Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities

Quality of Life Studies:

Final Report of the Asian American Quality of Life (AAQoL)

Austin Equity and Inclusion

Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission Meeting
Tuesday, November 17, 2026, 6:00 PM

Background on Quality-of-Life Studies

Quality of life studies in Austin help the City and community partners understand how residents experience key areas such as housing, health, access, belonging, and other factors that influence economic mobility. Centered in community voices and data, these studies identify challenges and highlight opportunities to improve services, programs, and strategies that support a more inclusive Austin.

The AAQOL survey was initiated in response to October 2013 City Council Resolution No. 20131024-085 to examine the social, physical, and mental health needs of Austin's growing Asian American population.

Lead Department: Austin Community Engagement
Vendor: The University of Texas at Austin, School of Social Work

AAQoL: Key Insights

2069 Survey Participants

48.5% of respondents completed Survey in their first language

Surveys: Paper and Pencil questionnaires across 8 languages

(English, Traditional/Simplified Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Hindi, Gujarati, and Tagalog)

Study examined physical health and health care access, mental health and stigma, civic engagement and community resources.

Studies Pillars At a Glance

Economic Development

Housing and Community Development

Health and Human Services

Arts and Culture

Civic Engagement

- Improve public transit information, convenience and accessibility; prioritize neighborhoods with limited or no access to public transportation and provide shuttle/door-to-door services for seniors to connect to mass transit.

- Continue health education, assessments and counseling practices. Train service providers in culturally and linguistically accepted practices to engage with diverse communities. Hire diverse health navigators to service the community.

- Develop an “Austin 101” workshop to provide information about City services; training could include information about Austin 311, discrimination protections, fair hiring practices and library services

15 Recommendations **Asian American Quality of Life in Austin with a Report on the Survey**			
Undetermined	**Not Implemented** (1)	**Partially Implemented** (11)	**Implemented** (3)
0	7%	73%	2%

Operationalizing the Quality-of-Life Studies

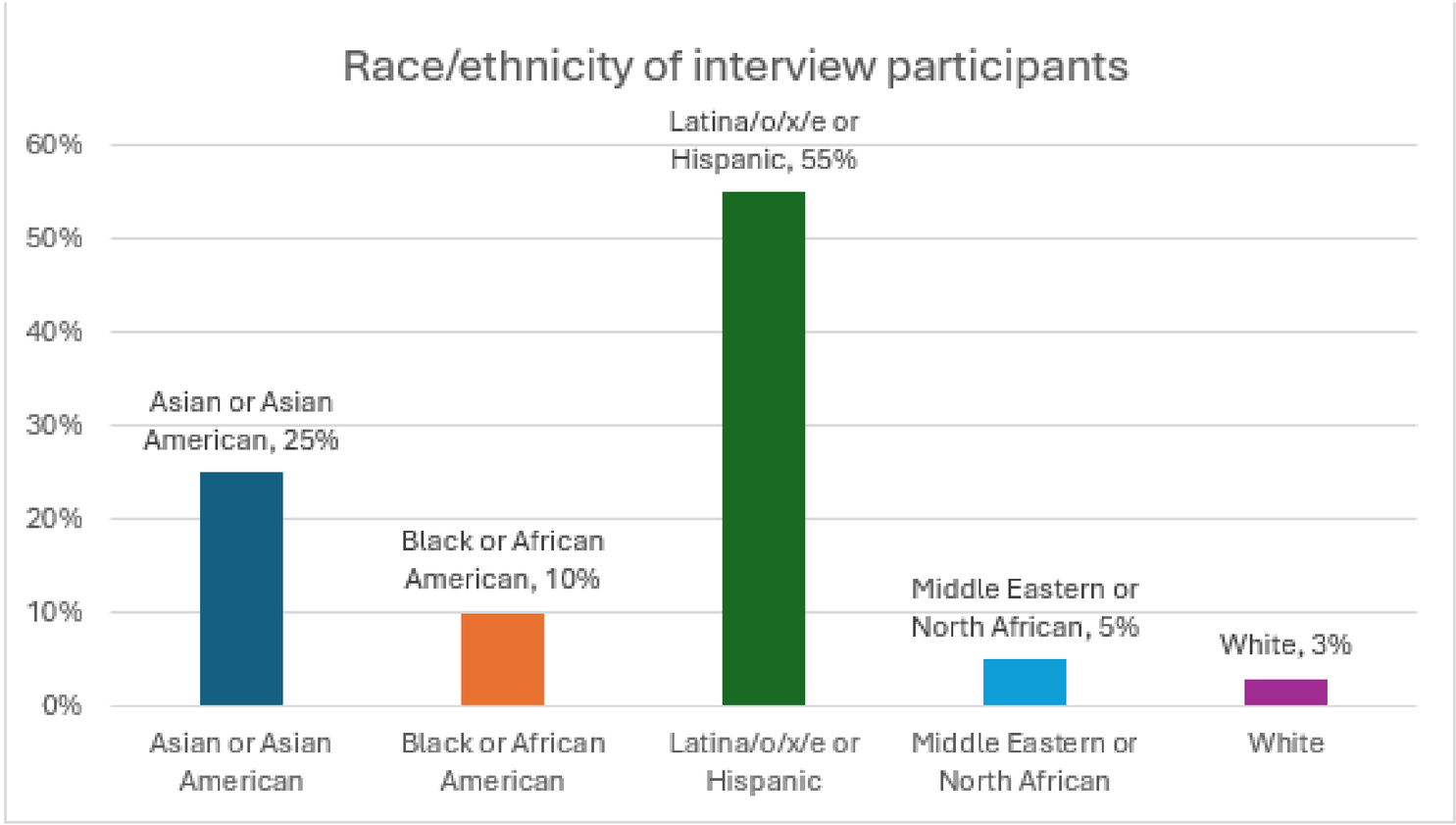


The findings from these studies help the City shape programs and monitor progress toward closing gaps in services and opportunities. They were also fundamental in informing the development of the City's Levers of Economic Mobility Index.

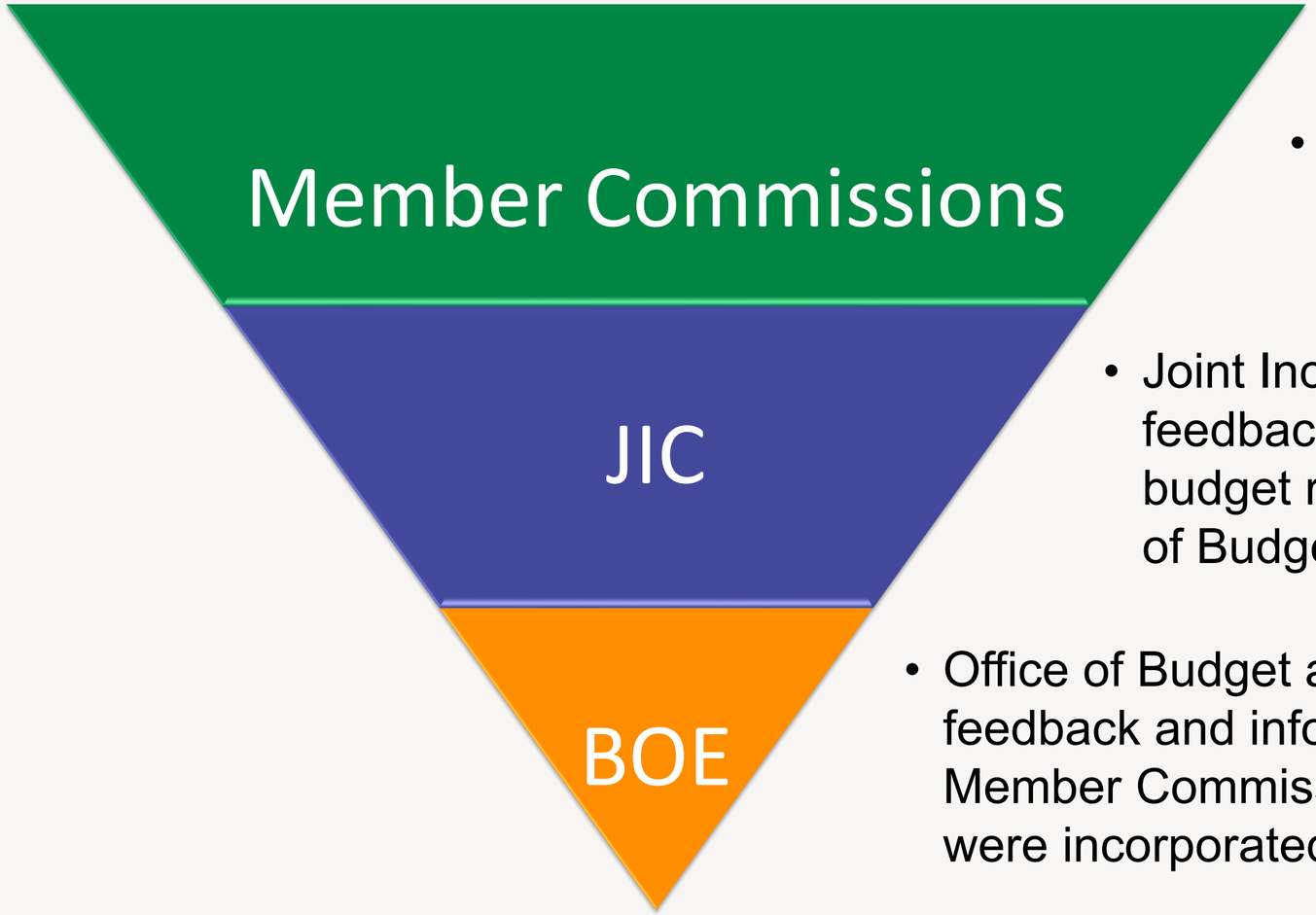
Systems Change	Tracking Progress	Investment Alignment
Quality of Life recommendations were the primary foundation for informing the Levers of Economic Mobility Index (LEMI).	AEI is working on a method to track all recommendations alongside departments who will work on implementation.	Budget recommendation should focus on supporting implementation of quality of life recommendations.

QoL Study for Immigrant, Refugee and Foreign-born Community

- National Center for Farmworker Health
- Study prioritizes:
  - Understanding lived realities
  - Identifying systemic barriers
  - Co-creating solutions with community
  - Embedding language justice
  - Building community resilience and trust
- Draft report currently being developed
- Expected publication: January - February 2027



QoL Studies and Budget Recommendations



- Member Commissions identify data-informed priority areas and engage in regular community engagement during monthly meetings
- Joint Inclusion Commission manages community feedback loop, synthesizes Member Commission budget recommendations, and submits to Office of Budget and Organizational Excellence
- Office of Budget and Organizational Excellence provides feedback and informs Joint Inclusion Commission and Member Commission on how budget recommendations were incorporated during the budget cycle

Thank You

Questions?