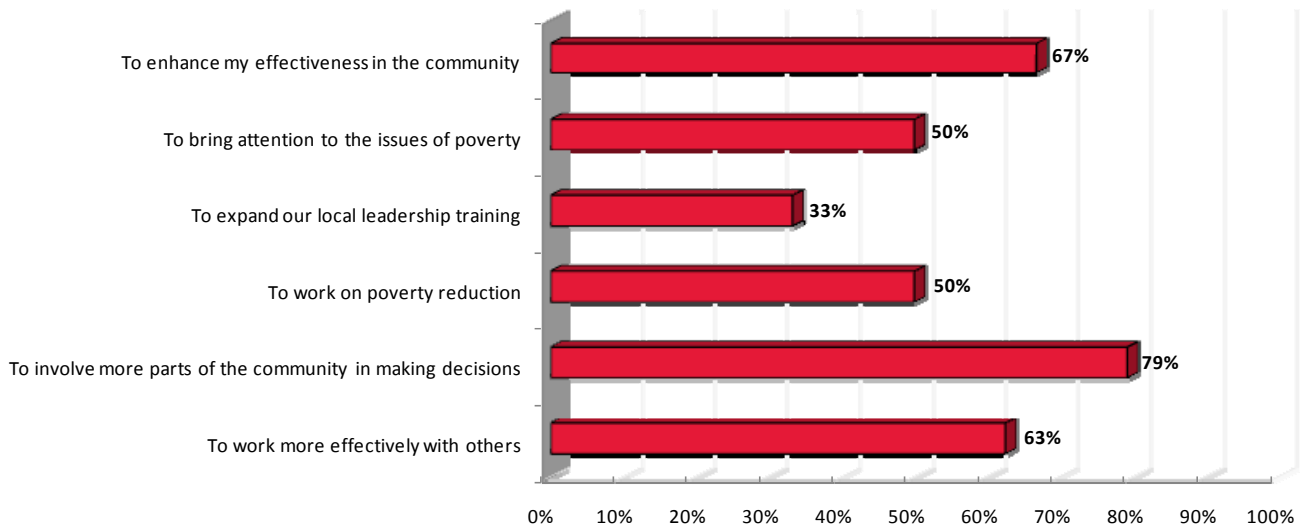


HORIZONS GROWS MORE LEADERS IN LEON

Building the leadership skills of a core group of Leon residents was the second phase of Horizons. Taught by three trained local volunteers, 28 people participated in 30-40 hours of leadership training. The participants included 69% who said they had no previous leadership training, and just 12% 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 (88%) 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, 8 in 10 plan to involve more parts of the community in decision making; 2 in 3 intend to use their leadership skills to work more effectively with others and also said the training would enhance their effectiveness in the community; and half intend to work on poverty reduction.

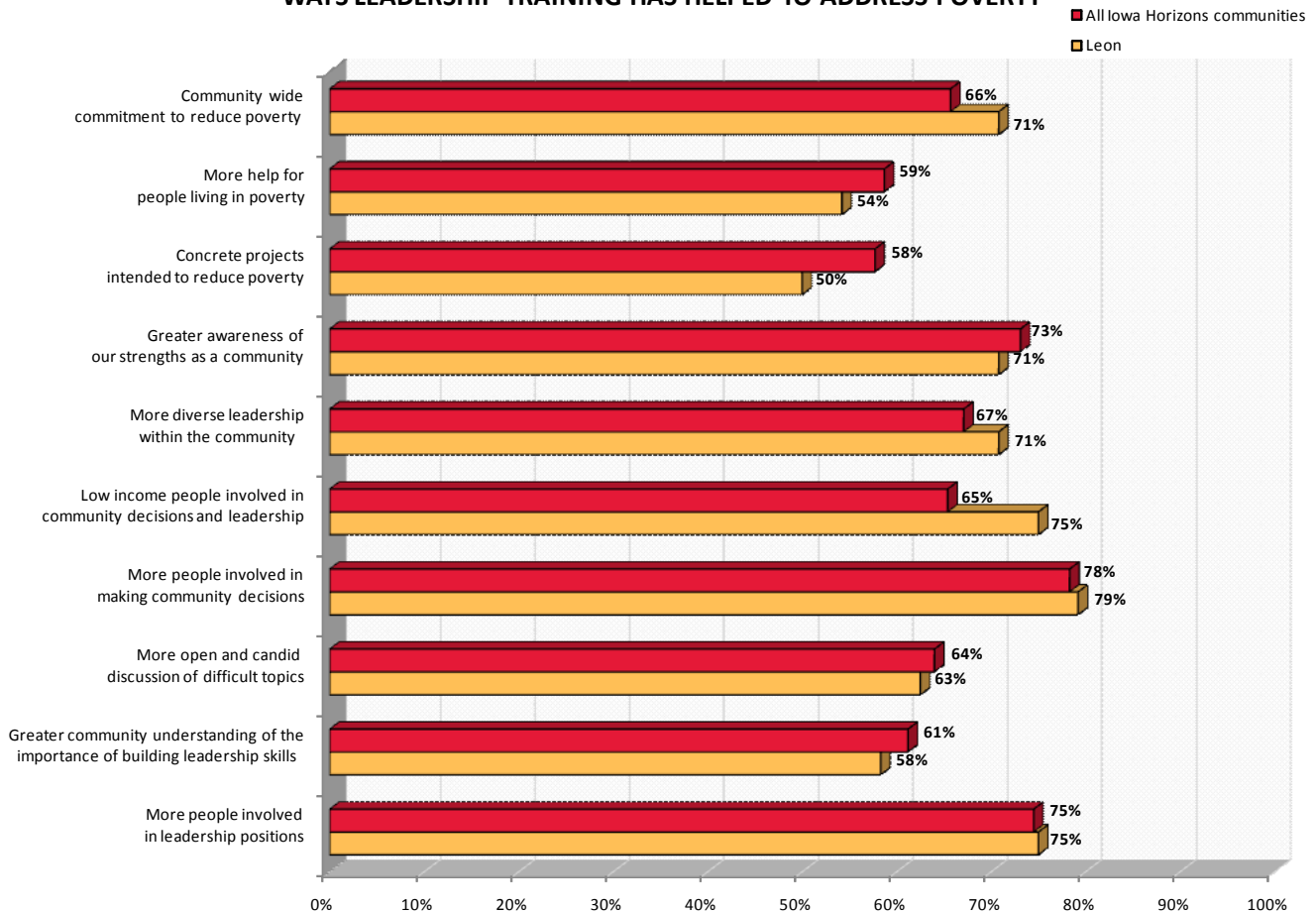
LEON [N=24]
INTENTIONS TO PUT LEADERSHIP SKILLS INTO ACTION



At the conclusion of the training, participants were asked to identify ways the leadership training had helped them and others to address poverty in Leon. The next chart reports the views of Leon participants and those in all 14 Iowa communities that are participating in the 18-month Horizons program. Momentum for community action is building. Nearly 3 in 4 (71%) said the community is discussing poverty and what to do about it; 38% agreed that more people are aware of poverty.

Compared to other Horizons communities, a higher proportion (50%) of the Leon leaders see efforts to create changes in public policy regarding poverty reduction. And roughly mid-way through the Horizons project, 1 in 5 (21%) participants reported that the community is taking concrete steps to address poverty.

**LEON [N=24] 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/ or contact Ruth Freeman, Horizons Director, rofreema@iastate.edu; 515-386-3611.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension
www.extension.iastate.edu/horizons



... and justice for all

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964. Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.

July 2009