

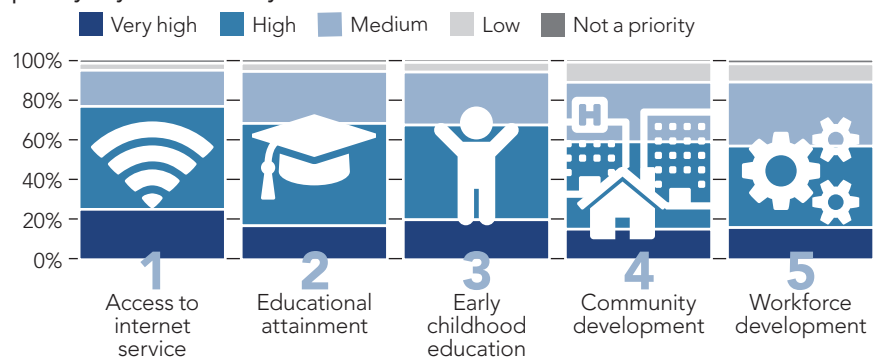
INTRODUCTION

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA), in partnership with the Aspen Institute Dialogue on Public Libraries, and the Public Library Association, conducted a nationwide survey in the spring of 2016 focused on the evolving role of public libraries in advancing community goals. Supported by funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, this effort was undertaken to better understand how public libraries can be leveraged to advance community goals and how government agencies can partner with library leaders to better engage, inform, and empower residents. The survey was conducted in follow-up to ICMA's 2010 Public Library Initiative Survey.

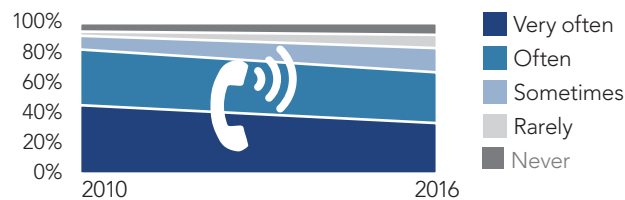
SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Top community priorities** identified by survey respondents included access to high-speed Internet, primary/secondary education, early childhood education, neighborhood/community development, and job training/workforce development. While survey respondents envisioned public libraries as a **key resource** to support their communities' **education and digital inclusion goals**, there was less certainty around the library's future role in supporting the other priority areas.
- Between 2010 and 2016, there was a **general decline in the frequency of engagement** between library leaders and local government leaders, particularly with regard to contact through open channels of communication..
- **More than half** of respondents indicated that the library systems in their communities **receive funding from non-governmental entities**, such as foundations and non-profits. Many jurisdictions identified these organizations as part of their **strategy to ensure the financial sustainability** of the library system.

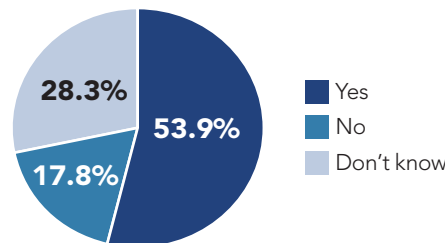
Please rate the extent to which each of the following areas represents a current priority of your community.



Library representatives are in contact with representatives of the local government through open channels of communication.



Is the local public library system funded at least partially by financial support from non-governmental entities?



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Full survey results will be released in the fall of 2016. To learn more about how local government leaders can engage with public libraries to advance community goals, please visit the following websites:

- International City/County Management Association — www.icma.org
- Aspen Institute Dialogue on Public Libraries — www.libraryvision.org
- Public Library Association — www.ala.org/pla

photo by: Julia Chandler/Libraries Taskforce, <http://bit.ly/2diZo7N>

