



Travis County

Section V:

PY 2006 Action Plan

2006-2010 Consolidated Plan,
Amended August 2007



Executive Summary

The 2006-2007 program year marks the first year of Travis County's five-year Consolidated Plan. In accordance with Section 91 of 24 CFR, Travis County is submitting its first Consolidated Plan. The consolidated planning process combines the application, planning, and reporting requirements for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

As an Urban Entitlement County, Travis County must comply with the Consolidated Plan requirements in order to receive funding for these formula-based HUD programs. Designated as the lead agency by the Travis County Commissioners Court, the Health and Human Services & Veterans Service Department (HHS/VS) prepares and submits this Consolidated Plan to HUD. HHS/VS oversees the public notification process, approval of projects, and the administration of these grants.

A series of public hearings occurred throughout the development of the Consolidated Plan beginning in April 2006. On the week of June 12th, 2006, Travis County published a Public Notice announcing and summarizing the proposed 2006-2010 Consolidated Plan and the Action Plan for FY 2007 in several area newspapers that target the unincorporated areas of Travis County. The 30-day public comment period began on June 28, 2006, and ended July 27, 2006.

Due to an error in the amount initially allocated to Travis County by HUD, Travis County's allocation was reduced from \$2,449,337 to \$838,659. Due to the scope of the reduction, the substantial amendment process was initiated.

On the week of October 30, 2006, Travis County published a Public Notice announcing and summarizing the proposed substantial amendment to the 2006-2010 Consolidated Plan and the Action Plan for FY 2007. The notice appeared in several area newspapers that target the unincorporated areas of Travis County. The 15-day public comment period commenced November 15, 2006, and ended November 29, 2006.

After the implementation of Year One began, staff assessed the progress of each project and made recommendations to the Travis County Commissioners Court to substantially amend the Year One (PY06) Action Plan. The substantial amendment process was instituted due to the deletion of the Youth and Family Assessment Center Flex Fund Expansion, a public service project. The services to 30 youth will still be provided, but through the Travis County General Fund. In addition, timelines for projects were updated and more detailed information was provided for the Substandard Road Street Improvement project located in Apache Shores and the Land Acquisition Project with Habitat for Humanity.

During the week of June 4, 2007, Travis County published a Public Notice announcing and summarizing the proposed substantial amendment to the PY06 Action Plan. The notice appeared in several area newspapers that target the unincorporated areas of Travis County. The 30-day public comment period commenced June 20, 2007 and ended July 19, 2007.

The following is the amended Action Plan for FY 2006, the first in the five-year Consolidated Plan for 2006-2010. Each of the programs supports the overall goals and priorities of Travis County's efforts in housing and community development as prioritized in the five-year Consolidated Plan process.

Through the citizen participation process, Travis County staff informed the community of the purpose and intent of its CDBG allocation, in order to ensure that citizens had time to comment on a proposed project located in their neighborhood. Any projects proposed for which specific activities or locations have not yet been identified will have additional public hearings during PY 2006 in order to inform Travis County citizens of the intended use of funds.

After considering the housing, community development and public service needs of Travis County's low- to moderate-income residents as identified in the Housing Needs Assessment, Market Analysis, and citizen engagement, Travis County Commissioners Court identified the following national goals as its focus for CDBG funds for the five year time period:

1. Decent Housing:

- Assisting low- and moderate-income persons obtain affordable housing

2. A Suitable Living Environment:

- Improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods and
- Increasing access to quality public and private facilities and services

Travis County's CDBG dollars target the unincorporated areas of Travis County with no consortium cities included. At this time, Travis County's urban county entitlement status does not require city participation. This is an unusual circumstance and makes the projects, work and structure of the CDBG program within Travis County unique.

Proposed Projects for Year One include:

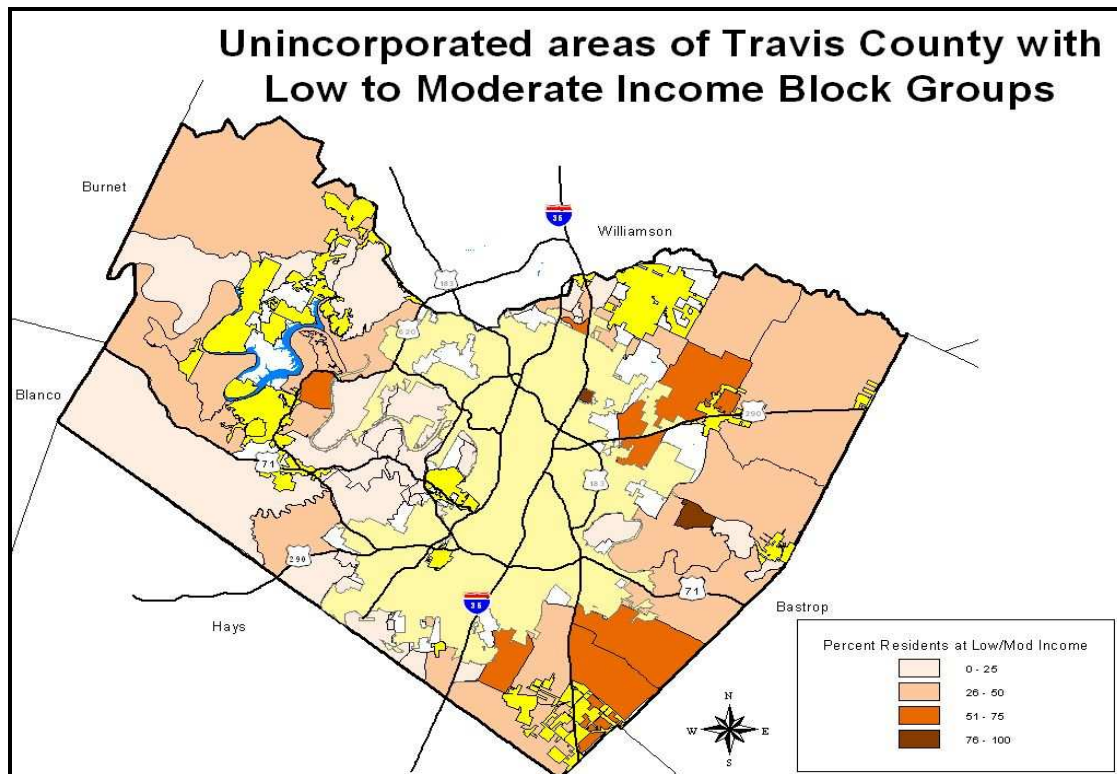
Project	Activities	Amount
Community Development		
1. Owner Housing: Production of new units	Land Acquisition – location to be determined at a later date. (Development of affordable housing by Habitat for Humanity.)	\$250,000
2. Street Improvements	Substandard Road Improvements to roads in Apache Shores including sections of Pima Trail, Crazyhorse Pass, and Whitebead Trail.	\$300,000 <u>\$305,000</u>
3. Water/Sewer Improvements	North Ridge Acres	\$200,000
Subtotal:		<u>\$750,000</u> <u>\$755,000</u>
Public Services		
4. Youth Services	Youth and Family Assessment Center Flex Fund – Internal Travis County HHS/VS Program	\$5,000
5. Public Services, Other	Family Support Services Social Work Services Expansion – Travis County HHS/VS Program	\$83,659

		Subtotal:	\$88,659 \$83,659
Administration and Planning	Travis County will absorb all costs for administration and planning		\$0
		Subtotal:	\$0
		Total award:	\$838,659

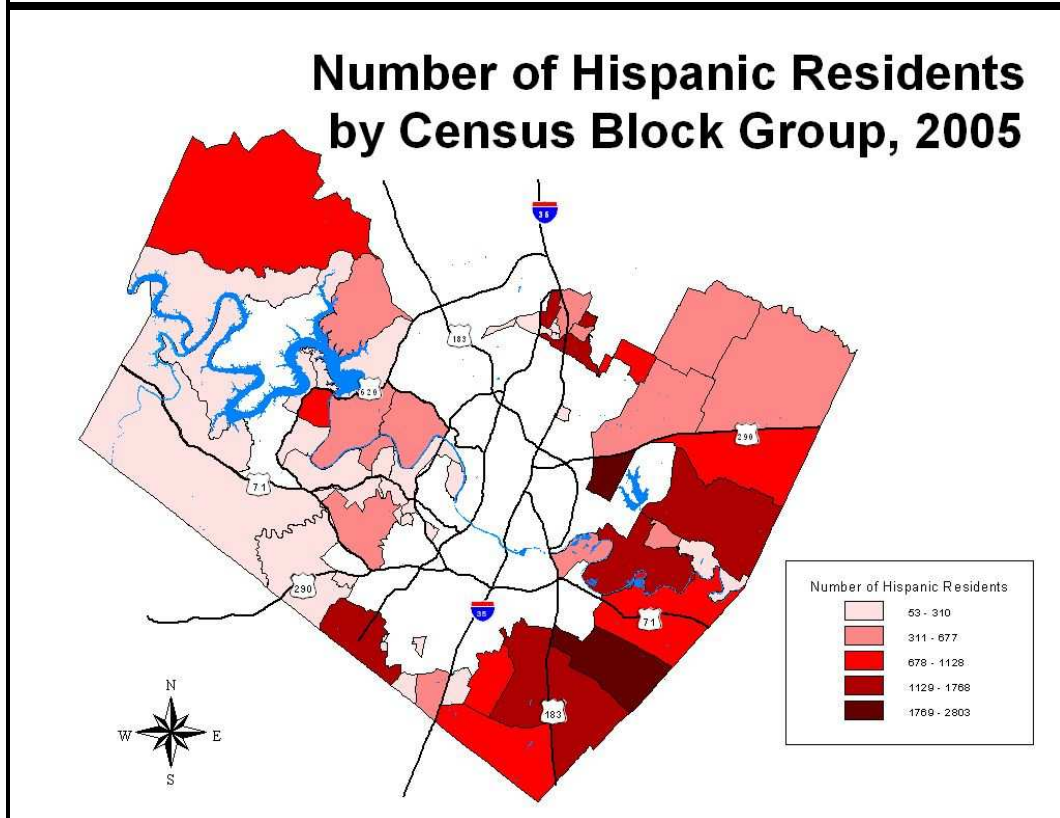
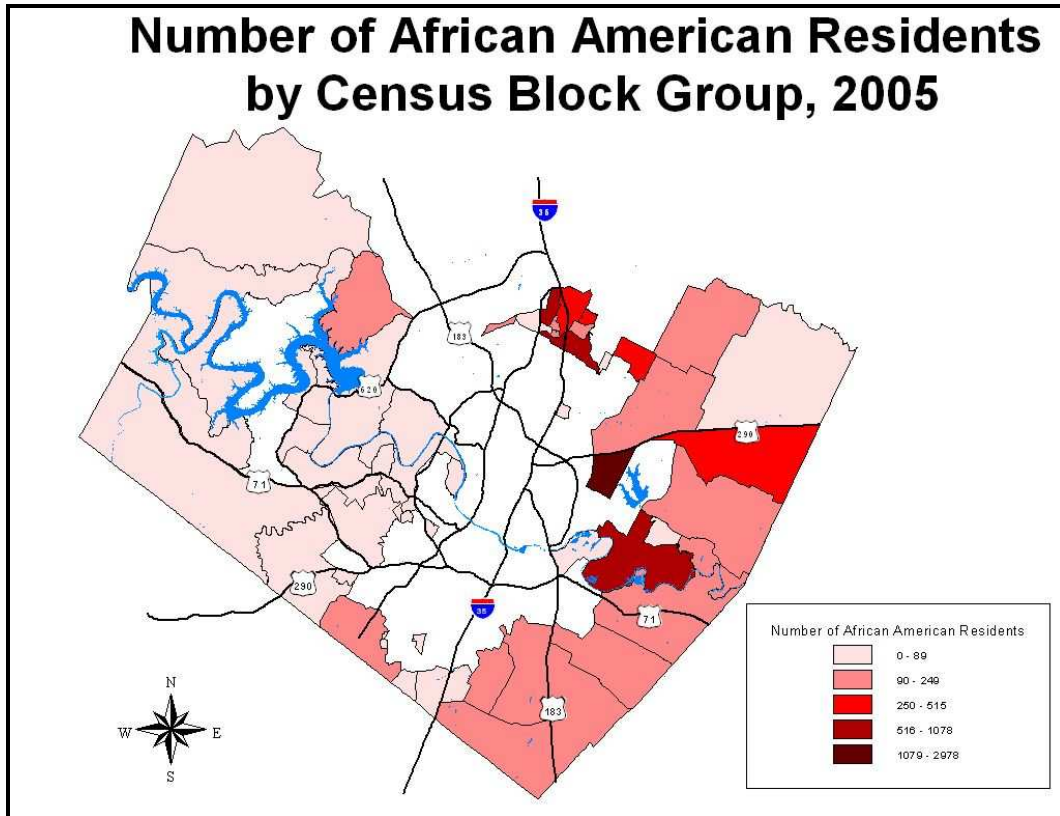
Geographic Areas of the Jurisdiction

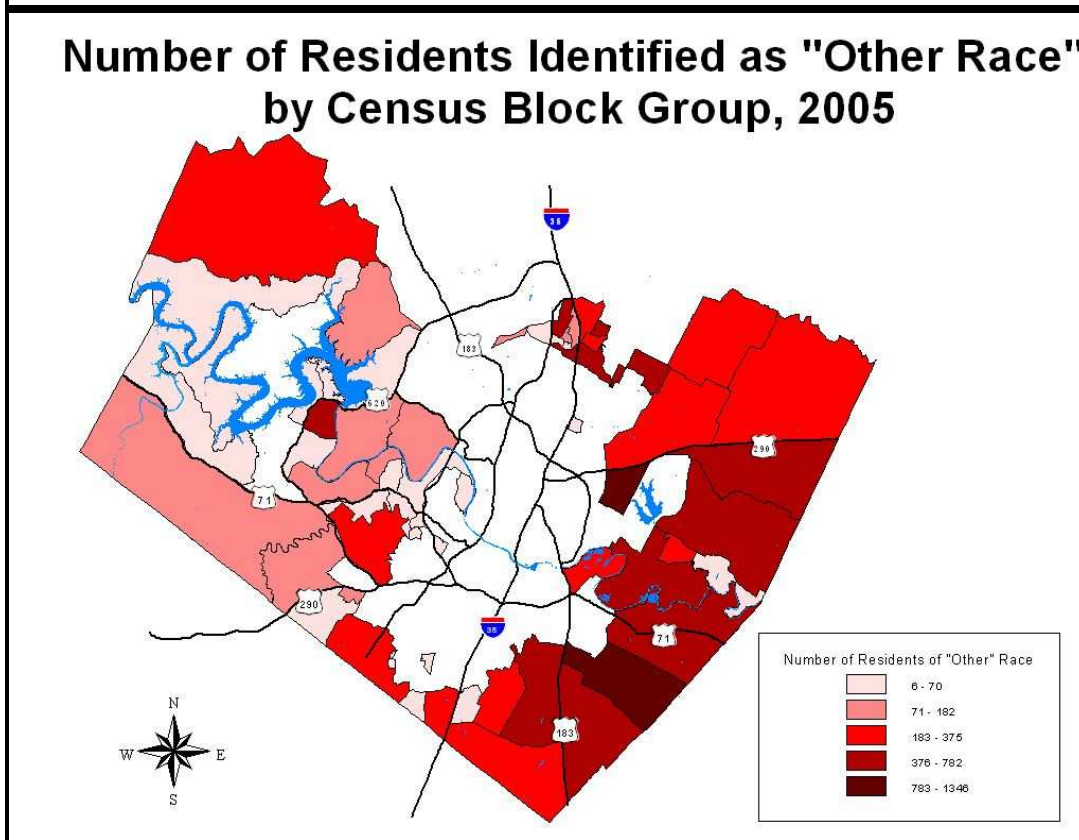
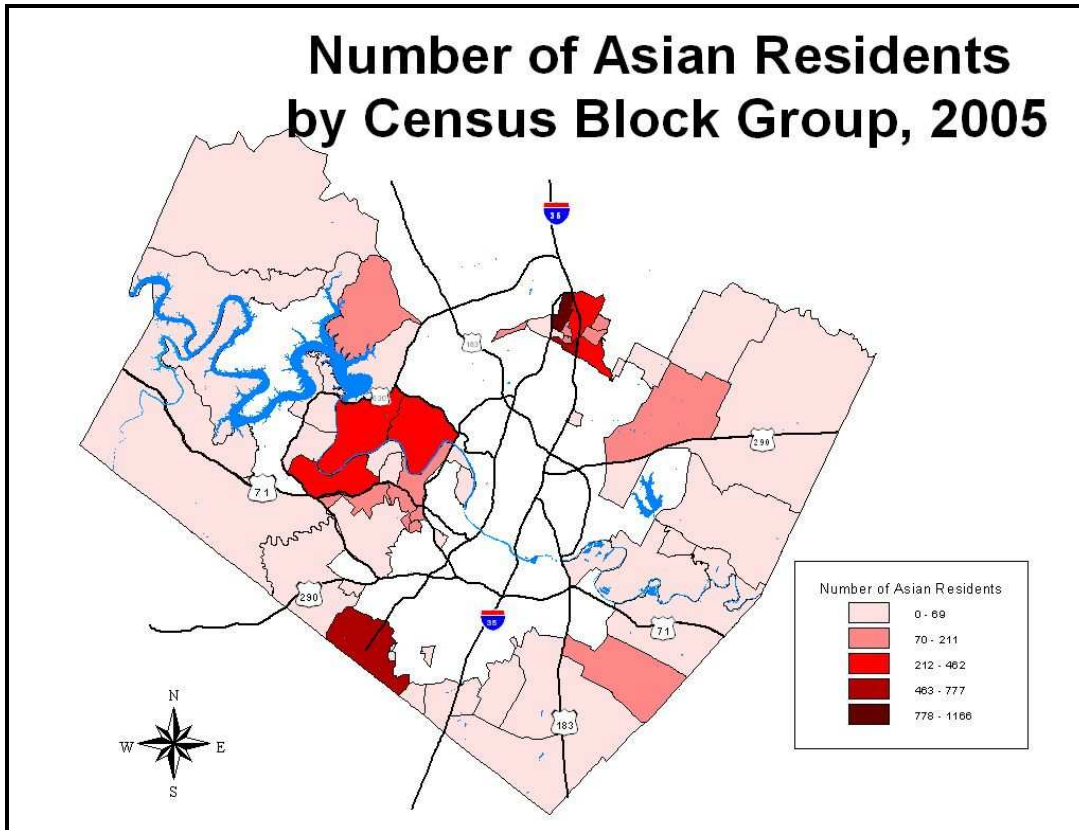
This Action Plan is submitted in accordance with 24 CFR 91.220 as part of the consolidated planning process required of entitlement jurisdictions under certain programs operated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Travis County is an “urban county Entitlement.”

Travis County’s jurisdiction for the funds allocated in this Action Plan includes the unincorporated areas of Travis County. The map below shows the unincorporated areas of Travis County (the areas not shaded in yellow) and the percentage of families at low- to moderate-income by census block group. Travis County does not target specific areas for funding. For specifics on geographical locations of specific projects for PY 2006, please see the project descriptions throughout the Action Plan as areas of services are determined per project. 100% of the allocation will benefit the unincorporated areas of Travis County, with a minimum of 70% of the dollars targeted toward low- to moderate-income families.



The following four maps show concentrations of racial and ethnic minorities in Travis County by census block group.





Meeting Underserved Needs

After considering the housing, community development and public service needs of Travis County's low- to moderate-income residents as identified in the Housing Needs Assessment, Market Analysis, and citizen engagement, Travis County Commissioners Court identified the following national goals as its focus for CDBG funds for the five year time period:

1. Decent Housing:

- Assisting low- and moderate-income persons obtain affordable housing

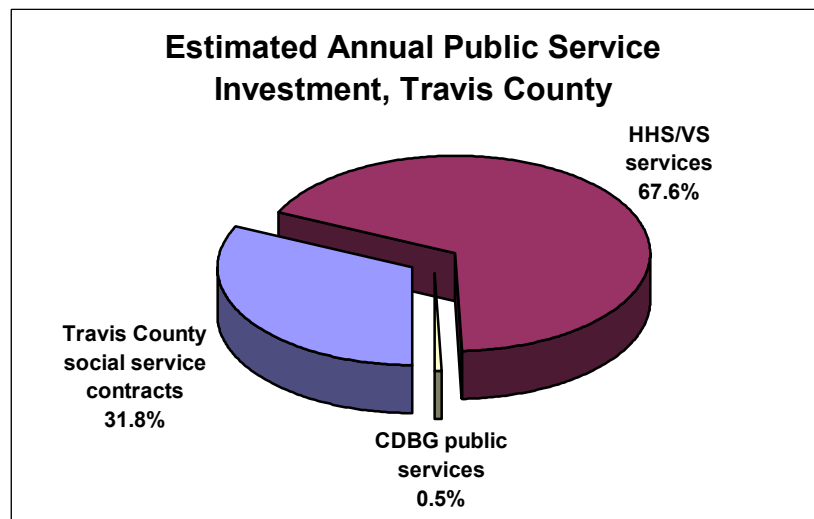
2. A Suitable Living Environment:

- Improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods and
- Increasing access to quality public and private facilities and services

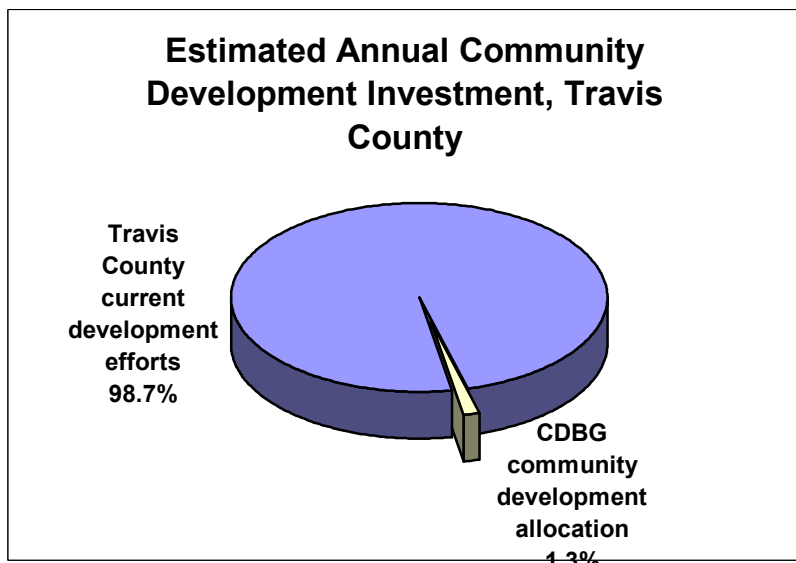
All three national goals are represented in the proposed projects for the amended PY 2006 Action Plan.

Resources Available

The Action Plan focuses on those activities funded through CDBG funds provided to Travis County by HUD on an annual basis. The County is expected to receive approximately \$838,659 for fiscal year 2006-07. At this time, the County does not receive HOME funds. In addition to these funds, the County has other funds that may be used to leverage CDBG money for housing, community development and public service projects.



Public Service Investment: The County currently contracts annually with over 40 non-profits in the form of social service contracts to the sum of approximately \$7,268,700. In addition, the Health and Human Services & Veterans Service Department (HHS/VS) provides direct public services annually in the amount of approximately \$15,442,265. The cap on public service dollars for CDBG is 15% of the County's allocation, or approximately \$125,798 annually. Therefore, CDBG public service dollars equal not more than 0.5% of the County's overall efforts in public services.



Community Development and Affordable Housing Investment: The County’s infrastructure department, Transportation and Natural Resources, conducts community development activities in the form of public park, bridge and drainage projects, storm water management, road maintenance, onsite sewage facilities, transportation planning, and various other projects, totaling approximately \$56,324,900 annually. Housing and Community Development activities using CDBG funds are anticipated to total at least

\$545,128 annually. Therefore, CDBG community development and housing funds equal approximately 1.3% of the County’s overall efforts in community development.

Priority Needs Analysis and Strategies

Priority Needs Determination

The priority needs for housing, homelessness, and non-housing community development efforts were determined using data presented in Section III (*Community Needs*) of Travis County’s Consolidated Plan, and through public hearings, surveys, consultation with County staff, and consultation with housing, community development, and public service providers serving low-to-moderate income residents of the unincorporated areas of Travis County.

Key factors affecting the determination of the action plan priorities included: 1) the types of target income households with greatest need for assistance; 2) those activities that will best address their needs; and 3) the limited amount of funding available to meet those needs.

Priority ranking indicates the following intent:

High Priority: Travis County plans to use funds made available for activities that address this unmet need during the period of time designated in the strategic plan.

Medium Priority: If funds are available, activities to address this unmet need may be funded by Travis County during the period of time designated in the strategic plan. Also, Travis County will take other actions to locate other sources of funds to address this identified unmet need.

Low Priority: The jurisdiction does not plan to use funds made available for activities to address this unmet need during the period of time designated in the strategic plan. The jurisdiction will consider certifications of consistency for other entities’ applications for Federal assistance.

Managing the Process and Institutional Structure

Travis County is located in Central Texas and is home of the State Capitol. Services provided by the County encompass a variety of mandated and non-mandated services. The Travis County Commissioners Court manages the business of the county and comprises four Commissioners and one County Judge.

Administering the Programs

Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service Department (HHS/VS) is the lead department responsible for the administration of the county's CDBG funding. This department has primary responsibility for assessing community need, developing the Consolidated Plan and yearly Action Plans, managing project activities in conjunction with other County departments and other community partners, administering the finances, monitoring and reporting. In addition, HHS/VS administers some CDBG funded public service project activities. HHS/VS reports to the Travis County Commissioners Court for oversight authority.

Other County departments involved in providing services and administering the funds might include Transportation and Natural Resources, Facilities Management, the County Attorney's Office, and the Planning and Budget Office. Contracts will be procured through the County's Purchasing Office, and the County Auditor will audit financial records of the County as well as any sub-recipients used to conduct funded activities. CDBG staff within HHS/VS will work closely with all Departments that are involved to ensure compliance with HUD regulations.

Travis County is a unique urban county. The population of unincorporated Travis County (not including the incorporated small cities, villages, etc.) is large enough to allow the County to be designated as an urban entitlement county. At this time, Travis County's jurisdiction does not include consortium member cities.

Administration and Planning Budget

Due to the reduced allocation, Travis County has chosen to absorb all of the administration and planning costs associated with CDBG. The full award will be used toward community development and public service projects.

Coordination and Collaboration

Effective implementation of the Consolidated Plan involves a variety of agencies. Coordination and collaboration within the Travis County government and between agencies helps to ensure that the needs in the community are addressed.

The citizens of Travis County were instrumental in developing this plan, which is a result of six months of activity by Travis County staff. County staff drew on authoritative sources to provide a quantitative analysis of community needs; conducted five public hearings at which more than 40 people testified; held multiple consultations with service providers from housing, elderly services, youth services, fair housing, Housing Authorities, and other government agencies. Upon presentation of the draft Consolidated Plan, additional comment was received at two public hearings and feedback was received during the public comment period. These comments were considered in the final preparation of the Plan. The substantial amendment process included one public hearing and a fifteen day comment period. Comments related to the amendments made to the Plan are included in Appendix B.

The County is committed to continuing its participation and coordination with federal, state, county, and local agencies, as well as with the private and non-profit sectors, to serve the needs of target income individuals and families in the community.

Travis County will partner with local Community Housing and Development Organizations (CHDOs), non-profits, and other community development and housing providers to explore options for community development and public service projects to best meet the community's need and leverage other federal, state, local and private funding.

In addition, Travis County will partner with the Travis County Housing Authority to explore options for affordable housing development and the development of public housing in the unincorporated areas of the county.

Citizen Participation

Summary of Citizen Participation Process

Travis County implements a citizen participation process based upon 24 Congressional Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 91.105 and the Citizen Participation Plan approved by Travis County Commissioners Court on April 11, 2006. Travis County's Consolidated Plan is developed through a collaborative process. Citizen Participation is a critical part in the development of the Consolidated Plan and FY 2007 Action Plan. The Consolidated Plan is a strategic plan that identifies needs and sets priorities, outcomes and objectives in the unincorporated areas of Travis County for a five-year period. In addition, each year the County must submit an annual Action Plan (AP) to HUD reporting how the year's funding allocation for CDBG will be used to achieve the goals outlined in the five-year Consolidated Plan. In the year that the Consolidated Plan is developed, the public hearings for input on the Annual Action Plan and Consolidated Plan will be held at the same time

August 2006 Submission

In order to elicit public input on the needs of those living in the unincorporated areas of Travis County for the development of the Plan and PY 2006 Action Plan (AP), Travis County HHS/VS held public hearings at several locations throughout the County in two different formats to acquire information.

Public hearings were held at two different times throughout the development of the Consolidated Plan and PY 2006 Action Plan.

Public hearings were held to gather information for the Needs Assessment, asking participants for input regarding their housing, community development and public service needs.

- Notices of the public hearing dates were put in newspapers of general circulation, announcements occurred during the televised Commissioners Court meetings were posted on the Travis County website (www.co.travis.tx.us) and the seven Travis County Community Centers posted notices in both English and Spanish.
- Public hearings were held on April 11 and May 2, 2006, at Travis County Commissioners' Court during the normally scheduled voting session.
- Public hearings were held on April 17, 20 22, 26 and 27, 2006, throughout the County in each of the four precincts.

After the development of the Consolidated Plan for public comment, public hearings were held to inform and enable the community to comment on the proposed uses of CDBG funds.

- Notices of the public hearing dates and locations of postings were put in newspapers of general circulation, announcements occurred during the televised Commissioners Court meetings, posted on the Travis County website (www.co.travis.tx.us) and the seven (7) Travis County Community Centers posted notices in both English and Spanish.
- Public hearings were held on July 11 and 18, 2006, at the Travis County Commissioners' Court during the normally scheduled voting session.
- Summaries of the Plan and PY2006 Action Plan (copies are available) and the full drafts (for review only) are available at the seven Travis County Community Centers as well as the Travis County website.

Travis County HHS/VS drafted the Consolidated Plan and presented it to the Travis County Commissioners Court on June 27, 2006. After presentation to Travis County Commissioners Court, the Plan was posted for written comment for thirty (30) days prior to approval by the Travis County Commissioners Court. The 30- day comment period commenced June 28, 2006, and ended July 27, 2006.

Comments on the Plan may be received in writing via email or postal mail to the Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service CDBG staff. The Plan was posted on the Travis County website (www.co.travis.tx.us) and Summaries of the Plan were available. Copies of the full document were available for review at the seven Travis County Community Centers.

November 2006 Submission

In October of 2006, Travis County began the process to amend its Consolidated Plan and Year One Action Plan. To expedite the amendment, HUD allowed Travis County to be temporarily out of compliance with its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP). HUD allowed for a 15-day public comment period rather than the 30-day comment period outlined in the CPP.

The public comment period for the amended Consolidated Plan commenced November 15, 2006, and ended November 29, 2006. In addition to posting the Plan for public comment, a public hearing was held in the Commissioners Courtroom on November 28, 2006. Detailed results of the public comments submitted in writing and collected during the public hearing can be found in Attachment B.

Comments on the Plan may be received in writing via email or postal mail to the Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service CDBG staff. The Plan was posted on the Travis County website (www.co.travis.tx.us) and Summaries of the Plan were available. Copies of the full document were available for review at the seven Travis County Community Centers.

August 2007 Submission

Staff assessed the progress of each project and made recommendations to the Travis County Commissioners Court to substantially amend the Year One (PY06) Action Plan. The substantial amendment process was instituted due to the deletion of the Youth and Family Assessment Center Flex Fund Expansion, a public service project.

Concurrent with the substantial amendment to the PY06 Action Plan, staff assessed the original strategic direction in the 2006-2010 Consolidated Plan. At the time of the November 2006 amendment, Travis County chose to re-evaluate the strategic direction later. In August of 2007, Travis County addressed the strategic direction as it relates to the reduced allocation.

The amendment to the 2006-2010 Consolidated Plan's strategic direction and the substantial amendment to the PY06 Action Plan occurred at the same time as the draft of the PY07 Action Plan. During the week of June 4, 2007, Travis County published a Public Notice announcing and summarizing the proposed substantial amendment to the PY06 Action Plan. The notice appeared in several area newspapers that target the unincorporated areas of Travis County. The 30-day public comment period commenced June 20, 2007 and ended July 19, 2007. Two public hearings were held at the Travis County Commissioners Courtroom during the 30-day public comment period on June 26, 2007, and July 10, 2007, to receive testimony for all three actions. Details of the public comment may be reviewed in Appendix B.

Comments on the Plan may be received in writing via email or postal mail to the Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service CDBG staff. The Plan was posted on the Travis County website (www.co.travis.tx.us) and Summaries of the Plan were available. Copies of the full document were available for review at the seven Travis County Community Centers.

Service Provider Consultations

On May 10, 2006, 27 representatives from 22 agencies attended a facilitated forum. After receiving a presentation on Travis County's anticipated CDBG allocation, funding intent, eligible activities, and preliminary results from the provider survey, representatives were broken into two groups: Public Services and Housing/Community Planning. For details, see Section II of the Consolidated Plan.

Surveys

For the development of the five-year Consolidated Plan, surveys provided additional opportunity to assess citizens' perceptions of their needs.

A link to the web-based survey was sent via email to representatives of public agencies that serve residents in the unincorporated areas. The electronic survey was utilized to collect information from housing, community development, and public service providers in Travis County. The survey had a total of 48 respondents. See Section II of the Consolidated Plan for the detailed results of the provider survey.

Surveys were available at the public hearings and at each rural community center. In addition, several surveys were completed and submitted by mail. A total of 30 surveys were received. Resident surveys were available in both English and Spanish. See Section II of the Consolidated Plan for detailed results.

Summary of Citizen Comments on the Plan

All comments were accepted as they aligned with the intent and priorities of the five-year Consolidated Plan. Where comments requested information from another county department appropriate information coordination will occur. When comments noted a lack of specific need data, staff directed the citizen to the areas of the Plan that contained the need data requested.

A total of four public comments were received on the draft of the Consolidated Plan. Three written comments were received via email and one person testified during the public hearing held in Commissioners Court on July 11, 2006. No one testified during the public hearing on July 18, 2006.

A summary of comments and interests include:

- *Consider the location of bus routes and public services when identifying land for affordable owner housing and rental housing development.*
- *Consider and survey different areas for sewer, water and street improvements*
- *Provide information with other county buy out and park initiatives*
- *Increase services to the youth and elderly*
- *Include language on mental health issues and related housing needs*

A full list of public comments received on the Consolidated Plan is available in Appendix B.

Summary of Citizen Comments on the Substantial Amendment to the Plan

November 2006

All comments were accepted as they aligned with the intent and priorities of the five-year Consolidated Plan. Where some of the comments requested information from Travis County HHS/VS, CDBG staff provided information in writing.

A total of five public comments were received on the draft of the Consolidated Plan. One written comment was received via email and four people testified during the public hearing held in Commissioners Court on November 28, 2006.

A summary of comments and interests include:

- *Consider water/sewer infrastructure development to the residents of Plainview Estates in future years.*
- *Increase affordable housing efforts and continue to work with agencies that promote true affordability.*
- *Request staff reexamine what constitutes affordable housing.*

A full list of public comments received on the Consolidated Plan is available in Appendix B.

August 2007

All comments were accepted as they aligned with the intent and priorities of the five-year Consolidated Plan. A total of two public comments were received on the three actions proposed which includes the amendment to the 2006-2010 Consolidated Plan's Strategic Direction, the substantial amendment to the PY06 Action Plan and the draft of the PY07 Action Plan. Two written comments were received and no people testified during the public hearings held in Commissioners Court on June 26, 2007 and July 10, 2007.

A summary of comments and interests include:

- *Consider looking at programs which promote improved conditions for manufactured housing parks such as encouraging cooperative ownership and management.*
- *Provide housing solutions for extremely low income families with children.*
- *Provide supportive services for extremely low income families with children through case management.*

A full list of public comments received on the Consolidated Plan is available in Appendix B.

Summary of Efforts to Broaden Public Participation

The following efforts were used to broaden public participation:

- Travis County Commissioners Court is televised and close captioned on the public access channel and repeats several times throughout the week.
- The County website stayed current with documents and announcements of public hearings.
- Public notices were available in Spanish and published in Spanish language newspapers.
- List serves were used to garner interest from social service agencies and their clients
- Survey boards were used in the five Travis County rural Community Centers.
- In August 2007, public hearings at the Commissioners Court were held once in the morning and once in the evening in order to accommodate different work schedules in the community.

Written Explanation of Comments Not Accepted

All comments were accepted.

Written Explanation of the Substantial Amendment Comments Not Accepted

November 2006

All comments were accepted.

August 2007

All comments were accepted.

Project Prioritization

Travis County weighed all potential projects identified by citizens and relevant county staff. Staff worked to assess that potential projects met one of HUD's national objectives, were eligible activities, and would be feasible to complete in a timely manner. Projects that met these criteria were then weighed according to the following scoring matrix. Scores were provided to the Travis County Commissioners Court for consideration when making final decisions regarding what projects were to be included in the PY 2006 Action Plan.

SCORING CRITERIA

Criteria	Points
1. Addresses a high priority goal of the Strategic Plan (<i>See activity scoring range</i>)	400
2. Feasibility of project (ability to complete within 18 months)	200
3. Addresses demonstrated need	100
4. Impacts large number of households	100
5. Benefit To Low/Moderate-Income Persons	100
6. Addresses need for continued assessment for strategic allocation methods	100
7. Leverages/matched with funding from another source	50
8. Phased project (phased judiciously)	50
9. Builds capacity for increased future service provision	50

Scoring Methodologies

- 1. Addresses a high priority goal of the Strategic Plan (see activity scoring range) – 400 points possible**

Projects addressing one of the three priority goals are awarded 400 points. Projects addressing one of the medium priority goals receive 50 points. Projects not addressing a high or medium priority goal receive zero points.

- 2. Feasibility of project (ability to complete within 18 months) – 200 points possible**
Projects assessed as ready to be implemented immediately receive the total possible 200 points. Projects needing 1 to 6 months assessment before implementation receive 100 points. Projects needing 6 to 12 months of assessment receive zero points. Projects needing more than 12 months of assessment receive negative 200 points. (*Note: Projects for which feasibility cannot be assessed will receive zero points.*)
- 3. Addresses demonstrated need -- 100 points possible**
Projects addressing a need that was identified through citizen engagement *and* research conducted for needs assessment receive 100 points. Projects addressing need identified through citizen engagement *or* research for needs assessment receive 50 points. Projects not addressing a need identified through either receive negative 100 points.
- 4. Projects impacting many households – 100 points possible**
Projects impacting over 200 households receive 100 points. Projects impacting between 100 and 200 households receive 50 points. Projects impacting 50 to 100 families receive 25 points. Projects impacting under 50 households receive zero points.
- 5. Benefits To Low/Moderate-Income Persons – 100 points possible**
Projects benefiting 100% low to moderate income persons or families receive 100 points. Projects benefiting 75 to 100% low to moderate income persons or families receive 75 points. Projects benefiting 50 to 75% low to moderate income persons or families receive 50 points. Projects benefiting under 50% low to moderate income persons or families receive negative 50 points. Projects eligible through area benefit that would impact less than 51% low to moderate income households will not be considered.
- 6. Addresses need for continued assessment for strategic allocation methods – 100 points possible**
Projects with the primary goal of assessing need and possible projects receive 100 points. Projects which are not primarily aimed at further assessment but will contribute to assessment efforts receive 50 points.
- 7. Leverages/matched with funding from another source – 50 points possible**
Projects which draw down other funding sources if implemented are given 50 points. Projects using other existing funds to complete the project (matching funds) are given 25 points. Projects using only CDBG funds receive zero points.
- 8. Phased project (phased judiciously) – 50 points possible**
Projects only taking one year receive 50 points. Phased projects with funding only allocated for 12 months of work, but for which 12 months of work would be sufficient for the project to have nearly full impact, also receive 50 points. Phased projects for which 12 months of work would leave an incomplete project with little to no impact receive negative 50 points.
- 9. Builds capacity for increased future service provision – 50 points possible**
Projects aiming to build capacity for future public, recreational, or housing services receive 50

points. Projects that have the potential to build capacity for services receive 25 points. Projects that do not build capacity receive zero points.

Monitoring

As the lead agency for development and implementation of the Consolidated Plan, the Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service Department implements standard policies and procedures for monitoring Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs. These monitoring activities ensure compliance with program regulations and compliance with financial requirements. Federal guidelines include: OMB A-110, OMB A-122, 24 CFR Part 570.603 (CDBG Labor Standards), 570.901-906 (CDBG) and the Davis Bacon Act and Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (CDBG).

HHS/VS provides contract administration for community development activities in conjunction with the Transportation and Natural Resources Department, including but not limited to contract negotiations, compliance monitoring, and payment and contract closeout.

Sub-Recipients

Sub-recipient agreements will be used to conduct public service activities. The sub-recipient agreement will be the foundation for programmatic monitoring. Sub-recipients will be monitored for programmatic compliance on-site in the following manner:

1. All invoices and reports will be routed via HHS/VS CDBG staff prior to final approval by financial services and the Auditor's Office.
2. All new sub-recipients will be monitored quarterly until no findings occur.
3. After two consecutive monitoring reports with no findings, semi-annual visits will occur.
4. Monitoring visits may occur on an annual basis if a sub-recipient has a long-standing record (three or more years) with no substantial findings.

Financial monitoring will be completed as necessary and as directed by sub-recipient fiscal performance and external monitoring needs of the Travis County Auditor's office. Programmatic and fiscal monitoring may not occur concurrently.

Contractors

Contractors may be used to provide some housing, community development and public services. Contractors submit periodic reimbursement requests which document and verify expenditures. The contract agreement will be used as the primary basis for monitoring. The following steps are an integral part of the monitoring process for each contract:

1. On-site reviews at an established periodic interval (prior to project commencement) will occur to ensure compliance with terms of the contract, HUD guidelines, state/local building and construction standards, and review of engineering plans and specifications.

2. If a contractor is found to be out of compliance, a notice is sent stating their contractual obligation and required action. Failure to comply may result in loss of current and/or future contracts as well as a hold on any payments.
3. All invoices and reports will be routed via HHS/VS CDBG staff prior to final approval by financial services and the Auditor’s Office.

Internal Travis County Departments

Internal Travis County projects will be monitored with Travis County HHS/VS CDBG staff sign off prior to invoices being paid, regular meetings with project management staff, and frequent checking of eligibility files, if applicable.

Project Files

Travis County HHS/VS staff will maintain files in order to document each project and its respective compliance with HUD and related regulations.

Lead-Based Paint

Tenure By Year Structure Built, Travis County TX	
Owner occupied	
Built 1970 to 1979	32,815
Built 1960 to 1969	16,498
Built 1950 to 1959	13,947
Built 1940 to 1949	6,963
Built 1939 or earlier	6,145
TOTAL	76,368
Renter occupied	
Built 1970 to 1979	39,147
Built 1960 to 1969	18,439
Built 1950 to 1959	9,672
Built 1940 to 1949	4,622
Built 1939 or earlier	4,637
TOTAL	76,517

Source: Census 2000

Only a small proportion of Travis County’s housing units are likely to contain lead-based paint. The vast majority of housing units were built after 1978. The adjacent chart provides an inventory of numbers of homes that may contain lead based paint.

Upon establishment of any programs for owner occupied rehabilitation and/or minor repairs, the County will develop procedures in that program year’s Action Plan in compliance with the Residential Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (Title X) and subsequent changes in September, 1999. The procedures will include:

- Notification
- Identification
- Treatment (if necessary)

Housing

Travis County’s Consolidated Plan outlines the priority goals for 2006-2010. Below is a summary of the housing goals established for the five-year period.

Priority Housing Projects	
Rental Housing Goals	
Production of new units	High– <u>Medium</u>
Rental assistance	Medium
Acquisition of existing units	Medium
Rehabilitation of existing units	Medium
Owner Housing Goals	
Production of new units	High
Homebuyer assistance	High– <u>Medium</u>
Acquisition of existing units	Medium
Rehabilitation of existing units	High
Other: Other ways to promote affordable housing development (Infrastructure)	High

Projects to Further Housing Efforts

The project listed below for PY 2006 targets a high priority goal. The project intends to increase affordable, suitable housing stock in the unincorporated areas of Travis County.

Project 1. Owner Housing: Production of new units

Activity: Land Acquisition

Parcels or one large tract of land in unincorporated Travis County will be acquired to build affordable single-family housing for low-income families (25-50% Median Family Income). Single-family housing is defined as a one- to four-family residence.

Specific parcels or tracts of land will be identified at a later date. Public hearings will be held to inform the public of the location(s) prior to purchase of the land. During the selection process, priority will be given to tracts of land near public transportation.

Austin Habitat for Humanity, a local non-profit, will secure funding for the construction of homes on the acquired property. Approximately 25 10 units of housing will be created. The number of individuals impacted will vary depending upon the families selected for the housing units.

Funding Source: CDBG

Funding Provided: \$250,000

Program Delivery and Management: Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service, and Designated Sub-recipients

National Objective: LMH (570.201(a))

Matrix Code: 01

2006-2010 Strategic Plan Priority: **High**

Objective: Providing Decent Housing

Expected Project Outcome: Affordability

Expected Start Date/Completion Date: ~~January 1, 2007 to September 30, 2007~~ November 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Needs for Public Housing

Travis County will continue to support efforts of the Housing Authority of Travis County's (HATC) to provide homeownership and affordable housing opportunities to low-income residents. Travis County will partner with HATC to explore opportunities to extend these efforts during the unincorporated areas in the five-year period covered in this Strategic Plan.

HATC manages a total of 105 public housing units at three public housing sites in the incorporated areas of Travis County. Additionally, together with the Housing Authority of Austin, HATC administers three Shelter Plus Care projects in the Austin-Travis County area, which utilize integrated rental housing and flexible and intensive support services to promote community tenure and independence to the chronically homeless and disabled. These Public Housing and Shelter Plus sites are all located in incorporated areas of the county. In the unincorporated areas, HATC does administer the Section Eight Housing Choice Voucher Program to assist very low income, disabled and elderly families or individuals. HATC also operates a Lease-Purchase program, to provide homeownership opportunities for prospective homebuyers who can afford monthly mortgage payments, but do not have funds for a down payment and/or closing costs or the credit standing to qualify for a loan. However, at this time no publicly owned housing developments exist in the unincorporated areas of Travis County.

The major strategic goals of HATC's Five-Year Plan (FY 2005-2009) are as follows:

- Expand supply, improve quality, and increase available choices for assisted housing
- Provide an improved living environment
- Promote self-sufficiency and asset development of assisted households
- Ensure equal opportunity and affirmatively further fair housing
- Improve physical conditions of all properties and create a safe workplace

Barriers to Affordable Housing

Travis County will invest via staff or dollars in PY2006 in opportunities to mitigate housing, land, fees and infrastructure costs via:

- Acquisition of land
- Collaboration with non-profits, businesses, agencies and coalitions
- Supporting initiatives throughout the County which increase affordable housing opportunities

County staff will work to ensure the development of county policies affecting building codes, zoning and growth that promote, to greatest extent possible, affordable housing development.

Homelessness

During the five-year time period covered in this plan ,Travis County does not intend to target the use of Community Development Block Grant funds toward homeless efforts . Travis County invests \$298,000 in general fund dollars in contracts with social service providers targeting the homeless in conjunction with the Austin/Travis County ESG grant administration and according to the Austin/Travis County Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.

See the *Anti-Poverty Strategy* section of this document for Travis County’s strategy to help low-income families avoid homelessness.

Non-Housing Community Development

Travis County’s Consolidated Plan outlines the priority goals for 2006-2010. Below is a summary of the goals established for Non- Housing Community Development for the five-year period.

Priority Non-Housing Community Development

Community Development Goals	
Goals	Priority
Water/Sewer Improvements	High
Street/Road Improvements	High
Sidewalks	Medium
Solid Waste Disposal Improvements	Medium
Flood Drain Improvements	Medium
Other: Erosion Abatement	Medium
Other: Litter Abatement	Medium
Other Public Facility Needs	Low

Projects to Further Community Development Efforts

The projects listed below for PY2006 target high priority goals. Both projects intend to increase suitable living environments in the unincorporated areas of Travis County.

Project2: Street Improvements

Activity: Substandard Roads in Apache Shores

Apache Shores is identified as a low to moderate income area. Many roads in the Apache Shores area do not meet Travis County standards, therefore, the substandard roads are not accepted into the Travis County road maintenance program.

The street improvement scope of work may include, but is not limited to: 1) design services; 2) land surveying services; 3) geo-technical services; 4) drainage design services; 4) utility location and relocation coordination services; 5) environmental review and related regulatory permits; 6) acquisition of right of way and easements; and 6) construction.

Three roads and one alternate road in the Apache Shores area have been identified for repairs. Road selection was based on identifying the current condition of the road (assessed by Travis County's Transportation and Natural Resources Department) and targeting residential streets with lower improvement values (assessed and reported by the Travis County Appraisal District). Roads identified for improvement are:

1. Pima Trail from Red Fox Road to Crazy Horse Pass
(Census Tract 1742; Blockgroup 1; Blocks 1068, 1066, 1065, and 1053).
2. Crazyhorse Pass from Pima Trail to Running Deer Trail
(Census Tract 1742; Blockgroup 1; Blocks 1054 and 1053).
3. Whitebead Trail from Red Fox Road to Running Deer Trail
(Census Tract 1742; Blockgroup 1; Blocks 1052 and 1053).
*Alternate: Crazy Horse Pass from Running Deer Trail to Whitebead Trail
(Census Tract 1742; Blockgroup 1; Blocks 1047 and 1050).*

The improvements impact 72 households as identified in the map indicating the area of benefit (~~Census tract: 1742 (3001742); Block: 1; Group 2-~~). Specific census data for each street is listed above in the roads identified section. The number of households in the area of benefit does not change in the case of improvements to the identified alternate road. The map can be found in Attachment D.

Funding Source: CDBG

Funding Provided: ~~\$ 300,000~~ 305,000

Program Delivery and Management: Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources Department, Travis County Health and Human Services and Veteran's Service, and Designated Contractors

National Objective: LM-AB (570.201 (c))

Matrix Code: 03K

2006-2010 Strategic Plan Priority: High

Objective: Creating Suitable Living Environments

Expected Project Outcome: Availability/Accessibility

Expected Start Date/Completion Date: ~~January 1, 2006 – June 30, 2008~~ July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2009

Project3: Water/Sewer Improvements

Activity: North Ridge Acres - Improved municipal water service for NRWSC

North Ridge Acres subdivision is located in both Williamson and Travis Counties near the intersection of FM 1325 and CR 172. 58 households in Travis County and 65 households in Williamson County will benefit from this project.

The project includes design, construction and administration of a complete replacement of the NRWSC's existing water distribution system. The goals of the project are: (1) design and construct a new water system that meets the requirements of the TCEQ and the City of Austin; (2) disconnection from the current water source (a City of Round Rock fire hydrant); (3) a permanent connection to the City of Austin's water system; and (4) conveyance of the NRWSC to the City of Austin which will provide service and billing for all NRWSC customers.

Design and construction of a new distribution system to convey potable water from the connection with the City's system to the NRWSC customers includes: distribution lines; fire hydrants; service laterals, valves, meters and service connections; pavement repairs; and demolition and removal of abandoned water storage facilities.

A primary door-to-door survey was conducted in November 2003 and June 2005. The survey indicates that at least 57% of the residents in the project area are Hispanic. The survey also indicates that 100% of the residents fall below the low- to moderate-income level.

The total project budget is \$1,872,000. Please see the leveraged funding section below for the breakdown of funding.

Funding Source: CDBG

Funding Provided: \$200,000

Leveraged Funding: Texas Water Development Board - \$1.3 million, Travis County - \$172,000 (In-Kind and General Fund), Williamson County - \$150,000 (CDBG), Office of Rural Community Affairs - \$250,000 (CDBG/Non-Border Colonia Grant)

In addition, the City of Austin has spent approximately \$200,000 to extend its major water line to the front of the Northridge Acres Subdivision and will expend additional funds to connect its water system to the newly constructed municipal water system in order to provide long-term water service to the community. Upon completion of the project, the City of Austin will accept all customers of the NRWSC as retail utility customers of the City and all customers will pay the City's applicable rates for water service.

Program Delivery and Management: Dan Smith, Executive Assistant, Office of the Travis County Judge, Mark Hall, TDWB, Gandolf Burris, Grant Development Services and Designated Contractors

National Objective: LM-AB (survey) (570.201 (c))

Matrix Code: 03J

2006-2010 Strategic Plan Priority: High

Objective: Creating Suitable Living Environments

Expected Project Outcome: Sustainability

Expected Start Date/Completion Date: July 15, 2006 to ~~September 30, 2007~~ December 30, 2007

Antipoverty Strategy/Public Services

Travis County does not yet have a formally adopted anti-poverty strategy. However, the Health and Human Services and Veterans Service Department is committed to developing a formal anti-poverty strategy over the time period covered by this Consolidated Plan. In addition, the Travis County Commissioners Court has allocated an anti-poverty reserve in its annual budget cycle for fiscal year 2007 which will initiate coordination of current efforts and implement additional programmatic efforts to address poverty in a comprehensive manner.

Many of the Consolidated Plan strategies directly assist individuals who are living in poverty. In addition, Travis County’s lead agency for administering these funds is the Health and Human Services & Veterans Service Department, whose mission is “to work in partnership with the community to promote full development of individual, family, neighborhood, and community potential.” The vision of HHS/VS is “optimizing self-sufficiency for families and individuals in safe and healthy communities.” Both the mission and vision of HHS/VS are essentially aimed at preventing and ameliorating conditions of poverty in Travis County.

In addition, Travis County participates in the assessments, plans, and activities of the Community Action Network, whose members have informally pursued anti-poverty strategies as part of their primary mission.

Travis County’s Consolidated Plan outlines the priority goals for 2006-2010. Below is a summary of the goals established for Public Services for the five-year period.

Priority Public Services

Public Service Goals	
Goals	Priority
Youth Services	High
Other Public Service Needs	High
Transportation Services	Medium
Employment Training	Medium
Health Services	Medium
Child Care Services	Medium
Senior Services	Medium
Substance Abuse Services	Medium
Lead Hazard Screening	Low
Crime Awareness	Low

The Travis County Community's Anti-Poverty Programs – Non- CDBG funding

- Providing assistance with emergency basic needs (including rent, utility and food assistance) in order to prevent homelessness.
- Advocating for and supporting public policy initiatives that create real solutions for adequate healthcare, childcare, living wages, education and disability assistance.

Projects to Further Anti-Poverty/Public Services Efforts

The projects listed below for PY 2006 target high priority goals. Both projects intend to increase access to quality public services in the unincorporated areas of Travis County.

Deletion of: Project4: Youth Services

Activity: Youth and Family Assessment Center (YFAC) Flex Fund Expansion

~~The YFAC program is an internal Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service expansion of existing services. Flex Funding through the YFAC program assists high risk children improve their school performance and avoid the juvenile justice system through traditional and non-traditional services. A small expansion of flex funds is requested for the first year; however, it is anticipated that the client population will grow over time as more outreach is done. Approximately 30 youth will be assisted.~~

~~The Family Support Services Division Social Work Services Expansion staff (mentioned below) will outreach, assess and manage the flex fund expansion dollars.~~

~~Funding Source: CDBG~~

~~Funding Provided: \$5,000~~

~~Leveraged Funding: \$5,000 – General Fund~~

~~Program Delivery and Management: Travis County Health and Human Services and Veteran's Service~~

~~National Objective: LMC (570.201(e))~~

~~Matrix Code: 05D~~

~~Objective: Creating Suitable Living Environments~~

~~Expected Project Outcome: Availability/Accessibility~~ 2006-2010 Strategic Plan Priority: **High**

~~Expected Start Date/Completion Date: January 15, 2007 to September 30, 2007~~

Approval of the deletion of this project has occurred. The services to 30 youth will still be provided, but through the Travis County General Fund. The \$5,000 originally issued to fund this project will increase the budget to the Apache Shores Street Improvement project.

Project5: Public Services, Other

Activity: HHS/VS Family Support Services Division Social Work Services Expansion

This program is an internal Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service expansion of existing services. The program will expand current social work services by two Social Workers in order to increase capacity to provide case management, information and referral, non-clinical counseling, crisis intervention and outreach in the unincorporated areas. The social workers will be located at the Community Centers in Del Valle and Manor.

The expansion of the social work staff within Family Support Services would reduce the barriers encountered by county residents in unincorporated areas receiving needed social, financial and health services. This furthers the goal of HHS/VS to make its services available to all residents in need of them. The expansion increases the capacity of social work services to serve a minimum of 100 families.

Funding Source: CDBG

Funding Provided: \$83,659

Leveraged Funding: ~~\$31,341 General Fund~~

Program Delivery and Management: Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service

National Objective: LMC (570.201(e))

Matrix Code: 05

2006-2010 Strategic Plan Priority: High

Objective: Creating Suitable Living Environments

Expected Project Outcome: Availability/Accessibility

Expected Start Date/Completion Date: ~~January 15, 2007 – September 30, 2007~~ July 15, 2007 – December 31, 2007