



For Immediate Release
Monday, May 11, 2020

Media Contact: [Andrew Field](#) (312) 833-6083

Illinois Housing Development Authority Releases Mt. Sterling's Community Needs Survey Results

New data provides valuable insight about Mt. Sterling's community needs and goals to inform future planning and investment

Mt. Sterling – The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), in partnership with the City of Mt. Sterling, released the results of Mt. Sterling's Community Needs Assessment Survey. Conducted throughout the Winter of 2019-2020 under IHDA's Community Revitalization Technical Assistance Program, the survey collected input from residents on a wide range of subjects including mobility, community life, the economy, education and wellness, community initiatives and housing needs. The results provide valuable new information that will help guide the city's goals and decisions about housing, growth and development.

"IHDA is committed to expanding the capacity of communities throughout Illinois to identify and address local housing needs," IHDA Executive Director Kristin Faust said. "This survey is one of the first steps in IHDA's community revitalization planning process taking place in Mt. Sterling that will allow us to turn feedback from residents and community leaders into a customized plan designed to help the city achieve locally-informed goals."

The survey invited all Mt. Sterling residents, employers, community leaders and others to participate in the online poll. In total, the survey measured 140 respondent opinions to determine local observations of various community assets, needs and characteristics. The data was collected and analyzed by IHDA, and the results will be used in Mt. Sterling's ongoing efforts to foster development and investment in the community. More information on IHDA's community revitalization planning process in Mt. Sterling, including future opportunities for local participation, will be available soon.

Key Findings:

Housing Needs

More than half of respondents do not feel their housing costs are affordable, and 84% think there is a need for more housing opportunities in Mt. Sterling. 74% think there is a need for rental housing in Mt. Sterling, while 36% feel there is a need for more homeownership opportunities.

Mobility

62% of respondents feel they are not able to easily travel by bicycle in Mt. Sterling. However, 60% feel that the community allows for clear sight lines that provide safety in public spaces.

Community Life

Respondents were evenly split on whether housing in Mt. Sterling is in good condition. 45% do not think the community offers housing options that suit a variety of lifestyles and needs, and nearly half of respondents do not feel that adequate housing for the elderly is available.

Economy

Most respondents agree that Mt. Sterling has well-kept storefronts and adequate financial services. However, nearly half feel that there are not enough types of retail and dining establishments.

Education and Wellness

Respondents mostly agree that Mt. Sterling has opportunities for K-12 education and post-secondary education, as well as access to pharmacy care and related wellness services. However, 70% feel there are not adequate childcare options.

Community Engagement and Initiatives

The majority of respondents believe Mt. Sterling makes plans with residents' best interests in mind, and 59% are interested in opportunities to provide feedback to community leaders on local issues.

If you have questions about Mt. Sterling's community revitalization efforts or IHDA's products, please reach out to IHDA at Revitalization@IHDA.org.

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About the Illinois Housing Development Authority

IHDA (www.ihda.org) is a self-supporting state agency that finances the creation and the preservation of affordable housing across Illinois. Since its creation in 1967, IHDA has allocated \$20 billion in state, federal and leveraged affordable housing resources and financed approximately 274,500 affordable homes and apartments for residents of Illinois.