

## HORIZONS GROWS MORE LEADERS IN ALDEN

Building the leadership skills of a core group of Alden residents was the second phase of Horizons. Taught by three trained local volunteers, 44 people participated in 30-40 hours of leadership training. The participants included 64% who said they had no previous leadership training, and just two participants who characterized themselves as “a person who makes community decisions.”

Participants completed surveys before and after the series of classes to assess the outcomes of this intensive training. Nearly all (95%) increased their knowledge of leadership skills—identifying community problems, leading productive meetings, managing conflict, and putting ideas into community action. They also reported plans to put their talents to work. For example, 9 in 10 (92%) intend to use their leadership skills to work more effectively with others; 8 in 10 (81%) intend to use their leadership skills to work more effectively with others; 8 in 10 (81%) participants said the training would enhance their effectiveness in the community; and 38% intend to work on poverty reduction.

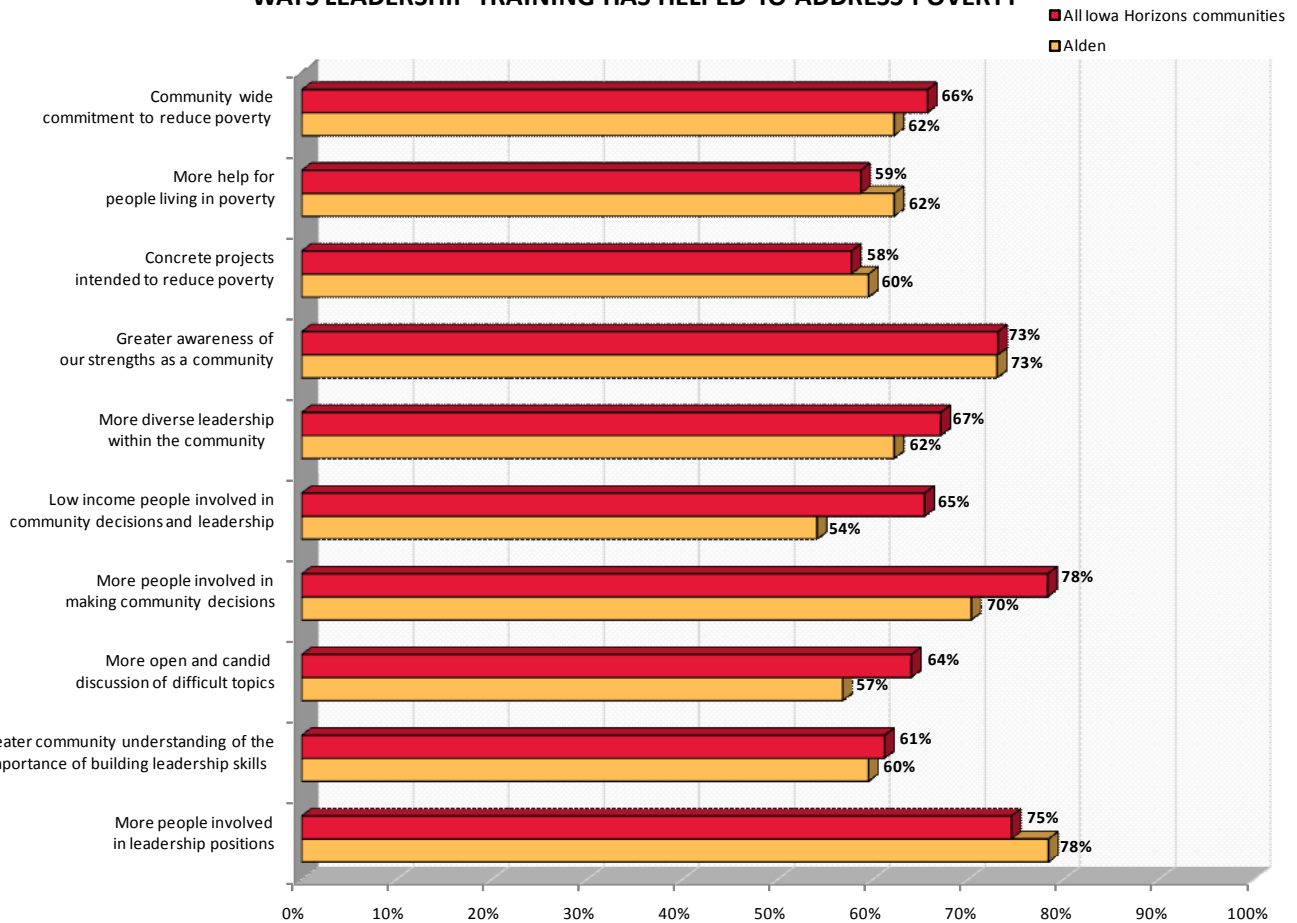
**ALDEN [N=37]**  
**INTENTIONS TO PUT LEADERSHIP SKILLS INTO ACTION**



At the conclusion of the training, participants were asked to identify ways the leadership training had helped them and others to address poverty in Alden. The next chart reports the views of Alden participants and those in all 14 Iowa communities that are participating in the 18-month Horizons program. Momentum for community action is building. The majority (68%) agreed that more people are aware of poverty. About 2 in 3 (65%) said the community is discussing poverty and what to do about it, and half (49%) observed more people stepping up to assist those in poverty.

Compared to other Horizons communities, a higher proportion (41%) of the Alden leaders see more low-income people involved in the community. And roughly mid-way through the Horizons project, 1 in 5 (22%) participants reported that the community is taking concrete steps to address poverty.

**ALDEN [N=37] TO ALL IOWA HORIZONS COMMUNITIES  
WAYS LEADERSHIP TRAINING HAS HELPED TO ADDRESS POVERTY**



Horizons is an 18-month program carried out by Iowa State University Extension with funding from the Northwest Area Foundation. Leadership Plenty® is the leadership training offered to Horizons communities in partnership with the Pew Partnership for Civic Change.

To learn more about the Horizons program visit [www.extension.iastate.edu/horizons/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/horizons/) or contact Ruth Freeman, Horizons Director, [rofreema@iastate.edu](mailto:rofreema@iastate.edu); 515-386-3611.

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