




# CONNECT THE BUDGET TO THE VISION AND VALUES OF YOUR COMMUNITY

**ResourceX**

Contact Partner

IN COLLABORATION WITH

City of Battle Creek

GOVERNMENT CHAMPION

City Manager's Office; Elected Officials

PROJECT STATUS

Operational since 2022

KEYWORDS

strategicplanning community engagement

COVID19 Priority Based Budget

American Rescue Plan...

CHALLENGES ADDRESSED

Citizen Engagement Transparency

Fiscal Uncertainty

MOTIVATION

Resilient city


FUNDING / FINANCING

General Fund/Existing...

PROJECT TYPE

Tool

MORE READING



**At a Glance**

Facing an immediate need to support essential services, the City of Battle Creek implemented a new application aligned with the community's needs. The new application provides transparency when allocating resources so as to ensure the best use of funds.

**Problem Addressed**

The City of Battle Creek first implemented Priority Based Budgeting to help the City decide how to spend its money based on a program inventory, allocated their budget to those programs that were most aligned with their community's values. Typically, the set of programs that are most aligned with their community's values change or new programs are added, but 2020 and 2021 were different.

In Battle Creek, like most cities around the country, City jobs were lost, businesses closed, residents were left without any direct contact with their community. It was a crisis, and City leadership worked to develop a prioritization framework of PBB was the best way to address the challenges of a budget with significant uncertainty.

As they faced the challenges of a budget with significant uncertainty, the City of Battle Creek recognized the importance of transparency to the community. To help re-prioritize programs through a new set of results and re-score

The City of Battle Creek excelled in 2020-2021 in connecting the voice of the community to the resources in the budget. Following the COVID crisis and the nationwide Equity conversation, the city recognized the need to listen to the community and incorporate that into their Priority Based Budgeting process for 2021. As a result, their PBB will reflect an action-oriented plan to address equity across all departments within their organization and community.

We were five years into our original community results and definitions. For the most part, those large results, safety and design and nice neighborhoods, did stay the same. But what changed was how we define them in our community and our community themselves. I think the other thing that we learned in this new reset and realigned results and definitions is the importance of equity. It made us recognize gaps and how we could use the PBB tools to fill the gaps so that when we stand in front of the Commission and the community, we can say, "This is how we are spending your taxpayer dollars." We can say we used your input as the foundation for aligning all of our programs and services.

Rebecca Fleury  
City Manager

IMPLEMENTED PBB IN 2015  
POPULATION OF 51,300

BATTLE CREEK, MI

2021