this leaves those in rural areas without.
52	Support for renewable energy/jobs.
53	Ensure wastewater treatment plants are keep to the latest technology that
54	Cell phone service in dead zone areas.
55	County road repairs. Better materials other than tar and chip. Quicker responses to needed pot hole repairs
56	Flood mitigation efforts, solar energy incentives, home insurance protection against violent storms, hurricanes and tornadoes to counter climate change
57	Transportation access for rural areas
58	Roads/bridges benefit all. Other funds are available for sewer extensions.
59	Broadband has been needed in outlying areas for years and people need to be able to pay for it or it's useless to them. \$7.2 Million won't go very far in improving septic systems or road projects.



Reply #	Question 3: Rank the following Infrastructure projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds.
60	Invest in infrastructure to mitigate the effects of climate change such as living shorelines and local investments in brownfield solar power.
61	Broadband service was severely limited, as the education system sorely learned. Items 3 and 4 should be a non-issue. They are basic services not to be denied to any citizen.
62	Allocating funds to strengthen & enforce noise ordinances, and pollution regulations.
63	Upgrading end of life wastewater treatment plants to ENR standards.
64	How about cell towers also? Don't go overboard with broadband. While it does improve education and has a return on investment for in home businesses, these would be able to accomplished without millions invested. I would rather see a consultant hired to add cell phone coverage in Chapel and make sure the businesses in Cordova will be hooked up.
65	Improve law enforcement training and accountability as well so people can trust the police.
66	With technology moving ahead and many local sources urging people to utilize the internet to apply for necessary services, the expansion of broadband would be EXCELLENT!
67	all of these are important
68	Broadband is no longer a luxury; Covid has taught us this.
69	Please abandon areas that flood frequently. Relocate people instead.
70	These items should be funded by the county budget, not the emergency federal funds.
71	Consider nature based/green infrastructure improvement wherever possible.
72	Think long term and don't build in areas that will eventually flood or access to them will flood
73	As stated broadband has a great economic and personal benefit. Extending sewer would encourage growth and should be managed through local government.
74	allocating open space for families to enjoy
75	Really? Talbot County's (mostly secondary) roads are a disgrace, whether flood-prone or not. Infrastructure that ignores broadband access to ALL is equally small-minded. And given the current fuss over Trappe's demonstrably horrible sewer situation, that has to be a joke, right? Flooding is a reality now. What happens with Route 33 is flooded out? Or Oxford? Affordable broadband is also very
76	important. There is an incorrect assumption that everyone has access.
77	Customers in unserved areas may also need help with paying their contributions for the infrastructure investment...this ties to both broadband categories.
78	Emphasis should be placed on assuring waste water treatment plants meet EPA standards and failing septic systems repaired.
79	It is inexcusable that I don't have access to broadband. I am willing to pay \$25,000 to have the fiber run the last mile to my property but no one wants to entertain that idea.
80	What's the difference between the second and first option? Don't they go hand in hand? What good is service if there's no affordability?
81	Grant funding to help families afford to fix wells, sewers, roofs, etc.
82	Cell towers in Cordova.
83	While the ranking system is interesting. My real comment is we should do all of these.
84	With tele-working and virtual learning becoming the new normal, ALL Talbot County residents should have access to high speed internet
85	1 & 2 may affect all people in the county.
86	Walking and bike paths
87	Broadband access is so important to improve the opportunities for school and work.
88	Talbot county has enough money to improve its infrastructure without help. Let the money go to things that are usually low priority to legislators.
89	Internet outside of Easton City limits is poor at best. Everything today is internet based.
90	Stormwater management (rain gardens, greenspace, etc)
91	Cell phone tower

Reply # Question 4: Rank the following Assistance to Small Businesses projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds.

Grant program for small businesses and non-profit organizations that continue to struggle as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Development of programs to assist small, minority, women and veteran entrepreneurs with education, mentorship, and access to capital.

Creation of county-wide strategic plan for economic development and tourism development.

Other (please specify)

1 I don't like the focus on nonprofits nor minorities; the federal funds should help ALL Talbot citizens, because ALL lives matter

2 Small businesses need to be those started by individual start ups not belonging to wealthy persons even if each individual business is small in that person's portfolio.

3 Overall planning is so important to improve this category now that its importance to Talbot County has been recognized every effort should be targeted for its success

4 Provide water & sewer to 925 Port Street to enable non-profit, Bay related, to rehab & use the property.

5 Thought there was a strategic plan in place for economic development and tourism.

6 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent

7 These are all low priority for me.

8 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent

9 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent

We should not fund based on racist identity politics

10

Also strategic planning does not require xtra funding

11 Are there still small businesses and non-profits that haven't received help? If they haven't yet, they don't deserve to get it and they need to reconsider being in business at all. Please put together a county-wide economic development plan that does NOT included a dependence on one person to accomplish our goals.

12 Help should not be based on race or gender.

13 Have you not focused on the needs of women and other minorities in planning?

14 Covid keeps evolving into more mutant strains, it does not look like it's going away so farmers need help.

15 I do not like any of these options much.

16 First Responders pay should parity that of Kent, Queen Anne's, and Maryland State Police.

17 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent...

18 Public Safety has to be at the forefront. We need safe communities and law enforcement with parity of salary and benefits.

19 First responders need pay parity with QA, Kent and MSP.

20 No offense, but the small business covid handouts are over...businesses actually did surprisingly well, all you have to do is ask, they have also received lots of funding over the last two years. Let's use this money proactively to benefit all of the economy. This place needs a more coordinated group effort as a county, and stop working in silos for economic and community development and tourism.

21 Race should not be a factor in handing out money

22 investment in young adults

23 Please tell us we have a plan for economic development. If we do not, admitting it is a good first step.

24 Number 3 would just go to the ones already making money on tourism, etc.

25 The eastern shore is already overrun with too much poorly planned economic development and tourism. I would prefer to see investments go to existing small businesses that need temporary assistance.

26 IT SHOULD BE SPENT ON THE PEOPLE NOT THE PROFIT.

27 These monies are supposed to be about Covid related recovery not creating currently non-existent businesses.

28 I am skeptical that a small business/non profit assistance program is needed at this time. I do believe we need to invest in workforce and would support funds for that purpose.

29 Rescue EXISTING businesses in trouble with rescue funds vs. development of new programs or plans that may or may not ever happen

**Question 4: Rank the following Assistance to Small Businesses projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds.**

Reply #	
30	do NOT support creation of county-wide strategic plan.....
31	Emphasis should be on local assistance before encouraging tourism development. Increased tourism will just exacerbate existing and future problems.
32	Economic development focused upon organizations and businesses which generate more livable wage employment in emerging technologies and manufacturing. Forget about tourism. Communities cannot rely upon tourism if COVID has taught us anything.
33	The strat plan is ordinary county business. The relief funds should be spent for relief.
34	Allocation should not be based on race
35	Parking at public landings favors trailered boats and denies access to kayakers. Not good for tourism or residents.
36	We already have a planning commission don't we?
37	I've not been impressed with the quality of "strategic planning" in this county.
38	small, minority, women and veteran entrepreneurs will benefit by default if we accomplish the other 2
39	The strategic plan to encourage tourism should not include incentives to developers who are destroying what is so appealing about our small town. More easy access for kayaking, hiking, biking would be money well spent.
40	COVID aid based on recipients having received shots
41	Focus on innovation & incentives for new businesses to be created. Fill the empty buildings in Easton. Focus on creating housing for single people and young people so there can be a workforce and jobs to generate more tax revenue. Getting young people here and companies working on climate change solutions would be especially beneficial.
42	Non profits and businesses should NOT be in the same category. Non profits are doing much more important work than small businesses (many of which in this county again concentrate wealth into the already wealthy)
43	New business start up funding would be of help. Perhaps like to offset incubator costs for shared office space, conference rooms, office equipment, mailing addresses and work areas for work that would use power tools.
44	Pilot projects that provide support to farmers seeking to alter practices in response to climate changes.
45	Tourism thrives as result of a waterfront environment's overall health and success?
46	Low priority for the use of these funds. This is a one time opportunity to do BIG things for the infrastructure of our county that we cannot normally do
47	We do not need more tourism/economic development (goes against our rural character goal). I don't think social engineering works in the long run.
48	Any project intending to benefit individuals should go to individuals. I have long though that we are spending too much money "developing programs". You are just adding a layer of government that doesn't achieve much.
49	Creation of a county wide environmental sustainability plan and begin implementation.
50	These programs are not useful
51	Plan to attract development of truly affordable housing for our lower income seniors and families.
52	Many businesses have had access to funding over the last year (including mine). Businesses that haven't taken advantage of the many existing resources to date, shouldn't receive funds. It makes me question their business practices.
53	Why would we dial in and focus on one small section of the population.....minority business owners. All businesses are struggling and what is the disadvantage to veteran owned businesses that has come from COVID? Yes, in today's world you need to be loud and proud of being inclusive but we aren't exclusive so I wouldn't focus on one group. Maybe look at industries that are struggling instead of the color of a business owner.
54	Need to push education the most. White Supremacy and hate have flourished under the Trump administration and is continuing to worsen. Racism in law enforcement followed by backlash by the white supremacy movement has made it unsafe for people born of color and born into the LGBTQ categories.
55	Create a grant that funds initiatives that address the disparities of those marginalized communities who suffered before the pandemic and were most impacted, such as people of color and LGBTQ people.
56	Again, minimize the tourism part for now but this would be ideal to assist struggling businesses.
57	tourism should be last assisting minorites and women is a form of discrimination against other groups

**Question 4: Rank the following Assistance to Small Businesses projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds.**

Reply #	
58	Underserved parts of community are my main concern.
59	Please stop classifying people by race and gender. This is racist.
60	Talbot county should already have a county wide strategic plan for economic development, what an embarrassment that you don't already and have to rely on federal hand outs to attempt to develop it. You shouldn't be handing out money based on race or gender, rather, based on business plan substance and risk.
61	There are many assistance programs now. Make sure these work before starting new ones.
62	Items 2 and 3 should be funded by the county budget, not the emergency federal funds.
63	Not sure where to begin. The current mix of development appears all wrong, too much and in all the wrong locations. Perhaps it is not the plan that needs redoing but the planners!
64	Programs and organizations that benefit the community affected by Covid should take priority. Aid to small businesses would seem to be of UTMOST importance.
65	Development of tourism seems totally USELESS and narrow-focussed -- until the County can better sustain itself for the people who live here.
66	Short term economic aid is probably best use of these funds, but a strategic plan is very important. Hard questions.
67	I feel strongly about ranking support of small businesses struggling as a result of COVID-19 as number 1. Reaction of countywide strategic plan for Ed/td should already be in place, if not a number of individuals in the eco dev office should be fired
68	Ease the restrictions put in place for home business/offices. OR offer rental assistance to those trying to start/maintain small business
69	I think supporting small businesses that directly benefit the county is most important.
70	But only if they were profitable before the pandemic. Don't just give it to someone who will lose it anyway.
71	Many small businesses have misused the funds they've received and I feel that they've received plenty throughout the pandemic.
72	Don't focus on the vets. They get enough funding from the govt and are predominantly white males. Thank you for your service. You were paid for it.
73	I believe we need to diversify our economic development plan and depend too much on tourism. There are so many closed businesses due to Covid. This results in empty storefronts but yet new buildings are being
74	approved. Our county is losing the rural feel and valuable land that our wildlife depends on. Stop approving new building projects and help support the ones that are already here.
75	Number 1 helps those ready to improve the services they provide.
76	Give the money directly to the most vulnerable populations. Maybe if the businesses are failing they are unsustainable. Quit with the handouts to poor businesses and to the citizens. The
77	labor shortage is real and driven by handouts. This country and county was built by hardworking Americans. We need to encourage and promote workforce training for trade and entrepreneurs. Start by empowering the citizens and allow them to work for us.
78	Tourism yes. Business yes. More housing developments no.
79	NONE
80	I DO NOT support any such handouts!!!!

4

Reply #

Question 5: Rank the following Assistance to Households projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds.

Increasing rental and utility assistance for low-to-moderate income individuals.

Increasing funding for access to childcare and/or eldercare assistance for working families.

Other (please specify)

1 Affordable training in job skills

2 Improve access to public transportation throughout the county and MidShore.

3 Increasing rental options available to low-to-moderate income individuals.

4 Elder care and mental health across the entire spectrum

5 These are equally ranked in my mind.

6 Meal assistance; increase availability of affordable rentals

7 affordable housing

8 Difficult choice

9 Revisit the parameters for affordable housing and strengthen programs that support supervised entala.repairs to r

10 Very limited childcare for working parents with babies. Heard one woman charging \$30 an hour. These women are asking to be paid in cash and I have not heard of any asking less than \$20 per hour!

11 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent

12 This is a toss up but rent and utilities should help more people I'm assuming.

13 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent

14 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent

As detailed in my answer to number 1 - Habitat for Humanity Choptank can benefit from the ARPA to provide affordable housing to qualifying constituents

Low income households face a shortage of decent, affordable rental properties, and they are priced out of home ownership.

15 Habitat for Humanity Choptank has opportunities to make a difference in the lives of your constituents.

- Creation of New Affordable housing for LMI/VLMI Families
- Revolving Lon Fund - assist homeowners with critical health and safety repairs
- Provision of Housing Counseling Assistance
- Funding for Land Purchases to support affordable housing

16 1. Build more affordable housing. Temporary financial assistance toward rent will encourage landlords to continue to raise rents and result in renters being further behind when the temporary assistance lapses. Increasing the supply of affordable housing puts working families in their own house AND puts downward pressure on rents.

17 First Responders pay should parity that of Kent, Queen Anne's, and Maryland State Police.

18 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent...

19 Law enforcement and EMS services are at the top as essential to our county. Provide pay and benefit parity to them.

20 First responders need pay parity with QA, Kent and MSP.

21 I volunteer with CarePacks and have seen the needs for food first hand. The parents are grateful and the kids are delighted to receive the food packs. The program needs to be expanded to help ore families. It would be good if the county could develop a program to educate the families - they should always come and not just when the paychecks are covering their needs. Much of the food we gave away at the Black and Decker building could be put into a pantry for future use - ie., when it snows.

22 Get county employees raises to be competitive

23 Funding should expand to medium income household <100k a year

24 Giving more money for low income child care does not help when childcare's are closing down every single day. Find ways to help parents be home with their children especially when schools could potentially shut down again.

25 People can work to pay their bills if children and elders ae cared for.

26 Affordable housing is a high concern. Our children cannot return to Talbot County to live due to the cost of housing. Need more attention to provide affordable housing to young people who are needed as our teachers, public health workers, and emergency responders. Currently these service providers must live in adjoining counties because they cannot find housing in Talbot that is affordable!

27 Very few rentals and prices are insane 1200 plus..very few can afford

28 Take away unemployment and work on people to go to work.

29 Childcare so people can work

30 They are both critical. I know a lot of hard working people who lose their jobs because they have to take off when their childcare falls through. There are also so many people behind on rent and utility that are getting kicked out of their homes.

31 The childcare in our county is at crisis mode. There are very limited options from ages 0-3.

32 These are both very important needs.

33 Food assistance

34 These are equally important in my mind. Carving out funds for the very impoverished is critical at this time. The data shows that the impoverished have been left behind and will continue to fall behind if we do not prioritize programs that directly impact them. Support Talbot County's Neighborhood Service Center, which is currently not adequately supported in my view.

35 More housing for rentals by middle and lower income people

36 Increasing food security, and healthcare support to the needy.

37 Help individuals or families in trouble now vs. help everyone in a certain demographic

38 funding to support eldercare is more critical than childcare

39 I

40 Increase social and educational supports for low income/underserved families...inclusive of career opportunities

41 Without well run and affordable child care options people cannot work.

42 Funds should be spent to relieve epidemic-caused pain. There are critical continuing needs but they should be met by reordering county budgeting priorities.

43 None of these should be supported with federal funds.

44 People should live within their means

45 Please help people who need help because they are caring for elderly parents and their children. The unseen work is exhausting.

46 Universal pre school

47 There are now federal and state programs for direct assistance to renters and for child care. The role of the county is to do its best to act as an agent for getting those funds out to those for whom it is intended. However, what the County can and should do develop a systematic strategy for increasing the supply of affordable housing. This--addressing the matter of supply--is an appropriate role for a county government (of course coordinate with state and local programs)

48 3. Increase funding for pre-school programming for low-moderate income children, including funding for transportation and meals. This may be considered a sub-category under access to childcare.

49 What does 'increasing funding for access to . . .' mean? Sounds like another layer of administration, which we do not need. We need people to do the jobs they are hired to do, not recommend hiring assistants or consultants.

50 I am not in favor of child tax credits for more than 3 children. Government should not be encouraging large families. This is the basis for much of the world's troubles. More funding should be provided for birth control mechanisms.

51 Both are important. How about forcing developers to add some lower income housing before they get the go ahead for their Mc Mansions.

52 Focus on creating affordable housing as much as possible. We need apartments for rent in Easton and downtown.

53 These are equally important, but paying rent is most important to avoid homelessness.

54 Add assistance to families who own their homes also.

55 The lack of availability of affordable childcare dissuades young people from living and working here

56 Too many people moving here - don't want to encourage more

57 Why are homeowners always left out of getting assistance? Oh they claim there is a program to have people a crew come help you make your home more energy efficient. We signed up for it 5 times & never once got a phone call to set that up.

- 58 we desperately need childcare access increased. People cannot return to work without reliable child care.
- 59 Tough.
- 60 Please do not overlook the elderly and those living in fixed incomes. Many can not pay for their medications.
- 61 Low priority for these funds
- 62 Working families first. Low income individuals already have some help.
- 63 Divide the money equally among all Talbot County taxpayers
- 64 Assost with the cost of 2ndary education and/ or technical trainibg and job support for county residents and businesses.
- 65 This is personal responsibility not government role
- 66 Both are vitally important, and go hand in hand.
- 67 To get people back to work you need to give them access to affordable childcare.  
Daycare is necessary for people to work. If they can't find daycare then kids are at risk and someone's job is at risk. Then
- 68 they fall into the category of needing rental and utility assistance. Please focus your attention on keeping people employed and helping them get a better job by incentivizing businesses to come here.
- 69 If too much assistance is provided to pay rent and utilities, how will residents be able to get back to being more independent. The funds that are provided need to be lowered gradually so residents can work to prepare for them stopping.  
Help people of color and people of the LGBTQ communities fight against discrimination in hiring. Crybabies who pitch a fit
- 70 for not taking a needle or wearing a mask should be denied all help!
- 71 A large issue for households right now if being able to find the necessary dependent care they need so that they can properly work. The biggest problem is the COST of doing so.
- 72 both of these are equally important
- 73 Childcare workers should be subsidized so that they have a guaranteed minimum \$15 / hour rate
- 74 actually both are equally important.
- 75 #1. . . heavy emphasis on LOW income families
- 76 Allow more housing to be built. Allow people to have tenants in their home mother in law apts. This will reduce cost if housing by increasing supply
- 77 Pay your teachers a competitive wage. TCPS wages are a mockery compared to the wealth of this county.
- 78 Both items would be rational ways to use the emergency federal funds.
- 79 These are both equally important. The most needy people gets priority
- 80 Housing should be a first consideration.
- 81 Talbot County's access to child and elder care really need the dollars.
- 82 Again, very hard to choose between these two assistance programs.
- 83 Rental assistance needs to be recalibrated since property owners are gouging
- 84 I think these are both important.
- 85 Rental and utility assistance should be a hand-up, not a hand out. There are plenty of businesses struggling with finding employees for lower-wage jobs and people aren't motivated to work because they are receiving assistance funding.
- 86 Cost of living has gone up and minimum wage has gone up but yet middle-class working families have not had their salaries increased to meet this change in economics. Help with childcare expenses would be a HUGE help.
- 87 Number 1 helps people to be able to work and care for children & older members they are responsible for caring.  
If the county is going to allow additional development in Trappe and off Oxford Rd in Easton, we need AFFORDABLE housing and Section 8 housing to be built into those developments. A percentage of the developers revenue must go to building a
- 88 new school and ensuring adequate educational resources to support continued growth and development with childcare for working families.
- 89 NONE  
People need to get back to work. Childcare is essential working parents. Doling out entitlement makes for no motivator self
- 90 support. Incentivizing work results in healthier communities as opposed to entitlement that suppresses motivated individuals.
- 91 I DO NOT support any such handouts!!!
- 92 Invest in childcare to support a strong workforce. Also address the persistent and challenging need for a larger supply of affordable housing.
- 93 Making sure there's a supply of affordable (yet decent) rental housing. affordable means \$1000-\$1500/month for a family of 4 (average).

Reply #

Question 6: Rank the following Public Health Investments projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds .

A new Health Department facility and additional health services for county residents.

Adding an additional EMS station to improve ambulance coverage and response times for county residents.

Purchasing emergency response equipment to include volunteer fire departments and county emergency services.

Other (please specify)

1 Transport to/from health facilities.

2 A behavioral health facility. A new hospital.

3 No more public health employees;

3 Maria Maguire has done enough damage to the children of Talbot County to last a lifetime

4 Existing Health Department site should be redeveloped for library or other neighborhood square uses. Add back some green space there. It is the heart of East-End & The Hill.

5 Drive-thru test sites, distribution of home test kits

6 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent

7 My real #1 is increased pay for emergency services staff or benefits for volunteers. These people may love their work but they also need to eat.

8 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent

9 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent

Fire and ambulance are very important

10

We do not need more public health administrators though

11 Our EMS department, and the people who run it do not deserve any more funds. The low response times are because of volunteers who just want a title and not do any actual work. Before any additional funds are given to an additional EMS station, you ought to analyze the usage and responses by the existing stations and make that information PUBLIC.

12 You should invest in the first responders themselves or you will have no one to staff you new station or use your new equipment

13 Assistance for school nurses and improving programs at all schools for both physical and mental health of students.

14 Law enforcement equipment

15 First Responders pay should parity that of Kent, Queen Anne's, and Maryland State Police.

16 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent...

17 Our equipment is excellent however pay and benefits must be increased

18 First responders need pay parity with QA, Kent and MSP.

19 Not sure about new health care facility. Empty medical buildings are plenty. Fire Dept's YES. All of their fund raising funds have just about been undoable.

I would prefer to see investments made in improving existing health care facilities rather than construction of a new facility.

20 I like how the County provided the COVID test center by leasing an unutilized retail space that can be dismantled when it's no longer needed. This is a good model to use in the future.

21 Supporting agencies and organizations who are providing therapy and grief counseling to the community.

22 The Health Department cannot keep up with what it is dealing with.

23 Only after the previous needs are taken care of and only if we are lacking in needed equipment.

24 I do not support construction of a new facility but perhaps renovation of existing buildings. But I do support the expansion of services to the public, including a public awareness program.

25 I would leave this to the experts to determine the priorities.

26 But don't know what County actually needs

27 do NOT support new Health Department facility

28 No need.

29 A new Health Department facility isnt going to fix the problems at the health dept. it will just move the bad players to a new facility. What needs to happen at the Health Department is a major overhaul of staff: education, education, and more education. The folks working there have little to no idea about what they are doing



Reply #

**Question 6: Rank the following Public Health Investments projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds .**

- 
- 30 Health facility could be improved
- 
- 31 I am not familiar enough with local EMS capabilities to know where the needs are.
- 
- 32 I do not know the priority needed for a new Health Department facility.
- 
- 33 Add paid personnel to stations.
- 
- 34 None of these should be supported with federal funds.
- 
- 35 It is hard to rank these . More information is needed on costs and cost-effectiveness.
- 
- 36 I do not consider Public Health to be a priority for this funding
- 
- 37 I do not know enough about what is needed to rank this.
- 
- 38 Focus on more womens health services, improved maternal care and services. What if Talbot county was the best place to have a baby because of the healthcare and services available.
- 
- 39 Again, all are important. But a central facility may be of value to have multiple related services together under one roof.
- 
- 40 Consider renovating an existing property instead of building new unless more expensive.
- 
- 41 We need mental health supports!  
People who actually RETURN calls to schedule Covid Testing would be lovely. Yeah that would be real nice considering I am currently 5 days into trying to get Talbot County Health Dept to do just that. We're told NOT to go to the ER but the ER seems to be the ONLY freaking place that Talbot County Residents can find Covid Testing while in the MIDST of a Covid scare.
- 
- 42
- 
- 43 I don't feel qualified to make this assessment.
- 
- 44 Saint Michaels needs a local health dept
- 
- 45 Include volunteer fire departments? There is a lot of Talbot County located outside of Easton and most of it is only served by volunteers. Their stations are not staffed. Guess how long it takes to get an ambulance or fire truck? They can't get to your house in time to save it from a fire. They can only get there to put out the fire to keep it from spreading to the neighbors.
- 
- 46 Elevate the status of local health and environmental professionals by example of listening to and implementing their recommendations.
- 
- 47 I don't know enough about the emergency services needs, but I do know that building a new health department would cost an enormous amount. Renovating an existing structure if a need truly exists might be fiscally smarter.
- 
- 48 No opinion. I would listen to local health leaders for their priorities  
The Mayor is buying everything he can for Easton and that makes Talbot County look like we aren't doing as much. The Mayor was also given a lot more funding for a smaller need. He could share with all emergency responses but didn't feel obligated to even discuss it. Blame him.
- 
- 49
- 
- 50 Why do we need to rely on under trained volunteer fire departments? You need to have fire service by full time paid firefighters that are adequately equipped. You can reverse all tax cuts to the wealthy to pay for that.
- 
- 51 Focus on improving services that are sorely missing in this county, such as health education and mental health services by expanding staffing. This could include telehealth services. Don't just buy or build more stuff.
- 
- 52 ALL HEALTH INVESTMENTS ARE IMPORTANT.
- 
- 53 public health providers are most important then equipment then facilities
- 
- 54 Public health services has been woefully underfunded and it has shown during this pandemic. I would want public health facilities to be adequate and well trained and staffed.
- 
- 55 New buildings are not necessary right now.  
As I'm filling this out, you currently have no ambulances available for transport and Easton is on re-route. The next ambulance will come from a VFD or another county. You need another station.
- 
- 56 VFD's have taken a huge fundraising hit, you need to increase your budgets to them. With the influx of folks coming to town, the severity of calls is going up. If you look at gross numbers, AFA's have decreased so it may look like the number of calls has gone down, but the chance each call is a legitimate issue has gone up.
- 
- 57 Hire professionals at competitive salary level.

Reply #

**Question 6: Rank the following Public Health Investments projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds .**

- 
- 58 These items should be financed by the annual county budget, except where the pandemic causes additional needs for services now.
- 
- 59 the county already occupies the old Black and Decker plant and the port st. facility. How could they need anything else. we need to maintain and improve local fire stations.
- 
- 60 I know the current facility is inadequate for many reasons but it is in the right location. A high priority is for providing close follow up care to newly discharged patients for preventing readmission
- 
- 61 NUMBER 1- new hospital: to provide quality care and attract qualified personnel! TOP PRIORITY!
- 
- 62 Take care of what currently exists in a lasting way.
- 
- 63 using funds to bring new healthcare employees to the area, whether it be through assistance in housing or higher wages or paying off mdical school debt
- 
- 64 I do not think a NEW facility is necessarily necessary, but additional services and employees certainly are!!!
- 
- 65 I think only well-informed government officials can make the call on priority here. All of these are vitally important.
- 
- 66 Given the needs for ambulance coverage and emergency equipment I feel those should very much come before a new health dept. building!
- 
- 67 Health department could move to black and Decker building. Forget about tearing it down. Let more small business occupy that space.  
Where would additional EMS be? Each fire house already has units .  
County should be ashamed as to how little they give the fire departments!
- 
- 68 I am unclear what needs are greatest.
- 
- 69 We need a focus on healthcare in the county...more should be done to attract medical professionals to the area.
- 
- 70 Mental health programming; invest in companies to expand services and accessibility. Invest in transportation services so citizens can get to their health appointments and have needed treatment.
- 
- 71 The need for additional health services.
- 
- 72 This would be a great use of funds!
- 
- 73 Make bathroom conditions in Easton Middle & the Highschool appropriate. They are horrible and not hygienic in our time of covid. Some don't even have warm water or soap to wash your hands.
- 
- 74 The county needs to increase its footprint in the EMS realm. The idea of volunteer staffing is unreliable, even as we cross into fire and rescue services, as the volunteer staffing has become elderly, poorly trained, and doesn't guarantee a response during ALL times of thr day.
- 
- 75 Support transportation for low-income families so they can get to medical appointments.
- 
- 76 Didn't we raise taxes for these same things though?  
How about providing things like blood pressure cuffs and durable medical supplies for low income people who need them, perhaps that healthcare providers can help to identify individuals who would benefit from them.
- 
- 77 we don't need some new Taj Mahal like health department building
- 
- 78 Incentives to get specialists out here (i.e. endocrinology position at the Easton hospital that is open)  
Fire Departments got their own funding from the Cares Act.
- 
- 79 We don't need a new health department, with so many services available online and people working remotely, smaller physical footprints is what is needed.  
new Health Dept building -- so it is in compliance with the  
Americans with Disabilities Act  
equipment for volunteer first depts as they GIVE so much
-

Reply # Question 7: Rank the following Travel and Tourism projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds

- Invest in trail development for multimodal transportation including walking, running, and biking.
- Invest in road improvements to improve safety for bikers and motorists.
- Build a modern, state-of-the-art Visitors Center.
- Develop grant program for small tourism organizations to expand programming and hours of operation.
- Other (please specify)

- 
- 1 Other (please specify)
- 
- 2 Keep the Talbot Boys Monument in place as it has attracted more visitors than any stupid visitor center ever would ; don't erase our history
- 
- 3 Many things more important than increasing tourism.
- 
- 4 Developing more safe bike trails in the county. Talbot is becoming a bike riding mecca.
- 
- 5 I don't see most of these as priorities for funding compared to other kinds of needs.
- 
- 6 These seem unnecessary.
- 
- 7 Provide water & sewer to 925 Port Street to enable non-profit, Bay related, to rehab & use the property. Property can also be used for interpretive exhibits related to the port.
- 
- 8 We need a more bike-friendly town! Bike lanes and shoulders on rural roads please.
- 
- 9 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent
- 
- 10 I can't believe bicyclists aren't regularly killed on our roads. Please also enforce the laws for biking in single file. Some of these bikers are asking to die.
- 
- 11 The proposed Frederick Douglas center is a waste of money and serves me no purpose whatsoever.
- 
- 12 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent
- 
- 13 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent
- 
- 14 Buy the corner lot at Goldsborough and Rt 50 for a visitor center.
- 
- 15 None of these seem reasonable
- 
- 16 PLEASE fund additional trails for multimodal transportation! Also, the roads and drivers who use them in this county are completely unsafe for bikers. We need bike lanes on commonly used roadways and tourists will come (even more) bringing monies to the county. Please buy the Waterfowl Building and turn it into a Visitors Center.
- 
- 17 I honestly do not consider any of these options as important enough to justify the use of any funding now.
- 
- 18 First Responders pay should parity that of Kent, Queen Anne's, and Maryland State Police.
- 
- 19 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent...
- 
- 20 This is all well and good but without competitive Law enforcement and EMS service we will have nothing
- 
- 21 First responders need pay parity with QA, Kent and MSP.
- 
- 22 None of the above
- 
- 23 Invest in the community center to build new programs for children and keep the ice year round for hockey, figure skating, and curling. Children have been the most impacted by the pandemic. They need investments to promote positivity and overall mental health.
- 
- 24 Trails needed in bay hundred area - especially between st. Michaels and the Bellevue ferry
- 
- 25 All of these are a complete waste of money
- 
- 26 The best location for tourists was on the Bypass sold and is now Dunkin. Donuts. Go back there! Don't need a million dollar facility.
- 
- 27 NO ONE CARES ABOUT A VISTORS CENTER. DRIVE 7 MILES TO CAMBRIDGE ON THE WATER WITH A VISTORS CENTER. IT IS A WASTE OF MONEY.
- 
- 28 Visitors Centers are archaic. We have the internet.
- 
- 29 None of these items is an appropriate of "recovery" assistance funds.
- 

While these investments are important overall,I do not believe that they necessarily fit the need at this time. However, to the extent that extending broadband (inevitable) or new water and waste water options, I do want to see parallel efforts to improve the safety of the roads for bikers, runners, etc. These issues should be handled in a dovetailed fashion as roads are dug up. The increase in biker and pedestrian use of our roads has visibly increased thereby heightening the potential for severe accidents. The Visitor Center would be great, but that should be planned for by the community and should support other identified goals. Location will be critical. Page 1 of 4

**Question 7: Rank the following Travel and Tourism projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

Reply #	funds
31	Bike lanes!
32	None of the other programs/activities/etc should be funded with these monies
33	Clean water is our weakness for tourism. Swimmable public beaches
34	Again, tourism is a poor investment for a healthy local economy. However trails and multi-modal transportation access improves community health. Easton would benefit from a small COMMUNITY center which could also house visitor info and public rest rooms.
35	Utilize the existing community center it is a prime location to serve tourism in the county.
36	Travel and tourism projects should be funded by state and local funds.
37	Invest in items that are needed for commerce, not elective activities.
38	Focus on downtown businesses and attractions to bring visitors in.
39	Do not put one-time ARPA money into travel and tourism. This is not the intent of the APRA legislation. It is fine to support tourism, but do so in a way that uses current revenue and is focused on management, not promotion, of the tourist sector.
40	I do not consider Travel and Tourism to be a priority for this funding
41	Preserving our environment: neighborhood composting, acquiring land for conservation or passive recreation, planting native plants, getting rid of phragmite and kudzu from along highways and public lands .
42	More trails, more things people visitors to DO while staying in our towns. Turn day trips into WEEKENDS
43	Would like to see a safe bike trail/route to St. Michael and Oxford
44	We do not need a new state of the art Visitors Center!
45	Force developers to set aside more area for public use of any trails they build. More area set aside as wildlife sanctuary. Increase water access, add river walk trails along the water, viewing decks for sunsets, dining and parks on the water, county boat, paddle board rentals. Increase bike connectivity. Add retail along trails such as bars, coffee shops and restaurants.
46	Make the trail "a Main Street". Make central public gathering place "large grassy area" that allows for events and concerts to be held in the heart of the town.
47	These are all stupid
48	1. Turf fields at EHS, SMMHS, North Park (will bring affluent families to town increasing travel and tourism during summer months as well as boosting our local economy.) Not to mention creating a gorgeous stadium for all our students.
49	Improve water quality for swimming
50	A modern visitor center would be the biggest waste of money.
51	Focus on social media and technology to drive tourism here. Trail development number 1 priority for public health and improved quality of living.
52	IMHO I don't think any of the money should go to this when there are other issues that need serious attention. Moreover, isn't road improvement infrastructure?
53	This should be at the bottom of our priority list. We should serve the people of talbot county above all, not allocate funds for visitors who are not invested in the county beyond providing money to those who already hold the most wealth. This is absolutely appalling and embarrassing to include these things when many people cannot afford to put food on the table. Prioritize that and let prager or the rise up empire build a visitor center.
54	I am a bicycler and would like more facilities like the rail trail or safer crossings over major roads for bikes.
55	Other modes of affordable transportation to take people to western shore. Need a light rail or train to get people to bwi or Amtrak.
56	Mental Health Facility (Inpatient)
57	As noted elsewhere. Sidewalk for tourists in Tilghman. Having to walk in the main road to get from one tourist destination to another is no fun. Plus, tourists in the road are a problem for drivers.
58	Buy the Easton Elks property on Dutchman's Lane for the state of the art visitor center. This center would be well located and easily accessed via Route 50. DONT'T DELAY WITH THIS PROPERTY PURCHASE.
59	Why don't we focus on residents for a change. Having lived in other states that set things up FOR LOCALS it's blatantly obvious how much Talbot County caters to those who don't live here

**Question 7: Rank the following Travel and Tourism projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

Reply #

- 60 Talbot County has major, beautiful bike routes that are majorly dangerous! Some examples include the lack of walkability around Glebe Rd & Bypass... Rt 329 (Royal Oak). I feel on edge driving around these areas in Spring but I also feel they should have the right to bike safely in these areas. Check social media around these times... it is a flashpoint.
- 61 A center might provide focus, and our roads could be about the best for biking already.
- 62 Extended hours and services for public transportation
- 63 Many roads are not suitable for cars let alone bikers.
- 64 Very low priority for these funds
- 65 Visitor center -really??
- 66 These are all low priority. With the exception of grant programs for private small tourism businesses, the projects above should not be supported with Recovery funds, rather as part of normal budget items.
- 67 Don't need a grand visitor center. Would rather Talbot residents have more water & park access, and a rail trail from Easton to St Michaels that is not on busy Rt 33.
- 68 These will all cost you money to continue and you may not have the revenue. None of these would be a solid investment with a profitable return.
- 69 Try creating roads where all view obstructions are removed and all traffic laws are enforced. Riding bikes on the sidewalks with no regard to traffic laws is becoming a nationwide safety issue.
- 70 Travel and tourism should not be a priority use for ARPA funds
- 71 Roads really need to be fixed and intersections need to be reviewed to avoid further accidents. Tourism should be the last thing to think about at this time.
- 72 no tourism, don't waste money here
- 73 I think tourism is doing well in Talbot Co.
- 74 Bring tour busses for day trips to Easton and st Michaels. No one cares about a visitor center.
- 75 Don't build a visitors center. It's a waste of funding; visitors centers are always overbuilt and never utilized to anywhere close to their fullest extent. Expand the library if you want to build more municipal space.
- 76 None of these is a high priority for me
- 77 Should be part of the annual county budget.
- 78 We already have extensive biking, walking and running trails. And we do not need a new visitor center. We need to take care of the businesses and existing programs.
- 79 Provide more public access to waterfront. Create summer cool down spaces for outdoor play like splash parks.
- 80 no to tourism
- 81 None of the above are appropriate for Federal dollars.
- 82 Talbot needs more public parks with waterfront access. Look at Queen Anne's County. A state or federal park is needed.  
number 1. Expanded visitor center sounds like Frederick Douglass Park. You don't have a ranking for this Other questions (my number 1)
- 83 Funding to support programs geared toward improving the nutrition of the community — in schools, care facilities, the hospital, and for the general population!
- 84 I think program investment is most important, followed by trail and accessibility. I hope this includes access to the water, which is a key feature of Talbot County but access is not particularly easy. I do not think we need a visitors center.
- 85 Some of the current trails aren't safe. People get attacked or robbed. If you don't feel safe, you aren't going to use them. Perhaps we could improve this infrastructure first?
- 86 Invest in more public water access
- 87 This project should be our highest priority as it is the only one that will ultimately bring in revenue.
- 88 Get money out to tourism partners...not just spending on county government projects.
- 89 Biking brings people. And biking for the pop that lives here improves overall health.
- 90 These are all low on my list.
- 91 We do not need a state of the art visitors center
- 92 This could not be a lower priority for the topic at hand.
- 93 These are low priority, borderline criminal use of Covid-19 funds.
- 94 Expand the community center and make our athletic fields nice like other counties this giving children a safe place to play and learn.

**Question 7: Rank the following Travel and Tourism projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds**

Reply #	
95	I think the idea of a visitors center is an extreme waste of taxpayer dollars. The thought of the construction, maintenance, and anesthetics makes it unfathomable that the county would consider spending money on it. Leave open space as open space. Trust me none of the locals would want to come see it and once travelers realize it's isolated geography won't want to come either.
96	please don't spend this money on a visitors center. there are so many in our county who need the basics.
97	tired of all the tourism promotion, you are bringing in too many people and making this a worse place to live due to the influx of people. Absolutely no to wasting money on a state of the art tourism center- total waste of money to the working people who are struggling in this county
98	The only one worthy of funding is trail development.
99	Invest in existing nonprofit tourism partners
100	how about instead of State-of-the-art facility for tourism we get something for that purpose that is in FULL compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Not like we have, down an alley and hope someone will let you in

Reply # Rank the following Economic Recovery projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds.

**Premium pay for essential workers.**  
**Costs associated with COVID-19 response.**  
**Other (please specify)**

- 1 Consider who essential workers are.
- 2 The unvaxxed essential health workers were fired thanks to idiots in office; no more \$\$\$\$ for any stupid Covid measures; 2 weeks turned into 2 years of this BS!
- 3 COVID pay to those on the front line
- 4 Very difficult to choose
- 5 These should be clarified.
- 6 Increased testing sites. Free N 95 masks.
- 7 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent
- 8 We'd all be completely screwed without our essential workers. They deserve better pay and more respect.
- 9 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent...
- 10 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent  
Neither. Who are essential workers at this point? Please don't subsidize companies who aren't willing to pay their employees a living wage. Testing kits aren't available when they are needed and I consider this a failure of the Federal government, not the County.
- 12 Help the first responders who worked with Covid since day one.
- 13 Premium pay is a must.
- 14 Public Safety has been on the front lines from day 1 of the pandemic. It's time that we recognize that and pay them for their exceptional service.
- 15 First Responders pay should parity that of Kent, Queen Anne's, and Maryland State Police.
- 16 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent...
- 17 1st responders need pay parity with QA and Kent counties and MSP
- 18 Essential workers deserve this. They have been at the front while everyone gets to work virtually.
- 19 First responders need pay parity with QA, Kent and MSP.
- 20 This is needed - the essential workers are at the center of this Omicron surge. They are sick and need financial assistance to make ends meet.
- 21 County employees need pay parity to keep the turn over rate down
- 22 Home improvement grants for medium income households  
Offer Law enforcement grants no strings attached.
- 23 Offer essential worker grants no strings attached  
Offer volunteer EMS and fire grants no strings attached  
Offer childcare providers grants no strings attached
- 24 Essential workers should also include administrative staff and support staff that work alongside healthcare workers
- 25 Please monitor covid funding to ensure it is used wisely & not wasted  
Costs associated is a very vague description, however I believe that all spending of these funds should have to with Covid related losses and if any is left over, for working to prevent such a pandemic from hitting us so hard again. This does include paying essential workers adequately.
- 26 Premium pay or bonuses for all workers.
- 28 Public Education workers are essential workers.
- 29 1. Only for those properly vaccinated  
2. Pay in line with regional norms
- 30 Not worthy of federal funds.
- 31 Assuming essential workers also include people in grocery stores, teachers, childcare, healthcare, etc.
- 32 A tie.
- 33 Here I think it is essential that we define "essential" work.
- 34 No opinion
- 35 The ones without religious exemptions for COVID shots

Reply # Rank the following Economic Recovery projects by your preferred priority for County investment of federal funds.

36 People are tired. We have to focus on keeping our essential workers and keeping people healthy. Housing is extremely important because we can't keep essential workers if there is no where in talbot county for them to live/rent apartments. Without the tax revenue of younger people working talbot county will not be able to sustain itself in the future. We have to make a way for young people and families to live here, work here, make money, create businesses and thrive here. We will not be able to support the infrastructure we already have without this happening.

37 Again, hard to choose here. Better pay would attract and retain quality workers.

38 These should actually be given the same priority. We were lucky that my husband remained an essential employee but his pay didn't reflect how "Essential" it was that he risks not only his life but ours every time he goes to work.

39 Vague/not sure what these really entail?

40 I do not think the money should be used for either of these entities.

41 What is your definition of essential workers? What is considered cost associated with COVID. These choices are too vague. What is intended here for Premium pay? All hours? Only hours over 40? Off prime time hours? Bad idea unless closely defined.

42

Costs - not defined

43 I believe in paying your expenses first (Covid) and then getting the things you would like (paying premium for essential workers).

44 What? More class distinguishing divisions ? NO

45 Wasn't everyone considered an essential employee at one point during the last 20 months? I wouldn't open that door. Does the COVID floor nurse deserve a higher percentage bonus than the ACME cashier and how would you even decide? The fed should be incentivizing businesses be able to increase base pay during this time, not local governments stepping on business' toes.

46 Let's not forget non-govt essential workers too!

47 Start arresting anti maskers and ant vaxers for crimes committed when they storm government buildings with fire arms. No reason to let the cops fabricate people of color being armed when these people are visably armed!

48 None of the above. Previous funds have been provided for those efforts. With two years past, organizations should have developed plans on how to survive in a post-COVID environment.

49 Essential workers have been busting their butts throughout this whole pandemic and unfortunately some have even given their lives from the exposure of it. It's only fair that these hard working people be rewarded, to include: hospital staff, community/human services workers, school staff and primary businesses whose functionality is crucial to the community (grocery stores, pharmacies)

50 Subsidized child care for county residents

51 Premium Pay to be ongoing

52 We've lost far too many health care workers, especially at our local hospital. It is severely understaffed, which is a dangerous situation.

53 Depends on how you define essential.

54 These are appropriate expenditures for the emergency federal funds.

55 Not sure what this question means. Essential workers include private sector jobs in grocery stores, nurses, EMS folk. All should be paid good wages. Cost of living in Talbot is high.

56 Bonuses/premium pay/rewards/etc. for frontline healthcare workers and teachers too!!

57 These two areas are actually on my list than how I initially rated them.

58 Include teachers in this!!

59 All health care workers need a raise.

60 Include teachers

61 We need to pay our police, fire and EMS workers substantially more money! We should also consider what it's going to take to finally get a new hospital closer to built than dreamed about.

62 Our first responders received this pay during the height of COVID. They were recognized by both the public and private sectors. I appreciate them, but enough has been done.

63 if you pay premium pay -- it will only saddle future generations with wages that are no longer appropriate



Reply # Question 9: Are there priorities that you are interested in that are not listed here?

**Yes (please specify)**

- 1 Money toward seniors and senior programming is an important consideration. Consider contributing funds to Parkview Place. It is a community for seniors 62+ and is in need of attention.
- 2 Public libraries especially redoing St. Michaels library.
- 3 Public libraries are a valuable resource not mentioned!
- 4 Distribute money to small business owners - Not to wealthy who have bought a lot of properties to make more money for themselves.
- 5 Public transportation to reduce need for personal transport and thus reduce parking requirements and emissions.
- 6 Renovation of St. Michaels Library.
- 7 Assess gaps in educational opportunities available in Talbot County & close those gaps.
- 8 The Talbot Count Library efforts Outreach to ALL Talbot County residents, especially those without internet
- 9 Expanding affordable housing initiatives.
- 10 School facility improvements (including security at all buildings)
- 11 Fire leftist public educators who force our children to wear masks ALL day and spread CRT lies
- 12 My number 1 priority is that whatever is done be grounded in the comprehensive plan e.g. be consistent with it. Too often, in my view, the plan seems to be overlooked by county council
- 13 Preserving the environment
- 14 Dog Park! Support for small businesses so that it is easier to start and maintain a business without exorbitant costs.
- 15 Expansion of St. Michaels branch of Talbot County Free Library
- 16 Affordable housing
- 17 Developing the Easton Point commercial area for recreation which is Easton's only waterfront.
- 18 Keeping channels dredged in Community harbors such as Tilghman, Claiborne, St. Michaels
- 19 Preparation for rising tides
- 20 Provide funds for establishing a resilience center in Claiborne
- 21 Improving health through nutrition and local grown food.  
Climate resilience and carbon reduction. Regenerative practices for soils. Preservation of medium and old growth forests.
- 22 Expansion of woodlands. Cut weeds yearly in late fall and cease use of glyphosate on roads and verges. Let pollinator plants return to roadsides.
- 23 Funds for ShoreRivers work
- 24 Investments in education and extracurricular activities for youth.  
A designated shaded area in Idlewild Park with permanent benches and tables inlaid with checker boards so seniors could
- 25 play chess or checkers, etc.  
Sidewalks in South Beechwood.l
- 26 Traffic circles where we have congested 4 way stops (next to Dick's and Target)
- 27 Expand public health infrastructure to monitor disease outbreaks in Talbot County.
- 28 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent

29 This may be a state rather than county decision but there needs to be a traffic light or some management of traffic backups that regularly happen at the intersection of Airport Rd and Centreville Rd. It's a dangerous situation on a regular basis while the Easton PD is busy running a speed trap barely a mile away hiding in the parking area in front of the Waterfowl Festival's storage building. It's such an obvious play for easy ticket money. If safe driving is supposed to be the goal have the PD direct traffic in that intersection during busy hours of the day instead. That would be serving the community.

- 30 Sewer for Bozman and neavitt
- 31 Mental/Behavioral Healthcare services can be greatly improved. We need better services in talbot county
- 32 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent
- 33 Putting in place more accessibility for door to door transportation options for elderly and disabled.
- 34 Development of affordable housing
- 35 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent
- 36 specific option to help LI and VLI families to achieve safe and affordable housing
- 37 Board of education & schools
- 38 Access to tech and food safety for low-income families

## Reply # Question 9: Are there priorities that you are interested in that are not listed here?

39 Pay down debt

Please stop allowing one person (company) to buy up all the valuable open space in the County. The level of inaction has allowed one person to garner so much power in our community that no one is willing or able to stand up to them. This is unacceptable.

41 Water quality and shoreline erosion protection

42 See below.

43 Increased support for infilling in Easton and other places with existing but unoccupied buildings. Reduce/limit suburban creep.

44 More support for police and other emergency services.

45 Law Enforcement premium pay

46 Fire Department financial supplementation, in general. A single piece of equipment can cost over 700k, to say the least. How are they going to raise funds for necessities that they NEED to SERVE THE COMMUNITY if covid restrictions are in place?

47 Help for rthe farmers

48 More full-time, merit positions in the Health Department. TCHD is filled with and run by contractors.

49 First Responders pay should parity that of Kent, Queen Anne's, and Maryland State Police.

50 First Responders

51 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent...

Local law enforcement lags behind in pay when compared to surrounding counties and jurisdictions. In order to keep the qualified deputies we have and attract new deputies, the salary scale needs to be kept competitive. Some of this money needs to be used to raise the salaries of our deputies.

53 Pay parity with msp

54 Pay and benefits for law enforcement and EMS personnel

55 First responders need pay parity with QA, Kent and MSP.

56 Get county employees competitive especially first responders and police

57 Teacher bonuses, funds for families who have had sick loved ones

58 Combatting anti-vax disinformation locally; expansion of local Emergency Room capacities

59 Better cell coverage in rural sections of the county.

60 Helping the Senior population

61 Home improvement grants made available to medium income households.

62 Protection of our farms and open spaces.

63 Free lunch for ALL school children, remove the stigma between those who can and those who can't afford, I would gladly pay more in property taxes to see that every child has at least one good meal a day.

livable wages for ALL.

64 Better use of empty business spaces....why do we keep building when there are so many vacant facilities

Mental health.....let's start looking at this NOW.....covid is having & going to have a HUGE IMPACT on everyone, especially our youth that have experienced great stress & trauma! Everyone is impacted!

As I mentioned earlier, I would like to see some funding go toward the salaries of the teachers and staff in the county. We need to stop the flow of our talented teacher to surrounding school systems. I do believe they would stay if we paid them a fair wage.

66 More money for school health employees

67 Improvements to county buildings.

68 Support for families in our community who have experienced an enormous amount of loss over the last two years need to be able to have programs to get help with emotional and mental health.

69 Seriously, low income housing!

Wild animal and bird rescue and care.

70 Domestic animal rescue and care.

Affordable domestic animal veterinary care.

71 Education- Higher Salaries for TCPS TEACHERS

72 public transportation and public waterways access.

73 Helping the environment to include the land and water qualities improved.

74 Invest in watermen doing environmental work

75 Local place

for teenagers to go like a youth center for dances and games after school and on week end evenings

Reply #	Question 9: Are there priorities that you are interested in that are not listed here?
76	Hospital renovations in the areas that need it. Adequate PPE for all essential workers.
77	Clean up the rivers and Bay by going after the most egregious polluters: farming fertilizers & toxins, chicken manure, water and sediment runoff.
78	Protect Talbot's biggest asset - the creeks, rivers, coves, and Bay - Improve water quality by stopping urban and agricultural runoff, improving waste treatment, and providing more public access to the water for swimming, boating and fishing
79	Flood control..... ditches are full after heavy rains and roads frequently flooded..... drainage ways in communities should be cleaned in order to assist in flood control and movement of water after heavy rains
80	Management of the Lakeside project by an appointed group of qualified persons to review and oversee adherence to municipal infrastructures, state of the art technologies , and community aesthetics
81	Providing more public access to our waterways, such as kayak launch areas with parking
82	Control invasive plants strangling stream and shoreline buffers.
83	Outdoor swimming at the Community Center for County residents
84	Education - Health Department workers Education - Vo-tech training for high school kids
85	Climate resilience and adaptation in the face of rising seas and stronger storms that will have significant and widespread economic impacts.
86	Supporting efforts to counter the effects of climate change.
87	Sewer: St. Micheals-Bozman
88	More support for school system reform and teacher recruitment, training, infrastructure and teacher pay.
89	Yes, but it is pointless. Talbot County Public Schools is an embarrassment to such a wealthy community and has been since before my birth! But Talbot County has the lowest property tax in the State. Yippee!
90	Affordable housing investment. Assist in development cost to affordable housing projects.
91	Invest into Church organizations and strong investment for increased services for Senior citizens.
92	Training for government employees to learn how to treat ALL people. No race based training.
93	There needs to be more emphasis on child services.
94	The town should be open for business on Sunday's if it hopes to attract visitors. The library is a valuable asset that can provide many supports to households, attract visitors, provide many needed services and is centrally located. It should be included in planning for how and where to provide services and community support.
95	Parks and green spaces,
96	Develop shoreline fishing access and fishing piers. There's lots of boat ramps but what if you don't have a boat?
97	Develop affordable housing or require a percentage of new developments to include affordable housing options.
98	Contiguous bike trails
99	I think because Andy Harris voted against these funds, they should not go toward projects where he will get recognition for them or where he will get to stand on his pedestal and talk about how he got these for the county. Tired of his hypocrisy in taking credit for things he voted against.
100	This is a very well done survey of choices.
101	Environmental.

## Reply # Question 9: Are there priorities that you are interested in that are not listed here?

102 Just to further clarify the broadband issue, for those who have not had access to it (many never had exposure at primary/secondary level of school!), there is a significant educational deficit on its use and its application to the benefit of the citizen. There is a tremendous educational need at the individual/personal and small business level, especially in traditionally underserved areas (rural areas where people live and small businesses are physically located). As I watch/listen to county council meetings, planning commission meetings, etc the technology struggles these members have when meetings are virtual is a SMALL example of the challenges MANY residents will have when they have a first REAL opportunity to experience what having the reliable/adequate broadband offers. These county committee members have staff to help them get up to speed on Zoom or Webex but what does the average resident have, especially those who have not had opportunity to develop the computer/software/internet knowledge, skills, and abilities from employment nor primary/secondary education if they graduated more than a decade or two ago? I saw similar problems when virtual school happened; many parents struggled with unfamiliar technology/access but at least at school personnel to call for help. Households with only antenna TV or satellite DISH/DIRECTV entertainment will have NO IDEA the huge variety of broadband based companies that compete for their business in that sector. Will they know there is more than just whatever cable-based entertainment packages Easton Utilities may offer and how to access them? They just won't know what they don't know! The ability of the county to support the creation of new small businesses or home-based individual employment at potentially much higher paying online jobs that can be conducted due to reliable/adequate capacity broadband access can be more rapidly expanded if existing county residents are supported in their rapid, accessible and FREE knowledge and skill development.

103 Increase support for Social Services

104 I see nothing about public spaces. Parks, playgrounds, dog parks, skate parks, hiking and biking - these are important.

105 Environmental risk assessment for climate change threats down to neighborhood levels e.g. Easton Village threats are fire-related while Oxford is water related.

106 The environment Buy more public land to keep sprawl

107 Use funding for land conservation as a tool to address areas impacted by sea level rise and nuisance flooding.

108 Studying climate change and the impact on our communities (sewer and public egress) due to flooding and rising tides and begin a proactive planning process to address the issues coming.

Also, the development more affordable housing for the working population in Talbot County.

109 1. Turf fields at EHS, SMMHS, North Park (will bring affluent families to town increasing travel and tourism during summer months as well as boosting our local economy.) Not to mention creating a gorgeous stadium for all our students to be proud of.

110 Shots protect all people not just the one getting it. Do something for fellow humanity get your shot. Protect all who need to be around you

111 What are we doing for the kids in talbot county? How can we bring joy and something for them to look forward to the future here?

112 Better starting salaries for County Employees

113 Supplemental funding for unemployed or for those who cannot afford health care. I mean not just for low and moderate income but for those who are not wealthy but are not necessarily qualified for low to moderate income, or maybe more moderate income.

114 More infrastructure for electric cars. More availability to install solar panels in Easton and sell back unused electricity.

115 mental health funding

116 True Affordable Housing

Affordable home care for seniors that are middle class

117 Improving community center activities and programs and the availability of such so that the youth in our county can maximize the usage and validate the cost of the community center. Montgomery County is a wonderful example with the Olney Boys and Girls club.

118 Funding to track local domestic terrorist groups like BLM and Antifa.

119 Significant Mental Health needs related to the impact of COVID.

120 Recruitment of more primary care physicians to the county, grant opportunities for churches as well as non-profits.

121 Tourism development to encourage growth of residents, businesses and jobs.

Reply #	Question 9: Are there priorities that you are interested in that are not listed here?
122	Equitable wages for ALL County employees. As an ex-employee, continued low wages for my position was the reason for my leaving. Step up and pay your employees proper wages!
123	More effort to keep tourists ON Rt 50 during beach season. More police presence on back roads so locals can actually still exit our driveways & emergency vehicles.  Beach goers also don't follow the speed limits on uncongested back roads. More than once I have nearly been T-Boned just trying to pull out of our driveway because beach goers don't care there may be driveways just passed the blind curve in the road. And the hour ride from Easton to the Wawa on the Western Shore near the Bay Bridge to exchange my child shouldn't end up being a 5 or more hour round trip during tourist season but guess what, it is when because they use WAZE & other apps. There is no reason Talbot County can't learn from other counties & post officers with their lights on to enforce tourists staying on Rt 50.
124	Please don't give rescue money to the millionaire Prager. Would not be fair to local citizens.
125	increase teacher's pay
126	Education financial assistance in the public sector. We're losing teachers right and left.
127	Talbot county public schools. Please consider buying the Elks property for TCPS. I believe the High School is the smallest high school campus in the state of Maryland.
128	Public transportation
129	Affordable housing for the elderly.
130	Update sewer treatment in places like Trappe
131	Port street needs a marina and access for all citizens.
132	How could schools fit into this? Like better pay for teachers and substitute teachers. TCPS is really struggling.
133	We need better enforcement of our litter laws and more trash clean-up campaigns - way too much litter along County roads! Need to implement a beautification effort along Rt. 50 - this is the major road through the County and too many businesses let their grounds get run down and trashed which becomes a black eye for Talbot County.
134	Create more green spaces for relaxation and quiet and bird habitat
135	The Cordova area has very limited and sketchy cell service which is a public safety issue. We spent millions of dollars upgrading the 911 system but cannot use it when we have no cell service. The county paid for a study to be done in 2009 on cell service improvements were needed in the County. There are no cell towers in this area to this day. The county should assist a carrier \in building one. The Cordova Fire House would be a preferred site.
136	More homeless homes, better access to affordable housing for workers.
137	Mental Health access in school systems. There is a need for more social workers and access to therapy for families.
138	I would advise the county, as I would to anyone who comes into found money, to first pay off debt. Second, there should be a property tax cut. It was only a short time ago when the county was whining it was short of funds, and now that there's an unexpected windfall, it's let's find spend, spend, spend.
139	Satellite offices of public health, not a new building small business, downtown is dying
140	Environmental protection of the area and most importantly the Bay.
141	Assistance to schools to make sure the air quality is good in every classroom. Assistance to make sure that no child goes hungry in Talbot County. Assistance to parents for affordable childcare.
142	There is nothing that benefits the water quality of the Bay (with the exception of sewer extension). Bet Shore Rivers would have a lot of ideas in this area.
143	Stop building, especially in low lying areas. Just stop! We are losing the things that make us great! We act like wild areas and animals are expendable. That we can destroy an area if we just make an effort to keep some other, more convenient area dedicated to animals like birds. A bird area doesn't replace space for all the other animals like deer, ground hogs, beaver, squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits, fox, raccoons, skunks, muskrats, etc. When you lose areas for animals, man will follow.
144	Environmental stewardship as one of the highest priorities.
145	I would like to see money available to help the elderly and low income to make improvements to their homes and property.
146	Protecting our waterways from pollution. Swimable waters should be part of economic expansion

Reply # Question 9: Are there priorities that you are interested in that are not listed here?

147	Have jobs, people will follow.
148	Schools that teach math and English
149	Perhaps putting more funds towards downtown improvements for local businesses.
150	I'd like to see a major investment in alternate energy sources, such as solar panels in the large commercial & private parking lots & roof tops,think Walmart, Waterside Village, Easton marketplace, county schools. I'd like to see focus on reducing light & noise pollution in our county.
151	1. Expansion of public transportation; 2.) Environmental protection, controlled growth and development to protect the critical areas, and maintain the rural character of the County.
152	Health care assistance for seniors who lost jobs prior to medicare coverage
153	Installing solar panels to decrease the county's fixed electrical costs.
154	Employment
155	Funds to go towards programs that can provide the assistance that everyone will need due to the loss of social connection during this pandemic. There is an increase rate of suicide, overdoses, depression and abuse. This will effect those that are involved for many years to come. It won't go away as COVID cases decrease.
156	Stop letting cry babies get away with crimes related to their self centered priorities!
157	Mental Health-is vital
158	Providing more services and financial support for infant and childcare.
159	funding for lgbtq+ services including health and community centers. it would also be nice to see a commitment to overdose prevention that didn't center exclusively around abstinence. data shows that harm reduction measures and safe usage centers reduce overdose deaths far better than carceral solutions or abstinence only measures. we need more access to services for addicts and at risk residents and less fancy purple signage that doesn't really accomplish anything.
160	We should focus our efforts on improving the lives of those who have been most adversely affected by the pandemic - underserved communities including the poor, people of color and the LGBTQ community who were not even considered in this survey. Please focus on the educational, physical health, and mental health needs of these communities. And please create programs that will end the discrimination that is ingrained in Talbot County.
161	Subsidizing and incentivizing the building of apartments and condominiums for lower wage workers, as opposed to luxury housing for retirees. The county's median age needs to come down to sustain its future but young workers can't afford to live here and there are few opportunities other than low wage jobs in the hospitality industry.
162	I would like to put money into our natural resources, such as controlling invasive species, planting native trees and shrubs, and supporting the clean up of the Bay.
163	Fund teacher bonuses
164	bringing and retaining doctors in this area
165	Infrastructure plans that have to do specifically with storm water management and flooding.
166	Alternative energy resources to be developed and made available to community at reasonable rates.
167	I think there should be more outreach to the large Hispanic community with English-language classes, classes in basic finance, and health care. Without the ability to speak and understand English, they are taken advantage of many times in matters dealing with finance and health.
168	Buy land and make or keep more forest.
169	Environmental conservation and preservation of natural spaces (not farmland). Assistance to small farmers that are actually growing healthy clean food locally.
170	Create more parks and clean up the existing ones. Create dedicated crews to clean roadways, ban plastic bags and bring in a recycling business with proven effective and efficient processes. All this will create jobs!
171	Investing in the seafood industry and helping the watermen and women.
172	More frequent public transportation with more routes and more promotion to the public that this is an acceptable way of travel and not just for poor people
173	NEW HOSPITAL!
174	Fund and Update the public schools.
	Commuter rail from OC to Annapolis, Balt and DC

Reply #	Question 9: Are there priorities that you are interested in that are not listed here?
175	Supporting teachers who have taught virtually and worked through the pandemic. We also need better mental
176	Health facilities. A lot of people are struggling with mental health since the pandemic. I'm seeing a lot of my friends and family going thru this and we don't have anything here to help them.
177	Cordova needs better cell service!
178	Money for public schools!!! The students are WAY behind and more teachers with adequate pay should be a DEFINITE priority. EDUCATION.
179	Fund the maintenance of county wind turbines and reactivate them to provide green energy to the electric grid.
180	School and library renovations and expansions. More parks. Affordable housing. Disaster preparedness for inevitable flooding, improved EMS services, care for aged, disabled and special populations.
181	Promote secondary education and create jobs for young professionals. Continue to make Easton a regional hub for the community. Additional elementary school for Trappe with new construction.
182	More childcare providers for earlier hours.
183	Building a cell phone tower in Cordova. While working at the school there is no cell service at all which is a huge safety concern.
184	Cell service for the dead spots in the county
185	Schools!
186	Attract more medical professionals to the area to support our healthcare needs.
187	Cell towers in Cordova and real internet.
188	Improved public transportation
189	Try to attract and recruit more Dr's to the area...our healthcare options are very limited.
190	Assisting nonprofits who serve underserved and vulnerable populations. Services to support our elderly population.
191	Bolster and improve virtual education programs to ensure an option that is more sustainable if needed.
192	Bus service - in-county and to Annapolis, Balt, Salisbury and Ocean City.
193	Support for teachers who are being asked to do so much more now
194	I am a nurse midwife in Easton. I work with the University of Maryland system. I have a large number of high risk obstetric patients who cannot afford the medical equipment needed in pregnancy. The two biggest items are automatic blood pressure cuffs and glucometers. Maryland has a high rate of hypertensive and diabetic disorders in pregnancy and without the ability to check these numbers at home, maternal morbidity will continue to increase. The average cost of a automatic BP cuff is \$45 and a glucometer with lancets is even more. I would love some of this money to be available to OB clinics so that we can maintain a stock of medical equipment for our pregnancy mothers to use. Please consider!
195	Conserve land and greenspace
196	Education - improve teacher training and curriculum
197	Talbot schools need to raise salaries and hire more qualified teachers
198	Food deserts and lack of public transportation
199	Affordable housing, investing more in mental and substance services. Vocational training for students and former inmates
200	Funding for education, raising teacher pay base
201	Investment in climate change resilience.
202	Build a new hospital NOW!
203	support our schools and teachers better.
204	maintain the rural feel of the county, we are at a point where you could completely ruin what we have by trying to bring in more people and the resulting over development.
205	Simple maintenance...paint the lines on Easton's streets that have worn off especially near the Amish market, trim trees so they are not blocking stop signs and sidewalks.
206	Improved sports fields for kids to be outside. We have potential to capitalize on softball, baseball and lacrosse tournaments filling out hotels and restaurants if we improve our sports complexes and fields
207	Helping recruit new police offers and retain old ones

Reply # Question 9: Are there priorities that you are interested in that are not listed here?

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208 Cell phone tower by chapel elementary

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Parks and Recreation investment. Look at Worcester county as an example. Their complexes are modern, green, and create a positive community experience.

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210 Cell phone tower in Cordova

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211 Stimulus for all

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212 get rid of the Frederick Douglass statute -- or PUT BACK the Talbot Boys

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213 Increase the inventory of affordable housing. Prioritize housing for the workforce and populations most affected by COVID-19. Also invest in services to help seniors age in place.

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Reply # Question 10: If you could spend our ARPA funds on one project to improve Talbot County, what would it be and why?

**Responses**

- 1 Cut taxes for senior citizens - those on fixed incomes - who are barely getting by. Developments like Trappe will force building more schools that will only raise taxes higher.
- 2 Subsidize sewer expansion especially for those on fixed income.
- 3 More community programs.
- 4 Public transport, as above.
- 5 More \$ for public education.
- 6 Roads / Broadband Internet for all. I feel these go together.
- 7 Internet access and cost support
- 8 Expansion for St. Michaels library
- 9 Assistance to mothers and children
- 10 A robust Housing Authority. The only homes that can be built in Talbot County are those that are often out of reach for the average worker.
- 11 Facility improvement for Talbot county schools.  
Remove leftist extremists from all town and county public institutions, starting with the public schools and the "Free" Library.
- 12 Teach the patriotic history of this country at all school levels and eliminate the evil, Marxist CRT bastards from every classroom.
- 13 Recruit more qualified health care professionals to this area - specifically, doctors.
- 14 Bike, walking trails and water access (just look at Lewis De area)
- 15 helping to end hunger in the county, there should not be children without enough to eat
- 16 Emergency services
- 17 Broadband and internet access for rural and low income people
- 18 Broadband expansion and competition
- 19 Roads and Bridges to avoid flooding
- 19 Accessible and affordable rental opportunities (for locals as well as interested medical professionals)
- 20 I would spend it on rental assistance and costs associated with child care and elder care. I think we should take care of our most vulnerable citizens first.
- 21 A community space that features a small-scale amphitheater where we can see outdoor shows, movies and performances. A lighted and covered space for a Talbot County Farmers Market, Christmas markets or specialty events.
- 22 I would use the money to better prepare Talbot County for future effects of global warming which will include not only flooding, but also an increase in disease.
- 23 Covid in schools, help for teachers, cleaning and safety supplies for students
- 24 the Easton Point commercial area because it is Easton's only waterfront. it should be a destination for residents and tourists
- 25 Extending sewer to to the villages to protect the Estuaries and intern the seafood industry from harm.  
Talbot Interfaith Shelter. They are addressing a county-wide problem of homelessness, which has been greatly exacerbated by this pandemic. They provide education and direct assistance to families and individuals so they can break the chain of poverty. To serve more people (and there are many who need help) they will need to continue to grow. Kudos to TIS for purchasing the house next door in order to serve more people. They will need more apartments to have these folks complete the program with transitional housing and to potentially be able to access home ownership through the TIS partnership with Habitat.
- 26
- 27 Improve the road surfaces of rural roads. Stop using chipseal surfaces. They are damaging to vehicles and unsafe while the loose gravel surface exists.
- 28 Make sure no septic tanks or pollutants are getting into the bay.
- 29 Widening the bypass, rt. 322, to four lanes.
- 30 Attracting a younger local workforce capable of rising to the top eventually.
- 31 Strategic AND tactical program to improve health of citizens by providing both education on nutrition and access to healthy, locally grown food.
- 32 Any infrastructure project with measurable carbon reduction. Time is up to kick the can down the road on climate emergency. To thrive, we must first survive.

Reply #	Question 10: If you could spend our ARPA funds on one project to improve Talbot County, what would it be and why?
33	Better public transportation systems including trains and electric buses.
34	Sewage for environmental reasons.
35	Increased salaries for our Police, Sheriff, First Responders, teachers. Huge donation to Fire Department. Because they are most important to our communities!
36	Preserving green spaces
37	Investment in Infrastructure
38	Sewer system.
39	Total access to broadband for all Talbot residents. Provides high-speed internet access for students, teachers, remote-workers as well as general population.
40	Expand public health infrastructure to monitor disease outbreaks in Talbot County.
41	To improve broadband in the county at an affordable price for the school children
42	Rural sewage to preserve the health of Bay 100 communities and the health of the Bay. Think now/plan for infrastructure (roads/bridges) that may be needed for increased tidal flooding due to the effects of climate change and rising waters.
43	first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent
44	Improving both cell signal coverage and access to broadband. It facilitates everything from economic growth, education access, emergency services and simple communication between family and friends. Reliable access is a necessity in today's world.
45	Broadband! Ridiculous such an issue.
46	Sewer for neavitt and bozman
47	Housing assistance so our lower paid residents can afford to live and work in TC. NOW MANY OF THEM FIND TC unaffordable and live in crowded and less than ideal circumstances.
48	Broadband everywhere at no cost to homeowner whatsoever.
49	Infrastructure- Broadband Services Improvement
50	first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent
51	I would bring a Trader Joe's to Easton. I would also put funds into housing for low to mid income families. Also I would put funds into middle income family renovation of appliances, insulation, and weatherization issues.
52	Improving broadband and making accessible for those in outlying areas to improve quality of life for those who are socially isolated, especially elderly.
53	Housing assistance.
54	Development of multiple affordable housing projects
55	first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent
56	Low income households face a shortage of decent, affordable rental properties, and they are priced out of home ownership. Habitat for Humanity Choptank has opportunities to make a difference in the lives of your constituents. - Creation of New Affordable housing for LMI/VLMI Families - Revolving Loan Fund - assist homeowners with critical health and safety repairs - Provision of Housing Counseling Assistance - Funding for Land Purchases to support affordable housing
57	We need a COUNTY WIDE MASTER STRATEGIC GROWTH PLAN that ensures that we manage growth in a responsible way. We do not want urban sprawl. We do not want developers to come into our area to make a fast buck without having a plan in place where WE dictate what want in our community.
58	The EEDC has a plan in place, but it doesn't seem to be followed by County officials. Who has the final say in this arena? Access to wonderful childcare. It's impossible to work without someone reliable and amazing to watch your children- specifically for kids under 2.
59	ore available and affordable broadband.
60	Access to housing for low to median income individuals

Reply #	Question 10: If you could spend our ARPA funds on one project to improve Talbot County, what would it be and why?
61	Pay to stop development and thereby improve the water quality of the bay.
62	Expanding broadband access and making it affordable. Reliable and usable internet access is necessary these days in order to be a self-sufficient member of the community. There are enough barriers to success already. Lack of access to important resources and information should not be one of them.
63	Road/bridge improvements
64	Build more affordable housing.
65	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create a bike/walk friendly community through more rails to trails networks and added bike lanes to existing roads in the county and towns. This project will bring in tourism dollars through visitors and make Talbot County a tourism destination even more than it already is.</li> <li>2. I'd like the project at Easton Point that has been promised for 10 years to come to fruition without the control of Paul Prager. People who live in Easton should have FREE access to the waterfront!</li> <li>3. I'd also like the County to purchase or invest in saving the Waterfowl building for its own use and make it a community center / visitor's center and available for the community to rent, etc.</li> </ol>
66	Make broadband accessible to all residents of Talbot County.
67	Making talbot county safe. It needs to be.
68	County health facility and testing sites
69	I believe that at some point you need to put your first responders first. Why can't they be first in pay, first in benefits, first in recruitment and retention. Talbot county should not be near the bottom in they areas. Progress must happen, however you must sustain what you currently operate to the best of your ability first. When you expand infrastructure before making sure what you have is fully funded you give up quality for quantity.
70	<p>I want to have Talbot County first responder's salaries raised to have more competitive salaries with Queen Anne's County, Kent County, and Caroline County, and the Maryland State Police.</p> <p>I want all Talbot County first responders to receive premium pay for working holidays, snow days, states of emergency, etc.</p> <p>I want the Detectives at the Talbot County Sheriff's Office, to receive some sort of percentage increase for being assigned to their unit and for being in an on-call capacity. The Easton Police Department Detectives already received an approximate 5% increase in pay for being assigned to their Criminal Investigations Division in an on call capacity.</p>
71	Infrastructure improvements along with public health and safety
72	Broadband
73	Public health investments such as more EMS because I believe ARPA funds should be for things that will help the entire county be better prepared for a pandemic in the future. Additionally, more ems would help improve response times and health outcomes for all redirects in non pandemic times as well.
74	First responders
75	Hooking up all failed septic systems to sewer.
76	Law enforcement salaries to maintain a good Sheriffs Office.
77	Increase frontline public safety workers pay. The counties frontline public safety workers don't have the option to work remotely. They are essential personnel that are required to report to work and interact with the public during this pandemic.
78	SUPPORTING PEOPLE AND FAMILIES (UNDER SERVED POPULATION).
79	Easton Volunteer Fire Department. They have a high volume of response calls per year, they have suffered greatly due to covid restrictions, both publicly and privately, their means of fundraising is severely limited now, and safety equipment and apparatus needs are changing to keep up with community needs. All that has increased cost on a department with decreasing funds.
80	We need more Paramedic units in this county. The EMS system is overtaxed and it is only a matter of time until an extended response time costs someone their life.
81	New Health Department Facility
82	Small business and farm income. Look around, need I say more.
83	Competitive pay for public safety!!!

Reply # Question 10: If you could spend our ARPA funds on one project to improve Talbot County, what would it be and why?

84 NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUILDING AND EXPANDED SERVICES.

85 First Responders pay should parity that of Kent, Queen Anne's, and Maryland State Police.

If I could spend the Talbot County ARPA funds on one project to improve Talbot County...

1) I want to have first responders salaries increased to allows for more competitive salaries with the following counties: Kent County, Queen Anne's County, Caroline County, as well as the Maryland State Police.

86 2) First responders should receive premium pay for working holidays, snow days, and during a "state of emergency" etc.

3) Detectives at the Talbot County Sheriff's Office, should receive a percentage increase for being assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division, due to being placed on a rotating on-call schedule, and due to the amount of serious criminal investigations they are tasked to handle. (The Easton Police Department CID-Detectives already receive a 5 % increase in pay for being assigned to their Criminal Investigations Division)

87 first responders need pay parity with QA and Kent... Their the backbone of this county and work in the public everyday. Keep our county safe.

88 Internet access in rural areas

89 Public safety salaries

90 New sheriffs office because the county needs one

I would want to have first responders salaries raised to have more competitive salaries with Queen Anne's, Kent, and Caroline Counties, as well as the Maryland State Police. I also believe that first responders receive premium pay for working holidays, snow days, states of emergency etc. Furthermore, I believe that the Detectives at the Talbot County Sheriff's Office, should receive some sort of percentage increase for being assigned to their unit, and or being on and on-call capacity, due to the amount of serious criminal investigations they are tasked to handle. The Easton Police Department Detectives already receive an approximate 5 % increase in pay for being assigned to their Criminal Investigations Division.

92 Pay and benfits to our law enforcement and EMS workers

93 First responders need pay parity with QA, Kent and MSP.

I am most concerned with meeting the needs of underserved children and the elderly. The children need to be fed to get the most out of school. On delayed start days, I know many teachers take breakfast snacks with them (bought with their own money) on those mornings to feed the children who missed the school breakfast plan.

I am also concerned that the elderly are being forgotten in the twilight of their lives. They should have the \$\$ they need for food, medicine and costs associated with safe housing. We need to be there for them.

95 Assist low income households, transition low income households that rent to home ownership

96 Get first responders pay parity

97 Improve emergency department facilities and speed of access.

98 Increased Ems services and locations.

99 Expansion of the community center and ice rink duration.

100 Helping Seniors Citizens! And low income families effective by the pandemic!! Not enough help to this population in Talbot County!!

101 Assistance to low income households impacted during COVID. This would include rental and utility assistance, access to internet, child and elder care.

102 Improved broadband service county wide.

103 Affordable, low income housing/townhomes/condos. I would like to see individuals in new homes that will not cost \$400-\$500 thousand. In most businesses in Talbot County majority of the workers live outside of Talbot County because of affordability. With proper management and a good contractor a descent home can be build for less than \$300,000. The funds that is spent outside of the county such as grocery, gas, restaurant, etc. can remain within the county.

104 Small business and tourism. Revenue from these projects could be used for other projects. These programs produce income for the county while the other projects do not

Reply #	Question 10: If you could spend our ARPA funds on one project to improve Talbot County, what would it be and why?
105	Preservation of our rural assets. These are what attract tourists. We need to maintain what we have. Development will be the downfall of Talbot County's main moneymaker, tourism.
106	Law enforcement and first responders as well as child care. To many are losing officers and to many daycares closing down
107	Move the new hospital project forward.
108	Give priority to septic systems for unsewered households. Big job! Then expand health department.
109	reduce crime
110	Overpass around Easton on route 50.
111	Bike and walking trails
112	livable wages for ALL.....we may need to get creative....if we can't increase wages, what can we do to improve the quality of lives....vouchers for rent, utilities, child care, etc., matching funds incentives
113	Invest in public health! Low salaries for public health workers make it challenging to retain qualified staffing!
114	I would suggest spending more money on health related activities in the area to make Talbot a hub for good health. Chattanooga TN is an example. We have always had an aging population; this would give them the opportunity to be healthier and bring younger people to our area. It could possibly put less strain on the healthcare field which is lacking with a doctor shortage.
115	A new building for the health department. COVID is here to stay and the health dept needs the resources to handle this and to continue to serve the citizens of Talbot County with other health needs. This really should be a priority.
116	And from out of left field, I would build a large athletic complex with 5 turf fields and 10 grass fields. We would then recover the funds by renting the fields to local athletic teams and groups that host tournaments. The amount of soccer, field hockey, ultimate frisbee and lacrosse tournaments is astounding (and these are just the ones that I am aware of). This new park would compliment the tourism and small business goals as people travel great distances to attend such events. They would stay in our hotels and eat in our restaurants.
117	Give all Talbot County employees a raise or bonus for all the employees that worked during the pandemic. This includes school health employees that became first responders
118	Housing
119	Working with Easton Utilities to eliminate the Contribution In Aid of Construction embeded in the current broadband deployment project. This will lower a significant barrier to entry for new users of the system.
120	Expansion of broadband throughout all of Talbot County!
121	Providing access to broadband and assisting with costs of customer contribution and long driveways. Broadband is an essential utility now and should be available to everyone.
122	Youth, youth, youth. Especially lower income.
123	Expand broadband options to rural areas to ensure accessibility and avoid a decrease in property values
124	fast wired affordable internet to every household
125	All suggestions are very worthwhile and it is difficult to pinpoint one area but extending broadband - everyone has cell phone, not many landlines for use in an emergency situation - schools close and defer to virtual learning - some areas are not currently serviced or the service is poor.
126	Replacing septic systems with sewer treatment systems. This is one investment that will improve water quality as soon as it is implemented and assure the quality of life in Talbot County for generations.
127	It would be on strengthening the physical, mental, relational, and emotional health of our community with funding to programs that assist with therapy of all kinds (counseling, art and/or play therapy, etc). Also, focusing on safety and the ability for trails to be made and or upgraded for people to be outside would be helpful.
128	I would invest into growing Talbots county so we can continue to bring jobs to the area with new businesses. Less restrictions for current and future businesses.
129	Improve access to community health services.
130	Anything to help the low income families that were here before the pandemic brought new faces to our area
131	Public health
132	broadband access for all is important for businesses, agriculture, education. Assistance to those who need better childcare and eldercare.

Reply #	Question 10: If you could spend our ARPA funds on one project to improve Talbot County, what would it be and why?
133	Low income housing in order that these much needed people have the opportunity to live, work and prosper close to home, Talbot County.
134	Assisting the low income residents so they are able to raise themselves to a higher income level.
135	Improve the health of the waterways.
136	THE FUNDS SHOULD BE USED TO REVITALIZE THE COUNTY ECONOMY AND ADDRESS CHALLENGES FACED THE COUNTY'S RESIDENTS.
	Consider using one of the abandoned strip malls as a space for early childhood centers. Other counties have done it with success.
137	Consider having drive up testing with no appointments needed-tests are next to impossible to find.
	Consider adding to public transportation-our families do not have enough access to transportation
138	While I understand that it is important to spend the money made available by this bill, watching the way that Covid has ebbed and flowed, the needs to change strategies to fight it, as well as the unpredictability of its effects on our children's educations and the vast areas of small business that might have to let people go, perhaps if it doesn't all need to be spent just yet, some should be held in reserve until it is more certain that Covid is behind us. There is no play money here.
139	assistance to low income families
140	Competitive teacher salaries and a plan to improve infrastructure so that we are prepared if and when another health crisis rears its head. We need to be more innovative in terms of leadership across the board and look at what model municipalities are doing that we can and should emulate. For example education policy in Anne Arundel County does not have the loop holes that TCPS has.
141	Public health, without that all other efforts are trivial.
142	Cleaning up the waterways and improving the health of the creatures therein.
143	Broadband Internet to all Talbot County Residents
144	Increase broadband and access to broadband; this is a significant competitive disadvantage on the Eastern Shore.
145	Talbot County Sewer Extensions, provide assistance with connections to low income families.
146	Flood prevention
147	Support of businesses
148	Increase access to utilities. Including increasing coverage and locations of free Wifi within the county. Make access to internet more affordable by lowering rates and expansion.
149	Non-profit organization support.
150	Improve water quality by stopping urban and agricultural runoff, improving waste treatment, and providing more public access to the water for swimming, boating and fishing.
	This will: be good for economy, improve everyday lives and health of residents, tourism, watermen, and help with climate change.
151	Port Street improvement.
152	Develop a robust trail system connecting all parts of the county. Promotes a healthy lifestyle and connects communities utilizing human powered travel to cut down on carbon emmisions.
153	Help small businesses in Easton, Oxford, Trappe, etc..... the large box stores are ruining this area
154	The highest priority should be the prrotection of our rural country-side by funding organizations that acquire land for preservation, such as the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. Ultimately this benefits the County overall because tourism in our small towns will thrive if located in a unique rural setting.
155	Buy back at least half of the Lakeside project acreage and put it into park lands and agriculuture reserves
156	Comprehensive Broadband coverage. Universal access to the internet is essential for education, healthcare and the ability to work from home.
157	Competitive pay for essential workers.

Reply #	Question 10: If you could spend our ARPA funds on one project to improve Talbot County, what would it be and why?
158	Bike routes and trails.
159	Affordable childcare. This would improve home life, employment and safety for the most working people.
160	I would convert the old Safeway into a youth center as an alternative to the Y or make it a public health center. Regardless it is a prime location rotting away before our eyes.
161	upgrading wastewater management facilities. Why? public health, and tourism economics
162	Expanding broadband access to unserved and underserved communities
163	Establish an agency to administer funding to support health care and child care for disadvantaged residents. Talbot County has a two-tiered society; the relatively wealthy who own successful businesses or are retired from business or government and enjoy living here for its comforts and recreational resources, and the low- to moderate-income residents who are getting by but cannot afford any extras in their lives. It is this latter group who should benefit from the availability of these one-time funds to elevate their lives.
164	Sewer: St. Micheals-Bozman for failing septic systems.
165	School system reform
166	Broadband to underserved areas right away!!!
167	Child care center with a sliding scale of fees based upon household income.
168	Broadband services to improve education and workforce development .
169	One project would not be fair. We have many needs in Talbot - funding one would not be good use of the funding. I do favor any and all affordable, energy efficient housing projects shovel ready at this time.
170	Ensure everyone had access to Broadband internet.
171	Invest in people. When you invest in people improvement is the end product
172	Affordable housing. Too many people in Talbot county do not have access to housing that is above par.
173	Limit development and population growth in the area. Population growth will add additional problems and expense while reducing the quality of living for the community. Having lived here for more than 40 years I have seen a large influx of people lead to environmental degradation and IMO degradation of the general quality of living. Economic growth is NOT an indicator of improvement in quality of living.
174	In town building of low income and affordable housing. Not mega developments that do not consider environmental, traffic and rural life quality
175	Sewage remediation and equitable pay, housing, and childcare for workers.
176	Improve the services provided by the government. Especially Planning and Zoning, Permits and Inspections. The time and aggravation in getting a project approved is ridiculous.
177	Broadband to unserved areas and free equipment to all school children who need computers. Free broadband to people who cannot afford it. It is essential for education and development of a trained workforce and good jobs.
178	Cell phone coverage and internet coverage EVERYWHERE!!!!
179	Address the many vacant spaces in downtown Easton to attract small businesses that can afford to operate in the town. Support the mantra "Shop Local" with funding.
180	Create and improve trails and public recreation access. Talbot County is severely underserved with outdoor recreation access for all. We need trail connections for biking and walking for recreation and commuting purposes. A rail trail from Cordova to Easton. A safe pathway from Trappe the Easton to keep pedestrians off route 50. A safe bike route from St. Micheal's to Easton and Oxford to Easton. Safe outdoor trail and pathway access is something that will greatly improve the health of the community. Pathways connecting the various towns will raise opportunity for alternative commuting to and from work, and reduce vehicle traffic.
181	Contiguous bike trails. We are falling behind in this area... every tourist area I visit has safe contiguous trails for recreation & commuting...
182	Keep the focus on financing the public capital --infrastructure.
183	Expand broadband to every household and business in Talbot County, such that making a new connection is as routine as ordering telephone service was in the days of ubiquitous land-lines, and cap costs so that access is universally available. Internet service has become as critical to daily living now as the telephone was during the 20th Century. Many tasks that used to be routinely done over the phone are now nearly impossible to accomplish except electronically, and new requirements often do not have an alternative to the web. Covid19 has demonstrated that remote work and learning must be considered essential capabilities of modern society.

Reply #	Question 10: If you could spend our ARPA funds on one project to improve Talbot County, what would it be and why?
184	Before we lose our semi-rural flavor and environment, I would like to see money spent on acquiring land for preservation and sound environmental practices.
185	expand broadband
186	County wide broadband connectivity with rapid, accessible and FREE knowledge and skills development to maximize its use.
187	Please see my response to Item #2.
188	Rental housing for low income workers in Talbot County.
189	Talbot County Free Libraries should be funded do to the work they do for the community. The staff should get a raise.
190	Activities for people that live here...better school facilities
191	I would focus on the people who are living in poverty and the children who go without adequate food, shelter, modern school supplies, quality teachers.
192	Tourism. Bring the money into town - let our business thrive
193	The one threat to us all is climate change and it is one we can't escape. I would spend the money to mitigate those risks.
194	Help people individually. No big plans to modernize.
195	Buy more land to keep developers from ruining our green spaces. Would save on infrastructure in the long run. They won't maintain the roads, contribute to the fire department, sewage problems, etc. once they take the money and run. I contribute to ESLC.. They seem to care more than our elected officials.
196	I think a trail system, multimodal trails, single track trails, boardwalks etc all make nature more accessible and enjoyable to the community and tourists. I lived on the eastern shore for 25 years and then lived in Northern Virginia for 5 years and felt more connected with nature in Northern Virginia because I was able to access it via their robust trail system. I think trails improve the appeal and health of a community and are a great starting point to making Talbot County a destination.
197	Public Access
198	Infrastructure for aging issues in the County
199	1. Turf fields at EHS, SMMHS, North Park (will bring affluent families to town increasing travel and tourism during summer months as well as boosting our local economy.) Not to mention creating a gorgeous stadium for all our students to be proud of.
200	Roads, bridges, sewer and water improvements.
201	Eliminate all septic tanks public treatment of waste water
202	Multi use trails for biking and walking. Look at Anne Arundel, Western MD, North of Baltimore into PA. Just a few examples of safe exercise options that people flock towards. You literally would need more hotels to this.
203	Public health directives towards the community.
204	Public trail system for hiking/biking because it would be the greatest benefit to public health with the largest impact.
205	Roads and bridges. Seems like the largest expense that is a never ending list that needs constant attention with some roads and bridges being moved to "when we have money" status.
206	Race Relations and Diversity
207	Whatever our elected officials believe is the greatest need that helps folks impacted by the pandemic.
208	getting more mental health providers to the eastern shore
209	More extra curricular activities for Youth that are not school based.
210	Paying teachers what they deserve. Providing help for them due to stress related illnesses.
211	Affordable housing and senior care services
212	Better pay for county employees across the board!
213	We need to consider the basic needs of health & wellness for our citizens and families. Understand the need for improved infrastructure well noted but in prioritizing current needs, our families health is deteriorating at a rate that is not receiving enough attention. Some talk but no action!
214	Not a Visitor Center. We need to focus on current residents, their basic needs (doctors, repairs to roads/bridges, high speed internet to the most rural parts of the county, schools, police, EMS) first before we attract even more people here.



Reply #	Question 10: If you could spend our ARPA funds on one project to improve Talbot County, what would it be and why?
215	Mobile health clinic to visit underserved neighborhoods
216	infrastructure for roads so traveling within county for businesses n tourism, etc is improved
217	Biking, walking routes all over Talbot County, and at the same time you can lay fiber optic cables to increase Broadband coverage, possibly reduce some of the traffic on the roads. Each community in Talbot County that has a boat landing could form an Adopt a Landing Group to maintain the location so that debris does not go into the water. Also monitoring the safety of the water in regards to swimming or wading safety.
218	Internet access and affordability
219	Rebuild the wastewater Treatment facility in Trappe. Do not allow the Lakeside Development to move forward with out it.
220	Public access to waterfront in Easton and increased trails to bike, run and walk.
221	How to attract tourists and businesses for growth of area so residents will choose to live here and improve quality of life.
222	Broadband access
223	Increase affordable housing in Talbot County. Build housing that low to moderate income individuals can actually afford.
224	Broadband, it is the engine that drives economic growth/education.
225	Stop building new housing and focus on fixing our current infrastructure.
226	Broadband and cell network expansion and quality that is affordable. Also, increase your budget for the flood management program, especially for outreach and homeowner flood mitigation grant programs. Climate change will not wait for you.
227	<p>Better Pandemic response.</p> <p>Learn from the poor response to Covid &amp; implement programs that actually get us the services we need AS WE NEED THEM. And limit it to Talbot County Residents only. A major reason those ofbus who live right here can't find the services &amp; tests we need is because everyone comes to Easton when they need something.</p> <p>Those who only work in Talbot County need to find the resources they need in their own county. I have spent 5 days looking for Covid Testing for my family after a KNOWN covid exposure. My daughter &amp; I are already Respiratory Patients, it's VITAL for high-risk residents of Talbot Country to be able to get tested &amp; treated right hear at home instead of risking spreading it to surrounding areas we are forced to seek tests &amp; treatment in because one of the richest counties in the state can't provide Pandemic services both health wise &amp; financial to their residents. Especially those deemed essential on paper.</p>
228	Upgrade sewage treatment systems to protect health of the Bay
229	I would love to see a bike lane on Tilghman Island. Personally, I don't think it can be done with the existing infrastructure. But it's a dream I have.
230	Broadband extension. Ability to connect and afford internet access has become essential in US education and econmy in the same way that modern electrification and phone services were in the past. Very hard to prosper, grow and compete without reliable broadband services.
231	I would like to see a better improved vocational education program in our high school.
232	Improved infrastructure related to broadband internet and cellular service for the reasons stated above.
233	Talbot County Public Schools. Buying the Elks Property.
234	I don't believe a new project is in order, or at least, I am not creative enough to think of one. I think the best way to use additional funds is to shore up existing programs such as funds used in support of Healthy Families Mid-Shore. It is hard to develop a young working family in Talbot County and I understand that it is hard to incentivize and attract young families at a County funding level. But they are the engine that powers our tourism and health industries. Some businesses are even considering a move because of a lack of a local high-tech talent pool. Finding some creative way to have young families live and work locally, will be an investment in the future of the County.
235	Broadband, to positively impact the most citizens and future business interests!

Reply # **Question 10: If you could spend our ARPA funds on one project to improve Talbot County, what would it be and why?**  
Affordable home ownership to the median income work force of Talbot County. I have lived and worked in Talbot County most of my life (over 50 years) and have not been able to afford to purchase a home

236

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237 For the greater good of the County, high speed broadband needs to be available to all residents. This is a safety and economic issue of great need that has become more apparent as a result of the pandemic.

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238 Public health  
The health issues raised by failing septic systems and need for sewers to these areas run a very close second.

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239 While I love the idea to expand and build more walking and bike trails in Talbot County, the most important use of extra funds should be to assist people with a means to gain economic stability and sustainable income. This means creating jobs and job training opportunities for residents.

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240 Expansion of broadband high speed internet

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241 Update all sewer treatment plants.

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242 Broadband access at reasonable hookup and ongoing cost to households ( add to USDA grant to Easton Utilities).  
Otherwise county government should strategize how it can reduce regulations/cost of government.

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243 homelessness

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244 Affordable housing...I've been hearing of these new housing units and they are not truly affordable for many residents and only encourage unsustainable mortgages.

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Also affordable options for day care and preschool programming. If you don't have a safe and affordable option for your child then it's hard to get ahead in life.

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245 See my responses above

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246 Green spaces for sure. "Growth" of an area has a habit of taking over acreage without a thought as to what it permanently eliminates in the name of progress. Humans need what nature offers- to maintain mental and physical health.

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247 Equity

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248 Serious consideration for providing grant funds for the improvement of Easton's Waterfowl Festival building - a landmark facility in need of multiple improvement upgrades  
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249 see #9 and improve intersection at Black Dog Alley and Rt 328 making right hand turn lanes and arrows for left turns. Same for red light at Rt 328 and Matthews Town Run.

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250 Help the small businesses especially restaurants and small retail stores who suffered through them pandemic. A lot of people have used Amazon to replace the small retail stores which I think makes Easton wonderful! You can find everything you need at small retail stores in Easton, from hardware to clothing and never having to go to big box stores.

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251 Infrastructure of our county (sewers, bridges); efforts to counter climate change ( flood mitigation infrastructure)

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252 The public school system and mental health services for the children are the future.

Reply #	Question 10: If you could spend our ARPA funds on one project to improve Talbot County, what would it be and why?
253	Help moderate and low income elderly residents with housing costs (rent payments) and utilities.
254	Subsidize rent downtown to attract and keep small businesses. We don't need any more bars. Reasonable prices would then be possible and attract more business.
255	Mental health support money would help. Talbot County is a beautiful place to live, but there are many who's low incomes aren't enough to let them enjoy living here. If we could help those people have a better standard of living with clean, warm , places to live, enough food, decent paying jobs, and ways to be able to enjoy the riches Talbot County has to offer, we would all be enriched. We need to embrace the people with many new cultures that have come here to live and make them welcome. Only those with high enough incomes can enjoy the waterfront and natural areas. We, who have been given much, need to share with those who struggle to meet their daily needs.
256	Public education including pre K and teacher pay and benefits.
257	As part of road infrastructure improvements, require a component for trees along County road.
258	Expansion of broadband.
259	Internet access.
260	Dump station for rvs and motor homes.
261	County wide industrial scale composting facility to divert organic waste out of landfills where it rots and produces methane gas, a powerful greenhouse gas many times worse than CO2. Result would be a locally produced source of organic soil amendment for farmers and gardeners. Increased sustainability by reusing what we have locally for beneficial use working with not against the natural environment.
262	Eliminate the bureaucracy in the health department, hospital system and public access to information on from the pandemic years.
263	Broadband for all! It will give us a competitive edge for attracting businesses and more families to the County.
264	More affordable rentals since current economy out prices your population.
265	Roads and infrastructure improvements
266	More affordable "green" energy-efficient housing in town centers. Less sprawl. More focus on climate related issues .
267	Public Health projects, including support of Health Dept. and projects, EMS and Emergency response, environmental health projects like sewer expansion, public transportation expansion.
268	Upgrading wastewater treatment plants.
269	Complete the reconstruction of Black Dog Alley with intersection improvements at Cordova Rd and Dover Rd. The amount of traffic currently exceeds the roads capacity. There are also too many accidents at the mentioned intersections.
270	Access to broadband
271	ANY program that assists/helps seniors and children in need
272	Sewer. The bay is our future and we need to ensure it's health by moving people off failing septic systems.
273	Improve public safety... Talbot county is behind in public safety in terms of policy, equipment, staffing and providing a reasonable response time to the Cordova areas.
274	Pay for the build out for a new manufacturing company to relocate here with at least 100 jobs. Make investments that will have a perpetual positive return....don't blow new found money on things that will just provide immediate gratification.
275	Expand and low cost/free internet availability. I believe the internet is essential for education and communication in the world now and should be easily available to everyone like electricity.
276	Education and awareness about self care and how to live through the impact this has had on everyone (low, moderate and high income, all genders and races). This can be something that can help unite our community because when there is someone in need of something most people do reach out and try to help or at least wish they could help if they are unable to do so. Keep in mind that the rate of all kinds of behavioral health concerns will continue to increase significantly. Think of the large amount of children and adults who were stuck at home with someone in their family who may have been abusive (physically, verbally and sexually), especially when the COVID shutdown was in affect. We may not see the damage that has done for years to come which is something to keep in mind when developing a long term strategic plan.

Reply #	Question 10: If you could spend our ARPA funds on one project to improve Talbot County, what would it be and why?
277	Internet
278	Reform law enforcement training and accountability as a whole so they are trustworthy
279	Mental health grants for SUD and mental health
280	Give workers decent wages and healthcare.
281	I would put as much funding as possible directly into the hands of residents living at or below the poverty line, including houseless residents.
282	We should focus our efforts on improving the lives of those who have been most adversely affected by the pandemic - underserved communities including the poor, people of color and the LGBTQ community who were not even considered in your this survey. Please focus on the educational, physical health, and mental health needs of these communities. And please create programs that will end the discrimination that is ingrained in Talbot County.
283	Workforce development, repairs and assistance for elderly
284	Anything that enhances the education system in the county, be it better / more available internet, equal emphasis on all Talbot County schools, more affordable before & after school programs, daycare, access to programs already in existence, including transportation to and from these programs. Our youth is greatly underserved, especially in the outlying areas of the county.
285	Infrastructure projects that support lifting people and families out of poverty and equalize the playing field. Especially the broadband issue. School kids must use the internet to complete schoolwork, and in the pandemic, use it for class attendance. If they have to worry about spotty connections or sitting in a parking lot to be in class, this leads to non-attendance. It is also important for luring high tech businesses. It would be nice to get to a point where internet access was free to residents. The cost of internet is unnecessarily high and provider competition low to none, exacerbating this issue.
286	N/A
287	Improved bus transit for local transportation.
288	healthcare
289	Affordable broadband access to all.
290	Better (more) bike paths and sidewalks.
291	Affordable housing or more walkability/safer streets for pedestrians. The homelessness in Easton is heartbreaking. And the amount of traffic is insane and absolutely unsafe! I live right in the heart of town (S. Washington Street) and don't feel safe walking to a grocery store at all. It's very sad that I feel the need to use my car to get somewhere only a mile away.
292	More affordable rentals and housing for current residents.
293	Improve health department facility, increase staff, pay them more and expand services.
294	Better pay and benefits for police, fire (I know they are all volunteer), and healthcare workers. Once money is invested in training, we should do better with retention.
295	Broadband is now a necessity for schools, businesses, and families.
296	Investing in business development and infill opportunities raises the countywide tax base and adds to the long-term employment infrastructure.
297	Pay our workers in the trenches more money
298	Make more forest. It's good for wildlife.
299	All things pandemic.
300	AFFORDABLE BROADBAND ACCESSABILITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY. So much is dependable these days on access to the internet.
301	Keep expanding the rail trail- Easton to Trappe Station and Oxford. Or Easton to St. Michaels.

Reply # Question 10: If you could spend our ARPA funds on one project to improve Talbot County, what would it be and why?

Pay your teachers, Police, and EMS workers a wage that keeps the top talent in the county. If you can't keep an employee, it's because you don't pay them enough to do the job you've asked. And if you have subpar employee (which you do), it's because you don't pay enough to have better ones applying to the positions.

302

Ask yourself this question; if you are having a medical emergency, do you want assistance from a medical professional who can't get a job anywhere else? Because that's what you've got going on right now.

Don't forget, this is OUR money. "Federal funds" just means that it's been laundered a few times at the national level.

303 One of the essential initiatives that only the government can do i.e. keep our roads in good shape.

304 Bulwarks to protect against flooding and other damages caused by climate change.

305 Affordable internet—it will attract and keep entrepreneurs and creatives in the county.

306 Early childhood education and eldercare

307 Affordable Housing

Sorry to be pedantic about this...

308 These emergency funds should be used to tide residents and businesses over during the pandemic. If the federal funds are not fully expended then what remains can be applied to infrastructure improvements. I support many of the projects mentioned in this survey but I think they would require an increase in taxes for capital expenditures and ongoing operating costs. You, commissioners and staff, will have my support. But it will be a heck of a fight!

309 maintain and improve our existing water, sewer, electricity and expand internet. You cannot build a house on a crumbling foundation and you cannot expand services when your existing services need upgrading.

310 See #9

311 Clean energy grants, i.e. solar panels, electric charging stations.

312 Keep climate change in mind with all planning efforts.

313 I would build something for the kids and teens. When I go to other cities they have skateboard parks and fun areas to ride bikes and hang out. There are not that many things for teens to do that do not play sports.

314 Provide more community programs that are supervised by SKILLED staff for teenagers to go to. Open 24/7, free, use existing facilities such as schools, community buildings, churches, etc and small local facilities that are within walking distances of residential areas. Kids need safe places to go

315 Extend broadband and help small businesses.

316 NEW HOSPITAL...our present facility and services are inadequate...and it is difficult to attract qualified and highly trained personnel. Example: it is almost impossible to have an MD as a primary physician! A D.O. is not the same. A physician's assistant is not a replacement. Equipment- trained personnel and up-to-date equipment and knowledge is just not available. Here. We have to go to Annapolis. That's embarrassing and dangerous to the well-being of the county.

317 Bicycle safety. Smaller roads have nowhere for bikers to get out of the way

318 Roads, roads, roads.

319 More funding for non-profits that provide community support- YMCA, TIS, NSC etc.

320 public schools- our wealthiest citizens' families have enough

321 build overpasses at Dover Road and Goldsborough Street across Rt 50 to access the other side of town

322 EDUCATION. The lack thereof in Talbot County has never been more apparent.

323 Technology. The future of the County depends on it, since it serves businesses, schoolchildren, and those who work from home.

324 Infrastructure such as roads and bridge improvements!

325 Rental assistance to ensure that no resident is homeless.

326 Infrastructure

327 Infrastructure. Sewer and water improvement before large developments are approved (hint a la Trappe), emergency funds for homeless and those in economic crisis.

328 Improve access to higher education, which in turn will attract quality employers.

329 Creating affordable housing in Talbot County

330 Broadband extensions into unserved and underserved areas, especially the customer contribution.

331 Public Health

Reply #	Question 10: If you could spend our ARPA funds on one project to improve Talbot County, what would it be and why?
332	Internet
333	Broadband
334	Upgrade water and sewer treatment plants to assure plants meet discharge standards.
335	Upgrades to Airport Road.
336	100% coverage with broadband fiber.
337	Recreational for youth. It's not just retired, non spending people in the county. Seem youth are often overlooked
338	Improve the staffing at the hospitals and the quality of nurses that we have in this area!
339	Upgraded sewer system so nothing ends up getting dumped in our rivers. The water is a huge draw for this area, clean it up and keep it clean!
340	Improved outdoor trails
341	Broadband. Given the reliance on high speed internet for work and school, I think this would benefit the people of the county most.
342	Over haul the planning/zoning commission regulations to bring in more tax revenue for the county. No one can afford the time it takes to build residentially in Talbot Count, they will buy somewhere in surrounding counties to avoid the planning and zoning regulations and build what they want somewhere else for less.
343	So the county will only be filled with commercial junk along route 50 to provide tax revenue. Internet access for everyone in the county.
344	I wouldn't think that with 7.5 million, you need to choose, though a few things on this list are more clearly expensive than others. Primary focus should be helping expand access for child care or elder care, expanding broadband access to undeserved communities, assisting people whose septic systems are dramatically outdated. I feel like there should be enough money to do multiple small projects on this front, while the biggest ticket item on this list I would name my number one is a new, additional EMS unit. The ambulance coverage issue is an immediate problem that could cost lives and has to be fixed. The various smaller (ish; this question is incredibly difficult without there being budgets attached) -- ticket items I mentioned would be my priorities for the rest of the money. A focus on rescuing individuals from crises brought on by nature is the best way to get people to be involved in their own government again. It can prove that government isn't only here to help businesses, but the *people* that they are endowed by the charter to protect and serve.
345	Thank you for the opportunity for public input in this important matter. Tourism/Travel - it is the only revenue-generating project listed and will serve all citizens of the county where some of the other projects will only serve certain groups of individuals.
346	Expanding broadband and offering multiple providers to avoid monopoly
347	Broadband to my office door yesterday. We hear there is a plan with EUC, but they lack answers as to the project scope and show little sign of movement...what are we waiting for?
348	Rural internet. Improves my husbands small business. Improves my kids education. Keeps me working at home and spending my money here (and not in DC). Draws people for tourism. Improves opportunities/evens opportunities for low and middle income folks by providing access to information.
349	Travel & Tourism as that is the only project that would increase revenue for the county.
350	Paying front line workers - hospital staff, nurses, social workers, educators, etc - because they are what hold this community together and they are really burned out by the pandemic. Compensating them for continuing to provide crucial services to the community during this global pandemic is what is the right thing to do.
351	Fund assistance to small businesses to keep them open
352	Infrastructure and critical services, including roads, improvements to emergency services, more county services to serve and represent vulnerable populations
353	Flood preparation. Improve ditches and shorelines. Divert water faster and in larger volumes. The county is at risk of heavy damage more and more frequently due to heavy rains and increasingly higher tides.
354	Better internet access to ALL of Talbot County...even the ones with trees in their backyard. :)
355	Infrastructure - more specific than that, I don't know.
356	Extend affordable broadband.
357	Ensuring adequate housing for all county residents

Reply #	Question 10: If you could spend our ARPA funds on one project to improve Talbot County, what would it be and why?
358	Broadband for rural areas. Needed for education and business
359	Increased broadband access
	See note above about medical equipment for pregnant patients.
360	I would also love to see the Idlewild park in Easton updated. This is the largest and most frequented park for children in Talbot county. Many pieces of equipment need updating and there is no shade. I would love to have the "sun-brella" canvas shades installed for parents and kids to enjoy on those hot days. I also believe a splash pad for kids would be invaluable at this park and there is so much space for a feature like this!
361	Improved and increased access to broadband services. Covid-19 showed how important that is to families and workers alike. A wealthy county like Talbot should not be so far behind in this area of infrastructure.
362	Deport Sonny Jones immediately.
363	I would spend it on the medical community the young and the old.
364	improve healthcare; access to doctors is abysmal
365	Informed, reliable environmental impact studies for the future of Talbot County with regard to continued commercial and residential development
366	Expanding the hospital and offering more free testing site for COVID.
367	Schools
368	Fully fund the public schools
369	Cell towers for cell coverage in every area of Talbot
370	I would invest a lot of money in the school system that is struggling to support our kids.
	The poorest households are those with elderly or youth populations. Prioritizing payouts to those households will lift burdens on the most struggling earners contributing to their care. Those demographics also cover most front line workers like hospitality workers, cashiers and maintenance people, who are usually paid less than a living wage. Don't wait for economics to trickle down! Help it flow directly to broken backs of our black and brown communities, our watermen and their waitress wives!
371	Then I'd pay for broadband so kids can get their education and sewer extension because the rich folks in Martingham couldn't pay for their own. I'd worry about infrastructure, but not much st mikes has money for new town offices they can pay to get Grace St back outa the bay. I don't think I'd give any money to businesses that aren't essential. St Mikes cut their own tourism budget by 50K last year. NO MONEY TO TOURISM. Economic Development in this county is dead to industry so we should be focusing in tech sectors to avoid environmental factors.
372	Helping small businesses. They keep your population with employment and are suffering.
373	Internet would help everyone. True high speeds like across the bridge. Even the fastest provider on the shore, Easton Utilities, is slow compared to Comcast and VZ FiOS across the bridge. We need to get with the times now that everything is done on line as well as the influx of teleworkers who need internet to do their jobs.
374	Rent and mortgage assistance to prevent evictions, as I believe this will be the greatest impact from the pandemic.
375	increasing pay for correctional officers and other essential workers to reduce staff shortages and we are the ones who work tirelessly to ensure community is safe and healthy. we don't have options to work from home.
376	Public safety
377	Childcare to provide the best to our future adults and support parents as they raise children and continue working.
378	Housing, food, and childcare coverage and supplements for low income and the homeless families. "No neighbor left behind".
379	Small business because they were hit the hardest during the limited movement due to the pandemic

Reply #	Question 10: If you could spend our ARPA funds on one project to improve Talbot County, what would it be and why?
380	Bonuses for all healthcare and first responders because they are unpaid paid or volunteer and very much unappreciated by many.
381	Turf field complex! (Would benefit youth sports and bring in revenues for the county and downstream.)
382	Reparations for the descendants of Talbot County slaves.
383	Building a new hospital. Would make this priority number one to support growth in the region and demonstrate to the State of MD that we're serious about getting the project off the ground and providing better health care to our citizens.
384	provide more mental health services in our schools for kids, teachers and staff Internet for all.
385	We all rely on it, we should all be able to access it. It shouldn't be something a household has to budget for.  use the funds to bring more doctors to this area, to increase pay to healthcare providers or to support the new hospital if that is still in the works. The funds could be used to relieve medical school debt to encourage more primary care doctors to come here.
386	Public health because there is people struggling to pay insurance and they can't afford a see a doctor
387	Improve Rt. 50 through Easton, close some of those crossovers, coordinate the traffic lights, increased speed speeding control.
388	Fields, trails recreation; draw people to the area so they will spend money on our businesses.
389	Incentives for health care professionals to live and work out here.
390	Broadband
391	Cell phone tower by chapel elementary Internet access that is affordable
392	Assistance to advance county-wide broadband, as there are many who need this vital service for commerce, education and health-care.
393	Updated recreational facilities.
394	As a small rural business our exceptionally poor internet service is crippling. Please bring us into this century. You won't see much economic development with internet speeds currently offered. Building and implementing a cell
395	Phone tower. Cordova is rural and there is limited cell Phone reception in the area. The safety of 350 students at CDES is also at stake in case of a real emergency.
396	Safe & affordable transportation for medical and employment needs. Years ago local large employers provided bus service to get to Allen Foods. It gave individuals opportunities for employment. Uber per se at reasonable cost. Local hackers and taxi's are not accessible for working poor.
397	RELIABLE Broadband for all and not cost the family thousands of dollars to do so.
398	Broadband for all county residents. It is as essential as running water and electricity in this day and time.
399	I would create a bike trail that continues the rails to trails so there is a safer option for biking/running/etc than using the streets
400	I can't think of a single main project that needs to be done. Instead, I think many different projects need time and money. I want to see many different businesses and programs receive funds because this approach is more likely to positively affect every resident.
401	a World-class museum that is targeted toward young people afun-place for them to learn
402	
403	Affordable housing projects - rentals for varying income levels including housing for single individuals. If people are not safe and secure in their housing, it is hard for them to be resilient and engaged community members.
404	I can't pick one. Broadband access and affordable housing
405	Improving broadband in the county.