

Workforce Development & Economic Diversification: Summary of Community Input

The following report is a compilation of the data related to Workforce Development and Economic Diversification collected during the Community Vision Process through the Community Vision Survey and Community Conversations.

Community Survey Results

The Community Survey asked respondents to rank, in order of priority, the issues that the Town or community organizations should work to address over the next 1-10 years. Workforce Development and Economic Diversification ranked second and third in the results of the survey. In the table below, you can see the frequency with which each issue was ranked in each place. Workforce Development was ranked as a top 5 priority by 66% of respondents and Economic Diversification was ranked in the top 5 priorities by 61% of respondents. For a more detailed report on the entire results of the Survey, see the Survey and Community Conversations Findings Report.

Frequency of Ranked Priorities

Priorities	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Total	Weighted
Access to Housing	137	40	52	41	30	300	1113
Workforce Development	38	61	72	48	38	257	784
Economic Diversification	40	62	64	43	26	235	752
Environmental Sustainability	37	41	36	27	51	192	562
Climate Change Impacts	28	29	26	37	32	152	440
Human Infrastructure	9	28	31	27	45	140	349
Transportation	13	25	29	24	44	135	344
Land Conservation	21	18	20	28	22	109	315
Access to Waterfront	13	31	8	27	30	109	297
Broadband	20	22	18	28	15	103	313
Freshwater Resources	14	20	19	24	24	101	279
Built Infrastructure	4	5	3	20	11	43	100
NA	2	5	7	11	17	42	90
Other Priorities	11	0	2	2	2	0	67

The Weighted column represents a score for each priority based on the number of times it was ranked in each place. For example, each time an issue was ranked in first place, it receives 5 points. Second place rankings are 4 points, third place are 3 points, and so on. This allows us to base priority rankings not only on the frequency with which they were ranked as a top 5 issue, but also based on where in the rankings they fell, providing a clearer picture of the importance of each priority.

Community Survey Comments

Survey respondents were given space to write in additional concerns and challenges that they felt the North Haven community should commit to working on. Many respondents chose to elaborate on issues they had already ranked using this space. Below is a summary of the themes that emerged in these comments relating to Workforce Development and Economic Diversification

Summary of Workforce Development Themes

- ❖ *There is a shortage of tradespeople who live and work on the island.*
- ❖ *Training opportunities and incentives to learn trades and other skills and work on the island.*
- ❖ *Maintaining a local workforce is important for the sustainability of a year-round community.*

Summary of Economic Diversification Themes

- ❖ *Aquaculture is an opportunity for economic diversification.*
- ❖ *Better broadband will increase opportunities for economic diversification.*
- ❖ *Support for small businesses, the arts, more services, and other industries will improve the year-round sustainability of the island.*

Community Conversation Results

In addition to the Community Survey, community members had the opportunity to participate in facilitated small-group community conversations and share their thoughts via email, phone calls, and one-on-one conversations. Below is a summary of the themes that emerged during these discussions.

Summary of Workforce Development Themes

- ❖ *North Haven needs a valued and well-supported workforce that has access to adequate training and opportunities for employment.*

Summary of Economic Diversification Themes

- ❖ *A year-round economy that is diverse and self-sustaining.*
- ❖ *Aquaculture and blue industries as an opportunity for economic diversification that maintains a connection to marine industry.*
- ❖ *Equitable access to good internet to make it easier to work in a variety of sectors on North Haven.*
- ❖ *Support for small businesses.*
- ❖ *Investment in infrastructure to support a range of industries from agriculture and maritime activities to arts, to service provision.*