

DESIGNATED GEOGRAPHIC AREAS REPRESENTING LOW- INCOME POPULATIONS OF TRAVIS COUNTY AND RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS

Community Development Commission

January 8, 2019

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Background

- Austin Public Health (APH) receives Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) which support the work of its six Neighborhood Centers and 3 outreach locations.
- The CSBG service area is Travis County. APH Neighborhood Center services are available to all eligible Travis County residents.
- The Community Development Commission (CDC) serves as the required CSBG Advisory Board.
- CSBG requires that the Board include representatives from three sectors: public, private and low-income areas.

Background (cont.)

- CSBG requires a Needs Assessment every three years.
- Austin Public Health reviews the designated geographic areas and the organizations responsible for facilitating the nomination/election meetings for representation of Travis County's low income populations during the Needs Assessment process.
- Based on the Needs Assessment, staff offers recommendations for any updates to the designated low-income areas and organizations responsible for facilitating the nomination/election meetings to the Community Development Commission for consideration and action.

Considerations

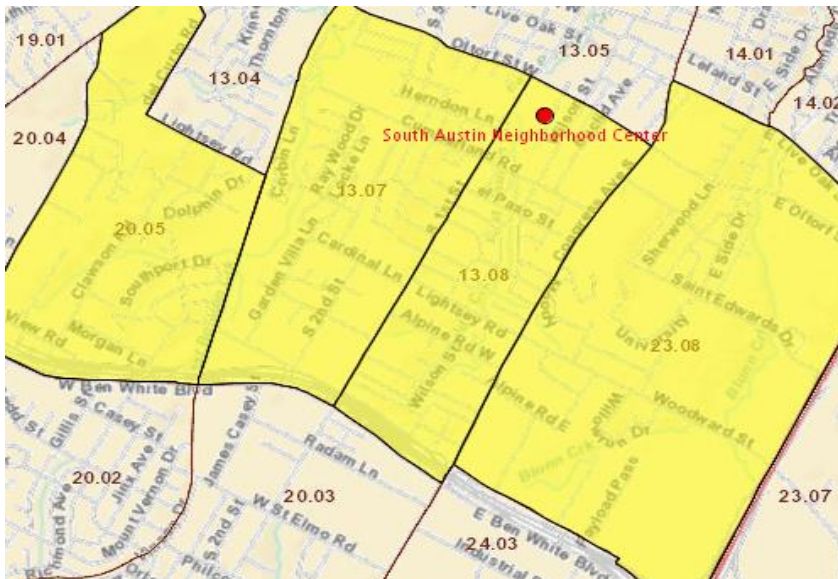
- One third of the members must represent the public sector.
- At least one third of the members must represent the low income populations of Travis County.
- The remainder should represent the private sector.
- Currently, 8 members represent the low income populations of Travis County, but all of these designated geographic areas fall within the City limits of Austin.
- TDHCA has indicated that at least one member of the Community Development Commission should represent low income populations in Travis County outside the City limits of Austin.

American Community Survey Data

- 2013-2017 ACS 5-year Estimates Released December 6, 2018
- 13.9% of Travis County residents, or 159,948 people live below the poverty level
- APH staff used this rate as an overall minimum guideline to determine which census tracts should be included as part of the CDC designated geographic areas representing Travis County's low income populations.

APH Proposed Changes to CDC Geographic Areas

- In 2015, staff recommended a change to the boundaries of the designated geographic area for **South Austin**. The CDC approved the recommendation but the change was not made by City Council.



Based on 2017 data, staff continues to recommend the boundaries of the South Austin geographic area be changed.

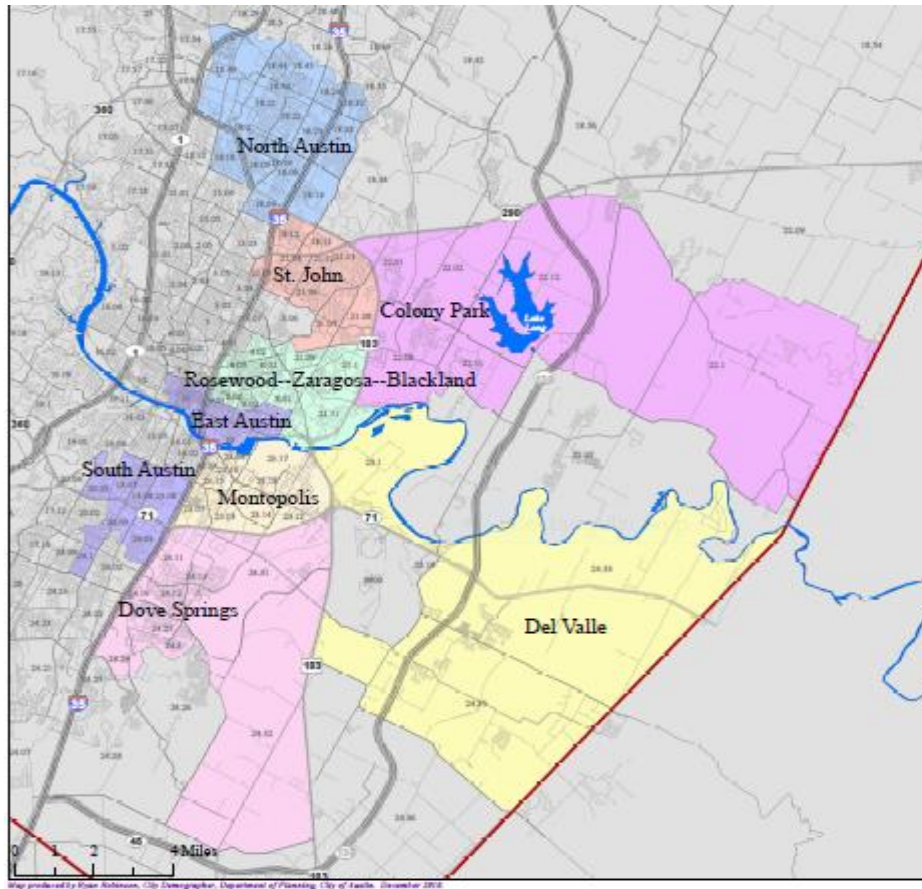
APH Proposed Changes to CDC Geographic Areas (continued)

- The **East Austin area** currently represents a smaller population (approximately 9,000 people) compared to populations of other designated geographic areas.
- Data continued to show a decline in the poverty rates in the area from as high as 42% in 2010 to 35% in 2013 data.
- 2017 data shows the overall poverty rate in the area is now at roughly 19%.
- Staff recommended combining the East Austin and Rosewood-Blackland areas to form a single designated geographic area.

APH Proposed Representation of Low Income Populations outside of Austin City Limits

- Staff recommended addition of a designated geographic area to represent **Del Valle**.
- Based on 2017 poverty data, Del Valle and surrounding areas have the highest concentrations of people living in poverty outside the City limits.
- By combining the Rosewood-Blackland and East Austin areas into one designated area, and adding a Del Valle area, the total membership of the CDC would remain at 15 members.
- **Changes to the existing CDC bylaws would not be required.**

CDC Working Group Recommended Districts



Community Development Commission

Geographic Areas, 2018

CDC Working Group Recommendation

December 11, 2018

City of Austin

Redistricting Highlights- CDC Working Group Recommendation

1. CDC districts based on census tracts, not streets.
2. Creation of a new Del Valle district, with the Del Valle Community Coalition as the appointing authority.
3. Expansion of the East Austin district into downtown in order to capture the downtown homeless population.
4. Expansion of the North Austin, South Austin, Colony Park, and Dove Springs seats into more high poverty areas.
5. North Austin: addition of tracts 18.32, 18.24, 18.43, 18.44, 18.45 and 18.49
6. Colony Park: addition of tract 22.08
7. South Austin: addition of tracts 24.03 and 24.01
8. East Austin: addition of tract 11
9. The Montopolis, Rosewood-Zaragosa/Blackland, and St. John seats remain unchanged.

Redistricting-Additional Considerations

- Expansion of the North Austin area as recommended would bring the total population of this area to 93,916 people from the current population of 73,615.
- Adding census tracts 18.32, 18.24, 18.43, 18.44, 18.45 and 18.49 would reduce the overall poverty rate of the area from 26.60% to 23.56%. All six additional census tracts have a poverty rate below the overall Travis County rate.
- Staff recommends retaining the current North Austin census tracts with no additional expansion of this area.

Responsible Organizations

- Based on staff review of the current responsible organizations, the following change is recommended:
 - **Montopolis area** – from the Montopolis Advisory Board to the Montopolis Neighborhood Association
- Possible other organization changes:
 - **North Austin area** – Austin Voices
 - **Dove Springs area** – River City Youth Foundation

Timeline and Next Steps for the CDC

- All current CDC member terms end on February 28, 2019.
- Any changes recommended by the CDC to designated geographic areas and responsible organizations must still move forward to City Council for final consideration and approval.
- CDC recommendations regarding changes to the designated geographic areas and responsible organizations should be made no later than the January CDC meeting in order for the Council to take timely action to make any changes.

Questions?
