

EDJRD Community Recreation Center Feasibility Study Community Engagement

Workshop 02 | Date 02.11.26



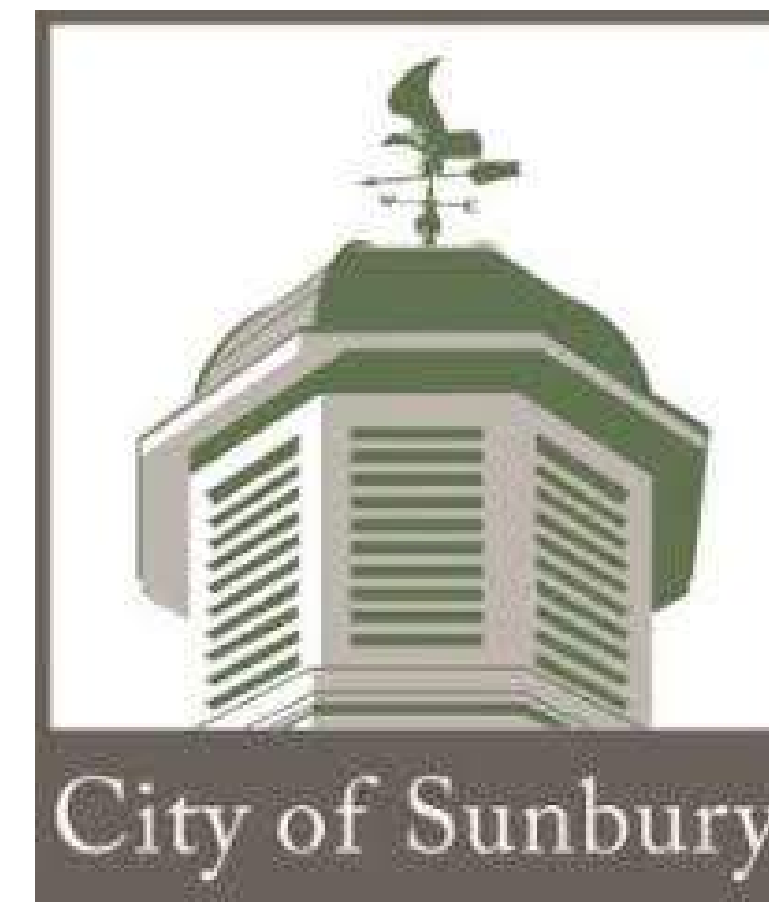
WORKSHOP GOALS

This Feasibility Study is as much a process as it is a final deliverable. **Community Engagement is the primary driver for the study.** Our process is focused on listening, validating issues and concerns, while facilitating a process that is focused on common goals.

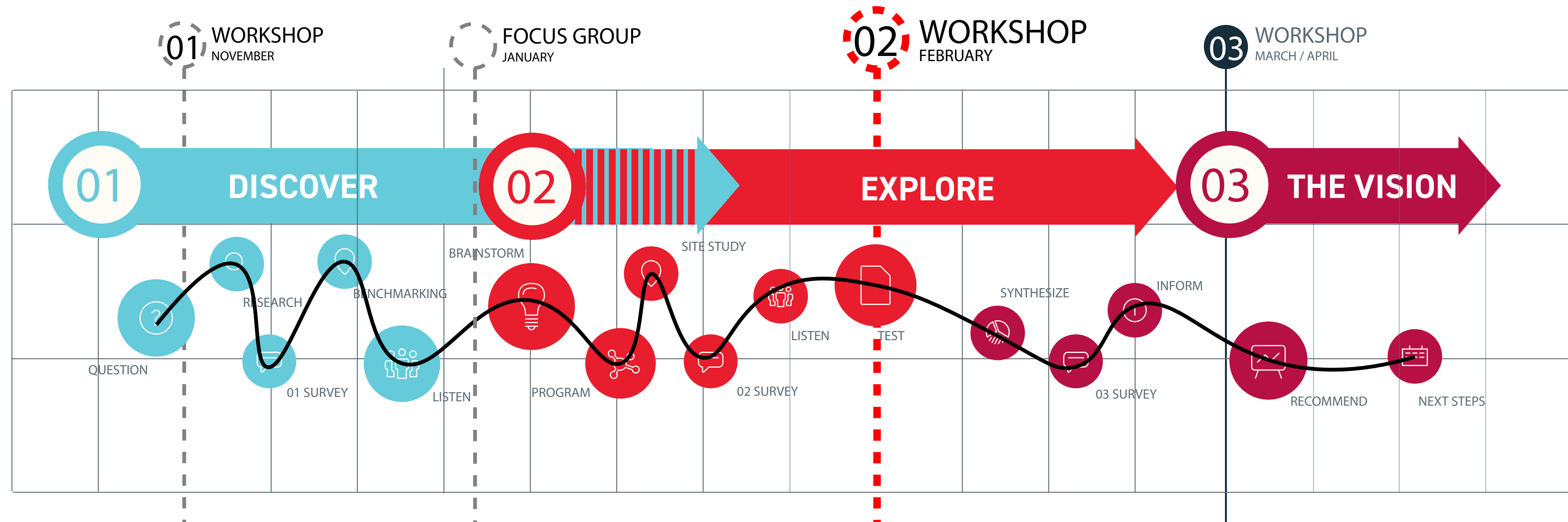
Primary objective is to determine the feasibility of building a new Community Recreation Center within the Eastern Delaware Joint Recreation District (EDJRD).

The feasibility study will collect data and explore options focusing on:

- Financial Feasibility (Capital Operational)
- Site feasibility (Location, size, accessibility, utilities)
- Programming (What should the project include, size)
- Public Perception (does the community want this)
- Transparent, Open Process / Approach



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Workshop 01 - What we heard:

- Open discussion was largely supportive of the concept of a community center
- Family oriented facility that meets the needs of the entire community
- Flexibility and expansion should be considered - challenged to plan ahead to ensure enough land is available to meet the community and recreation needs of the area

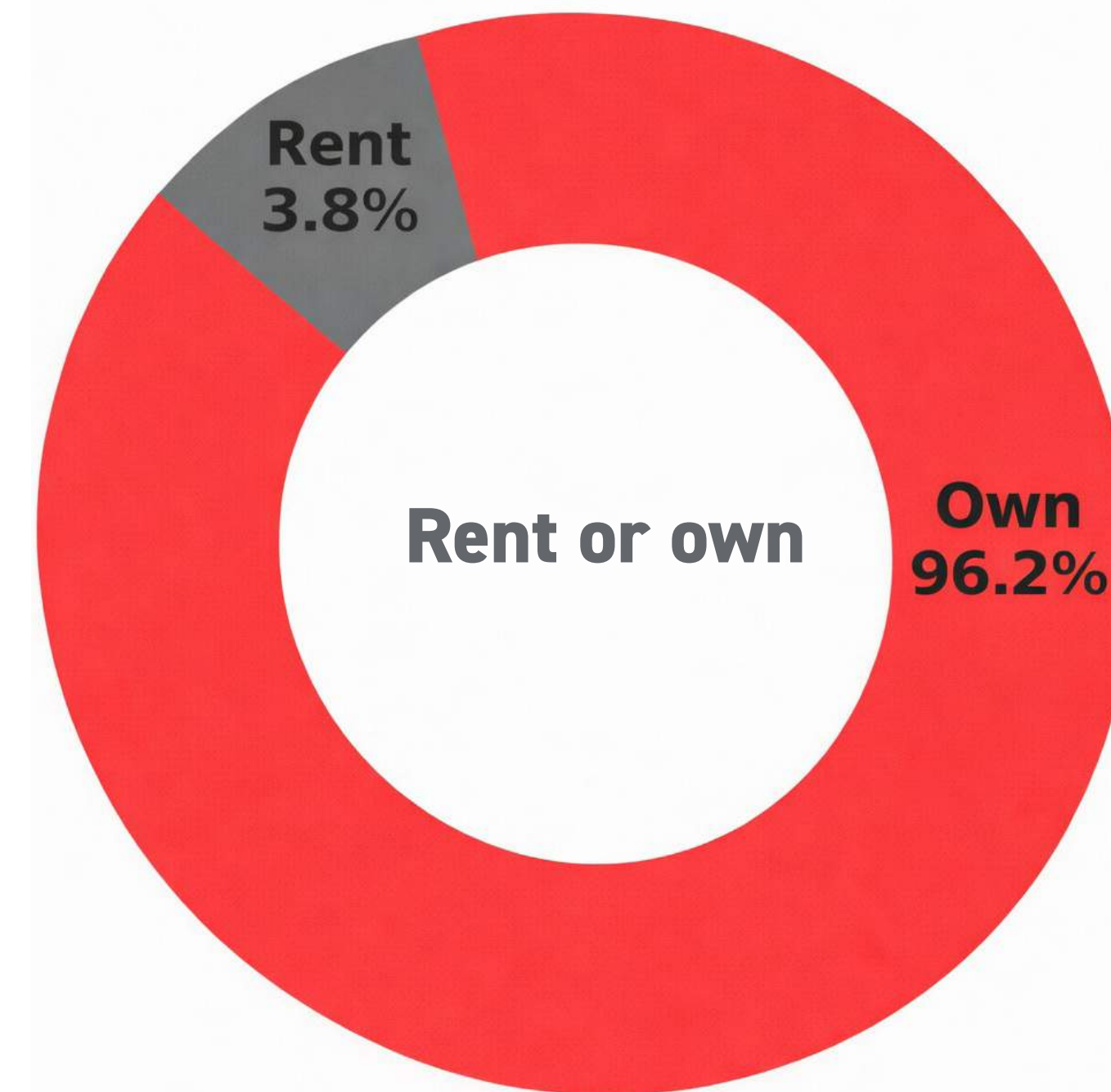
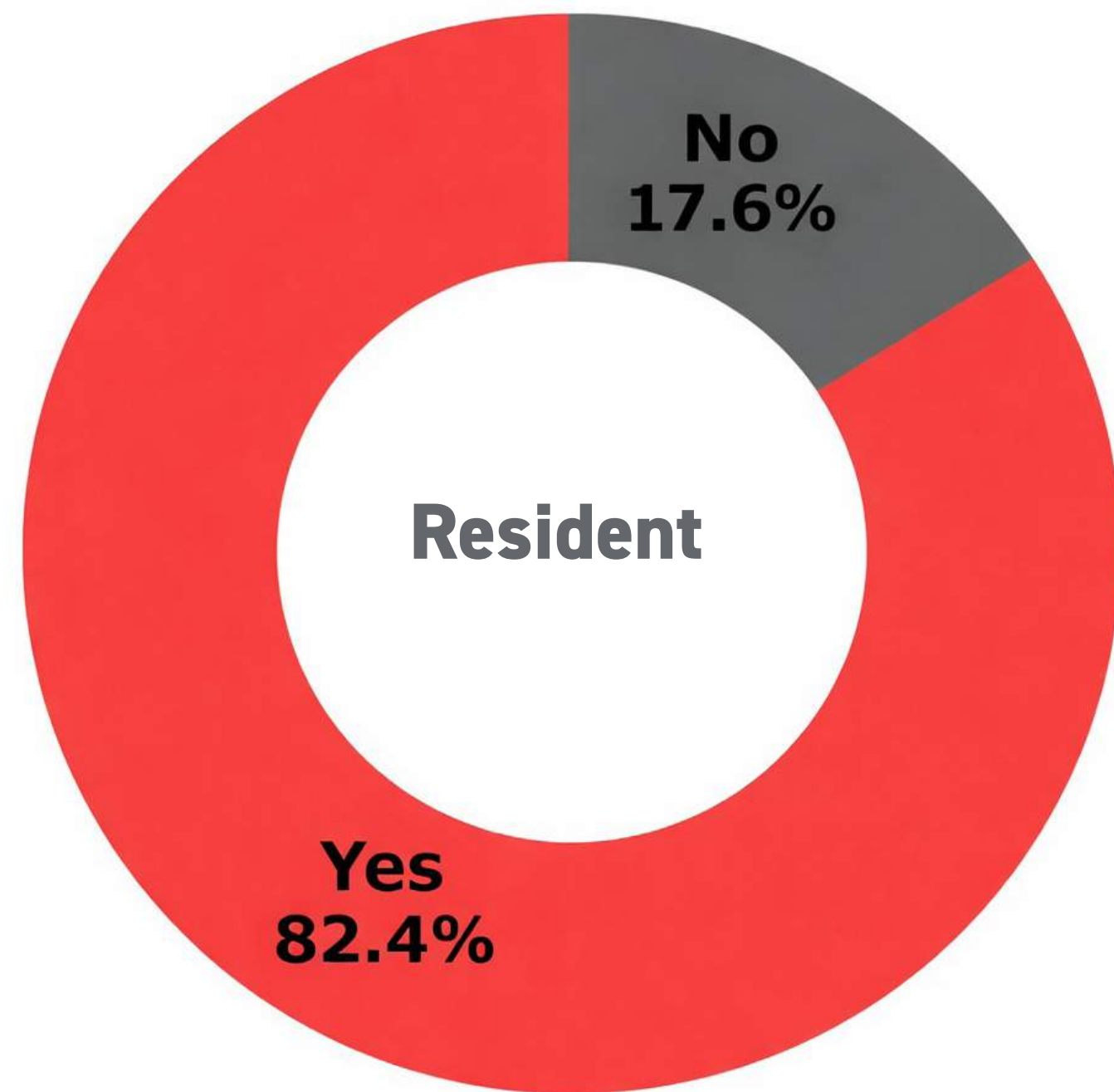
ONLINE SURVEY

Posted November 2025 - January 2026

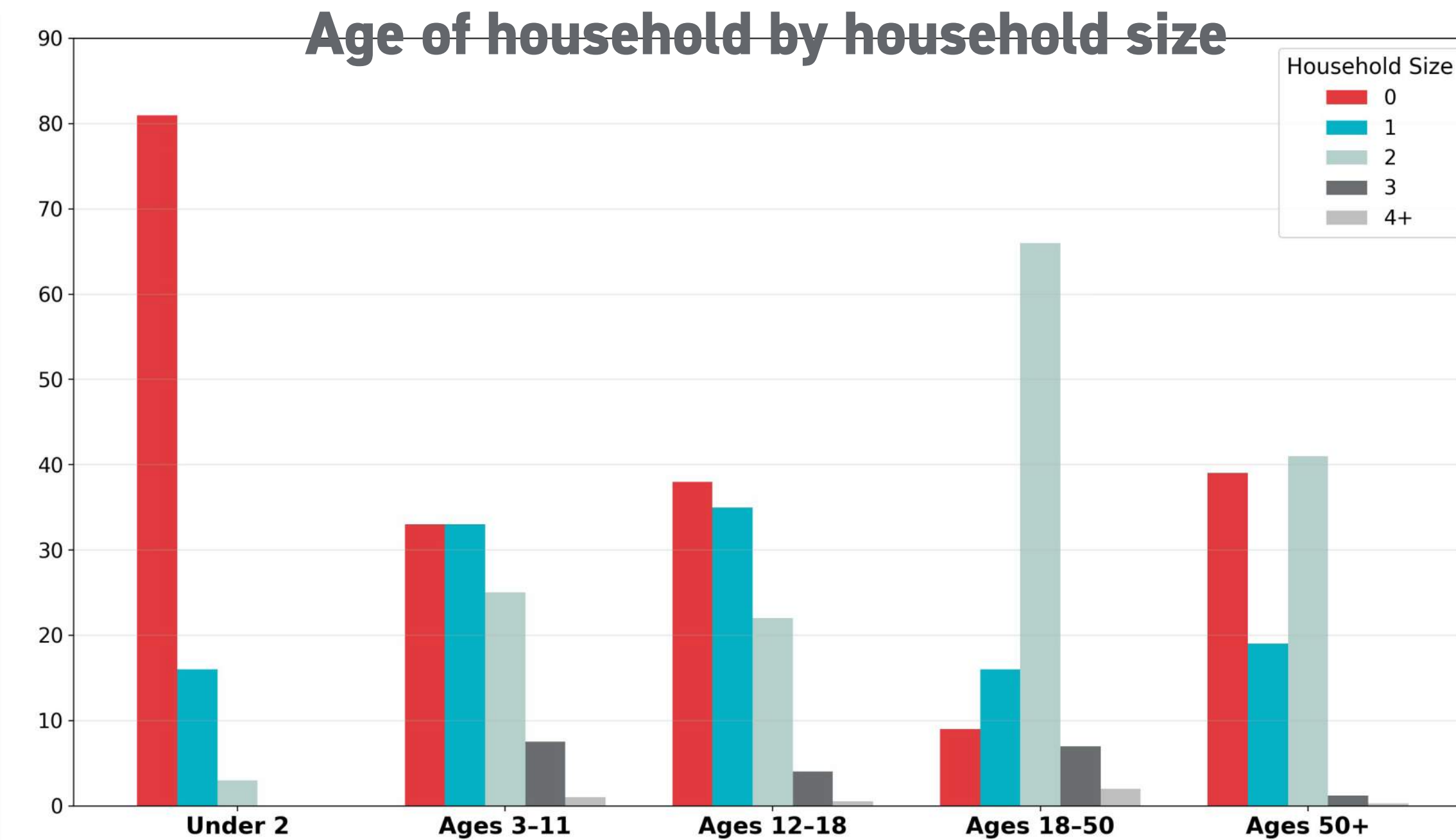
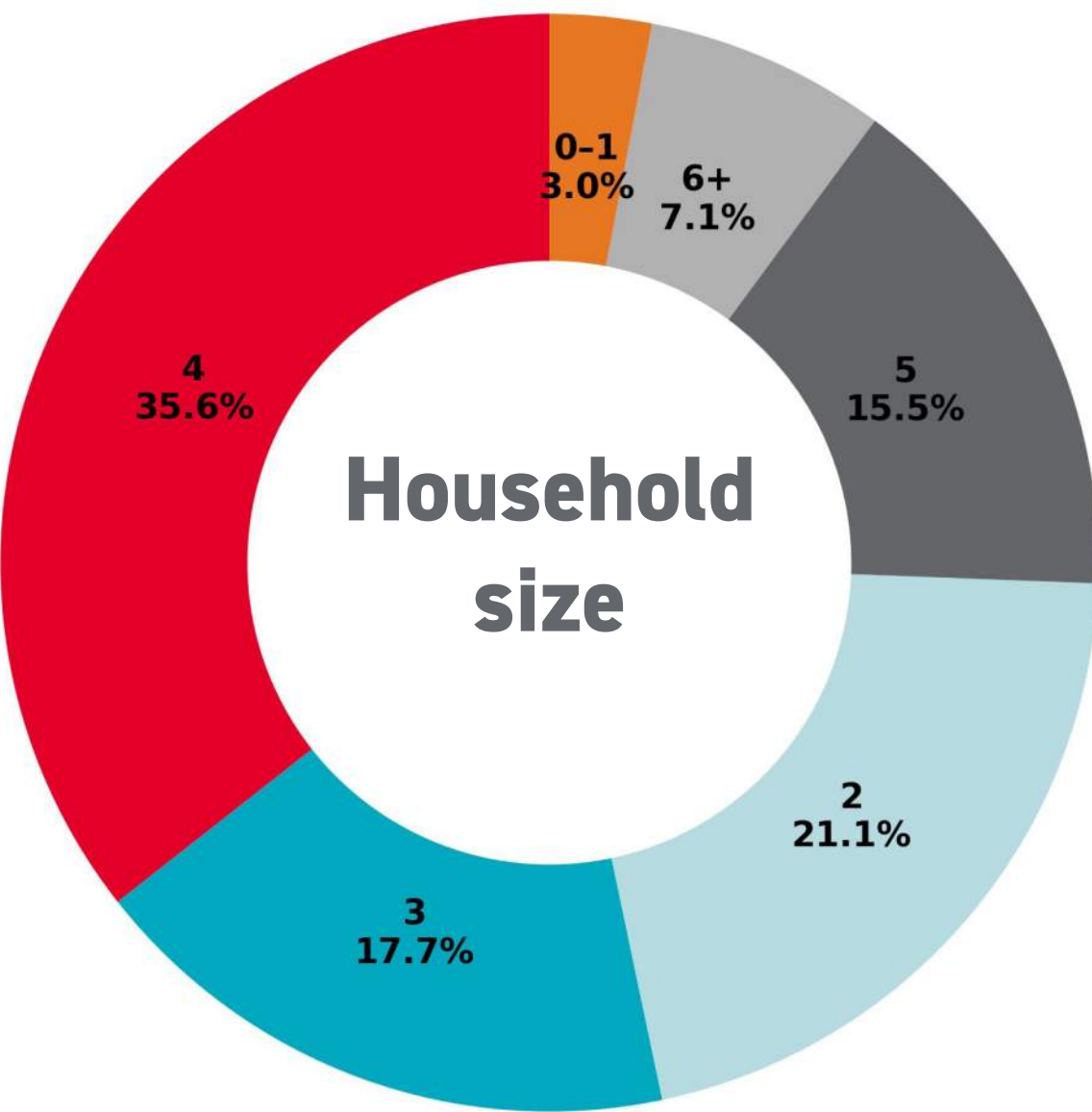
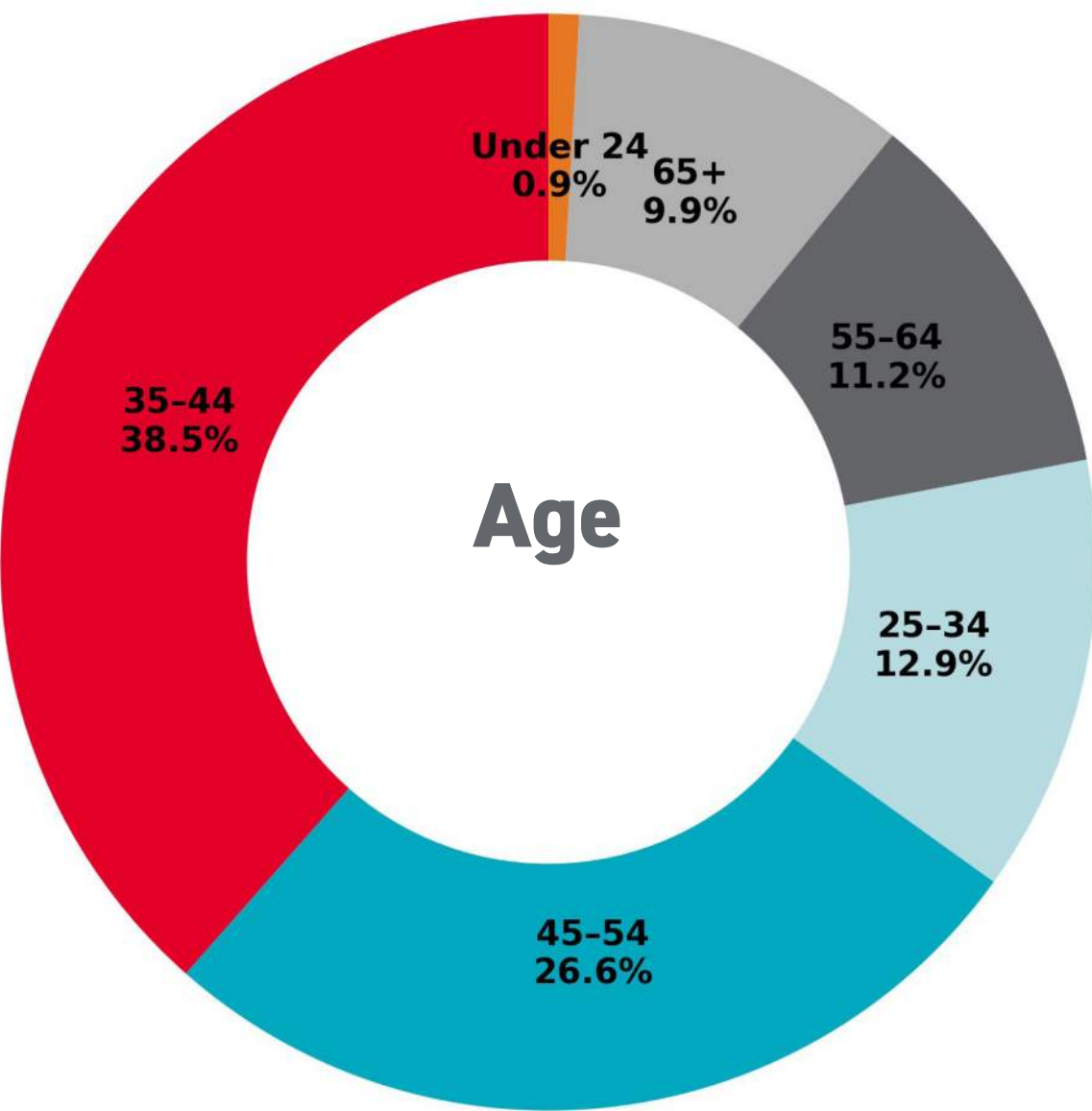
1,430 Participants



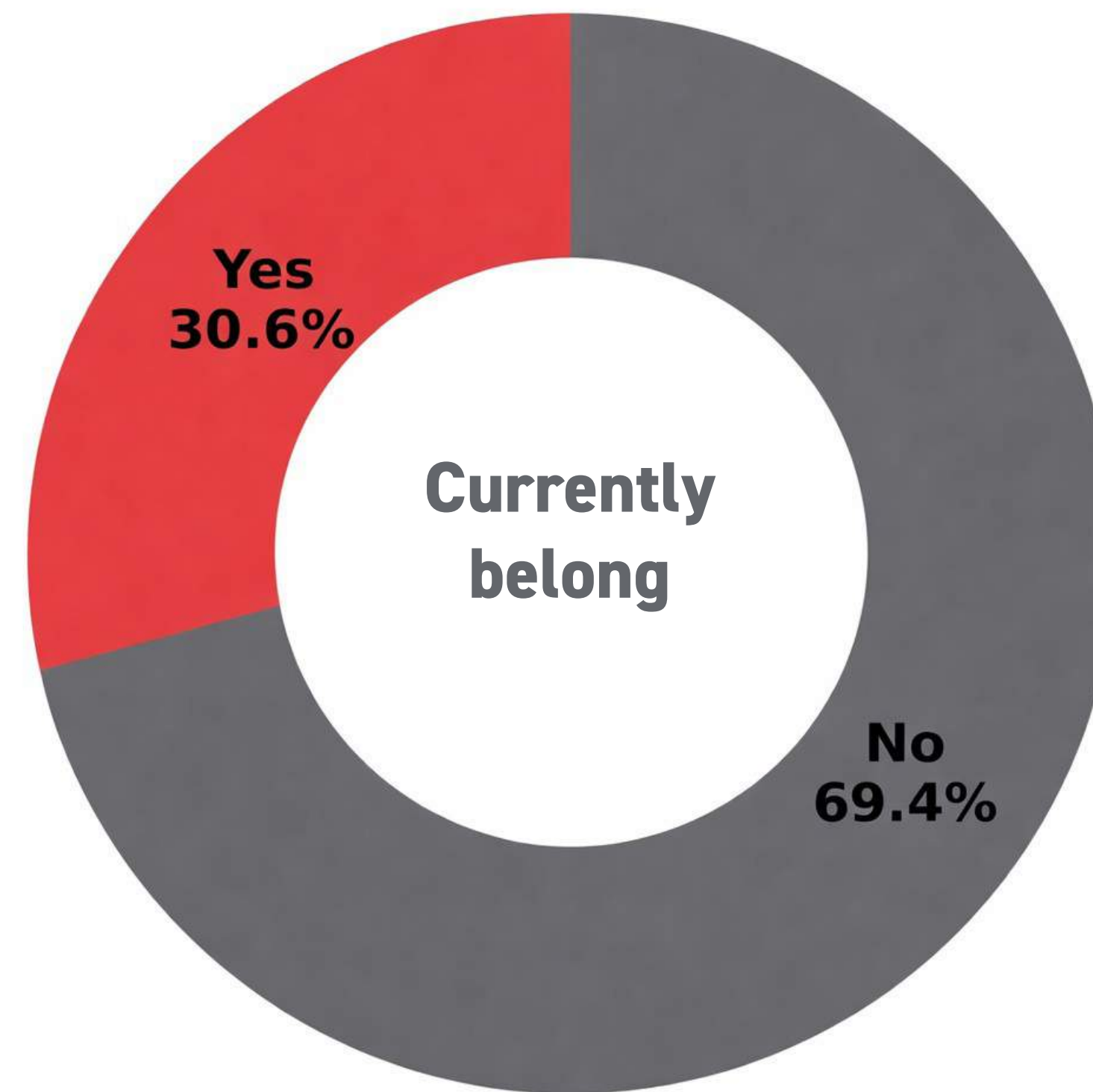
Resident of Berkshire Township, the Village of Galena, or the City of Sunbury



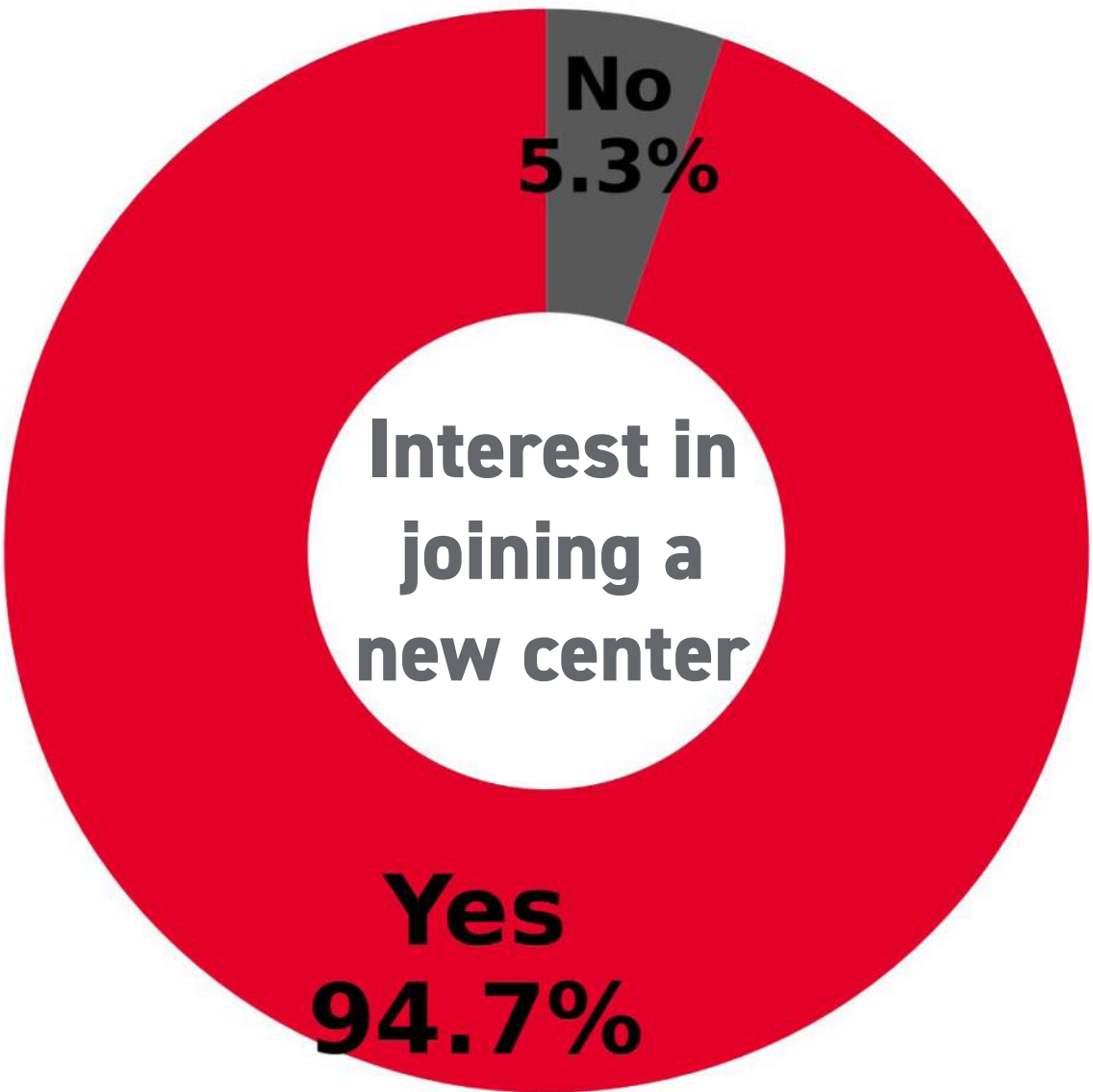
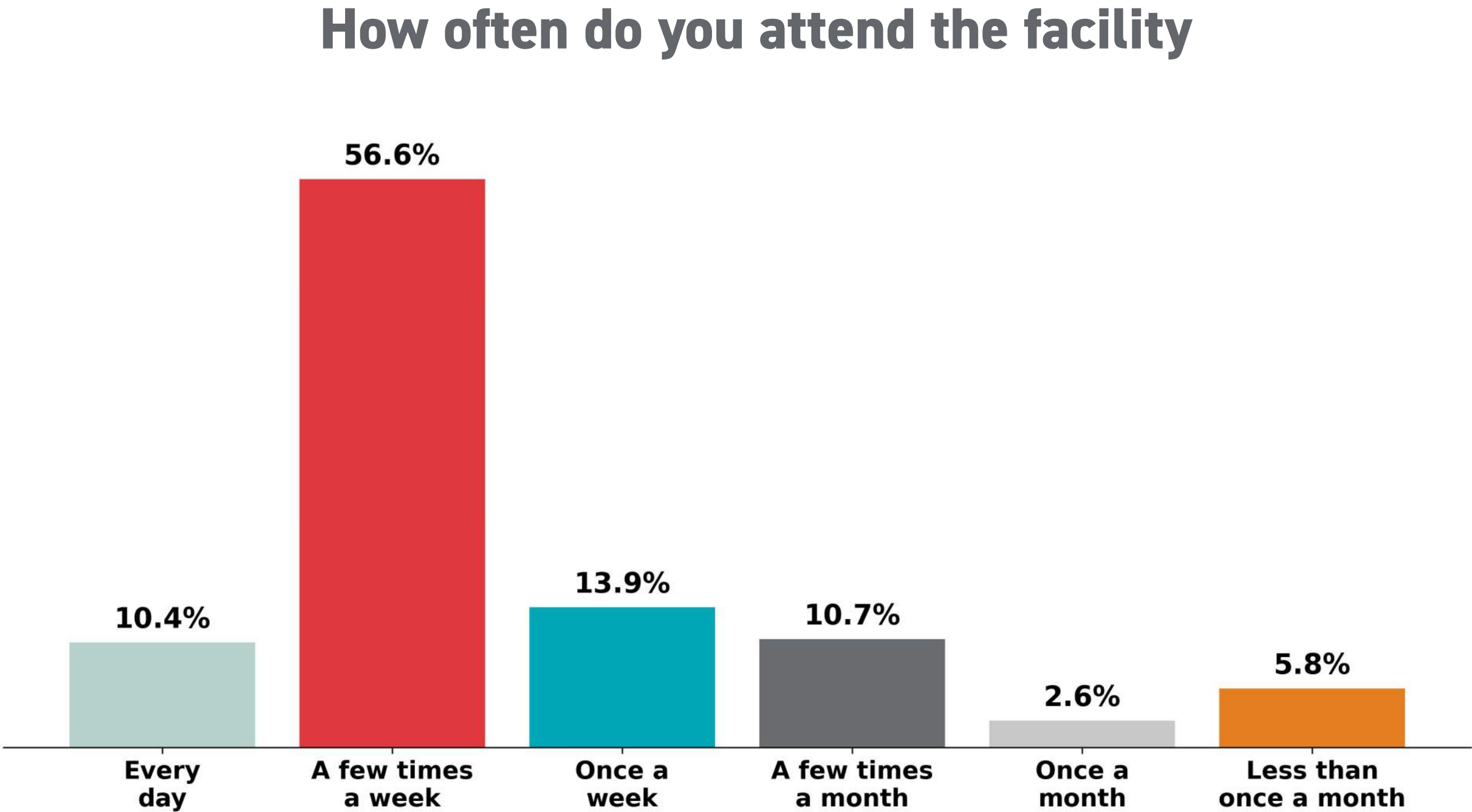
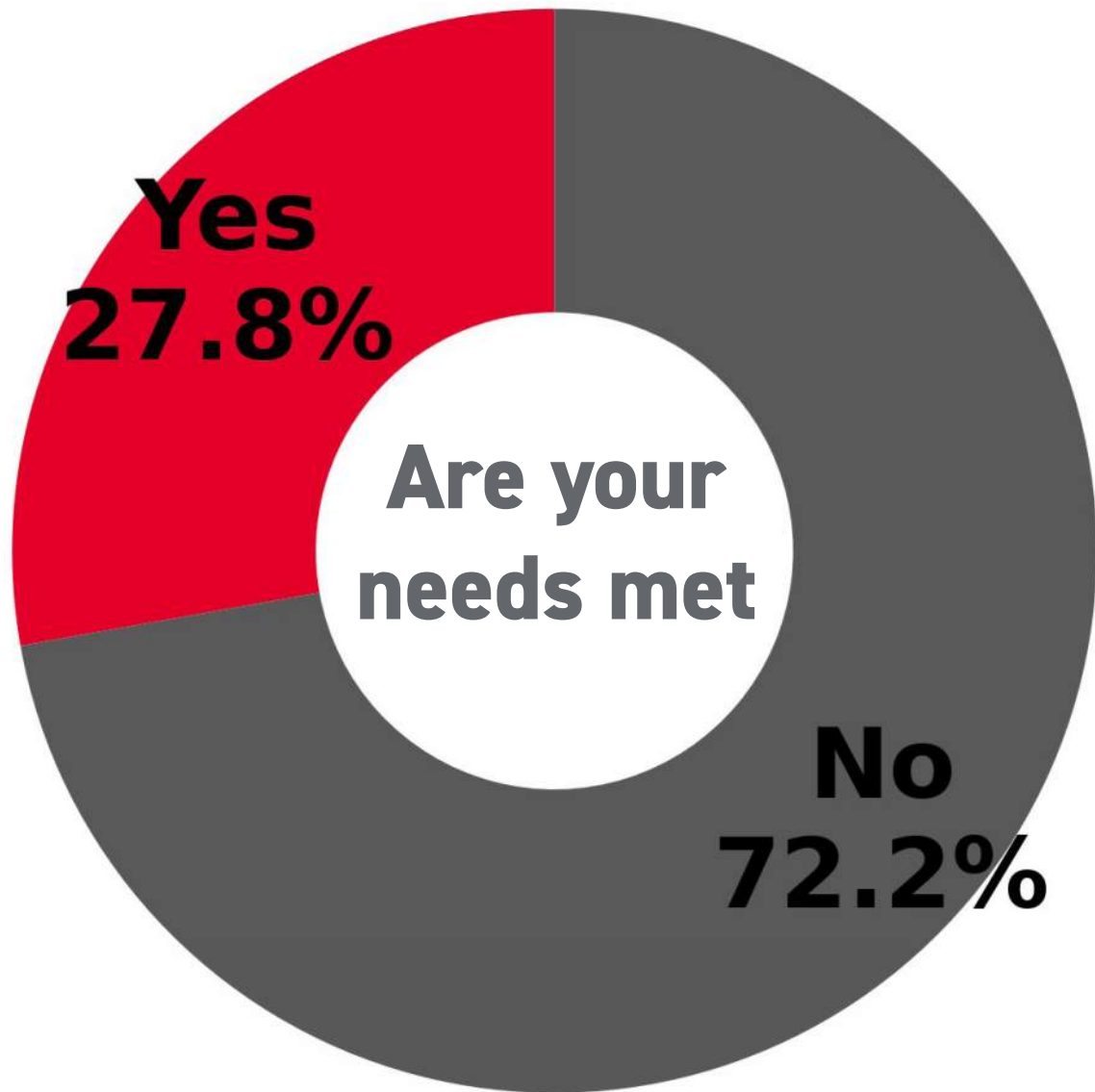
Demographics of participant and household



**Do you and/or your household currently belong to a recreation,
fitness, or community center**

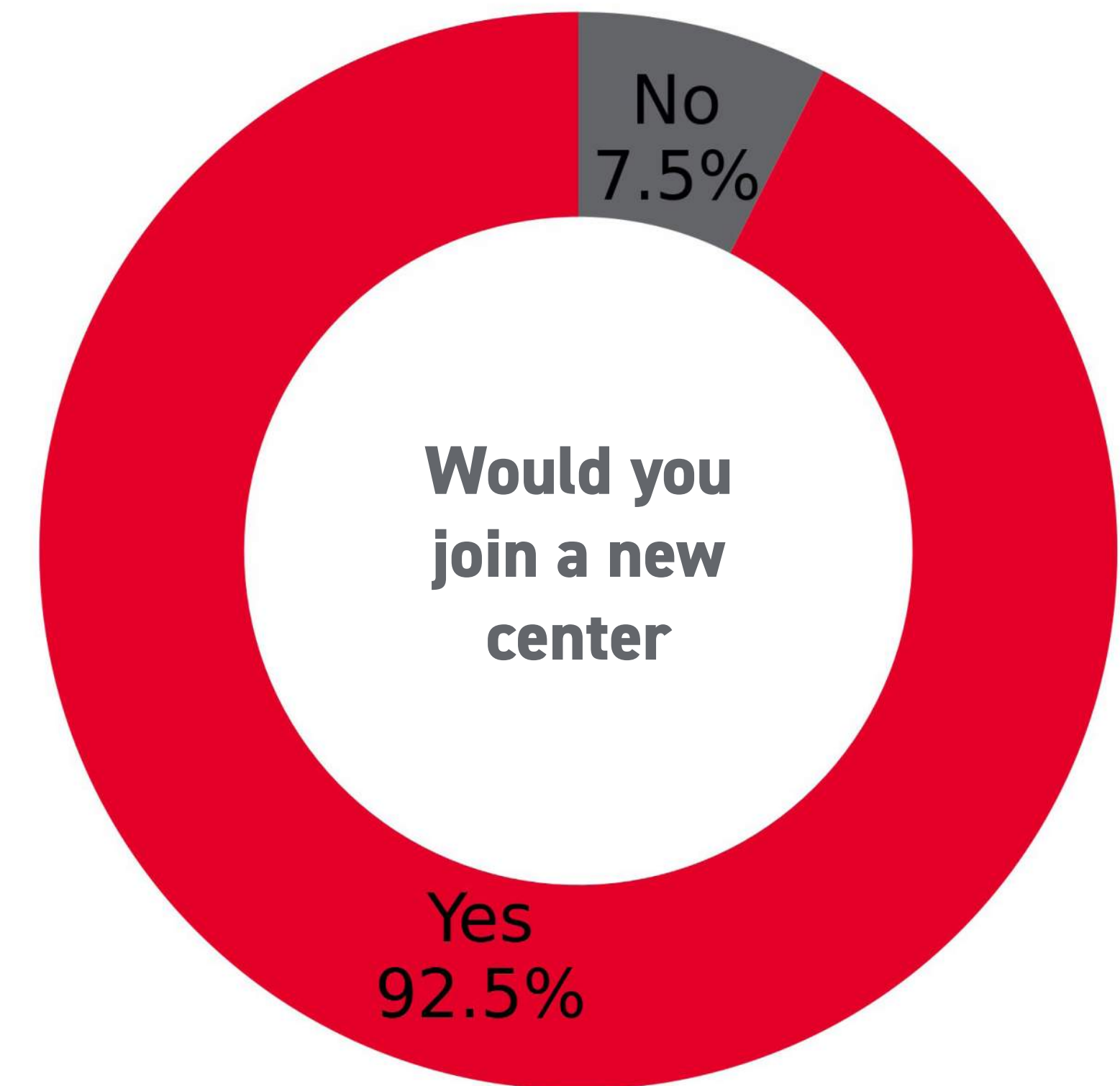
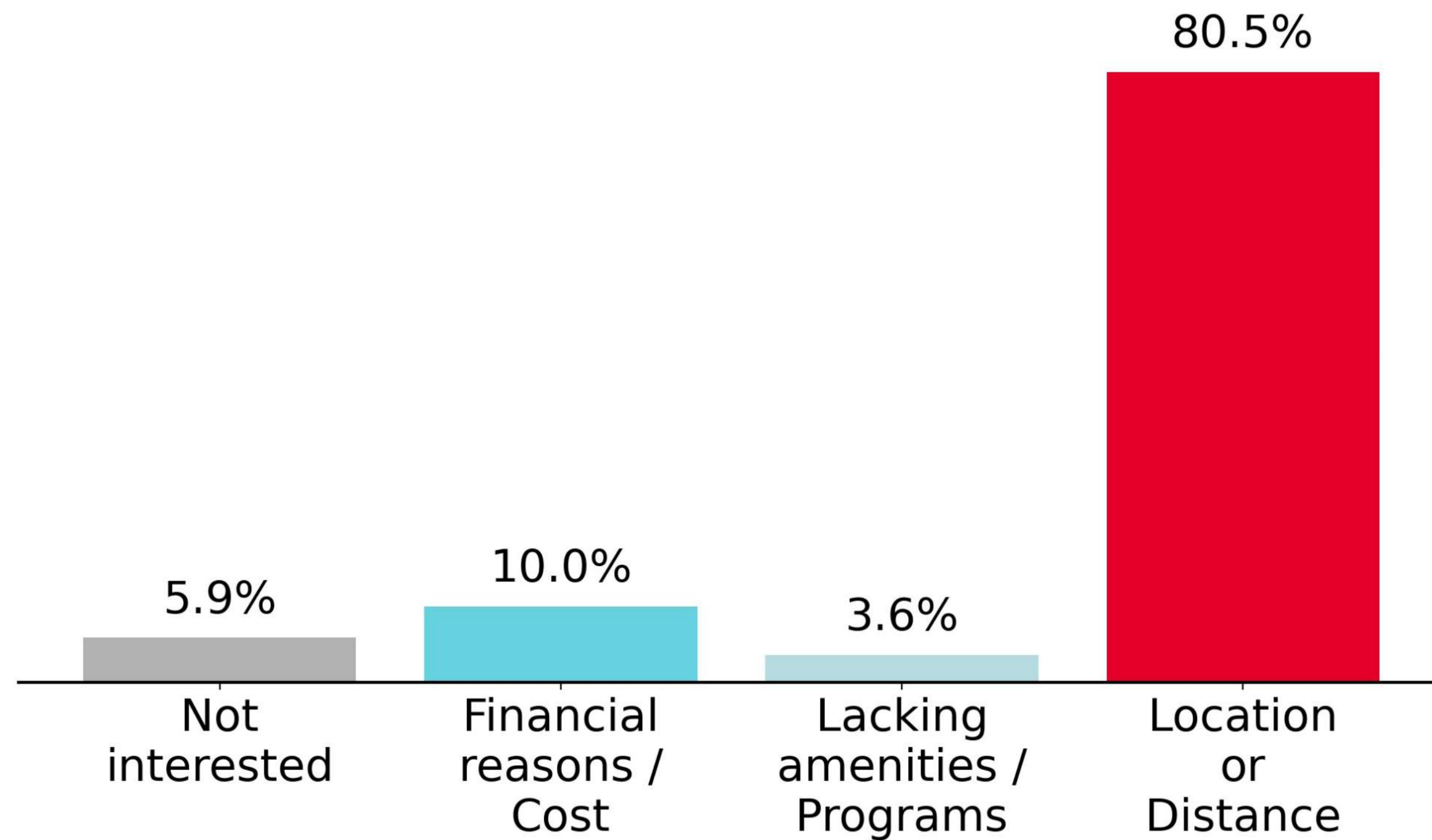


Currently belong to a center



DO NOT currently belong to a center

What has prevented you from joining?



Ranking of community center amenities

Tier 1 Core Expectations Highest Priority	Tier 2 Community Enhancers High Priority	Tier 3 Targeted Amenities Moderate Priority	Tier 4 Limited Demand Lower Priority	Tier 5 Lowest Priority Minimal Demand
• Cardio fitness equipment • Strength training equipment • Indoor leisure pool • Family locker rooms & restrooms • Indoor walking track • Program rooms • Outdoor leisure pool • Indoor lap pool	• Indoor wood floor courts • Outdoor walking trails • Multipurpose community / event space • Rubberized indoor courts • Outdoor playground • Outdoor sports fields • Outdoor gathering space	• Indoor play area for kids • Senior social gathering space • Rentable party room • Indoor social gathering space • Outdoor lap pool • Art classroom • Cafe	• Child watch • Demonstration / cooking kitchen • Vending machines • Competitive lap swimming pool	• Billiards area • Remote work space • E-sports / computer room

What other programs and features would you like to see?

Key themes that came up most often:

- **Aquatics is the loudest signal:** indoor pool is repeatedly called a “must,” plus swim lessons (including baby/toddler), lap lanes, water aerobics, and competitive swim needs.
- **Instructor-led fitness is highly desired:** yoga, Pilates, barre, Zumba/Jazzercise, cycling/spin, kickboxing, strength training, stretching/tai chi
- **Sports space—especially indoor turf:** strong interest in indoor turf for year-round training (soccer/baseball/football/lacrosse), plus courts (basketball/volleyball/pickleball) and indoor soccer.
- **More for kids + teens:** requests for safe teen/pre-teen hangout space, after-school programs/clubs, youth sports, and summer camps; kids play areas also repeated.
- **Wellness/recovery amenities:** frequent mentions of sauna/steam room/hot tub, with some interest in spa-style recovery (cold plunge, red light therapy, massage).
- **Arts + community events:** notable demand for a theater/stage/auditorium, along with music programming and community events (markets, movie nights).

Practical Considerations:

- **Affordability:** requests for reasonable rates, resident discounts, and no/low tax impact.
- **Convenience & access:** location near Sunbury, trail connections/walkability, adequate parking, and extended hours.
- **Avoid duplication:** some caution about overlapping offerings with the library and nearby parks.

Partnership opportunities

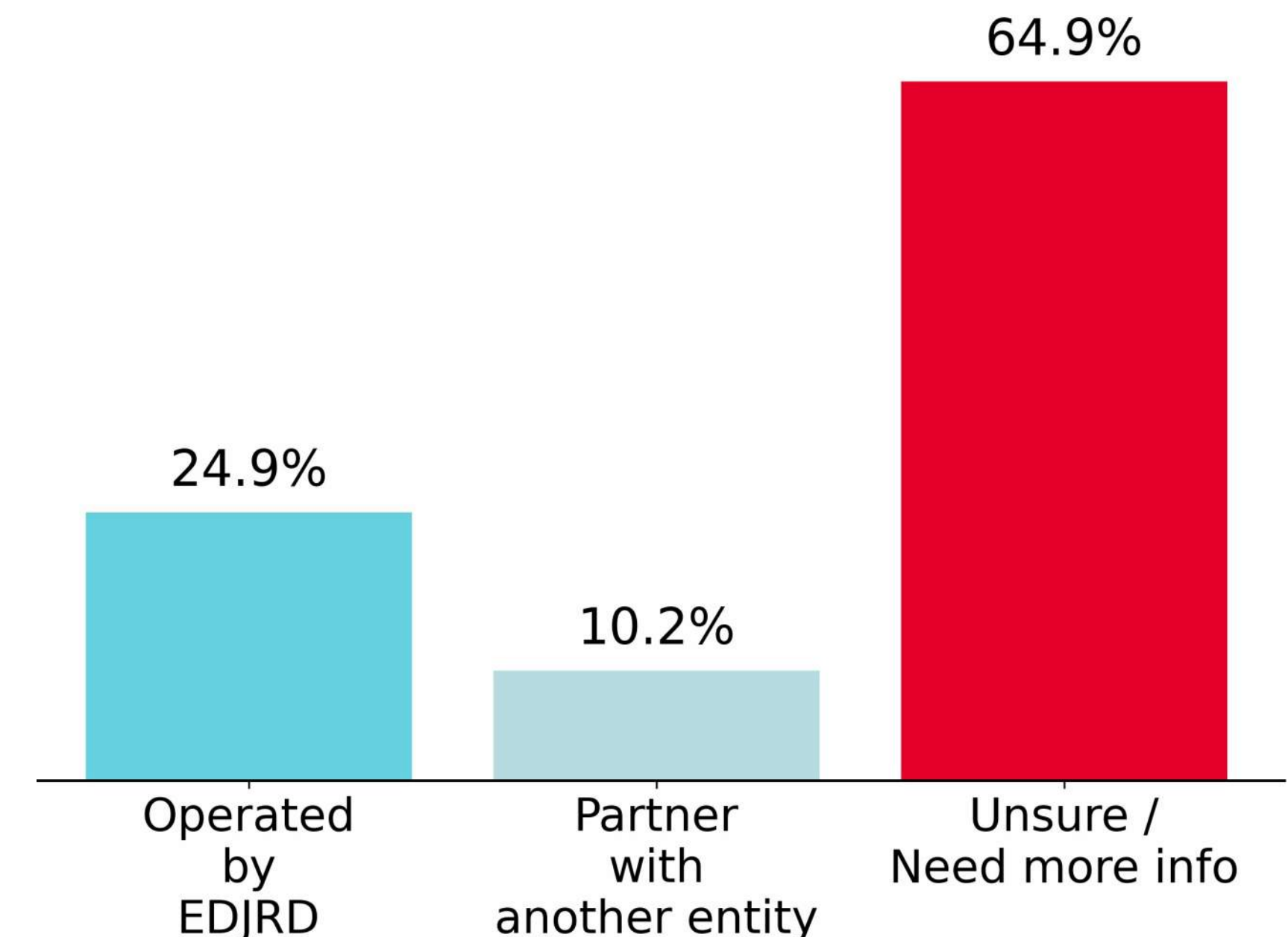
If the community center had a partner, who should they be, or what types of services should they provide?

Respondents most often envision a community center paired with a **health/wellness anchor**—especially PT/rehab and medical outreach—supported by wellness services (massage/nutrition/recovery) and a healthy café, with mixed appetite for a YMCA-operated model.

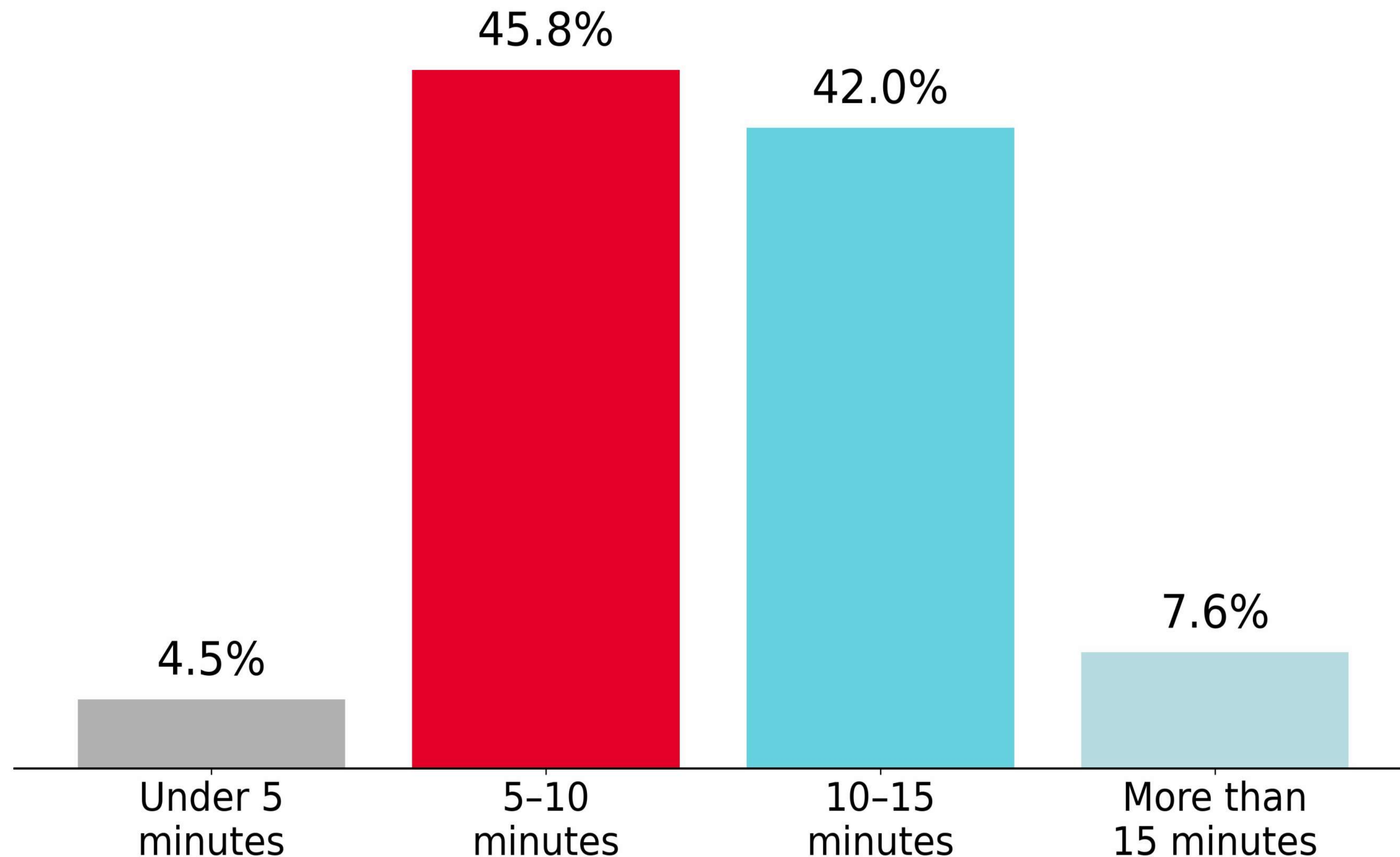
In what ways should the community center partner with other organizations?

Respondents want partnerships that primarily benefit **Big Walnut Schools** and local families—especially by providing a **local pool** for swim/dive teams and lessons, plus shared access to courts/fields for practices, clinics, and tournaments. They also strongly support partnerships that expand **after-school/summer programming and childcare**, add **health/wellness services** (PT, screenings, nutrition), and enable **nonprofits/community groups** to host drives and events—so long as partners don't crowd out residents and ideally help **offset costs through sponsorships or rentals**.

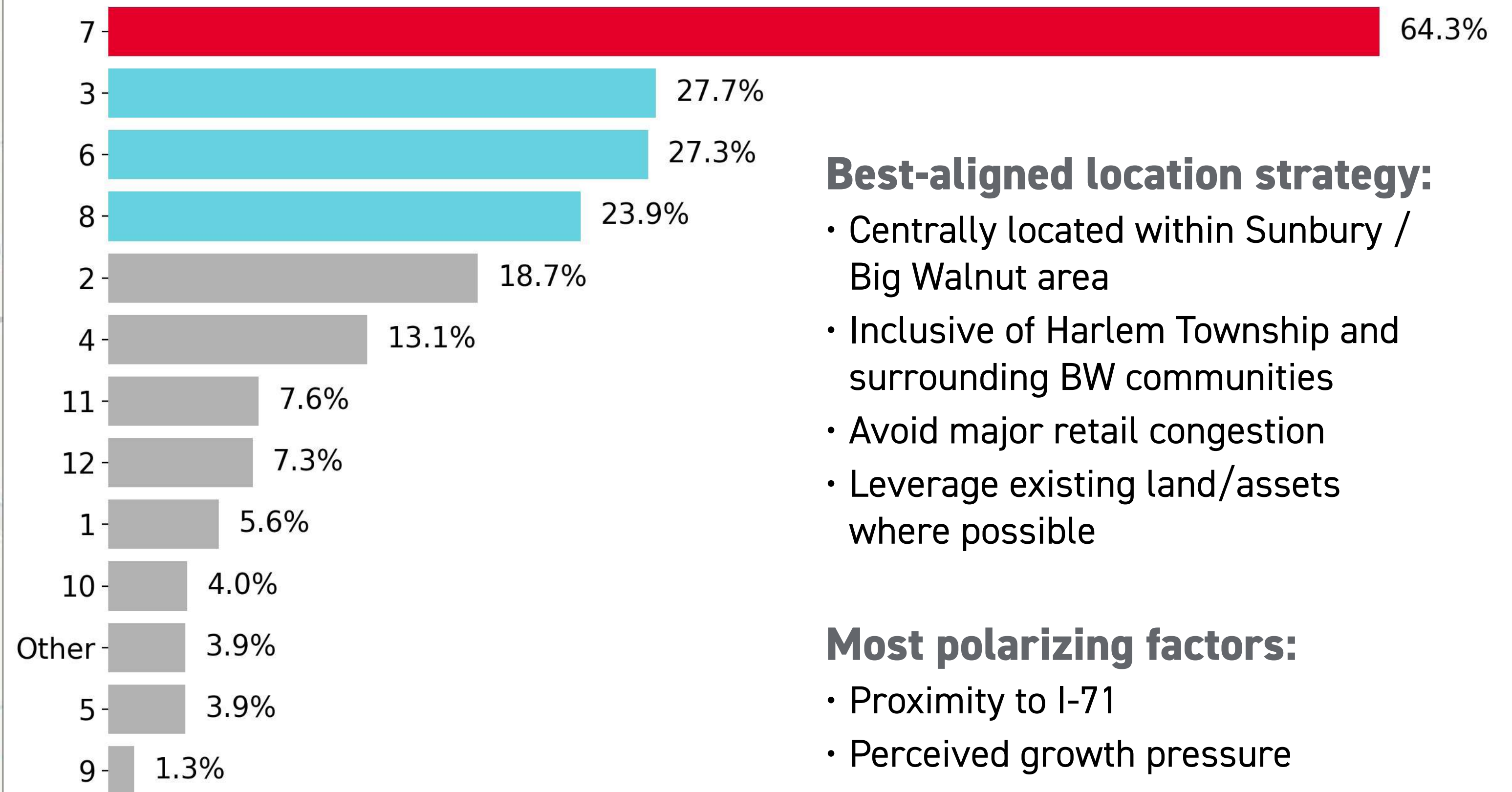
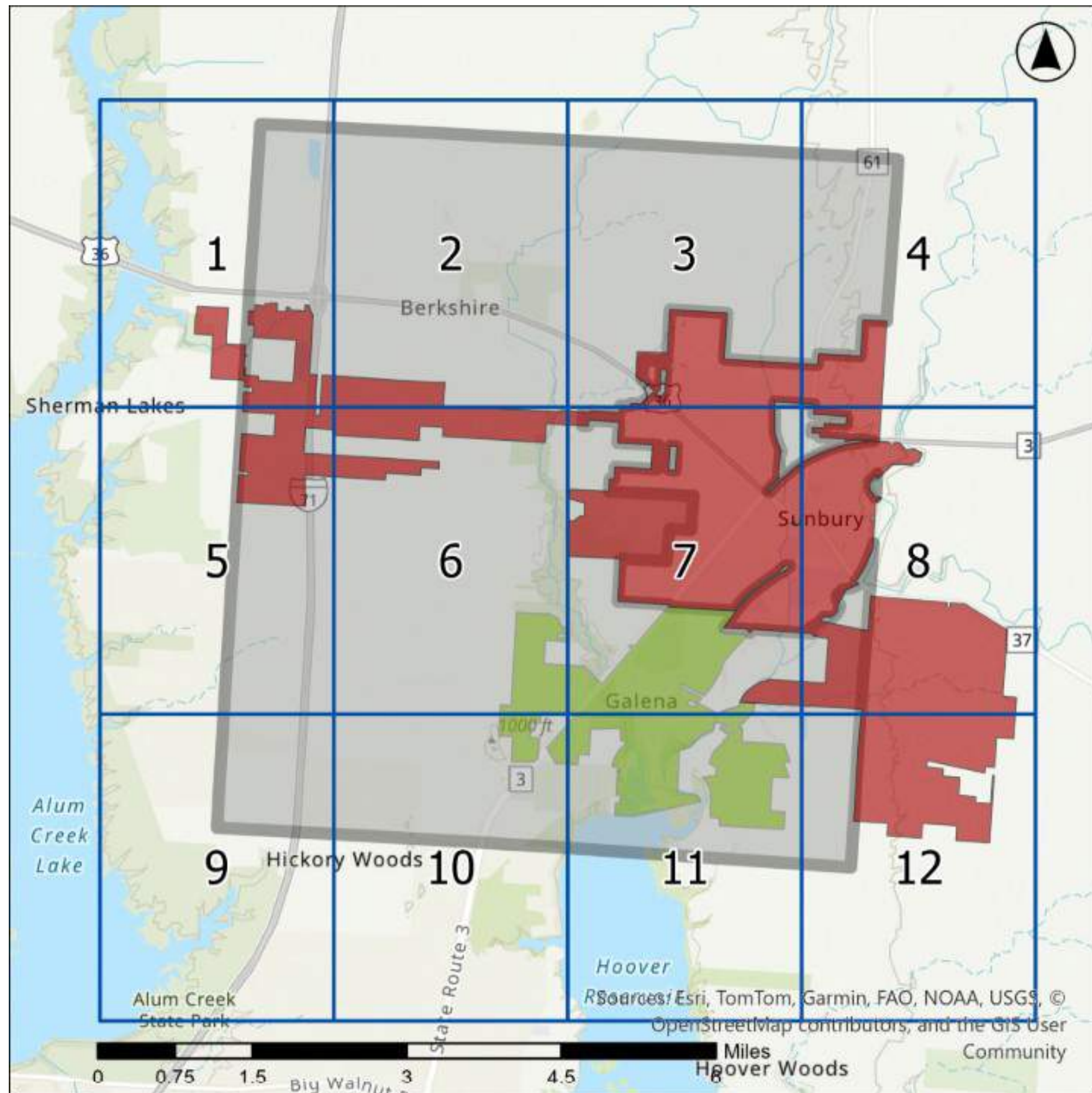
Should the new Community Center be operated by the Eastern Delaware Joint Recreation District or partner with another entity such as the YMCA?



How far would you be willing to drive to utilize this type of facility?



Please indicate your preferred or recommended location for the new community center



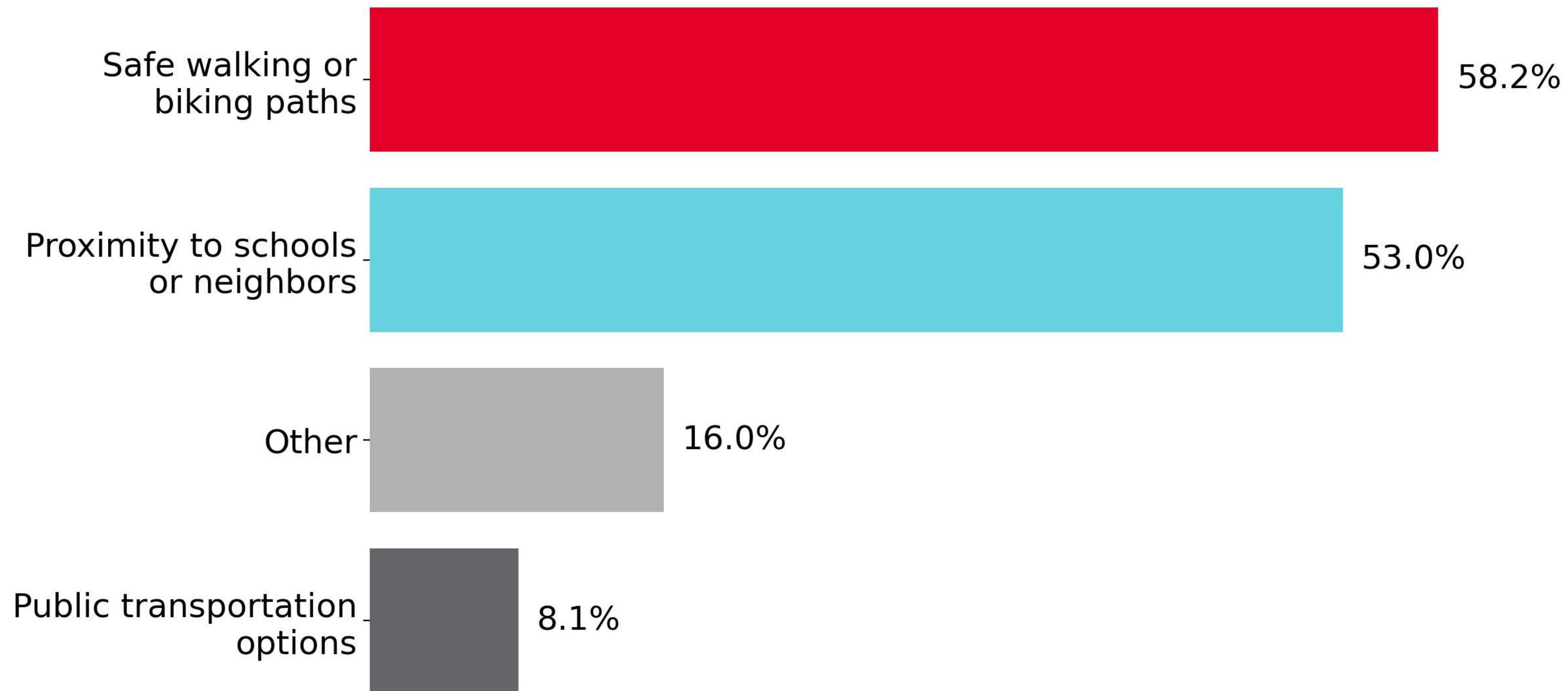
Best-aligned location strategy:

- Centrally located within Sunbury / Big Walnut area
- Inclusive of Harlem Township and surrounding BW communities
- Avoid major retail congestion
- Leverage existing land/assets where possible

Most polarizing factors:

- Proximity to I-71
- Perceived growth pressure
- Public Cost

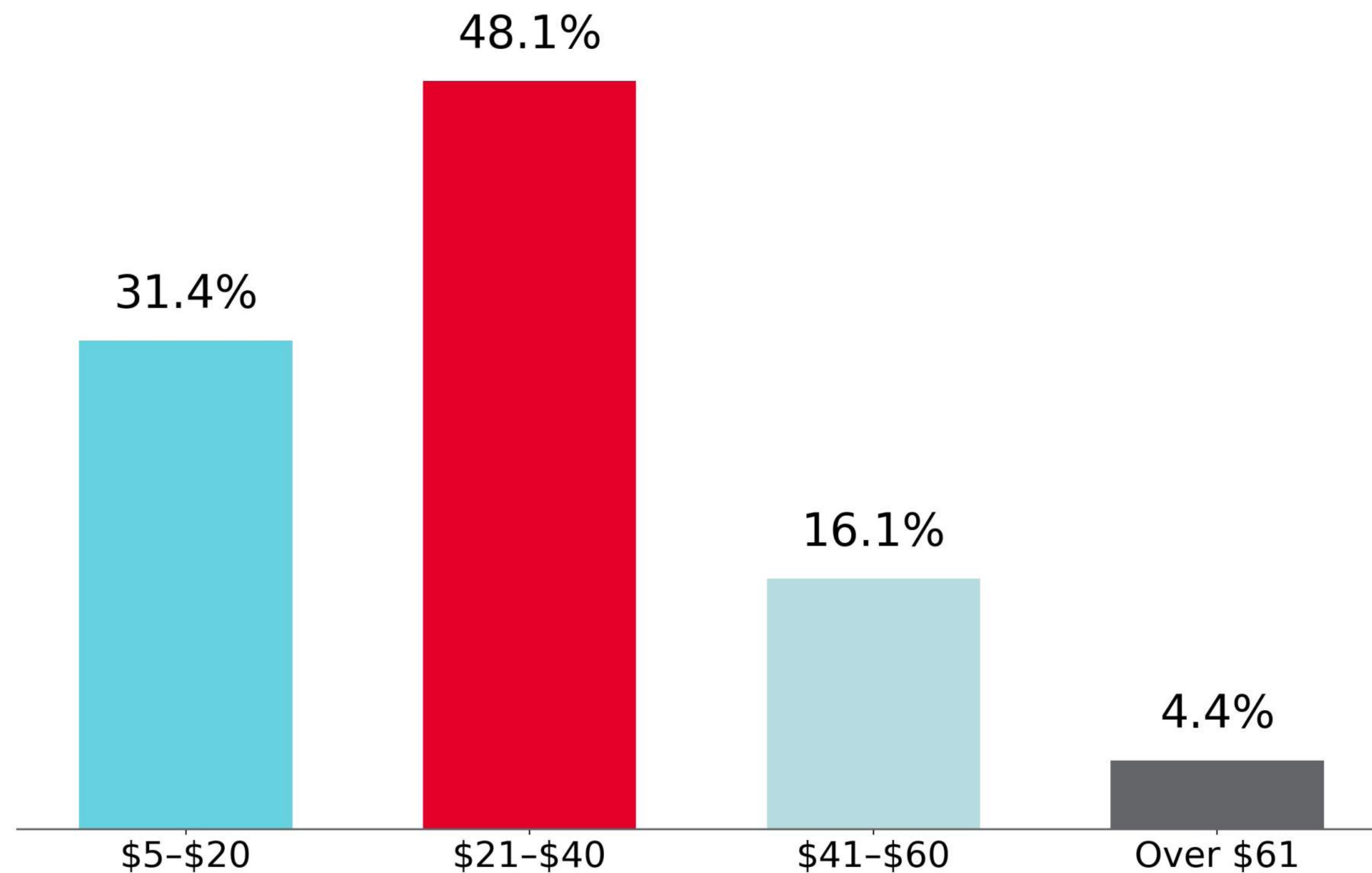
What would make it easier for you and/or your family to access a community center?



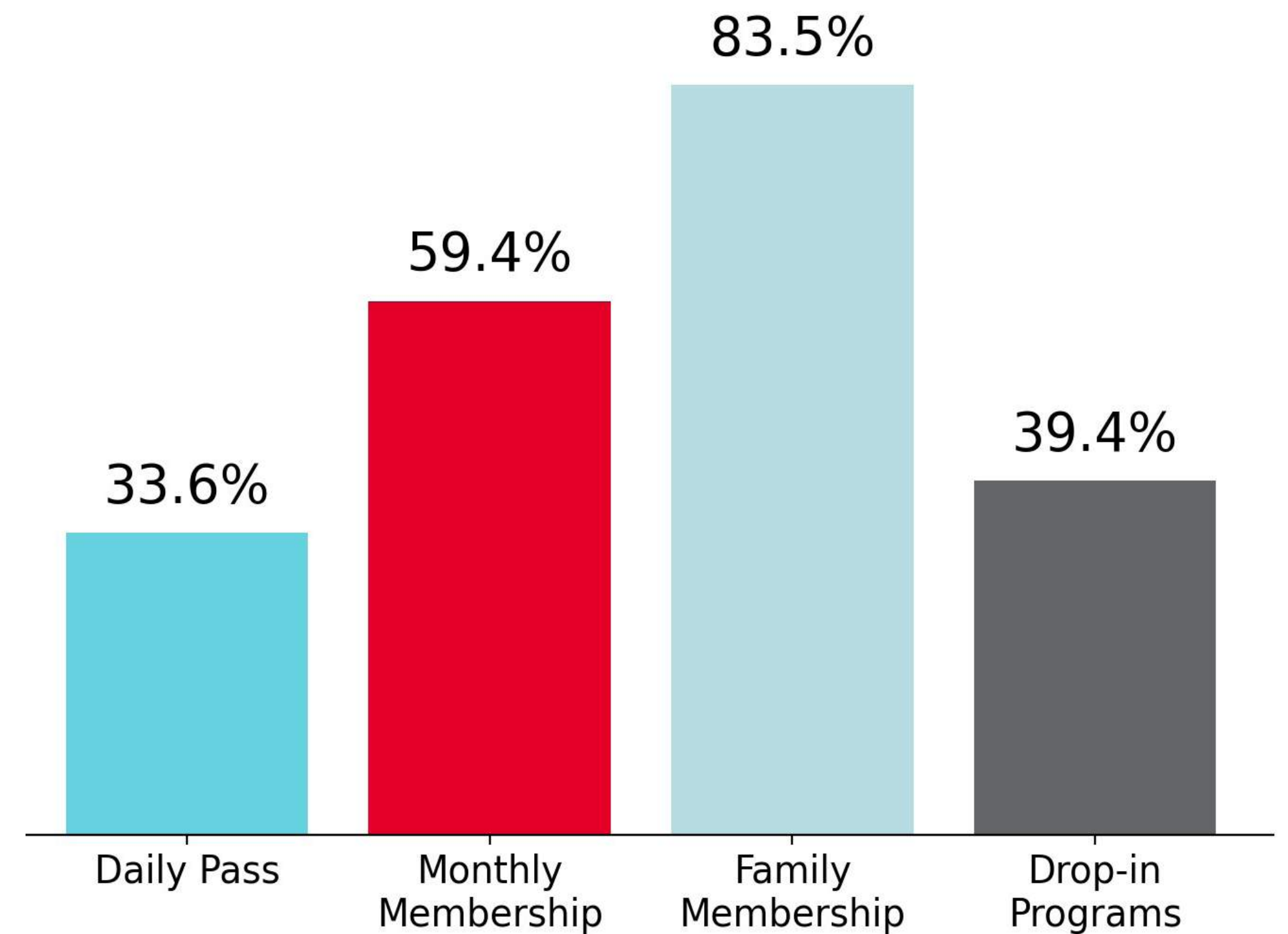
Respondents overwhelmingly prioritized **location and proximity**, preferring the center be **close to home, within Sunbury or nearby areas**, and reachable within **10–15 minutes by car**. **Ample parking, easy road access, and avoiding heavy traffic** were also key concerns, while **affordability and flexible hours** were mentioned as secondary factors.

Membership cost and type

How much would you be willing to pay for a monthly membership (for an individual)?



What type of memberships or program options would you be interested in?



What concerns do you have about the funding for the project?

The overwhelming dominant concern expressed by respondents is **taxes and affordability**. While many people support the idea of a community center in principle—and some are very enthusiastic—support is highly conditional on **how it is funded, how much it costs residents, and whether it becomes an ongoing tax burden**.

At the same time, there is strong agreement that **Sunbury and surrounding areas are underserved** and that a community center could provide real value if done carefully, transparently, and affordably.

Community Identified Guiding Principles

Survey feedback revealed several consistent priorities for a potential community center:

1. Close the Access Gap

Many residents lack nearby recreation options and must drive 20–35 minutes to existing facilities. Proximity is a major factor in participation.

2. Keep It Affordable and Inclusive

Affordability was one of the strongest themes. Residents want resident discounts, sliding-scale or scholarship options, senior-friendly pricing, and programs accessible to families of all income levels.

3. Serve All Ages

There is strong support for a multigenerational center that intentionally serves children and teens, adults and families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

4. Focus on Core Amenities

Aquatics—especially an indoor lap pool and family-friendly pool options—were the most requested feature, alongside fitness equipment, courts, and group wellness programs.

5. Plan for Growth

Residents want a facility sized for future population growth, built with durability in mind, and informed by lessons from successful peer communities.

6. Choose Location Carefully

Location should balance access, traffic impacts, safety, and proximity to growth areas, schools, trails, and other community assets.

7. Fund Transparently and Sustainably

There is strong interest in clear oversight, long-term operational sustainability, and exploring partnerships and grants to limit tax burden.

8. Reflect Sunbury's Character

The center should strengthen community identity and feel welcoming, practical, and aligned with Sunbury's small-town character.

GROUP ACTIVITY



GROUP ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Obtain feedback on the Community's preference for the right **balance of program amenities** and **overall project size and cost**

Understand the Community's **priorities** for programs and amenities

Project size will be used to help determine **site selection** criteria

BENCHMARKING

“SMALL”



**LINDEN
COMMUNITY
CENTER**

50,000 SF

“MEDIUM”



**DELAWARE
COMMUNITY
CENTER YMCA**

72,000 SF

“LARGE”

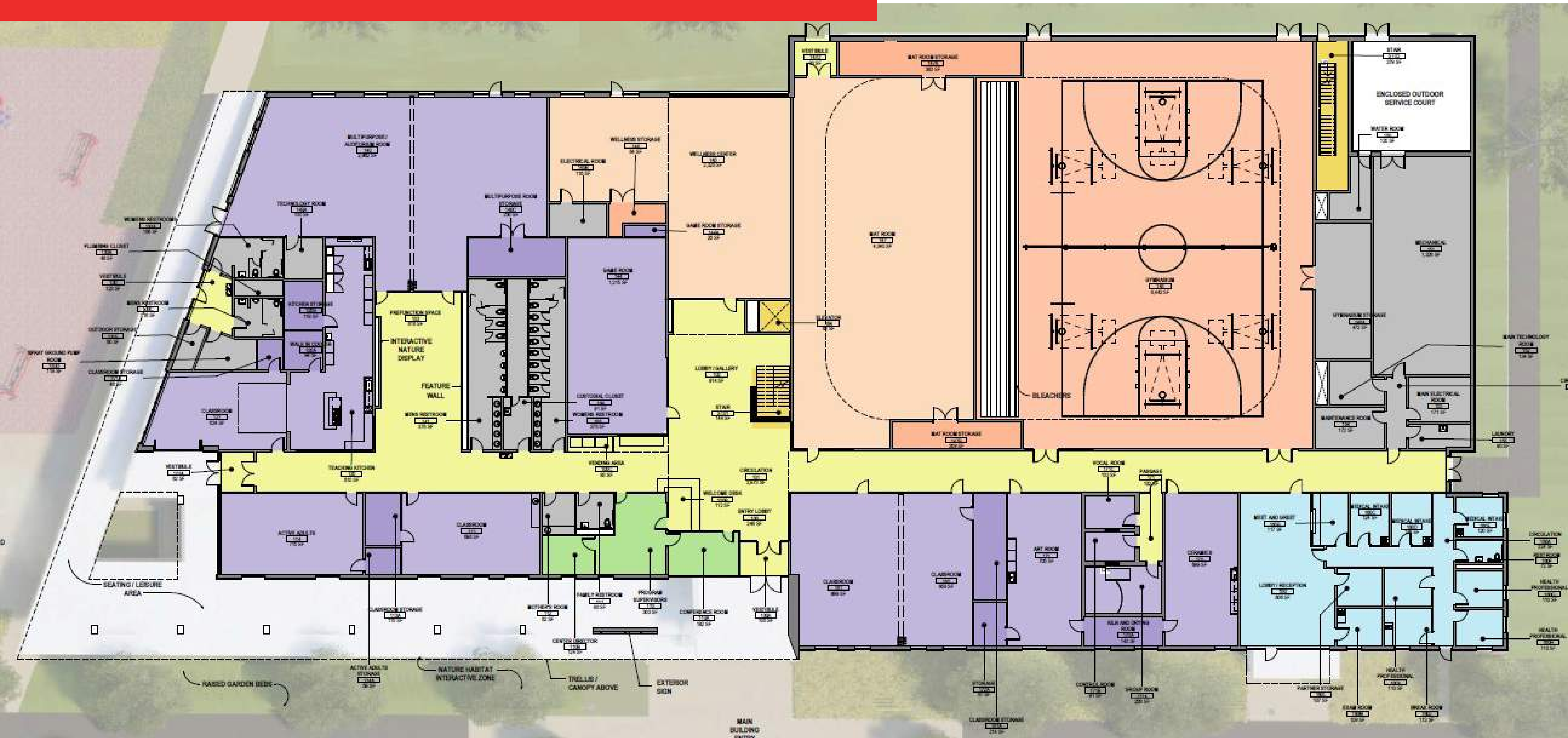


**WESTERVILLE
COMMUNITY
CENTER**

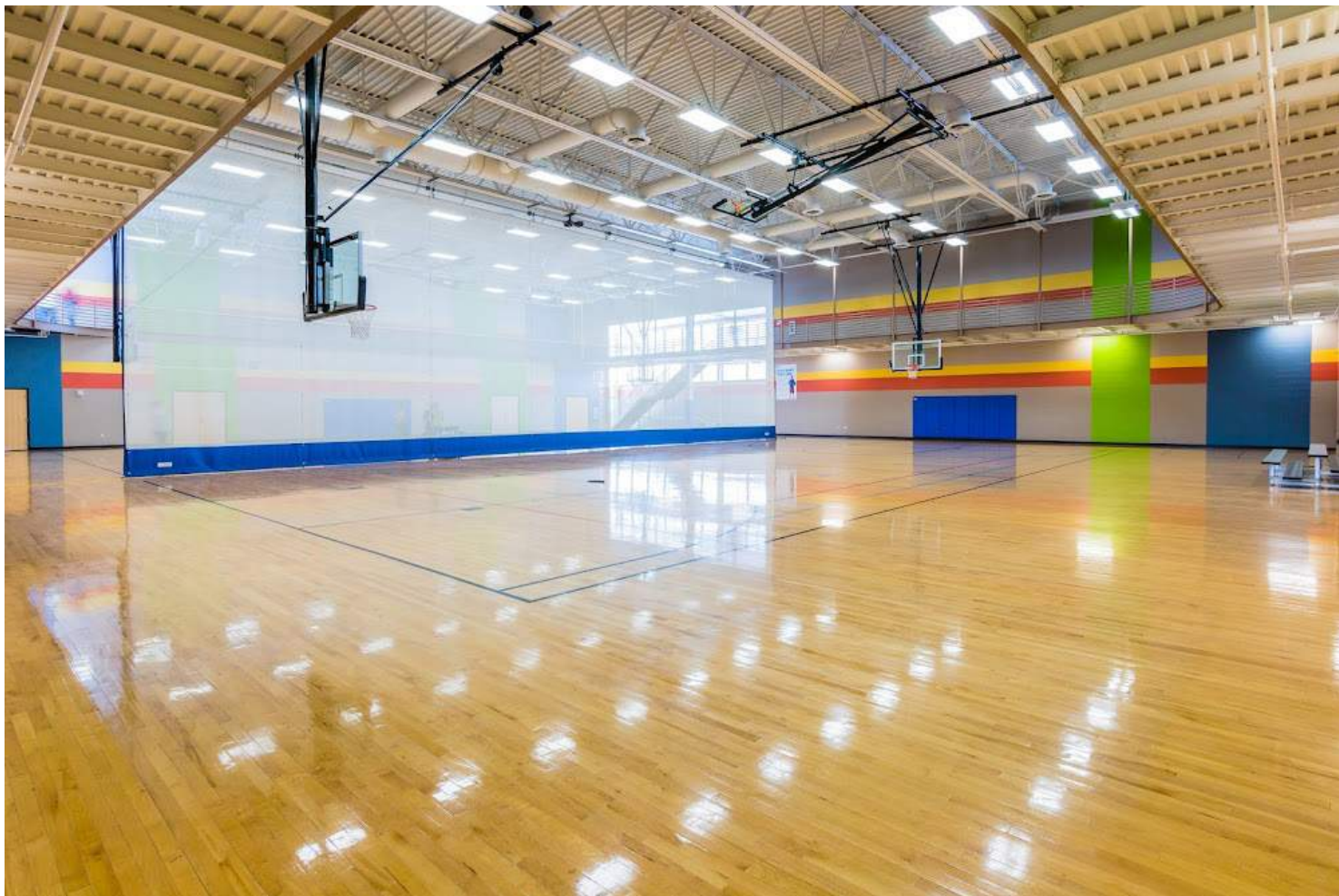
145,000 SF

Linden Community Center

50,000 Square-Foot Facility



Delaware Community Center YMCA



BRANCH AMENITIES



Indoor Pool



Child Watch/Kids Time



Basketball Courts



Hot Tub



Strength Equipment



Indoor Cycling



Family Changing Rooms



Party Room Rental



Aerobics Studio



Cardio Equipment



Sauna



Boxing Bags



Indoor Track



Baby Pool/Splash Pad



Indoor Pool Slide

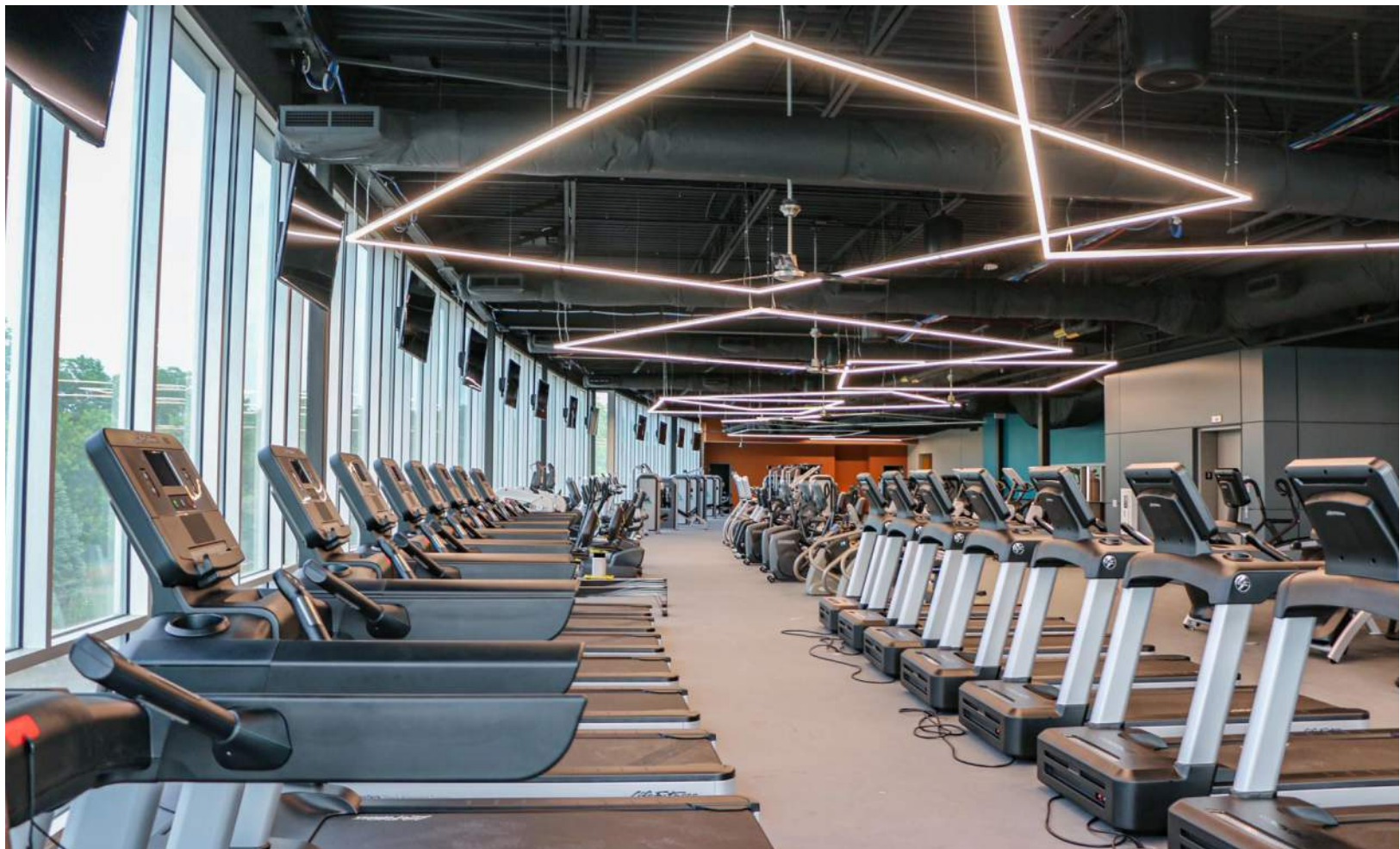
Westerville Community Center

145,000 Square-Foot Facility

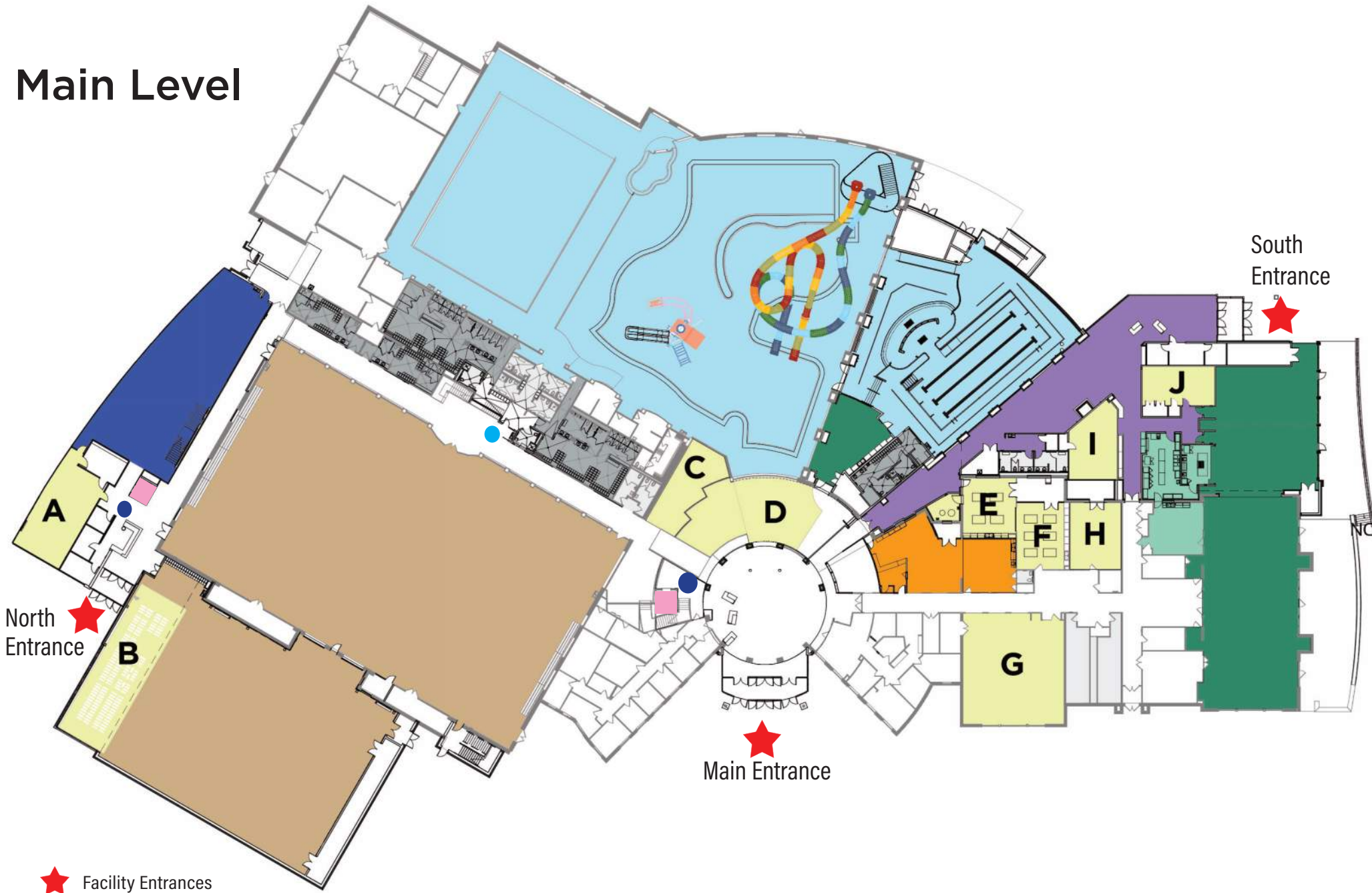


Westerville Community Center

FACILITY MAP



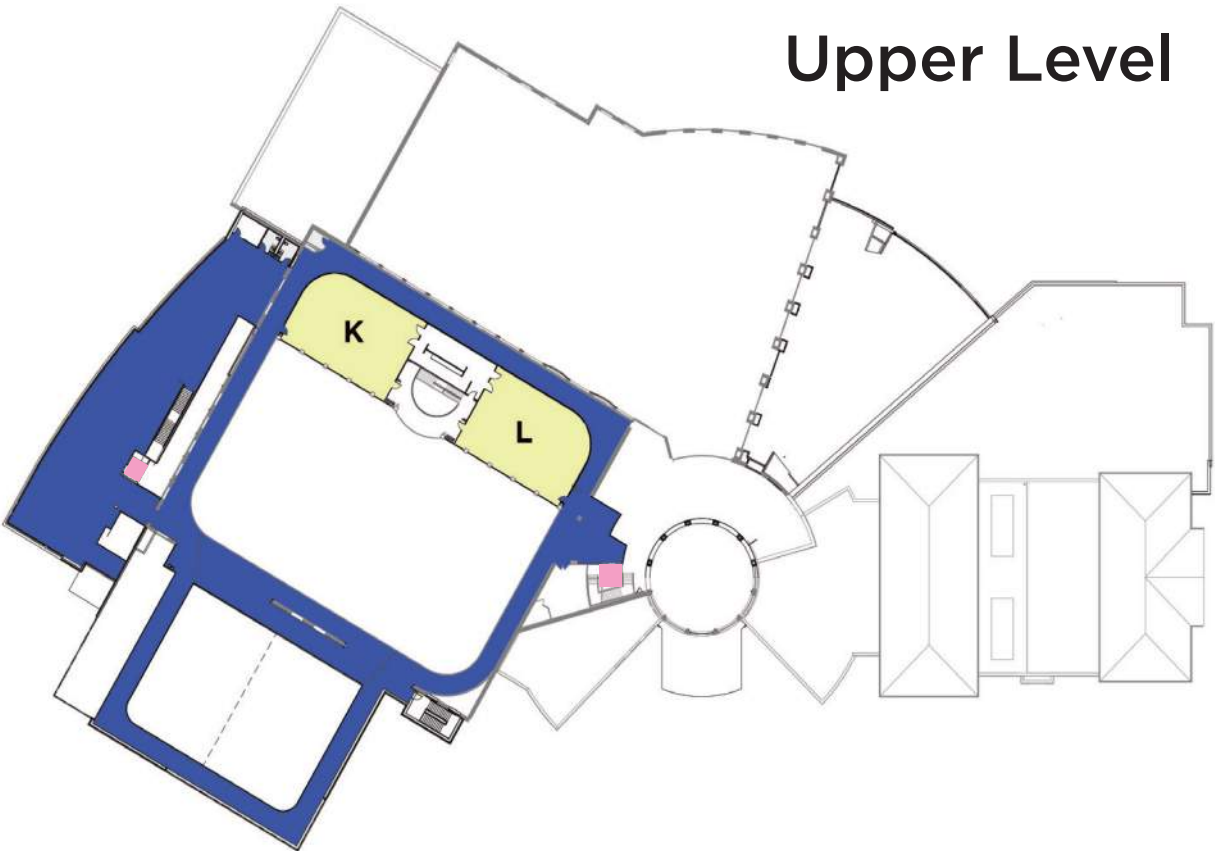
Main Level



- ★ Facility Entrances
- Fitness/Track Area Entrances
- Indoor Pool Entrance

- A North Group Fitness
- B Adventure Gym
- C Climbing Wall
- D Indoor Playground
- E Ceramics
- F Crafts
- G South Group Fitness
- H ESports
- I Senior Center Billiards
- J Classroom
- K Group Fitness
- L Yoga/Aerobics
- Sprouts Childcare Room
- Multipurpose/Party Rooms
- Kitchens/Demo Kitchen
- Gymnasium/MAC Gym
- Fitness/Track
- Indoor Pool Complex
- Locker Rooms/Restroom
- Restrooms
- Elevator
- Senior Center Social Area

Upper Level



Group Activity Process

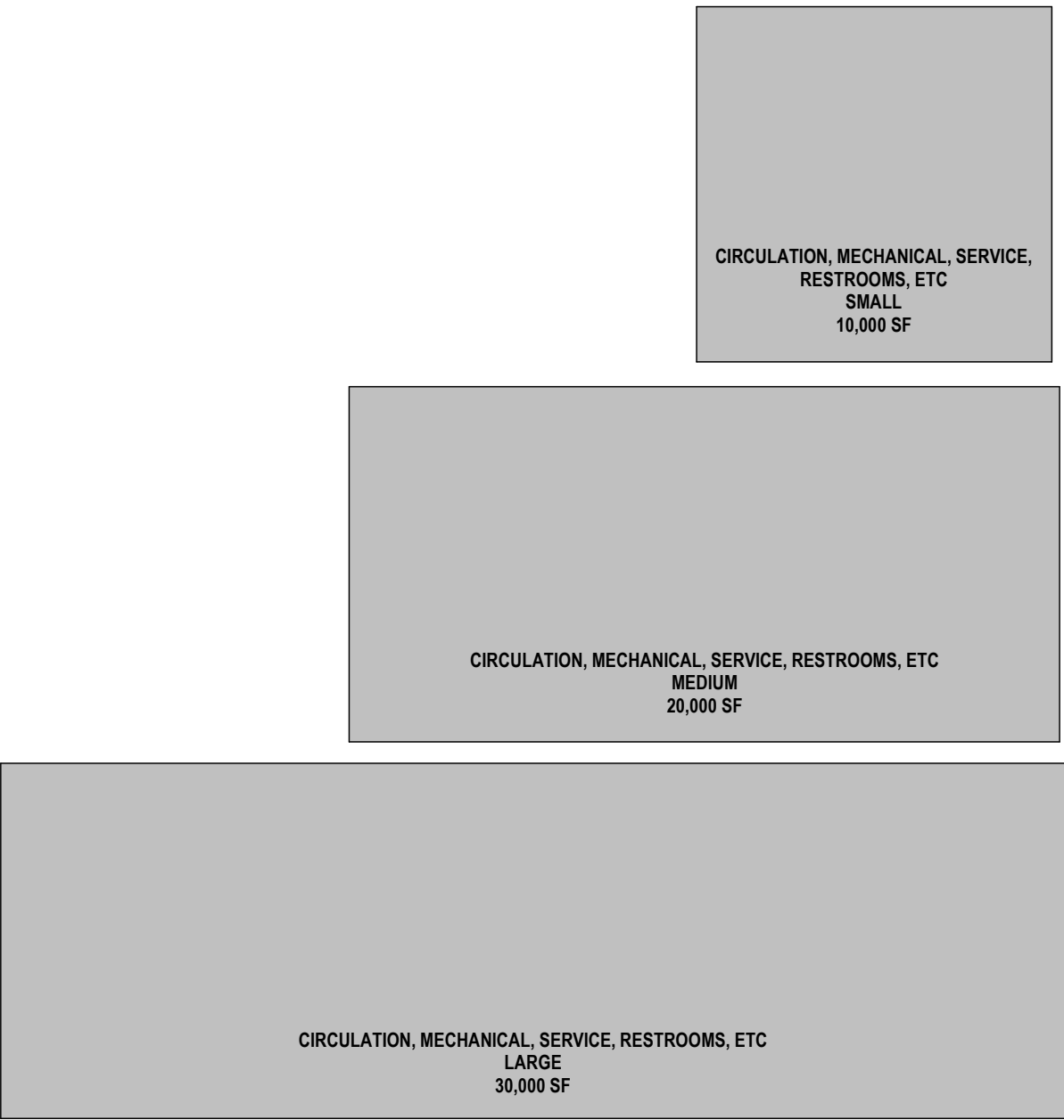
Process:

- Divide into groups
- Each group will work together to determine preferred project size
- Each group will work together to determine priority of programs and amenities, placing program pieces on scaled project footprint size
- All projects will need to include Circulation, Mechanical, Service, Restrooms, etc. based on project size

Programs and Amenities

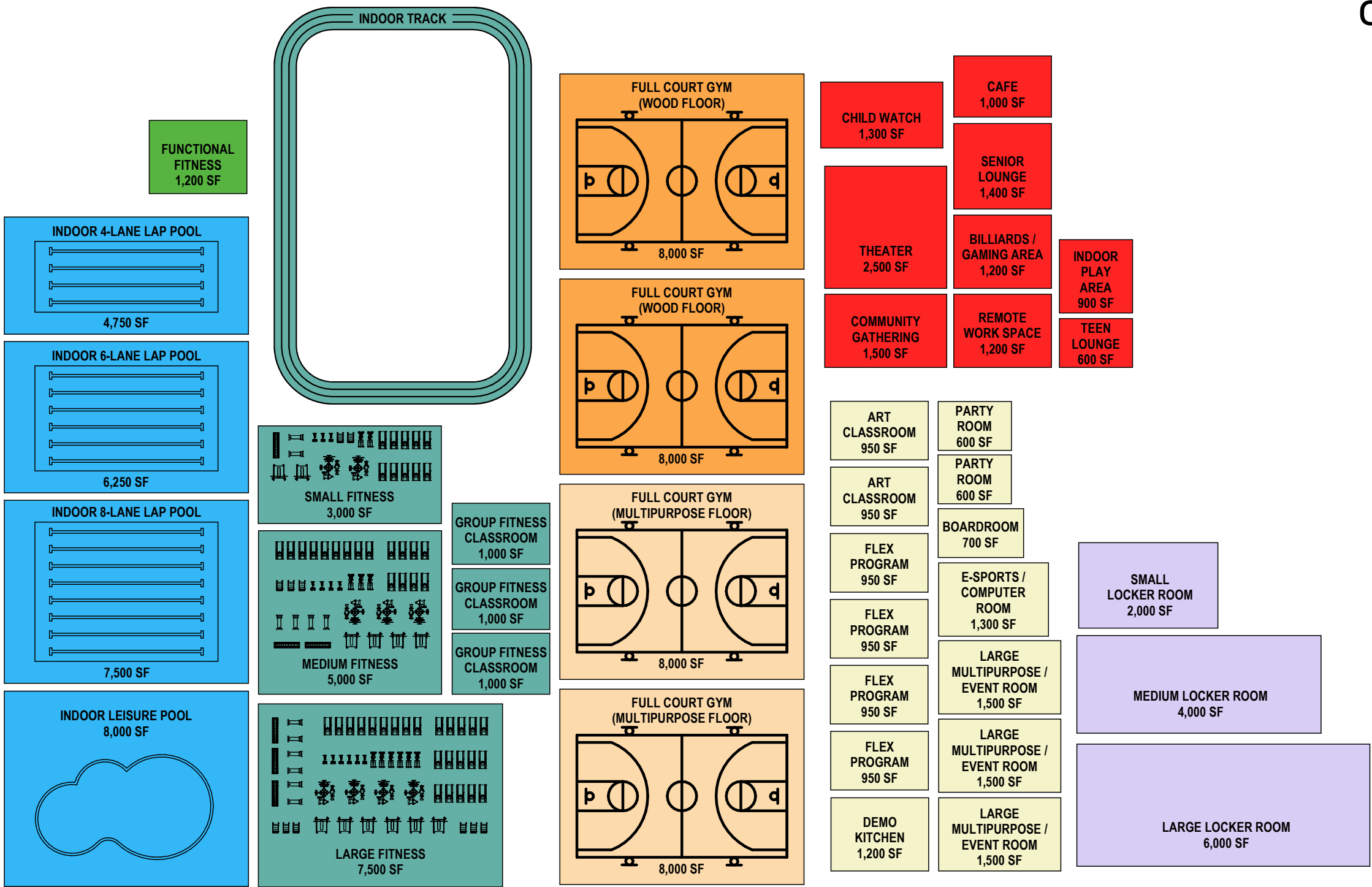
Must Include

Circulation, Mechanical, Service, Restrooms, Etc



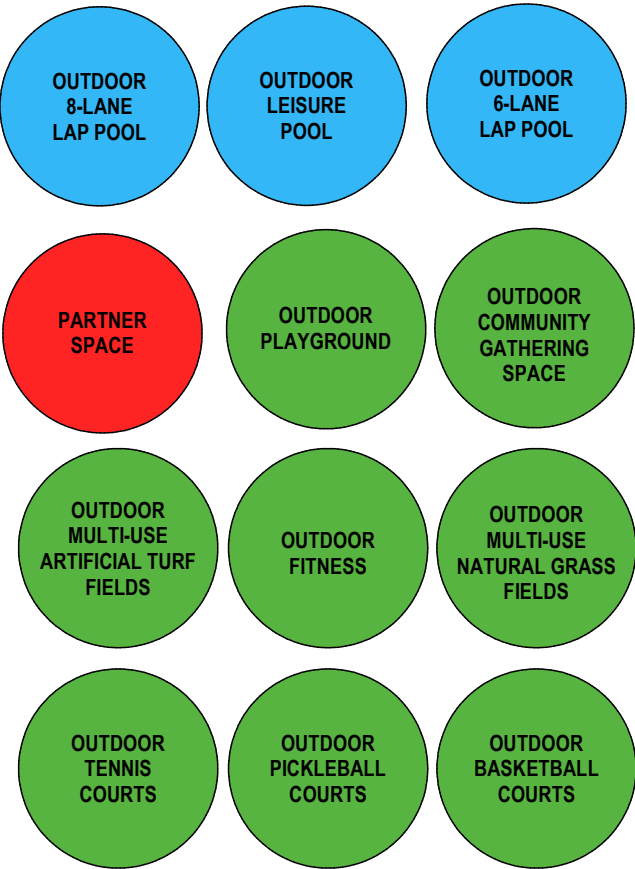
Program and Amenities

Choose your priority programs and amenities



Exterior or Partner

Optional items that will not contribute to the building size in this exercise



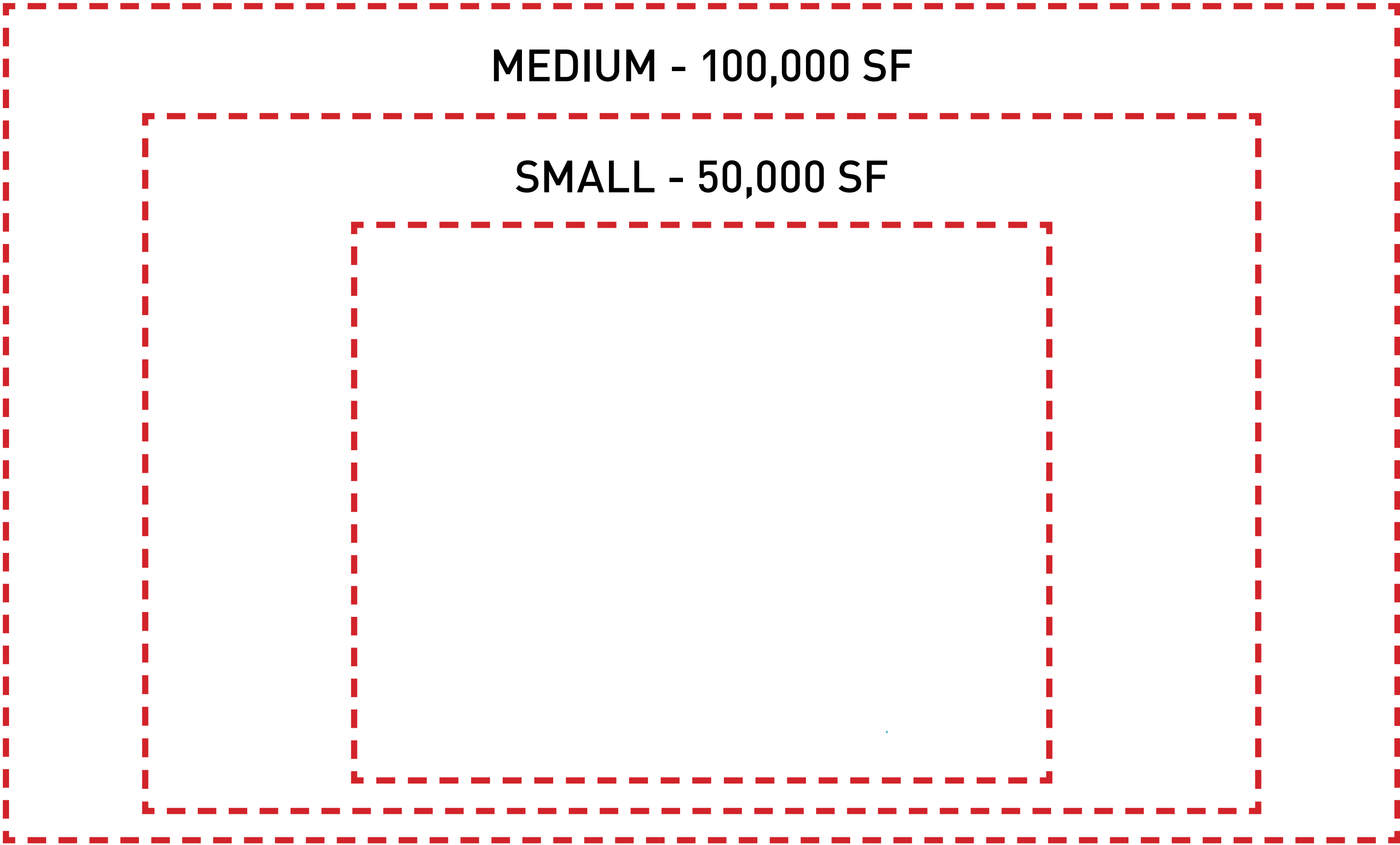
AQUATICS FITNESS GYM PROGRAM OUTDOOR OTHER CIRCULATION, MECH. , RESTROOMS, ETC SUPPORT SPACE

Building Size

LARGE - 150,000 SF

MEDIUM - 100,000 SF

SMALL - 50,000 SF



Group Activity Example

NEXT STEPS

Group Activity Reporting

Online Community Survey #2
Mid-February

Community Engagement Workshop 03:
Anticipated March/April