

A woman with dark curly hair, wearing a white apron over a light-colored top, is looking down at a tablet computer she is holding. In the background, another woman is visible, and there are shelves with jars, suggesting a shop or bakery setting.

Summary of Small Business Feedback on ARPA

Presented by: Ana Bradshaw, Assistant Director, Economic Development Department
Small Business Advisory Commission Meeting | November 29, 2021



Presentation Overview

Purpose

Recap of November 17 SBAC Public Comment

Feedback Form Results

Feedback to City Council

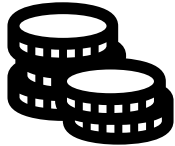
Next Steps



Purpose of Meetings

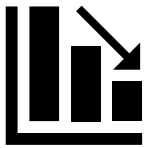
- ARPA allocated \$350 billion directly to state and local governments to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic
- SBAC to provide feedback to City Council on small business priorities that address the negative impacts of COVID-19
- Engage the San Antonio small business community

Recap of November 17 SBAC Public Comment



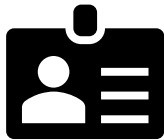
Access to Financial Capital

- Grants for local, small businesses
- Small business-friendly banking



Reduced Customers and/or Revenue

- Specifically in the hospitality and entertainment industry



Labor/Hiring

- Can't afford to pay wages people are demanding to return to work



Operations

- Specialty services: underwriting services, CPA services
- Contingency planning

Recap of November 17 SBAC Public Comment (cont.)



Childcare

- Childcare shortage (especially on southside)
- Support small businesses so families can return to work



Simple Implementation & Ecosystem Coordination

- Clear definitions of eligibility
- Less extensive application processes of grants/loans
- Implement recommendations in San Antonio Ecosystem Assessment

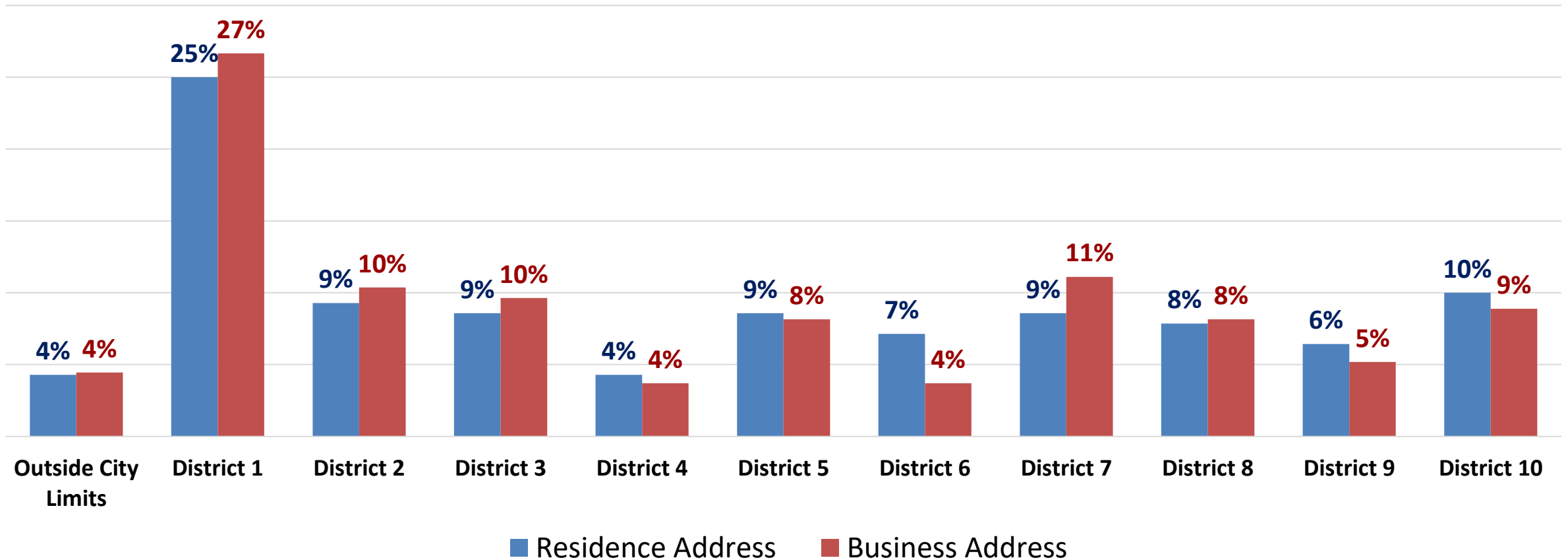


Equity

- Targeted approach to reach underserved communities

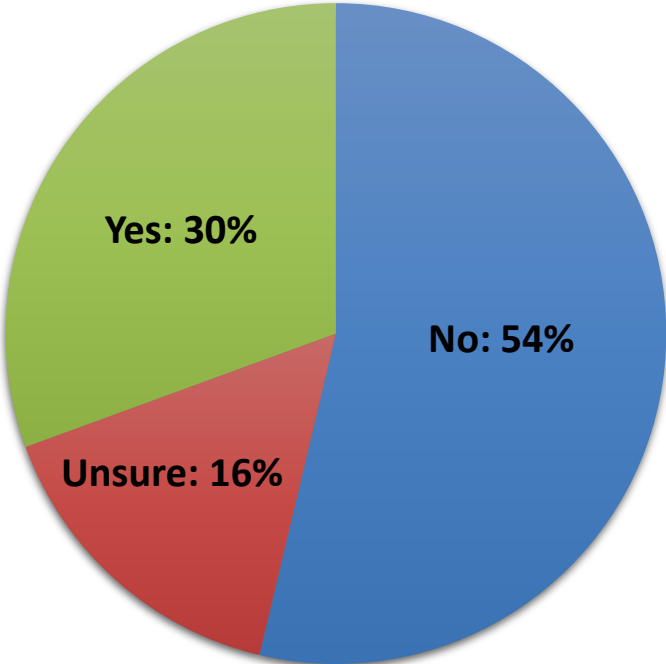
Feedback Form Results: Survey Responses

157 Survey Participants

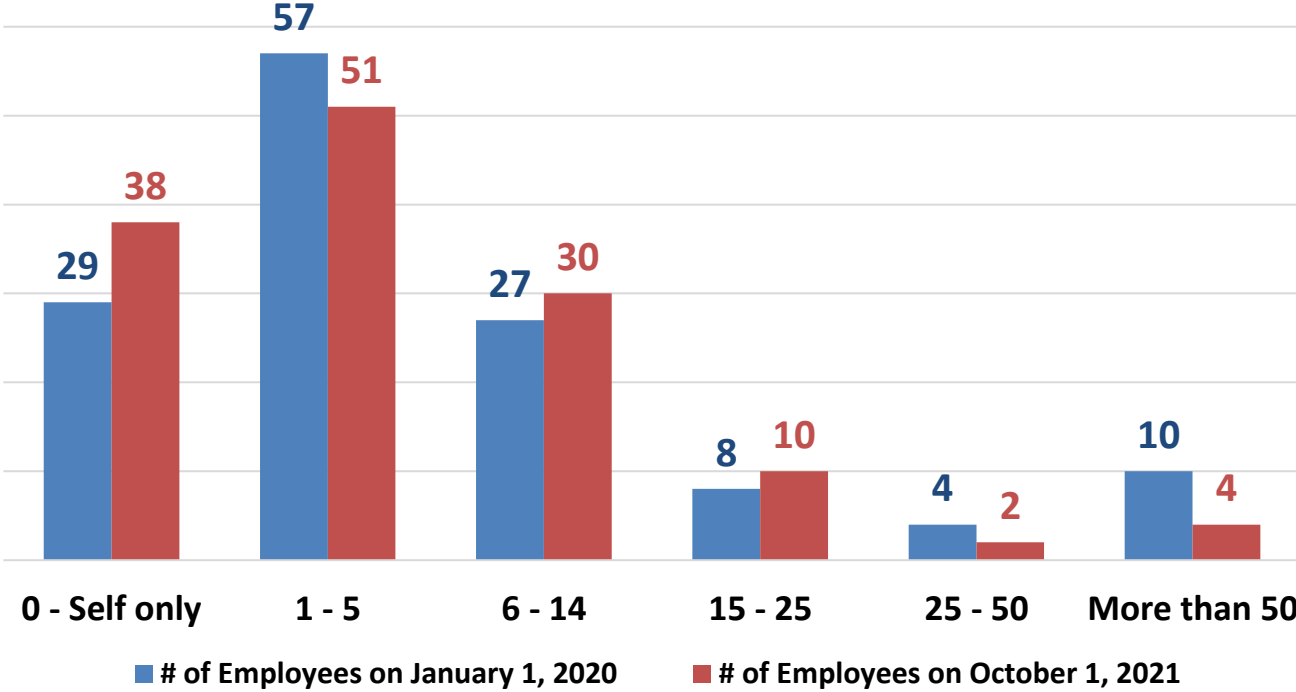


Feedback Form Results: Employees & Revenues

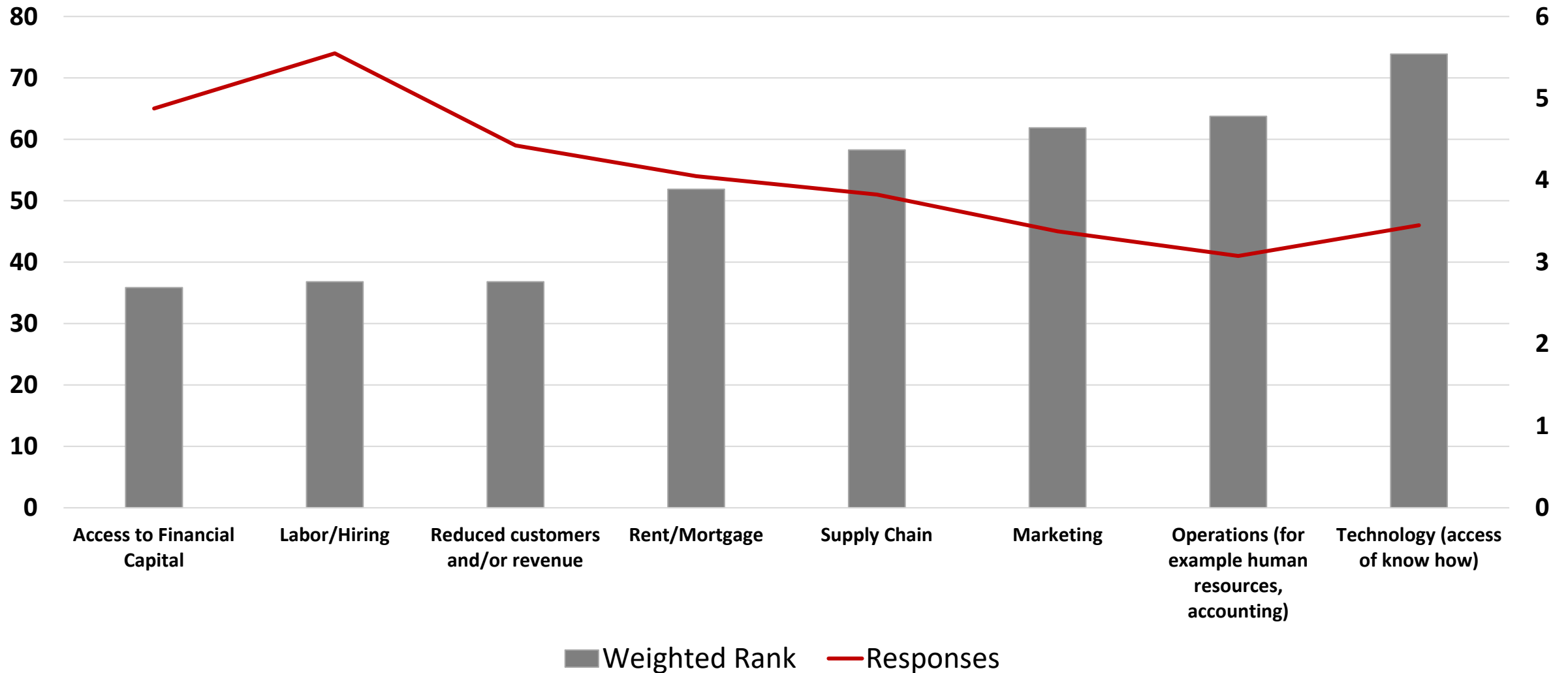
As of October 1, 2021 do you anticipate 2021 Gross Revenue to be higher than 2019?



of Employees from January 1, 2020 to October 1, 2021



Feedback Form Results: Challenges



Feedback Form Results: Other Comments

“It has been a struggle to open a business during a pandemic and I don't feel there are enough resources/help to brand new business owners vs businesses that suffered a decline in 2020 vs 2021. The biggest struggle has been retaining employees, so I am having to pay more than I anticipated, which is having a big impact on my profitability.”

“The business I have in 2021 is not the same as the business I had in 2019. The pandemic caused a major shift.”

“Grant money will help businesses find ways to market and increase awareness in order to capture more sales. However, the process needs to be simple and not complicated. We don't have the administrative backing to spend hours on paperwork.”

“Commercial real estate and rents continue to go up each year without any caps due to COVID, so while we're all making less money landlords are still increasing rents.”



Feedback for ARPA Funding

Top challenges identified by the Small Business Community:

- Access to Financial Capital
- Labor/Hiring
- Reduced Customers/Revenue
- Rent/Mortgage
- Supply Chain

Potential ARPA investments

- Access to Capital
- Capacity Building
- Ecosystem Enhancements

Next Steps



December 9 **“B” Session**

**Advise Council of Community
and Business Needs &
Priorities**



January 13 **“A” Session**

**City Council Considers
Plan for Approval**

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