



Community Needs Assessment

SUBMITTED BY

Community Action Partners Program
City of Fort Worth
Tarrant County, Texas

June 1, 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Fort Worth's Community Action Partners Program (CAP) is administered by the Neighborhood Services Department and has served as the Community Action Agency for Tarrant County since 1981. Tarrant County has 2,054,475 residents (estimated Census Bureau 2017), and has grown by over 10% these last 3 years. It encompasses 41 municipalities.

The City of Fort Worth receives the following grant funds from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs: Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program, Community Services Block Grant, Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program and Department of Energy. Additional funding is received from the Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Veterans Commission and several other smaller grants meant to stabilize and move families towards financial and social independence.

Every three (3) years a Community Needs Assessment is conducted as required by USHHS and CSBG Organizational Standards to determine what needs the residents see as priority and what gaps in services there may be. The Community Needs Assessment is crafted from the results of input from the residents through surveys and focus groups, businesses that impact the residents of the county, Community Assessments from other entities, particularly the hospitals and criminal justice systems, and information from Community Commons [and Census Bureau](#). The results allow us to determine if CAP is still addressing the needs, and moving people to self-sufficiency, and if there are other needs that have become an issue for Tarrant County residents. From the results gleaned from the Community Needs Assessment the Community Action Plan is constructed. This information then translates into what will go into the Strategic Plan, and which priorities remain constant and which change.

The results from the City of Fort Worth (CFW) Community Needs Assessment were fairly consistent throughout the county as to the needs residents, agencies and elected officials identified as the most important, and have held true for the past 3 years.

The top three needs identified through focus groups and surveys were: 1) employment, 2) accessible food and 3) affordable housing. Transportation was identified as a high need by Tarrant county residents and clients. City of Fort Worth residents stated that although the city has a bus system, it is not user friendly; for this reason, they continue to rely on cars for transportation. County residents, those residing outside of the Fort Worth city limits, stated that transportation was needed in order to find and retain employment. Unfortunately, it is fairly non-existent in most Tarrant County cities.

In recent years, Tarrant County has increased its employer base. The Alliance Corridor of Fort Worth has attracted large employers such as Amazon, USPS, UPS, Fed Ex and others. However, residents state that even though the wages are higher (average \$12 to \$20 per hour) with these employers; the hours may not be full time and may not include benefits. Residents also stated that many of the jobs available require a particular skill set. These perceived barriers keep some from moving toward self-sufficiency.

Affordable housing continues to be an issue. Housing Authorities and subsidized housing units have waiting lists, and some of the housing available is in unsafe neighborhoods, making it difficult for families at or below the 125% to have safe, affordable housing. Apartment rents have steadily increased, with the average one (1) bedroom unit renting between \$947 and \$1543. In order to afford an apartment in the top range of the scale, and sustain stability, a household of one (1) would have to earn about \$18 per hour. There is also very little available in transitional housing, or supportive housing, placing more individuals at risk of being homeless.

AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The City of Fort Worth serves as the Community Action Agency for Tarrant County. Services are available at nine (9) sites located throughout the county. Each site has at least one Caseworker or Case Manager. In an effort to extend easier access to programs, CAP created a Central Intake Unit, which receives and processes all mail-in and online applications. When other services besides CEAP are requested, applications are forwarded to Case Managers.

Tarrant County residents may access services:

- by appointment; scheduling through the Customer Care Center at 817-392-5790
- by mail; downloading from www.fortworthtexas.gov/cap
- online at www.fortworthtexas.gov/cap
- through partnerships with other agencies who work with vulnerable populations

The City of Fort Worth provides an array of services designed to stabilize households in crisis and move households towards self-sufficiency. Some of the services provided using CSBG, CEAP, Texas Veteran Commission Grant (Forward Home) and other smaller grants are:

- Skills training, tuition, and employment assistance
- Utility Assistance and Household Crisis Assistance
- Weatherization services
- Case Management
- Youth programming
- Older adult services
- Information and Referral
- Holiday Programs
- Summer Food and After School Supper Programs for low income children ages 0-18

CAP Locations and Outreach Team

Central Office (includes Central Intake Unit): 4200 S. Freeway, Suite 2200, Fort Worth 76115

Arlington Office: 400 W. Sanford, Suite 2700, Arlington, TX 76011

Andrew Doc Session: 201 S. Sylvania, Fort Worth 76111

Como Community Center: 4900 Horne St., Fort Worth 76107

MLK Community Center: 5565 Truman Drive, Fort Worth, 76112

Northside Community Center: 1100 NW 18th, Fort Worth, 76164

North Tri-Ethnic Community Center: 2950 Roosevelt, Fort Worth, 76106

Southside Community Center: 959 E. Rosedale, Fort Worth, 76104

Worth Heights Community Center: 3551 New York, Fort Worth, 76110

The Outreach team is comprised of one human services coordinator and two (2) human services specialist who attend community events, set up special intake dates, on specific dates, so as not to disrupt regular appointments.

Partnerships

Partnerships are extremely important in ensuring clients receive comprehensive services and allows agencies to leverage resources. The City of Fort Worth has informal and formal partnerships with various agencies, organizations, and businesses, including but not limited to:

- Catholic Charities
- The Women's Center
- Cornerstone Assistance
- 6 Stones
- CRCG
- Tarrant County DHS
- Cancer Care Services
- Meals on Wheels
- Vega Place Apartments
- Max and Molly Barnett Housing
- Fort Worth Housing Solutions (formerly FW Housing Authority)
- Trinity Metro (formerly The T)
- NICA
- United Way of Tarrant County 2-1-1
- Tarrant County College
- Texas Wesleyan University
- Frost Bank
- Wells Fargo Bank
- GM Financial
- John Peter Smith Hospital
- Texas Health Resources
- TXU Energy
- ATMOS Energy
- Direct Energy
- Bounce Energy
- First Choice Power
- Reliant Energy
- City of Fort Worth Water Department

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OVERVIEW OF ASSESSMENT PROCESS: METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSES

Data and information was collected using a variety of methods to ensure that a cross section of the population was sampled. During our CAP Council December 2017 meeting, the planning of the collection methods was discussed, and the Needs Assessment Survey was formulated. In January and February, the survey was completely developed and approved for use. Residents of Tarrant County were given the opportunity to fill out a Community Needs Survey. Surveys were available at the City of Fort Worth's nine (9) sites, as well as at several county libraries, 6 Stone Ministries, H-E-B ISD, FW ISD, and two county commissioner offices (represented on the CAP Council) and Judge Glen Whitley's office. Judge Whitley serves as the chief elected official of Tarrant County and resides over Tarrant County Commissioners. All surveys had to be returned by the end of April, allowing for time to review and collate data.

Elected officials and CAP Council board members were provided the survey through email and regular mail, as well as in person. Organizations and partners were given the surveys in person or mailed. Tarrant County College, TCU, TWC and UTA staff and students were given the surveys via mail. 6 Stones, GRACE and Workforce Solutions also gave staff and clients the surveys. 6 Stones also reached out to H-E-B ISD for input from their families and staff, including principals and teachers. Current CAP clients were also asked to complete the assessment and surveys, and copies were available at all Fort Worth CAP sites. The surveys were to be left anonymous, were gathered and sent to the CSBG/CEAP Manager.

Additionally, seven (7) focus groups were held throughout the county:

- Residents in the Southside (traditionally the highest low income areas) held at Victory Forest Community Center
- Residents in Mansfield/ Arlington held at Wesley Mission Center (13.7 % low income in SE Tarrant County. Invited participants were Wesley Mission Center, Arlington Urban Ministries, Center for Transforming Lives, and clients from the South East Arlington office)
- Residents in Grapevine/Mid-Cities held at GRACE (approximately 56% of children in H-E-B ISD are on free/reduced lunch) Clients who utilize that center for services participated.
- Residents over age 65 in the Northside Neighborhoods held at the Northside Community Center (Very low income neighborhoods, average income is under \$12,000 per year) The participants are all older adults who utilize the Northside Senior Citizen center and the North Tri Ethnic Senior Citizen Center.
- For-Profit Businesses that partner with CAP on a daily basis (TXU Energy, Direct Energy, IT Front Desk, Shah Software, ATMOS Energy)
- Social Services Agencies that have a relationship with CAP (GRACE, Workforce Solutions, The Women's Center, Ladder Alliance, Family Endeavors, Arlington Urban Ministries)
- Facebook Live session with 66 in attendance

(Attachment B)

Lastly, a client survey to evaluate services was provided to all clients visiting the nine (9) sites.

Resulting data from the surveys and focus groups were pulled together by needs identified, age, and demographic cluster.(Attachment A)

Information for the community profile, poverty and trends was gathered from the Census Bureau website American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2014-2016 data.

Information for the CFW Community Needs Assessment was gathered from:

- The US Census Bureau Data for 2010,
- Community Commons 2018 report for Tarrant County,
- City of Fort Worth Planning and Development Comprehensive Plan,
- Texas Harris Methodist Fort Worth Health Assessment,
- Texas Harris Methodist H-E-B Health Assessment ,
- United Way Community Needs Assessment 2015,
- Tarrant County Criminal Justice Community Plan 2015, and Workforce County Snapshot Reports.

Gathered information included workforce outlook, demographic information, educational attainment and poverty rates, community improvement plans and long term sustainability.

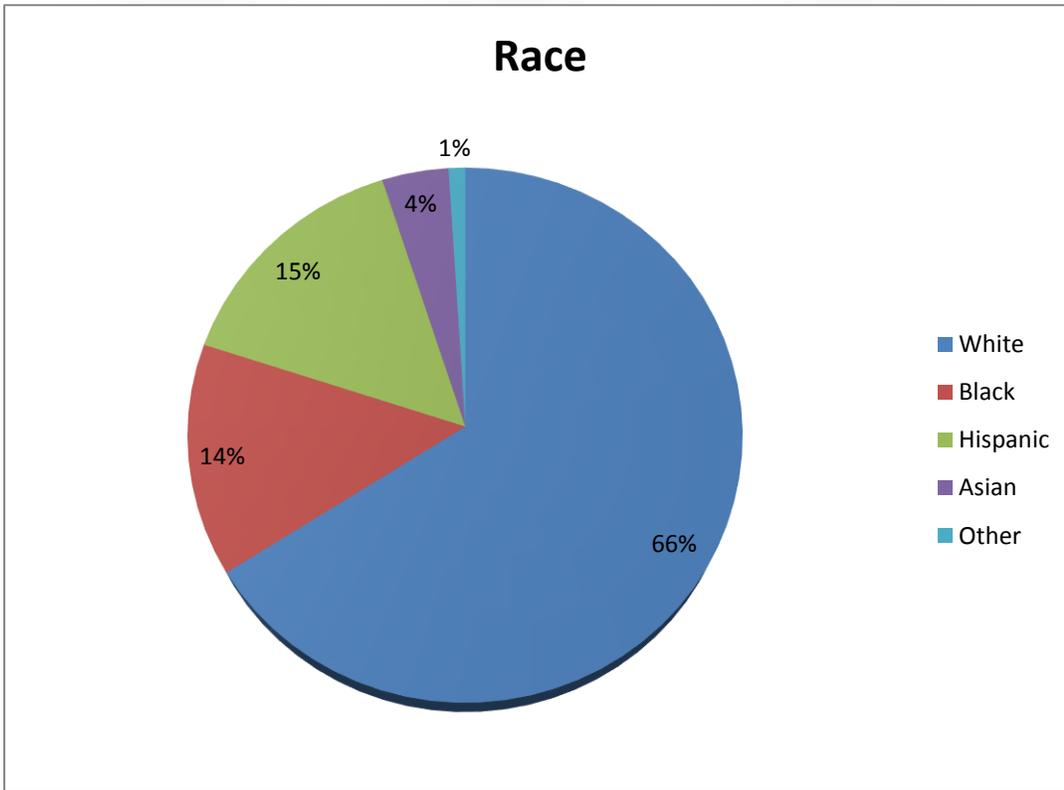
COMMUNITY PROFILE

Demographics and Information on Population

According to the Census Bureau, the population of Tarrant County is 2,054,475 (2017 estimates), an increase of 206,052 from the previous year and the poverty level is 14.4% for the county overall. The median age is 34.1, with 85.2% having a high school diploma or higher.

Poverty is a key driver of several indicators, along with nutrition and access to health care that affect overall health status (Community Commons, Economic Domain). Tarrant County has a 14.4% poverty rate, and though it is lower than both the Texas and the USA rate, it is still significant.

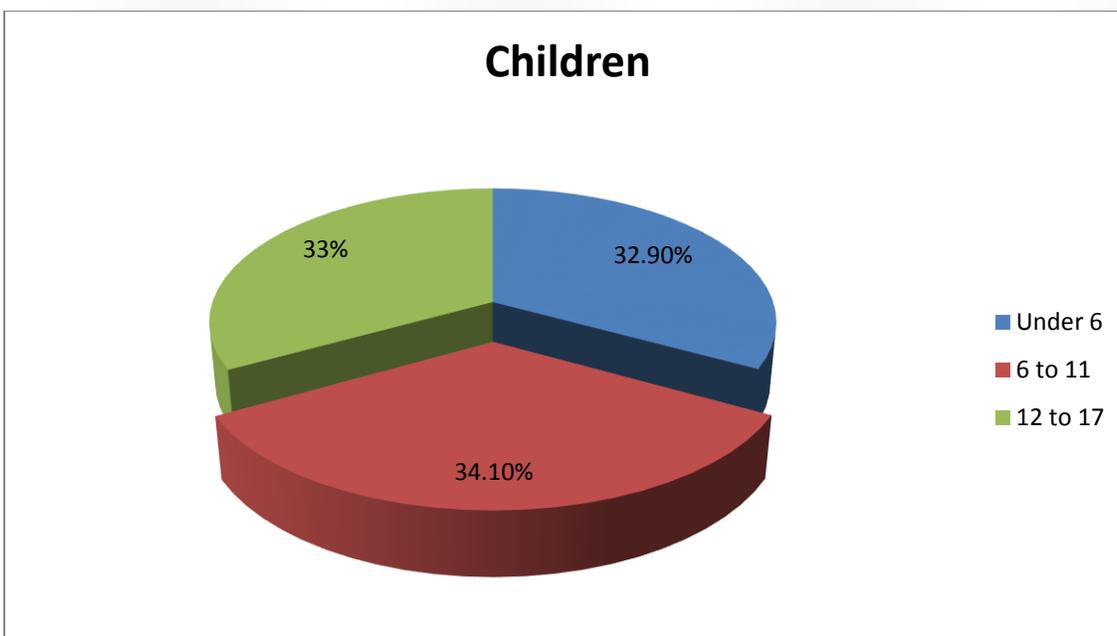
Race and Hispanic Origin



Hispanic Ethnicity (all races): 26% . 15% state they are of Hispanic race, 11% state they are black, white or other, but of Hispanic Ethnicity.

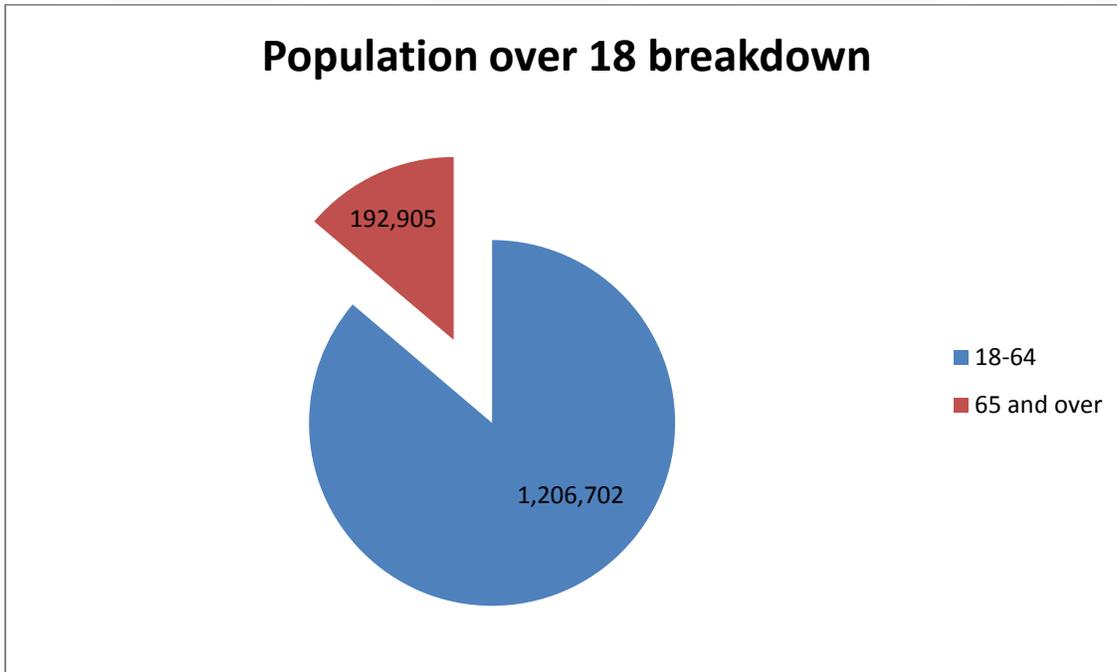
(Education and Language in Fort Worth, Attachment AA)

(Age and Generations in Fort Worth, Attachment BB)



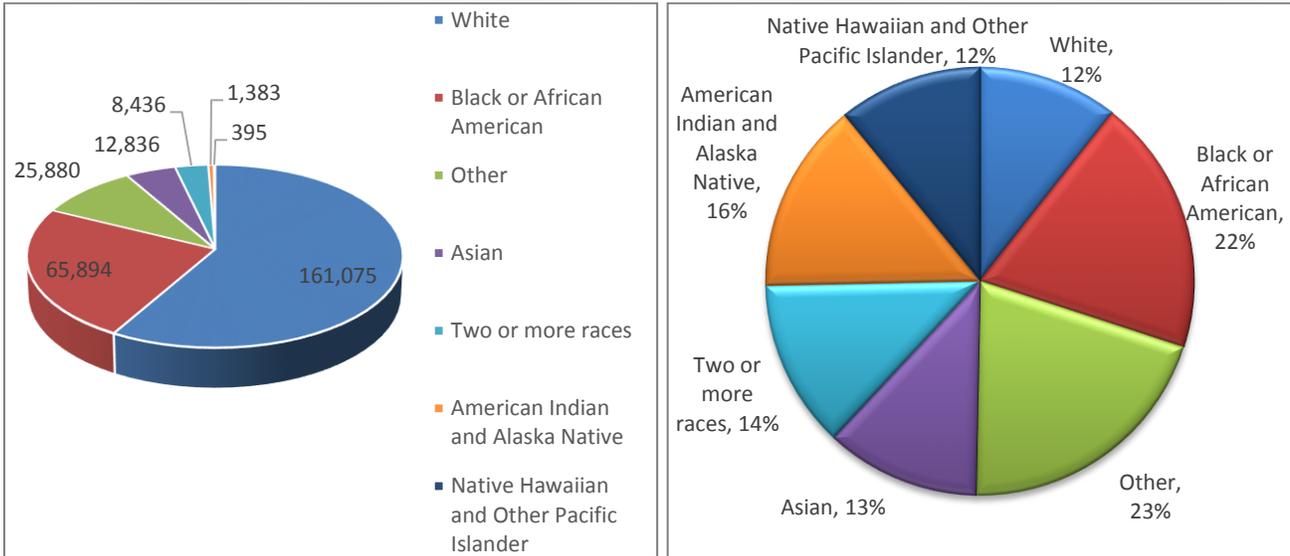
Children under 18: 527,161 (Community Commons, Economic Domain)

Children living in households with SSI, cash public assistance income, SNAP: 26.8%



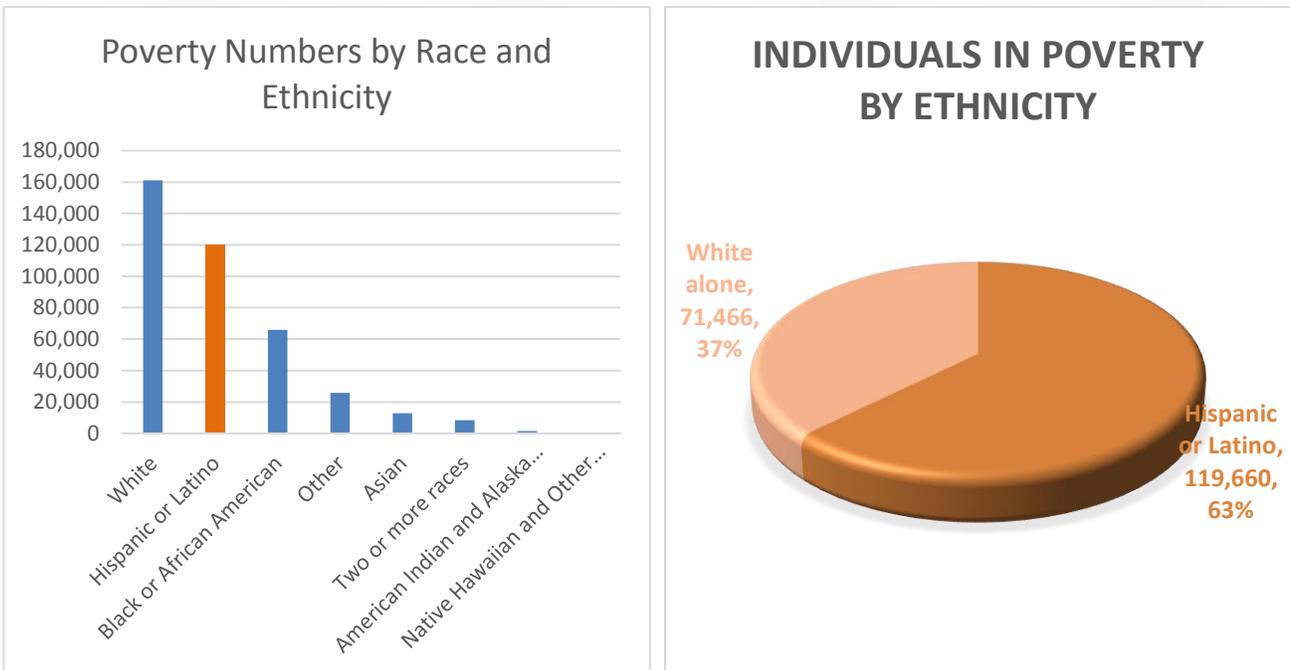
Population in Poverty: 275,899

Individuals in Poverty by Race

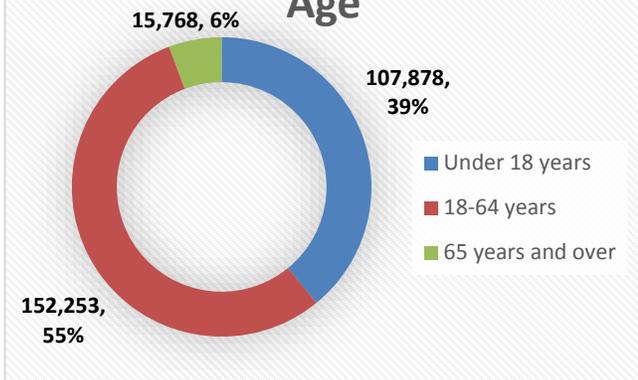


Although there are more white individuals in poverty, the percent of individuals in each race category is highest for Other and Black or African American at 23% and 22% respectively.

Additionally a large number of Hispanic or Latino individuals are living in poverty.



Individuals In Poverty by Age



Almost 21% of children in Tarrant County live in poverty. Children make up a large percentage of the total population that is in poverty at 39%.

More women than men live in poverty in Tarrant County. This has been a trend for the past 3 years.

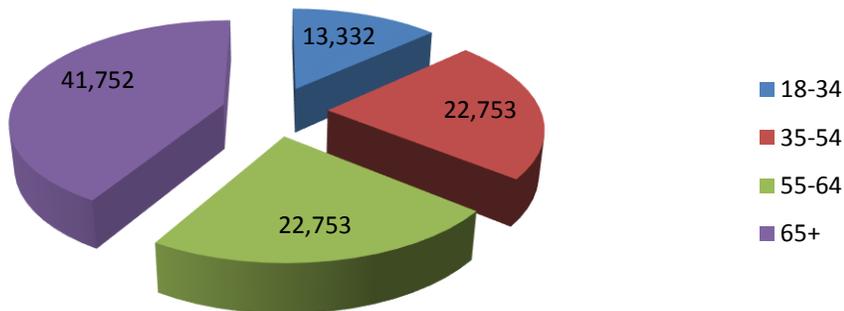
Individuals in Poverty by Gender



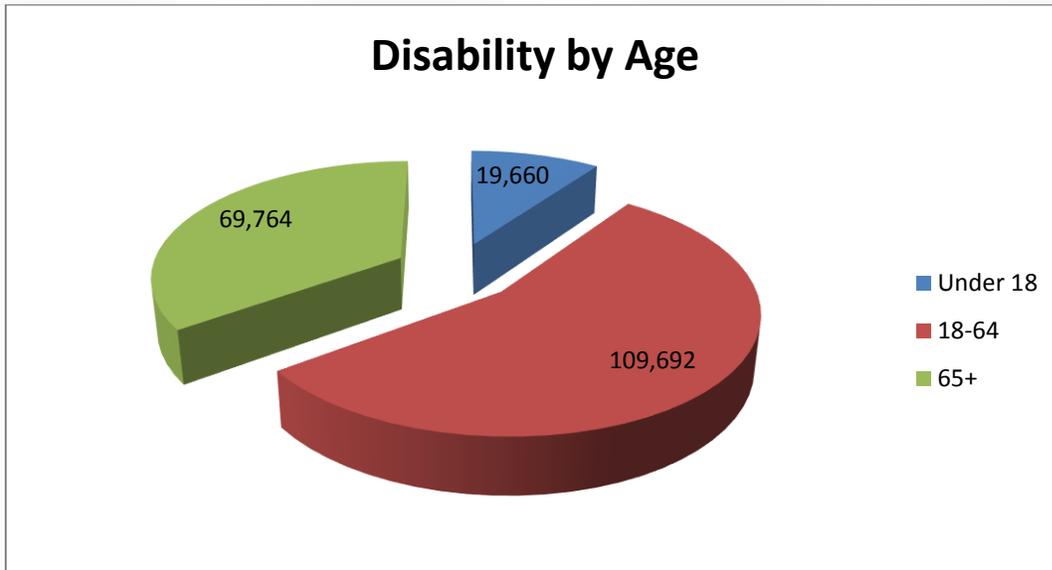
According to the US Census, Tarrant County, has 220,074 (12.2%) residents with Limited English Proficiency, which creates barriers to health care access, communication with providers, education and employment.

Veterans in Tarrant County account for 7.8% of the population at 110,560 residents. Resources for veterans are not as easily accessible, and the number of homeless veterans in Tarrant County fluctuates between 500-700 per year.

Veterans by age



Disabled individuals also includes those individuals with chronic and disabling conditions such as Heart disease, diabetes, and COPD. Many of these individuals have higher medical costs, longer hospitalizations and less ability to afford fresh foods, prescriptions and regular doctor visits.



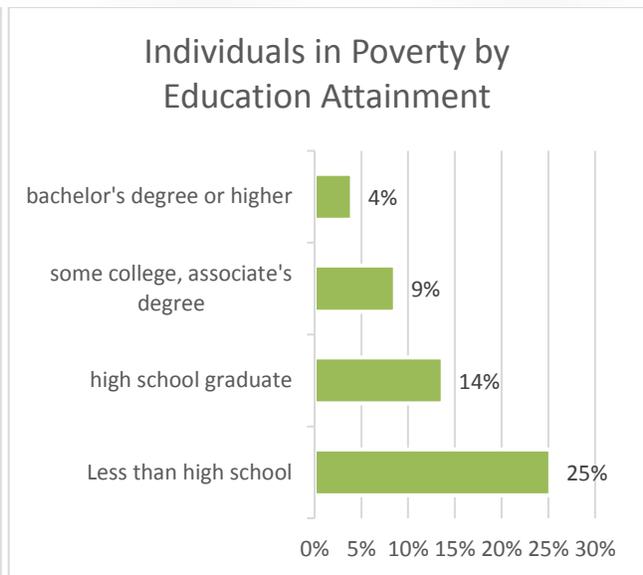
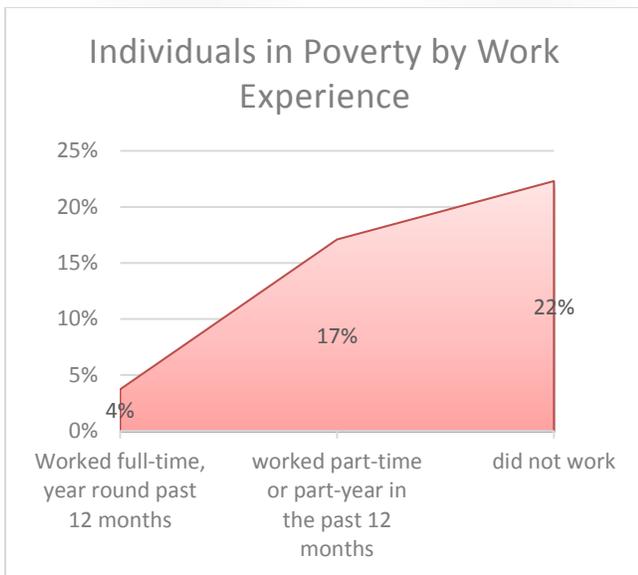
Employment in Tarrant County

Tarrant County has a 68% laborforce participation rate; higher than Texas at 64% and the USA overall at 63%. In the past few years Tarrant county has attracted many employers, particularly in the Alliance Corridor area of Fort Worth (North Tarrant county), including Amazon, FedEx, UPS, BNSF, Ryder, Trans-Trade, and DSC Logistics. In addition, there is the Alliance Opportunity Center that serves as a job applicant resource center to recruit employees and match them with jobs at Alliance based companies. Tarrant County College also provides on-site job training for current and future employees in the Alliance Corridor.

These employers typically pay an average per hour rate of \$12 to \$20 per hour. As Tarrant County continues to grow, construction companies are an ongoing source for employment. Currently there are more than 5 large projects criss-crossing the county building new roadways. The City of Fort Worth will see a significant increase in community density, due to the number of apartments being built. The city recently became the 15th fastest growing city in America according to the 2017 US Census population estimates.

Texas Health Resources is one of the largest employers with 10 hospitals/medical centers in the county and over 15,000 employees, as is the City of Fort Worth with 7,067 employees.

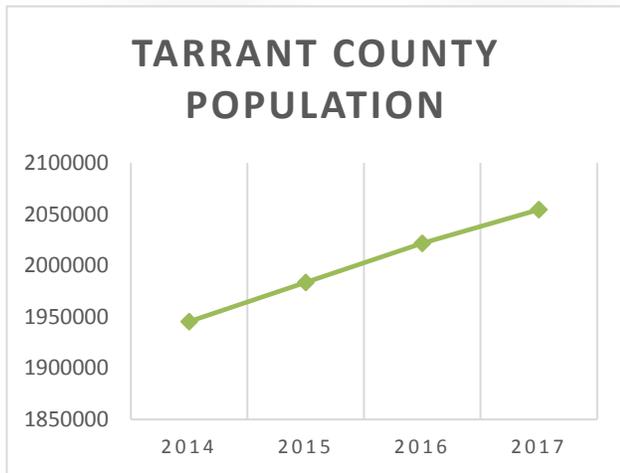
The barriers to obtaining these jobs are transportation and advanced skills needed to perform the jobs.



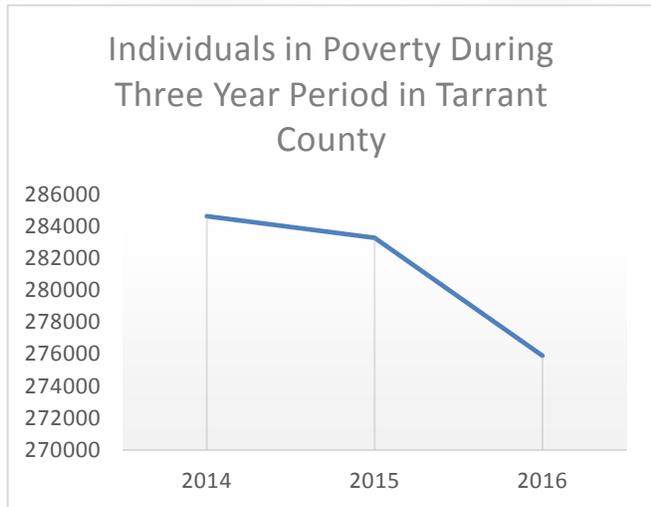
Individuals that worked part time or did not work, experience a higher percent of poverty. Individuals with a bachelor's degree experienced 4% of poverty versus 25% of individuals that did not have a high school diploma ~~are experienced poverty.~~

There is a large percentage of employers who are more typically lower wage providers, such as fast food companies and call centers.

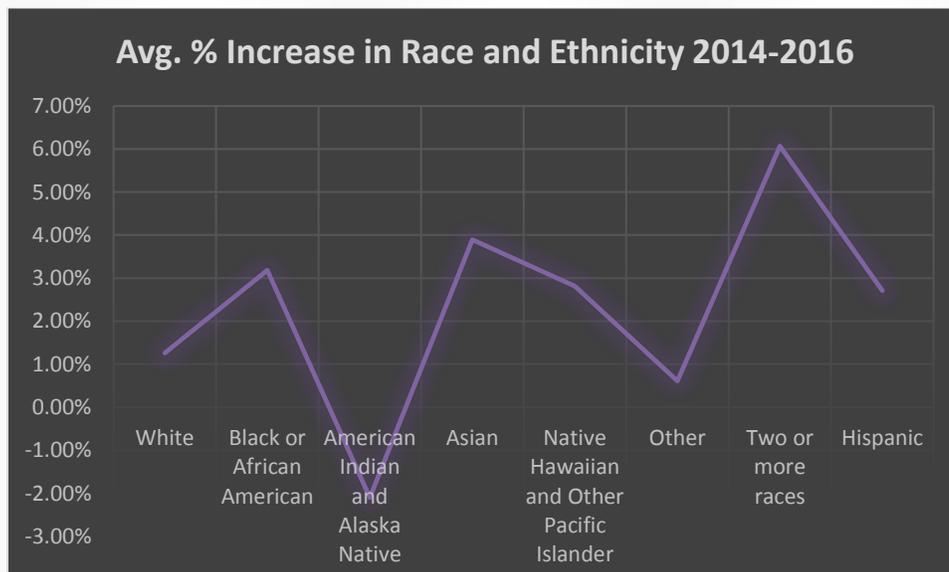
Three Year Trends for Tarrant County



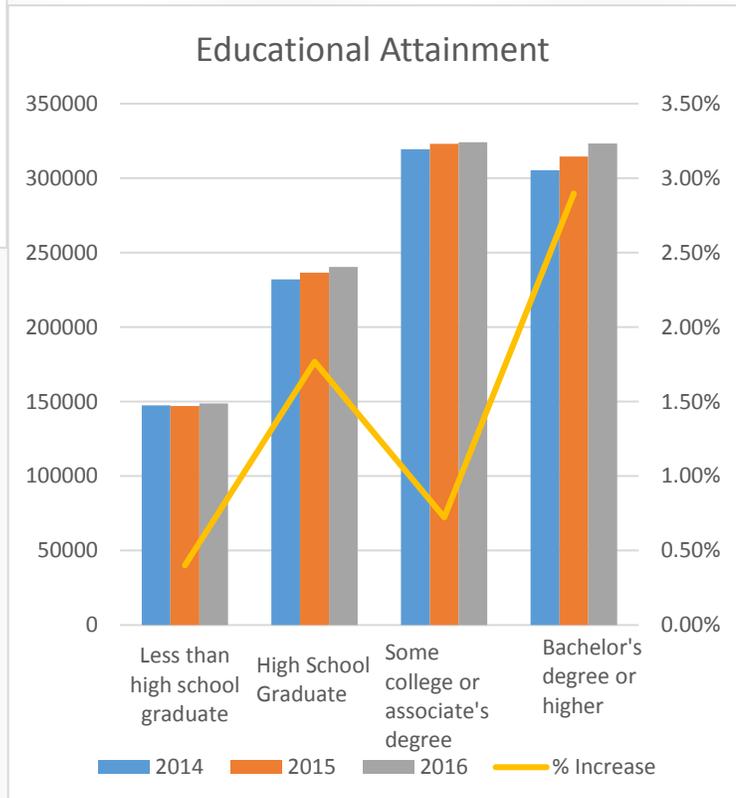
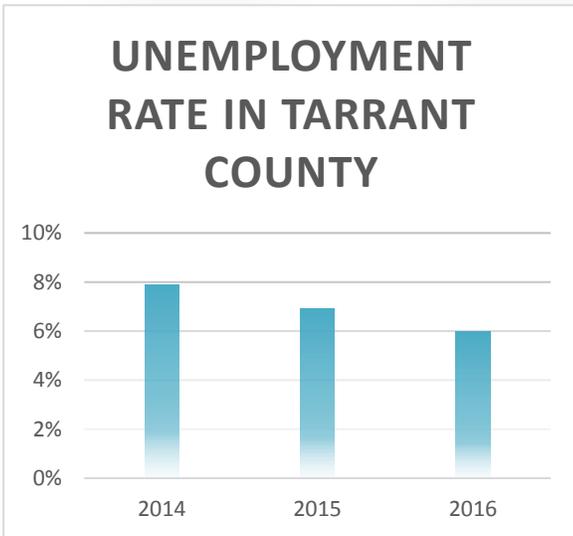
General Tarrant County population has increased at a rate of about 2% since 2014, however, the overall number of individuals in poverty shows a downward slope between 2014 and 2016.



Tarrant County's two or more races population is increasing at a higher rate than other races, followed by Asian and Black or African American and Hispanic and Latinos have also increased at significant rates at close to 3%. In contrast, the American Indian and Alaska Native population has had a sharp decrease since 2014.



The Unemployment Rate has been steadily decreasing in Tarrant County since 2014 and the rate at which individuals are obtaining Bachelor's degrees or higher education is greater than the rate at which less than high school graduates is increasing.



Income in Tarrant County

The living wage in Tarrant County, for a household of one person is \$11.03 per hour. For a household of one adult and a child it is \$23.16 (attachment CC).

The median income in Tarrant County is \$60,373, yet there are areas in our county under \$35,001. At least 14.36% of residents live below the 100% of FPG (less than \$12,140 for a family of 1) and 6% of residents are under or below the 50% of FPIG (less than \$6,070 for a family of 1) (Community Commons, Economic domain)

The income indicator is a key driver of health status as the amount of income a household receives creates barriers that are difficult to overcome.

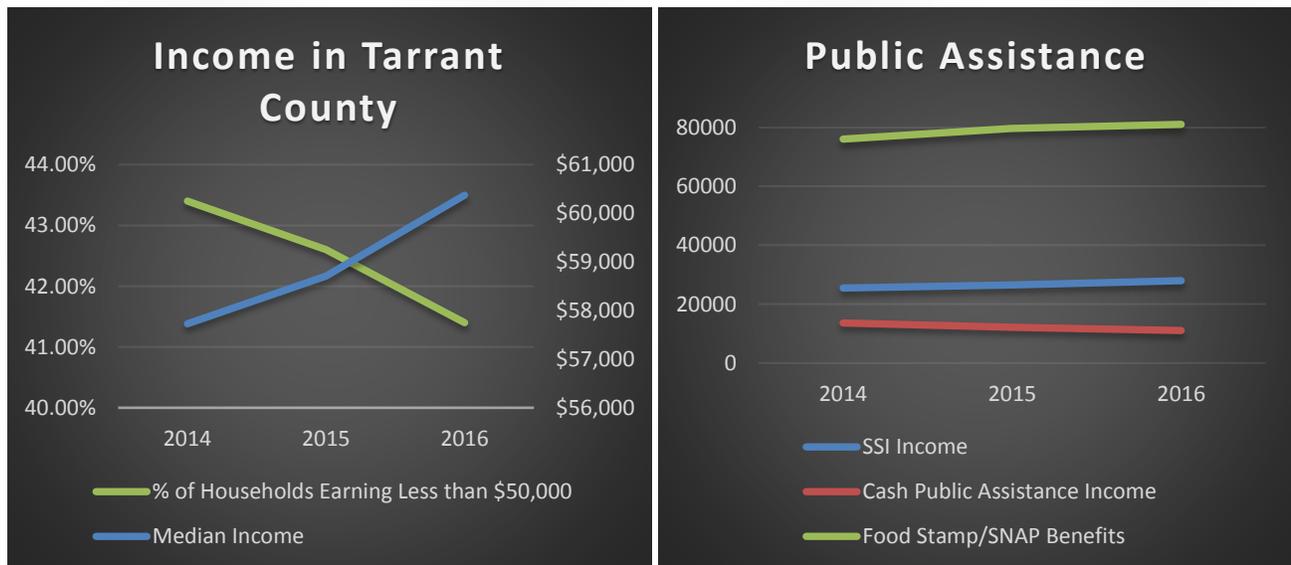
Out of 682,967 households in Tarrant County, only 11, 046 receive TANF, cash assistance. This public assistance number does not reflect SSI or Food Stamps.

In Tarrant County there has been a big push for households to apply for the Earned Income Credit (EITC), since that can add an average of \$2,700 to a household's income. VITA is a source of assistance and information for low to moderate income households, and has helped increase the number of households receiving EITC.

The need for financial management curricula and assistance with budgeting is evident from seeing the large numbers of residents who have come to rely on Pay Day loans to ensure they are able to pay for unexpected crises in their lives. These pay day loan companies unfortunately prey on those who feel they are in desperate need. Their interest rates can be over 400%, creating long-term dependence and the need to constantly renew the loan to meet essential needs.

At least, 41.4% of households in Tarrant County earn under \$50,000, well below the median income of \$60,373. This impacts residents' ability to purchase a home, rent a safe apartment, purchase a car, and provide healthy food and medical care for their families.

Although the median income has increased over the past three years, more households are receiving food stamps and SSI benefits.



Tarrant County zip codes with the below \$35,000 household income include: 76104, 76105, 76106, 76164, 76119, 76112, 76010, 76011, and 76040.

Causes of Poverty

Based on the information collected from census data, as well as performing focus groups and community surveys, it appears that poverty is caused by lack of education, lack of work experience or not being employed or underemployed. As education has increased and unemployment has decreased, the poverty rate in Tarrant County has decreased. Burden of housing costs appears to also be a factor as well as challenges presented to individuals re-entering after incarceration. Lack of transportation leads to unemployment which also contributes to poverty.

Overall Identified Areas of Need

(Needs are not in ranking order.)

Nutrition: Food insecurity is linked to poverty, poor health, and social support needs. Of approximately, 682,967 households in Tarrant County, 81,101 receive SNAP benefits (11.87% of the total households).

Access to grocery stores is also a large factor in food insecurity, leading to poor health. In recent years, large grocers have closed stores creating food deserts. While the Blue Zones Project, is making efforts to educate “corner store” owners on the need to provide fresh produce, it remains a hurdle for residents to purchase reasonably priced produce/food at a convenience store, it’s often more expensive. Tarrant County has 340,620 residents who experience food insecurity, 18.1% of the population and 161,985 residents in Tarrant County have Low Food Access, 25.69% of the low total low income population, higher than the Texas percentage and the USA overall.

For Tarrant County, zip codes with high limited food access and low income are 76040 (Eules), 76155 (Grand Prairie), 76104 (Fort Worth), 76140 (Everman), 76002(Arlington), 76036 (Crowley), 76123(Fort Worth), 76131 (Saginaw/Blue Mound), 76177 (Haslet), 76182 (N. Richland Hills), 76119 (Fort Worth/Forest Hill).

The national average for students eligible for free or reduced lunch programs stands at 48.34%, while Tarrant County is at 55.08%. City of Fort Worth, the largest city in Tarrant County, has 80% of their student population as eligible for free and reduced lunches, Arlington at 60% and other area municipalities range from 40%-60%.

The need for supplemental food sources for children 0-18 is higher in the summer months, due to schools being closed. There are providers of supplemental meals during these months to provide breakfast, lunch and/or supper, to ensure that youth 0-18 have adequate nutrition during this time. Sites can be open, meaning any child may enter a facility, express the need for food and receive it or be a closed site, meaning a child has to be enrolled in the program in order to receive meals.

Nutrition for older adults, who not only may lack adequate income but also transportation and the ability to prepare meals, is crucial for good health, lower medical bills and aging in place.

Transportation: Another identified area of need in Tarrant County was lack of transportation. Data shows that almost 10% of households have no personal vehicle. Lack of transportation has been identified as one of the highest needs for Tarrant County, especially when it comes to gaining employment and training.

The City of Fort Worth has Trinity Metro (formerly the T) as the transportation authority. The current system, due to limited funding, has not grown. It is small relative to market demand, it is too limited to be convenient for most people, there is little or no service in many areas with significant demand and it lags behind its peers in most respects.

There has been an increase in demand beyond Loop 820 (which circles the city) but service still is mostly within the loop, and even that service is inadequate.

Among Texas’ major transit systems, Trinity Metro receives the least funding and has the least full member communities. It receives \$825,000 and has 3 full member communities. In comparison, the DART in Dallas receives \$2.4 million and has 13 full member communities. The service is complicated, it needs more frequent service and longer hours, including weekend hours.

For most residents, the “last mile is often the longest mile” especially in outer areas, according to a report by Nelson and Nygaard. The best approach may be a combination of Trinity Metro plus private shuttles, Uber, Lyft, and flex services (Associates, 2016).

The 5 year recommendation includes expanding service throughout most of the county and develop premium services in high demand areas.

Other recommendations are to provide comfortable waiting places, advertise the service and provide an app that can help riders estimate commute time and routes.

Some smaller municipalities in Tarrant County, such as Hurst, Euless and Bedford (H-E-B) have transportation within their cities for employment and medical appointments, but it is on a first come-first serve basis and does not cross city lines. Others cities, such as Azle and Lake Worth, only provide transportation for medical appointments. A few are paying a non-profit, Catholic Charities, to provide transportation for employment/education only to Fort Worth from those cities, but the cost can be prohibitive for some residents.

Arlington has started an on-demand rideshare service in select areas of Arlington. The cost is \$3 flat fee per trip and clients pay via credit card or prepaid card. The rides are scheduled via a smartphone app, but there is also a phone number. Access for wheelchair users is not ideal. More information about the program is available at this link <http://www.arlington-tx.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Via-Map-April-2018.jpg>.

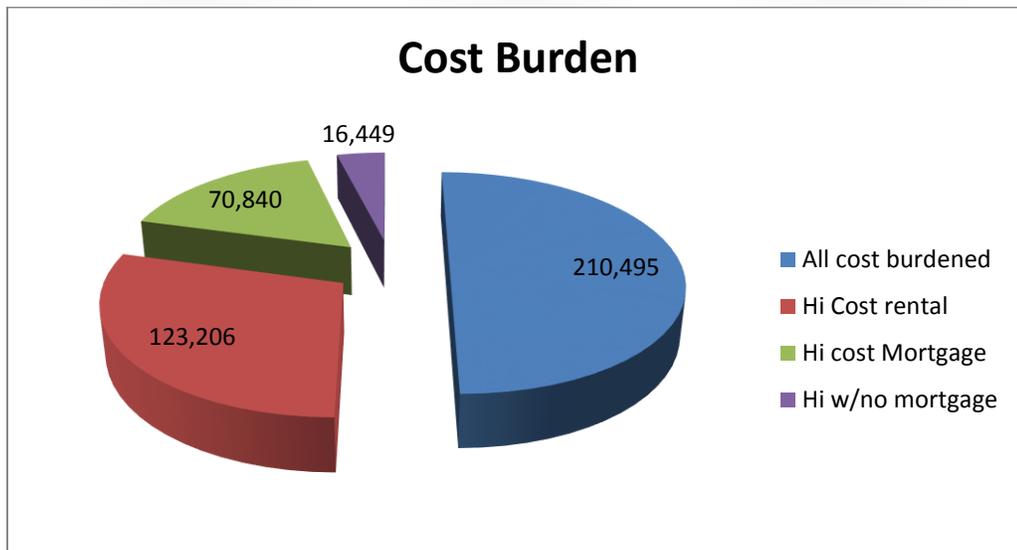
Affordable and Safe Housing: Provision of adequate and appropriate housing for all residents is essential to building strong neighborhoods. Housing condition is generally related directly to housing age. Without adequate maintenance, older housing stock deteriorates. This issue is particularly evident in the central section of the City of Fort Worth, and in the older areas of the surrounding municipalities.

In “newer” areas, and in the suburban municipalities, affordability is a huge barrier, as costs for a one bedroom apartment can be between \$947 and \$1543, and single home housing prices are quite high.

In Tarrant County, 30.82% of households pay over 30% of their income for housing. Cost burdened households represent 45.54% of all the rental households in Tarrant County. The cost burden even for those who own, with no mortgage, is high, due to repairs and maintenance. Lower income households cannot afford the repairs, leading to safety issues and community deterioration.

The median home value in Tarrant County is \$197,900. The median price of homes currently listed in Tarrant County is \$269,900.

Affordable and Safe Housing (continued):



Employment: Of the 1,476,944 residents over the age of 16, who are employable, 31.70% or 468,207, are currently not working. The issues with this group of unemployed residents ties in with transportation, skills and education opportunities. Though the county has large employer base, the ability to be employed is affected by the ability to have the skills to do the job and the ability to get to the place of employment with less than a 60 minute commute.

Youth 13-18: Programming for youth 13-18 is not common. There are only a few agencies that provide after school and summer programming for youth over 18. Yet this group is the one that secondary school principal's state have the most need, as they can be easily influenced to become involved in illegal activities by boredom, by lack of knowledge and by lack of parental support.

Re-Entry: The issues facing those re-entering after incarceration are numerous, and for some, overwhelming. Tarrant County has approximately 40,000 offenders released each year, with an almost even split between supervised and unsupervised release. For several years Tarrant County has had various groups working with those re-entering, but the efforts were not united.

The past two years there has been an effort to have agencies work together to provide the best support for those re-entering after incarceration. Unfortunately most inmates released still lack the necessary skills and /or resources for successful re-integration.

Training, specialized programs and staff are needed to address the growing recidivism rate. Those re-entering need help with several immediate needs:

- Personal records, such as Social security cards, Driver's License, Birth certificates
- Counseling programs such as anger management, substance abuse counseling, drug and alcohol rehabilitation and mental health assessments.
- Housing, safe and affordable.

Re-Entry (continued):

- Job training
- Family Reunification/Support groups

The numbers are daunting. Two thirds (2/3) of those released will re-enter the justice system within 3 years if they cannot find housing and employment within the first few months of re-entry.

Utility and Rental Assistance: Utility and Rental assistance still were part of what residents identified as needs, particularly for those who stated that their income was not enough to maintain their households, but also for those who stated that during emergency events and crises that was a need.

Housing Repair: Community Revitalization is needed in those neighborhoods with homes built 40 years and more ago, as the resident's age and are unable to provide maintenance to their homes. Older adults and those who are disabled also may need home modifications to enable them to remain in their homes for as long as possible.

In general, the needs identified were the following, in no particular order:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Transportation | 7. Lack of Income |
| 2. Education | 8. Utility Assistance |
| 3. Employment/Training/Skills(including
computer skills) | 9. Rental Assistance |
| 4. Access to Affordable Housing | 10. Programs for Youth and Older Adults |
| 5. Nutrition (both older adult and children) | 11. Re-entry/ Crime |
| 6. Lack of Affordable Daycare | 12. Housing repair |

COMMUNITY STRENGTHS AND ASSETS

1. Availability of a variety of agencies that serve Tarrant County
2. Partnerships between agencies
3. Leveraging of funds between agencies
4. An active 2-1-1 system, though no longer based in Tarrant County
5. An engaged community
6. Support from local elected officials and boards
7. Partnerships with faith based agencies and churches
8. Support from large businesses

Tarrant County is fortunate to have a variety of agencies dedicated to the needs of vulnerable residents. The community is, for the most part, supportive of the effort that agencies have made to assist low-income and vulnerable individuals.

Agencies, including City of Fort Worth Community Action Partners, try to leverage services and funds for clients through partnerships (whether formal or informal) to ensure that funds are spent wisely and clients receive support from multiple groups.

In the City of Fort Worth, neighborhoods and neighborhood associations are fairly active, allowing many residents to engage in decision making. The neighborhoods are very diverse, which allows for great dialogue on needs and services provided.

The other municipalities in Tarrant County are very diverse as well, from an active Tongan community in Euless to a Bhutanese group in Keller. Many of these groups tend to stay together, but in the past few years they have reached out for assistance from agencies on everything from political involvement to utility assistance.

Continued communication among city leaders, agency representatives and business owners allows Tarrant County agencies to reach many low income families and provide wrap around services to ensure stabilization and then progress to self-sufficiency.

BARRIERS

1. Lack of transportation past the city of Fort Worth limits
2. Long route times for residents trying to use City of Fort Worth transportation
3. Expensive special needs transportation services
4. Lack of agencies that repair homes
5. Lack of funding for repair of automobiles
6. Lack of communication between municipalities
7. Not enough affordable and housing

As mentioned before, transportation is a large barrier that has been difficult to surmount. Routes and schedules are not user friendly for those within city limits, and for those in Tarrant County, there is currently no way to work outside of their area, unless they own a car. Elderly and disabled can access special needs

transportation, but again schedules are not good, and the cost can be prohibitive to those on a very tight budget.

Lack of agencies that can repair homes is a barrier, especially for those older adults living in their own home, in older neighborhoods. The waiting lists are very long, and the list of services one can receive are very short. Community Revitalization is key, but funding for those services is very limited. There is urban blight in many neighborhoods, with vandalism of buildings being fairly common. There are many boarded up homes and businesses that attract crime and vagrants.

Since automobiles are a necessity in order to work in Tarrant County, low cost or free repair would be a definite help in placing clients in jobs and job training classes. There is not an agency currently in Tarrant County that offers this assistance. Some churches will help their members only, and even then the assistance is very limited.

Affordable housing is an issue as well. As Tarrant County has become home to new businesses from other states, apartment rent and home costs have increased. The housing authorities at several of Tarrant County municipalities have long waiting lists for subsidized housing. There are very few safe, clean apartment complexes that have rents less than \$947 per month for a one bedroom apartment.

PRIORITY NEEDS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The City of Fort Worth has identified the following as priority needs that will be addressed through CSBG, CEAP and other funding along with advocacy work:

- Education and Employment services
- Youth programming
- Community revitalization (both direct and advocacy)
- Supplemental nutrition services
- Transportation advocacy
- Affordable housing advocacy

The City of Fort Worth has the CAPWorks program which provides assistance to eligible households in receiving training/education in a variety of fields to obtain long term, livable wage employment (such as EKG technician, Pharmacy technician, CNA, phlebotomist, fork lift operator, CDL operator etc.) , along with other supportive services such as tools, books, etc. Since the program began, we have been able to train many clients in fields that offer competitive salaries and long term employability. CAPWorks will be extended to those re-entering after incarceration, along with supportive services to stabilize and assist them in maintaining after skills and employment have been found.

The City of Fort Worth also has a Rising Stars program, aimed at youth ages 13-18, that provides summer programming coupled with educational and employment opportunities. This will be the 4th year of programming for this group. Some of the students have received life guard certification, food handlers' licenses and CPR

certification. They have been exposed to an array of careers and have taken many classes, including Toastmasters.

The two areas where the City of Fort Worth expects to be a strong advocate for are transportation and affordable housing. Staff has been asked to serve on several task forces to ensure that these issues remain on the forefront of elected officials' agendas in Tarrant County. Since the City of Fort Worth receives CSBG funds, direct support for bus passes, gas cards and such will continue, but the root cause of the lack of transportation issue, will continue to call for advocacy and involvement.

Direct support will continue to be available for clients, both for case management clients and for those experiencing a crisis.

Since CAP has moved under the Neighborhood Services Department it has allowed us to be more involved with the NEZ (Neighborhood Empowerment Zones) priorities, ensuring that residents in the poorest areas of the City of Fort Worth, are being provided wrap around services. In the Hurst-Euless- Bedford corridor, our partnership with 6 Stones Ministries has increased access to services for those residents.

CAP recently moved their Arlington office to a location that houses several social service agencies such as The Women's Center, Arlington Housing Authority, MHMR, Center for Transforming Lives, allowing clients a "one stop shop" experience.

The Texas Veterans Commission's General Assistance grant, has allowed us to be able to assist veterans, of any discharge status, with rent, mortgage and utilities. Income eligibility is at 80% of AMI: for example, a household of one can earn more than \$40,000 per year and be eligible to receive services.

For the first time we were also granted the Homes for Heroes grant from Texas Veteran Commission which will allow us to assist those veterans in need of home repair, to help them maintain a safe home. Partnerships are already being set up to ensure that the funding will be able to assist those that most need it.

IDENTIFIED NEED	DOMAINS	NATIONAL GOAL	GOAL TYPE	NPI'S	CURRENT SERVICES/ACTIVITIES	FUTURE SERVICES/ACTIVITIES
Persons with Low Income Lack the Skills to earn a living wage	Employment Education and Cognitive Development	1	Family	FNPI 1a, FNPI 1b, FNPI 1h, FNPI c(3), FNPI 2f, FNPI 2g, FNPI 2h, FNPI 2i, FNPI 2j, FNPI 2k SRVs: SRV 1a-1q, SRV 2a-2cc	CAPWorks: providing skills training, workshops, classes to ensure employability. Rising Stars: Working with School Districts to keep youth engaged in constant learning.	Programming for disconnected youth, ages 16-24 through evening programming and skills training, workshops and job placement.

IDENTIFIED NEED	DOMAINS	NATIONAL GOAL	GOAL TYPE	NPI'S	CURRENT SERVICES/ACTIVITIES	FUTURE SERVICES/ACTIVITIES
Persons with low income lack affordable and safe housing	Housing	2	Family and Community	FNPI 4a, FNPI 4b, FNPI 4c, FNPI 4e, FNPI 4g, FNPI 4h SRVs: SRV 4a-4t CNPI 4 STRs: 4a-4j	*Currently providing direct services to keep households housed * on housing committees to address needs	*Continue services currently provided. *Expand to work with municipalities that receive CDBG to build affordable housing units. *Home modifications for veterans who want to remain independent, in their homes
Persons with Low Income Lack access to fresh foods/live in food deserts	Health and Social/Behavioral Development	5	Family and Community	FNPI 5a, FNPI 5b CNPI 5 STRs 5a-5n	*Providing mobile food bank access	*Provide classes on nutrition, healthy eating *Provide guidance on community gardens *Work on committee for better food access through the Hunger Initiative
Better transportation access between municipalities will lead to employment, stabilization and self-sufficiency	3	2 and 4	Community	CNPI 3 STR3a-3s	*Bus passes *Gas cards *Agency participates in several Transportation Improvement Coalitions	Continue direct services for clients Increase participation in various coalitions to improve transportation across municipalities.

Identified Need	Domains	National Goal	Goal Type	NPIs	Current Services	Future Services
Persons with low income need affordable /safe/convenient child care	Education and Cognitive Development	6	Family Community	FNPI 2a, FNPI 2b,FNPI 2c (1)	*Currently assisting households with short term daycare costs while parent(s) are in school or started new employment	Continue current work. Add advocacy for better, more affordable child care, including nights and weekends. Work with individuals to become licensed child care providers.