



 Project #1

# Youth Community Partnerships

Presented for: City of Maquoketa

# The Team



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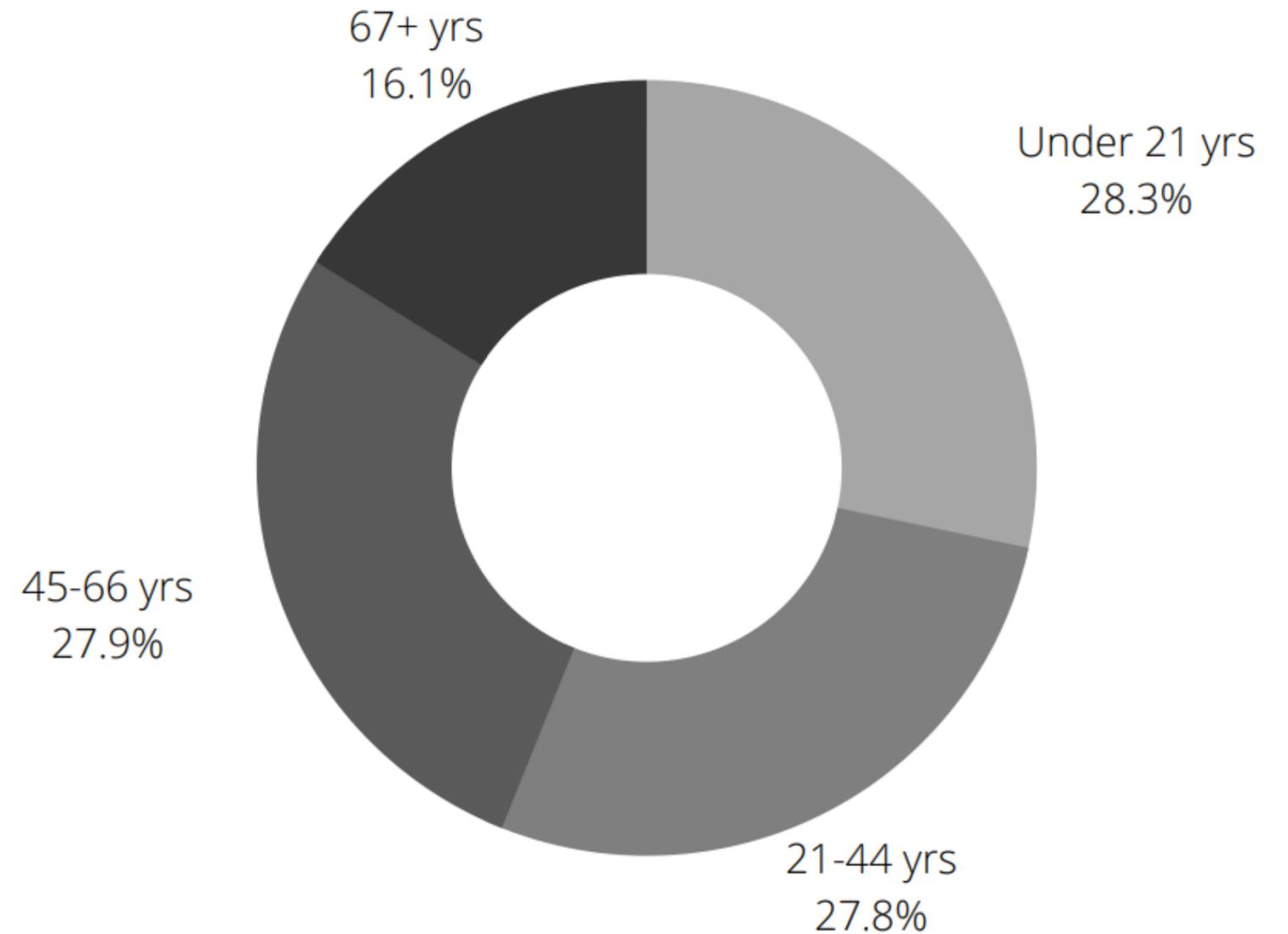
*Student*

# An Introduction to Youth Engagement in Maquoketa

Youth, under the age  
of 21, make up

28.3%

of Maquoketa's population





# Background: Youth in Maquoketa

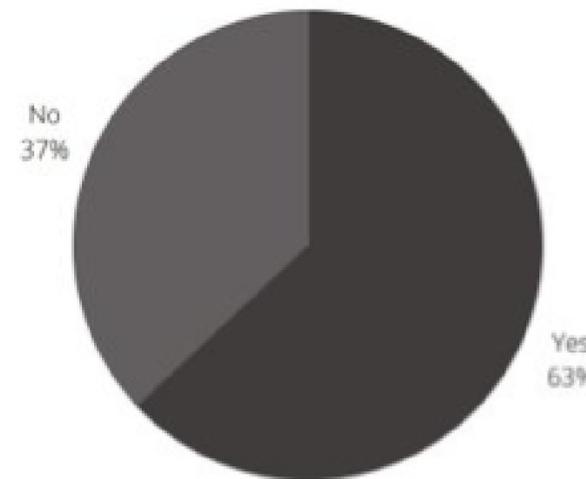
## The Issue

In the City of Maquoketa there is a lack of youth leadership and engagement. Current young people in the city are not actively engaged in their community.

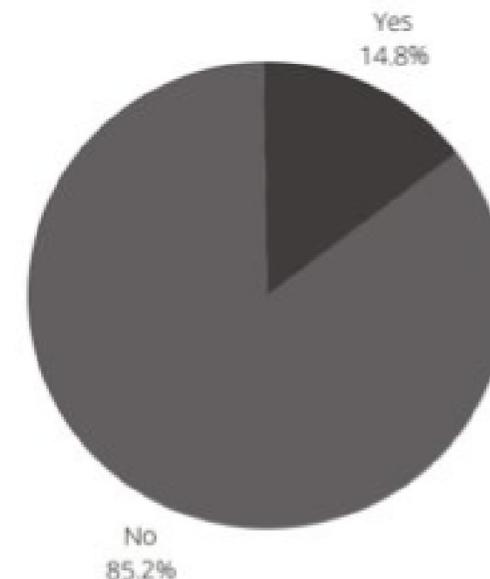
### Why this matters:

“Investing in the community’s current young population makes the community more attractive to the young people themselves – they may feel **valued, important, and empowered.** – The Jackson County Tomorrow Plan

## Supporting Data



“Do you see yourself living in this area in the future?”



“Have adults asked you how to improve the community?”

# ❖ Current State of the Issue

## Jackson County Tomorrow Plan: Youth Development

## Youth Involvement Opportunities in Maquoketa

## The Problem?

### Objective #1

- Improve youth leadership and engagement in Jackson County through engaging activities and leadership development opportunities.

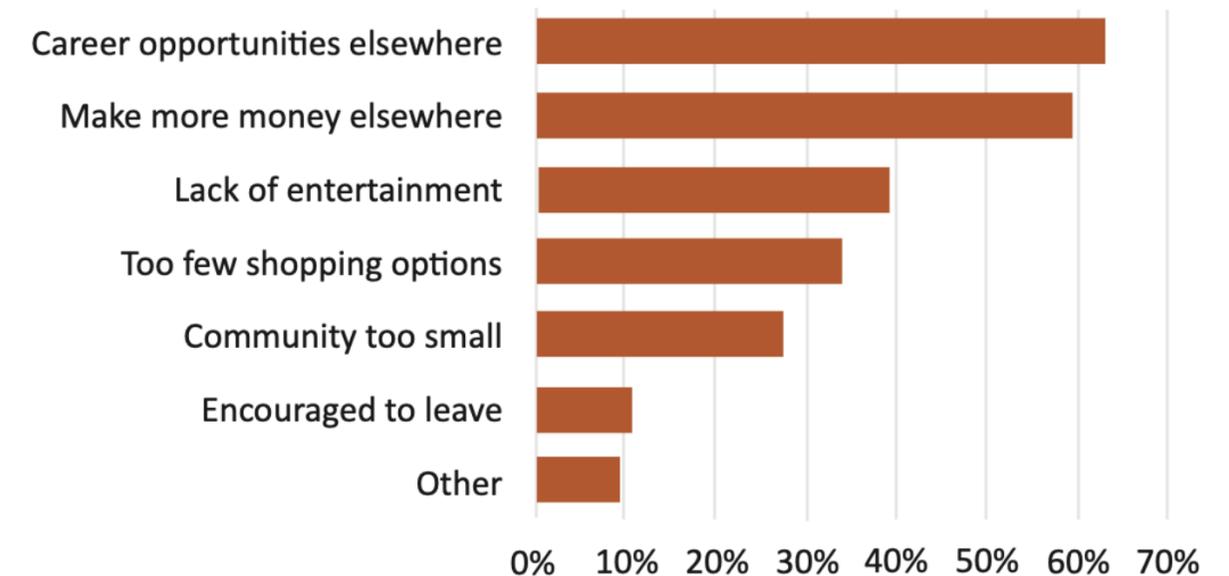
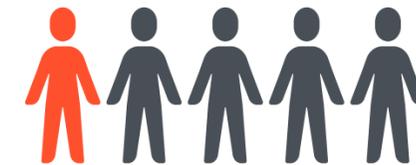
### Objective #2

- Improve Youth Entrepreneurship through innovative programming.

### Talented and Gifted Program (TAG)

- High School Clubs and Organizations
- IMPACT Award
- Project Safe Zone
- Philanthropy Board in Jackson County (PBJ)
- Community Foundation of Jackson County
- Maquoketa Rotary Club
- School Mentoring Services

### Lack of motivation among youth population.





# Best Practices



## Youth Advisory Council

The State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council

- Engaged youth between the **ages of 14 and 20**
- Youth leaders **selected to represent Iowa youth** and **engage in topics important** to young Iowans.



## Youth Exploration and Skill Development

Bay Cove Academy Job Shadow Program

- **Poll** the students about their **career interests**
- Provides both **school-wide and individualized job shadowing** opportunities



## New Curriculum Guides on Engaging with Youth

Des Moines Led Workshops

- **Guide young people** through activities to **think critically** about their neighborhoods and **identify pathways to realize those goals**





# Policy Recommendations



## Accessibility

- Bridging the gap between existing opportunities and youth.
- Ensuring that current opportunities are attainable and visible for all youth in Maquoketa.
- **Ex: Creating a youth opportunity and advancement section of high traffic websites.**



## Expansion

- Refining the programs already in place and conducting a SWAT analysis to improve programs.
- Further developing the Youth Advisor Committee and expanding their responsibilities.
- **Ex: Technology leaders**



## Youth Opportunities in Maquoketa City Council

- Increasing youth involvement in Maquoketa City Council.
- Establishing Student Liaisons to represent the youth voice.



# Where We Are Headed (Next Steps)



## **Accessibility:**

- Create Youth Opportunities and Advancement Sections
- Gather resources, tools, and future opportunities that could be useful to students

## **Expansion:**

- Expand on the roles and responsibilities of the Youth Advisory Committee to include roles with an emphasis technology

## **Student Liaison:**

- Find a sustainable way to find qualified students to be involved.

## **Conduct a Survey:**

- This will allow the youth to communicate on the wants and needs of Maquoketa Youth.
- Gather questions that would result in meaningful feedback.



## Survey Questions

- What extracurricular activities are you involved in?
- What careers would you like to pursue upon graduation?
- What leadership or mentorship opportunities do you wish were available to you?



## Implementation

- High school/college classes
- Youth participation to collect and analyze information gathered from the survey

# Thank you!

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Feel free to approach us if you have any questions and view our policy memo for additional details.

# References

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