



## **Hutchinson**

### Community Workshops Recap

Hutch CC  
Oct. 29, 2024  
Participants: 26

Hutch Public Library  
Oct. 29, 2024  
Participants: 28

Dillon Nature Center  
Oct. 30, 2024  
Participants: 14

Reno Co Museum  
Nov. 2, 2024  
Participants: 11

Total Participants: 79

# DATA WALK

**Data Source: Love Where You Live Survey**

## II. Economic Perceptions In Our Community

In regard to your community, how would you assess current business conditions and employment opportunities.

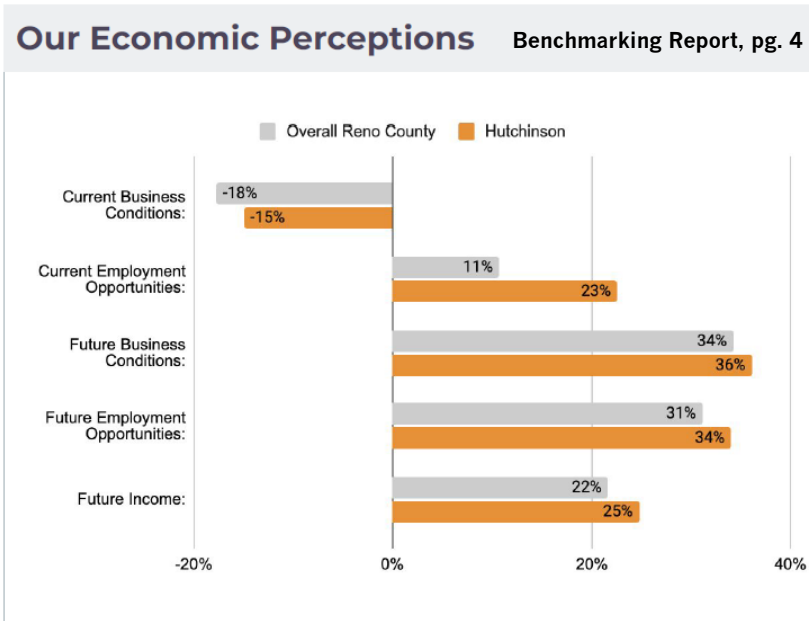
Please select one answer for each of the following:

<b>a. Business Conditions</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Bad <input type="checkbox"/> Normal	<b>b. Employment Opportunities</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs plentiful <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs not so plentiful <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs hard to get
---	--

In regard to your community, what are your future expectations for the following.

Please select one answer for each of the following:

<b>a. Business Conditions</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Better <input type="checkbox"/> Worse <input type="checkbox"/> Same	<b>b. Employment Opportunities</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Better <input type="checkbox"/> Worse <input type="checkbox"/> Same	<b>c. Income</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Increase <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease <input type="checkbox"/> Same
---	--	---



**Workshop Prompt:**

**What might be behind the uncertainty about the current economic conditions?**

Summary: Participants highlighted issues such as low wages, high inflation, job market challenges, and rising costs of living. Social factors like negative social media influence, political uncertainty, and declining community morale were also mentioned. Local factors, including business and school closures, workforce shortages, limited childcare options, and lack of quality job opportunities, are also concerns.

Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low wages.</li> <li>• Low wages (below KS avg).</li> <li>• Draw in more industry! Hi paying jobs. \$\$ back into community support.</li> <li>• Hutch elementary school closings.</li> <li>• Hiring freezes, slower production.</li> <li>• Fairly recent closings of some retail businesses. While there is construction &amp; pending openings, we just haven't seen that yet.</li> <li>• Declining population, closing schools.</li> <li>• Commuting workforce living spending in Maize area.</li> <li>• Shift to identify ALICE families and need for wage increases.</li> <li>• Low wages.</li> <li>• Possibly that it could take one large event to change everything. Los of what those have worked so had for. Untrust.</li> <li>• Lack of shopping opportunities.</li> <li>• Higher than usual inflation in 2021-2023 has led to high prices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicaid for HRMC.</li> <li>• The election.</li> <li>• Uninformed opinions.</li> <li>• Daycare availability for all age groups.</li> <li>• Workforce vs jobs. Chicken vs. egg.</li> <li>• Election year.</li> <li>• Social media.</li> <li>• Difficulty getting employees.</li> <li>• Personal perception.</li> <li>• Social media, the news, lack of employees, businesses closing.</li> <li>• Workforce, inflation.</li> <li>• Everyy.</li> <li>• Inflation &amp; elections.</li> <li>• Wages and affordable housing.</li> <li>• Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas in 2025.</li> <li>• Media on TV. Social Media online.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upward mobility</li> <li>• Start Up Hutch guest center.</li> <li>• Negativity/doom &amp; gloom on national level.</li> <li>• Employment opportunities are under \$20/hr.</li> <li>• Lack of maintenance &amp; upkeep; graffiti, yard upkeep, buildings.</li> <li>• Hopelessness.</li> <li>• It's hard to keep a mom &amp; pop shop open when it's difficult to afford to live.</li> <li>• Youth are observing an adult population that is exhausted and unhappy/given up.</li> <li>• Cost of living.</li> <li>• Disconnect is puzzling between current &amp; future.</li> <li>• Loss of well known businesses (Target).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of quality employee looking for jobs. Settling for less than we need.</li> <li>• Perception vs. reality – no concrete information given from city consistently.</li> <li>• Where does this business optimism come from? Without innovation in other areas, there is no growth.</li> <li>• What elements/data one used to make decision on business conditions turned to future.</li> <li>• Election year.</li> <li>• Attract advanced manufacturing.</li> <li>• Is this perception reality?</li> <li>• The cost of having a job – gas, daycare, housing, certifications.</li> <li>• Everyone I know or work with have 2 jobs.</li> <li>• Housing perceptions, inflation.</li> </ul>

**Workshop Prompt:**

**What gives residents so much more hope for future economic conditions?**

Summary: Many participants expressed hope for the future due to ongoing community development efforts, collaborative and active leadership, and the announcement of big new projects like Evergy, the YMCA, and the hotel and conference center. The opening of new businesses, particularly child care centers, and the potential for job growth were also mentioned.

Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tough to answer for the community, but my perception ...the ongoing work done by community developers (Chamber).</li> <li>• Current leadership &amp; initiatives.</li> <li>• The fact that we're having these conversations.</li> <li>• Things are improving! People see that trend and have hope.</li> <li>• Election year – no matter who wins there will be some kind of economic change.</li> <li>• Hutch CF – A growing strength in collaboration &amp; shared vision.</li> <li>• I believe people are looking for more development in industry, entrepreneurs give hope, as does big business.</li> <li>• Seeing progress &amp; seeing people of capacity supporting our community.</li> <li>• Outlook for positive, future growth, new business (Evergy).</li> <li>• Pay higher hourly wages, lower others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job anxiety.</li> <li>• Revolutionary systemic change. Daycare coop. Application of leadership.</li> <li>• New Y. New gas units.</li> <li>• Investment within community</li> <li>• Cautious optimism</li> <li>• Daycare &amp; good paying jobs</li> <li>• New daycares opening.</li> <li>• Daycare = possible job or increase in pay going back to work.</li> <li>• More childcare, new business.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We know we can be/do better.</li> <li>• Visible change.</li> <li>• People who don't believe Hutch/ Reno County can get better don't stay here. (They definitely don't care about surveys.)</li> <li>• "Middle of the country" optimism.</li> <li>• Our community is upbeat/optimistic &amp; I believe many of respondents to survey are economically OK &amp; not struggling daily.</li> <li>• Being a part of the change.</li> <li>• Optimistic about future.</li> <li>• Hotels built, YMCA built, new restaurants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why is current perceived so negatively?</li> <li>• Incentives are great but it may just bring in and not sustain.</li> <li>• Younger, more diverse and more gender equitable leadership.</li> <li>• Youth vs. wisdom. More mentorship to build leadership pipeline?</li> <li>• 705 megawatts!!!</li> <li>• Incentivize shopping local.</li> <li>• Convenience is the greatest competition here. How do local businesses address this?</li> <li>• Maybe people know more about what is happening than we thought?</li> <li>• Why does it seem that unelected wealthy people have more say over policy than elected officials?</li> <li>• The work that is being done on the ground.</li> <li>• Healthy neighborhood initiatives will go into other areas.</li> <li>• Positive shifts in city leadership.</li> <li>• What big thing do they expect is going to change things?</li> <li>• HCTEA to local businesses pipeline.</li> </ul>

# Confidence In Our Local Community

## Data Source: Love Where You Live Survey

Please use the following scale to indicate how you feel about your community and leadership.

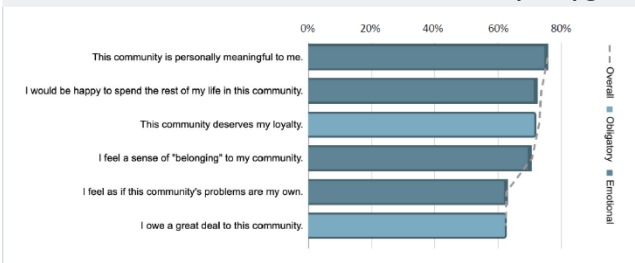
- 1 = Strongly Disagree
- 2 = Disagree
- 3 = Somewhat Disagree
- 4 = Neutral
- 5 = Somewhat Agree
- 6 = Agree
- 7 = Strongly Agree

If you are unsure or do not want to respond, please use the following option:

- 0 = Do not know/No response

Portion of the community that is highly confident on the listed community dimensions (Rating range: 0-7)

## Community Confidence: Personal Commitment Report, pg. 7



### Workshop Prompt:

### What keeps you from getting involved in community challenges?

Summary: The primary barriers named by participants are time constraints and expectations, lack of knowledge or awareness of opportunities, and a concern about the inclusivity of initiatives and groups. Some expressed concerns about the effectiveness of community efforts, such as a lack of accountability or a feeling of being unheard.

Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time, kids, job flexibility.</li> <li>• Time, personal life, other commitments.</li> <li>• Job flexibility.</li> <li>• Confidence to lead.</li> <li>• Don't know where to start, who to contact.</li> <li>• Time, other commitments, raising family.</li> <li>• Time, energy, what will it require of me?</li> <li>• Minority representations, <u>what</u> are we fighting for and who benefits?</li> <li>• Not sure I can make a difference.</li> <li>• Time, new to community, unaware of opportunities.</li> <li>• Voices matter, are they heard?</li> <li>• Time and fear of how much of a commitment it will require.</li> <li>• Fear of unknown.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to choose where to help.</li> <li>• Schedule conflicts.</li> <li>• Lack of bilingual or interpreters.</li> <li>• Work commitments.</li> <li>• Time awareness.</li> <li>• Lack of accountability of existing groups.</li> <li>• Managing current responsibilities to open up more time.</li> <li>• Time/energy.</li> <li>• Not sure where I fit as retired.</li> <li>• Lack of awareness.</li> <li>• No one wants to change.</li> <li>• Finding out what challenges the community is having.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need more "inclusive" attitude.</li> <li>• Social media integration.</li> <li>• Visual change – change in the community that can be measured.</li> <li>• Fear of change.</li> <li>• Current leadership</li> <li>• I am involved, but must make choices where to get involved.</li> <li>• I'm tired.</li> <li>• Time – commitment.</li> <li>• 9-5 hours &amp; the economy.</li> <li>• Lack of access to information regarding community challenges.</li> <li>• Ignorance.</li> <li>• Complacency.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to be engaged.</li> <li>• Awareness, agency.</li> <li>• Racism.</li> <li>• Not getting around well.</li> <li>• Not knowing where to go to find out how to engage.</li> <li>• Redundancy in topic &amp; people.</li> <li>• Feeling like they can effect change?</li> <li>• Time/energy.</li> </ul>

**Data Source: Love Where You Live Survey**

Please use the following scale to indicate how you feel about your community and leadership.

- 1 = Strongly Disagree
- 2 = Disagree
- 3 = Somewhat Disagree
- 4 = Neutral
- 5 = Somewhat Agree
- 6 = Agree
- 7 = Strongly Agree

If you are unsure or do not want to respond, please use the following option:  
0 = Do not know/No response

**Community Confidence: Local Leadership**



**Workshop Prompt:**

**What would it look like for leaders to be more responsive to community concerns?**

Summary: Participants shared that leaders should be visible and prioritize open and transparent communication, including holding regular public meetings, utilizing diverse communication channels, and actively seeking input from a wide range of community members. They shared that leaders should be willing to listen to feedback, address concerns, and take action on priority projects, as well as create opportunities for community members to participate in decision-making processes, such as through workshops and forums.

Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making them feel part of the process.</li> <li>• Replicate recent City of Hutch Community Meeting.</li> <li>• Be present.</li> <li>• Outreach into the community.</li> <li>• More frequent updates when it doesn't 'look' like anything is happening.</li> <li>• Targeted funding for priority projects.</li> <li>• More forums or otherwise make it easier to contact &amp; present ideas.</li> <li>• Leaders would have to be honest, humble and <u>willing to work</u>. Words alone won't cut it.</li> <li>• More public meetings, community awareness.</li> <li>• Celebrate wins more.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaders need to accept changes &amp; go for it!</li> <li>• Better form of communication besides Facebook.</li> <li>• Try new ideas.</li> <li>• Recognizing the needs of all of the people of Hutch.</li> <li>• Be willing to take risks.</li> <li>• Leaders being open to change.</li> <li>• Open minds to be open for change.</li> <li>• Snacks &amp; childcare for meetings.</li> <li>• Address/validate concerns.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be open to constructive criticism &amp; communicate.</li> <li>• Be visible.</li> <li>• Encourage people who may not see themselves as "leaders."</li> <li>• Be more visible.</li> <li>• Leaders need to be proactive &amp; insert themselves in community activities – be visible.</li> <li>• Invite different demographics to the table.</li> <li>• Encourage the people who are already responsive to community concerns to realize that they could be the leaders we need.</li> <li>• Engage in social media. Most are there daily.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops like this?</li> <li>• Independently available information. Easily found information for the individual initiative to inquire.</li> <li>• So many same people on boards &amp; organizations who don't want to bring in younger people.</li> <li>• It would be impressive to see this: engaged leadership.</li> <li>• Exist in diverse spaces/public participation opportunities.</li> <li>• Listen to 'new' people, not just the usual suspects.</li> <li>• Diversify their connections/appearances.</li> <li>• Same people on every board. (volunteer expand to reach new).</li> </ul>

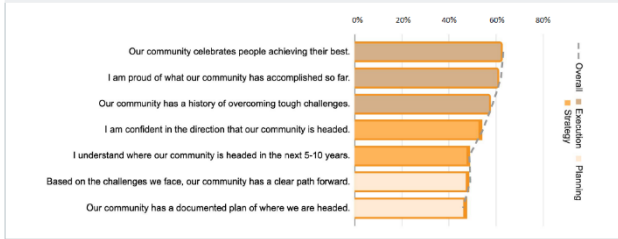
**Data Source: Love Where You Live Survey**

Please use the following scale to indicate how you feel about your community and leadership.

- 1 = Strongly Disagree
- 2 = Disagree
- 3 = Somewhat Disagree
- 4 = Neutral
- 5 = Somewhat Agree
- 6 = Agree
- 7 = Strongly Agree

If you are unsure or do not want to respond, please use the following option:  
 0 = Do not know/No response

**Community Confidence: Vision**



**Workshop Prompt:**

**What opportunities do you see here related to Vision?**

Summary: Collaboration and communication are key themes, with participants emphasizing the need for more opportunities to connect, share ideas, and work together toward common goals. There is a desire for increased volunteerism and community engagement, including more public meetings and opportunities for input from diverse groups, and to leverage community leadership and a sense of ownership.

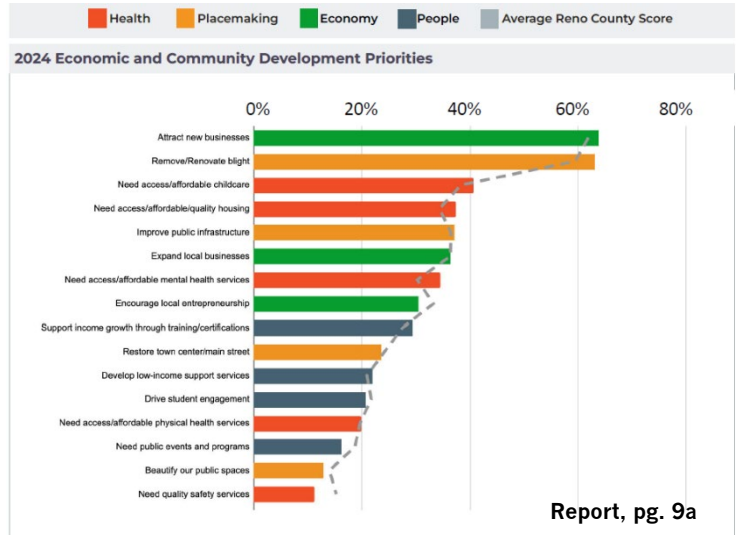
Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collab on planning (like this!).</li> <li>• More opportunities to have exchanges &amp; working meetings. At those meetings, make decisions, get commitments.</li> <li>• Higher wages.</li> <li>• We have so many strong leaders that are eager to make progress. If we could put these ideas into action, the community will feel the same being eager for progress.</li> <li>• Collaboration.</li> <li>• Neighborhood development expansion.</li> <li>• More collaboration to develop a collective vision that involved all people.</li> <li>• Continue to improve what is already established. HCC Fairgrounds, etc.</li> <li>• More opportunities like these meetings to bring people together to see/discuss opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We recognize the want and desire to serve.</li> <li>• Align mission to row in same direction for good of community.</li> <li>• Development of exciting, realistic goals.</li> <li>• Sharing ideas and views.</li> <li>• People feel buy-in from community.</li> <li>• Businesses get on board &amp; allow staff to be part of community needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaders need to be proactive &amp; insert themselves in community activities – be visible.</li> <li>• Central social media that everyone can more easily keep track of.</li> <li>• Volunteering, grant outreach, working together we can create change.</li> <li>• Volunteer for committees.</li> <li>• More celebration of positives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More communication and public participation.</li> <li>• A unified website to get info about participating so hard to find.</li> <li>• Mentoring, volunteering on agencies, schools, etc.</li> <li>• Identify the 25-30 year olds that are coming back.</li> <li>• Identify the start here box for people.</li> </ul>

**Data Source: Love Where You Live Survey**

Understanding your communities economic and community development priorities **IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

Please select your top 5 economic and community development priorities.

- \_\_\_\_ (Resilient Economy) Attract new businesses
- \_\_\_\_ (Resilient Economy) Expand local businesses
- \_\_\_\_ (Resilient Economy) Encourage local entrepreneurship
- \_\_\_\_ (Vibrant Place) Remove/renovate run-down properties
- \_\_\_\_ (Vibrant Place) Improve public infrastructure (sidewalks, roads, parks, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_ (Vibrant Place) Beautify our public areas
- \_\_\_\_ (Vibrant Place) Restore our town center and main street
- \_\_\_\_ (Engaged Citizens) Create and refine programs to improve student engagement in the community
- \_\_\_\_ (Engaged Citizens) Develop training and certification programs to support income growth
- \_\_\_\_ (Engaged Citizens) Develop community pride through public events and programming
- \_\_\_\_ (Engaged Citizens) Develop more effective low-income family support programs
- \_\_\_\_ (Healthy Citizens) Expand access to quality and affordable (monthly payments <30% of household income) housing
- \_\_\_\_ (Healthy Citizens) Expand access to quality and affordable childcare support services
- \_\_\_\_ (Healthy Citizens) Address access and affordability of local Physical Health services
- \_\_\_\_ (Healthy Citizens) Address access and affordability of local Mental Health services
- \_\_\_\_ (Healthy Citizens) Improve the quality of safety and emergency services (Police, Fire, etc.)



Report, pg. 9a

**Workshop Prompt:**

**What would it take to create change on the top priorities?**

Summary: Responses include increased funding and investment in community and economic development, including infrastructure improvements and affordable housing initiatives, long-term commitment and collaboration among community stakeholders, supporting and growing local businesses, beautification and property maintenance, and improving the lives and inclusion of those in poverty and on the economic margins.

Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a pathways program for <u>all</u> residents to participate in, with an endowment for more access to help more people.</li> <li>• City-wide beautification efforts.</li> <li>• Housing Authority.</li> <li>• Address poverty through relationship building and basic needs/support.</li> <li>• A way to get information out to the community. Start a newspaper or support alternatives.</li> <li>• Prioritize city &amp; county tax money to community priorities.</li> <li>• Continued county commitment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with business owners to create cohesiveness.</li> <li>• Increase population &amp; workforce.</li> <li>• Raise average wage.</li> <li>• Have ample housing to draw new business. How do we do that? Work with contractors to make it easier to build!</li> <li>• Support businesses that come to Hutch with tax benefits.</li> <li>• Ask a more representative sample priorities might be different.</li> <li>• Vacancy or blight tax on downtown buildings.</li> <li>• Determine what businesses will work in Hutch, "Good fit."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look at lower priorities from view of "new business" coming here.</li> <li>• An adaptable and collaborative third space.</li> <li>• Concerted effort &amp; long term commitment.</li> <li>• Consistent efforts.</li> <li>• Work on the lower priorities: workforce, safety, attract population.</li> <li>• Volunteer opportunities to clean up Hutch.</li> <li>• Grants/funding to make new businesses capable of offering a livable wage.</li> <li>• Outreach to businesses, go to them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support local business.</li> <li>• Incentivize shopping local.</li> <li>• Look at highly utilized space &amp; make them a priority.</li> <li>• Training/certification pathways must lead to local jobs. If there's not career at the end, what's the point?</li> <li>• True consequences for out-of-community landlords who let properties deteriorate.</li> <li>• Childcare issue is improving.</li> <li>• Find ways to help keep what we have and give way to new prospects.</li> <li>• More empathy driven insights.</li> </ul>

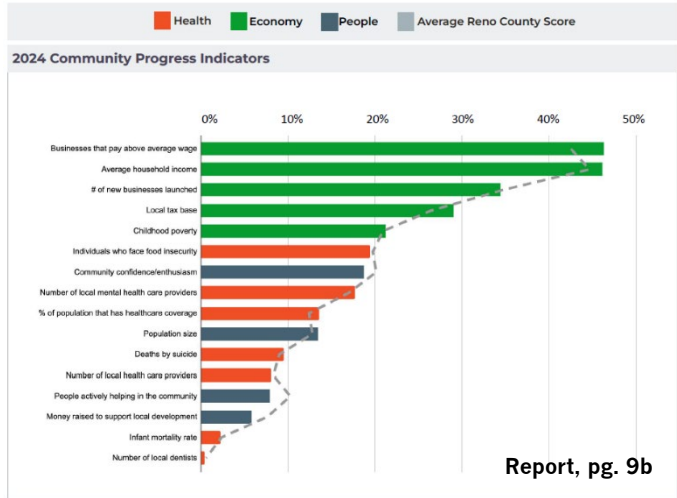


<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$</li> <li>• Agency connections &amp; partnerships + \$\$</li> <li>• It takes all of these to address the big picture.</li> <li>• Joint vision of a path forward.</li> <li>• Non-lazy or complaining residents!</li> <li>• Aggressive development and involvement of new stakeholders. The right people at the table. Teams that lead the work, partnerships.</li> <li>• Money.</li> <li>• Entities/groups take initiative to push (i.e. Atrium situation, pushing forward instead of accepting status quo).</li> <li>• More good-paying jobs. Affordable housing.</li> <li>• More willingness from all residents to put their money where their mouth is to invest in Hutchinson (both directly and collectively through taxes).</li> <li>• Landowners need to take more responsibility for property maintenance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to have new businesses, we have to have enough housing available for a possible influx of people coming to town.</li> <li>• Keep business going.</li> <li>• We can't cut our way to prosperity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support South Main revitalizations.</li> <li>• Housing critical.</li> </ul>	
---	--	--	--

**Data Source: Love Where You Live Survey**

In a span of 1-3 years, which community metrics would you hope to improve upon. Select up to 3:

- Number of new businesses launched in the community
- Number of new businesses that pay above average wages
- Average household income
- Population size
- Amount of money raised to support local development
- Local tax base (wages, sales, property)
- Number of people actively (>5 hours/month) engaged in community development
- Community confidence and enthusiasm
- % of local population who has some health care coverage
- Number of Mental Health Providers available locally
- Number of Primary Health Providers available locally
- Number of Dentists available locally
- Number of deaths caused by suicide
- Individuals who face food insecurity
- Childhood poverty rate
- Infant mortality rates



**Workshop Prompt:**

**What would it take to create change on the top progress indicators?**

Summary: Responses focus on increasing wages, improving access to recreation and healthcare, increasing affordable childcare, supporting local businesses, addressing poverty and ALICE families, creating new jobs, and attracting new businesses. Collaboration between community leaders, businesses, and diverse residents is necessary, along with raising awareness about the challenges faced by many individuals and families, advocating for policy changes, and investing in community resources.

Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a local minimum wage.</li> <li>• Millennial and GenX together. Infrastructure improvement task force does nothing but OK this! Big business.</li> <li>• Proper wages community wide. Promotion of education for specific useful skill sets.</li> <li>• Quality providers for care.</li> <li>• Increase wages not just poverty, but asset limited income constrained.</li> <li>• Living wages increase.</li> <li>• Access to healthcare.</li> <li>• Support local businesses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources for new/local small businesses</li> <li>• Raise minimum wage.</li> <li>• Shop local.</li> <li>• Better cooperation with all medical providers.</li> <li>• Education on these priorities.</li> <li>• Affordable child care.</li> <li>• Work with business leaders to increase base wages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote our city &amp; events.</li> <li>• Chicken &amp; Egg: Need good jobs for income increase, need housing for new residents.</li> <li>• Education and community partnerships &amp; support.</li> <li>• Individual involvement in community efforts “engagement.”</li> <li>• Increase population &amp; consumer base.</li> <li>• Small business supports &amp; education.</li> <li>• Possible grants/funding so businesses old &amp; new can offer livable wage to employees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creativity &amp; innovation in arts presentation and participation.</li> <li>• Entertainment opportunities for young professional families to come out to.</li> <li>• Health &amp; wellness outlets in broader community (like Hutch run club).</li> <li>• Public spaces activation/community placemaking to build identity of community.</li> <li>• Expand the tax base.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attract new businesses.</li><li>• Better insight on what it's like to be "working poor."</li><li>• Addressing ALICE families.</li><li>• Economy related...maybe higher wages is the answer.</li><li>• Addressing poverty.</li><li>• More mental health providers.</li><li>• Access to healthcare, taxes, fentanyl.</li></ul>			
--	--	--	--

## BOLD IDEAS

### Workshop Prompt:

- What one opportunity or priority could make the biggest difference in our community in the next year? If this community was 10 times bolder to make progress on that priority, what big idea would you recommend?

### Overall, the top priorities and ideas related to:

- More affordable housing and incentives for housing development
- Higher wages and higher quality of jobs
- Blight removal and property maintenance
- Community engagement and communication

### Workshop Participant Responses & Top Scores

#### Workshop 1:

1. Houses for middle-income families, financial/tax incentives to builders & buyers (24 points)
2. Affordable housing, more programs to lower new housing cost – i.e. RHID, MIH, etc. Or programs increased for existing housing. (22 points)
3. Commit to paying teachers, entry level healthcare workers and other hard-to-keep positions a better than living wage. (22 points)
4. More affordable housing, build and or upgrade housing 10% each year for 10 years. (21 points)
5. Affordable housing development. Support our housing coordinator, Carissa! She is going to make such an impact, she has amazing plans that are reachable if she had the proper support from those in the community. (20 points)
6. Cleaning up blighted areas to create more welcoming community. Incentives to cleaning up these areas (20 points)
7. Biggest priority is housing – make room for new people. More positive marketing of Reno County. Help developers build safe, solid, good housing. (20 points)
8. Even more local investment in housing & childcare. Local funding (public AND philanthropic). Dedicated annually to ongoing investment in housing and childcare. No one likes taxes, but we need a way to pay for investment in our priorities. (20 points)
9. Viable solution for in-fill housing and MIH production. Housing development subsidy (\$50K/unit). (20 points)
10. Street repair & dedicated property removed or improved. Repair neighborhood streets, sidewalks, etc. ie Atrium (tear it down).
11. Shop local/expand local businesses. Encouragement to use local businesses, marketing pushes, positive peer pressure, business thanking customers.
12. The new hotel being opened and managed correctly, upkeep. Actively attract conventions, conferences, tournaments to fill the space as much as possible.
13. Livable wages across the board, no matter where you work, if it's full-time you can survive. Educating employers & gathering data. Using work opportunity credit across the board.
14. Funding for the arts. Allocate more funds for the arts.
15. Affordable & safe housing (more of it). Resource and support landlords, incentivize new landlords.
16. A large increase in good, affordable housing. Some sort of local WPA to improve housing.
17. Recruiting a home builder (local or otherwise) to build 50+ homes. We would convince profitable business in our community to increase wages.
18. Develop more private donor collective endowment for top 3 identified issues. Community endowments (bigger grants?) to support local business/opportunities for childcare, housing, & workforce development.
19. Buy up and redevelop vacant commercial properties. Offer them at no or low cost to entrepreneurial businesses for start up or expansion.
20. Star bond project. Cosmosphere entertainment venue at Memorial Hall.
21. Building community intentionally! I'm not a fan of how the "community" favors one class of citizens. That we build human capital, asking questions that make people accountable to their own feelings and actions towards others. Other people deserve an opportunity.

22. Spending time with one person to help them level up. Teach humans how to thrive instead of throwing money at committees and snacks at meetings.
23. As a community, agree that all that we have that is good comes from God...and as a community we should come together across denominational line to worship/praise God together. Invest in the idea of a community worship center where God is honored in spirit and in truth!
24. Star Bonds project. Larger Star Bond project to increase tourism to the community to draw more people in to see how special Hutch is.
25. If more people will get involved, volunteer, or attend meetings then they could learn more about what is truly important and needed. Direct mailing to ask for help with projects.

#### Workshop 2:

1. Jobs that offer a livable wage/salary & allow for time to be spent with children (24 points)
2. New companies that pay above an average wage, programs for workforce development. (24 points)
3. Economic development – more companies bringing jobs to Hutch, small businesses opening & local residents supporting them. Leaning into new ideas for how to get businesses & people to Hutch. I wish the commissioners would approve the MakeMyMove.com suggestion – why not try something different? (22 points)
4. Leveraging the new Evergy facility to attract a mega project to develop K96 Kimbell industrial park. Target to advanced manufacturing companies, leverage relationships. (21 points)
5. Local candidates who truly and deeply care about our community, who live here, get elected to serve us in commission & house of reps. Get out and vote! (21 points)
6. Affordable housing for low-income families. Renter registration condemn unsafe houses. (21 points)
7. Higher quality jobs. Start my own business. (21 points)
8. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas in network available at Clinic, workplaces have childcare. (20 points)
9. Increase in workforce housing, partner with businesses to give incentives for their employees or prospective employees. (20 points)
10. Housing – affordable. Public/private partnership to cut through barriers that get in way of building more residences.
11. Completion of 50 housing units. Completion of 250 housing units, all income levels.
12. Maintenance of public & private properties like keeping vacant & even occupied properties grass mowed and cleaned up. Code enforcement & funding to do it & make it look good.
13. High paying jobs such as manufacturing. Actively pursue mid-size manufacturing business to move to Hutch.
14. Increase childcare, companies help pay. Change local funding strategies.
15. Jobs/housing, business opportunities
16. Entertainment for all ages. Convention center to attract people.
17. Retail shopping, more hotels.
18. Good jobs – Wooing someone to make use of the land by Siemens.
19. Elect the people that truly want to make a positive difference for Reno County & Hutchinson. More constituents become truly informed and vote and then support the leaders & officials for doing the work.
20. Retail shopping – no more driving to Wichita. Bring in more retail – mall, downtown. Nowhere to buy men's clothes.
21. Making the community aware of what needs to be improved and getting them to work together.
22. Medicaid expansion, Hutch would only vote for Democrats
23. Continued, collective collaborative community engagement. Putting difference aside but allowing for constructive input.
24. Housing for the homeless. To make housing really affordable for them.
25. Recognition of the “reality” of the situations of many in our community. A community wide, concerted effort to feed, house, clothe, educate the “lease of these.”
26. Finding common ground with individuals from a different SES and background from us. A meeting place for all – coffee shop style – with childcare available and free drinks and food.

#### Workshop 3:

1. Go door to door to personally invite every adult resident to become involved, provide their input & invite them in a concrete way. Get a large percentage of the adult community mobilized. (17 points)
2. Get 10% of the community actively involved in a local cause, organization or non-profit. Commit funding to organizations to increase their reach & operations. (15 points)

3. The opportunity/priority that could be the biggest difference in the next year for Hutchinson could be creating a support system for entrepreneurs by creating unique experiences in tourism & entertaining. Diving fully into supporting entrepreneurs. (15 points)
4. Attract industry with high paying jobs and a significant number of employees. Housing incentives for builders, reducing red tape. (15 points)
5. Affordable housing options. Multi-family duplex, etc. Attract families through free land, tax breaks to build, financial support for down payment in a housing development that has park, walking trail, close to daycare, etc.
6. Opportunities for businesses to increase wages but not have to close their doors. Funding & manpower to create more thriving businesses & better wages (livable wages), more employment opportunities.
7. More affordable housing. Gather several investors that would help start some affordable housing, put up the funds & favorable funding for purchasers.
8. Get everyone employed with living wage. Bring in businesses needing more employees.
9. I think that a greater number of “average Joes” getting involved would make the biggest difference in the community. I would recommend sending out a community survey! 😊
10. Deep clean the landscaping & homes in the community. Grass, trees, paint homes. Parks Dept & city workers to tackle the initial cleaning. Easier to then upkeep and maintain.
11. Communication to those that think nothing is happening here. A different means of outreach and better mental health support.
12. Education on how to access resources, have higher community engagement, home ownership, mall business support, other community needs. An adaptive & collaborative third space/community resource center that promotes & provides community wellness, entrepreneurial support, and access to resources.

#### Workshop 4:

1. Ease of access to housing & community information. Once central hub for applications & information. (20 points)
2. Get people to adjust their lens of Hutch. Be proud to be here, not searching for a reason to stay. Involve the 25 – 30 year old leaders, mentor them & do not shut them down. Do not let opposing more established voices/leaders blight the ambition, just because it is different doesn't make it wrong. (19 points)
3. Beautifying of downtown & neighborhoods to increase community pride. Much stronger investments in transferring downtowns & giving people more affordable options to improve or fix their homes/properties. (17 points)
4. Expand local business. Grant opportunities for local engaged businesses looking to expand/grow. (17 points)
5. Cleanup of blighted properties away from the city's core – East & West 4th, South Main Street. Use days like the Day of Action to help landlords clean up their commercial properties. (16 points)
6. Making progress on new affordable housing opportunities. Start building new housing.
7. Improvement with housing to get some quality candidates to seek jobs from new business. Keep building affordable housing and make changes to help new renters find and get into a new home. Make it easier for them coming into a new community.
8. Getting the young generation (20-40 years) to bring their ideas of a “community” for both present & future homes, jobs, living. Follow through with the city plans, (Memorial Hall meeting).
9. Community placemaking as a tool in building community and networking opportunities. Hutch is very insulated from an outside perspective. C.P. encourages investment in community and meeting other service-minded people. Reclaiming ‘dead spaces’ (downtown) as C.P. opportunities and think tank/activation spaces. Make innovative partnerships to address other community needs in these spaces (re: childcare & local business incentives/incubators).
10. Big, known recognizable businesses locating here: retail & recreational. Recruiting with tax incentives, employer, employee incentives.
11. Better defined identity and sense of who we are as a community. Focus on advancing in that space. Accept that we could be a great retirement community and that need not be a negative thing – in fact loads of economic growth potential.

## LEADERSHIP IS AN ACTIVITY

Workshop Prompt: What can you do to immediately make progress on a big idea? Where do you have discretion and freedom to act? What can you do without more resources or authority?

Workshop Participant Ideas:

- Contact elected officials (info [here](#) and [here](#))
- Volunteer with Interfaith Housing & Community Services ([info here](#))
- Attend housing commission meetings ([info here](#))
- Talk to your coffee group or book club
- Celebrate community successes
- Shop local
- Serve on city boards and committees ([apply here](#))
- Serve on nonprofit boards and committees ([info here](#))
- Communicate with people in authority
- Support and champion others' efforts
- Participate in community activities and groups
- Speak on issues of concern
- Convene people with different ideas
- Connect with like-minded individuals
- Influence others to pay better wages
- Engage neighbors
- Help new employees
- Translate communications for Spanish speakers
- Empower residents
- Share information with co-workers
- Use platforms to spread positivity
- Organize community events
- Show up at events
- Vote for leaders who enact change
- Listen to others and find connection
- Maintain personal property
- Be a supportive and friendly neighbor
- Gather data and talk to people
- Help kids graduate with skills
- Share resources at the public library
- Engage with community members
- Build trust and understanding
- Share perspectives
- Spend money wisely
- Share information with volunteer boards