

8 MILE-WOODWARD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

HUMAN SERVICES SURVEY

BACKGROUND:

The [8 Mile-Woodward Improvement Project](#) is a collaboration between the cities of Detroit and Ferndale to address homelessness and panhandling at the 8 Mile and Woodward Intersection, as well as to improve the physical space in that intersection. In October 2020, individuals who identify as homeless and/or regularly panhandle as their form of income were interviewed to lend information on how social services can meet their needs. The survey results are being utilized by Improvement Project partners in developing a human service design to address homelessness and panhandling. The partners are focused on providing a housing-first strategy to individuals and ensuring a holistic approach to meet their needs.

Cass Community Social Services outreach team engaged with individuals to conduct the interviews and offered a \$10 Meijer gift card as an incentive.

PARTICIPANT OVERVIEW:



A total of nine (9) individuals were surveyed; four (4) individuals were interviewed at the intersection of 8 Mile and Woodward and five (5) were interviewed where 8 Mile meets I-75. When asked where participants were sleeping that same night, four (4) responded they were sleeping outside, three (3) in their own room (e.g. apartment, house, hotel room), one (1) said with a family or friend, and one (1) said other. All participants identified as men with ages

ranging from 30-60 years old. Seven (7) are White, two (2) are African American, and one (1) identifies as Hispanic.

The majority of individuals have been homeless and panhandling around 8 Mile for an extended time as Figure 1 below shows. Figure 2 shows how long the clients have been panhandling at the above-mentioned locations.

Fig. 1: How long have you lived in the streets or in emergency shelter?

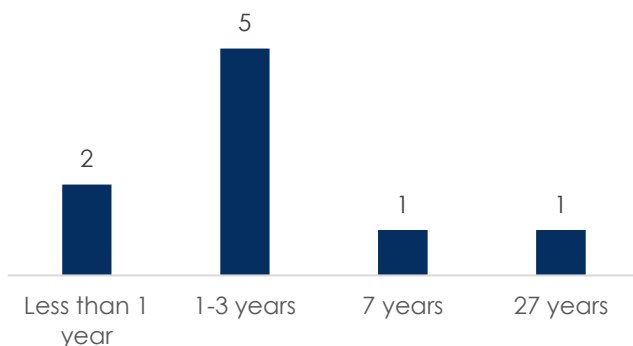
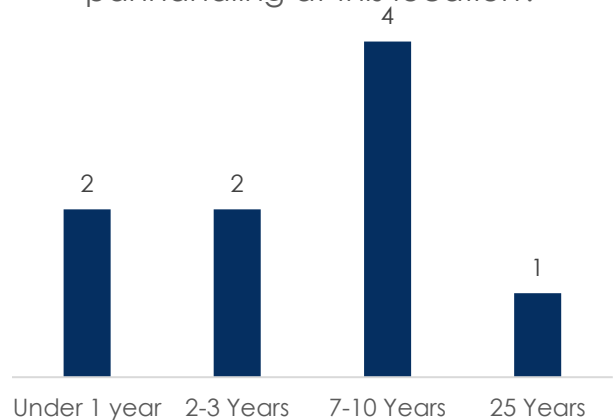
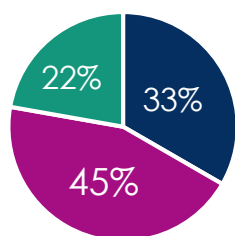


Fig 2: How long have you been panhandling at this location?



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

Fig. 3: What is the biggest barrier to obtaining housing?



■ Income ■ Identification ■ Criminal History

Of the nine (9) participants, eight (8) said they would be willing to work with social services to obtain housing. As shown in Figure 3, individuals identified the following as the most difficult barriers to obtaining housing: lack of identification, income, and criminal history.

Survey participants identified needing appropriate clothing and reliable transportation as their biggest challenges to securing or obtaining employment. The top three services that respondents

wanted assistance with was housing, employment, and obtaining ID and birth certificate.

The 8-Mile Woodward Improvement Project team will use this information to continue working with individuals and ensure their input is prioritized in future interventions.