

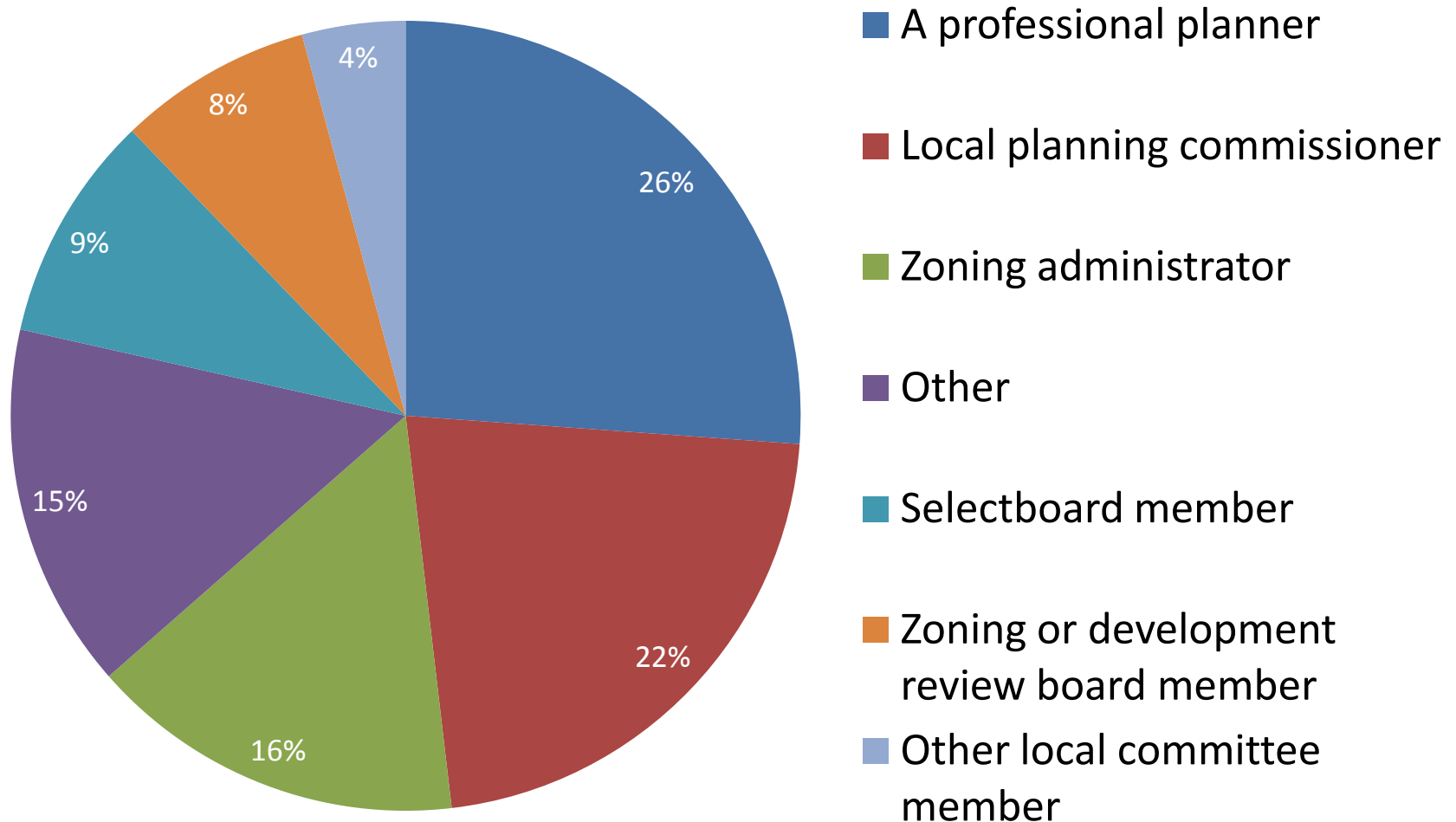
**MPG &
COMMUNITY
PLANNING
SURVEY
RESULTS**

Spring 2013

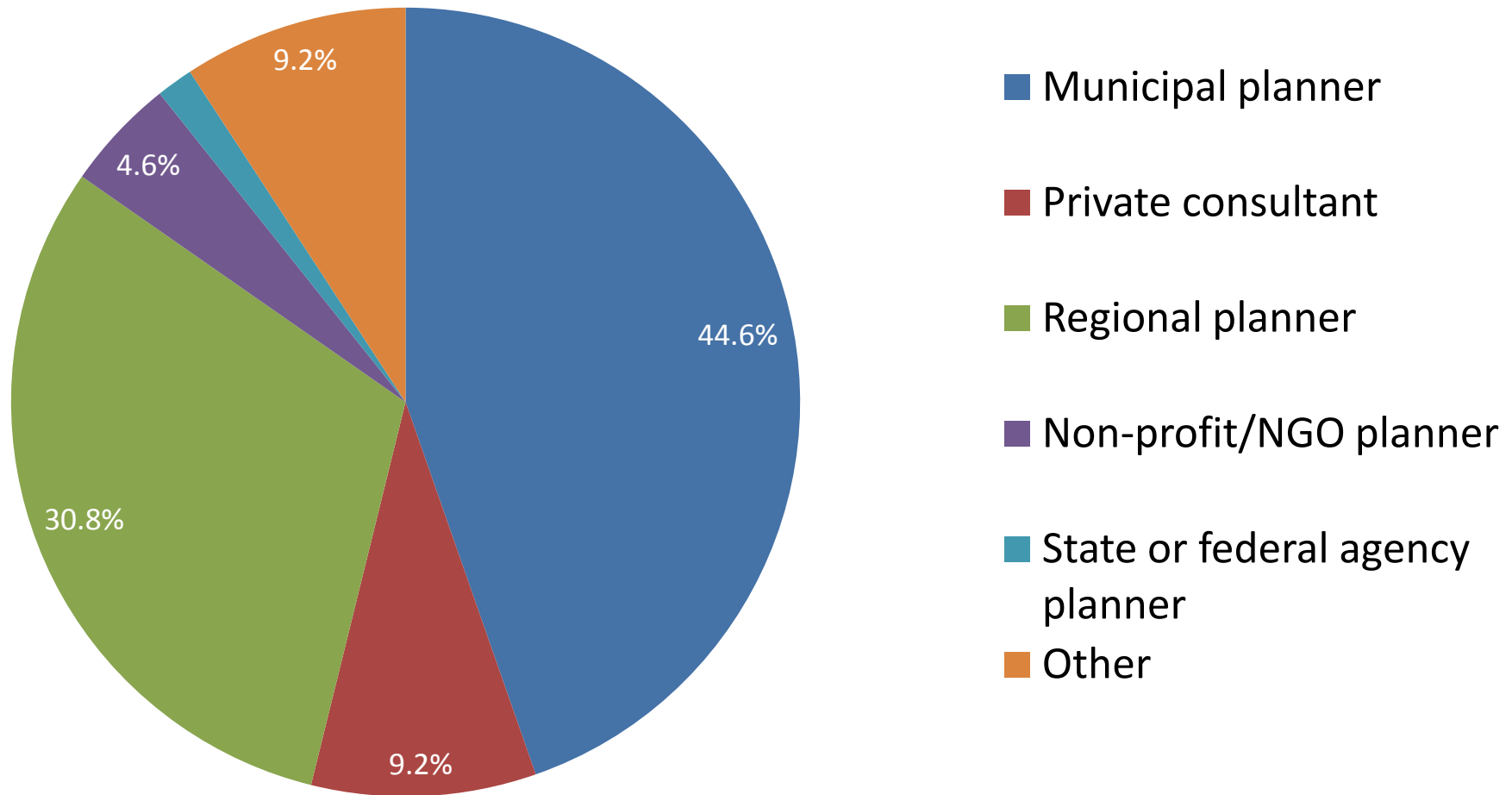


AGENCY OF COMMERCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Q1. Please identify yourself. (n=181)

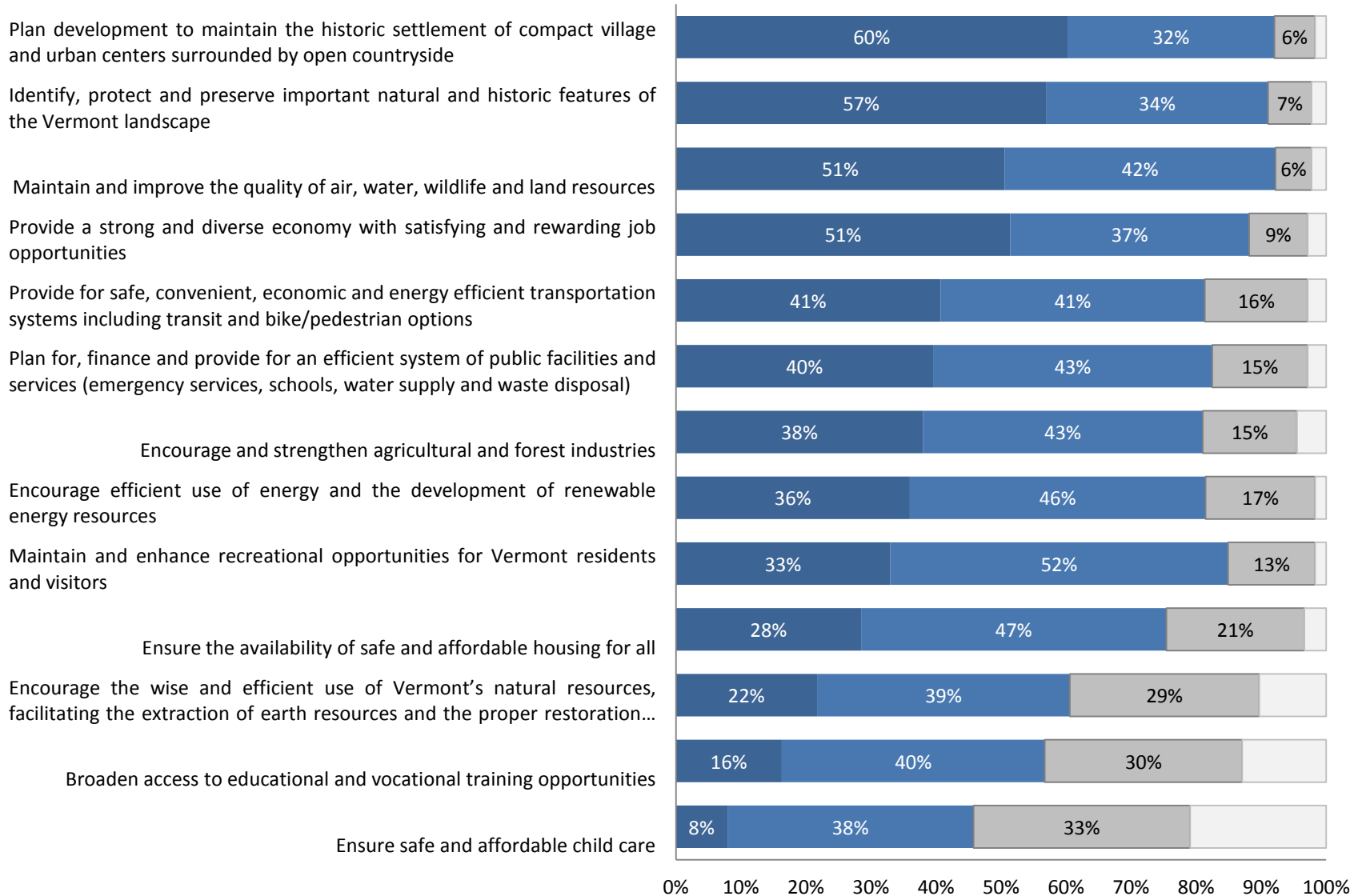


Q2. If you are a professional planner what is your role? (n=65)



Q3. Which of the 13 statewide goals are priorities for the municipality/municipalities that your serve? (n=180)

■ High Priority ■ Priority ■ Low Priority ■ Not a Priority



Q3. Which of the 13 statewide goals are priorities for the municipality/municipalities that you serve? (n=180)

• **Small Communities (pop <2000) vs. Larger Communities (5000+)**

➤ Provide a strong and diverse economy with satisfying and rewarding job opportunities (% responding goal as 'High Priority')

- Small Communities 39%
- Large Communities 85%

➤ Provide for safe, convenient, economic and energy efficient transportation systems including transit and bike/pedestrian options (% responding goal as 'High Priority')

- Small Communities 24.1%
- Large Communities 64.7%

Q3. Which of the 13 statewide goals are priorities for the municipality/municipalities that you serve? (n=180)

• **Small Communities (pop <2000) vs. Larger Communities (5000+)**

➤ Encourage and strengthen agricultural and forest industries (% responding goal as 'High Priority')

- Small Communities 44.6%
- Large Communities 26.5%

➤ Plan for, finance and provide for an efficient system of public facilities and services (% responding goal as 'High Priority')

- Small Communities 23.6%
- Large Communities 57.1%

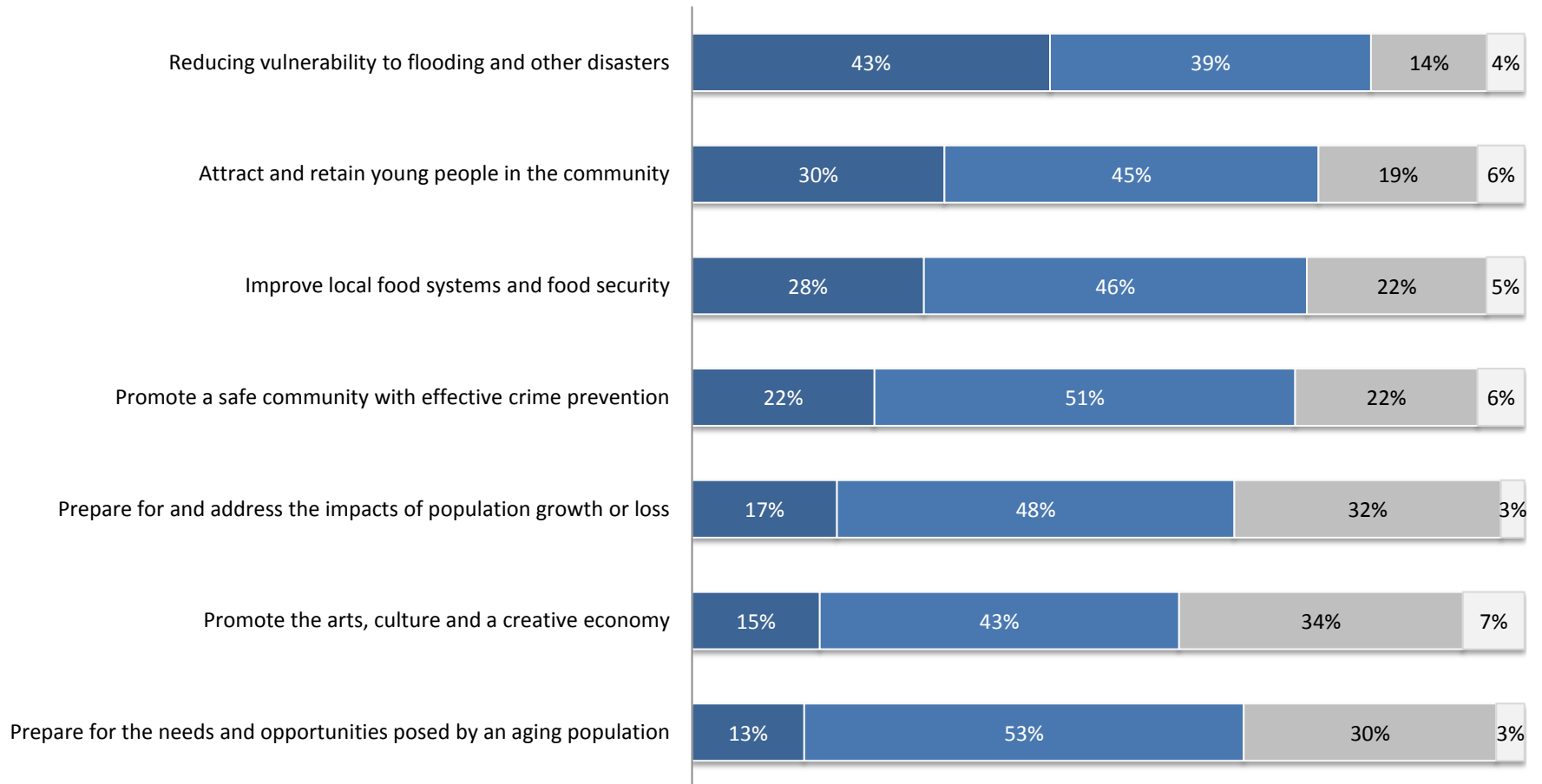
• **Selectboard Members (n=20)**

➤ Plan development to maintain the historic settlement of compact village and urban centers surrounded by open countryside

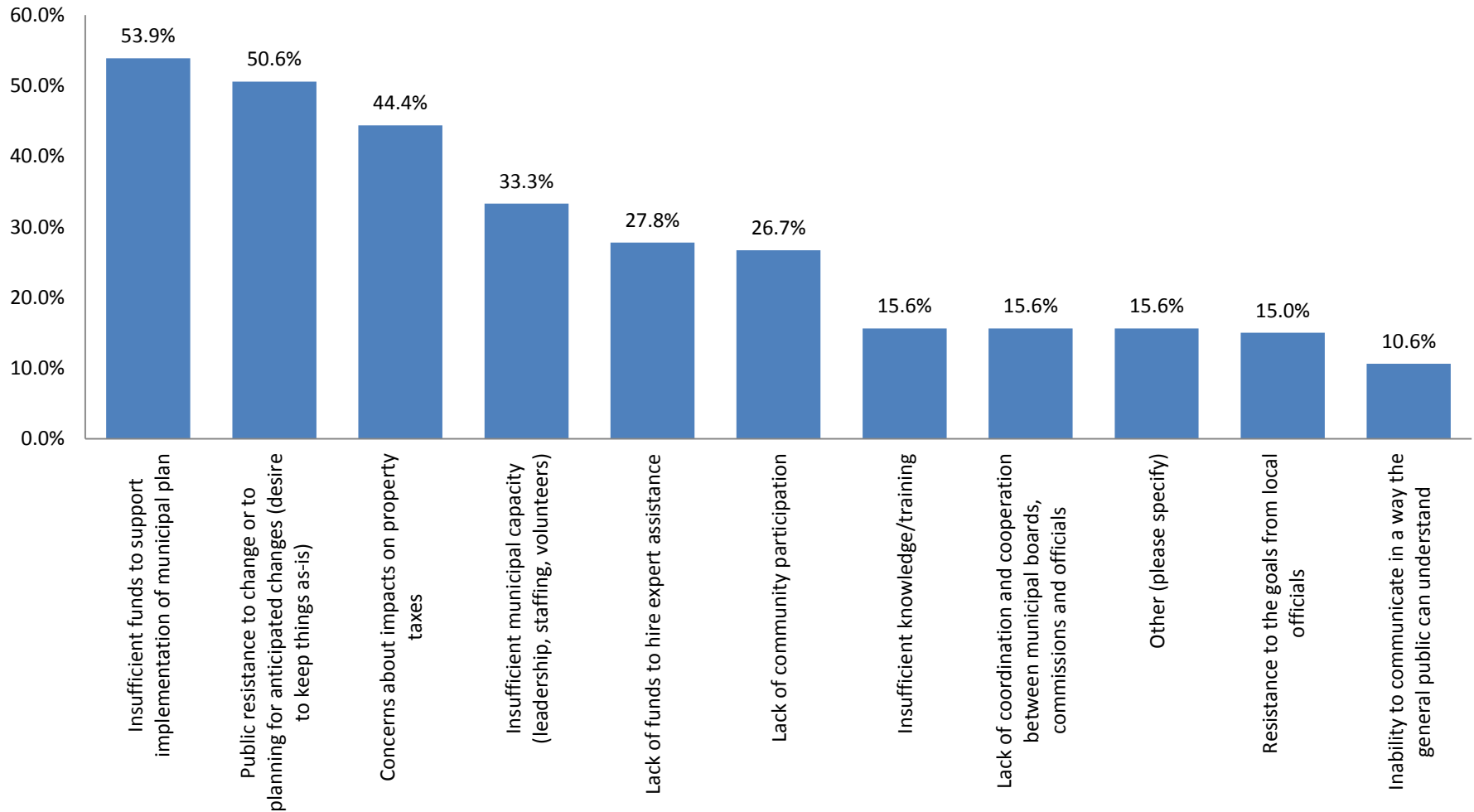
- Much lower priority for selectboard members (30%) than other groups (60%.)

Q4. What additional goals are priorities for the municipality/municipalities that you serve? (n=179)

■ High priority ■ Priority ■ Low Priority ■ Not a Priority



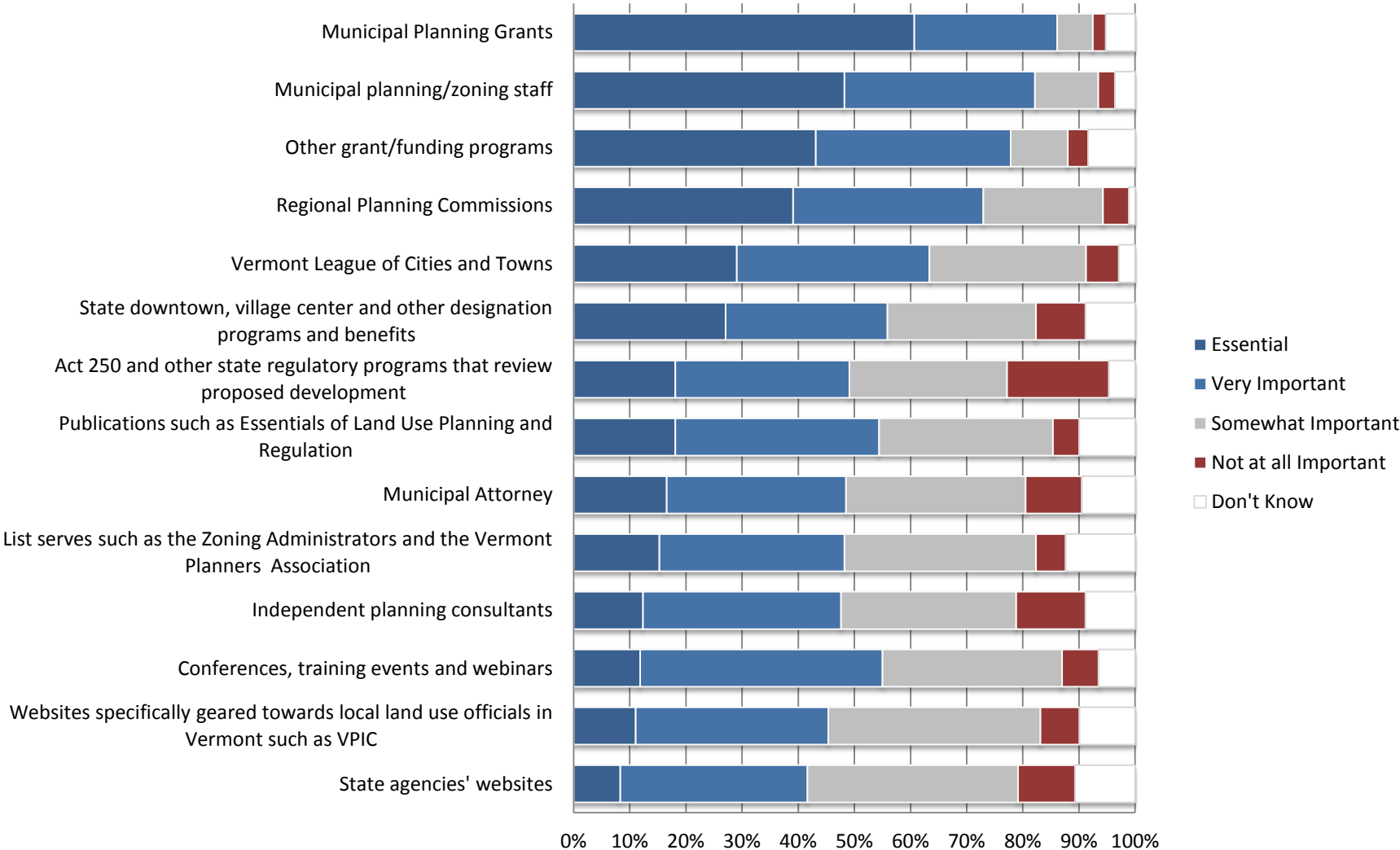
Q5. What are the top three obstacles to achieving the municipal goals that you identified as priorities? (n=180)



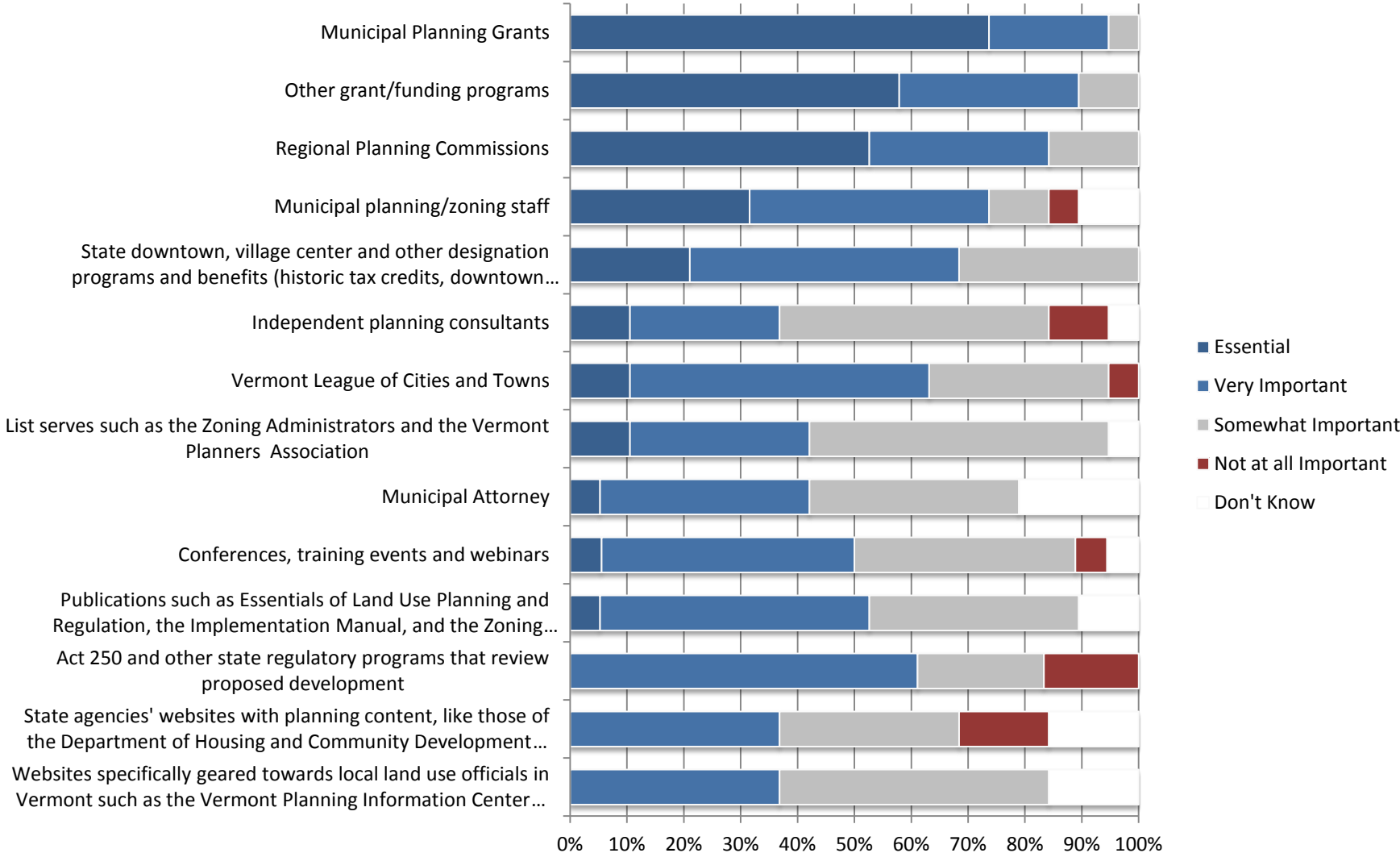
Q5. What are the top three obstacles to achieving the municipal goals that you identified as priorities?

- “Lack of coordination and cooperation between municipal boards, commissions and officials” was identified as a major obstacle by respondents from Rutland County.
- “Concerns about impacts on property taxes” was the biggest obstacle identified by Selectboard members.
- “Insufficient municipal capacity (leadership, staffing, volunteers)” was identified as a much bigger issue for small communities.

Q6. What existing resources help your municipality meet its planning goals?



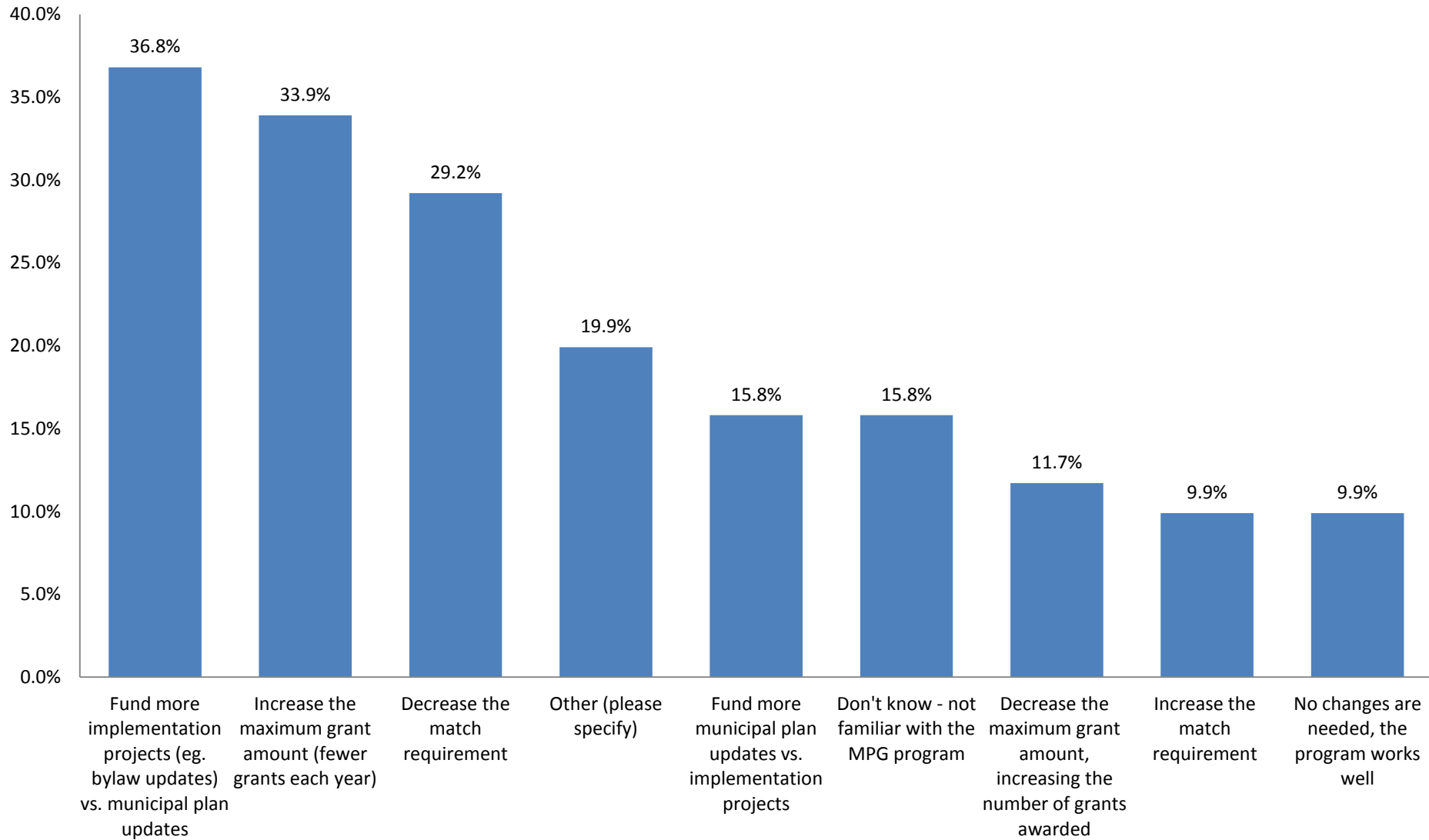
Q6. What existing resources help your municipality meet its planning goals? (RPCs)



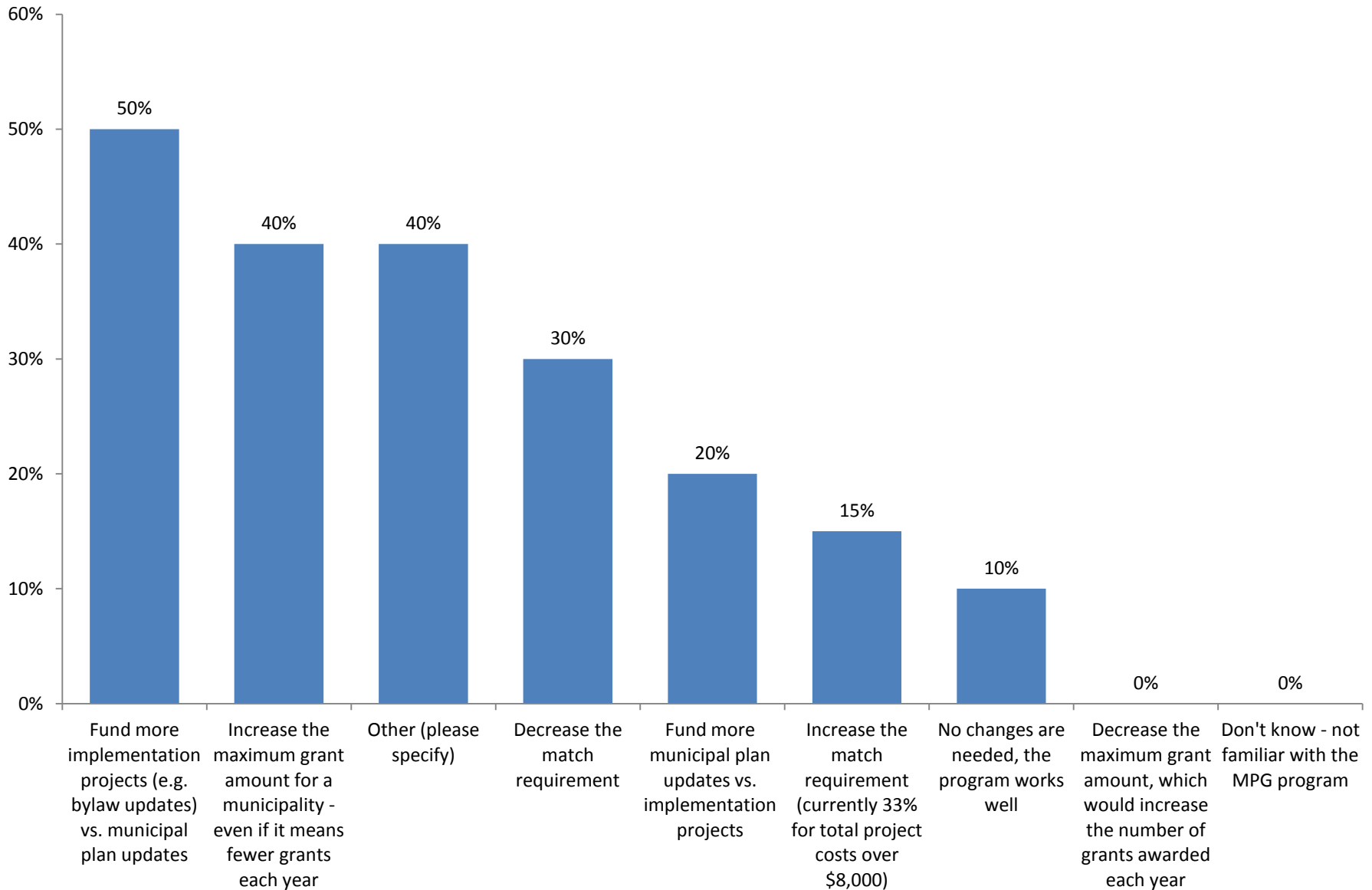
Q6. What existing resources help your municipality meet its planning goals?

		Pop <2000	Pop 2000-5000	Pop >5000
Municipal planning/zoning staff	Essential	34.0% (17)	49.1% (28)	75.8% (25)
State downtown, village center and other designation programs and benefits	Essential	20.8% (11)	20.7% (12)	45.5% (15)
Vermont League of Cities and Towns	Essential	38.9% (21)	28.1% (16)	18.2% (6)

Q7. For Municipal Planning Grants, which of the following possible changes to the program do you support? (n=180)



Q7. For Municipal Planning Grants, which of the following possible changes to the program do you support? (RPCs)

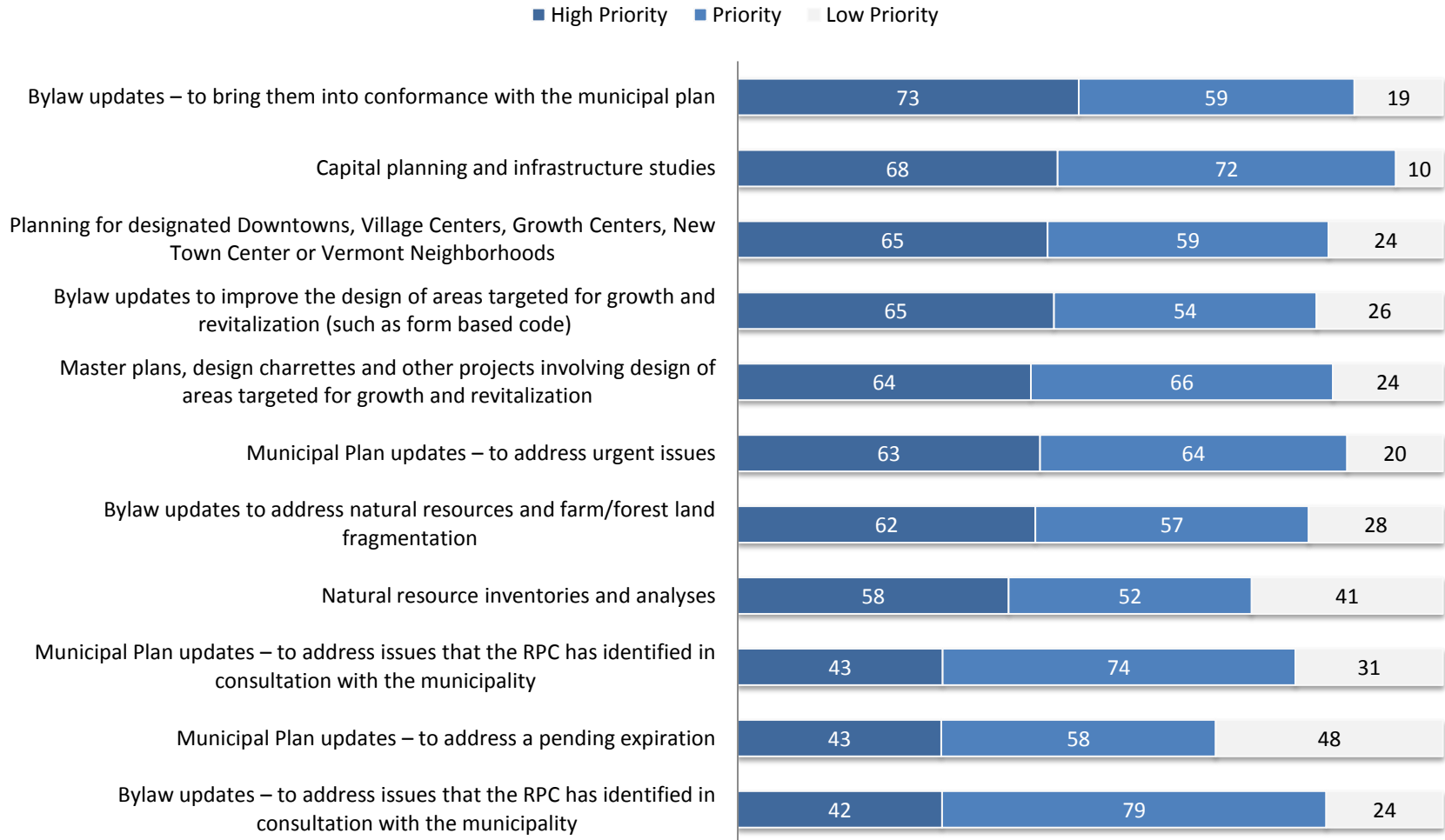


Q7. For Municipal Planning Grants, which of the following possible changes to the program do you support?

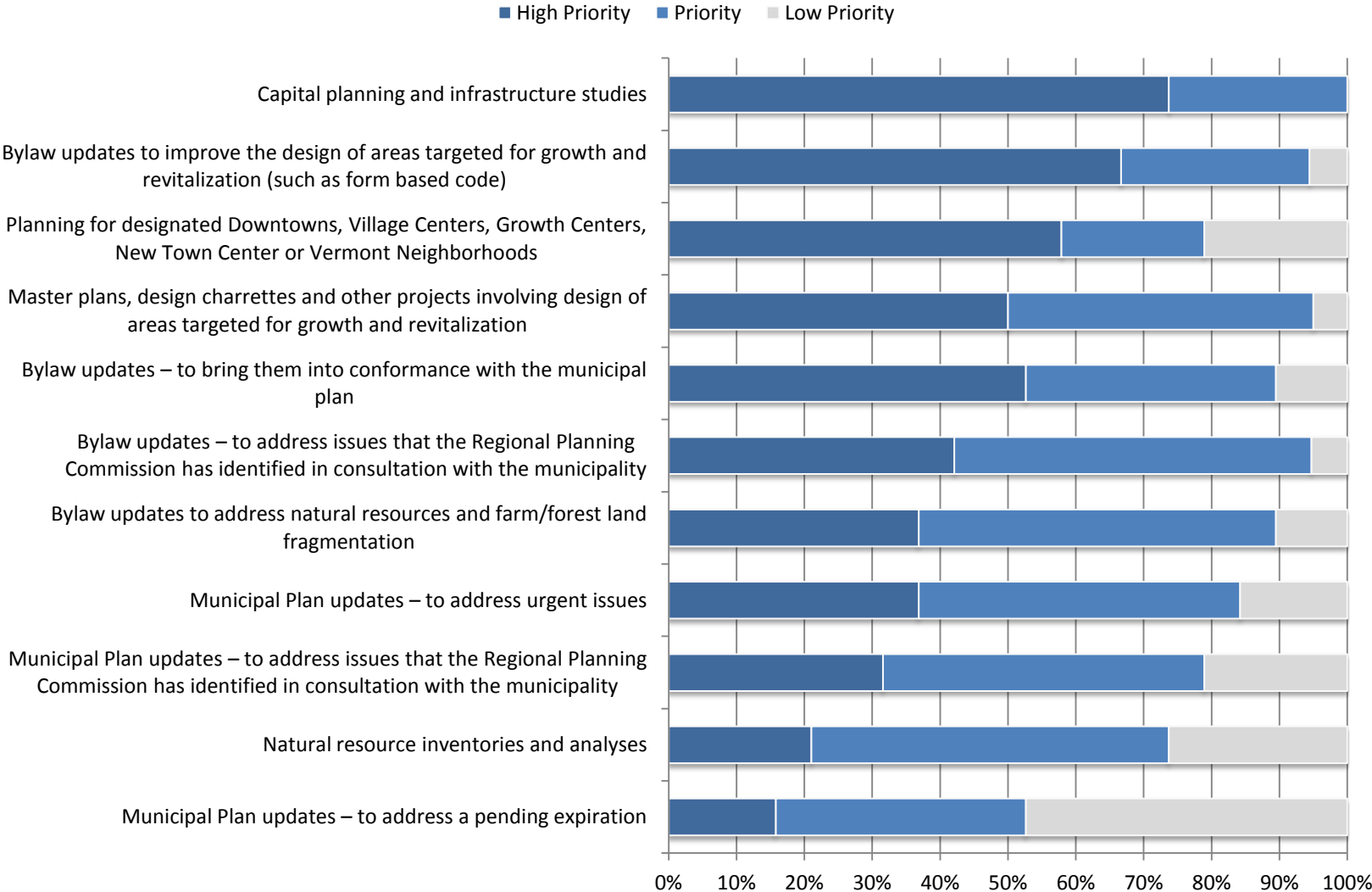
	Pop <2000	Pop 2000-5000	Pop > 5000
Increase the maximum grant amount for a municipality (currently \$15,000) even if it means fewer grants each year	25.0%	27.1%	48.6%
No changes are needed, the program works well	14.3%	10.2%	2.9%
Fund more implementation projects (e.g. bylaw updates and capital improvement plans) vs. municipal plan updates	30.4%	35.6%	48.6%

- 57% of Professional Planners supported increasing the grant amounts.

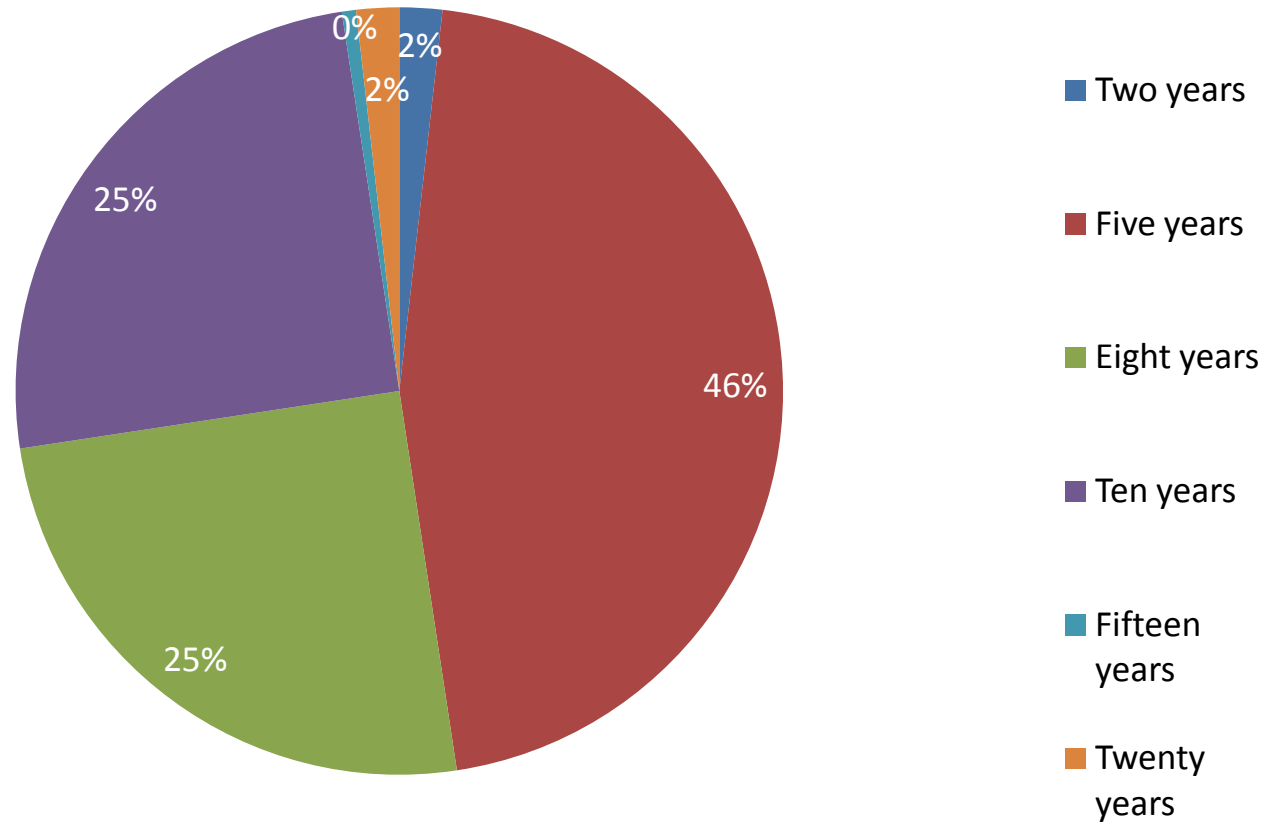
Q8. What types of projects should be priorities for MPG funding?



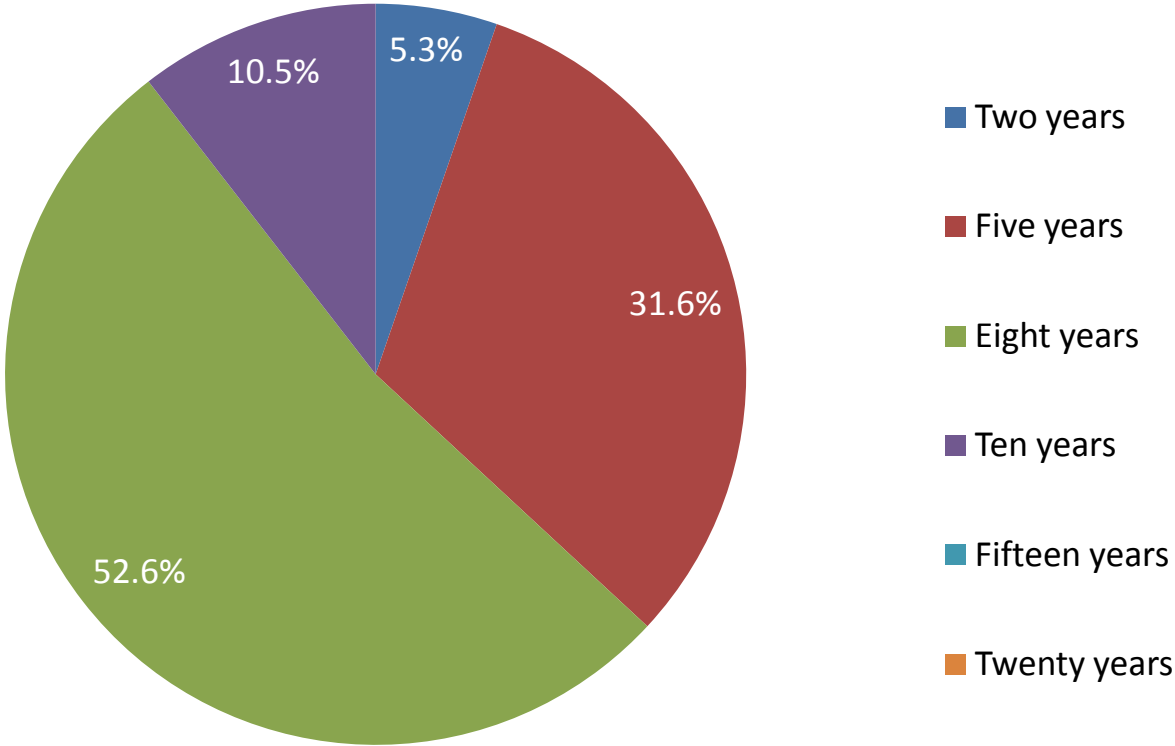
Q8. What types of projects should be priorities for MPG funding? (RPCs)



Q9. How often do you think a municipal plan should expire and why? (n=168)



Q9. How often do you think a municipal plan should expire and why? (RPCs)



Q9. How often do you think a municipal plan should expire and why?

- **5 years**

- A lot can change in 5 years

- **8 years**

- Gives enough time for implementation

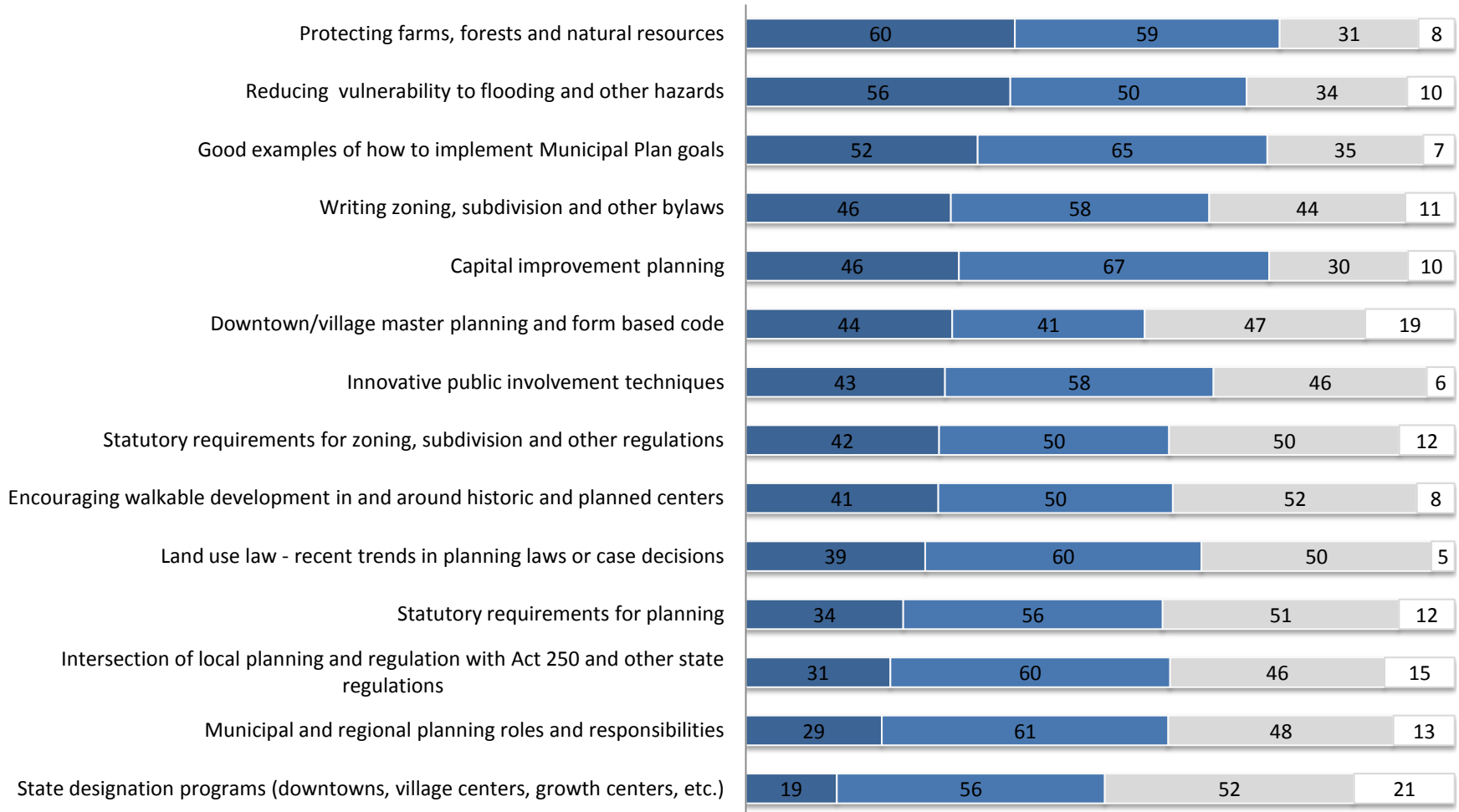
- **10 years**

- Gives enough time for implementation
- Works with 10 census data
- 5 year plans lead to cycle of re-adoptions

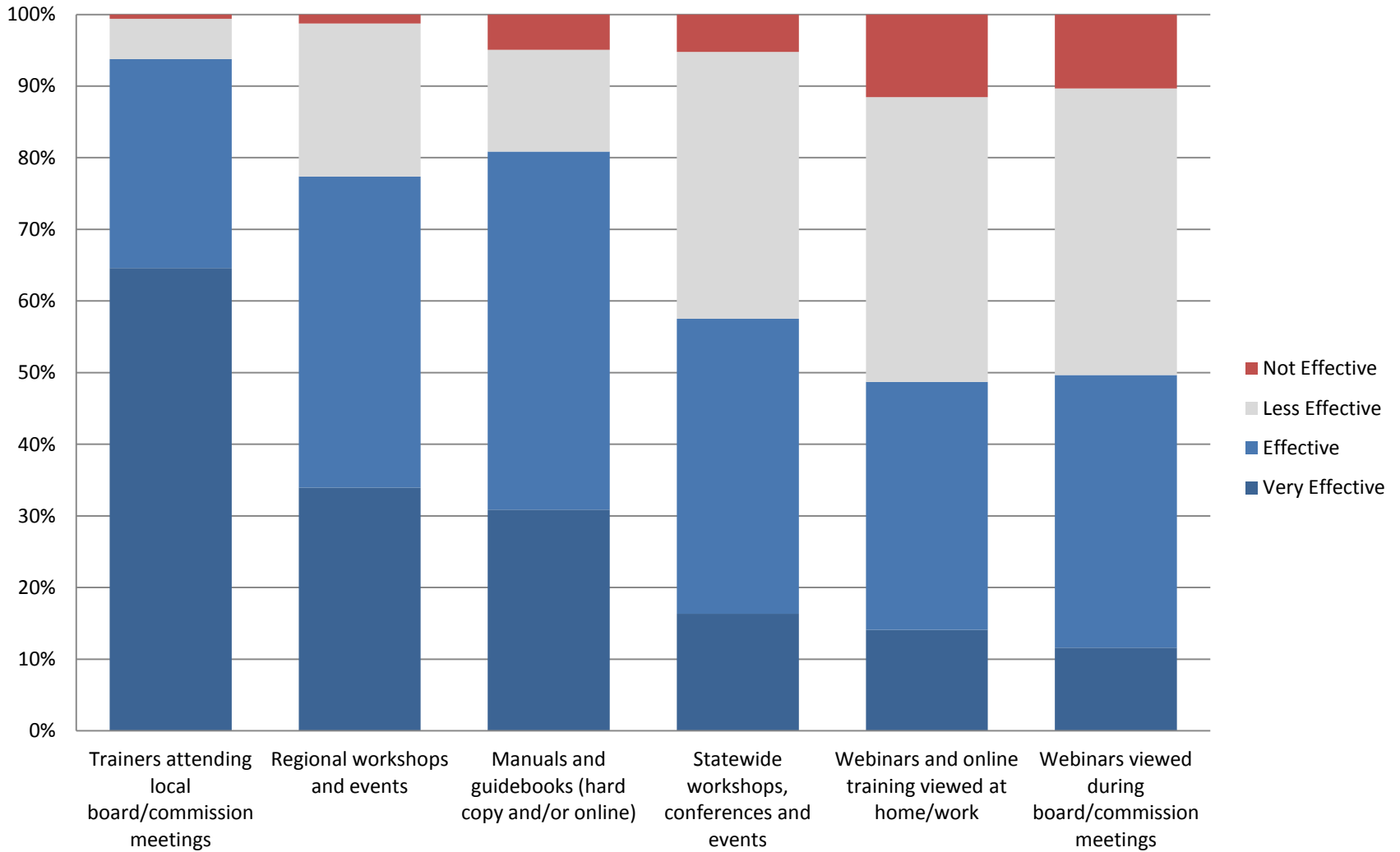
- **Professional Planners 2x as likely to support 10 year expiration.**

Q10. What training topics would make you more effective in furthering the planning goals in your community or region? (n=160)

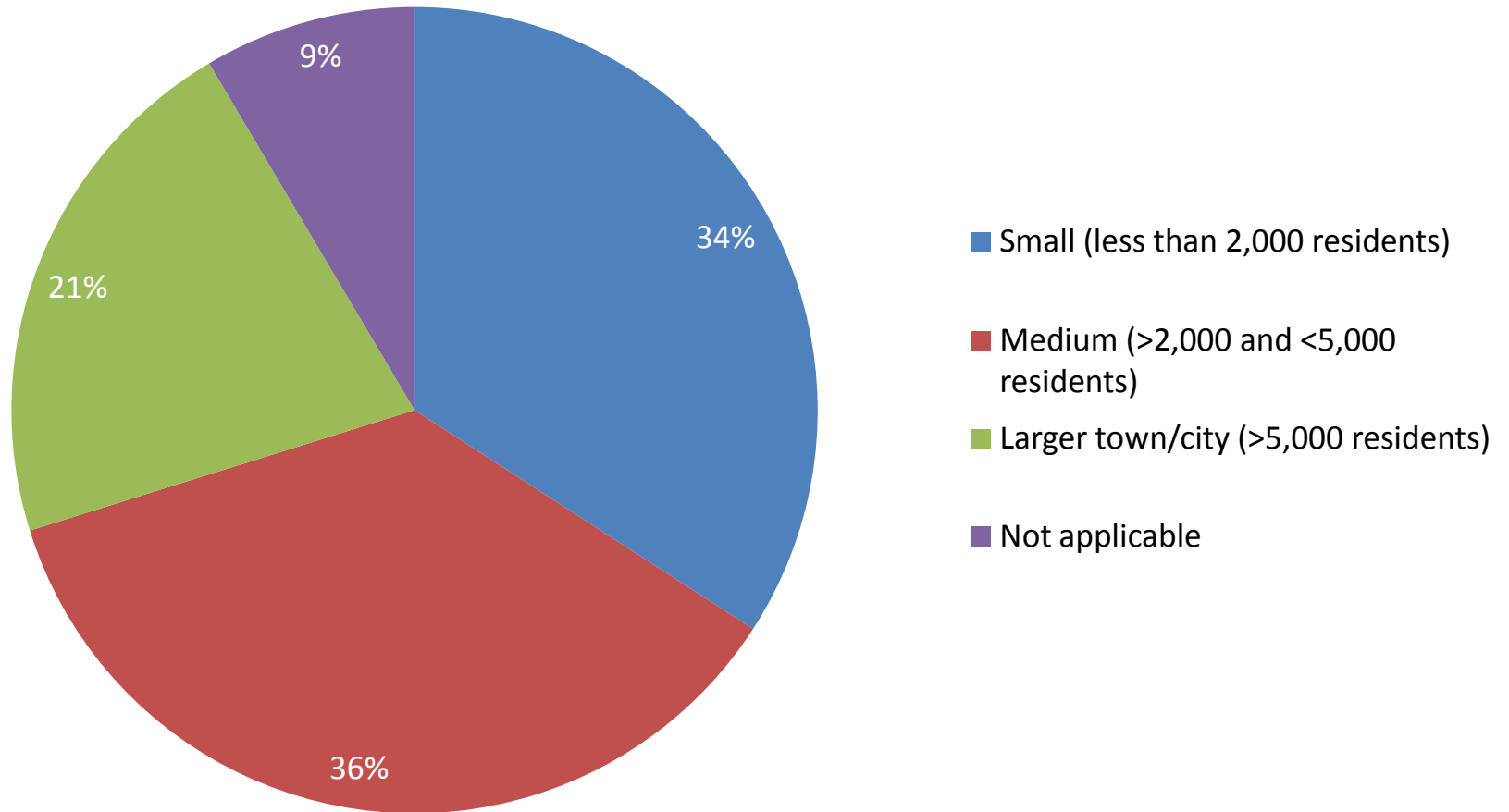
■ Essential ■ Very important ■ Somewhat important □ Not at all important



Q11. What training formats would be most effective in your community? (n=162)



Q12. If you work for or serve in a municipality, what is its size?



Q13. What county are you in?

