

College Station ISD
Birth to Five Head Start
Community Assessment

Community Assessment 2015-2016
College Station Independent School District Birth to Five Head Start Program
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I. Community Wide Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment - §1302.11(b)

(1) To design a program that meets community needs, and builds on strengths and resources, a program must conduct a community assessment at least once over the five-year grant period. The community assessment must use data that describes the community strengths, needs, and resources and include, at a minimum:

(i) The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children, and expectant mothers, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak, including:

(A) Children experiencing homelessness in collaboration with, to the extent possible, McKinney Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons.

(B) Children in foster care

(C) Children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resource provided to these children by community agencies.

(ii) The education, health, nutrition and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well being.

(iii) Typical work, school, training schedules of parents with eligible children.

(iv) Other child development, child care center, and family child care programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local pre-schools, and the appropriate number of eligible children served.

(v) Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families

(vi) Strengths of the community

(2) A program must annually review and update the community assessment to reflect any significant changes including increased availability of publicly-funded pre-kindergarten (including an assessment of how the pre-kindergarten available in the community meets the needs of parents and children served by the program, and whether it is offered for a full school day), rates of family and child homelessness, and significant shifts in community demographics and resources.

(3) A program must consider whether the characteristics of the community allow it to include children from diverse economic backgrounds that would be supported by other funding sources, including private pay, in addition to the program's eligible funded enrollment. A Program must not enroll children from diverse economic backgrounds if it would result in a program serving less than its eligible funded enrollment.

II. Executive Summary

College Station ISD Birth to Five Head Start is in the third year of their five year grant cycle that runs from 2014 to 2019. As a part of the five year grant, the Office of Head Start Program Performance Standards, as well as the program's policies and procedures; a community assessment is not only a necessity, but a requirement. The need for this assessment is a systematic effort to determine the nature of problems, challenges, as well as opportunities for the city of College Station. Therefore, this community assessment is an integral part of carrying out our mission and purpose as a Birth to Five program. Assessing the city of College Station serves to identify community needs, gaps in services, local resources, and community priorities, as well as collaborate with communities partners to implement services locally. The city of College Station and College Station ISD Birth to Five Head Start's data collection combined, is intended to help the program specifically determine how to better recruit, select, and serve Early Head Start and Head Start families. The data that is collected and aggregated also allows the program to better allocate funding across programs events, activities, and other expenditures.

Data collection for the Birth to Five Head Start Program and this assessment is an ongoing and year round process. However, intensive data collection has taken place specifically for components of this assessment over the past year. Getting in contact and creating relationships with local agencies, organizations, and programs has been a very helpful resource for data. As another component of data collection, the program has also recorded newspaper articles over the past two years, keeping track of relevant information that has the potential to, or has directly impacted, moderate to low income families in the city of College Station. Lastly, access to health reports, city data, and county information via the internet has been the most helpful source.

Each of these resources provide data from the previous decades, up to the current year. Being able to see the growth and change that the city of College Station and the Birth to Five Head Start Program has accomplished is astounding. It is our expectation as a program to continue to meet the future needs of Birth to Five families and the community the best that we can. In order to do this, the community assessment will continue to be an ongoing data collection process that is updated on a yearly basis. Each year, we will continue to use the most recent and comprehensive community assessment, including the most recent updates, as a guide to program improvements and continued success towards high quality service to children and families in College Station, TX.

III. Grantee Profile

i. Program Overview

About 50 years ago, College Station Independent School District began as a campus based Head Start classroom serving only 75 children. Throughout the years, our program has progressively grown into a Birth to Five Early Education organization that serves one of the fastest growing cities in the Brazos Valley. In 2009, we were granted funds to start up an Early Head Start Program, which allows us to serve 100 zero to three year old children, as well as expectant mothers. 100 Early Head Start spots, combined with our 196 Head Start spots, allows us to further educate and prepare 296 children and families for a successful future. College Station ISD Head Start has a whole-child, whole-family approach. This approach is based on the philosophy that children in our community will benefit most from a full service program aiming to promote each child's development and growth. We firmly believe that a child's parent is their first and most important teacher. Therefore, a child's entire family must be involved for the best results.

Our purpose and intent is to increase the social competence and school readiness of young children as well as provide a strong foundation of family support and education. Our Head Start classes are campus based and structured with a careful balance of individual choice and large group experiences. By evaluating and meeting needs of the child and family in the areas of health, nutrition, mental health, social services, education and diagnosed or suspected disabilities; the program is able to prepare children for a successful school experience. In an effort to best serve pregnant women and children from birth to three years of age in our community, College Station ISD has implemented a home based model for Early Head Start, which places a home visitor in the comfort of their own home, which we believe to be the child's natural learning environment. Each family in our Early Head Start program receives a home visit once a week for ninety minutes that focuses on family activities to promote language and child development, support parental roles, and encourage self-sufficiency. Similar to Head Start, Early Head Start home visits also address the needs of the child and family in the areas of child development, education, health, nutrition, mental health, and safety.

The College Station Independent School District Birth to Five Head Start Program strives to support families through identifying strengths and achieving personal goals. Working with campus and district staff, Birth to Five Head Start addresses strengths and challenges of children and families to supply the best resources available and to work together towards school readiness. In order for our families to receive the utmost experience and benefits during their time in our program, Birth to Five Head Start staff have set five goals to represent what we strive for as a program. These goals consist of:

(1) children being at their healthiest potential by the time they enter kindergarten, (2) children having a safe and caring environment that will foster learning and development, (3) children will be provided a language rich environment beginning at birth and continuing throughout childhood, (4) parents will value and support the continuing education of self and child(ren), (5) as well as parents working toward self-sufficiency through job skills or education through community connection and Head Start supports as necessary.

ii. Geography

College Station is part of the Bryan-College Station metropolitan area in the Brazos Valley region of Texas. College Station is located south of the center of Brazos County at 30°36'5"N 96°18'52"W. The city it shares the metropolitan area with is Bryan, which borders College Station on the northwest side. The heart of College Station sits 90 miles northwest of Houston and 87 miles northeast of Austin. Land areas cover 40.3 square feet and population density is about 2,571 people per square mile.

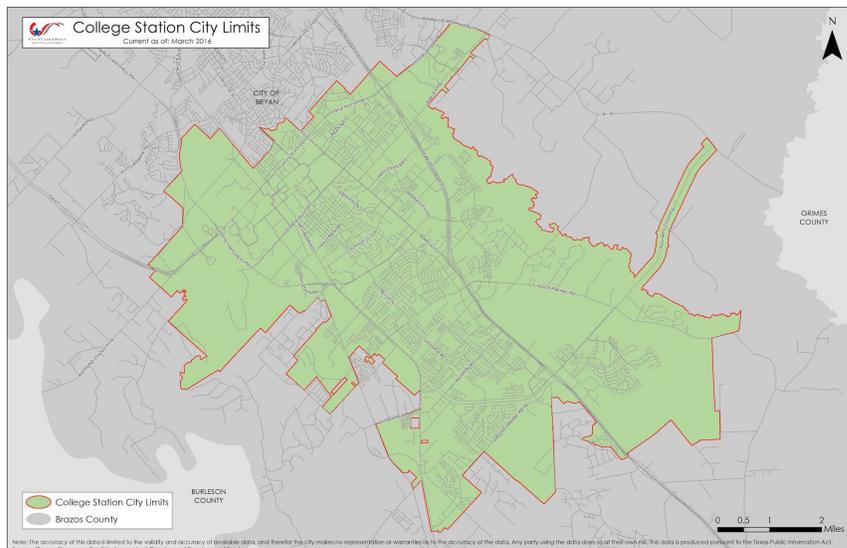


Image Retrieved from: <http://gis.cstx.gov/>

iii. Service Area and Providers

College Station's Birth to Five Head Start program is comprised of home based and campus based locations. While home visitors in the home based program attend a family's home for services, there are also weekly socializations, or playgroups, in order to support child development through strengthening the relationship between the parent and child. These socializations are held at the newly renovated Barbara Bush Parent Center.

For our campus-based program, College Station Independent School District currently serves our Head Start students at nine different elementary schools. These eight elementary campuses are spread amongst the city of College Station and include: College Hills, Creek View, Forest Ridge, Pebble Creek, Rock Prairie, South Knoll, Southwood Valley, and Spring Creek. Although we have nine elementary school campuses, we have twelve classrooms divided amongst these schools. Southwood Valley Elementary School has three classrooms, College Hills and South Knoll have two classrooms, and the remaining schools, with the exception of Greens Prairie, each host one Head Start classroom. Greens Prairie remains without a Head Start classroom due to the lack of low income population within its attendance zone. The reason for certain schools having more classrooms than others is based upon the amount of space at each campus and the number of low income children and families that are zoned to a certain sites. Certain areas of College Station are more populated with families living below the poverty line than others. Below is a map of the city's elementary school attendance zones.

Proposed Elementary Attendance Zones
Effective August 2015

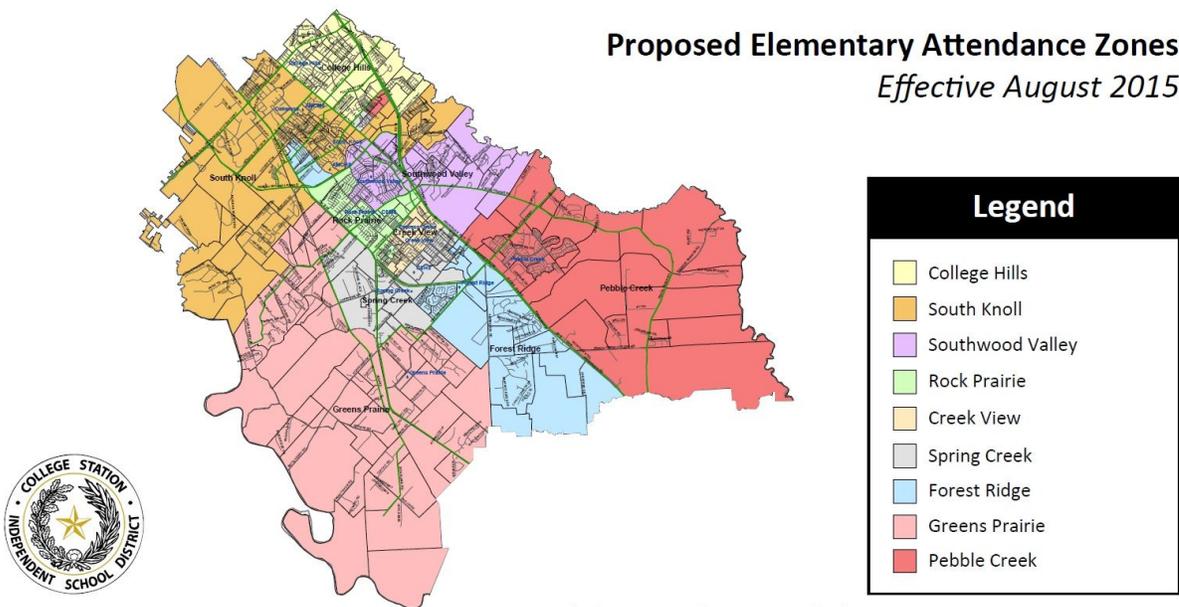


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http://www.csisd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=161707&type=d&pREC_ID=331798

As seen in the diagram above, there are nine elementary schools in the district, however Head Start classes are only located on eight of them. As the community has seen continuous growth, a tenth elementary campus has been approved and is in the works. While it was projected to open in August of 2018, the location of this elementary campus affected the infrastructure needs in the area, including the need to construct a sewer line and upgrade road conditions on Holleman Drive South and Rock Prairie Road. The City

of College Station recently expressed concerns to the district regarding the challenges associated with the aforementioned roadway construction and sewer and asked if the district would consider opening the school a year later. After considering recent slower growing trends and projections at the elementary level, and based on conversations with city staff, CSISD believes the best course of action is to push the date. This will allow for the completion of the sanitary sewer line, the roadway needs for the area, and also allows for the school to be finished well before opening in August 2019.

iv. Recruitment

In order to reach those most in need of Head Start services, College Station ISD Birth to Five Head Start has developed and implemented a recruitment process designed to actively inform all families with eligible children within the recruitment area of program services, which encourages and assists them in applying for the program. While recruitment is an ongoing, year long process, the Birth to Five Head Start program also makes efforts to actively locate and recruit children with disabilities and other vulnerable situations; including homeless children and children in foster care. This is done by distributing flyers and applications to all elementary campuses, local physician and dental clinics, as well as countless community partnerships. The community is also informed through information posted online, in the local newspaper, and through local English and Spanish radio stations.

In previous years, the Birth to Five Head Start Program has held a specific recruitment event in the spring of each year that allowed for a “one stop shop” approach for families. This recruitment event took place in April and was held to assist families in completing their Pre-Kindergarten, Head Start, or Early Head Start application. However, to actually recruit families and not just accept applications, the Birth to Five Head Start Program has taken a different approach to the recruitment of children for the 2017-2018 program year. In an effort to move to a paperless system, familiarize families with the district contacts, have a smoother transition to Kindergarten within the district, as well as teach self-sufficiency; the program is taking on recruitment for the upcoming program year with a more “hands on” approach. This will allow staff representatives to partner with representatives of the community such as WIC/Food Stamps, Project Unity, Medicaid offices, the Health Department, the Workforce, Aggieland Pregnancy Outreach, etc. to inform families who are using these services in the community about another beneficial service (Birth to Five Head Start) that could be available to their children and family. After all, the families that are using these services are families that are considered to be the “most needy” for our services according to this community assessment and our criteria selection points. Approaching families as an established partnership with

someone they are already receiving services from brings a sense of comfort and allows us as a program to meet the family “where they already are.”

In addition to the “hands on” recruitment opportunities, recruitment will continue to be an ongoing year round effort with newspaper and radio ads, as well as distribution of applications to countless community businesses and agencies. Regarding the intake of applications, more applications than the number of enrollment slots are collected prior to the beginning of the school year. Applying families are placed on a ranked waiting list until enrollment spots become available. This wait list continuously has income eligible children, as well as over income children, and is maintained in ChildPlus throughout the course of the year to ensure full enrollment at all times. If the waiting list for either program experiences a shortage of income eligible children, strategic and intensive recruitment efforts will be initiated.

v. Other Early Childhood Programs

In coordination and collaboration with College Station ISD Birth to Five Head Start services, College Station ISD has a Pre-Kindergarten program for four year old children who are eligible for enrollment. Eligibility requirements consist of: being a resident of College Station, four years of age on or before September 1st, and qualify for free or reduced lunches. A child whose family is over-income and does not meet income requirements may qualify by language. However, the child must take the Oral Language Proficiency Test to determine eligibility prior to entry.

All application and enrollment procedures are done through the Birth to Five Head Start office, the only difference is the type and length of program. College Station ISD offers half day, and has recently been funded for one full day, pre-kindergarten classrooms. These classes are held in morning and afternoon sessions on various elementary school campuses; operating from 7:45-10:50 for the morning classes and 12:00 to 3:05 for the afternoon classes. Although the Birth to Five Head Start classes only have a certain number of funded enrollment slots, Pre-Kindergarten is not a capped program. For the 16-17 school year, the program has already served 136 children.

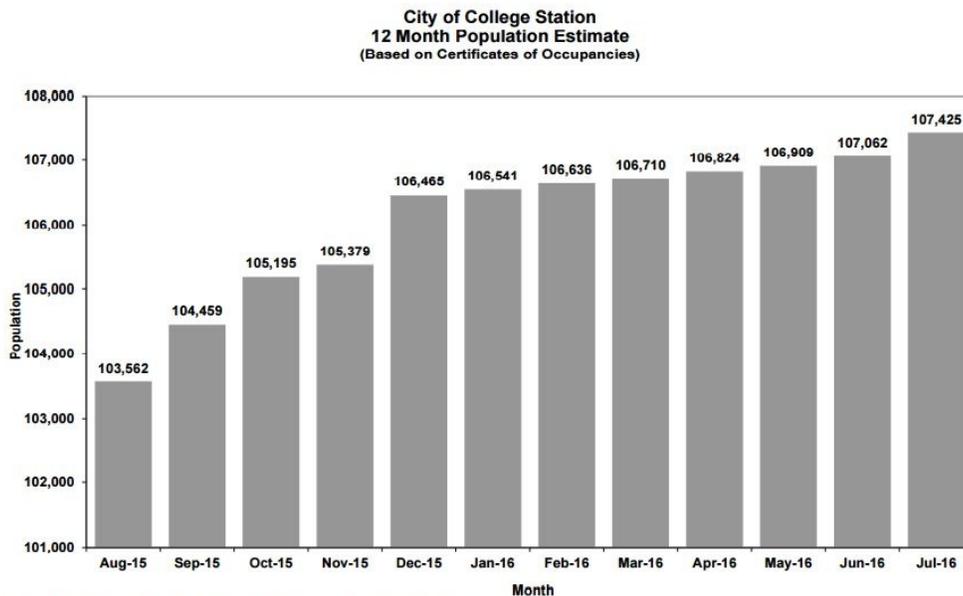
Regarding other child care centers and family child care programs that serve children in the area; there are well over 20 programs and agencies specializing in early childhood care and development. These programs and agencies consist of Mother’s Day Out programs, church programs, and several child care centers. While each of these options offer quality care for children ages zero to five, many of our eligible families do not have the funds to afford these programs and provide for their family at the same time. This is

oftentimes a result of the lengthy waitlist of families, currently holding 246 children, waiting to receive services from College Station ISD Birth to Five Head Start.

IV. Demographic Profile

i. Population

The current population estimate for July of 2016 within the College Station city limits is 107,425; based on the city’s recently issued residential Certificates of Occupancy. However, Texas A&M University is credible for a significant portion of this population. Although a majority of enrolled students live on campus in a variety of dorms and apartments, a significant number also live within the city, contributing to the local economy and workforce. Several thousand college students are needing jobs in the city of College Station, which takes away from high school students or other individuals who need entry level work to have a source of income. As the university continues to expand and create both positive and negative affects, so will the city of College Station. According to the 2016 Brazos Valley Health Status Assessment, Brazos county is expected to see a population increase of 6.6% by the year 2020.



Source: City of College Station, Department of Planning and Development Services
*Through July 2016

Amongst the current population, the female population makes up 49.3% and the male population makes up 50.7%. However, in regards to the age of residents in the county, and due to a significant number of college students attending Texas A&M University, the distribution for the county is as follows. The 20-24 year old and 25-34 year old age groups have the highest proportion with 22.6% and 15.4%; compared to the Greater

Brazos Valley regional averages of 15.4% and 13.4%. Brazos County also has the fewest residents in the older age groups with 4.3% in the 65-74 age group, 2.5% in the 75-84 age group, and 0.9% in the 85 and older group. See the following graph for the full age distribution range of Brazos County.

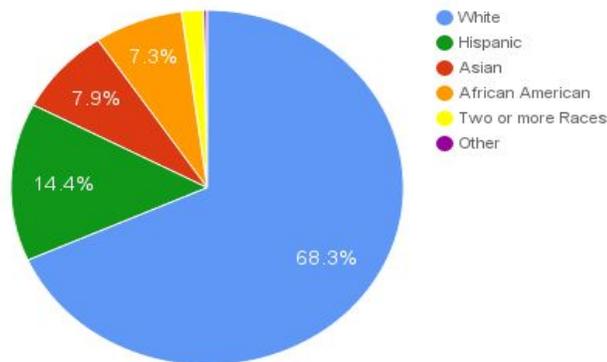
Persons age 4 or less	Age 5-9	Age 10-14	Age 15-19	Age 20-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64	Ages 65-74	Ages 75-84	Ages 85 and older
6.4%	5.6%	5.5%	10%	22.6%	15.4%	10.1%	9.2%	7.5%	4.3%	2.5%	.9%

The median age of the College Station area is from the Brazos Valley Health Status Assessment and based on life expectancy and birth rate. As another result of Texas A&M, the median age is 25 years, which is much lower than the 33.9 median age in the state of Texas. However, the Brazos Valley Health Status Assessment also points out that in the last decade, the median age has increased slightly. According to recent data, this increase is most likely a result from an increase in the local job opportunities for recent graduates from Texas A&M. The young professional population has slowly increased as new businesses establish themselves in College Station and target this specific age group after graduation.

ii. Race and Ethnicity

College Station is comparatively less diverse than Brazos County and Texas as a whole. The city has a very high White population and a significant Hispanic population as well. Descriptive statistics from the 2016 Brazos Valley Health Status Assessment display that of the population in College Station; 68.3% are white, 14.4% are hispanic, 7.9% are Asian, 7.3% are African American, and two or more races make up 1.8%. The remaining races are all below 1%. However, within the last decade, the population amongst all races in College Station have experienced a significant increase. According to the 2016 Brazos Valley Health Status Assessment Report, the most notable increase in racial composition was that of the Asian and Hispanic demographic. They have recently seen about a 40% positive increase in the last ten years.

Racial Distribution of College Station

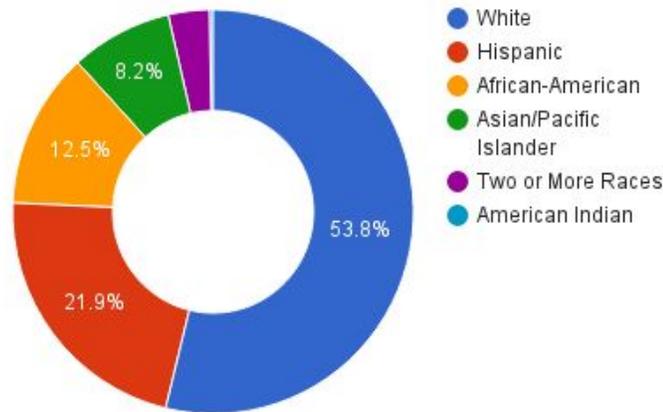


iii. Demographics of College Station ISD Students

Although the city of College Station may be less diverse than Brazos County and the state of Texas as a whole, the school district's demographics vary. Seen in the various tables and graphs below is the racial distribution of College Station ISD students from the year of 2011 to the present 2016-2017 school year. Although the total number of enrolled students has continuously increased over the course of five years, the percentage of each race's enrollment only varies slightly from year to year. However, CSISD's enrollment is projected to grow 3.16% for the 2017-2018 year according to a recent demographic study compiled by Templeton Demographics. The projected rate of growth at the elementary level is lower than previous years but is more than offset by the projected growth at the secondary levels.

Student Profile Information	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Total Enrollment	10,613	11,022	11,713	12,534	13,026
White	55.6%	53.6%	53.4%	53.4%	53.3%
Hispanic	20.3%	21.8%	21.5%	21.5%	21.6%
African American	13.2%	13.4%	14.0%	13.9%	13.6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	8.4%	8.1%	7.8%	7.9%	7.8%
American Indian	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Two or More Races	2.4%	2.9%	3.0%	3.0%	3.4%

2016-2017 Racial Distribution of CSISD Students



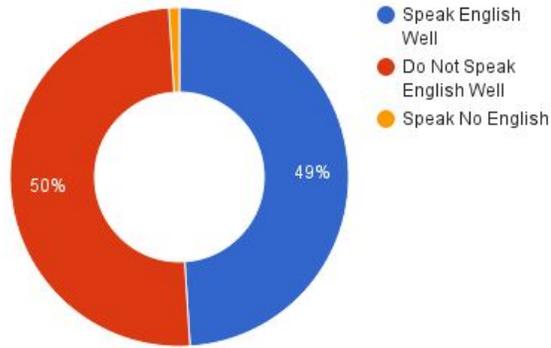
Similar to the five year racial distribution table above, the College Station ISD student profile table below displays various descriptors of students that are enrolled in the school district. As we saw in the table above, enrollment numbers have continued to grow since the 2011-2012 school year. College Station ISD currently has 13,192 students enrolled for the 2016-2017 school year. While percentages within each category below change little to none, the exception is the English as a Second Language category.

Student Profile Information	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Total Enrollment	10,613	11,022	11,713	12,534	13,026	13,192
At-Risk	28.5%	26.2%	29.7%	23.9%	25.7%	28.0%
Economically Disadvantaged	35.6%	36.9%	34.3%	33.8%	35.3%	34.5%
Limited English Proficiency	6.7%	6.8%	7.4%	7.7%	8.1%	8.5%
In Special Education	7.7%	8.1%	8.5%	8.4%	8.4%	8.4%
In Career Technology Education	53.1%	55.1%	53.2%	53.3%	53.7%	55.2%
English as Second Language	10.0%	9.2%	4.0%	4.3%	4.3%	4.6%
In Gifted/Talented	11.1%	11.8%	11.6%	11.7%	11.8%	12.3%

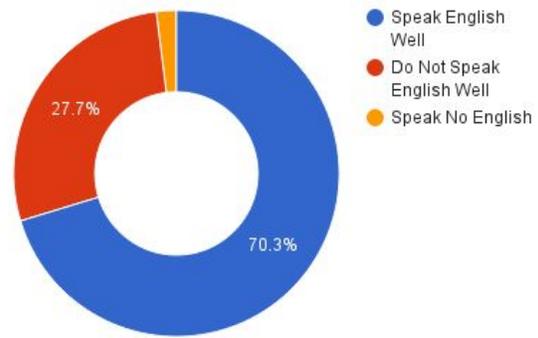
iv. Languages

Of the total population in College Station, and according to City Data, the most prominent languages, other than English, that are spoken in homes consist of: Spanish, Indo-European, and Asian or Pacific languages. 82.7% of residents in College Station speak English at home, 7.9% speak Spanish at home, 5.6% speak Asian or Pacific island languages at home, and 3.2% of residents speak other Indo-European languages at home. For those residing in College Station who speak other languages, City Data also measured how well they could speak the English language. While many Spanish, Asian and Pacific, as well as Indo-European speakers could speak English well, a significant number of them could not. The graphs below display the results.

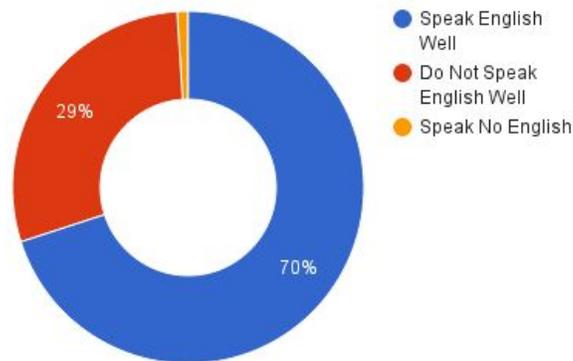
Asian & Pacific Speakers



Spanish Speakers in College Station



Indo-European Speakers

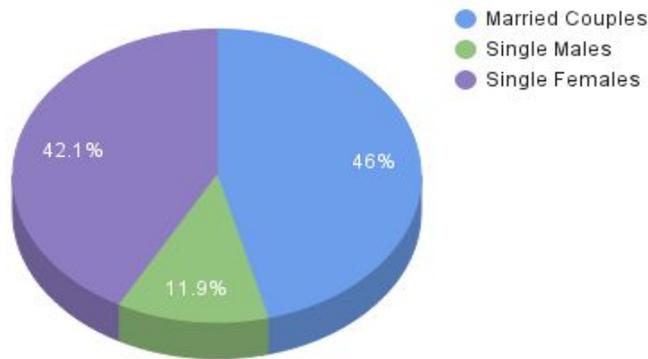


v. Income and Poverty

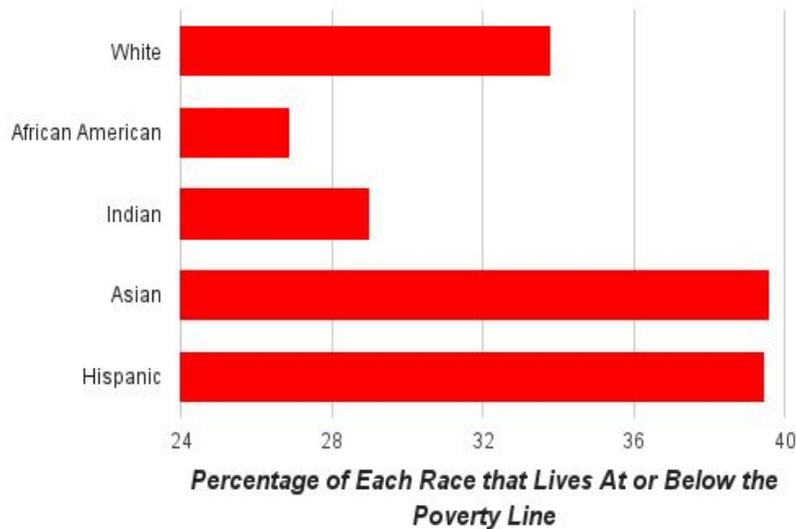
According to the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, 29.8 percent of Brazos County residents were living below poverty level. Compared to other counties located in the Greater Brazos Valley region, Brazos County has the second highest rate of poverty. Nearly one-third (32.1%) of the region's total residents, who were living at or below poverty level, reside in Brazos County.

Of the families that live in College Station and are eligible for Head Start; 48.7% of them living below the poverty line are ages 18-24 years old and 12.1% of people living below the poverty line are 25-34 years old. Therefore, ages 18-34 combined, make up almost 61% of the families who are living below poverty and eligible for Head Start. Of the families that live in College Station and are eligible for Head Start; 46% are married couples, 11.9% are single males, and 42.1% are single females. The chart below displays the number of single females living below the poverty level is more than triple the number of single males. While single males are still an important statistic to consider, it is evident by the chart below that married couples and single females make up a very significant portion of families who are living below poverty level and are eligible for Head Start.

Types of Families Living Below Poverty Level



To break down the low income population even further, the following figures display the percentage of residents from each individual race that live at or below the poverty line in Brazos County. Of the people considered to be a part of the low income population in Brazos County; 33.8% of White residents live at poverty level, 26.9% of African Americans live at poverty level, 29% of American Indians live at poverty level, 39.6% of Asians live at poverty level, and lastly, 39.5% of Hispanics live at poverty level.



vi. Housing Population

Locating and maintaining housing is an essential element of having a solid foundation and quality of life, regardless of where someone lives. However, the city of College Station faces many unique housing challenges, especially for its lower-income residents. The renting rate for low income households in College Station is 93.7%. While the demand for housing within the city limits is exceptionally high and there is a very limited supply of affordable homeownership opportunities; families who rent their housing are

competing in the rental marketplace with college students who have a different lifestyle and are more likely to have financial flexibility. Due to this, low to moderate income households often face unfavorable conditions in competition against other residents of College Station. For renters in the city of College Station, more than half pay rent in between \$500 to \$999 per month. In fact, well over half of all College Station renters pay more than a third of their household income in rent alone. The “Gross Monthly Rental Payment per Percent of Brazos County Population” tables below display monthly rental payments by percent of population in Brazos County as well as the percent of household income used for these rental payments.

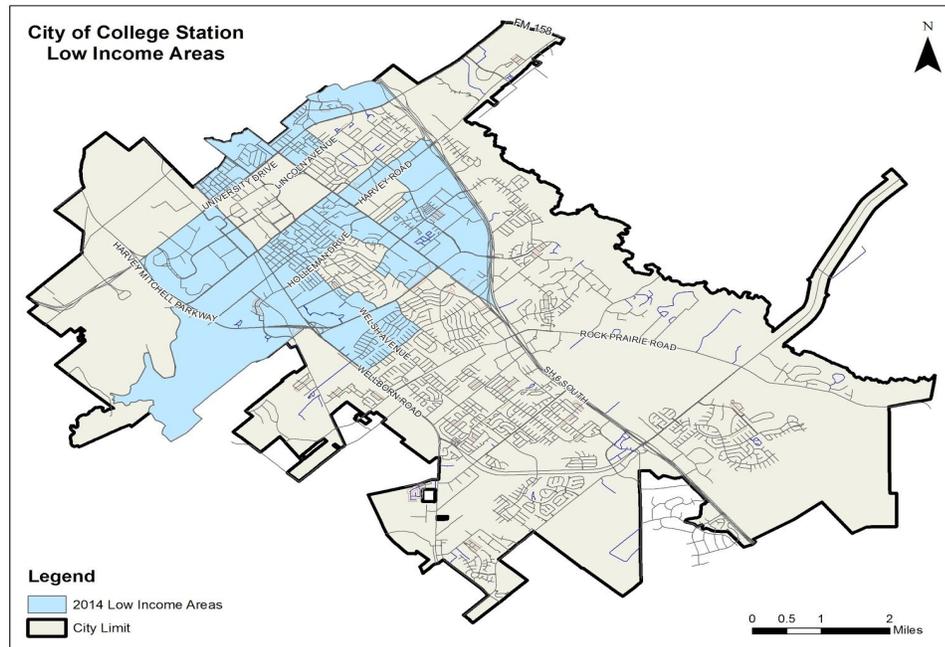
Gross Monthly Rental Payment per Percent of Brazos County Population

Monthly Rental Cost	\$499 or less	\$500 to \$749	\$750 to \$999	\$1,000 to \$1,499	\$1,500 or more
Percent of Population	7.0	29.0	29.7	22.5	11.8

Gross Monthly Rental Payment per Percent of Brazos County Population

Percent of Household Income Paid in Rent	19.9% or less	20 to 24.9%	25 to 29.9%	30 to 34.9%	35% or more
Percent of Population	17.8	9.8	7.8	6.1	58.5

Due to the evident need of assistance for all types of residents, whether low income, single or even married, in College Station, a Community Needs survey was conducted according to the 2016 Brazos Valley Health Status Assessment that asked residents about assistance needed regarding housing in Brazos County. According to the results, more than one half of respondents said that they needed help paying rent (51.7%) and paying utility bills (71.9%). Additionally, more than forty percent said that Brazos County needed more affordable housing options (42.9%) and they also needed help making their homes more energy efficient (47.1%).



A healthy, stable, living environment is a determinant of health which affects overall being and wellness of residents. However, very few low income families in College Station have stable environments to live in. Severe housing issues is defined as a problem with overcrowding, high housing costs or lack of kitchen or plumbing facilities. 30% of housing issues in Brazos County are reported to be severe housing issues. This is double what majority of the surrounding counties have reported. In fact, a handful of College Station residents have been evacuated and forced to relocate from their homes due to the closing/upscaling of apartment complexes. For example, a small dirt road, known as Cain Road, that is home to several rental houses and duplexes has been cited for code violations and is forcing all housing occupants to relocate without suggestion or offerings of another place to go. According to *The Bryan/College Station Eagle*, the areas known as Cain Road, was a ten acre property that had unsafe living conditions and had more than 30 state and local ordinance violations. Residents were given a thirty day time frame to vacate, leaving many people in a stressful and financial time crunch. As the city of College Station continues to grow, many residents are experiencing the upgrading and upscaling of many areas of the city. For example, the Windsor Pointe Townhomes on Southwest Parkway were once income-restricted units and an affordable place to live in the city limits. However, according to local television station *KBTX*, the townhomes are now being transitioned into luxury student townhomes called 2500 Central Park. The current residents are being priced out of the apartment complex due to the \$500 increase in monthly rent.

The main issues emphasized by the residents of College Station consist of, but are not limited to: a lack of affordable housing, inability to pay utilities and make home repairs, community upgrading and upscaling efforts, and a lack of economic development in aging areas of the county. Overall, the community needs more affordable housing options and programs that can help pay for housing and utilities when needed. Listed below are programs and organizations that are available to aid residents of College Station in the barriers they face with finding and maintaining proper housing.

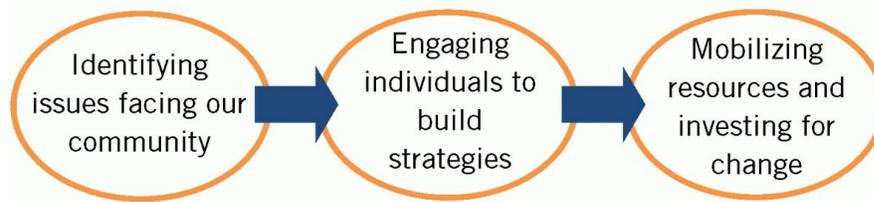
- a. **HUD Housing Assistance** - According to the 2016 Brazos Valley Health Status Assessment: Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, and Washington Counties make up the service area for the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Housing Choice Voucher Program, which is managed by the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG). According to BVCOG officials, the program is authorized to provide approximately 1,900 rental assistance vouchers to the counties listed above. However, funding is only available to support about 1,725 of these vouchers. Among all of the counties, there is currently a two-year wait list of nearly 1,000 individuals wanting to apply for rental assistance through this program. Of those, it is estimated that about 60% will end up qualifying for the program once they have been screened for eligibility. It is evident that residents of College Station are in need of rental assistance, yet available resources are being outpaced by the population growth. In fact, the most recent update on HUD housing as of March of 2017 is that there are no housing accommodations in the College Station community that accept these vouchers.
- b. **HOME-Funded Security Deposit** - this assistance program operates with the HUD Housing Assistance program and is designed to prevent homelessness and attain decent and safe housing for low-income families by removing the need to have savings to access housing. The deposit assistance comes through a one time grant of up to \$500, with the household required to make up the remainder of the deposit. In addition to this, the city maintains agreements with three affordable apartment complexes in College Station. These consist of: Heritage at Dartmouth, The Haven Apartments, and Santour Court.
- c. **Habitat for Humanity** - This organization has been active in College Station for a little over 25 years now and have built over 270 homes. Habitat for Humanity assists families by allowing them to purchase their homes through Habitat, which acknowledges to be the lienholder of the property. This allows residents the ability to avoid a private mortgage, which is often a barrier in achieving homeownership. While the process is rather long and can take up to two years from the initial application to house closing, there are specific requirements to

qualify. To qualify for a home, a family in College Station must have a need for housing, have the ability to pay, complete educational courses, and willing to partner with the organization.

- d. **Emergency Shelter** - Twin City Mission maintains The Bridge homeless shelter in Bryan, TX. This shelter is a safe place for homeless, men, women, and children to receive a hot meal daily and to stay overnight, as well as receive case management services for a more attaining a more permanent housing solution, clothing, and personal care items. For a transitional shelter, individuals can remain with Twin City Mission or seek out other options such as Emmanuel Lighthouse Mission (homeless women in need of housing), Family Promise of Bryan-College Station (homeless families with a child/children under the age of 18), or Save our Streets Ministries (homeless men age 17-29).
- e. **Utility/Emergency Assistance** - There are several organizations and agencies that assist with utility bills. However, the demand for this kind of help is very high in the city of College Station and funds are limited. To be eligible for this type of assistance, an individual or family must be in need according to their household circumstances and a household can usually only be assisted once per twelve months. Utility/Emergency Assistance providers in College Station consist of: The Salvation Army, Brazos Valley Community Action Agency, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Catholic Charities, and Elder Aid.
- f. **Home Repair and Improvement** - The city of College Station offers assistance on minor repairs, rehabilitation, or reconstruction through the Community Development Office. This office addresses the needs of substandard or dilapidated owner-occupied housing units and the owner must meet the most current income requirements. Through the Community Development Office are the following providers that offer assistance: City of College Station, Brazos Valley Community Action Agency, Elder Aid, and Texas Ramp Project.

For families who are in need of assistance outside of housing, United Way of the Brazos Valley is located within the Bryan-College Station metroplex and is making an impact by building a stronger community. United Way strongly believes in the power of the community and the benefits of working together, rather than alone, for a greater impact. This organization is committed to strengthening our community through meaningful and measureable improvements in education, financial stability, and health. United Way is aiming to enable youth and adults to achieve their potential from cradle to career, empower families to become financially stable now and through retirement, as well as assisting people in making healthy choices and obtaining health care.

United Way creates measurable impact by:



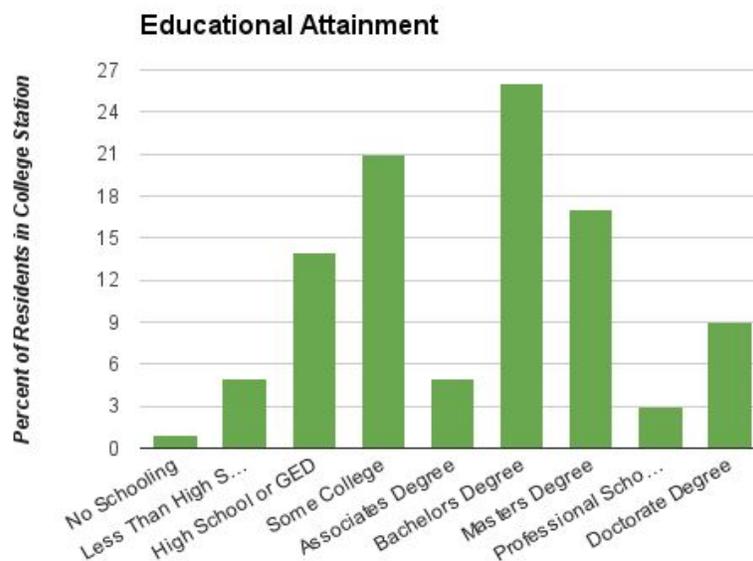
Alongside United Way, through community impact grants, Brazos Valley is investing over \$350,000 in 2016-2017 alone to support programs that are demonstrating measurable impacts in the areas addressed above. These programs include:

- American Red Cross - Heart of Texas Chapter (Relief and recovery when disaster strikes)
- Big Brother and Big Sisters of the Brazos Valley (Mentoring youth to build assets for success)
- Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living (Independent living and life skills training services)
- Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse (Adult outpatient treatment program)
- Easter Seals East Texas (Early Childhood Intervention and Wellness as well as Rehabilitation Therapy at Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center)
- Family Promise of Bryan-College Station (Housing services for low-income families)
- Health for All, Inc. (Preventative healthcare and chronic disease management for the uninsured)
- North Bryan Community Center (Reading and education after-school program)
- Project Unity (Special health services and child abuse prevention through parenting wisely classes).
- Sexual Assault Resource Center (Crisis and advocacy services for sexual assault survivors as well as primary prevention education to decrease sexual violence)
- Son-Shine Outreach Center, Inc. (Food pantry and rental assistance program)
- Texas Ramp Project (Wheelchair ramps for the elderly and disabled)
- The Prenatal Clinic, in collaboration with Scotty's House Child Advocacy Center (Child Abuse Prevention through Parent Education During Pregnancy).
- Salvation Army (Food pantry and rental assistance program)
- Twin City Mission (Rapid re-housing program for the homeless)

V. Education, Health, Nutrition, and Social Service Needs

i. Education and Employment

According to the 2015 American Community Survey, the educational attainment of College Station residents has a relatively normal distribution, with the exception of individuals in the community having an associate's degree. The level of attainment that majority of residents have is a bachelor's degree. This is a direct reflection of the city having a major university and junior college located within Brazos County. Seen below is a graph of individuals age 25 and older, living in the city of College Station and their highest achieved level of education.



Although this graph portrays that the city of College Station is doing well in the education content area, this graph does not appropriately represent our low income residents and their educational attainment. College Station is a booming city that is home to a prestigious university and top of the line medical care centers and hospitals. University and medical fields all require a bachelor's degree at minimum, often times higher or more advanced degrees. The individuals who hold these advanced positions and jobs are a significant number of College Station's residents and therefore skew the graph's results when trying to accurately interpret the low income population's educational attainment.

According to the 2016 Brazos Valley Health Status Assessment, in Brazos County, the top educational needs (rated as needed or very needed) were as follows: Computer skills training (62.9%), GED classes (25.9%), assistance to attend trade/technical school or college (30.8%), adult education or night school (29.6%), and English as a second

language classes (25.9%). The primary issue voiced in community discussion groups related to education was a lack of vocational training in Brazos County. While opportunities to go to an institute of higher learning, like Blinn Junior College and Texas A&M University, are abundant, low income residents struggle to find options that are affordable, time flexible, and efficient in obtaining proper education while raising a family. For example, many voiced at community groups the desire for technical training in fields like information technology.

According to the April 2015 Texas Workforce Commission estimates, the Brazos County labor force consisted of 102,833 individuals. Of those, 99,706 individuals were currently employed and 3,127 were unemployed, resulting in a 3.3% unemployment rate. While this is still a considerable percent to consider, the unemployment rate for Brazos County is lower than the counties that surround it. Based on the Community Needs Survey from the 2016 Brazos Valley Health Status Assessment, more than one fourth of respondents said they needed help finding a job (27.6%) or help with job skills, training, or job searching (25.9%).

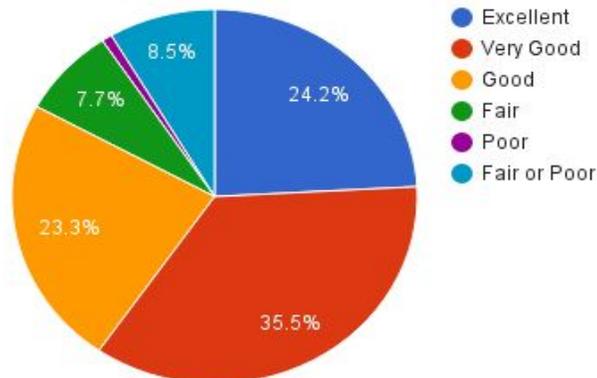
While the community is currently not offering technical training; there are other assistance alternatives to consider. Based on the Community Development Master Plan, for individuals who lack basic levels of education, such as a high school diploma, can achieve a GED through various local resources. The Brazos Valley Council of Governments, A&M Church of Christ - Lincoln House of Hope, as well as the Bryan Adult Learning Center all offer a variety of classes for free or at a reduced price. The classes consist of, but are not limited to: computer based programs, one-on-one instruction, GED preparation classes, English as a second language, College Readiness classes, as well as basic math, reading, writing, science, and social studies classes. Specifically, many English as a Second Language (ESL) programs in our community have long waiting lists for students who want to learn to speak the English language. The Clara B. Mounce Library is helping other community organizations meet this need in the Brazos Valley by offering an ESL program, modeled after other successful ESL programs by public libraries across the state of Texas. These classes will be held at the Bryan Adult Learning Center. In addition to this, the Barbara Bush Literacy Corps Adult Literacy Library Program at the Mounce Library provides Adult Basic Education (ABE). The materials are funded through a generous grant and include one-on-one tutoring, small group classes, or large classes with a teacher and volunteers. Adult literacy at the library focuses on teaching adults beginning reading and reading improvement including the workplace and health literacy. These services are free and available to individuals in the Brazos Valley over 18 years of age who are not currently enrolled in Blinn College or in any public school program.

The focus of these classes is to provide skills to low income individuals in the population in order to ensure educational success. While the courses offered do not cover everything individuals voiced their concerns about, it is a step in the right direction in assisting families in gaining proper education. With combined program and community efforts, it is vital that low income families are notified and informed about the opportunities addressed above. While all opportunities won't apply or work with their schedules, it is best to be knowledgeable of what is available for future reference than not know of any resources at all. The schedules of CSISD Birth to Five Head Start families are all very different. We have several unemployed or stay at home parents, parents who work all day, parents who work all night, parents who work more than one shift, and parents whose transportation relies on someone else or they have no transportation at all. Various events are held at different times of the day throughout the course of the year to best suit different family and transportation situations. Various play group/socialization times are offered throughout the day for the 16-17 school year and even into the evening for families who work for majority of the day. Policy Council meetings have now been moved to lunch time, as well as Conscious Discipline® meetings that are held in the early afternoon. In addition to various time changes, child care and food are being offered to accompany families who might face these obstacles as well. During this time of transition, Birth to Five Head Start will conduct surveys from families on the times, places, and quality of events throughout the year. Parent feedback will be valuable information as program staff continue forward to find the best possible places, times and events to host for our families needs.

ii. Health

In an aggregated survey of Brazos County Residents in 2013, 24.2% of individuals responded that their health was excellent and 35.5% of individuals responded that their health was good. These percentages are higher than all of the surrounding county's respondents. See the graph below to view the entire distribution of College Station resident's self-reported health status.

Self Reported Health Status of Brazos County



Although over half of respondents in Brazos County reported having excellent or good health, College Station residents who do not have some form of health insurance make up 22% of the city's population. This percentage is actually lower than the surrounding counties and even the overall percent for the state of Texas. In fact, a reliable community source to seek help with health insurance is the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG). The BVCOG offers:: in-person application assistance, information about the Marketplace and the Affordable Health Care Act, help using your health insurance, as well as answering any health insurance questions. However, issues with access to health care go beyond whether one is covered by health insurance or not. Provider availability, services, and the ability to obtain those services influence access to individuals. Although the city has a lower rate of residents with no insurance, College Station is considered to be a "top performer" due to the presence of the Texas A&M Health Science Center, Baylor Scott & White, College Station Medical Center, the Physicians Centre Hospital, and CHI St. Joseph's Hospital in the local area. This immense amount of hospitals results in a ration of 1,260 patients for every primary care physician.

According to the 2016 Brazos Valley Health Status Assessment, and given that dental insurance coverage is not required by the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, dental insurance is considered a costly expense and many individuals forego seeing a dentist on a regular basis. Additionally, there is a lack of dental specialists in the area, making accessibility more of an issue for residents. For Brazos county, the dentist to population ratio is 2,010 individuals for every dentist.

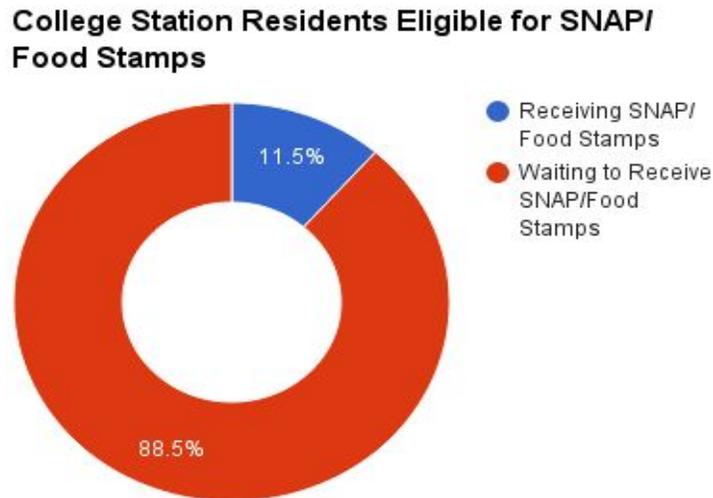
As the medical field continues to advance, there has been a greater emphasis on mental health and wellness and the demand for qualified mental health specialists has increased in recent years. Although there is a lack of qualified mental health specialists as well in the surrounding areas, Brazos County has the best ratio among the surrounding counties with 1,190 patients for every mental health specialist.

Amongst how healthy one feels, the amount of people who have insurance, and the ratios of health specialists to the population; another health component to consider is the extent to which residents participate in physical activities. The 2016 Brazos Valley Health Status Assessment analyzed physical activities, community characteristics that influence the rate of participation, and specifically the percent of the population with adequate access to locations for physical activity. Based on their analysis, Brazos County has 89.6% access to exercise opportunities, yet a rate of 21.1% of physical inactivity and a rate of 26% obesity in our county. There are several factors to consider here. With the accessibility rate being as high as it is, the rate of physical inactivity and obesity could be lower. Residents could not be informed of the various parks and facilities or there is not a desire to go and the parks or facilities could use improvements. Various other factors

could lead to these percentages as well; however, the community should analyze the rate further to ensure the best use of their parks and recreational funds for the city.

iii. Nutrition

For the year 2015, 3,260 College Station residents received SNAP/Food Stamps. Of the 3,260 people who received aid, children accounted for 1,760 cases and adults accounted for 1,500 cases. In College Station, 28,444 people are potentially eligible for SNAP/Food Stamps benefits. Of the population that is eligible: children make up 2,395 cases, adults make up 25,727 cases, and seniors make up 321 cases. However, only 11.5% of this total actually receive aid or assistance. That leaves 25,184 individuals who are eligible, yet not able to receive aid from SNAP or Food Stamps. For those who are receiving aid, the SNAP and Food Stamp benefits only cover about half of the cost of a family's average meal.



Similar to SNAP/Food Stamps, WIC is a special supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children that provides Federal Grants to States for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, as well as infants and children five years old and below. Among the three WIC clinics located in the Brazos County area, 5,500 women and children are being served and receiving these benefits.

According to the 2016 Brazos Valley Health Status Assessment, the Food Environment Index is a measure that takes into consideration two factors: "limited access to healthy foods" and "food insecurity." Limited access to healthy foods estimate the percentage of population residents that have low income and do not live close to a grocery store. According to this index, low income is defined as having an annual family income of less than or equal to 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold for the family size. Food

insecurity estimates the percentage of population residents who did not have access to a reliable source of food throughout the past year. Within the counties of the Greater Brazos Valley, the Food Environment Index scores range from a low of 4.3 for Brazos County to a high of 7.2 in Austin County. Although there is a significant proportion of low income families in Brazos County, the distribution of quality sources of food is a major contributor to the evident low score. In this case, Brazos County's score of a 4.3 is a positive indicator for low income families and their access to groceries.

A big factor in the nutrition of residents living in College Station is also the quality of drinking water. College Station relies entirely on groundwater for its drinking water supply, pumping water from deep wells in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer and one well in the Sparta Aquifer. Fortunately, the source water for College Station is clean enough that only chlorine disinfection is needed to treat the water to Safe Drinking Water Act standards. While no single disinfectant is right for all systems, public water systems in Texas, of College Station's size, must have some form of chlorine residual to inactivate harmful microorganisms and prevent contamination in the water distribution system. College Station disinfects its drinking water with gas chlorine to provide an effective chlorine residual. The decision of which disinfection method to use must take into account the water quality source, water treatment goals, regulatory requirements, storage capacity, as well as cost.

iv. Safety

As community partnerships have continued to grow and expand within College Station ISD Birth to Five Head Start, one valuable source is the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Office. Once a year, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension and various other community members host National Seat Check Saturday in the city of Bryan, TX. Car seats are donated each year and individuals learn about car seat safety and gain a peace of mind knowing that their children are safe and secure in a car seat. At this event in 2016, 112 new car seats were issued and 47 old and unsafe car seats were collected. Additionally, 175 car seat inspections were performed. The proper use of child safety seats reduces the risk of injury and death, leading to reduced medical costs, avoidance of lost future earnings, and improved quality of life. These economic benefits are an estimated \$2,159 per child age 0 to 4 and \$2,606 per child age 4 to 7 for new seats distributed, and \$622 per child for seat misuse corrected with an assumed 75% continued use. Based on this formula, the total economic impact for the 175 inspections at the event on September 24th is \$221,995.

v. Social Services

It is evident up to this point that the city of College Station has a very broad range of individuals that make up the population. To best serve this population, the city has a wide array of social service agencies providing many different services. The Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse has produced “The Brazos Valley Who-To-Call Reference Book.” This book is a one stop guide to almost all of the social service agencies in the area. To receive one, the council can be reached at 776-7070. This book includes services such as: Alcoholics Anonymous, Brazos County Rape Crisis Center, Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Elder Aid, Family Outreach Program, Family Violence Unit, Mental Health/Mental Retardation Authority, Project Unity, Scotty’s House, Straight Talk Hotline, Texas Department of Protective Services, Twin City Missions, etc.

Free or low cost medical assistance that is offered to low income residents and families consist of: Brazos County Health Department, BVCAA, Department of Human Services, Good Samaritan Pregnancy Services, Health for all Clinic, Hope Pregnancy Centers, Aggieland Pregnancy Outreach, Hospice, Junction 505, and Maternal and Child Health Clinic.

Free or low cost legal assistance available to our community is: Brazos County Legal Aid, Family Violence Legal Line, Gulf Coast Legal Fund, Juvenile Services, Legal Hotline for Texas Women, and Justice for All.

For food, clothing, and shelter assistance that is available to our families; organizations and agencies include: American Red Cross, Brazos Valley Council of Governments, Brazos Valley Interfaith Outreach, Church Food Pantry, Food Stamps, Salvation Army, St. Vincent DePaul, as well as Twin City Missions.

The need for these social services, and more, is evident in regards to the following social statistics. Regarding violence and crime in the Brazos County: the area experienced 1479 cases of family violence, 1 hate crime, 179 rape/sexual assault crimes, 48 cases of assault and 90 cases of robbery in the last year. Regarding smoking, alcohol consumption, and motor vehicle deaths in Brazos County: 16% of the population smokes, 19% of adults in the population consume alcohol excessively, and 20% of all driving deaths in Brazos County are due to alcohol-impaired driving.

According to the Department of Child and Family Protective Services, Brazos County has a child population of 49,385. Of these 49,385 children, Child and Family Protective

Services alone have performed 1,038 child abuse investigations and has had 378 confirmed victims of child abuse/neglect in the last year.

Regarding babies that were born in Brazos County within the last year, and according to the 2016 Brazos Valley Health Status Assessment, the percentage of low birthweight babies is related to overall infant mortality and is largely preventable through adequate and timely prenatal care. The State of Texas reports a low birth weight rate of 8% of total live births. However, Brazos County reports a low birth weight of 7.3% of total live births. The teen birth rate was also examined for this assessment. The State of Texas reports a teen birth rate of 52 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19. Brazos Valley reports a teen birth rate of 26 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19. And lastly, Brazos County also reports a total of 530 sexually transmitted diseases per 100,000 individuals.

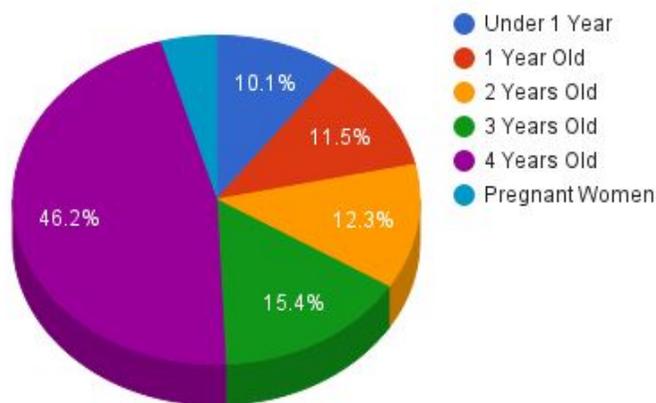
Area	Percent Low Birthweight	Teen Birth Rate	Sexually Transmitted Infections
Brazos County	7.3 %	26	530
State of Texas	8.0 %	52	498

VI. Head Start Eligibility and Estimates

i. Age Eligibility and Race Breakdown

The College Station ISD Birth to Five Head Start Program has been funded to serve a total of 296 children whom reside in College Station, TX. 196 of these spots are designated for Head Start children, the remaining 100 spots are designated for Early Head Start children and expectant mothers.

Birth-to-Five Head Start Children Served



Based on the Head Start 15-16 Program Information Report, we served a total of 220 3-5 year old children. This includes children who were dropped from/added to the program anytime throughout the year. Of the 220, 165 students were 4 years old and 55 were 3 years old. Of the students who were served for the 15-16 school year, 7 students were considered to be over income. Based on the 15-16 Program In Review, were served 15 Hispanic and 1 non-Hispanic Indian/Alaskan students, 15 non-Hispanic Asian students, 8 Hispanic and 74 non-Hispanic African American students, 0 Pacific Islander students, 60 Hispanic and 38 non-Hispanic White students, 2 Hispanic and 5 non-Hispanic Multiracial students. For the 15-16 School Year, there were 177 applicants on the waiting list at the end of the program year. Of these on the waitlist, 93 are over income.

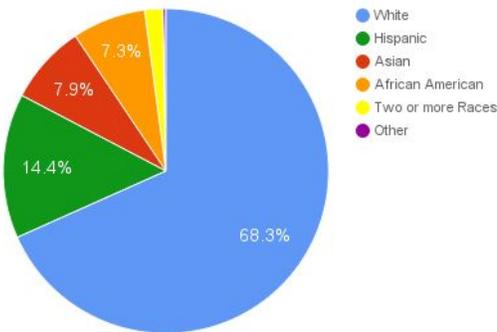
Based on the Early Head Start 15-16 Program Information Report, we served a total of 137 0-3 year old children and pregnant women. This includes children or women who were dropped from/added to the program anytime throughout the year. Of the 137, 36 students were under the age of 1, 41 students were 1 year old, 44 students were 2 years old, and 16 women were once expectant mothers. Based on the 15-16 Program In Review, Early Head Start served 15 Hispanic and 3 non-Hispanic Indian/Alaskan students, 1 Hispanic and 14 non-Hispanic Asian students, 3 Hispanic and 22 non-Hispanic African American students, 0 Pacific Islander students, 43 Hispanic and 31 non-Hispanic White students, 1 Hispanic and 4 non-Hispanic Multiracial students. Of the students who were served for the 15-16 school year, 5 students were considered to be over income.

In addition to the 2015-2016 enrollment breakdown, below is a graph that displays the last five years of College Station ISD Birth to Five Head Start enrollment. Although there is slight variation among the age categories throughout the years, there is an evident increase in the amount of pregnant women that Early Head Start has served from 2011 to 2016. This increase is a result of rising population numbers and continuous recruitment efforts made by Early Head Start to reach out to low-income pregnant women in the community. The last two rows of the graph below represent the total number of Early Head Start and Head Start children that were on the waitlist for services and those that were directly served by the program. College Station ISD Birth to Five Head Start is funded for 296 spots. However, children drop throughout the course of the year and that is a result of total numbers surpassing 296. Ideally, the program would like to see lower numbers to reflect children remaining in the program instead of dropping. While the program makes every effort they can to keep families enrolled and attending class, it is not a situation that can be completely controlled.

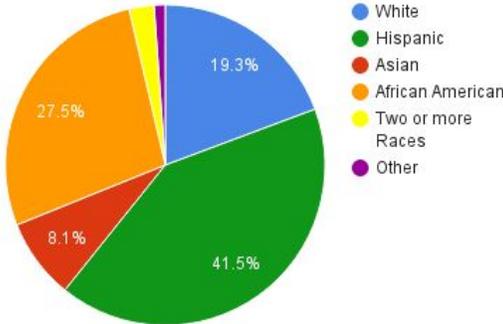
Program Year	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Under 1 Year Enrollment	37	33	31	36	36
1 Year Old Enrollment	26	31	37	38	41
2 Year Old Enrollment	47	47	41	41	44
3 Year Old Enrollment	41	39	45	28	55
4 Year Old Enrollment	172	171	159	200	165
Pregnant Women	5	6	12	9	16
Total Number on Waitlist	190	220	242	163	217
Total Number of Children Served	328	327	325	352	357

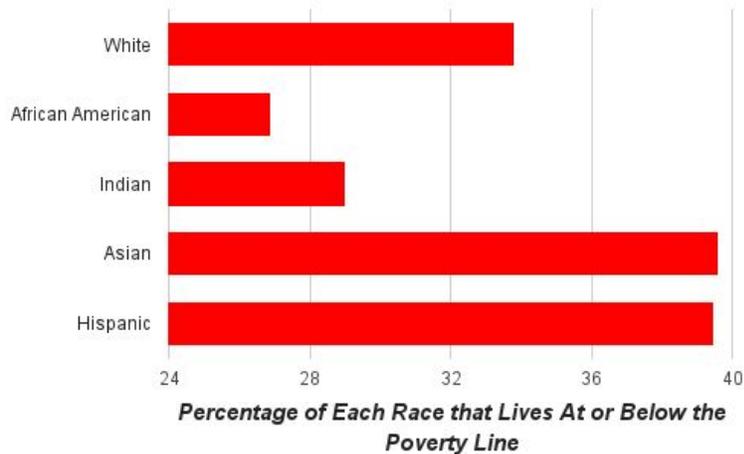
Referencing the racial distribution pie chart from page 7 of this document, and based upon Birth to Five Head Start enrollment demographics, it is evident that whom the program serves does not directly reflect who makes up the population of College Station, TX. However, based on the racial distribution of College Station residents living under the poverty line, the amount of White and Hispanic children that are served directly by Birth to Five Head Start aligns with the amount of families living at or below the poverty level in College Station. While we are serving a small portion of Asian children and a large portion of African American children, they are not a direct representation of the amount of Asian and African American families who live below the poverty line. Therefore, for future recruitment methods and procedures, the Asian families should be heavily targeted in regards to information about the College Station ISD Birth to Five Head Start Program.

Racial Distribution of College Station



Racial Distribution of CSISD Birth-to-Five Head Start





ii. Categorical Eligibility

Children who are considered to be receiving public assistance, are considered a foster child, or have the status of homeless according to the McKinney Vento Act are considered to be categorically eligible for Birth to Five Head Start services. If proper documentation is shown upon application, these children are given highest priority and are often times automatically accepted into the program. This is due to the sense of urgency that the program feels to serve the children and families with the greatest need in the community.

While it is difficult to collect a true and accurate number of homeless children and families living in the community, the school district currently serves 97 homeless children and Birth to Five Head Start currently serves 6 homeless children.

Regarding foster children, an alarming number of children are going through a vicious cycle of abuse and neglect in Brazos County. Since the beginning of 2016, 73 children have been removed from homes due to adverse living situations and a total of 174 children are in foster care due to abuse and neglect. While the school district currently serves 21 children in foster care and Birth to Five Head Start serves 1 child in foster care, there are countless children who can still be reached. In fact, Brazos Valley foster families are desperately needed due to the increasing amount of children being pulled from homes, with no foster family to go to.

iii. Disabilities

For the 15-16 school year, there were a total of 46 children with disabilities served by College Station ISD Birth to Five Head Start. 37 Head Start students enrolled in our program had disabilities and 9 students in our Early Head Start Program had disabilities. Of the 46 students served; 30 had speech or language impairments, 5 had

non-categorical/development delays, 4 had hearing impairments (including deafness), 4 had other impairments (Non Categorical), 1 had autism, and 2 had a health impairment.

Each child that was served through the Head Start program received constant services from Head Start and other agencies as their sources. Partnering with the school district, other agencies can include but are not limited to: educational services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech, visual impairment, orientation and mobility, as well as deaf education all according to the student's IEP. College Station ISD does not refer to private services. This is due to the IDEA of 2004 charging the district with providing the services that are needed in order for the student to access curriculum in school. However, the district does provide parents with Procedural Safeguards and the Guide to the ARD process when they are first identified. This is followed by procedural safeguards annually for every student who is eligible for special education as well as a receiving a special education handbook.

If children with disabilities in the community are not receiving services from Head Start, a significant number of them are receiving services through the CSISD Special Education (SPED) program. In order to be eligible for special education services, the student must demonstrate a need for specially designed instruction as determined by the Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee and meet the criteria for one or more disability categories classified by the district. In addition to inclusive and pullout services at each campus, a variety of specialized programming options are available. These programs are more intensive in nature and placement is determined by a student's ARD committee. These services include but are not limited to: Adaptive Behavior, Bridges, Communication and Social Language (CASL) program, Life Skills, and Preschool Programs for Children with Disabilities (PPCD). Currently, in the 16-17 school year in College Station ISD, there are 171 students ages 3-5 who are receiving SPED services.

One more path through the school district for children with disabilities is having a 504 plan. This plan may be a good alternative if a child doesn't qualify for an Individualized Education Program (IEP). The 504 plan falls under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and can help students with learning and attention issues in order to participate in the general education program. The 504 plan outlines how a child's specific needs are met with accommodation, modifications and other services. These measures are intended to remove barriers from learning. 504 plans are for Kindergarten through 12th grades in public schools. Currently, in the 16-17 school year at College Station ISD, there are 5 students, age 5 and in Kindergarten, that have a 504 plan.

For children in Early Head Start, the program closely works with the Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program. This statewide program is for families with children birth to

three years of age with disabilities and developmental delays. They often refer children to the Early Head Start program and aid in that transition, as well as duration of time in the program. ECI and Early Head Start work closely together to ensure the needs of each child is met, following the child's Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). Home Visitors as well as ECI Therapists work together to discuss and implement ways to track and meet goals determined by the IFSP that are appropriate for the child and their family. For the 2016-2017 program year, Early Head Start has provided services to twelve children from ECI and each of these children have an IFSP. However, the future of ECI is unstable. In November of 2016, Texans Care for Children released the news that Texas' youngest children with disabilities and developmental delays have been left out of critical services during years of state cuts to Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) and new Medicaid reimbursement rate cuts for children's therapies. Texans Care for Children reported that statewide enrollment in ECI fell 14 percent from 59,092 children in 2011 to 50,634 children in 2015. The sharp enrollment decline coincided with an increase in the state's population of children under age three, which should have led to more Texas kids requiring ECI services.

iv. Mental Health

For College Station ISD Birth to Five Head Start services, there is a process in place for referring and serving students who have, or potentially have, a mental health concern. Although this individual works at large for the district's counseling services, Birth to Five Head Start has a mental health consultant who aids families through counseling, referring, and direction in the path to success.

Although the Birth to Five Head Start mental health consultant is an asset to the program, not all of the program's children and families can benefit from her services. This is especially true regarding our Spanish speaking families. Mental health resources available to low income families are limited in the city of College Station. However, mental health resources available to low income Spanish speaking families are even more limited within the community. While countless translators and Spanish speaking private practice counselors are readily available; low income families refrain from pursuing assistance due to the cost of these services.

For residents living in the city who are not a part of Birth to Five Head Start services and speak English, there is another option for seeking mental health assistance. MHMR Authority of Brazos Valley has qualified mental health professionals who assess children and teens to determine eligibility for services. Based on the assessed level of care, appointments for treatment services are set up, and a case manager is assigned to make a

treatment plan. The children's skills trainers and therapists of MHMR work with children and families in the school setting, in the home, and in the office.

Children ages 3-17 with a serious emotional/behavioral disorder, which is interfering significantly with functioning, are considered eligible for services. Families on Medicaid take priority for these services. Services include: crisis, intake, individual or group counseling, skills training and development, parent support groups, psychiatric evaluation, medication monitoring and management, patient and family education, respite, routine case management, and intensive case management with wraparound planning.

v. Pregnant Mothers

While College Station ISD Birth to Five Head Start desires to serve any expecting mother who has low income, the program gives an extra focus on expecting teen mothers. Per Aggieland Pregnancy Outreach, in 2009, Brazos County pregnancies had amounted to 175 for ages 15-19. 47 were from Texas A&M, 49 from Blinn College, 19 from Bryan High School, and 7 from Consolidated High School. Of these 175 teen pregnancies in Brazos County, Aggieland Pregnancy Outreach was able to assist 20 young mothers that were living below the poverty line. The Early Head Start Program was able to assist 16 expecting mothers. While the program can always aim to recruit more expecting mothers for the program, relationships have been formed with Aggieland Pregnancy Center and Hope Pregnancy Center in College Station. These relationships will in return produce recommendations and assistance in the future. In addition, continuing efforts are made to build collaboration with the three local high schools.

VII. Community Needs Assessment

i. Staff Surveys

Birth to Five Head Start Staff surveys are taken at the end of each year to identify our strengths and weaknesses as a program. This allows us to focus on improvements for all content areas of the program and with all staff roles.

At the end of the year, program staff were asked about financial literacy and asset building as important components of five year grant goals. Based upon their responses, our families as well as our community are in need of assistance in the following areas: nutrition and low cost cooking, WIC information, thrift shopping, coupon information, and information from the Early Childhood Knowledge and Learning Center. Staff were also asked about the areas of mental health services that they were most comfortable and

knowledgeable on regarding our program and the community. 94.12% of staff stated that they were comfortable and knowledgeable in the area of Conscious Discipline® for parents, 82.35% of staff stated specific observations of a child, 76.47% of staff stated counseling options by district staff at no cost to families, as well as 64.71% of staff stated the open door policy of administrative staff.

At the end of the survey, program staff made recommendations regarding improvements and concerns that they would like to see in the upcoming year. Trends that were identified in their responses consist of: parent classes available at different times due to working schedules, classes available in Spanish, parent trainings on having sufficient medical check ups and gaining proper health and medical records.

ii. Community Surveys

According to the 2016 Brazos Valley Health Status Assessment, The Community Needs survey of Brazos County asked residents to describe their need for assistance and case management services. The respondents rated their needs on a scale ranging from “don’t know” to “very needed” from a list of services provided on the survey. In Brazos County, the issues rated as “needed” or a “very needed” were as follows:

- Community resources (61.8%)
- Legal services (55.6%)
- Transportation (51.7%)
- Food (50.0%)
- Case management (50.0%)
- Applying for Social Security, Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), WIC, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), etc. (39.3%)
- Child care (34.6%)

To better understand why these issues occurred in Brazos County, after The Community Needs Survey was completed, community discussion groups were held throughout the county. At the discussion groups, residents stated that they did not know how to access the available services related to assistance and case management. Inadequate communication among service providers often left residents not knowing where or how to find resources and reliable information.

The Community Needs survey also asked residents to identify areas of the community that needed improvement. The majority of residents stated that their community needed:

- Neighborhood clean-up projects (54.3%)
- Crime awareness or crime reduction (55.9%)
- Public parks and facilities (53.1%)

- More than 30 percent (34.5%) of residents also reported needing more employment opportunities in Brazos County.

The community discussion group regarding improvement emphasized social issues such as poverty, economic disparities, racial tension, lack of education, lack of access to care for illegal immigrants, underemployment, and lack of minority leadership as community concerns in Brazos County. However, many participants in the discussion also stated that there was a lack of partnership between Bryan and College Station. Community members also said that the public transportation was neither reliable nor affordable for local residents. There is an evident need for community development and revitalization in Brazos County.

Overall, in Brazos County, the top areas rated as needed or very needed from The Community Survey, were associated with:

- Seniors (68.8%)
- Healthy relationships and resolving conflict (39.3%)
- Nutrition and healthy eating (53.3%)
- Mental health counseling (40.6%)
- Youth (32.1%)
- Financial, budgeting, and credit (27.6%)
- Parenting (22.2%)

And finally, in one last discussion group, Brazos County residents described Bryan-College Station as a growing community although it is still predominantly a college town where businesses and community activities mostly revolve around Texas A&M University and the student population. Most participants enjoy living in the area, calling it a friendly and conservative town. However, many of the residents who are not associated with the university feel that the growth has not been managed well. Many neighborhoods are dealing with the negative effects of being overcrowded with students and the subsequent devaluation of some neighborhoods. In regards to neighborhoods where new housing is being built for students, the higher value of the property is driving up taxes on already existing homes.

VIII. Conclusions and Trends

Based on the data that was collected and aggregated for the College Station ISD Birth to Five Head Start Community Assessment, there are several trends that kept resurfacing throughout the duration of this assessment. The first and most evident trend are the discouraged residents whose lifestyles are being affected by the upgrades and upscaling that comes with Texas A&M and more than 50,000 students living in the city of College

Station. The presence of the University and students produce several barriers for moderate to low income families in the area. These families are experiencing prices that are continually increasing for housing and only professional or part-time job availabilities. The part time job availabilities most often also pay lower wages due to the fact that most students will accept work at low wage rates. These rates do not match the living wages needed for others. Countless individuals in the population would need more than one job to get by and provide for their family.

A second trend that is apparent throughout the assessment is the wide variety of assistance available for low income families. However, there are long wait lists for majority of organizations that result in numerous individuals not receiving any assistance at all. This is evident for families trying to obtain SNAP or food stamp benefits, housing or rental assistance, receiving sufficient insurance, and even pre-k programs like College Station ISD Birth to Five Head Start. While the community should focus on finding ways to prevent long wait lists for people in need, residents who have received services state that their needs were met by large from various services and resources.

Lastly, though this trend may not have been as evident throughout the assessment, it remains an important factor for residents living in College Station. The lack of reliable, affordable public transportation is a major issue for those who do not own a car. Public transportation that is available through the district is not affordable according to participants and the buses do not run on weekends. In addition to this issue, residents who must resort to riding bicycles or walking are faced with a lack of sidewalks, poorly maintained streets, and the absence of street lighting in certain areas of town.

All trends and data that were taken into consideration, it is evident that College Station is a diverse city that is currently booming and on the rise. By no means is it a “bad” place to live. However, there is a difference between “just above poverty level” and “meeting all necessities” for the various residents living in the community. If the city of College Station could collaborate with the University and find a happy medium to create lifestyles and a city that are pleasing and desirable to all residents, several of the trends mentioned above and issues that low income families are facing could see progression and success in the future.

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