

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Rochester is planning now for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2015 and ends June 30, 2016, or fiscal year 2015-16. The Office of Management and Budget estimates a budget gap of \$34.8 million.

Mayor Warren wants to hear about the community's priorities in relation to City programs and services, as decisions are made on how to close the gap. This report highlights the citizen perceptions and opinions gathered through a telephone town hall, a public citizen input forum and an online survey.

The public was invited by the Mayor to provide input to the budget process in one of three ways:

Date	Event	Participation
April 27	Telephone Town Hall	2,723
April 21	Citizen Input Forum at City Hall	198
April 21-27	Online Survey	373

Poll results from the telephone town hall included the following:

- 92% support a neighborhood based police model
- 90% were in favor of the purchase and implementation of body cameras for our police force
- 95% support neighborhood investment such as streets and sidewalks, transportation infrastructure, vacant house demolitions, roofing replacement programs and brownfield cleanups
- 94% support City investment in programs to prepare our youth and adults with job skills
- 84% believe the City should continue to operate Durand Eastman beach for swimming during the summer
- 82% feel the City should continue to invest in summer festivals and events

Some highlights from the online survey results included:

- 81% say that repair and rehabilitation of properties is a way that the City can help support residents with housing needs
- 80% would like to see a website reporting function for the 311 Call Center function
- 59% agree or strongly agree that the reorganization will improve police-community relations
- 51% agree or strongly agree that the Police reorganization will make their neighborhood safer
- Homework help, mentoring programs and organized sports were ranked as the most important services that City Recreation offers
- Among library educational services, respondents felt that summer learning and literacy programs for children in grades K-6 are most important
- If the library were to provide early learning classes for 3-year-olds, survey respondents feel that Central and the Arnett branch would be the best locations