

Grimm + Parker Surveys - Join the Conversation

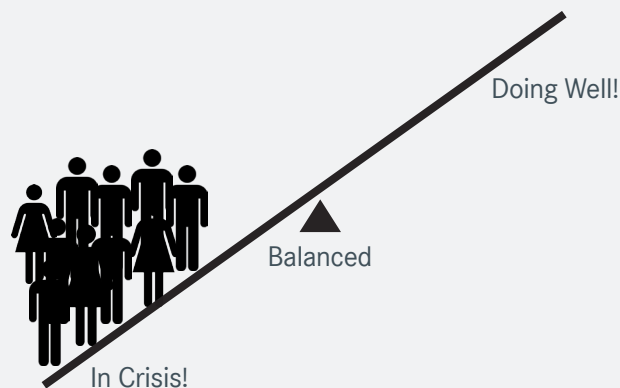
HAND (Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers) Annual Meeting

June 2016

At the HAND Annual Meeting and Expo in Arlington, VA, we surveyed attendees on a range of issues related to affordable housing in the Washington metropolitan area.

Our questions focused on two areas:

1 How would you characterize the state of affordable housing in the DC Metro area?

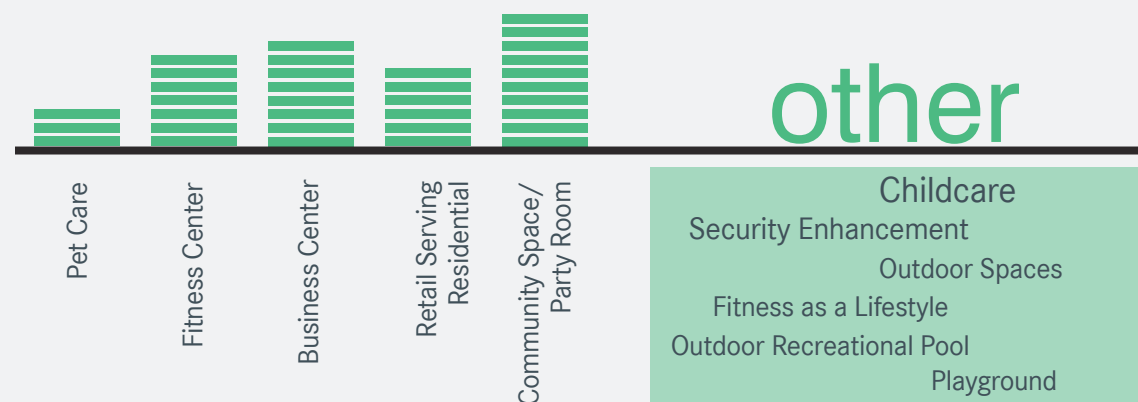


Nearly

100%

of participants indicated they believe that affordable housing in DC is in crisis.

2 Which amenity spaces are most desirable in affordable housing developments?



1 Attendees at the HAND conference were, as ever, passionate about their missions to bring affordable housing to the Region, but felt the current state of affordable housing to be bleak. With increasing rents, threatened supply, and particular challenges to creating and preserving workforce housing, respondents' optimism was tempered by the challenging reality of developing affordable housing.

2 Even in the high-demand affordable housing sector, amenities matter! While business centers are still seen as important, demand is waning as people are more likely to have their own smartphones and tablets. Building-wide WiFi can be an attractive substitute. The importance of in-building service retail varies substantially by location – what is available in the neighborhood?

Several respondents emphasized the importance of including the community in the process of programming community space, while others agreed all amenities are important but questioned the financial viability of including a broad range of amenities in affordable housing projects.