



Tarrant County COVID-19 Needs and Resources Assessment Interim Report

October 19, 2021



PHASE 1

Needs assessment
and strategic planning

What are the recovery
needs, objectives, and
resources?

Immediate Objectives

Long-term Objectives

PHASE 2

Near-term
implementation and
long-term prioritization

Present Action Plan to
Court for Consideration

How do we prioritize objectives
and create equitable strategies
moving forward?

Community
Alignment

Strategy
Development

PHASE 3

Strategy and
recommendations

How do we best leverage
available funding?

Regional
Collaboration

Resource
Assessment



Interim Report

Tarrant County COVID-19 Needs Assessment

October 2021

Overview of the Interim Report



Key Stakeholder Input

Work Sessions and Briefings

- Roundtable Event with Dallas Federal Reserve and Texas 2036
- Tarrant County ARPA Work Sessions
- Community Programs Working Group Meeting
- Mental Health Connection Leadership Forum
- Tarrant County Latino Leaders Quarterly Meeting

120 **community stakeholders engaged in six weeks**

Interviews

- Alliance for Children
- Arlington Fire Department
- Arlington Independent School District
- Arts Council Fort Worth
- Boys and Girls Club Fort Worth
- Center for Transforming Lives
- City Manager, Arlington
- City Manager, Fort Worth
- COACT
- Encore Daycare
- Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Fort Worth Independent School District
- Helping Restore Ability
- Hillwood
- JPS Health Network
- Junior Achievement of the Chisholm Trail
- Mayor of Fort Worth
- Meals on Wheels Tarrant County
- MHMR of Tarrant County
- North Texas Area Community Health Centers
- Northside Inter-Community Agency
- Pathfinders
- Reentry First Stop Center for Tarrant County
- SafeHaven of Tarrant County
- Sid Richardson Foundation
- Tarrant Area Food Bank
- Tarrant County Homeless Coalition
- Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition
- Texas Health
- Trinity Habitat
- United Way of Tarrant County
- Unity Unlimited
- VIP Fort Worth
- Women's Center
- Workforce Solutions
- YMCA Fort Worth



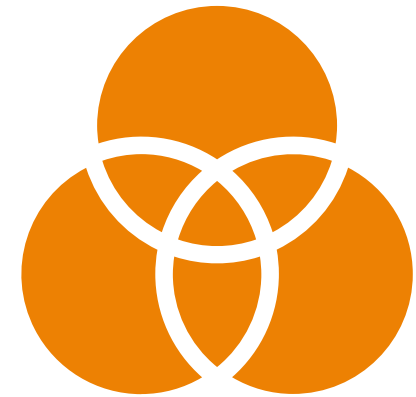
Equity Approach



**Data-driven
Priorities**

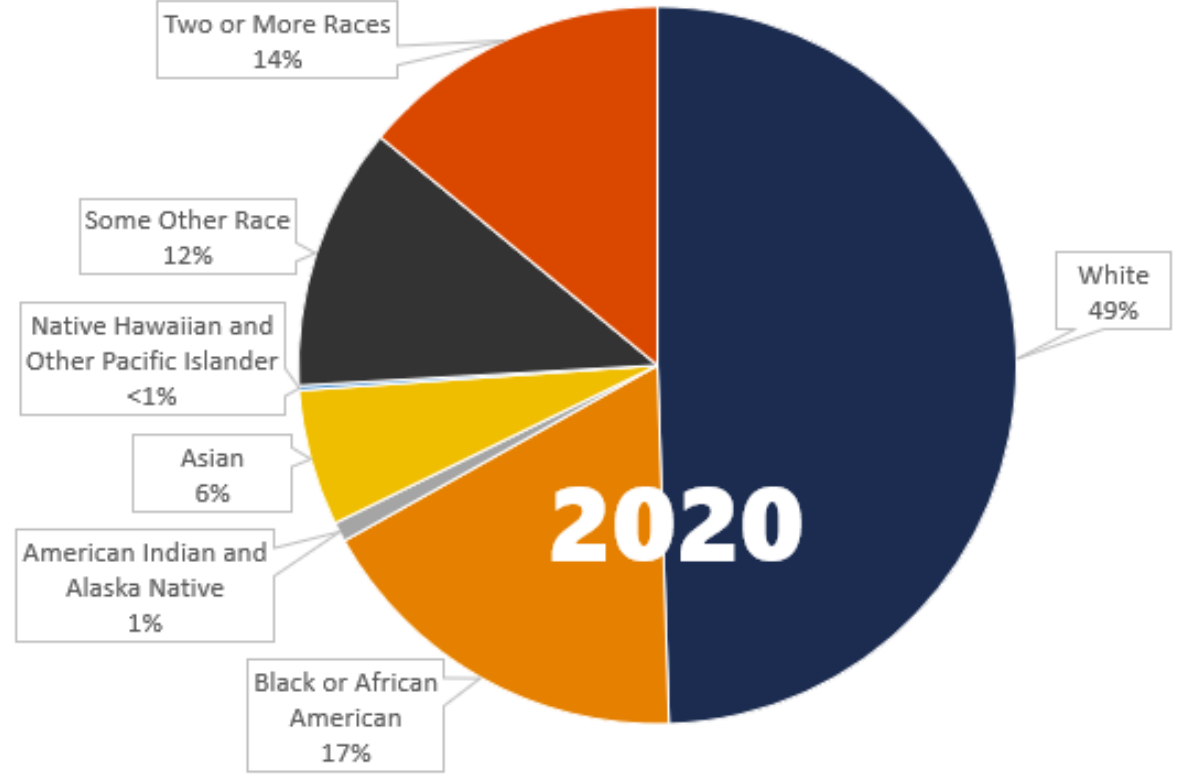
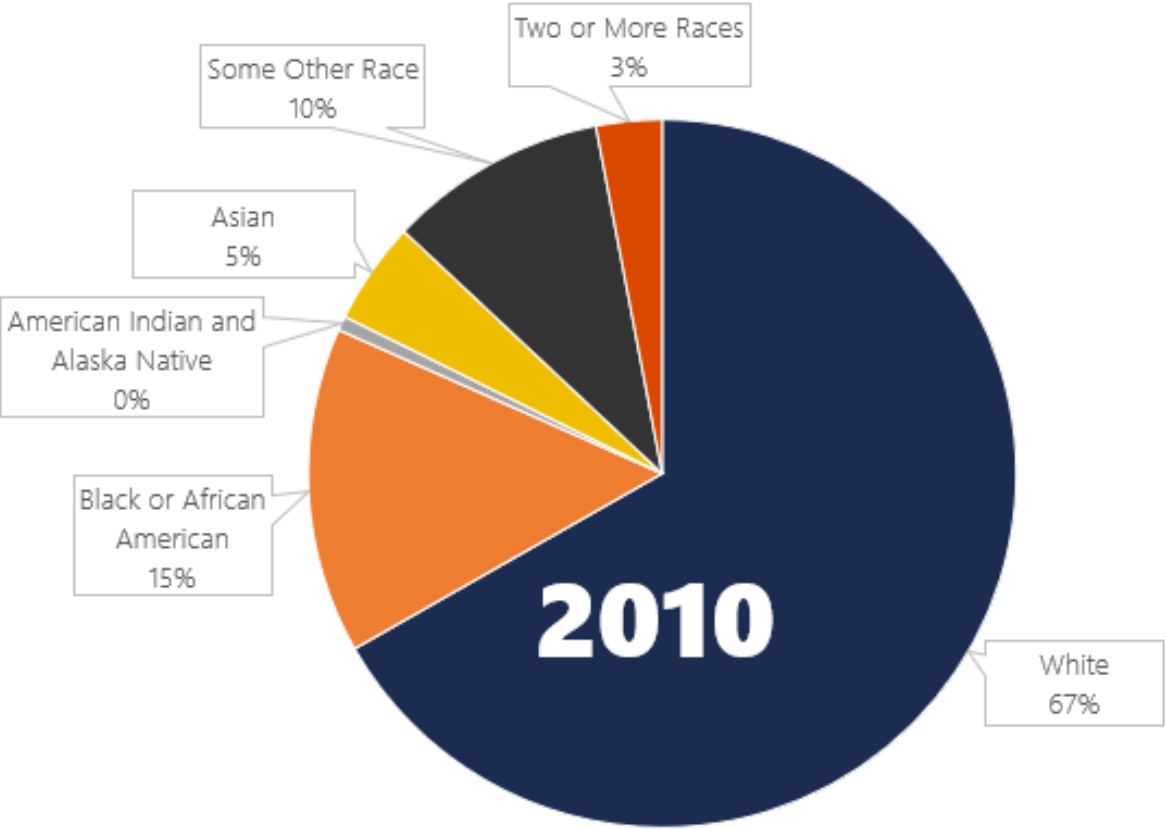


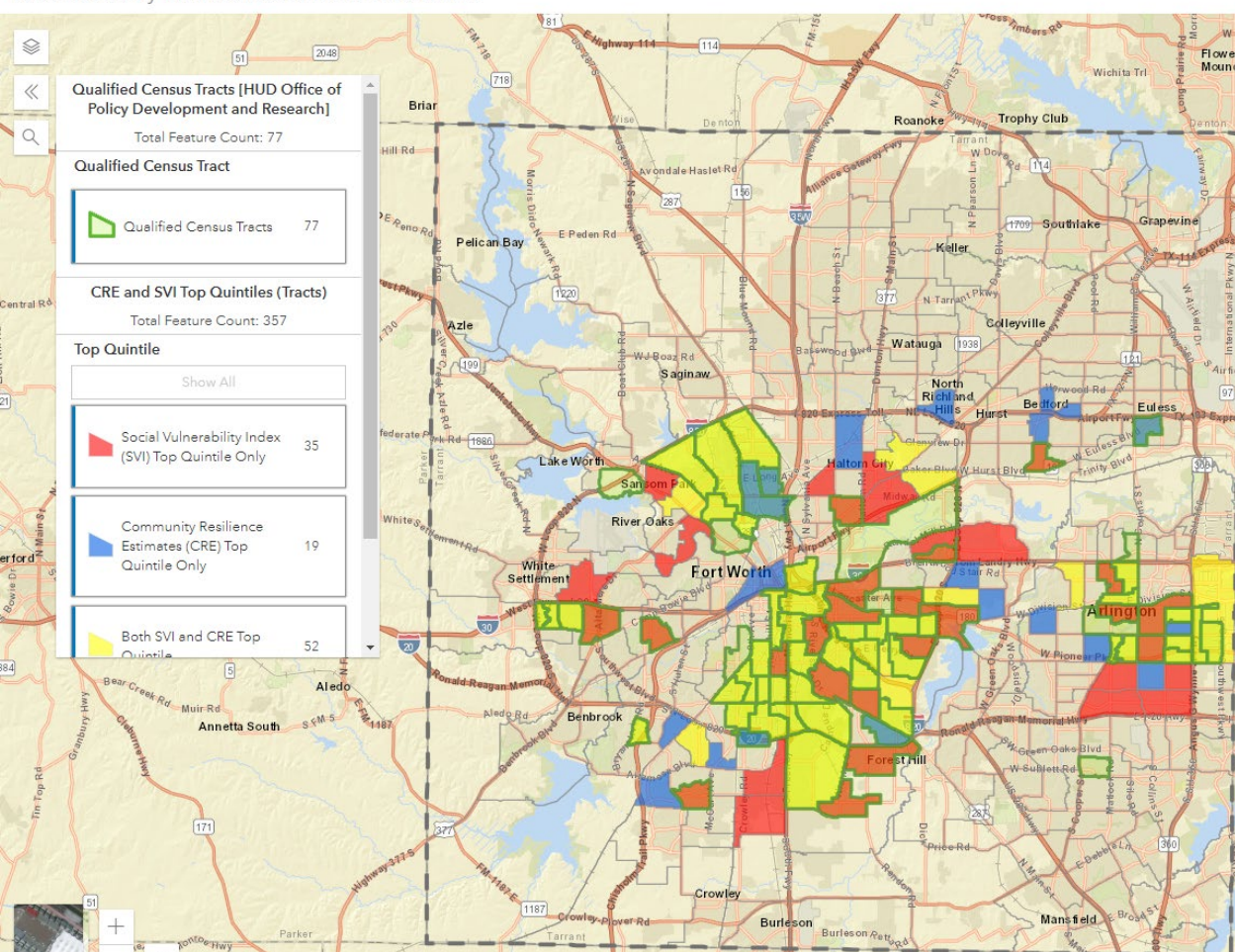
**Community
Engagement**



**Evaluation of
Benefits and
Barriers**

Tarrant County Profile





- Top quintile of Community Resilience Estimates (CRE) and Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)
- Qualified Census Tracts
- Population Density
- Median Income
- Vaccination percentages
- Race and Ethnicity
- Languages



Pandemic Impacts

- Health and Wellness
- Food Insecurity
- Housing and Homelessness
- Care of Aging Population and People with Disabilities
- Quality Childcare and Out-of-School Care
- Local Businesses
- Workforce
- Community Violence



Health and Wellness

What was the status pre-pandemic?



20% reported being in poor or fair health

22% of adults uninsured

30% of adults obese



3.9 poor mental health days per month

12% of adults experience frequent mental distress, described as more than 14 days per month with stress, depression, and problems with emotions

1:820 ratio of mental health providers to County residents, compared with 1:290 in the top 10% performing counties across the country

Impacts of COVID-19

- Disproportionate impact of COVID-19 frequency and severity to communities of color
- 50% increase of drug overdose deaths
- Suicide became the leading cause of trauma deaths
- Increased need for mental and behavioral health services
- Shortage of mental and physical healthcare providers
- Understanding of post-COVID conditions and lingering effects of COVID are unknown

Food Insecurity

What was the status pre-pandemic?



Tarrant County residents with limited access to grocery stores

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

15% of Tarrant County experienced food insecurity

18% of children experienced food insecurity compared with 10.9% of all Americans experiencing food insecurity

Source: Feeding America

Impacts of COVID-19

- Increased food insecurity for older adults
- Tarrant Area Food Bank distributed **80% more** food than pre-pandemic levels
- Projected **90% increase** in need for Meals on Wheels in 2022

Housing and Homelessness

What was the status pre-pandemic?

Portion of Tarrant County Communities Living Below Poverty Level

White alone	8.4%
Black or African American	15.5%
Hispanic or Latino	12.7%

10.5%

People in the U.S. Living in Poverty



5% vacancy rate out of 808,000 total housing units

20% of households make less than \$35,000 per year

13% of households experience a severe housing cost burden, spending over 50% of their income on housing

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Impacts of COVID-19

- Due to increased federal support, **30% decrease** in homelessness
- Lack of housing and rental inventory
- Lack of non-acute housing post-COVID-19 for aging population
- Competitive home buyer market
- Insufficient and inaccessible legal support for those facing eviction

Care for Aging Adults and People with Disabilities

What was the status pre-pandemic?



11% of the County population is age 65+

33% of residents 65+ have a disability

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Impacts of COVID-19

- Increased isolation, depression, and associated cognitive decline of aging adults
- Higher risk of injury for aging adults living alone
- Increased symptoms from chronic diseases in older adults
- Caregiver staff shortages
- **Projected 25% growth** of County residents age 65+ who will require additional access to care

Quality Childcare and Out-of-School Care

What was the status pre-pandemic?

Roughly 1 in 10 Texas children under age 5 with working parents live in a childcare desert

Source: Children at Risk



\$7,500 - \$9,500

average annual cost of full-time childcare in Tarrant County, according to the University of Texas at Austin Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing

Impacts of COVID-19

- Academic delays compounded by social-emotional delays are impacting children
- Lack of availability and access to high quality childcare and youth programs
- High turnover, low pay, and need for training and certifications for providers
- Long waitlists for after-school care

Local Businesses

What was the status pre-pandemic?



43,417 Establishments

Physical business locations in Tarrant County

29,684 less than 10 employees

12,385 10-99 employees

1,348 99+ employees

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



173,389 Total Firms*

All business enterprises in Tarrant County

66,250 women-owned firms

71,133 minority-owned firms

16,470 veteran-owned firms

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

*Includes nonfarm businesses filing Internal Revenue Service tax forms as individual proprietorships, partnerships, or any type of corporation, and with receipts of \$1,000 or more

Impacts of COVID-19

- Lost revenue
- Small business closures
- Significant job losses and disproportionate impacts to leisure, hospitality, healthcare, and education sectors
- Disproportionate economic impact on women-owned and minority-owned businesses

Workforce

Where did people in Tarrant County work pre-pandemic?



74.7% employees of a private company

2.8% self-employed in own incorporated business

5.6% private not-for-profit and salary workers

10.9% local, state, and federal government workers

6% self-employed by own not-incorporated business and unpaid family

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

3.4% unemployed August 2019

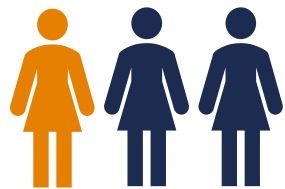


Impacts of COVID-19

- 6.4% unemployment August 2020
- 4.9% unemployment August 2021
- 33% of US employees worked remotely in June 2020, the number declined to 22% in September 2020
- Increased need for job training and job placement
- Challenges in skills matching between workers and available jobs
- Increase in competitive wages due to labor shortage

Community Violence

What was the status pre-pandemic?



1 in 3 women in Tarrant County will experience domestic violence in her lifetime, higher than the national rate of 1 in 4

8 Tarrant County women were murdered by their current or former intimate partner in 2019

13,827

family violence incidents reported in Tarrant County in 2017

Source: SafeHaven

132 homicides in 2019, of which 95 were gun violence*

*Source: Tarrant County Medical Examiner

Impacts of COVID-19

- 17 Intimate partner murders, more than double from 2019
- 196 homicides in 2020, 145 gun related*
- 89 accompaniments for forensic rape exams a month (+25%)
- 15% increase in child forensic interviews conducted
- 52% increase in children witnessing a violent crime
- 26% increase in response to severe child physical abuse
- Shortage of staff, including case workers and volunteers

Initial Recommendations

Near-term

Recommendations and

Long-term

Priorities
aligned with Tarrant
County Focus Areas:

- Prepare for the Future
- Improve Public Health and Wellness
- Revitalize the Economy
- Strengthen the Community



Initial Recommendations



PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

GOAL #1

Expand and improve Tarrant County facilities for optimal COVID-19 mitigation

GOAL #2

Position the county's workforce to respond to the effects of COVID-19

GOAL #3

Ensure equitable access to essential government services



IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS

GOAL #1

Create a world-class public health department

GOAL #2

Improve access to care in the unincorporated area

GOAL #3

Address disparities in public health outcomes

GOAL #4

Improve access to quality behavioral healthcare



REVITALIZE THE ECONOMY

GOAL #1

Support disproportionately impacted industries

GOAL #2

Strengthen Tarrant County businesses

GOAL #3

Improve access to high quality dependent care

GOAL #4

Expand job training and workforce development opportunities

GOAL #5

Facilitate economic recovery through innovation



STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY

GOAL #1

Provide support to the aging population

GOAL #2

Support solutions to reduce housing insecurity

GOAL #3

Mitigate the impact of community violence

GOAL #4

Alleviate food insecurity

GOAL #5

Enhance access to youth services



PREPARE FOR
THE FUTURE

Near-term Recommendations

- Expand Tarrant County **staffing capacity**
- **Evaluate use** of current Tarrant County space
- Review **county response to COVID-19** for lessons learned and best practices
- **Improve air quality** in Tarrant County facilities



PREPARE FOR
THE FUTURE

Long-term Prioritization

- Engage with **community-based organizations** supporting underserved populations
- Develop a **community affairs program** to support equitable messaging of available programs
- **Streamline** Tarrant County's application processes to improve accessibility of services



Near-term Recommendations

- Provide a **mental health awareness** and early **intervention program** for school-aged children
- Enhance **preventative cancer screening programs** within targeted communities
- Restore the **Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Program**
- Support service navigation programs for **at-risk families with children** aged 0-18
- Expand mobile and pop-up **vaccine clinics** in underserved communities
- Support **health fairs** within targeted communities
- Establish a **personal protective equipment (PPE)** program



IMPROVE PUBLIC
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Long-term Priorities

- Collaborate with **law enforcement** to meet the mental health needs for those with **behavioral health issues** calling emergency services and connect these individuals with resources
- Develop a **mental health diversion center** to accommodate the needs of individuals needing mental health assistance in lieu of incarceration



REVITALIZE
THE ECONOMY

Near-term Recommendations

- Direct grants to **businesses and nonprofits within affected sectors** and/or located in QCTs
- Expand **technical assistance and entrepreneurship training** to women and minority owned businesses, as well as Historically Underutilized Businesses
- Expand **family and individual support programs** for those with dependents with disabilities



REVITALIZE
THE ECONOMY

Long-term Priorities

- Partner with **college and workforce readiness programs** to expand preparation efforts for Tarrant County youth
- Expand equitable access to **high quality early learning and care** for all Tarrant County families
- Provide **support to incubators and accelerator programs** to support innovation
- Encourage creation of **apprenticeship programs** for graduates of technical training schools



STRENGTHEN THE
COMMUNITY

Near-term Recommendations

- Direct grant programs to **expand evidence-based abuse and violence prevention programs**
- Direct grants to nonprofit organizations providing **essential services and support to low-income aging citizens**
- Direct grants to **expand food distribution**
- Continue to manage the **emergency rental assistance program (ERAP)**
- Provide **financial assistance and legal support** to people facing eviction or homelessness



STRENGTHEN THE
COMMUNITY

Long-term Priorities

- Direct funding to **support building and/or renovation of additional units** to house people experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness in QCTs
- Expand programs to **increase financial literacy** and promote financial stability

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Next Steps



Continue Outreach and
Engagement



Continue Focus on
Equity



Continue Regional
Collaboration



Continue
Strategy Development

Interactive Roundtables

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 2994 4519

As a result of COVID-19 , what are the high priority needs within the Latino community?



Virtual Survey

As a result of COVID-19, what are the high priority needs within the Latino community?

Enter your answer here.



Thank you!