



DESIGNATED GEOGRAPHIC AREAS REPRESENTING LOW-INCOME POPULATIONS OF TRAVIS COUNTY

Community Development Commission

July 10, 2018

Maria Allen, Manager, Neighborhood Services Unit



Background

- Austin Public Health receives Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds which support the work of its six Neighborhood Centers and 3 outreach locations.
- The CSBG service area is Travis County.
- 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 representing the low-income populations of Travis County during the Needs Assessment process.
- Based on the Needs Assessment, staff makes recommendations for any updates to the designated low-income areas to the Community Development Commission for consideration and action.

Needs Assessment

- The suburbanization of poverty in the city and county continues to be evident.
- The highest concentrations of poverty in Austin (excluding UT) are found in north Austin (Rundberg & St. John), far east and northeast Austin (Colony Park), and southeast Austin (Montopolis and Dove Springs).
- The Del Valle area of Travis County also has a high concentration of poverty, but is currently not represented on the Community Development Commission.

East Austin Census Data

- Due to demographic shifts that have continued since the 2015 needs assessment was conducted, the poverty rate continues to decline in this area.
- However, the poverty rate for this area (roughly 19%) remains higher than that of the Travis County rate as a whole (15.2%).

Preliminary Recommendations

- Staff recommends combining the East Austin and Montopolis designated geographic areas for representation on the Community Development Commission.
- This designated area would then have the following boundaries:
 - North Boundary: East 7th Street
 - South Boundary: Ben White Boulevard
 - East Boundary: U.S. Hwy 183
 - West Boundary: Interstate Highway 35

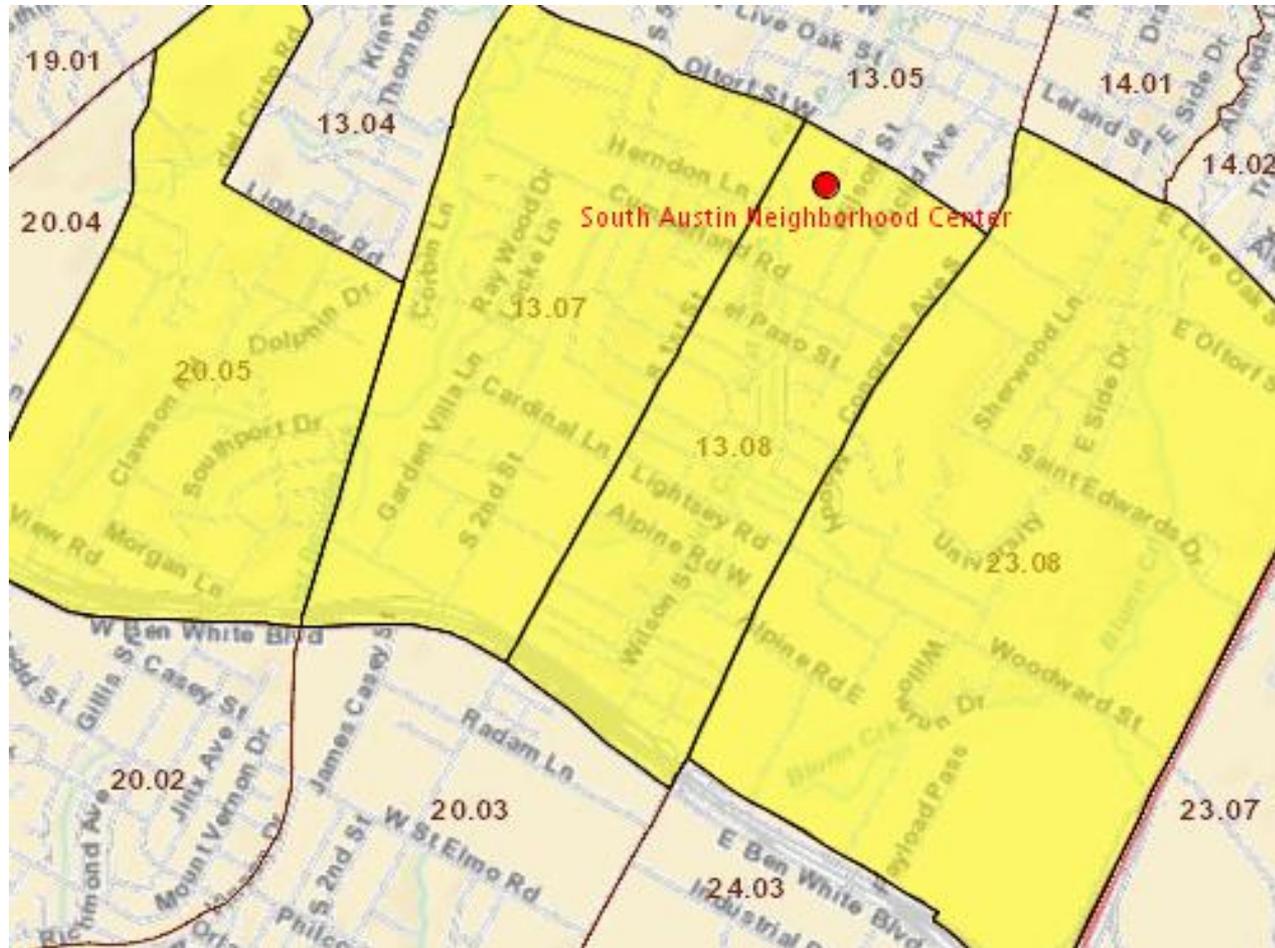
South Austin Census Data

- 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.
- In 2018, the demographic shifts continue to point to a need for this change.

Preliminary Recommendations

- Based on 2016 data, the highlighted census tracts have a poverty rate equal to or higher than that of Travis County as a whole.
- Current boundaries for this area need to be updated to reflect the changes in the area.
- Boundaries to consider:
 - North – Oltorf
 - South – East Ben White
 - East – South IH 35
 - West – Manchaca

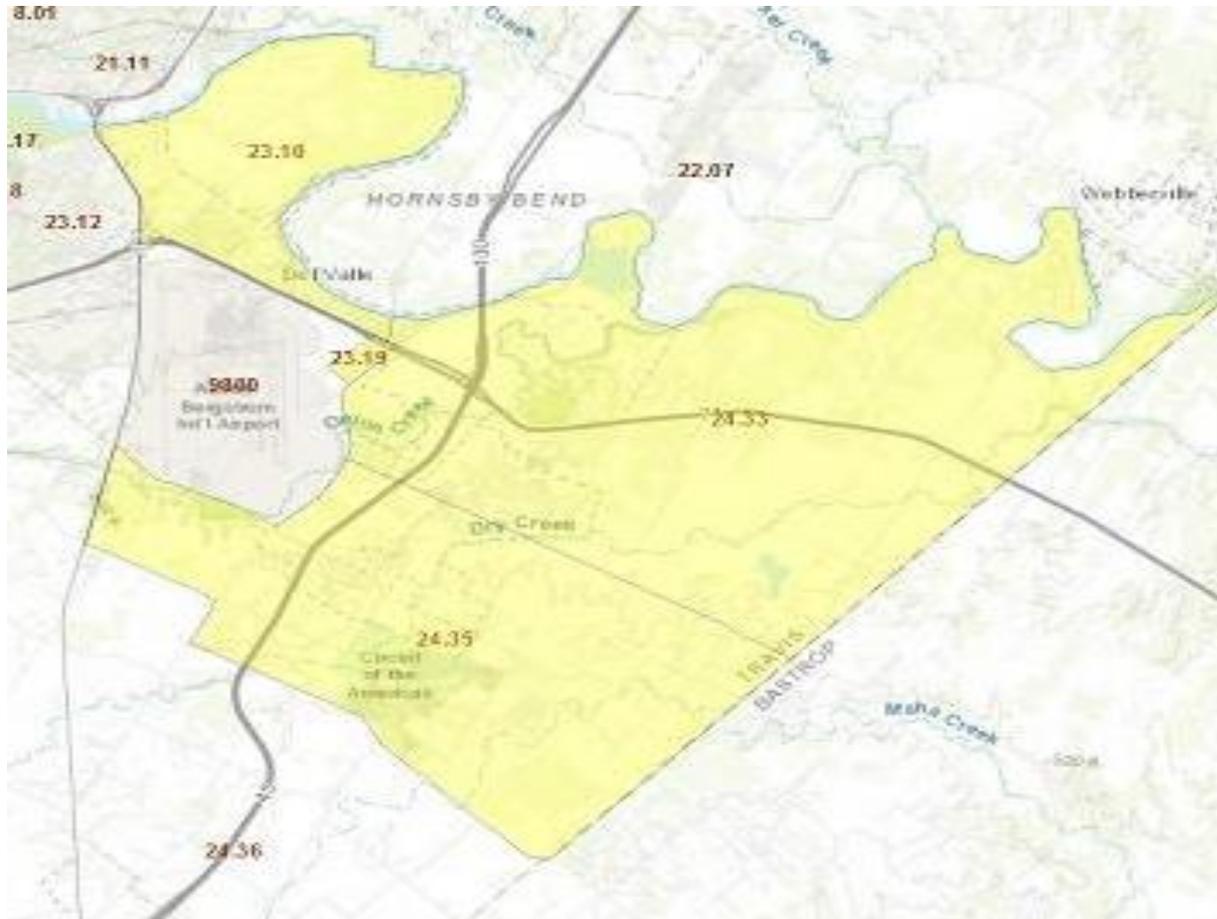
South Austin Area



Del Valle area

- Staff recommends consideration of an additional designated geographic area to represent Del Valle.
- Based on 2016 poverty data, Del Valle and surrounding areas have the highest concentrations of people living in poverty outside the City limits.
- Boundaries to consider:
 - North – Colorado River
 - South – FM 812
 - East – Travis County Line
 - West – US Hwy 183

Del Valle Area



Next Steps for the CDC

- Consideration and Possible Action on recommended changes to CDC designated geographic areas to move forward to City Council
- Consideration and Possible Action to create a Working Group to consider changes to responsible organizations to hold nomination/elections in designated areas