

# LIVABILITY LAB

MUSKEGON COUNTY CHALLENGE: LL 2.0

Holding strong to the community's audacious vision:  
Creating a system that ensures livability for all Muskegon County residents.

The world changed significantly since the first Livability Lab challenge cycle wrapped on January 23, the impact on our community is profound. One thing that doesn't change is the perseverance of Muskegon County residents. The Livability Lab action teams are adjusting to and addressing current community conditions, and are ready to work through the next challenge cycle.

**COMMUNITY CONDITIONS:** The Community Conditions below were identified by resident surveys gathered March - July 2020; and by local, state and national databases and reports.

## LIVABILITY ELEMENT: EDUCATION

COMMUNITY CONDITIONS AND COVID IMPACT  
CONSIDERING THE NEXT PHASE OF CHIR WORK AND LIVABILITY LAB

HEALTH INFLUENCERS	SNAPSHOT OF MUSKEGON COUNTY RESIDENT INPUT FROM SURVEY MATERIAL	SNAPSHOT OF NATIONAL, STATE OR LOCAL POLICY OR OTHER IMPACT FACTORS
<p><b>Education</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educating children from home is only widening the already large existing gaps.</li> <li>• Education of our students. Especially in communities where parents are still working at minimum wage jobs amplifying the lack of parental leadership in the home.</li> <li>• School. I believe kids are being promoted up a grade rather than being prepared to for admittance to the next grade. The dumbing down of America.</li> <li>• Have had to choose between educating and care for kids or going to work and pay bills.</li> <li>• Kids away from school. I am an educator and parent. Our kids missing school has been difficult for me professionally and personally.</li> <li>• We are learning new ways to communicate and get business done – especially watching the schools use of distance learning and hope this can be incorporated in normal times for weather school closures, summer learning opportunities and to reinforce classroom learning.</li> <li>• I worry about the children's education because a lot of parents can't home school their children. The parents are stressed from being around their children too long. The safety of the children.</li> <li>• We need greater bandwidth in rural communities – this is a real problem in my community. I worry about the children who are trying to do their school work and people who are attempting to work from home.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Michigan colleges have seen a "major decline" in enrollment of low-income, Pell-eligible first-year students due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to higher education officials. Students with families making about \$50,000 or less a year are not enrolling at the same rates because of pandemic-caused economic insecurities, - Colby <u>Cesaro</u>, vice president of Michigan Independent Colleges and Universities (MICU).</li> <li>• Half of Michigan residents don't believe it's safe for children to return to in-person classroom learning in the coming weeks because of health concerns about the coronavirus, according to a statewide poll conducted by EPIC-MRA for Bridge Michigan. The poll, conducted July 25-30, found 51 percent of respondents said they didn't believe their local schools will be safe enough for parents to send their children back to classrooms, while 36 percent said schools would be safe to reopen; 13 percent didn't know or declined to answer. <u>The Bridge</u> 8/4/2020</li> <li>• The survey polled 600 active voters statewide, and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage</li> </ul>

		<p>points. Forty percent of respondents were reached by cellphone. The 36 percent who said their local schools would be safe to reopen represents a decline from earlier polling. In an <a href="#">EPIC-MRA poll taken in June</a>, 46 percent of respondents said schools would be safe to reopen in August or September. <a href="#">The Bridge 8/4/2020</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The importance of in-person learning is well-documented, and there is already evidence of the negative impacts on children because of school closures in the spring of 2020. Lengthy time away from school and associated interruption of supportive services often results in social isolation, making it difficult for schools to identify and address important learning deficits as well as child and adolescent physical or sexual abuse, substance use, depression, and suicidal ideation. This, in turn, places children and adolescents at considerable risk of morbidity and, in some cases, mortality. Beyond the educational impact and social impact of school closures, there has been substantial impact on food security and physical activity for children and families. COVID-19 Planning Considerations: “Guidance for School Re-entry <a href="#">“The American Academy of Pediatrics, June 25, 2020</a></li></ul>
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