COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT - REPORT

Goal for the survey:

To learn how we can relieve some of the burden resulting from COVID-19 and what services are desired by the youth and families in our community.
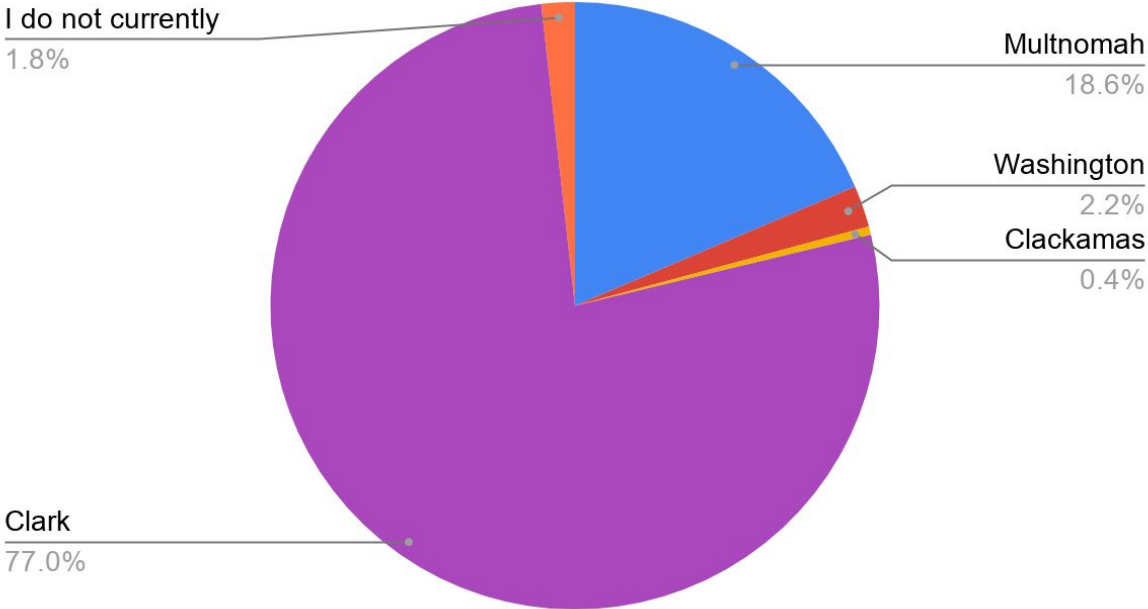
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Population Surveyed

Total number surveyed: 226

Number of parents/guardians surveyed: 174

Number of students surveyed: 34

Number of school staff/community members surveyed: 18

Geographic Location

County of residence

I do not currently
1.8%

Multnomah
18.6%

Washington
2.2%

Clackamas
0.4%

Clark
77.0%

Questions and Statistics

The public was asked to rate 15 topics on a scale of 1 to 4 in terms of their importance and satisfaction.

"How important is this to you…"   "How satisfied are you with…"

Of the 15, the following topics had the highest rate of dissatisfaction:

1. **The cost of after school and/or summer programs**

   53% total dissatisfied
   56% of parents/guardians were dissatisfied with the cost of after school programs and services.

2. **Opportunity to shadow a profession**

   51% total dissatisfied
   77% of school staff/community members were dissatisfied with opportunities available for students to shadow a professional.

3. **Availability of someone you can speak to who helps guide and advise you**

   48% total dissatisfied
   53% of parents/guardians were dissatisfied with the availability of mentors/counselors.

4. **A community/support system to assist with emotional, transportation, or developmental needs**

   47% total dissatisfied
   49% of parents/guardians were dissatisfied with their access to a community support system.

Others questions of note were:

   What are the challenges facing you and your household/school in the next 4 months?
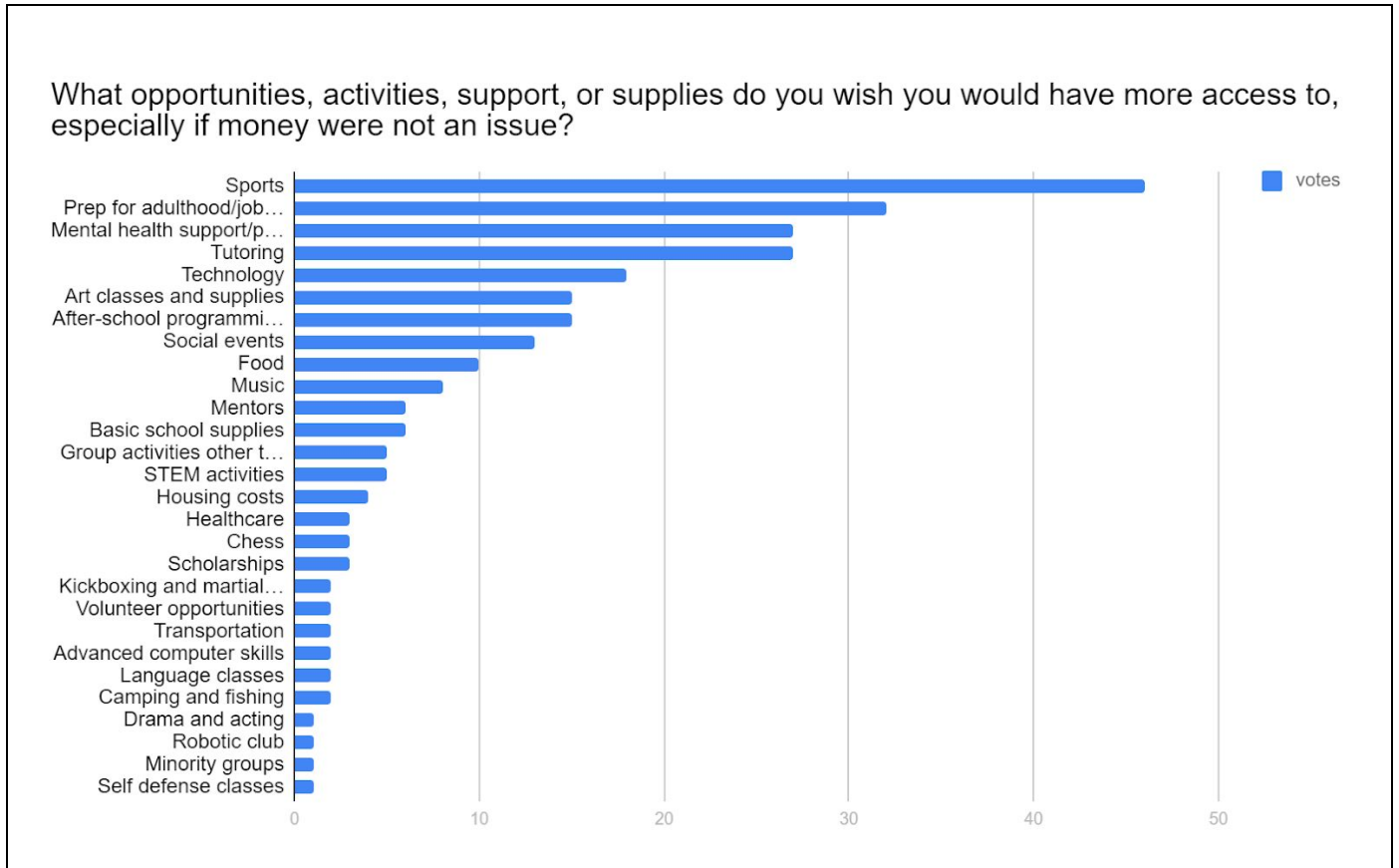
   63% of parents/guardians reported that distance learning was their greatest challenge for the end of the year.

   Due to the nature of our organization, we also asked if students knew how to swim.

   85% said yes, and that they would be comfortable swimming in a calm river or lake.

Our goal was to learn which services the community needed. To start, we left the question open-ended.

The community appreciated the ability to have their say, without parameters. Many people thanked us for asking for their options.

What opportunities, activities, support, or supplies do you wish you would have more access to, especially if money were not an issue?

Sports - 46
Prep for adulthood/job shadowing/training - 32
Mental health support/peer groups - 27
Tutoring - 27
Technology - 18
Art classes,supplies - 15
After-school programming - 15
Social events - 13
Food - 10

Music - 8
Mentors - 6
Basic school supplies - 6
Group activities other than sports - 5
STEM activities - 5
Housing costs - 4
Healthcare - 3
Chess - 3
Scholarships - 3
Kickboxing, martial arts - 2

Volunteer opportunities - 2
Transportation - 2
Computer skills - 2
Language classes - 2
Camping and fishing - 2
Drama and acting - 1
Robotics club - 1
Minority groups - 1
Self defense classes - 1

Next we closed the question, and offered specific options --

Question #16: I would like to see more organizations providing… (select top 3)

Access to affordable housing
Recreational activities
Mentorship
Internships and apprenticeships

Physical health services
Mental health services
Tutoring
Educational resources
Devices for students

Summary

From each survey, the most requested services were:

Parents/Guardians
1. **Recreational activities - 78 votes (44.8%)**
2. Job training and college readiness programs - 67 votes (38.5%)
3. Mental health services - 64 votes (36.8%)
4. Tutoring - 63 votes (36.2%)

School Staff/Community Members
1. **Mentorship - 9 votes (50%)**
2. Access to affordable housing, Internships and apprenticeships - 8 votes each (44.4%) (tied)
3. Mental health services, Tutoring - 7 votes each (38.9%) (tied)

Students
1. **Job training and college readiness programs - 16 votes (50%)**
2. Mentorship, Mental health services - 10 votes each (31.3%) (tied)
3. Recreational activities, Devices for students, Access to affordable housing - 9 votes each (28.1%) (3-way tie)

Total from all three surveys combined:

1. Recreational activities - 87 votes (38%)
2. Job training and college readiness programs - 83 votes (~37%)
3. Mental health services - 81 votes (~36%)
4. Tutoring - 70 votes (~31%)
5. Mentorship - 19 votes (~8%)
6. Access to affordable housing - 17 votes (~7%)

Due to that fact that the largest number of submissions came from parents/guardians, the total percentages look very similar to how they voted. However, the rankings from each survey individually give us a better view of a group's priorities, and should not be disregarded. In this case, we would take the highest ranking service from each group:

1. **Recreational activities**
2. **Mentorship**
3. **Job training and college readiness programs**

Given the information above, we researched 24 nonprofit organizations in the area fulfilling one or more of these categories, to see the services they provided, and how we could in turn set ourselves apart.

Conclusions and Next Steps

1. While many organizations in our area have robust programs, we did not find any that combined all the aspects we are able to provide. Several local nonprofits offer leadership programs and access to job training, but not for the maritime industry. Their programs are school-based or serve as another way to attain the GED.

Our program will focus on the abundance of opportunity in maritime careers, and prepare our youth through sailing lessons and STEM activities. When applying for training or an apprenticeship, they will have certifications and industry-specific knowledge to set them apart. S2C will ensure funding for committed individuals to complete their first year of college, as well as facilitate job shadowing opportunities and connect students to internships.

2. The Portland area currently benefits from other long term mentorship programs, but none seem to be directly linked to a specific career path; such as sailing and the maritime industry.

To fill this need, we have chosen to create our own mentorship program with a focus on school performance and future planning. Students and mentors will attend monthly events together to spend quality time, enjoy the outdoors, and form strong bonds. First year students are required to have a mentor, after this point it is their choice if they continue or not.

3. Sail2Change's summer program began as a two-part experience including sailing and backpacking. However, our area has an excess of wilderness programs and camps, several of which also cater to low-income and underserved youth.

With our connections to the sailing and maritime industry, we are in a unique position and will focus our efforts on sailing and the pathway to the careers this skill provides.

ACCESS MARITIME PROGRAM 2021-2024

S2C supports youth development through mentorship and monthly recreational activities, and connects students to training, college courses, and career opportunities in the maritime industry at little to no cost.

Students are welcome to join S2C at any point in their high school career. For the sake of simplicity, let's start with 9th grade.
In their first year, 9th graders will spend their summer attending a two-week beginner's sailing course at Willamette Sailing Club (WSC). Students learn the basics of sailing and racing, water navigation, how to tie knots, and explore the Willamette River via small boats.

The following school year, students are paired with a mentor who will meet with them monthly at in-person S2C events (hiking, climbing, sailing), and check in weekly via text or call. It is the responsibility of the mentor (with the assistance of S2C staff) to support their student's emotional and academic growth. An additional academic tutor will be supplied if needed.
Online sailing courses from NauticEd will be offered to build upon the knowledge they acquired in the summer, as well as overnight sailing trips for students who have completed year one.
As part of our commitment to our community, students are required to volunteer with a local organization for a minimum of 12 hours per year. Although their preferences will be taken into account, we will encourage youth to volunteer for causes with a focus on reducing environmental impact.

Each summer, they will advance to the next sailing course. 10th grade (or year two) students will attend an Intermediate Sailing course at Island Sailing Club (ISC) where they will sail larger boats and earn sailing certifications. In 11th grade (or year three) they attend Coastal Training at ISC, and in 12th grade they will train for their Sailing Instructor Certification at WSC.
Once students enter their junior and senior years, their summer programming also includes classes at the NEXT training center in Vancouver, WA or at New Avenues for Youth in Portland, OR. There they will attend courses for public speaking, creative writing, mock interviews, and resume writing. Students also have the chance to shadow a professional for 3-5 days at their workplace.

During the school year, all students have access to the events, courses, mentorship, and tutoring previously described. Additionally, seniors will receive assistance in applying for their Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) which is required for most maritime training programs.

Following graduation, students who have completed at least their junior and senior years with us will be eligible for a S2C scholarship to attend community college courses in a corresponding field of study (up to four quarters of Maritime studies or Marine Science). Youth also have the option to join the Job Corps Seamanship Program at Tongue Point in Astoria, OR, and will have

support in applying. If neither of the previous two options are to their liking, they will be assisted in finding an internship for the summer.

The following two pages show a breakdown of the program's services in list form and visually.

Summer - Sailing, Skill Building, and Leadership Opportunities

9th grade - Year One - Beginners Sailing @ Willamette Sailing Club

- Students learn the basics of sailing and racing, water navigation, how to tie knots, and explore the Willamette River via small boats.

10th grade - Year Two - Intermediate Sailing @ Island Sailing Club

- Students have the opportunity to sail larger boats, log hours towards their captain's license, and earn certifications (101, 102, or 103) while exploring the Columbia River.

11th grade - Year Three - Coastal Training @ Island Sailing Club

- Staggered 2 weeks of workplace skill building in Portland or Vancouver (public speaking, math tutoring, computer and writing courses, etc.)
- 3-5 days of on-site volunteering with partner organization/company

12th grade - Year Four - Certified Sailing Instructor Training @ Willamette Sailing Club

- Staggered 2 weeks of workplace skill building in Portland or Vancouver (public speaking, resume and cover letter writing, mock interviews, etc.)
- 3-5 days of on-site job shadowing with chosen company

School Year - Mentorship, Recreational Events, Overnight Sailing Trips, Support

- Students are paired with a mentor for the school year ***Mentors are mandatory for year one and will be supplied upon request for years two, three, and four.**
- An academic tutor will be supplied if requested
- One in-person event each month (hiking, sailing, climbing, movie screenings)
- Students will be encouraged to join the HS Sailing team on scholarships
- NauticEd courses will be supplied to increase sailing knowledge outside of summer months and in-person events
- Overnight sailing trips (2-4 days trips to Government Island, St. Helens, Beacon Rock) *must have completed beginner's sailing to participate ***Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors**
- Access to STEM field trips and career fairs
- Volunteer work: students are required to volunteer a minimum of 12 hours per year to participate in programming
- Receive staff assistance to apply for TWIC and/or MMC (Maritime Credentials) ***Seniors**

High School Graduates (Ages 18 -19)

Summer - Internship / Training Program

● Students are set up with an internship or enter the training program at Tongue Point

School Year - Community College Courses (optional)

● Graduates who attended junior AND senior year programming with S2C can take up to 4 quarters of community college courses in a corresponding field of study

Visual of Access Maritime Program

Summer

Year	Summer
Freshmen (Year One)	Beginners Sailing @ Willamette Sailing Club
Sophomores (Year Two)	1. Intermediate Sailing @ Island Sailing Club 2. Siebel Program in Hood River (12 youth)
Juniors (Year Three)	1. Coastal Training @ Island Sailing Club 2. Training Center Courses (public speaking, creative writing, math tutoring)
Seniors (Year Four)	1. Certified Sailing Instructor Training @ Willamette Sailing Club 2. Training Center Courses (public speaking, resume writing, mock interviews)
Graduates (Year Five)	Internship **OR** Training Program

School Year

1. Mentorship (Mandatory 1st year)
2. Academic Tutoring
3. Monthly Events (Hiking, Sailing, Climbing, Movie Screenings)
4. NauticEd Online Courses
5. Overnight Sailing Trips ***Year 2+**
6. Volunteer Work (12 hours/year)

1. Mentorship (optional)
2. Academic Tutoring
3. Monthly Events (Hiking, Sailing, Climbing, Movie Screenings)
4. NauticEd Online Courses
5. Overnight Sailing Trips
6. Volunteer Work (12 hours/year)
7. Assistance with TWIC and MMC ***Seniors**

OR

Max. 4 quarters of community college courses in maritime or marine science