

## IV. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### A. Introduction to Community Development

#### 1. Priority Non-housing Community Development Needs

Over the past ten years, CDBG funds have served as seed money for numerous public facilities. Most of these community resources are now self-supporting and will continue to benefit low- and moderate-income residents for years to come. During the next five years, Arlington will concentrate CDBG funds in the area of most need — the Central Arlington Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA). An analysis of the Arlington community identified the following priority non-housing community development needs:

- Public Facilities (Medium)
- Public Improvements and Infrastructure (High)
- Public Services (High)
- Economic Development (High)
- Historic Preservation (Medium)
- Neighborhood Integrity (High)
- Planning (High)

Community Development Block Grants have supported facilities and services in Arlington such as a one-stop human service center, domestic violence shelter, workforce development center, child care for low-income families, meals and case management for senior citizens, and tutoring/mentoring for at risk youth. Arlington's community development needs over the next five years have been assessed through direct citizen input, neighborhood groups, non-profit organizations, Chambers of Commerce, studies conducted by the school district, University of Texas at Arlington, various City departments, Tarrant County Health Department, and Arlington Human Service Planners.

An overview of community development needs are summarized in the Community Development Table 2B in Section VIII and briefly described below.

#### a. Public Facilities (Medium Priority)

##### 1) Youth Emergency Shelter

Arlington Human Service Planners (AHSP) identified a youth emergency shelter as a remaining gap in the need for youth services. Currently, there is not an emergency shelter for runaway and homeless teens in Arlington. The three emergency shelters do not serve children under 18 without a legal guardian. The 2000 AHSP Arlington Youth Assets and Challenges study found that the lack of a youth shelter also means the lack of permanent housing for homeless youth. The study also found only one host home available in Arlington for homeless youth. Further, the number of agency foster homes is not sufficient, especially homes that can serve youth with therapeutic needs. The City will continue to participate in the Tarrant County Homeless Coalition and other community efforts to seek funding and coordinate a response to this need.

## **2) Substance Abuse Treatment Facility**

Individuals facing substance abuse problems may receive prevention, education, and case management from various agencies; however, they are referred to locations outside of Arlington for treatment facilities. Currently, the city does not have a facility for low- to moderate-income individuals for detoxification/treatment for substance abuse. Instead, they are referred to the Billy Gregory Center and the Pine Street Residential Treatment, which are operated by Mental Health Mental Retardation of Tarrant County (MHMRTC). Both centers are located in Fort Worth and serve adults in need of treatment. The Tarrant Youth Recovery Campus, also located in Fort Worth, assists the youth population. According to a study conducted by AHSP, Accessing Medical Resources in Arlington, 11% of the MHMRTC clients are Arlington residents. Further, in the 2004 Survey of Health and Human Service Issues, AHSP concludes that substance abuse treatment is sixth in terms of inadequate resources. Based on the current situation, a facility for substance abuse treatment continues to be a need in Arlington. Responding to this need will require a combination of resources other than CDBG, which will be explored through appropriate health and community based organizations.

## **3) Senior Citizen Facilities**

Two recreation facilities are available for Arlington's senior citizens, the Senior Recreation Center on New York Street and the Center on Eunice Street. Both facilities are a part of the City's Department of Park and Recreation and serve seniors by providing social, recreational, and educational activities. The Center on New York Street, which opened in 1994, is an 8,200 square foot facility. The Center on Eunice Street, which was the original recreation facility for seniors, was renovated in 2001 to add an additional 3,400 square feet to the building. Both recreation centers serve individuals age 50 and over. The centers strive to "stress the positive aspects of aging through recreation activity."

The 2004 Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan recommended the addition of a third senior center in the southwest sector of Arlington over the next ten years. Senior citizens' facilities are also available through affordable housing complexes, Nuestro Hogar, and Arlington New Beginnings, which are described in Section II: Housing Needs.

## **4) Community Police Facilities**

The Arlington Police Department (APD) operates under a community-based policing philosophy. The vision of APD is to "achieve a safer community by providing excellent service and involving our community as partners." To do so, APD has three buildings located in different areas of the city. This includes the Ott Cribbs Public Safety Building in the North Police District, the East Arlington Police Service Center in the East Police District, and the West Arlington Police Service Center in the West Police District. In addition, APD also has a satellite office at The Parks at Arlington Mall in order to increase police presence. The APD also has a Training Center, which holds training and classes for police, civilians, and volunteers. Currently, the city lacks a police center in the south sector. The APD has plans to construct a new facility, the South Arlington Police Service Center. APD is scheduled to select an architect in 2004 and anticipates the opening of the new center in 2007.

**5) Park and Recreation Facilities**

Arlington has experienced growth in the number of parks and recreational facilities over the past two decades. According to a recent presentation by the City’s Parks and Recreation Department, significant changes have occurred from 1987 to 2004. The following is a summary of the growth in various areas of parks and recreation.

<b>Category</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>2004</b>
Park Acres per 1000 Residents	7.4	12.85
Linear Parks	371 acres	1,750 acres
Playgrounds	24	38
Recreation Centers/Senior Centers	4	7
Basketball Courts	6	18

The Parks and Recreation Department maintains a number of facilities to serve the citizens of Arlington. Currently, the city has 59 parks divided among the six sectors. Approximately 7.2% of the city’s total area is park land. The following table outlines the need for various types of recreational facilities in Arlington over the next ten years.

<b>Facility Type</b>	<b>Inventory</b>	<b>Need</b>
Aquatic Facilities	6	8
Soccer, Football, Baseball Fields	63	82
Basketball Courts	23	33
Tennis Courts	49	57
Golf Courses	4	3
Recreation Centers	5	6
Senior Centers	2	3
Trails	41	57
Playgrounds	41	53
Total Project Need	234	302

In 2004, the City’s Parks and Recreation Department updated their Master Plan. This Plan identifies three major issues facing the city. First, major funding for parks and recreation has decreased due to recent economic conditions. According to the report, funding for parks and recreation in Arlington is the sixth lowest of the 25 cities in the DFW region. Second, while funding has decreased, the city’s population continues to increase and demands continue to increase. Arlington’s parkland is approximately 7.2% of the total city. This is below the national average, which is 8.2%. Arlington has 12.85 acres/1000 residents and this is below the DFW average of 15.12 acres/1000 residents. Finally, suitable park land within the city has become scarce and expensive.

To address these challenges, the Parks and Recreation Department has developed a vision and plan that includes nine strategies. These strategies are to plan priorities, re-invest in existing facilities, make key park land acquisition, develop linear parks, develop neighborhood parks, invest in recreation centers, invest in athletic facilities, exercise creativity, and provide exceptional service. The plan proposes six new development projects, seven renovation projects, and six acquisition projects.

**b. Public Improvements/Infrastructure (High Priority)**

The city's infrastructure services are managed by the Department of Public Works. This department was reorganized in 2003 by combining the Transportation and Engineering Departments and is responsible for the design and construction of streets, storm water drainage facilities, reviewing residential and commercial site development plans, and managing water quality-related environmental issues. In addition, the department also handles street lighting, traffic signals, and street markings. The new department is organized into three divisions: public works operations, public works engineering and construction, and public works services. The department is funded through the city's general fund revenue. Similar to other areas of the city, this department also experienced budget cuts due to economic conditions. For example, the department's FY 2004 budget decreased to \$12,011,000 from \$13,439,000 in FY 2002.

In September 2002, voters approved a ¼-cent sales tax to create a Street Maintenance Fund. The intent behind the maintenance fees is to prolong the life of Arlington streets by pro-active maintenance. Once a street cannot be kept in good repair, it is scheduled for "rebuild." The City of Arlington Public Works Department estimates that it will cost approximately \$135 million to rebuild all the Arlington streets that have deteriorated to this extent. The City also has a Master Plan for new roads and streets. The cost estimate for these projects is approximately \$9 billion.

Priority activities have been identified for infrastructure improvements in the Central Arlington Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area, such as streetscapes, utility improvements, roadways, and pedestrian walkways (see Section VI). Additional infrastructure improvements may be identified as planning documents are developed and will be included, along with specific locations, in the Annual Action Plan.

**c. Public Services (High Priority)**

According to the 2002 United Way Profile report, Arlington has experienced an increase in public service need during the last five years. The number of individuals served in Arlington by United Way agencies has increased 63% since 1998. United Way also maintains a referral hotline for residents needing public service assistance. In 2002, the 211 hotline received 7,782 calls from Arlington residents. This number increased by 36% in 2003 to 10,591.

During the next five years, the City of Arlington will continue to place a medium priority on public services to meet the needs of residents, and plans to continue a strong commitment and relationship with local non-profit partners. A number of the public service agencies in Arlington are also partner agencies of the United Way of Metropolitan Tarrant County.

The AHSP 2004 Survey of Health and Human Service Issues identified the following top 15 priority concerns in Arlington:

1. Affordable health care/health insurance
2. Child Abuse and Neglect

3. Affordable dental care
4. Transportation to employment
5. Teen Pregnancy
6. Youth Violence
7. Quality, affordable preschool child care
8. Affordable home health services
9. Obesity
10. Mental health care for youth
11. After school care
12. Spouse or partner abuse
13. Mental health care for adults
14. School drop out rate
15. Parenting Education

Survey data also resulted in a list of the top 15 inadequate resources in Arlington:

1. Transportation to employment
2. Affordable health care/health insurance
3. Affordable dental care
4. Mental health care for youth
5. Mental health care for adults
6. Substance abuse
7. Affordable nursing home or long term care
8. Affordable housing
9. Affordable home health services
10. Obesity
11. Child abuse and neglect
12. Run-away and throw-away teens
13. Emergency financial assistance
14. Care giving for older adults
15. Helping families move from crisis to stability

Below is an overview of the current list of services and identified needs in the City of Arlington.

### **1) Health Services**

The city has two major hospitals located in the north and south sectors of the city. In addition to the two hospitals, the city also has various clinics to serve the low- to moderate-income residents. This includes the Agape Clinics of Texas, Cook Children's Pediatrics, Dental Health Arlington, JPS Health Center, Planned Parenthood, Tarrant County Public Health Department, and the Texas Department of Health. These clinics provide a wide range of services including childhood immunizations, dental care, obstetrical and prenatal services, physicals, flu shots, sight/speech/hearing screenings, prescriptions, and child development screenings.

Affordable health care remains a need for many Arlington residents. The following information provides examples of the types of health care need identified in Arlington.

- "Arlington appears to have a shortage of hospital beds with a current ratio of one bed per 609 residents," explained JPS President and CEO David M. Cecero. "Fort Worth's ratio of one

bed per 330 residents and Texas as a whole has a hospital bed for every 379 residents. Nationally, the average is one bed per 353 residents."

- In 2003, Dental Health Arlington served 7,459 children through the SMILES program and 4,359 low-income individuals with dental care at the clinic.
- In 2002, the United Way hotline received 694 requests from Arlington residents regarding health care. This number increased to 879 in 2003.
- In 2003, Mission Metroplex provided medical assistance to 5,299 low-income individuals through the Bob Mann Medical Clinic.
- The 2004 Survey of Health and Human Services Issues ranked affordable health care and health insurance as the most serious issue for Arlington residents. The same survey ranked obesity ninth most serious issue for Arlington.
- Men's Fitness Magazine ranked Arlington as the 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. city with the highest percentage of overweight residents.

To address these needs, the Tarrant County Public Health Department has purchased a 50,000 square foot, 30 bed hospital to be the first inpatient facility operated by the John Peter Smith (JPS) public health network. Plans also include leasing a 3200 square foot facility to open a family medicine center at 1741 E. Bardin Road and opening an ambulatory care center at 501 W. Main in early 2005.

## **2) Transportation**

The issue of transportation has been a problem in Arlington for several years, and transportation remains a primary unmet need. Currently, the city does not have a public transportation system. This creates a problem for residents without vehicles. According to the Census 2000 data, 5,388 households in Arlington do not have personal transportation and 46,119 households have only one vehicle.

For residents without personal transportation, a limited number of programs are available. However, these programs are primarily for elderly and/or the disabled population for transportation to social service or medical appointments. They do not address the needs of those individuals needing transportation to work, school, or other locations. The following is a summary of current programs.

- The City's Handitran program provides door to door services for the elderly and disabled. In 2002, Handitran provided 100,312 trips. In 2003, the program faced difficulties due to budget cuts and was forced to increase the fare by \$0.50 in order to continue operation. A one-way fare for Handitran clients is now \$1.75.
- Mission Arlington provides financial assistance for gasoline and car repairs to low- and moderate-income individuals. The

organization also provides transportation to social service and medical appointments. In 2003, Mission Arlington assisted 1,490 individuals with 25,935 trips. Expanded services include trips from Arlington to Fort Worth for specialized medical services provided at John Peter Smith Hospital.

- The American Red Cross provides transportation through their Chisholm Trail Chapter Wheels Program for the elderly, disabled, and those without personal transportation.
- The Texas Department of Health provides medical clients with transportation to health care appointments.

The need for transportation is considered a top priority, specifically in relation to employment and education. In the 2004 Survey of Health and Human Services, developed by the Arlington Human Service Planners, transportation was ranked a high priority. According to the report, transportation to employment was ranked the fourth most serious issue impacting residents among 45 various issues. Further, the resources available for transportation to employment were rated number one in the level of inadequacy. According to the 2000 Census data, 16% of working residents in Arlington relied on other forms of transportation to work. These include carpools, taxis, walking, or other means.

The City recognizes that the need for transportation remains unmet for many of the residents and continues to take a pro-active and creative approach to the problem. The following is a summary of current efforts in addressing transportation.

- The City of Arlington is a member of the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition. The coalition includes elected officials and civic leaders and is a county-wide effort to receive transportation funding from state and federal levels.
- In 2002, the city completed the third Park-and-Ride lot. This parking lot has a capacity of 520 and enhances mobility by providing residents a location to park vehicles when carpooling to employment sites.

### **3) Mental Health**

The 2000 AHSP Youth Assets and Challenges Study found that there is a lack of mental health services available for the youth and adults in Arlington. Further, AHSP ranked mental health services for youth and mental health services for adults as the fourth and fifth most serious human service issues impacting Arlington residents.

The primary provider of mental health services for low- to moderate-income individuals in Tarrant County is Mental Health Mental Retardation (MHMR). In 2001, 49% of MHMR's adult clients and 34% of adolescent clients from Arlington were served outside of Arlington due to lack of service slots available within the city.

The Arlington Life Shelter, an agency that serves the homeless, offers shelter residents a Telemedicine program. Through this program,

shelter residents can obtain mental health services from a doctor located in Fort Worth through a television monitor. However, this service is limited to those residing at the shelter facility.

**4) Services for Individuals with Disabilities**

According to the 2000 U.S. Census data, approximately 33,656 individuals in Arlington have disabilities. This includes 2,794 between the ages of 5 and 20, 24,703 between the ages of 21 and 64, and 6,159 among those 65 and older.

A number of public service agencies provide services to the disabled population. The following is an outline of agencies and services available to Arlington residents.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Services</b>
AIDS Outreach Center	Comprehensive services for residents with HIV/AIDS. Services include case management, nutritional support, legal services, transportation, housing assistance, buddy support, counseling, support groups, youth services, education, workplace seminars, HIV testing, lobbying, and voter registration.
Advocates for Special People	Provides adult day care for individuals with disabilities.
Arlington Adult Day Health Care Center	Center provides adult day care, meals, and activities.
Architectural Barrier Removal Program – City of Arlington, Neighborhood Services Grants Management	Provides alterations and barrier removal in residential spaces for low- to moderate-income individuals with disabilities.
Goodwill Industries	Services include vocational evaluation and vocational rehabilitation for low-income individuals with physical and mental disabilities.
Handitran – City of Arlington	Provides door to door transportation for adults with disabilities.
Texas Department of Health – Children with Special Health Care Needs Program	Provides case management, limited transportation and reimbursement for medical evaluation and treatment.
Texas Rehabilitation Commission	Provides vocational rehabilitation services, independent living transitional skills, and medical rehabilitation services.
UCP of Tarrant County	Provides emergency case management for individuals with disabilities, referral to housing, and assistance with access to disability benefits.

**5) Substance Abuse**

Substance abuse continues to be a problem among low- to moderate-income individuals in Arlington. In 2002, the United Way hotline

received 38 requests for substance abuse assistance. This number increased to 52 in 2003. In 2002, Tarrant Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (TCADA) assisted 6,921 Arlington residents.

Various agencies serving the youth emphasize substance abuse education and prevention. Until recently, adolescents also received information through the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program. This was a cooperative effort between the Arlington Police Department and Arlington Independent School District to teach 6<sup>th</sup> graders skills in avoiding drug abuse. However, this program was eliminated in 2002 due to budgetary cuts. The following is a list of current programs available to the youth population of Arlington.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Program</b>
Boys and Girls Clubs	SMART Moves Program
Girls, Inc	Drug Prevention Program
Junior League of Arlington	Fatal Choices/Shattered Dreams
Tarrant Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse	Sunshine Club Prevention Services Ascent Prevention Services Ground Zero Intervention Services

Education, prevention, and referrals are also provided to adults from various human services agencies. However, actual treatment services for substance abuse are limited. For example, Tarrant County Challenge offers treatment to low- and moderate-income individuals. However, among the 26 Tarrant County Challenge locations that offer substance abuse treatment, only two are located in Arlington. The following is a list of current options for those with substance abuse issues.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Services</b>
Center Street Counseling Services	Provides individuals and couples with family counseling, premarital counseling, divorce adjustment, sexual abuse recovery, chemical dependency treatment, parenting training, and stress management.
Milwood Hospital – Rapha Christian Counseling	Provides faith-based treatment for chemical dependency for those with insurance or sufficient financial resources to pay for treatment.
Tarrant Community Outreach	Provides outpatient substance abuse education and treatment, chemical dependency assessments, programs for anger control, domestic violence, theft intervention, and family counseling.
Tarrant Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse	Provides case management, information and referral, and assessment to those with substance abuse issues. Also provides community and school-based education, professional workshops, public awareness, parent education, children’s support group, at-risk youth intervention, and life skills training. Services are provided in Fort Worth.

In 2003, AHSP conducted a study of medical resources. The study concluded that Arlington does not have a non-profit substance abuse detoxification center for adults and youth. Adults in need of detoxification or rehabilitation are referred to the Billy Gregory Center or the Pine Street Residential Treatment Center, both of which are located in Fort Worth. Arlington's youth are referred to the Tarrant Youth Recovery Campus in Fort Worth. While this facility has 16 beds, it is the only residential treatment center available for all Tarrant County adolescents. The study also stated that there is a need for non-profit treatment services that can serve dually diagnosed individuals, including indigent persons.

**6) Youth Services**

According to the 2000 Census data, 51,066 households include an individual younger than 18 years of age. This constitutes 41% of the households in Arlington. Due to the number of households with adolescents, programs and services for the youth population remain a priority. This includes shelters, counseling, mentoring, tutoring, and after school programs. The 2000 Youth Assets and Challenges study by AHSP found that the lack of opportunity for involvement by youth of all ages reduces youth asset development. For example, the study found that students in mentoring programs performed better in school work and school attendance. Various programs exist in Arlington to promote youth development. The following is a list of current programs available to the low- and moderate-income youth population in Arlington.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Services</b>
Youth Center	Boys and Girls Clubs of Arlington	Youth centers at main branch, schools, and apartments. After school programs, transportation, and drop out prevention.
	Girls, Inc. of Tarrant County	Youth center at schools for children and teens. Provides tutoring, activities, and summer child care.
	City of Arlington Parks and Recreation	Youth centers located at recreations facilities.
	YMCA	Youth center at elementary schools. Summer care, before and after school care, fitness.
Childcare	Child Care Associates	Childcare for preschool children, head start, and early head start.
	Clayton Yes!	Childcare and after school care.
	YWCA of Fort Worth and Tarrant County	Childcare for homeless population, children of UTA students, and low- to moderate-income working parents.
Other	Big Brothers Big Sisters	Mentoring
	Bridge Youth Services	Provides education and fatherhood initiative to parents of children under age six.

	Girls Scouts Circle T Council	Provides activities for children and teens.
	HOPE Tutoring	Provides tutoring and assistance with homework to 4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> graders.

The popularity and use of these current programs demonstrates the need for youth services in Arlington.

- In school year 2003-2004, 1,886 children total were served in after school programs provided by Girls Inc., Boys and Girls Clubs, and the YMCA.
- In 2003, Mission Arlington provided after school care to 21,283 students through 49 different sites.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas reports 800 children on their waiting list for a mentor. Children often wait an average of two to three years for a mentor.

**7) Workforce Training and Development**

Arlington's unemployment has followed the national trend. Due to economic conditions of the last five years, Arlington has experienced an increase in unemployment. Unemployment has increased from 2.6% in 1999 to 5.5% in 2003. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate in Fort Worth-Arlington in May 2004 was 5.4%, slightly below the national rate of 5.6% for the same period. The increase in unemployment has created a greater need for employment services. For example, United Way received 151 requests for employment assistance in 2002. In 2003, the agency received 272 requests.

The Center for Continuing Education and Workforce Development was built on campus at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) and houses the following partners: the Texas Workforce Commission, Workforce Solutions, the UTA Continuing Education and Human Resources Department, a Small Business Development Center, the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center, the Tarrant County College District, Fort Worth and Arlington Independent School Districts, Serco, Inc., Goodwill Industries, and the Women's Center. This facility is a collaborative effort and services as a one-stop shop for employment training, job search, career counseling, vocational training, tuition assistance, resume assistance, and phone access. In addition to the Workforce Development facility, a number of human service organizations include employment services in their case management of clients. For example, Mission Arlington provided job counseling to 720 unduplicated individuals in 2003. Each organization services a specific sector of the population, such as the disabled or victims of domestic violence, with employment counseling, training, and assistance.

**8) Other Public Service Needs**

In addition to services for individuals with disabilities, transportation, health care, substance abuse treatment, and workforce development,

a number of other public service needs exist in Arlington. This includes the need for emergency financial assistance, food, clothing, and legal services. A number of public service agencies assist with these needs. Low- to moderate-income residents may receive assistance through Arlington Charities, Arlington Urban Ministries, Wesley Mission Center, Mission Arlington, and Community Action Partners.

While agencies exist to serve these needs, evidence from the United Way hotline demonstrates an increase in requests. In response to these needs, the United Way has initiated a Crisis Relief Impact Council, which is funded to address emergency needs that are not able to be addressed by any other organization.

*Emergency Financial Assistance:* In 2002, United Way received 4,718 requests for financial assistance. This number increased to 6,968 in 2003. Financial assistance has been the number one request from Arlington residents who have called the hotline. Specifically, residents request assistance in paying their electric bill and rent.

*Food:* The assistance with food has been the second most frequent request from Arlington residents who have called the United Way hotline. In 2002, 1,011 food requests were made. In 2003, 1,374 requests for food were received. This includes assistance regarding food pantries and acquiring food stamps.

*Clothing:* In 2002, 192 requests for clothing were made to the United Way hotline by Arlington residents. This increased to 274 in 2003.

*Legal Assistance:* In 2002, the United Way hotline received 249 requests for legal assistance from Arlington residents. In 2003, 324 requests were made. These include requests for low-cost representation and landlord/tenant issues.

**9) Anti-Crime**

In 2002, with the exception of murder, every category of crime in Arlington was higher than the national average. In 2003, rape was up for the third year in a row. However, all other crimes noted were down in 2003 from 2002. The following table summarizes the new crime data for Arlington compared to the national average in 2002.

Crime Type	2002 Total	Per 100,000 People	National Per 100,000 People
<b>Overall Arlington Crime Index</b>	23594	6784	4118.8
Arlington murders	14	4.03	5.6
Arlington forcible rapes	152	43.7	33.0
Arlington robberies	794	228.3	145.9
Arlington aggravated assaults	1242	357.11	310.1
Arlington burglaries	3638	1046.04	746.2
Arlington larceny/thefts	15746	4527.46	2445.8
Arlington motor vehicle thefts	2008	577.36	432.1
Arlington arsons	73	20.99	N/A

\*\* Information is based on Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Reports and the Arlington Police Department.

The Arlington Police Department continues to work towards crime prevention through the Crime Prevention Unit (CPU), which includes eight police officers and one civilian employee. The CPU takes a community-based approach to crime prevention and has a number of anti-crime programs in place. Crime awareness programs include security checks, stranger danger programs, and safety education.

The department also conducts adult education to promote personal safety, fraud prevention, robbery prevention, safety for senior citizens, home security, and training in suspicious behavior. Their child education program includes 911 training, stranger danger, bicycle safety, and training for those who stay home alone. Current crime prevention programs include Arlington Crime-Free Multi-Housing (includes over 70 properties), Citizen Police Academy, Operation Identification, Community Watch Organizations, Business Crime Watch Organizations, and Car Audio Recovery. The Arlington Police Department also sponsors the annual National Night Out. This program was an award winner in 2003 for garage burglary prevention. Other anti-crime efforts also include the Victims Assistance Program, which provides crisis counseling, crisis prevention, information and referral, community education, court accompaniment, and transportation to crime victims.

Two new crime prevention programs were implemented in 2002. The first, an Asian Citizens Police Academy, was designed to build positive relationships between police officers and the community through eight weeks of course instruction. Forty-three Arlington residents completed the program in 2002. The second initiative, Seguridad Bancaria, is designed to improve Mexican immigrant access and understanding of financial banking services. The program is a partnership between the Arlington Police Department, the Mexican Consulate, and participating Arlington banks.

Youth violence has been identified by Arlington Human Service Planners as the sixth most serious issue affecting residents of Arlington. In the 2000 Arlington Youth Assets and Challenges study, AHSP stated that prevention programs work in reducing youth crimes. However, sufficient gang prevention programs are not available in schools or in apartment complexes in Arlington. The study also stated that lack of funds and lack of transportation prevented youth from participating in adult-supervised activities at youth-serving agencies, faith-based agencies, the City's Parks and Recreation Department, and schools. Further, a lack of consistent time with caring adults predisposes youth to gangs.

**d. Economic Development (High Priority)**

Economic development activities and issues are addressed by the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, which works toward stimulating the local economy, attracting quality businesses, and developing and retaining a productive workforce. The mission of the Chamber's Economic Development Council is "to stimulate job growth in Arlington

through target industry cluster recruitment; retention and expansion; building Arlington's image and brand recognition; and enhancing the economic climate to establish Arlington's competitive position."

**Business Climate:** The city has a business friendly attitude and offers various financial incentives to attract companies. The city has five business parks, which include two state designated enterprise zones.

**Industries:** Industries located in Arlington include trade, manufacturing, government, TCPU (transportation, communication, and public utility), construction, FIRE (finance, insurance, and real estate), mining, and service.

**Workforce:** Approximately 70% of the population is between the ages of 18 and 44. Eighty-six percent (86%) of Arlington's population graduated from high school. Arlington ranks eighth in the nation for adults with a bachelor's degree or higher. As outlined in the *Arlington 2025* plan, the city has a goal of establishing a community "with workforce development and education systems aligned to support economic development strategies." The new Center for Continuing Education and Workforce Development is an example of such a system. This new facility, which opened in 2004, is a collaborative effort between the City and the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). The facility is located on the UTA campus and offers a variety of services related to job training and education. This center serves as a one-stop shop for job training needs.

In addition, the Arlington Chamber of Commerce takes a proactive approach to workforce development. To meet needs, the Chamber created the Quality Workforce Development Council. The mission of this Council is to "build a quality employer's workforce by linking together resources that meet workforce acquisition, development and retention requirements." The Quality Workforce Development Council sponsors a number of programs aimed at job training. This includes the Arlington JobsNow Forum, which is a monthly forum sponsored by the Arlington Chamber of Commerce. The JobsNow Forum brings together Arlington's employers and those seeking employment to discuss available opportunities and employment needs. The Chamber also sponsors job fairs, which inform interested citizens of employment opportunities. Finally, the Chamber partners with regional organizations to provide an annual summit for workforce development. The Chamber coordinates with the Fort Worth and Dallas Chambers of Commerce and local Workforce Development Boards to organize the summit. Employers, educators, and other professionals join together to discuss various issues and ideas to improve work development.

The Central Arlington Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) is in need of an intensive economic development plan to expand job opportunities for low to moderate-income individuals and to bring businesses to this low income area. Specific information about the needs of this target area are outlined in Section VI.

**e. Historic Preservation (Medium Priority)**

Historic preservation efforts in Arlington are coordinated through the Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC). The mission of the LPC is “to provide leadership in identifying, protecting, and developing Arlington’s historic structures, districts, and sites and to educate citizens and visitors on the city’s past and how it relates to its present and affects its future.” The city currently has two nationally registered districts, Old Town Historic District and South Center Street Historic District. The city also has three properties with national markers and several historic properties that have received Texas Historical Markers.

One of the city’s goals in *Arlington 2025* is to build a community that preserves its history, including the preservation of historic structures. According to a study completed in 1996, over 400 structures within the city may be classified as historic. Further, the current housing stock will continue to age and many units will reach the 50-year mark over the next five years, which potentially makes them historical. According to the 2000 Census, 11,848 housing structures were built prior to 1959. This constitutes 8.8% of the current housing stock. With the continuous aging of structures, the need for preservation will continue over the next five years.

**f. Neighborhood Integrity (High Priority)**

In *Arlington 2025*, several goals are outlined for the city’s communities and neighborhoods. This includes making Arlington a community that fosters pride through an aesthetically pleasing environment and a community with strong and sustainable neighborhoods. With *Arlington 2025* still in the planning phase, objectives and strategies to further these goals are being developed.

The major emphasis over the next five years will be the enhancement of a strong and sustainable neighborhood in Central Arlington (see Section VI). A strategy will be implemented whereby this targeted low-income neighborhood will receive concentrated entitlement funds to significantly improve conditions in the area.

**g. Planning (High Priority)**

The City of Arlington has identified planning activities and administrative support as high priority needs, due to the need for coordinated development in the Central Arlington NRSA. Quality planning ensures that programs are well developed and effective in meeting community needs. Sufficient administrative supports ensure that federal dollars are properly applied toward the intended use and that performance outcomes are used to constantly improve programs and services.

The City of Arlington will continue to coordinate efforts with entities such as the Chamber of Commerce, University of Texas at Arlington, North Central Texas Council of Governments, Tarrant County Homeless Coalition, Tarrant County College, and private sector partners to further the goals of the Consolidated Plan and to maximize federal dollars to meet local needs.

Future planning studies include the Abram Street Corridor Study and a new *Historic Resources Survey*. Additional planning efforts will be coordinated by Neighborhood Services Grants Management staff as needed.

## **2. Basis for Assigning Priority Needs**

The basis for determining priority community development needs in Arlington includes analysis of recent studies and reports, as well as consultations with citizens and community groups. Examples of reports that were used to determine priority needs include (see Section VIII-G and H for a complete list of plans and consultations):

- *Downtown Master Plan for Arlington*, Fregonese Calthorpe Associates, 2004.
- *Central Arlington Priority Projects Letter*, John Fregonese, March 2, 2005.
- *North Central Texas Strategic Plan, 2003-2007*.
- *Fair Housing Impediment Study*, J-Quad and Associates, 2002.
- *Arlington 2025*, Plan in progress.
- *Tarrant County Homeless Survey*, Tarrant County Homeless Coalition, 2002 and 2004.
- *Taking it to the Next Level: Strategic Plan for Arlington's Economic Growth and Development*, Arlington Chamber of Commerce, 2002
- *2004 Survey of Health and Human Service Needs*, Arlington Human Service Planners.
- *Final Report*, 2004 Citizen Policy Review Committee.
- City of Arlington Budgets and Plans.

## **3. Obstacles for Meeting Underserved Needs**

Obstacles to meeting underserved needs include capacity problems of social services providers and lack of funding. For example, the provider of youth shelter services is experiencing capacity problems, including loss of funding and staff. Community leaders have come together in a series of public forums to find a solution. The need for public services far exceeds the amount available for this activity. The City of Arlington uses the maximum funds available each year for public service requests. Remaining needs are addressed through collaborative community efforts.

## **4. Objectives for Housing, Suitable Living Environment, and Economic Development**

Objectives for housing, suitable living environment, and economic development are summarized in Section I and reiterated below. Housing priorities will include:

- New affordable housing;
- Homeownership assistance;
- Housing rehabilitation; and
- Emergency shelter and transitional and permanent supported housing for individuals facing homelessness.

Priorities to improve the safety and livability of low- to moderate-income neighborhoods include:

- Infrastructure enhancements such as streetscapes, pedestrian walkways, and utility improvements and
- Public service programs such as transportation, youth tutoring, meals for seniors, dental health services, and child care.

Priority economic development activities include:

- Establishing the Central Arlington Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA);
- Business Façade Improvements; and
- New Mixed-use Development.

## **B. Antipoverty Strategy**

### **1. Goals and Policies for Reducing Poverty**

The City of Arlington plans to fund the maximum amount allowed for public services to help reduce the number of poverty level families. CDBG public service dollars will be used to assist low-income families with issues such as transportation, child care, case management, meals, emergency shelter, and other supportive services. In addition, the City will coordinate with public and private organizations to produce and preserve affordable housing and related services for low income persons in the jurisdiction.

According to the 1990 Census, Arlington had approximately 3,901 families in poverty. By 2000, this number had increased by 61 percent to 6,300 poverty level families. In subsequent years, poverty estimates have increased to 8,448 families according to the 2003 American Community Survey, an increase of 34 percent over the 2000 family poverty estimate. The City of Arlington plans to reduce the number of families in poverty through additional strategies such as:

- Continued funding for housing, community, and economic development programs and services to low-income residents;
- Concentrated redevelopment and services in the Central Arlington Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area, where approximately one in four persons lives in poverty;
- Continued support of the Arlington Human Service Planners;
- Continued support of services to homeless families and families at risk of homelessness to increase housing options;
- Continued support of information and referral networks to allow easier access to community resources; and
- Dissemination of information about specific anti-poverty programs such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, Family Self-Sufficiency Program, Head Start, and mainstream public assistance resources (e.g., TANF, Food Stamps, Workforce Investment Act, and Medicaid).

### **2. Impact of Strategies on Poverty**

The City's strategy for reducing poverty is anticipated to slow the growth of poverty from 2005 to 2010 by providing increased economic opportunity, more affordable housing in targeted low-income areas, and continued support of public service programs.