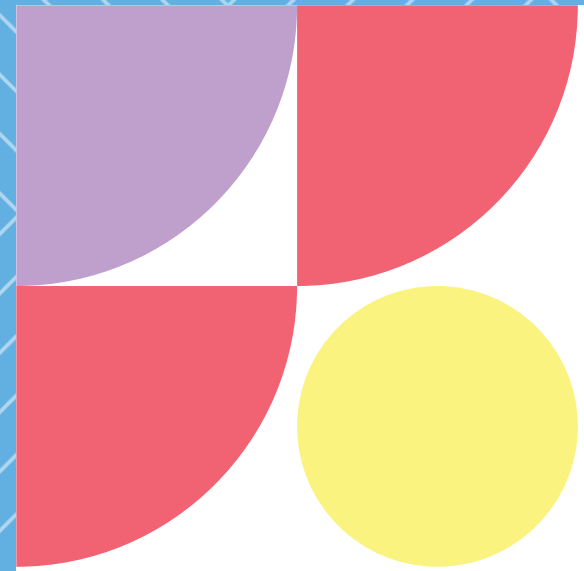
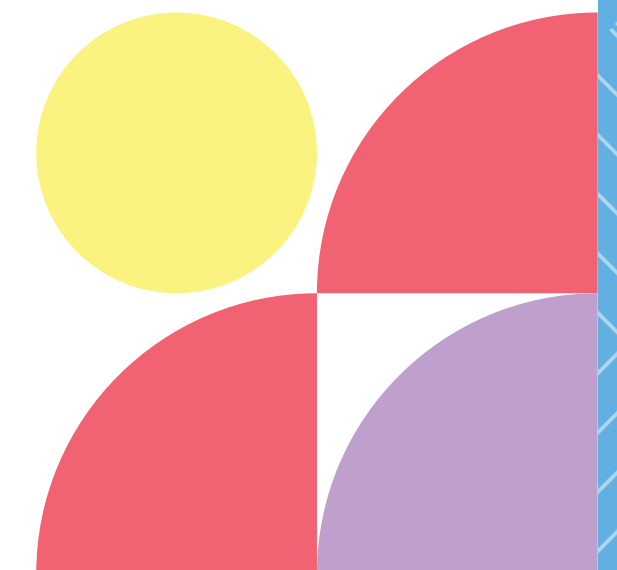


————— An Evaluation of —————

# Equipment Loan Programs in Nova Scotia



**DALHOUSIE**  
UNIVERSITY



# Land Acknowledgement

*We are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People and pay respect to the Indigenous knowledges held by the Mi'kmaq People, and to the wisdom of Indigenous Elders past and present. The Mi'kmaq People signed Peace and Friendship Treaties with the Crown, and section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms Aboriginal and Treaty rights. We are all Treaty people.*

*We also acknowledge the histories, contributions, and legacies of African Nova Scotians, who have been here for over 400 years.*

# Project Team



**Karen Gallant**

Associate Professor, Recreation  
and Leisure Studies, Dalhousie



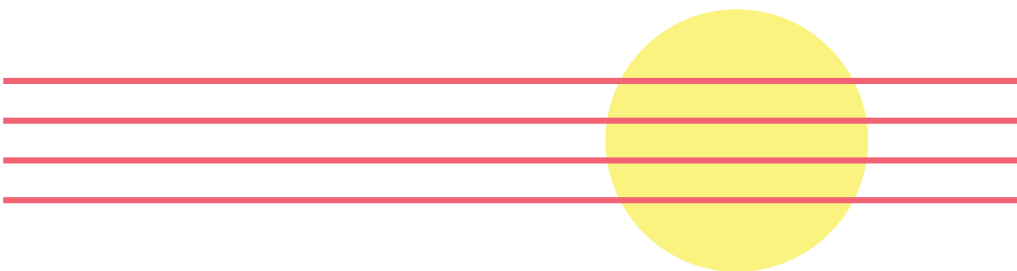
**Kerri Jack**

Inclusion and Accessibility  
Coordinator, Recreation Nova  
Scotia



**Jacqueline  
Wojciechowski**

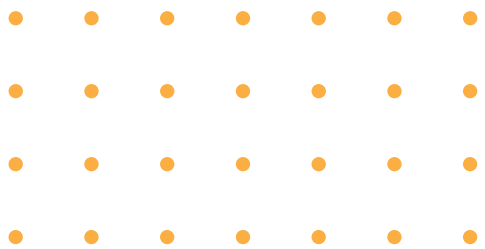
Research Assistant, Dalhousie  
University



# Equipment Loan Programs in Nova Scotia

For the purposes of this survey, we used the following definition of an Equipment Loan Program:

“We define equipment loan programs as government or community programs that loan recreational equipment for the purpose of encouraging recreation”





# The Survey

- Hosted by Dalhousie University
- Open from January 23rd to March 7th, 2025
- 24 questions

# The Response

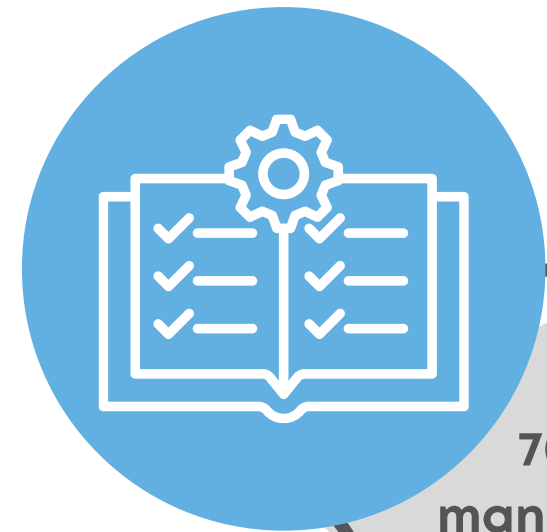
46 Unique Responses

- 35 Municipalities
- 2 First Nations
- 7 Non Profit Organizations
- 1 Non-Registered Community Group
- 1 Government Funded Organization





# Programs at a Glance



## Booking Process

70% use a manual booking process



## Fees

82% of programs have no fees



## Staff Responsible

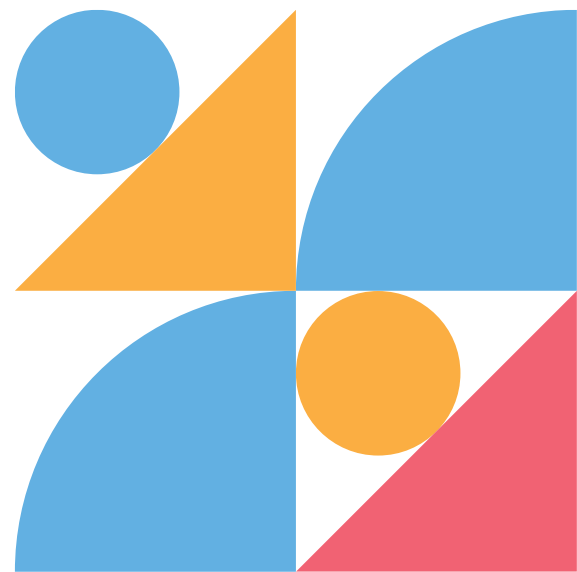
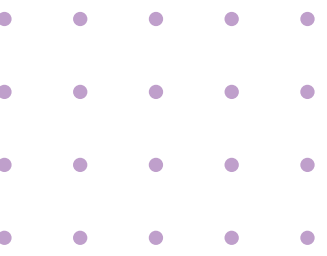
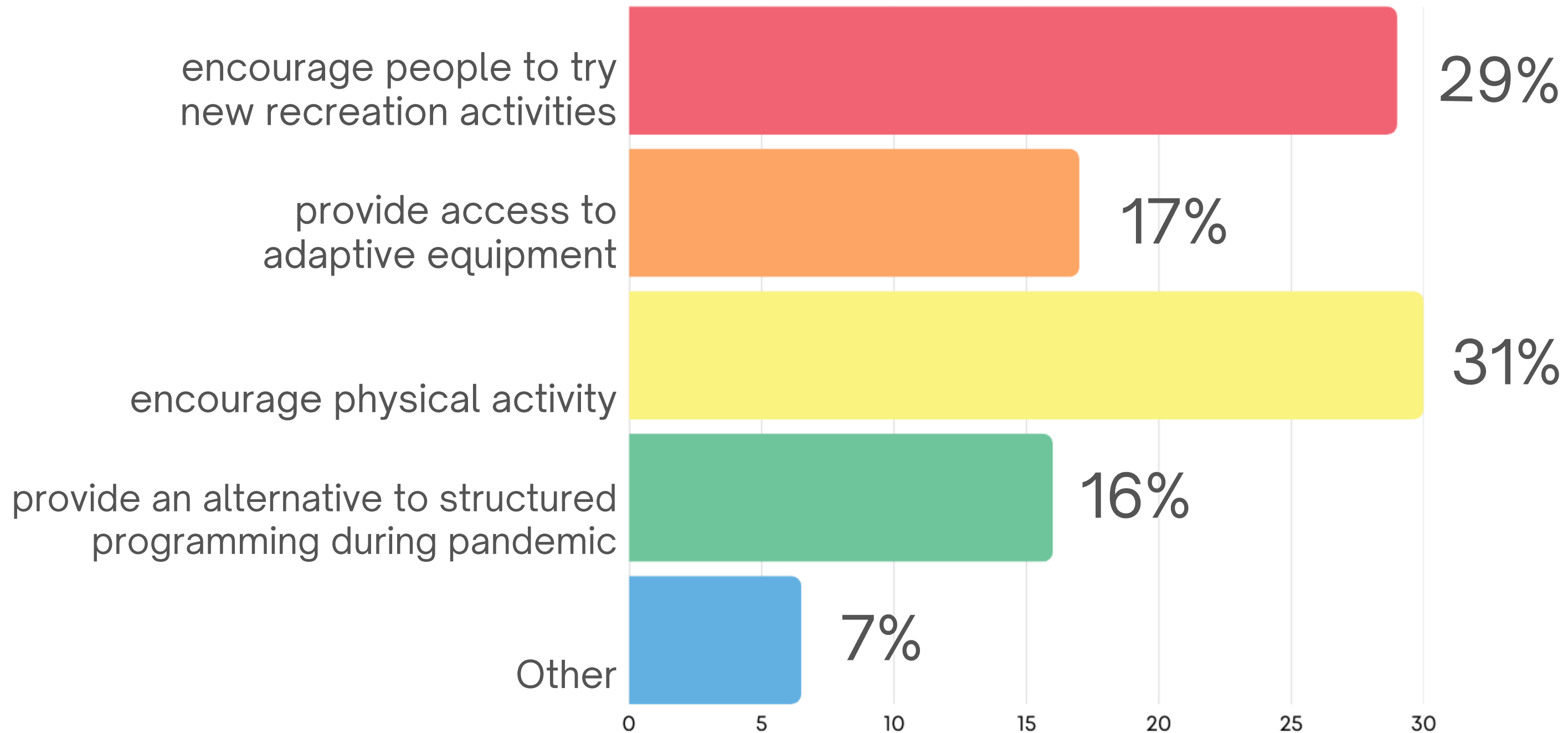
92% use full time staff to manage program



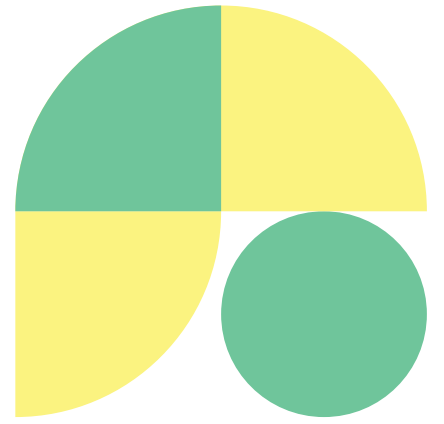
## Program Establishment

62% of programs running for 5+ years

# Reason for Creating Equipment Loan Program



# Equipment Featured in Programs

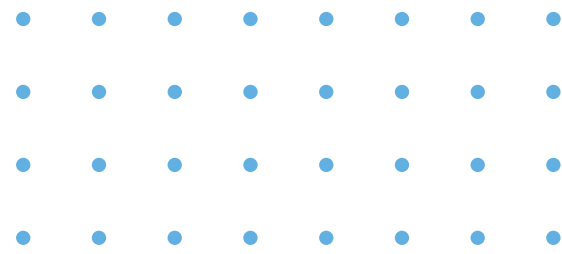


## Recreation Equipment

Sporting Equipment  
Outdoor Equipment  
Water Equipment  
Active Transportation Equipment  
Winter Equipment  
Games  
Arts and Music Equipment

## Adaptive Equipment

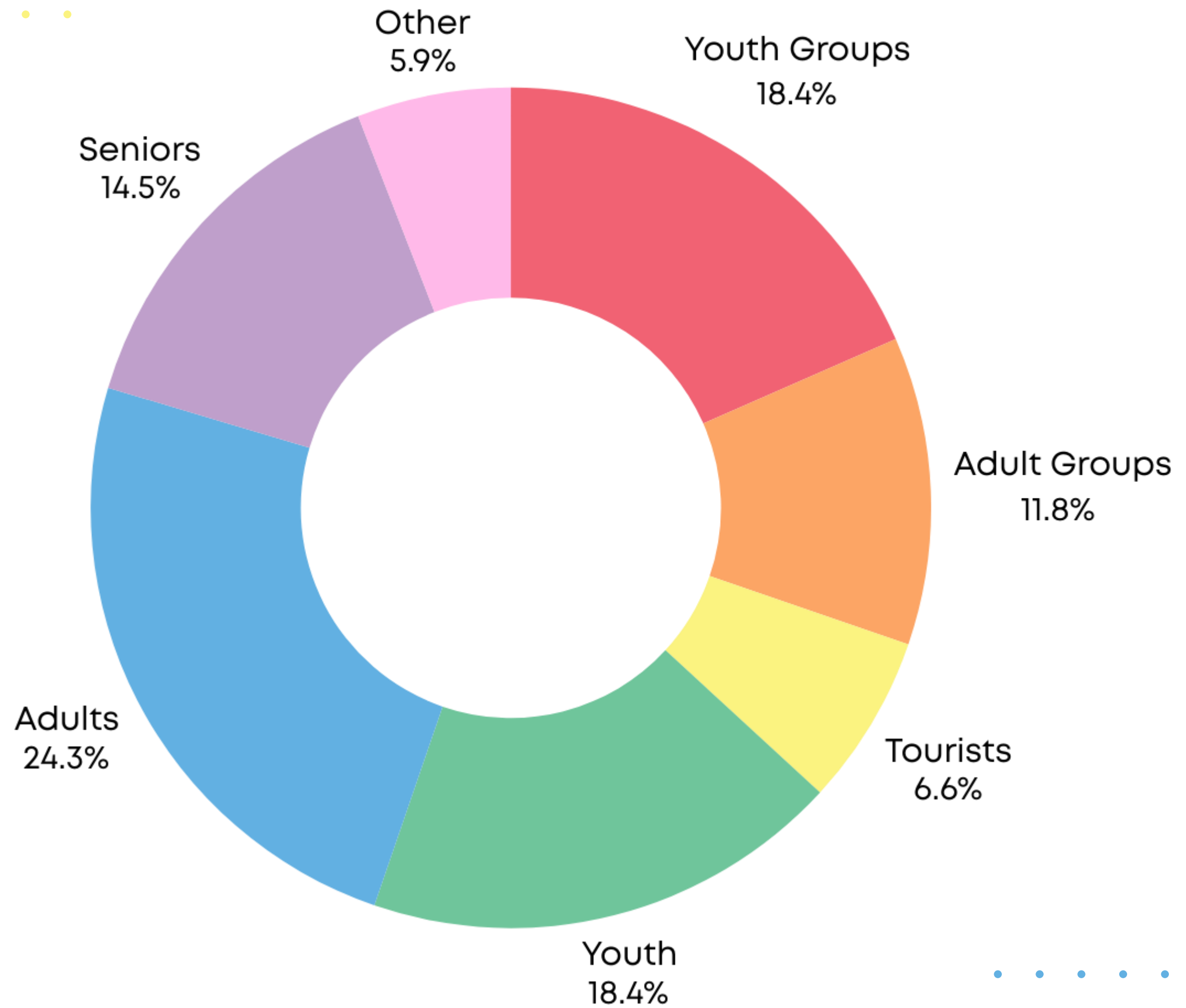
Adaptive Water Equipment  
Adaptive Transportation  
Adaptive Winter Equipment  
Adaptive Sport Equipment and Games



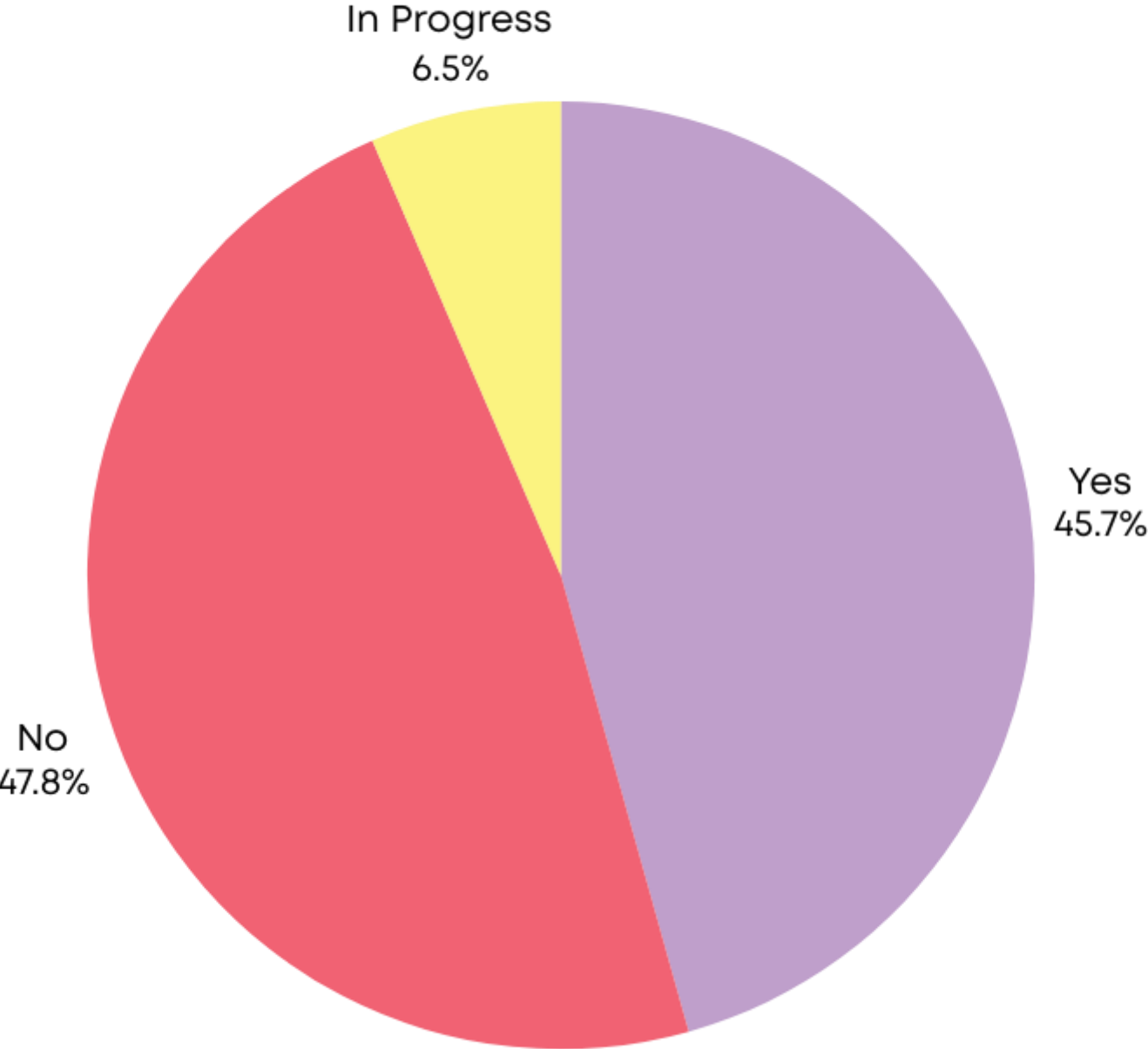


# Program Users

“Other” includes:  
Families  
Newcomers

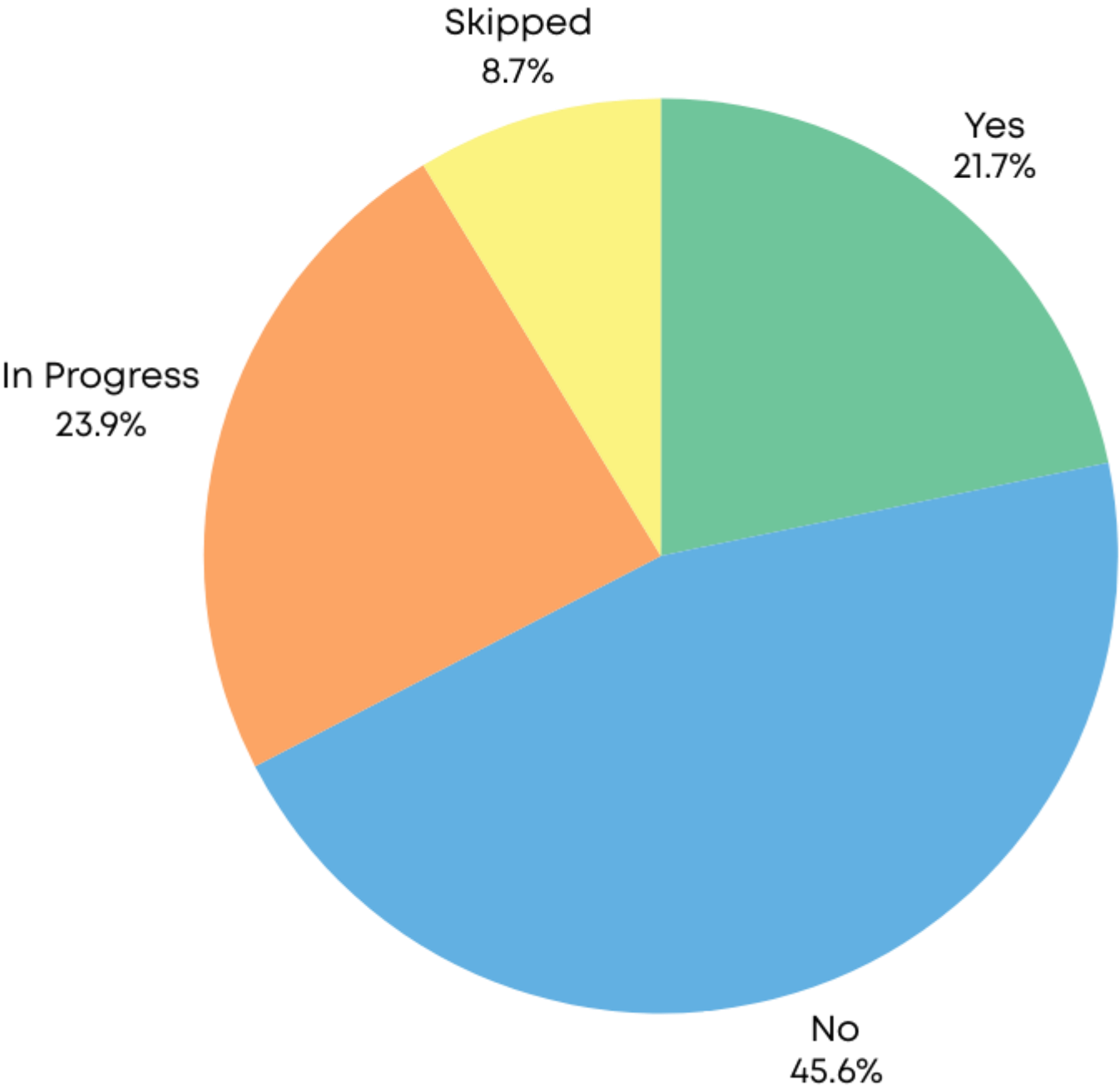


# Policies



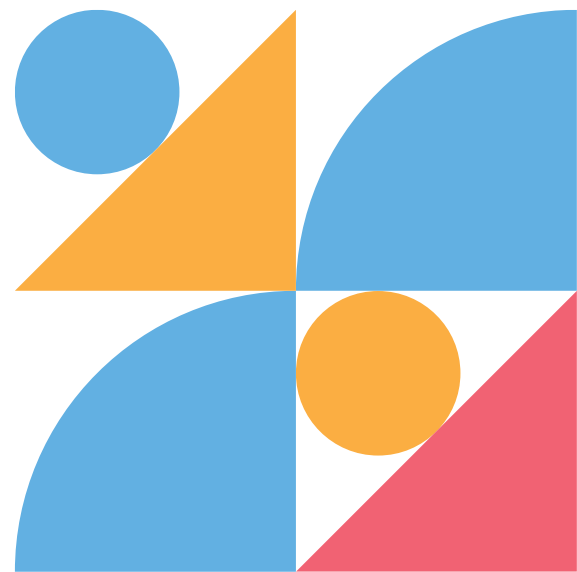
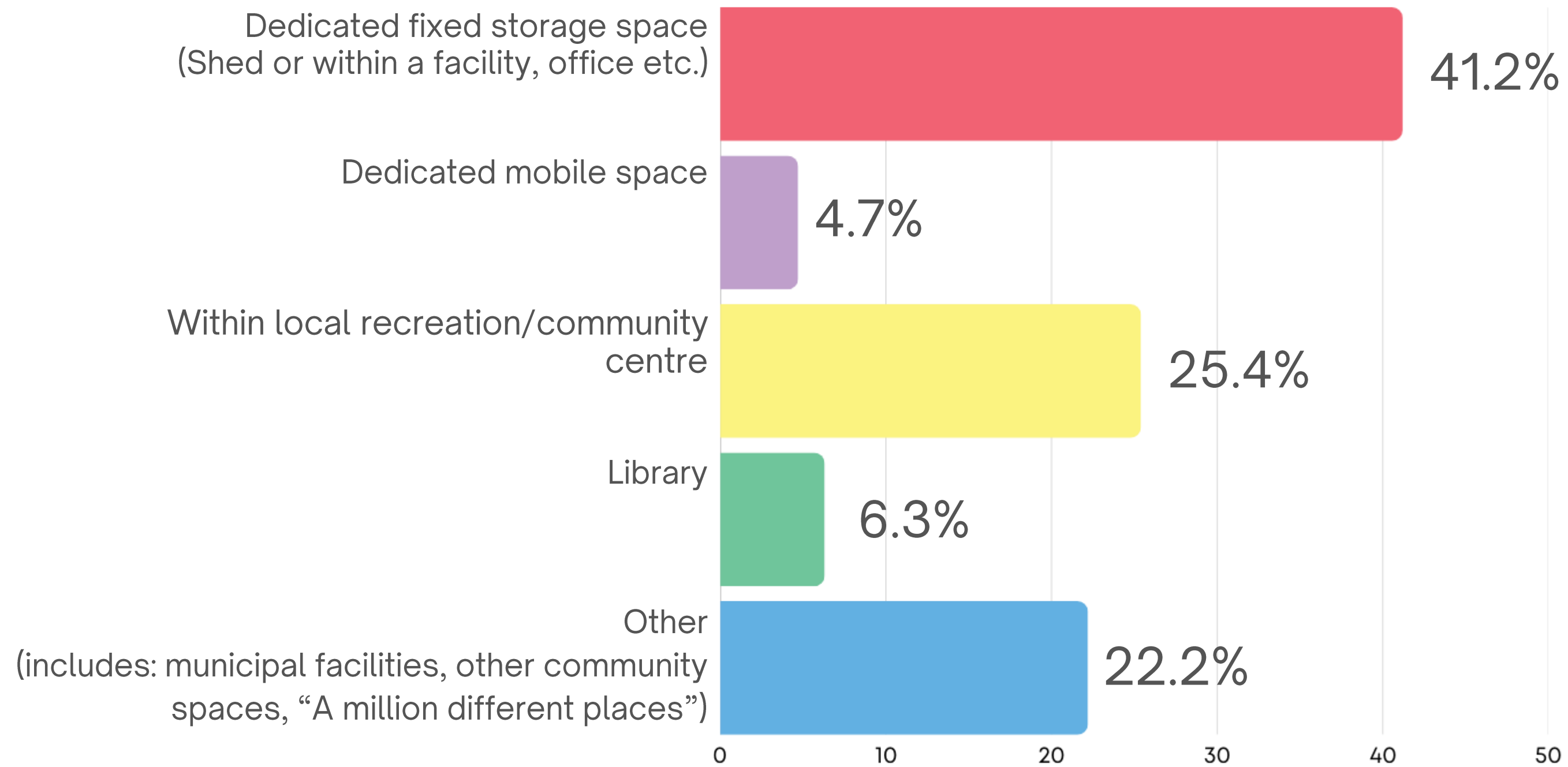
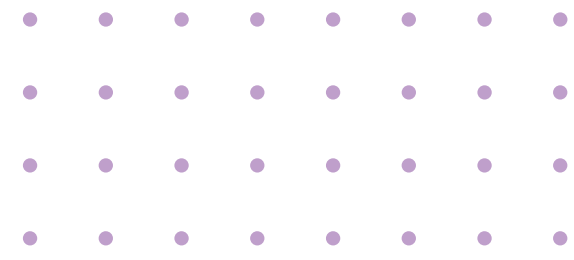
Survey respondents with policies in place guiding their equipment loan program

# Training on Adaptive Equipment



Is training provided for staff on how to use adaptive equipment?

# Equipment Storage

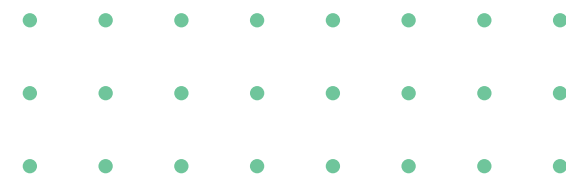
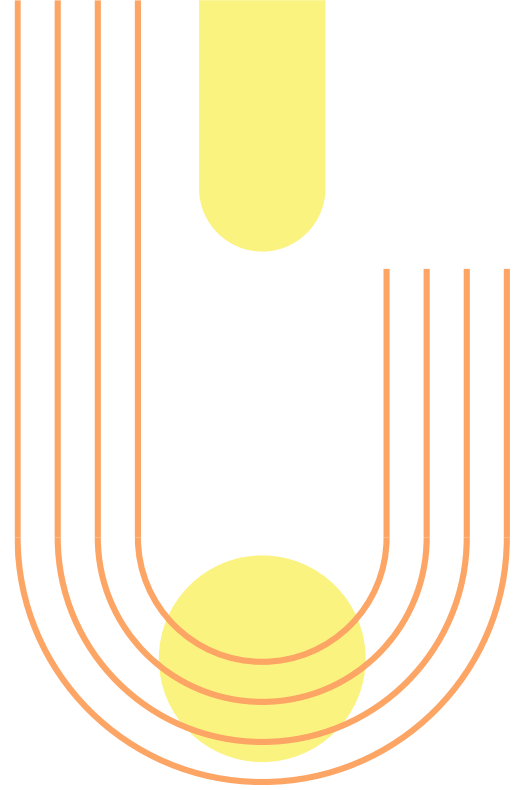
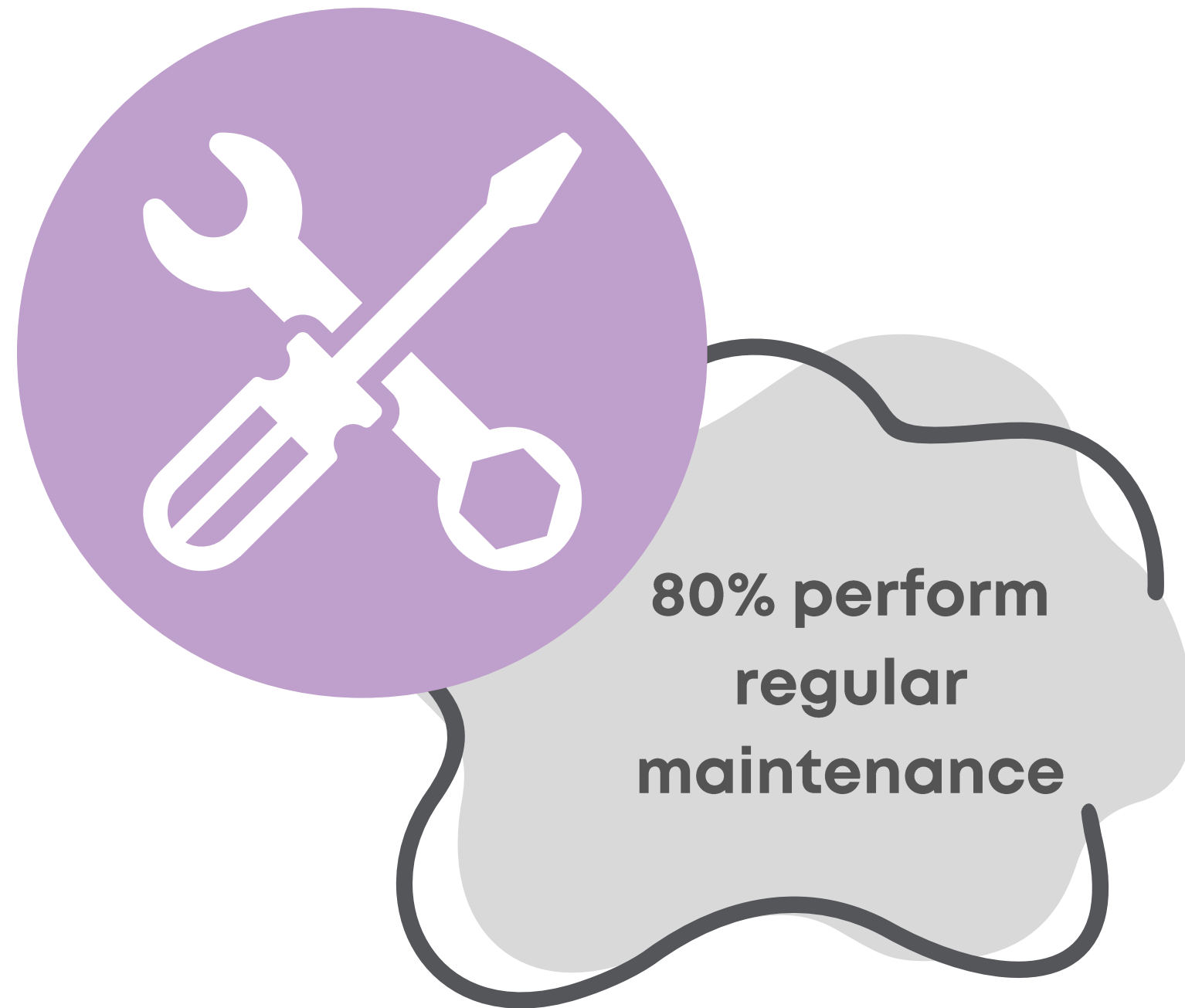




# Maintenance

**Key practices include:**

- 1. Pre-Loan Checks**
- 2. Return Inspections**
- 3. Seasonal Maintenance**
- 4. Repairs and Replacements**
- 5. Regular Tune-Ups**
- 6. Cleaning Protocols**
- 7. Inventory Management**
- 8. Expert Involvement**





# Where do Organizations get Information ?

Other includes:

- Regional Organizations
- Sport Specific Organizations

**31%**

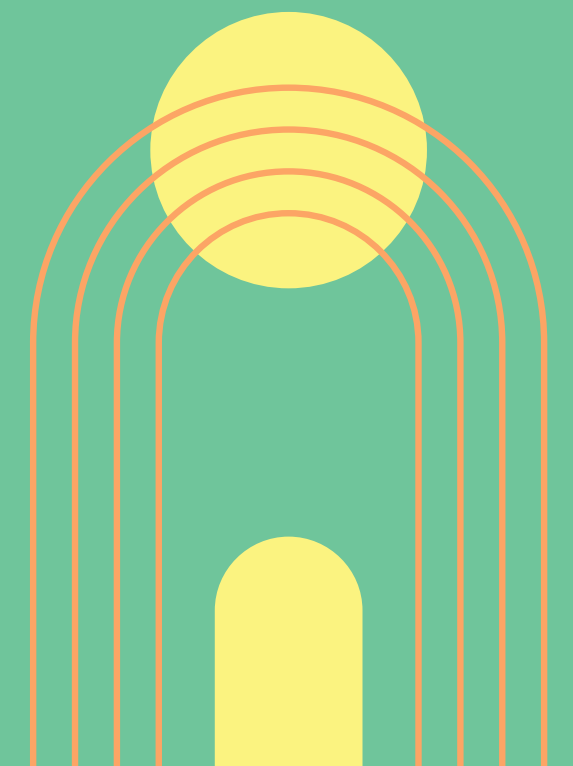


**51%**

**Other ELP  
Programs**

**18%**

**Other**



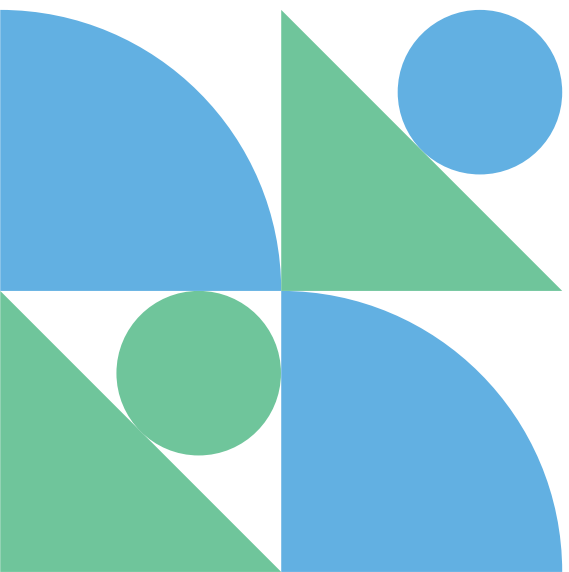
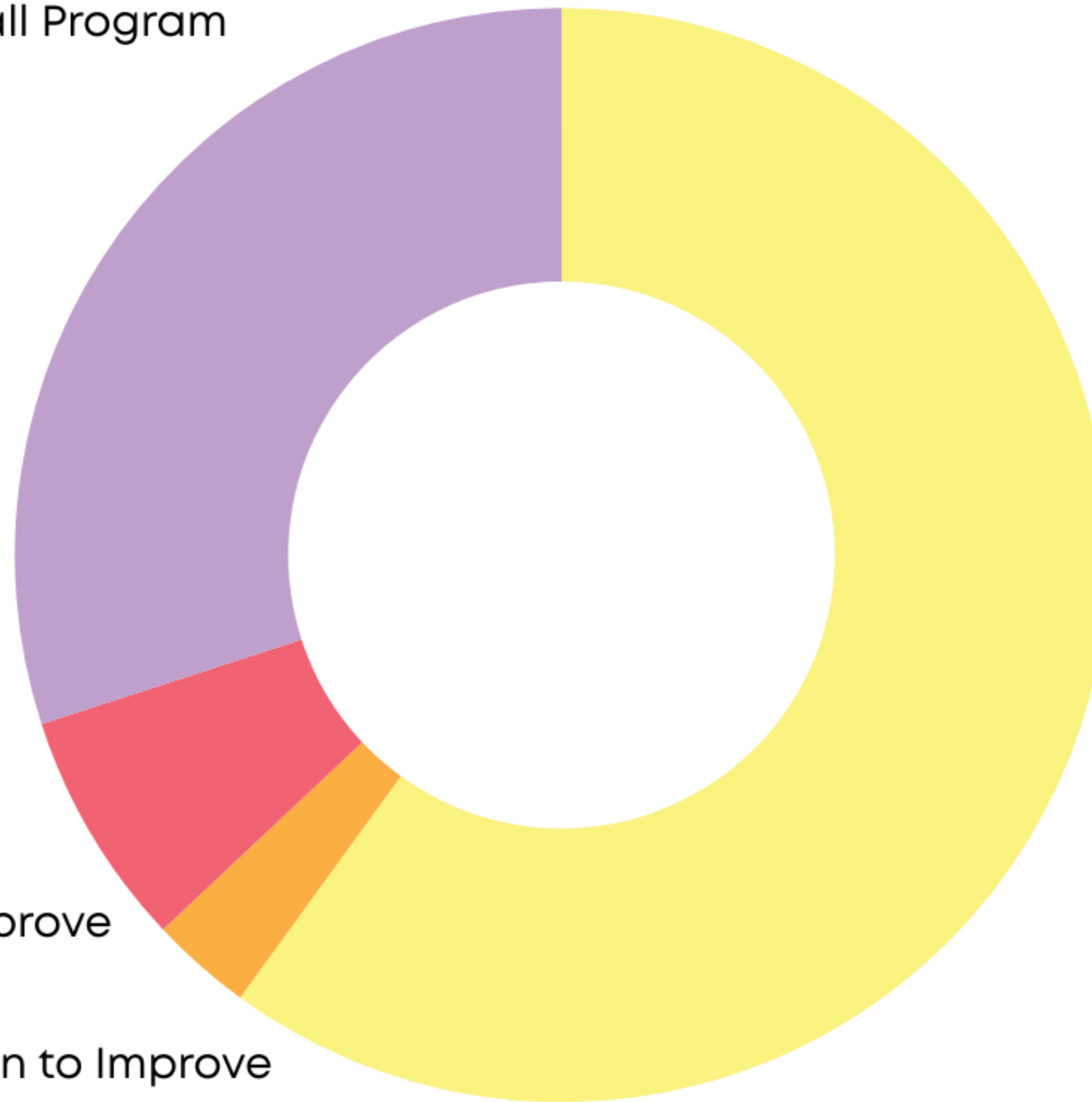
# Do You Have Plans to Expand Program?

Plans to Improve Overall Program  
30%

No Plans to Improve  
7%

Open to Improve  
3%

Adding New Equipment  
60%





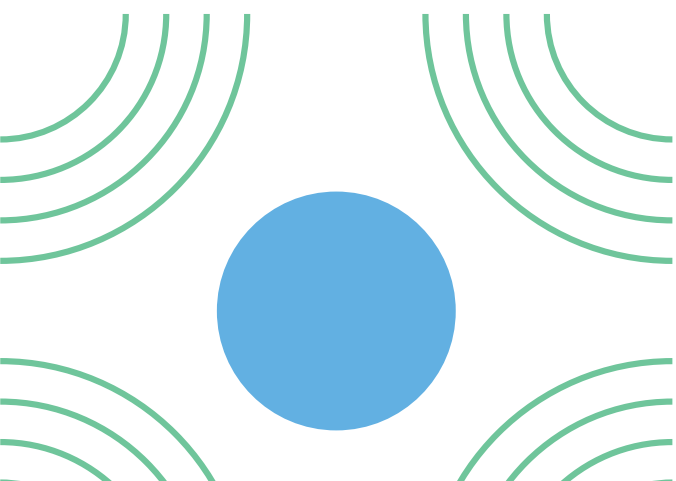
# What is Working Well?

1. Increased Access to Equipment
2. Partnerships
3. Increased Recreation Opportunities
4. Word of Mouth Advertising
5. Simple/Manageable Processes

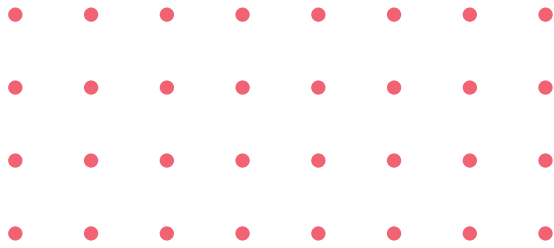
“Flexibility to pick-up and return at municipal office or through seasonal rec staff delivery/pick-up.”

“People borrow it and tell other friends where to borrow.”

“...try new activities without cost or barriers”







# Challenges

## 1. Lack of space

“We are running out of appropriate storage space in order to expand and or enhance the program.”

## 2. Financial limitations

“We would benefit from more funding to purchase, repair and replace equipment.”

## 3. Limited staff and volunteers

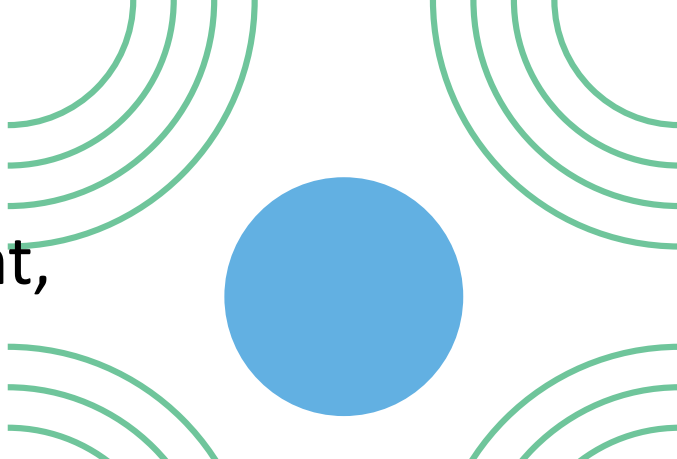
“I am the only one in my department and would be the one to do the maintenance or reach out to the others to do the work.”

## 4. Challenges related to policies and procedures

“Tracking historical use of equipment. All paper forms.”

## 5. Lack of knowledge

“Staff are not always familiar with the equipment, especially the adaptive equipment.”



# Community of Practice

Announcing a new Equipment Loan Program Community of Practice – will meet 4 times in 2026 as a pilot to determine if it helps to support program managers across the province.

First meeting – November 26th, 10:30am – 12pm





# Table Discussions

What kinds of supports would help you to better use the equipment you already have?



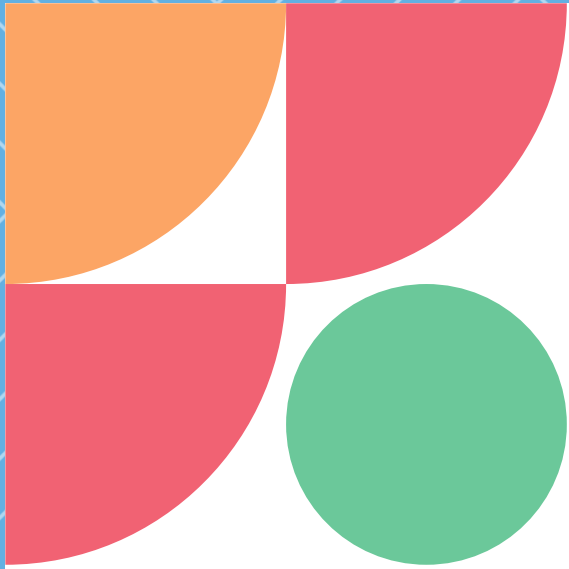




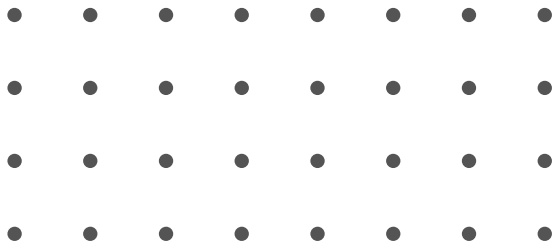
# Final Thoughts

Is there anything else that we should be thinking about,  
that we're missing?





# THANK YOU



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inclusion@recreationns.ns.ca



www.recreationns.ns.ca

