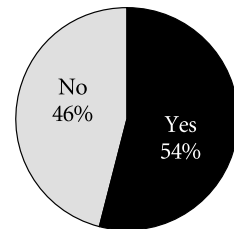


## And The Survey Says . . .

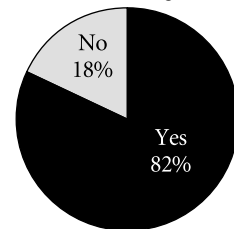
### Intergovernmental Cooperation Survey Provides Useful Information

In light of recent budget problems and a continued emphasis on cost-effectiveness, an increasing number of communities are looking to use alternative approaches to providing services. To learn from these experiences, Vierbicher Associates, Inc. conducted a survey of over 350 communities to obtain information regarding effective strategies to enhance intergovernmental cooperation. Following are the results from the 76 responses we received.

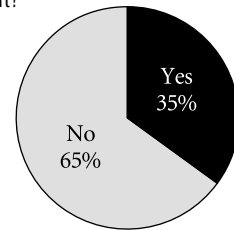
Has your community attempted to **manage growth** by working in cooperation with other units of government?



Has your community attempted to **consolidate services** with other units of government?

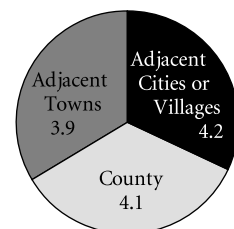


Has your community attempted to **jointly purchase capital equipment and/or share operating expenditures** with other units of government?



What is your community's relationship with adjacent units of government?

1 = Poor > < 5 = Good



#### "The Top Ten Intergovernmental Cooperation Activities"

The following activities are reported to be the most effective.

1. Fire and EMS Service
2. Library Services
3. Wastewater Treatment
4. Solid Waste
5. Shared Purchasing
6. Economic Development
7. Police Services
8. Joint Planning
9. Senior Centers
10. Joint Purchasing Of Capital Equipment

#### Survey Shows Cooperation Has Narrow Focus

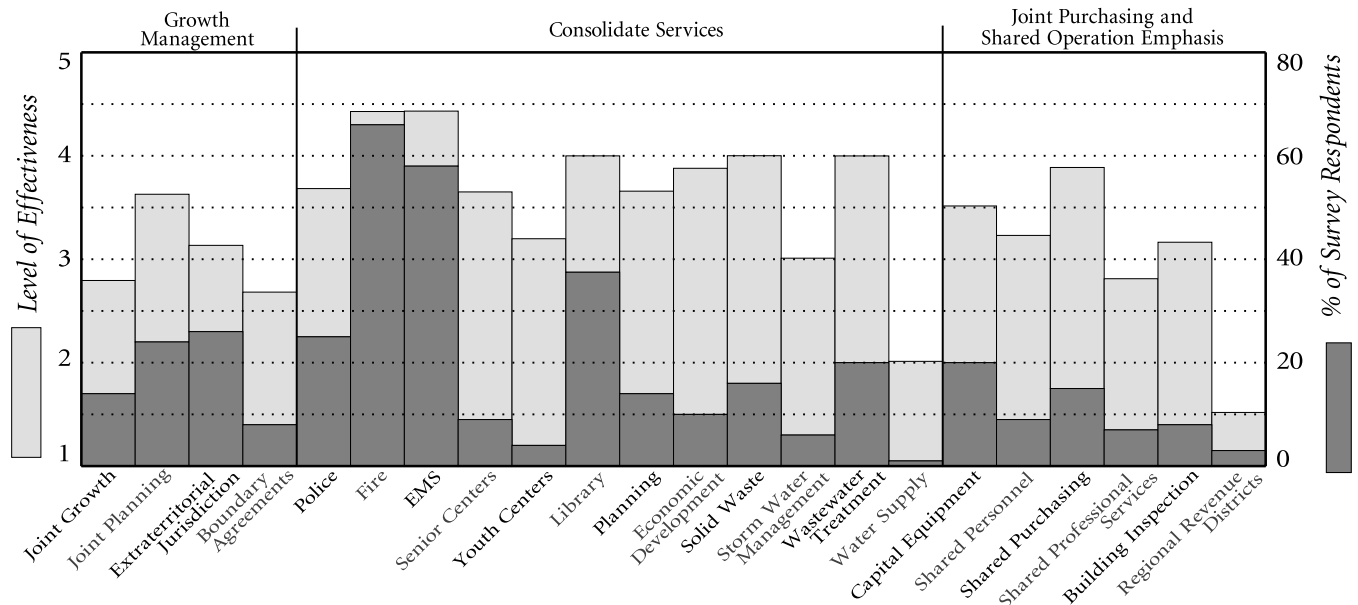
While a relatively high percentage of local units of government cooperate when providing traditional services, such as fire protection (66 percent) and EMS (58 percent), the percentage drops off significantly when looking at other services. On an average, only 14 percent of local units of government reported using other forms of intergovernmental cooperation. Based upon the survey results, the most shared activities include:

- Fire protection (66%)
- EMS (58%)
- Library (38%)
- Joint Planning (29%)
- Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (26%)
- Police (25%)
- Wastewater treatment (20%)
- Capital Equipment Purchases (20%)



## "Use Vs. Perceived Effectiveness Of Activities"

Respondents were asked to rank the effectiveness of the activity/program listed across the bottom of the chart. Those who responded rated the level of effectiveness of each activity/program (1 Poor to 5 Good). The results are communicated on this chart, along with the percent of respondents who use that particular activity/program.



## Options Are Available

The long-standing traditional approach for local units of government to provide services is to use their own employees and equipment. While there are some exceptions, a vast majority of services are provided individually by each local unit of government. However, options are available to this traditional approach. Three major options include:

### - Intergovernmental Cooperation

Using this approach, a unit of government contracts with one or more other localities or with the county to provide a service. Another approach is for two or more units of government to provide a service on a joint basis.

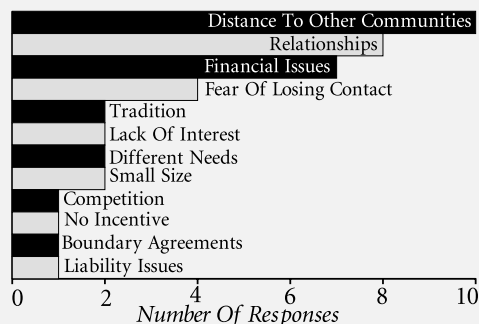
### - Privatization

Under this approach, a unit of government contracts with a private individual or company to provide the service instead of it being done by municipal employees. Another form of privatization is for a community to not provide a service and make it each resident's responsibility to secure the service on their own.

### - Transfer Service To Another Unit of Government

The other primary option is for a unit of government to transfer a service to another unit of government, usually the county. In certain cases, a special district may be created to provide a local service.

What barriers exist which impede your community's efforts for intergovernmental cooperation?



## Experience Makes A Difference!

Your community can benefit from the more than 25 years of experience Vierbicher Associates has assisted local units of government. Fully understanding your needs is our job. This allows the best solutions to be developed, while addressing the issues your community faces.

For more information on how the firm can assist you, please contact:

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