

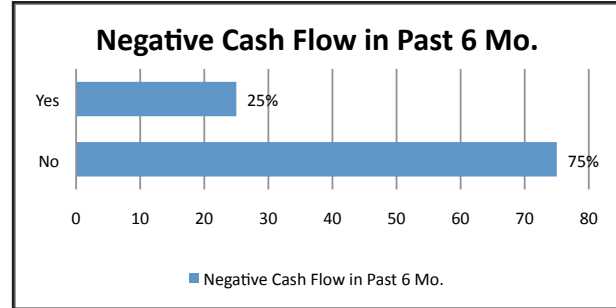
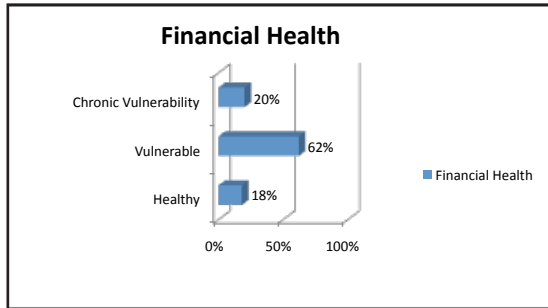


Economic Impact Survey

Fall 2009 - Black Hawk County Charities

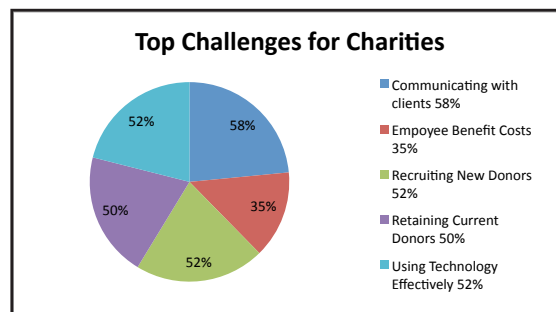
While pundits are saying that the recession is nearing its end, many charities do not yet feel the reality of that proclamation.

According to a recent survey by the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, local not for profit organizations are still feeling the pinch: over 80% of respondents feel financially vulnerable, and 25% have experienced negative cash flow in the past six months.



These results are consistent with national surveys of non-profits as well. The Atlanta-based job listing service Opportunity Knocks just released a study which shows that more than half of charities responding made staff cutbacks in 2009.

Additional concerns for local non-profits include communicating with clients, retaining donors, using technology effectively, and employee benefit costs.



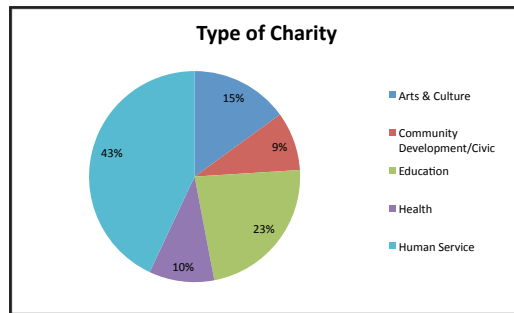


Economic Impact Survey

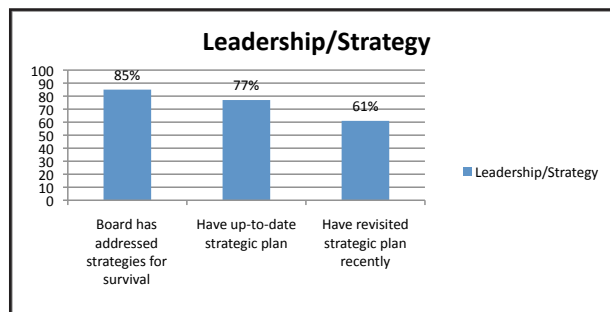
Spring 2009 - Black Hawk County Charities

November is national Philanthropy Month, but according to the Chronicle of Philanthropy, U.S. charities expect donations to decline in 2009 for the second year in a row. And USA Today reported that “while people have continued to give to charity during the recession, they’re giving smaller amounts. That’s significant, because donations from individuals account for about 75% of all charitable giving.”

In the Cedar Valley, the Community Foundation issued a survey of not for profit organizations in March of this year, and reissued the survey again in October. The Foundation’s intent was to measure the impact of the recession over time, and highlight any red flags related to the vitality and stability of our charitable sector.



Key findings include: nearly half of charities surveyed have cut their professional development and/or travel budgets in 2009, up from 15% in the spring survey, and two-thirds struggle to afford employee benefits/retirement packages. 30% have reduced or adjusted health and retirement benefits to date, although 92% of respondents say they have not reduced salaries in 2009.

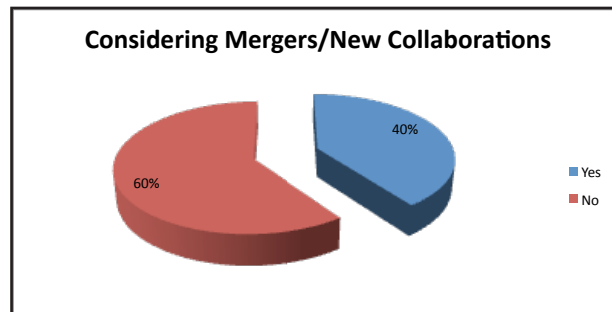




Economic Impact Survey

Spring 2009 - Black Hawk County Charities

Generally speaking, the fall 2009 survey does not find local charities to be in significantly more dire situations than they were in the spring. In fact, 60% of surveyed organizations have not been forced to consider any new collaborations, partnerships or mergers as a result of economic pressures. Furthermore, there have been some positive shifts in what they consider to be the most challenging aspects of their work. Meeting the needs of current clients is a struggle for 60% of respondents in October, compared to 80% in March, and this fall, half as many organizations stated that they had less than one month of cash reserves available than had indicated such in March.



The Third Sector (a leading UK publication for the voluntary and not-for-profit sector) estimates that charities are yet to feel the full reality of the recession. If that is true, the relative peace experienced by Cedar Valley agencies may yet be shaken. The good news is that many local charities seem to be taking the advice of the Stanford Social Innovation Review, an online news and opinion source for nonprofits and foundations, which recently published a list of tips to "Outrun the Recession". Protecting core services, operational improvements and board involvement are among the editors' key recommendations for enduring the marathon of our current economic recession.

The Community Foundation plans to issue their economic impact survey again in the first and third quarters of 2010. The Foundation also intends to announce new grant opportunities for non-profit capacity building needs in 2010 (training, professional development, technical assistance), in direct response to the 2009 survey results. More information on the Foundation's survey may be found online at www.cfneia.org.