

2018 Community Services Block Grant Needs Assessment- Key Findings

Community Development Commission

June 12, 2018

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Background

- ◉ Austin Public Health serves as the Community Action Agency (CAA) for Travis County and receives federal Community Services Block Grant Funds (CSBG) funds passed through the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TDHCA)
- ◉ Federal regulations require CAA's to conduct needs assessments and use the results to design programs to meet community needs.
- ◉ The Community Development Commission serves as the required CSBG Advisory Board and must formally accept the completed assessment.

Community Needs Assessment Standards

- ◉ Conducted every 3 years
- ◉ Collects current poverty data and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity
- ◉ Collects and analyzes both qualitative and quantitative data on its service areas
- ◉ Includes key findings on the causes and conditions of poverty and the needs
- ◉ Governing board formally accepts the completed assessment
- ◉ Informs an outcome-based and anti-poverty focused Community Action Plan

CSBG National Domains

- Employment
- Education and Cognitive Development
- Infrastructure/Income/Asset Building
- Housing
- Health and Social/Behavioral Development
- Civic Engagement and Community Involvement

Methodology

- Secondary Sources: US Census Bureau American Community Survey Estimates, Austin Public Health, Travis County Research and Planning, CSBG Workgroup reports
- Convenience sampling for clients and volunteer sampling was conducted for the broader population through the launch of the online survey which contributes to bias in terms of digital accessibility
- 310 Community Needs Assessment Surveys completed
 - 193 in-person or self-administered
 - 117 online
- 2 focus groups conducted targeting limited English proficient parents and young men of color
- 11 semi-structured interviews with community leaders

Overall Ranking of Top Needs

1. Housing
2. Health and Social/ Behavioral Development
3. Employment
4. Basic Needs
5. Education

Domain Specific Needs

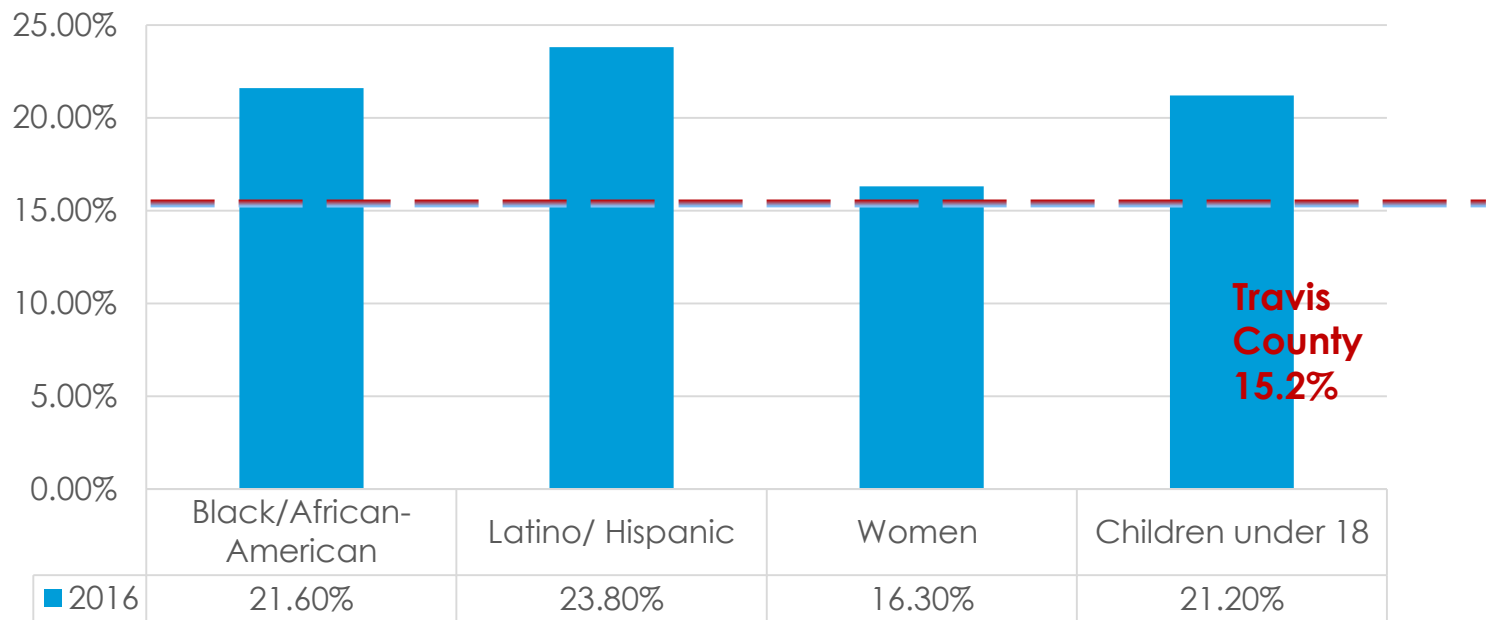
1. Adequate and affordable housing
2. Access to affordable health care
3. Job training that increases skills needed for good jobs
4. Help with transportation and internet access
5. High quality and affordable care for families' dependents

Key Findings - Demographics

- Travis County population growth continues to outpace both that of Texas and the US. The five county Austin metro area added 55,269 people between 2016 to 2017, or nearly the same size of the entire student body of the University of Texas-Austin, ranking the Austin-Round Rock population growth of 2.7% among the fastest-growing in the country.
- The poverty rate in Travis County has declined since the 2015 CSBG Needs Assessment, from 15.9% based on 2013 poverty data, to 12.2% based on 2016 Small Area Income Poverty estimates. Poverty rates for people of color, women and children are higher than the overall poverty rate for Travis County.

Poverty Status by Subgroup

POVERTY STATUS, 2012-2016 ACS



Deep Poverty

- While Travis County does generally well comparatively, the percentage of the population living in deep poverty (50% of the Federal Poverty Level) is higher than both the state and national average.

	Deep Poverty (\$6,243)	Below Poverty (\$12,486)	CSBG Eligible (\$15,607)
Count	82,791	171,023	217,026
Percent	7.37%	15.21%	19.30%

Data Source: 2012-2016 ACS 5-Year Estimates

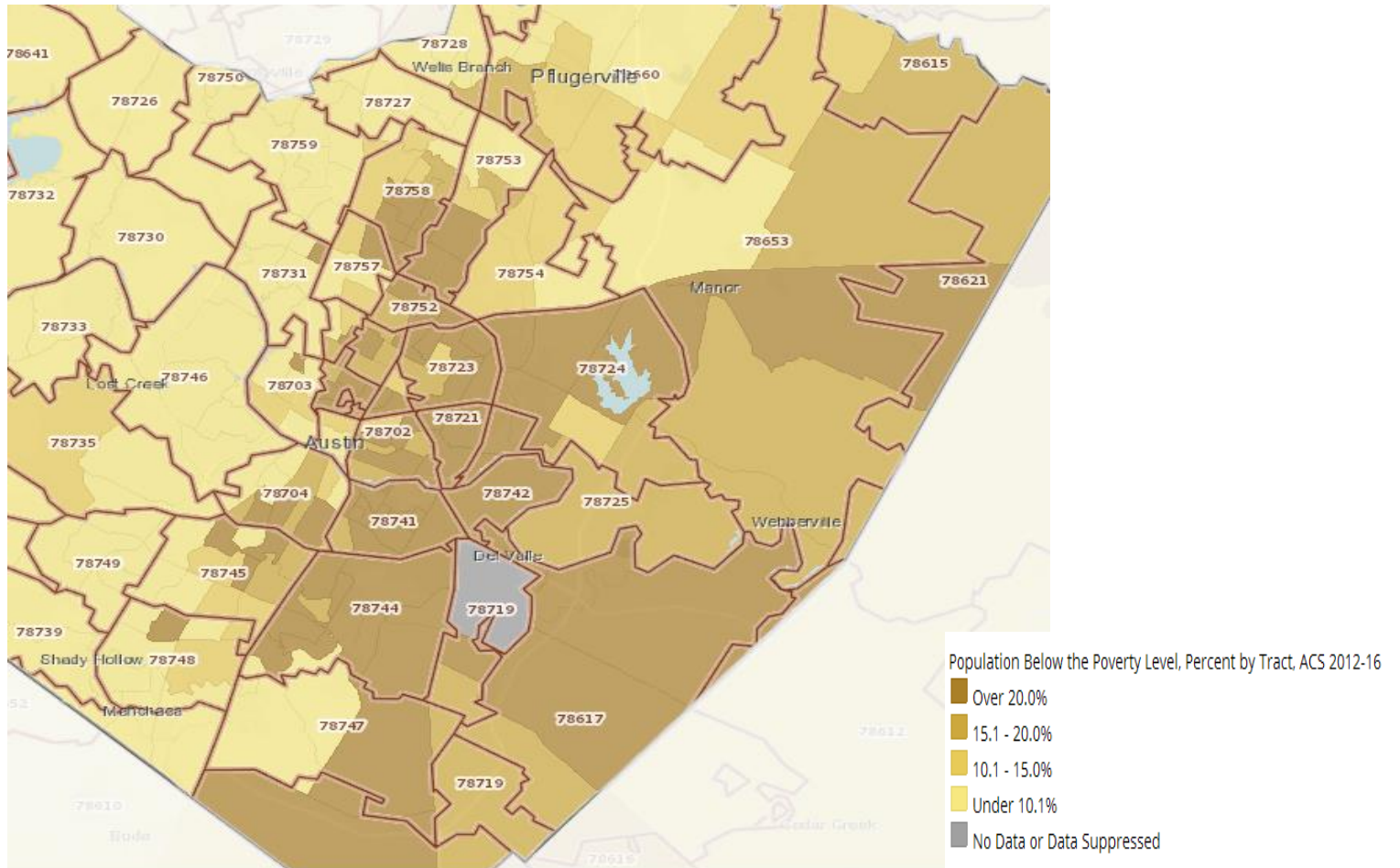
Poverty Rates Recession Era and Post-Recession Era

- Overall, the rates of poverty in Travis County have not made significant improvements since the wake of the Great Recession in 2009.

	Deep Poverty	Below Poverty	CSBG Eligible
2012-2016	7.37%	15.21%	19.30%
2005-2009	7.0%	15.2%	19.5%

Data Source: 2012-2016, 2005-2009 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Poverty Levels in Travis County



Key Findings - Employment

- The unemployment rate remains below the State and National average at 2.9% as of February, 2018.
- The unemployment rate for women with 1 child is 5.9% and 9.1% for more than 1 child.
- Approximately 63% of those receiving unemployment benefits have less than an associate's degree.
- Among survey participants, 71% said that jobs that pay enough to make ends meet is a serious need.

Key Findings – Education and Cognitive Development

- The number and rate of Head Start programs in Travis County is well below the State and National average.
- In 78724, there is only one Head Start facility, although about 43% of households with children are led by a single parent.

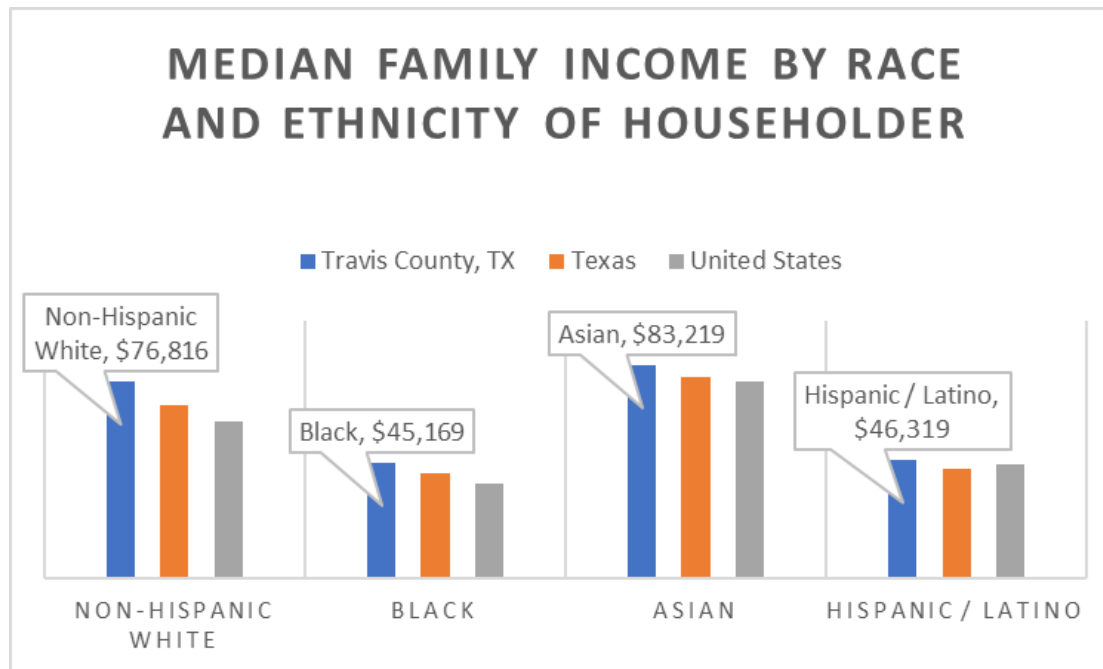
	Total Children Under Age 5	Total Head Start Programs	Head Start Programs, Rate (Per 10,000 Children)
Travis County	75,774	31	3.3
Texas	1,928,473	1,219	5.02
United States	20,426,118	18,886	7.18

Key Findings - Infrastructure/Income/Asset Building

- 28% of Travis County households do not have enough savings to subsist at the poverty level for 3 months in the absence of income (e.g., job loss, health crisis)
- Economic inequality is even more pronounced for households of color. More than 50% lack savings to cover expenses for 3 months, essentially living paycheck to paycheck.

Key Findings -Infrastructure/Income/Asset Building

- The Median Family Income is more than \$81,000, however families of color earn a median of about \$46,000.

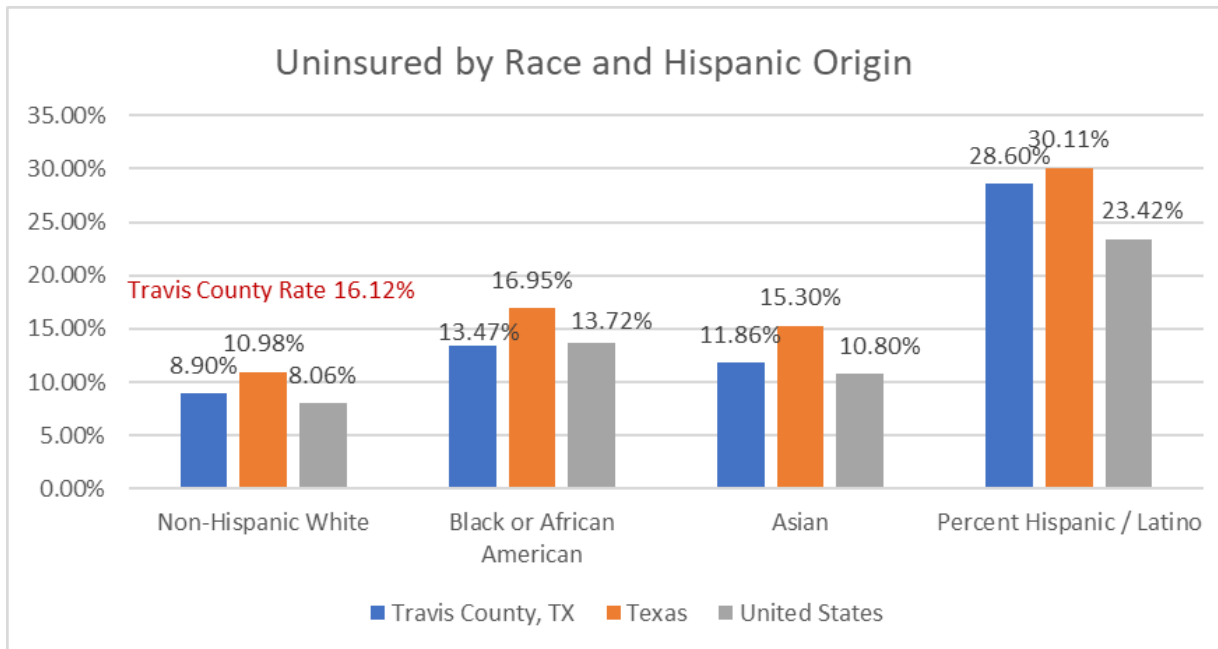


Key Findings - Housing

- Finding safe and affordable housing ranked as the most critical need by the community. 35% of households spend more than 30% on housing costs. Renters are especially cost-burdened--45% of renters spend more than 30% their income.
- Moderate and low-income families are increasingly priced out from buying homes in Austin and Travis County. Between 2011 and 2016, home prices increased nearly 50%, compared to an increase of 9% in median family income.
- More than 28,500 families are on the waiting list for Public Housing. 1,200 families are waiting for a Housing Choice Voucher.
- Over 7,000 people experience homelessness in Travis County.

Key Findings – Health and Social/ Behavioral Development

About 20% of adults ages 18-64 years old are uninsured. More than 32% lack consistent source of primary care. The lack of a consistent primary care provider is even higher for Latinos at 49%.



Key Findings – Health and Social/ Behavioral Development

- Travis County health outcomes generally fare better than State and National averages, however large racial/ethnic disparities still exist in leading causes of death, most notably for diabetes.
- Disparities also persist in maternal and child health, particularly for Black/African-American mothers. These mothers are twice as likely as White and Latino mothers to give birth to babies with low birth weight. Infant mortality rates are also much higher for African Americans in Travis County.

Key Findings – Civic Engagement and Community Involvement

- Nearly all participants in the assessment have identified the need to build trust with the community. A sense of distrust was expressed towards institutions, namely the police and immigration officials.
- Engagement practices typical of many systems are often ineffective in communities of diverse backgrounds and non-traditional work schedules.

“Politicians should show up, just in the same way they request the community to turn out for them. They need to come to our communities to see how we live.” –Focus group participant

Gaps in Services and Barriers

- Services closer to where people need them
- In-person assistance to navigate social service system
- Lack of high quality child care and recreational spaces during peak hours for older children
- Lack of system between school to workforce
- Reliable transportation and auto repair assistance
- Need to access services without fear or stigma

Next Steps

- The 2018 CSBG Needs Assessment was provided to members of the Community Development Commission for review along with submission to TDHCA by June 1.
- TDHCA and the CSBG Organizational Standards require a formal acceptance of the 2018 CSBG Needs Assessment with the acceptance recorded in the minutes.
- Possible action by the CDC to formally accept the 2018 CSBG Needs Assessment.

Next Steps (continued)

- The 2018 Needs Assessment will be used to begin the Strategic Planning process for the Neighborhood Centers for the next 3-5 years.
- CDC members will be invited to participate in the Strategic Planning process when it is initiated.

Questions or Comments?

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