

Your Opinion Counts

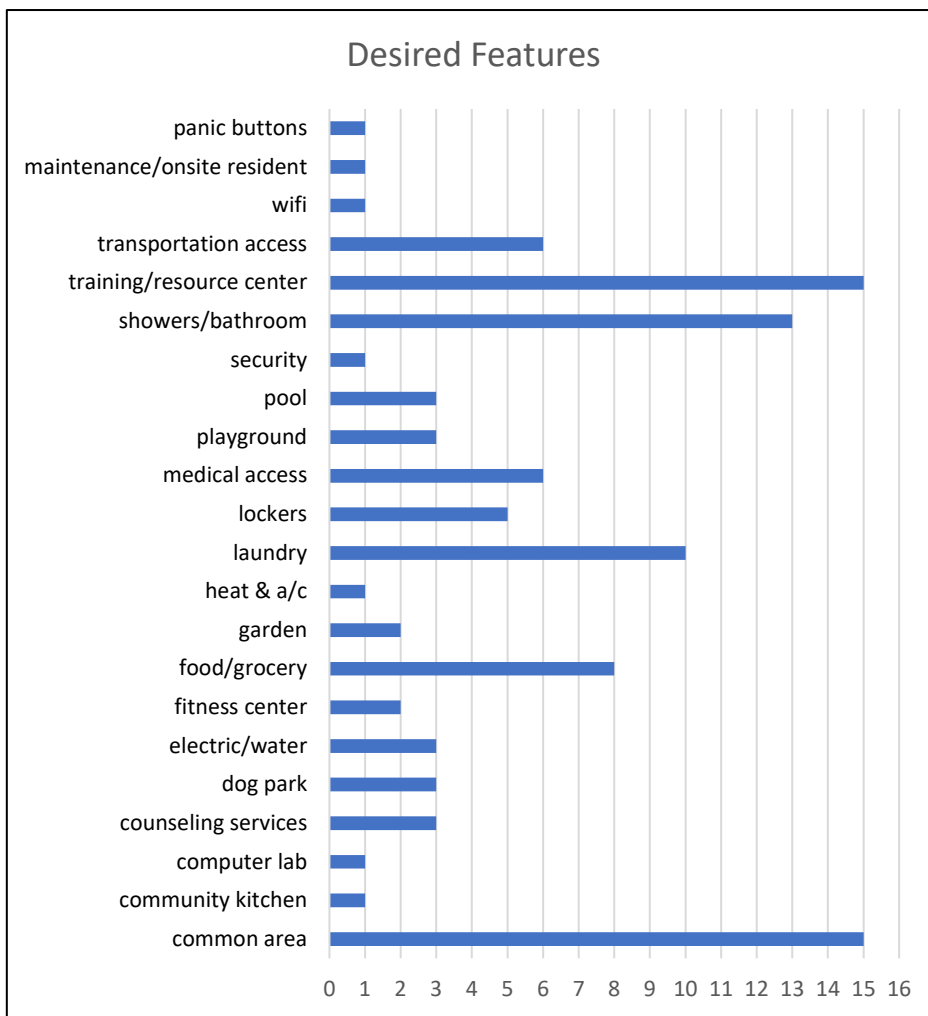
Members of our homeless community participated in a housing survey during the December '22 and January '23 Navigation Day and during regular outreach visits to "tent city". CVCAA collected 68 responses from the community. Clients were asked a series of open ended questions to assess what they would like to see in a shelter community. It is crucial that we always consider the needs and desires of our homeless neighbors when moving forward in our planning. Nothing for us without us!



What do you like about your current living situation?

- Privacy • Close to nature • Peace and quiet
- Near services • Community • Allowed to have dogs

What would you like the community to have?



The top 3 most requested features were:

1. Training/Resource Room
2. Common Area
3. Showers & Bathroom

Other highly requested features include:

- Laundry
- Medical Access
- Food or Grocery Store
- Transportation Access

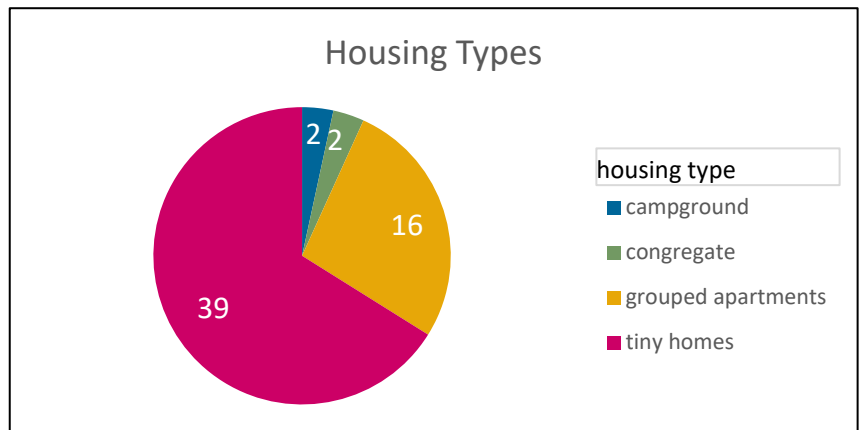
Where would you like the community to be built?



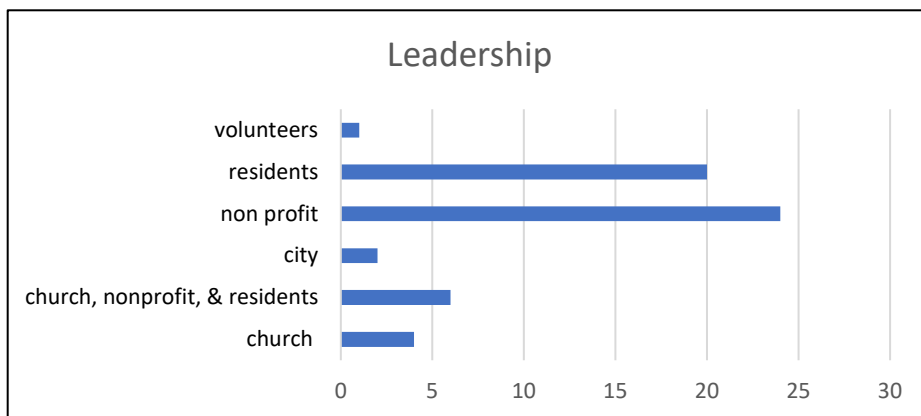
Several respondents indicated that they didn't care where the community was so long as there was access to get where they needed to go. Many who indicated they would like the community to be in town said that they wanted to be close to stores.

What kind of housing would you like?

The overwhelming majority of respondents wanted tiny houses. However, it should be noted that several respondents indicated that they would be happy with anything that would keep them warm and where they could keep their belongings safe. This was a recurring theme.



Who do you want to be in charge?



Most respondents wanted a non-profit like the homeless coalition or the group who runs navigation days to be in charge. That said there were almost as many who said they wanted residents to be in charge and over 50 respondents agreed to be part of a community planning committee.

What rules should the community have?

Despite public sentiment that most of our homeless community abuse drugs and alcohol, they were in the top 3 requested rules for the community, along with security.

Safety was very important to respondents.



Additional thoughts

Several residents expressed concern with safety, especially our female respondents. Many of them mentioned background checks to screen for past sexual predators. Others mentioned that they would want very clear rules to be followed, and recognized that would mean the community would not be for everyone. There was also a lot of focus on ensuring that people had access to resources such as AA, counseling, and training centers so that they could eventually move out of the shelter community.

It was obvious from most of our respondents that no one had ever asked them what they wanted before. It is crucial that moving forward we include members of the community in our decisions. Respondants were given the option to provide their contact information if they would like to serve on a committee to plan our next shelter so we have a good number of individuals who are ready to serve in that capacity.