

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE April 26, 2024

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Follow up to the April 17, 2024, City Council Briefing
City Manager's Proposed FY 2024-25 HUD Consolidated Plan Budget**

On April 17, 2024, the City Council was briefed on the City Manager's Proposed FY 2024-25 HUD Consolidated Plan Budget that is due to HUD by August 16, 2024. The following information is provided in response to a question asked by City Council during the briefing.

Question 1. Please explain the Driver of Poverty and their alignment with the Racial Equity Plan (REP)?

Response 1.

The City Manager's recommended use of funds in the Public Services Category is to support programs that eliminate the Drivers of Poverty. The Drivers of Poverty were defined in the Mayor's Task Force on Poverty. This task force presented its findings and recommendation to City Council on September 7, 2016 – [Reducing the Epidemic of Poverty and Ending the Opportunity Gap](#), and on August 7, 2017 – [Mayor's Task Force on Poverty Update: Drivers of Poverty in Dallas](#). The findings and recommendation identified nine drivers of poverty in Dallas.

- Sharp decline in median income and the declining share of middle-income households
- Lack of Affordable Transportation
- Lack of Home Ownership/High Rental Percentage/Single Family Rentals
- Neighborhoods of Concentrated Poverty
- High number of Housing with Children Living in Poverty
- Lack of educational attainment
- High percentage of limited English-proficiency residents
- High teen birth rates
- High Poverty Rates for Single Women Heads of Households with Children

Each of these Drivers aligns with elements of the Dallas Racial Equity Plan, including the established Big Audacious Goals.

Goal 1: Economic, Workforce and Community Development

Become the most economically inclusive city by eliminating the wealth gap through workforce and economic inclusion, fostering full participation in cultural and civic life of Dallas by acknowledging contributions of historically disadvantaged communities, and investing in economic and human development priority areas.

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Sharp Decline in Median Income and Declining Share of Middle-Income Households:

- The Dallas Drivers of Poverty initiative acknowledges the concerning trend of declining median income and the diminishing share of middle-income households. It aims to address this by implementing strategies to enhance economic opportunities, job creation, and financial stability. This Driver aligns with the following Equity Indicators: Unemployment, Median Full-Time Income, Median Hourly Wage, Median Household Income, and Working Poverty.

High Numbers of Households with Children Living in Poverty:

- Living in poverty has shown the impact on children's brain development and can impact cognitive performance both intellectually and emotionally. These gaps start early in childhood and can continue to widen as children grow, making early intervention and support critical and necessary. Access to high quality early childhood programs, like licensed childcare and the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), can serve as critical early intervention and provide parents and families the support they need to thrive. This Driver aligns with the following Equity Indicators: Child Poverty and Child Food Insecurity.

Educational Disparities and Lack of Educational Attainment:

- Education plays a vital role in breaking the cycle of poverty and fostering economic mobility. The Dallas Drivers of Poverty initiative prioritizes improving educational outcomes and increasing access to quality education for underserved communities, to reduce educational disparities and promote equitable access to educational resources and opportunities. This Driver aligns with the following Equity Indicators: College Readiness and College Educated Adults.

High Percentage of Limited English-Proficiency Residents:

- Language barriers can exacerbate socio-economic disparities and limit access to essential services and opportunities. The Dallas Drivers of Poverty initiative recognizes the needs of limited English-proficiency residents and seeks to enhance language access and support services to promote inclusion and equity, aligning with the Dallas Equity Plan's commitment to serving diverse communities and overcoming language barriers. These efforts are supported through the Equity Offices efforts related to Language Access and Welcoming Communities.

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High Teen Birth Rates

- Addressing the unique challenges faced by vulnerable populations, such as teen parents, is integral to reducing intergenerational poverty and promoting family stability. Research shows that parents who gave birth as teens are at an elevated risk of poor socioeconomic outcomes in adulthood. This Driver aligns with the following Equity Indicators: Teen Pregnancy.

Single Female Headed Households

- Single mothers have higher rates of poverty and women in general earn less than men, especially women of color. These disparities contribute to generational cycles of poverty and more children living in poverty. Family supports, such as child care programming and benefits access support, can be critical for these households.

Goal 3: Housing

Close the homeownership gap and secure housing stability in Dallas.

Housing Challenges (Lack of Homeownership/High Rental Percentage/Single-Family Rentals/Neighborhoods of Concentrated Poverty):

- Affordable and stable housing is essential for addressing poverty and fostering community resilience. The Dallas Drivers of Poverty initiative aims to address housing challenges by promoting affordable homeownership opportunities, reducing the concentration of poverty in neighborhoods, and advocating for policies that support equitable housing practices. These efforts resonate with the Racial Equity Plan focus on fair housing, preventing displacement, and creating inclusive communities. This Driver aligns with the following Equity Indicators: Homeownership, Evictions, Home Loan Denials and Long-Term Residential Vacancies.

Goal 4: Infrastructure

Close infrastructure gaps where intentional historic disinvestment previously occurred.

Lack of Affordable Transportation:

- Access to affordable transportation is a critical factor in overcoming poverty and accessing employment, education, and healthcare. The Dallas Drivers of Poverty initiative recognizes the importance of transportation equity and seeks to improve access to affordable transportation options for low-income individuals and families. This Driver aligns with the following equity indicators: Private Vehicle Availability, Commute Time and Transit Frequency.

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Goals 2, 4 and 5

Goal 2: Equitably engage and address disproportionate impact pollution and climate issues have on historically disadvantaged communities.

Goal 4: Close infrastructure gaps where intentional historic disinvestment previously occurred.

Goal 5: Make Dallas safe in ways that prevent harm and promote wellness, healing and justice.

Concentrated Poverty:

- Communities with higher rates of poverty tend to face challenges related to both physical, environmental and social conditions. These communities face higher rates of crime, inadequate infrastructure, food deserts and lack of retail and other commercial services, and increased blight. The combined challenges can limit opportunities for residents of these communities and impact overall quality of life. This Driver aligns with the following Equity Indicators: Child Poverty, Senior Poverty, and Working Poverty.

The challenges identified by the Drivers of Poverty initiative align closely with the provisions outlined in the Racial Equity Plan, reflecting a shared commitment to advancing equity, opportunity, and well-being for all residents of Dallas. By addressing these challenges collaboratively and implementing targeted interventions, we can work towards building a more equitable and inclusive city where every individual and family can thrive. Examples of specific programs currently underway or that may be implemented to address the drivers of poverty include the City’s Financial Empowerment Centers programming. Additional details on specific programs will be shared at the upcoming Workforce, Education, and Equity Committee meeting.

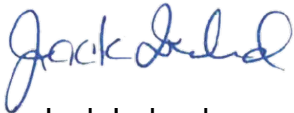
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Question 2. What is the impact of the Community Court?

Response 2. The community courts assist individuals with Class C misdemeanor quality-of-life offenses by providing short-term, comprehensive case management to address each person's needs. As a part of this individualized process, the community courts provide the following resources on an as-needed basis through community partners: job training and employment services, basic life skills classes, code compliance education courses, GED assistance, clothing, food, school supplies, and medical care. For individuals with language barriers, the community courts provide written/spoken interpretation services at no financial cost to them. Additionally, to minimize the financial impact on the individual, they perform supervised community service instead of paying court costs and fines, which helps restore the community.

Please contact Janette Weedon, Director of Budget and Management Services or Jessica Galleshaw, Director of the Office of Community Care if you have any questions or need additional information.



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