College Access and Success Resource Center
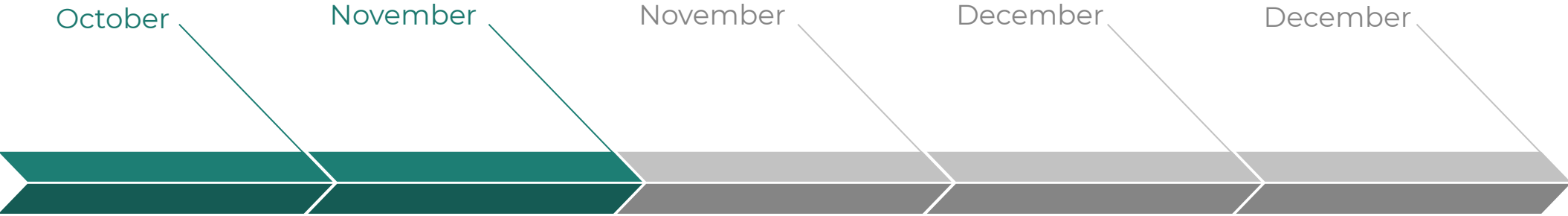
Preliminary Findings and Recommendations
December 11, 2020

How does our community inform this study?

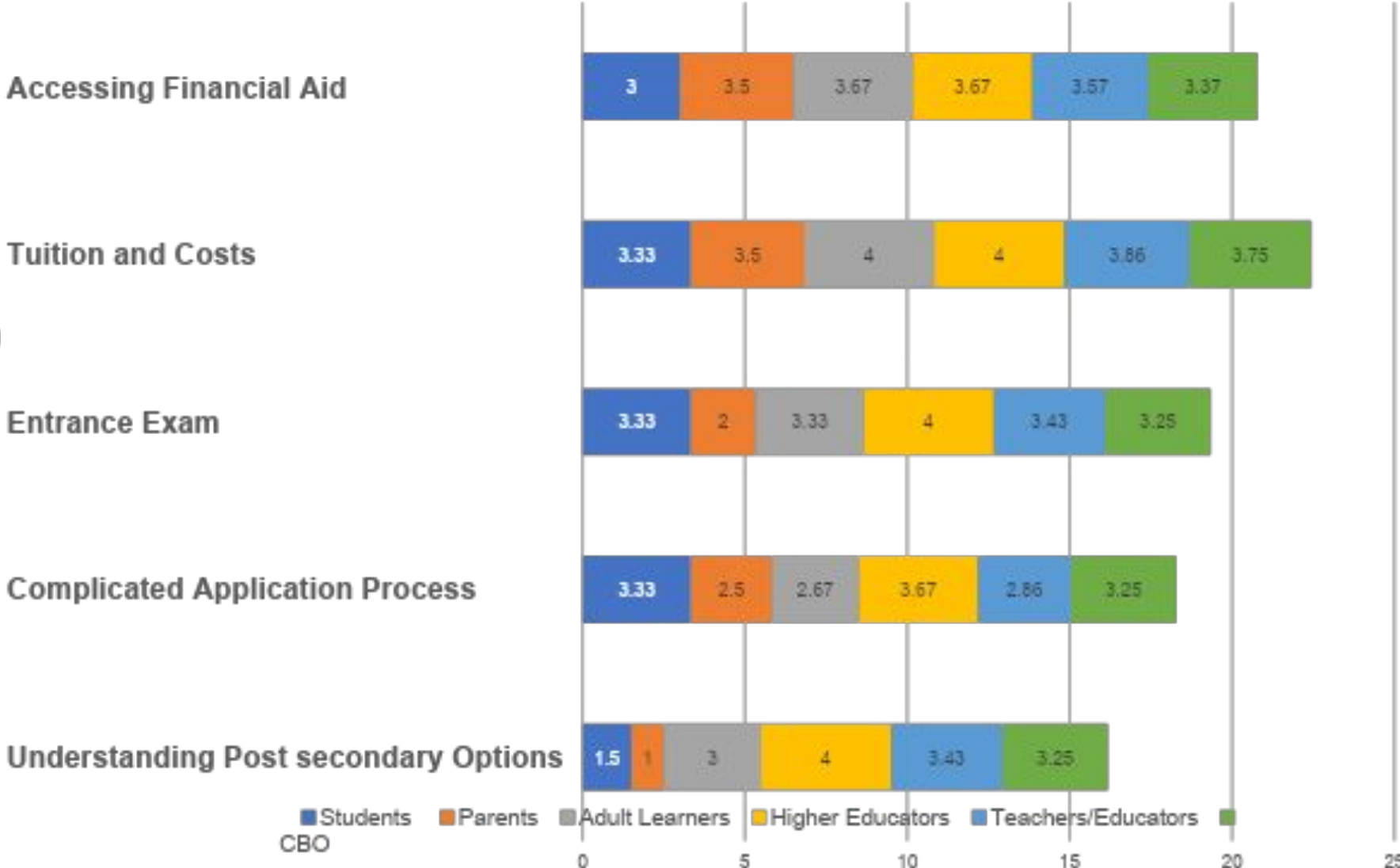| October	November	November	December	December
Local Asset Map	**National Landscape**	**Community Input**	**Report Out session**	**Strategy Design**
Local Asset Mapping to understand all key contributors to the college access and support space in Detroit	Review Career Access and Support Centers in various cities to understand factors for successful implementation	Community Input Sessions with: Students, Adult Learners, Parents, Higher Education Partners, Community Orgs, Funders, and Educators	Conduct a Listening Session on **December 2nd** to follow-up with key stakeholders about what we have learned	Develop a strategy to move forward for future implementation

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Our community participants...

Community Input Engagement	
Students/Adult Learners	13
Parents/Guardians	3
Teachers/Educators	15
Higher Education Partners	17
Community Based Organizations	33
Funders	3
	~84 participants

Cycle diagram labels: 1x1 Conversations, Listening Sessions, Survey

Q: What do you perceive as some key barriers for Detroit students going to college?

Tuition/Cost was identified as the biggest barrier to college

	Students	Parents	Adult Learners	Higher Educators	Teachers/Educators	CBO
Accessing Financial Aid	3	3.5	3.67	3.67	3.57	3.37
Tuition and Costs	3.33	3.5	4	4	3.86	3.75
Entrance Exam	3.33	2	3.33	4	3.43	3.25
Complicated Application Process	3.33	2.5	2.67	3.67	2.86	3.25
Understanding Post secondary Options	1.5	1	3	4	3.43	3.25

Legend: ■ Students ■ Parents ■ Adult Learners ■ Higher Educators ■ Teachers/Educators ■ CBO

What are some of the key barriers for college enrollment?

Lack of Academic Readiness from K-12 Education

College Knowledge & Awareness

"[Our schools] are not preparing students for the academic rigor of college. Students are not performing at grade level and by the time they get to college, they aren't ready."
– CBO participant

"We see students with high school GPA and are not college ready. That's disappointing for parents because their students have been doing everything they were supposed to do, and they aren't ready for college."
- Higher ED participant

"College knowledge and awareness starts too late and is only segmented to a certain type of student."
- CBO participant

"For the students we target, because they are first generation college students there are awareness gaps."
– CBO participant

College barriers from listening sessions...

Developing an Academic Identity/ College Mindset

Counselor Support/ Counselor Ratio

"It starts with a mindset, there isn't a college going mindset in our city. There are many arguments about fighting to say that everyone doesn't have to go to college versus the other way around."
– CBO participant

"The other piece even when they are prepared, it is what some researchers have called it, academic identity and how do you build that academic identity in students."
- Higher ED participant

"The Counselor to student ratio is 600:1 in Michigan, if students don't make an appointment with a guidance counselor there is a huge issue with support for college."
– CBO participant

"Access to post-secondary college advisement is being affected students are not connected with secondary institutions and less connected with counselor."
– CBO participant

College barriers from listening sessions...

Matching and Fit

Matching and fit is a barrier, we will work a lot on pulling Hispanic enrollment numbers and looking at their graduate rate that are specific to that demographic."
– CBO participant

"All students need to have a post-secondary plan that is tailored to their own strengths and areas of genius."
– CBO Participant

Basic/Family Needs

"During COVID, families are struggling with basic needs and may not be concentrating on post-secondary plans"
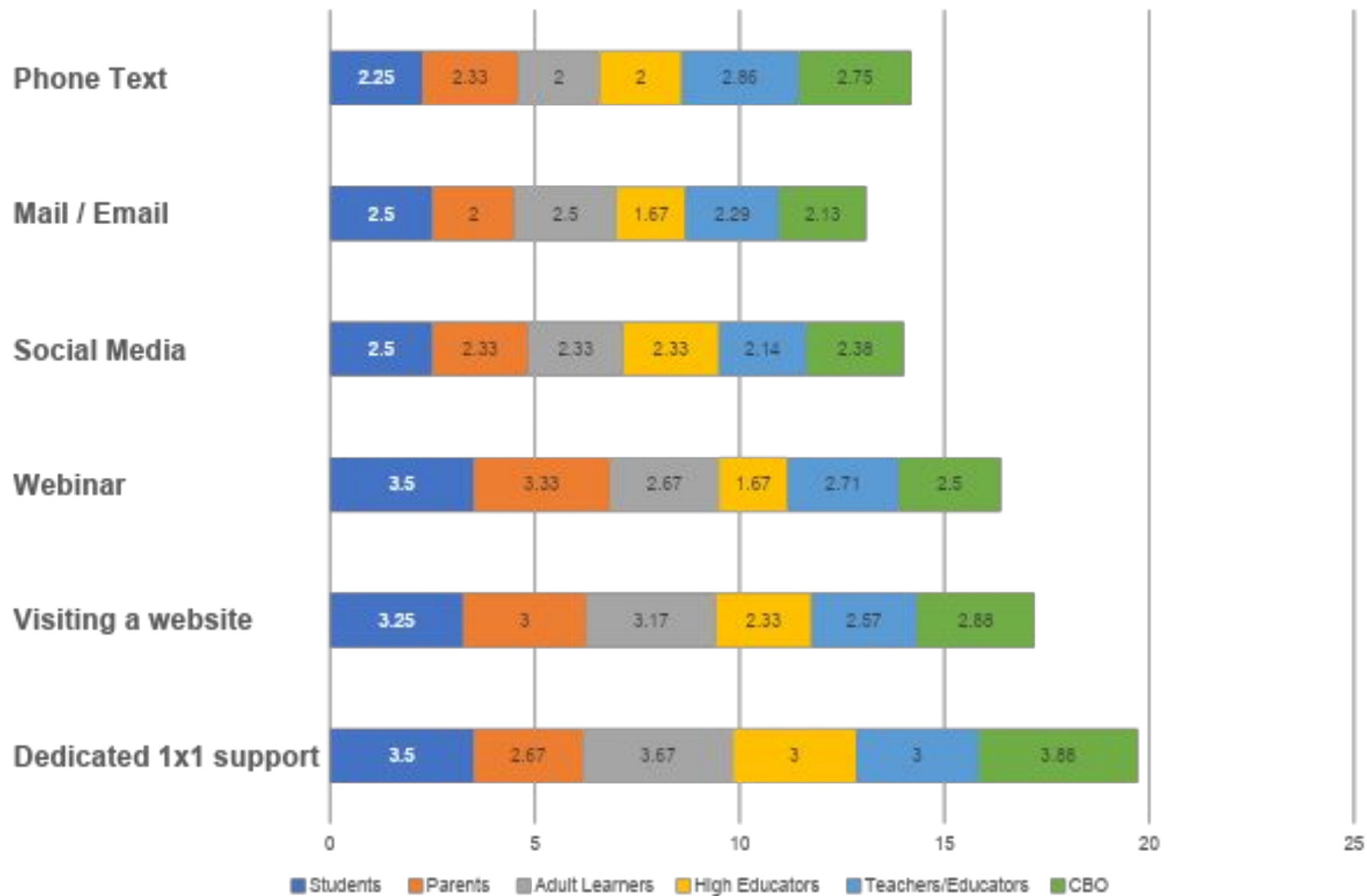**– CBO participant**

"Students also have family obligations that take priority over participation in pre-college programs and at times results in 'survivors guilt' when leaving friends and family ."
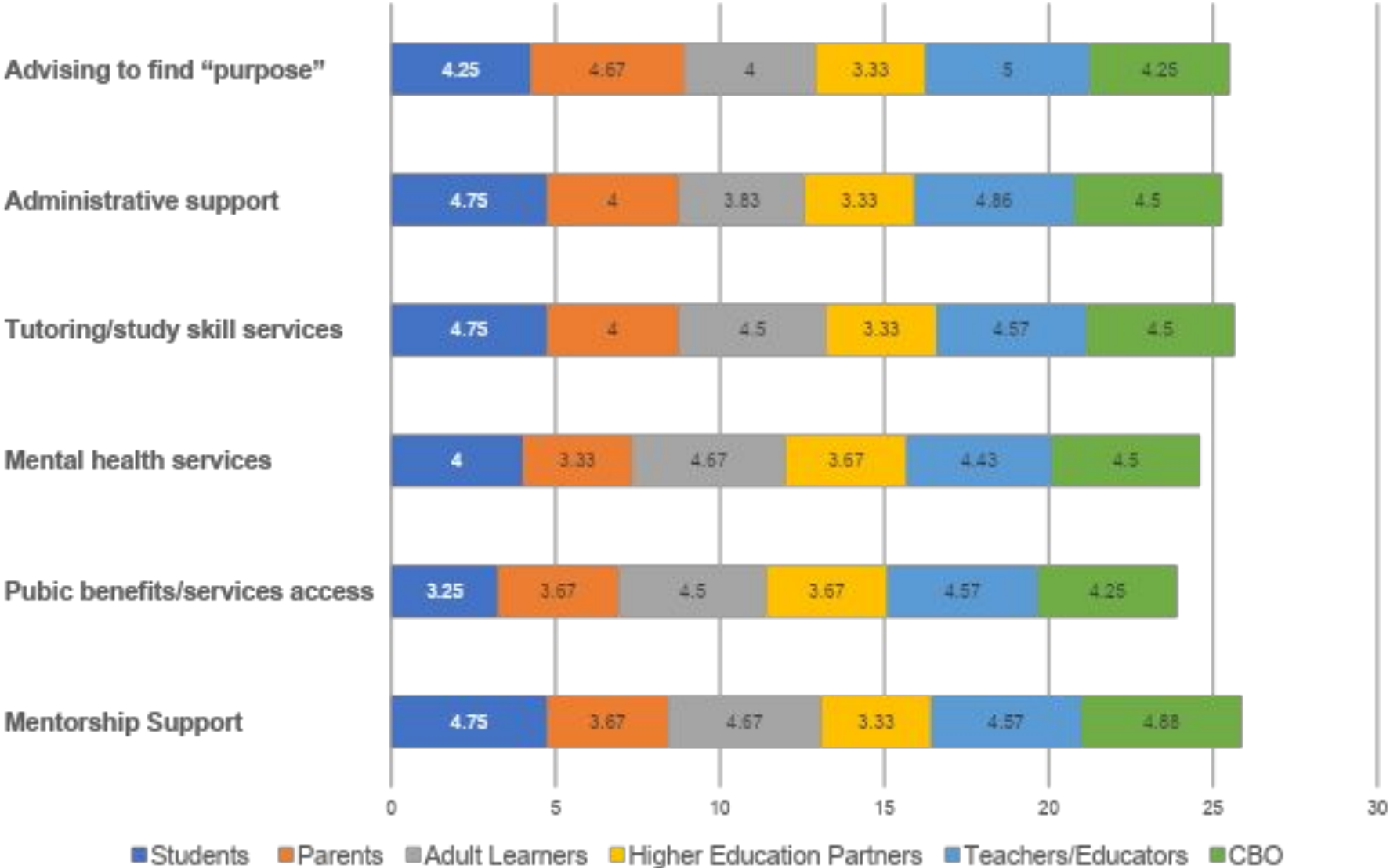**– CBO participant**

Tutoring and mentorship rated the highest for supports needed

Q: To what extent do you believe the following supports would be helpful to students in completing a postsecondary credential or degree?

	Students	Parents	Adult Learners	Higher Education Partners	Teachers/Educators	CBO
Advising to find "purpose"	4.25	4.67	4	3.33	5	4.25
Administrative support	4.75	4	3.83	3.33	4.86	4.5
Tutoring/study skill services	4.75	4	4.5	3.33	4.57	4.5
Mental health services	4	3.33	4.67	3.67	4.43	4.5
Pubic benefits/services access	3.25	3.67	4.5	3.67	4.57	4.25
Mentorship Support	4.75	3.67	4.67	3.33	4.57	4.88

Supports needed for successful degree/ credential completion...

Hand-off between K-12 and Post-secondary Institutions

"We try to make sure they (students) will be partnered with an organization that will support them in college."
– CBO participant

"The problem is there isn't a lot of transparency between higher education and the students and we don't have a wide net of college/counselors and coaches to help students navigate that process."
- Higher Education

"We work with a student group at the University of Michigan called Student Project Soar, with the goal of getting more underrepresented students into the performing art schools."
– CBO participant

Supports needed for successful degree/credential completion…

Mental Health/ Emotional Maturity

"A lot of emotional support is needed especially the freshmen because they haven't imagined this scenario especially during a pandemic."
– CBO participant

"Students don't have or understand what to do if you fail, your beliefs systems; Resilience that goes with being a college student and time management as a college student. Many are used to people telling you what to do."
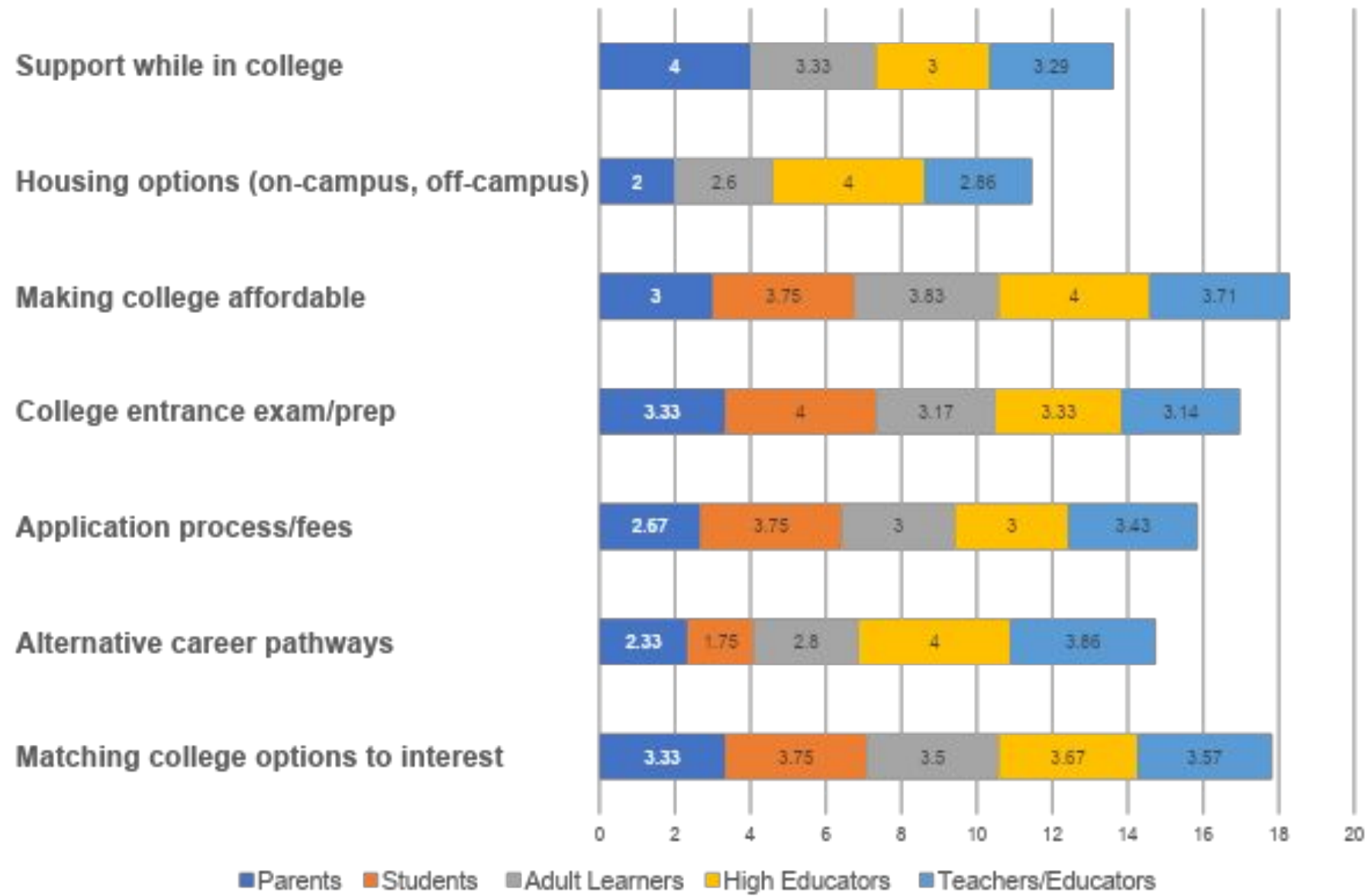**– CBO participant**

Students have some unresolved mental and emotional anxieties and issues that are coming up. From where I am, I'm seeing students now and this global pandemic in the way high school shut down there is a level of unresolved issues that are popping up."
– CBO participant

Q: When it comes to making decisions about enrolling in college, which topics are most important to get support?

College choices hinge on affordability and matching student interest

	Parents	Students	Adult Learners	High Educators	Teachers/Educators
Support while in college	4		3.33	3	3.29
Housing options (on-campus, off-campus)	2		2.6	4	2.86
Making college affordable	3	3.75	3.83	4	3.71
College entrance exam/prep	3.33	4	3.17	3.33	3.14
Application process/fees	2.67	3.75	3	3	3.43
Alternative career pathways	2.33	1.75	2.8	4	3.86
Matching college options to interest	3.33	3.75	3.5	3.67	3.57

Keep in mind about Detroit...

Transportation remains a barrier for the city

Relationships matter in Detroit

Technology access and knowledge remains a need for most families

"Detroit doesn't have a very reliable transportation option. That would be a big barrier, if students can go to a center on their own and there are times where parents can't be involved due to work schedules."
– CBO participant

"You have to have relationships with the teacher who really cares. At every school there is someone who cares and if you get their buy-in and that's where I would be doing their buy-in then the students will go"
- CBO participant

"Having technical support and having some support to make sure their connectivity is together...broadband support and even some educational training around that."
– CBO participant

Overall Trends

- Addressing awareness earlier than 11th and 12th grade is key to build knowledge and allow for effective preparation

- A stronger collaboration/handoff between K12 and Higher Education is needed for student success

- 1x1 case management is the preferred method to support students and adult learners with college access and success

- Breadth vs Depth of Programming leads to fragmented support, ecosystem is fragmented

- Cohort models provide peer support along with additional guidance for success

Preliminary Recommendations...

Provide opportunities for exposure for students

Wrap around support services are needed

Provide near peer/mentors and 1x1 support

Information for non-traditional students

Include technology as a main form of community with students

"Gauge for that family situation as well and trying to get all those potential crises or barriers on the table early on, so that you're able to address those as well as possible in those future years."

"There has to be some way for us to build our kids' pedigrees up to prepare them for college access, so that way there's not so much of the front-loading at the very end."

"If we're just scrolling through Instagram or something and we see an ad, we're like, "Oh, let me check this out."
– HS Student

The Path Forward

Phase II: Strategic Implementation Plan*	
January-May 2021**	Delivery Model
	Staffing and Personnel
	Financial Sustainability
	Branding/Marketing
	Organizational Governance
June 2021**	Deliver Strategic Implementation Plan with corresponding six-month timeline outlining requisite activities to launch pilot

*Community input will continue during Phase II, including two components: input and updates (as in Phase I).

**Planning, including dates and scope for Phase II, are still being determined. These dates may change.