

13.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

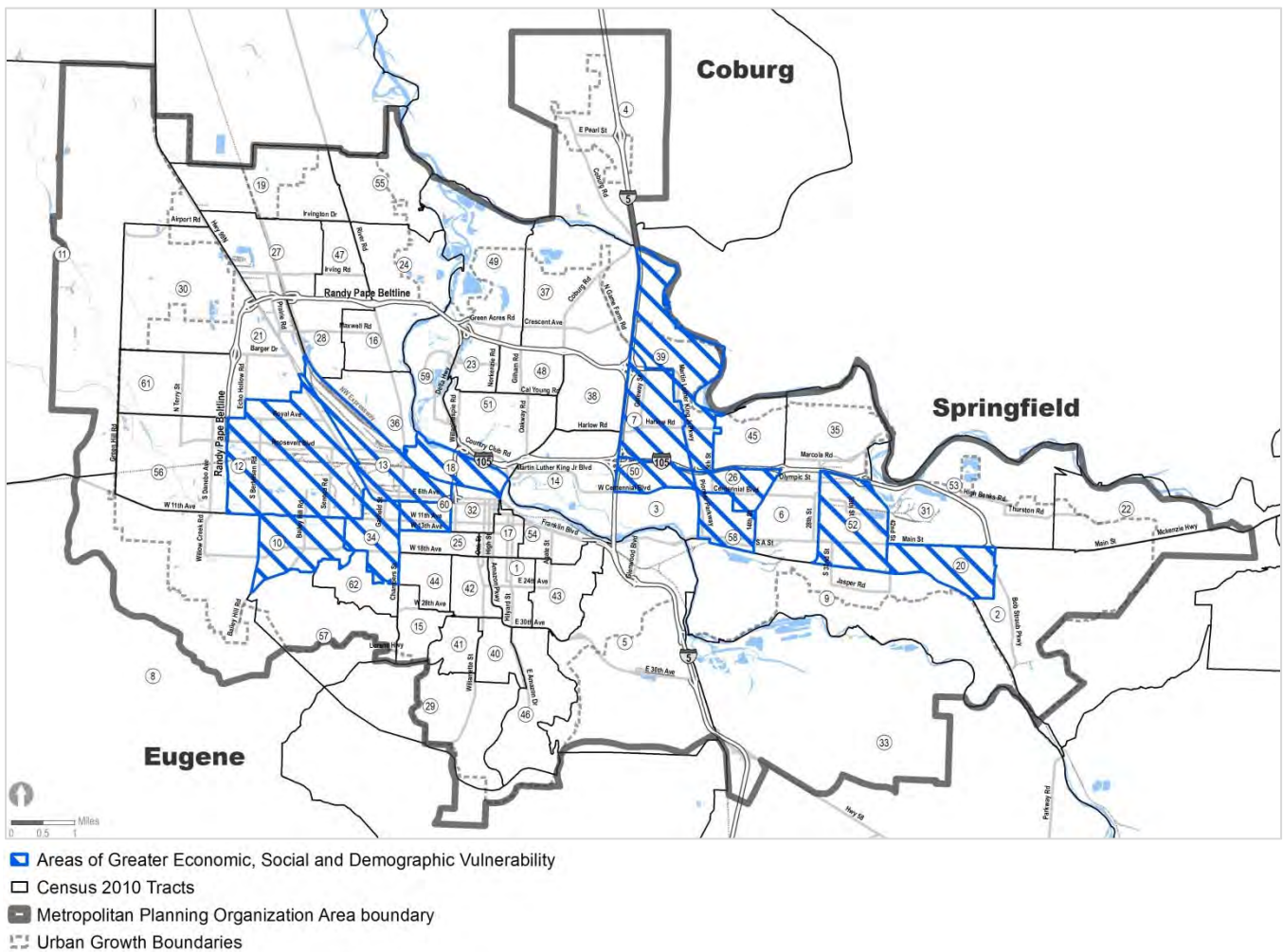
For the first time in our region, the information and maps developed for the Equity & Opportunity Assessment have been grouped together and analyzed using common methods for all categories of data. This systematic analysis allows for comparison of factors within and across categories. Each category provides an assessment of access to opportunity for residents of a census tract. With this information, decision-makers are able to view and compare a wide range of characteristics of opportunity among places within our region.

The following chapter identifies conclusions from the geographic analysis of equity, access, and opportunity; describes how this body of work may be incorporated into the overall regional structure of planning and investment decision making; and identifies specific opportunities associated with the four core areas of economic prosperity, housing and community development, transportation, and public health.

13.1. Findings from Geographic Analysis of Equity, Access, and Opportunity

Throughout this Assessment, characteristics of different neighborhoods have been examined to look at residents' access to opportunities. Overall findings indicate that there are some differences in geographic access to opportunities for residents. However, the compact size of our region and overall disbursement of lower income populations has limited these differences. Nevertheless, there are some areas in the community with both higher percentages of vulnerable populations and greater economic vulnerability across multiple factors. These areas do not meet the HUD criteria for racially or ethnically concentrated areas of poverty (RCAPs/ECAPs) at this point in time but could in the future. These tracts are identified in the map below.

Figure 13.1. Areas of Greater Economic, Social and Demographic Vulnerability Map



The picture of where opportunity exists in the Assessment area varies for housing, education, employment, transportation, and safety, health, and wellness. As a result, there are no areas that have the greatest access to opportunity across all these factors. Again, the compact development patterns and disbursed employment, education, transportation, and park/recreational facilities improve access to opportunity for the community as whole.

There are some variations that can be identified. In general, more central areas have greater access to transportation, housing, and employment opportunities but lesser access to educational opportunities and positive health and wellness influences. Areas along major transportation corridors have a concentration of industrial uses that offer significant access to employment opportunities but also have more negative safety, health, and wellness influences. These areas include West Eugene West 11th, Roosevelt Boulevard, and Hwy 99 areas, and in Springfield along the Pioneer Parkway, Gateway Street, and Main Street areas. Variations by specific factors are summarized below.

- **Housing** – Housing is more affordable in core areas although subsidized affordable housing and manufactured home parks are scattered throughout the region. Renter housing cost burden indicators are quite high, but are strongly impacted by the presence of many college students. Even for those living in subsidized affordable housing, these costs remain a significant challenge.
- **Education** - Educational opportunity tends to be greatest in outlying areas where there children make up a greater proportion of the population and there is better access to elementary schools. There are two tracts in west Eugene and multiple tracts in Springfield along Pioneer Parkway and Main Street where 14 to 20 percent of the residents do not have a high school diploma. There is a strong correlation between the educational achievement of adults and their children.
- **Employment** – The core areas and areas along major transportation corridors have more employment opportunities and better access to transportation than outer portions of the region. While there is greater access in core areas, these areas also have varying labor force participation and unemployment rates. The lower participations rates are due in part to a larger number of college students, seniors, and persons with disabilities. There are two tracts with unemployment rates exceeding 18% including the Highway 99 tract and a tract along Pioneer Parkway.
- **Transportation** – As a whole, the Assessment Area has a very low average commute time and a very high rate for use of alternative modes of travel in comparison with other metropolitan areas. The areas with the highest rates of alternative modes are in core areas including around the University of Oregon, downtown Eugene, and in the tract along Highway 99. It is difficult to determine where reliance on alternative modes is an active choice or an indicator of economic hardship based on qualitative data alone. Through outreach to Latino residents and residents of affordable housing, it apparent that economic hardship does play a role in some areas. In addition, the inability to legally obtain a drivers license also impacts undocumented persons.
- **Safety, Health, and Wellness** - The core areas have less positive health and wellness influences, including downtown Eugene, the areas along Highway 99 and West 11th Avenue in Eugene, and along Main Street in Springfield. Most of the less positive health and wellness influences in the core areas include greater need for emergency services and greater potential exposure to pollutants. In comparison, the regions outside these core areas have lower percentages of vulnerable populations in the south, southwest, and northeast Eugene, and in East and south Springfield. These are all locations, with the exception for the University area, that also have lower economic stress and vulnerability.

13.2. Incorporating Equity and Opportunity

As part of the process of development the Equity and Opportunity Assessment, four workshops were conducted to specifically consider where and how issues of equity, access, and opportunity might be considered in the region's plans, investments, and decision-making processes. Other ideas were gleaned from key informant interviews, community consultations, as well as from engagement with Latino residents and residents of affordable housing.

First and foremost, the Assessment process highlighted many community core values, especially those held in common by many community stakeholder agencies and organizations. Alignment of these goals could help and be helped by opening lines of communication across disciplines. Additionally, developing common language can help cross-disciplinary communication, allowing stakeholders to understand the nuances of equity issues, especially as factors compound and influence choices of residents in this region.

Stakeholders also asserted the importance of sharing data and contributing to upkeep of certain data sets. Frequent requests for maps initially displayed during this process indicate there is intense community interest without the resources to share and distribute this data. Participants consistently identified opportunities to incorporate issues of equity, access, and opportunity into public engagement, plans, policies, investments, and leveraging resources. Specific ideas and recommendations related to each of these topics are provided below.

Public Engagement

Use of maps of different factors offer critical information not only inform public engagement efforts but also to engage the public and increase the community's understanding of issues of equity, access and opportunity. Participants in many workshops identified opportunities to leverage resources in public engagement, especially in outreach to areas of the community affected by multiple investments.

- Data can help agencies and organizations identify and target outreach and education strategies to engage the public and/or specific vulnerable populations.
- The visual nature of this data can help residents relate to and contextualize data.
- Data can help residents engage perceptions of community characteristics.
- Data can help diversify the voices heard and included in community discussions and create a culture of civic engagement

Plans

Most agencies have started to intentionally recognize interconnections across multiple planning areas and are seeking data and information from other areas and sources beyond their central focus area as they develop plans. For example, some organizations have begun to shift towards consideration of triple bottom-line principles in the development of their plans and need better information on equity issues. A number of agency staff have already utilized the maps and data generated to inform current planning efforts.

Similar to the results of the Key Informant Interviews, equity is embedded in many of the Eugene-Springfield region's governing documents and has been examined through many lenses. Plans and analyses are often developed in "silos" to meet specific funding requirements or are tailored to fit an organizational framework, making for difficult translation across disciplines. Furthermore, the geographic scale and extent of each plan

varies, leading to incomplete data sets at the regional level in some categories. To fill these information gaps, an analysis such as the Equity and Opportunity Assessment can provide a connection between these somewhat isolated efforts.

Participants were interested in applying EOA data to the work they do through agency and organizational planning in the following ways.

- Using EOA mapped data, stakeholders can define and understand the factors that contribute to vulnerability of specific populations, especially when trying to plan for these populations. These vulnerabilities can be identified based on the concentration of multiple factors in specific geographic areas in the region or for a population as a whole.
- Help staff and decision-makers better-understand the geographic distribution and gradation of issues facing certain areas of the Eugene-Springfield region.
- Integrate data from other disciplines into upcoming plan revisions to achieve coordinated regional goals.
- Inform mandated planning activities to consider equity and access as the region accommodates change and growth over the next planning horizon.

Lastly, the Assessment offers critical insights that will benefit the region as it revises and updates its core regional plans including the Metro Plan, Regional Transportation System Plan, Economic Prosperity Plan, and Consolidated Plan.

Policies

Several agencies have started to apply a triple-bottom line lens as elected officials and leaders make specific policy decisions. Readily available data on equity issues that is broadly available make it much easier to incorporate such data into these policy decisions. Specific recommendations and ideas are described below.

- Help staff transparently describe the need for specific policies.
- Identify issues and align policies in multiple disciplines to achieve regionally-desired equity and access outcomes.
- Inform the siting of services to assure access by all users, especially target populations.
- Establish regionally-relevant eligibility thresholds for funding and/or programs.

Investments

Data and information provided through this report offer a finer grain of context to decision-makers as they strategically allocate funding resources throughout the region. Investments can help those residents disproportionately affected by policy decisions achieve greater access to areas of higher opportunity, as well as make “good” geographic areas “great.”

- Identify geographic areas or specific populations ripe for investments across many disciplines and funding resources.
- Leverage investments across disciplines.

- Comprehensively address disproportionate exposure or impact on certain geographies and/or populations
- Make greater positive impacts (greater return on investment) to increase opportunities for residents.
- Sustain and improve access to and quality of existing services and infrastructure
- Disburse and ameliorate endemic conditions, such as poverty
- Data can help organizations serving the region to strategically build capacity

Leveraging Resources

The data and findings offered through this report has already supported multiple grant applications by public and nonprofit organizations. Many partners have commented on the time spent searching for such information and the difficulty of piecing together data from a variety of sources. This resource offers a one-stop shop for grant seekers and also helps to raise awareness of the data resources and information that are available.

13.3. Incorporating Equity and Opportunity into Specific Planning and Investment Areas

The following section summarizes ways to specifically incorporate issues of equity, access, and opportunity into the areas of housing, transportation, economic prosperity, and public health. Each section identifies the major organizations and major investments on the horizon.

As context, it is important to understand there are a number of public agencies and other supporting organizations that are responsible for the functions of government within the Metropolitan Area. Some agencies, such as units of city and county government, play roles in most areas. Some other agencies may only be involved in one specific area. These agencies work together through a number of different decision making forums, intergovernmental agreements, and plans to advance transportation, land use, affordable housing, human services, economic development, public health, and other community goals. Understanding the roles of various community agencies and plans is critical to the identification of places where to add considerations of issues of equity, access, and opportunity.

Transportation

The four units of local government as well as Oregon Department of Transportation play central roles in the development and maintenance of transportation infrastructure for vehicular traffic as well as alternative modes. The Lane Transit District is the public agency responsible for public transit an area that includes all of Lane County.

Oregon’s transportation network is governed at the state level by a series of planning documents, all of which include the values of equity and access at their core. Transportation for the Eugene-Springfield region is guided by the following transportation documents:

- Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)²³⁴ – Amalgamated from the three municipal Transportation System Plans of Eugene, Springfield, and Coburg satisfying the Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). Under Objective 2,²³⁵ the RTP considers both accessibility and mobility, including physical proximity and ease of reaching destinations for all modes and those transportation disadvantaged throughout the urban metropolitan area. Mobility is measured in travel time, guiding decisions related to equitable access to transportation to help less advantaged population reach the opportunities they seek. Objective 6²³⁶ focuses on equity, as “This objective communicates our desire to ensure that the benefits and the impacts of our transportation system are socially equitable and respect basic civil rights. An equitable transportation system allows people to gain access to good jobs, education, and needed services as affordably as possible.”

²³⁴ Central Lane MPO Regional Transportation Plan, December 11, 2011. http://www.lcog.org/documents/mpo/rtp/2035/RTP_Chapters1-4_Adopted_Dec-11.pdf

²³⁵ Central Lane MPO Regional Transportation Plan, December, 2011. Chapter 2, Page 4. http://www.lcog.org/documents/mpo/rtp/2035/RTP_Chapters1-4_Adopted_Dec-11.pdf

²³⁶ Central Lane MPO Regional Transportation Plan, Chapter 2, page6

- Lane Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan²³⁷ -- The purpose of this plan to identify how human service providers and transportation agencies coordinate efforts to provide for transportation needs of older populations, people with disabilities and limited incomes.
- TransPlan²³⁸ -- Includes provisions for meeting the transportation demand of residents and through travelers through the year 2021 while addressing transportation issues and making changes that can contribute to improvements in the region's quality of life and economic vitality. Provides “adequate levels of accessibility and mobility for the efficient movement of people, goods, and services within the region” as well as “strategies that improve the economic vitality of the region and enhance economic opportunity.”
- Title VI analysis –Central Lane MPO’s presents their commitment to “preventing discrimination and to fostering a just and equitable society” by eliminating barriers and conditions that prevent groups and persons from receiving access, participation and benefits from federally assisted programs, services and activities as a result of their race, color, national origin, disability, age, gender, or income status.

The Assessment data can inform a broad array of transportation plans, programs, investments, and public participation strategies. Recommendations for how to incorporate issues of equity, access, and opportunity into these areas are identified below.

- A number of opportunities have been identified to utilize Equity and Opportunity Assessment to inform an array of transportation plans, investments, and public participations processes.
- Incorporate EOA data and findings into regional scenario planning for transportation related greenhouse gas emissions.
- Utilize Assessment data and findings in transportation investments decisions such as prioritization of road improvements and transit investments.
- EOA data can also serve a useful resource for corridor transportation plans and specific projects. The City of Eugene and Lane Transit District plan to utilize this data to inform their approach to planning for the next Bus Rapid Transit corridor.
- Utilize EOA data in multiple regional and citywide planning process including transportation system plans, regional transportation options plans, transit plans, and bicycle and pedestrian plans.
- Consider using EOA data to develop criteria for prioritization of project funding.
- Utilize EOA data to inform development of comprehensive plans.
- Identify opportunities for connecting transportation and land use concerns with other community concerns such as economic development and health.
- Given that the cost of public transportation emerged as a key barrier in the EOA, there is a need to identify and advance strategies to ameliorate this issue. In particular, the loss of the free student bus pass has had a host of negative impacts for students as well as their families. Many expressed interest

²³⁷ The 2013 Lane Coordinated Plan, Lane Transit District, <http://www.ltd.org/search/showresult.html?versionthread=a9e3799fe7e10b5fb29b109c6269cc49>

²³⁸ Lane Council of Governments, “TransPlan” 2002. <http://www.lcog.org/transplan.cfm>

in the idea of residential group passes and support for reinstatement of the free student bus pass program.

- In particular, the perspectives gleaned from affordable housing residents point to significant concerns about traffic safety and provide support for greater and targeted investments to address issues such as sidewalk connectivity, cross walks, signals, speed, and lighting concerns.

Land Use

The Metropolitan Plan (Metro Plan) has served as the comprehensive plan for the City of Eugene and City of Springfield since 1972 and has been updated periodically since that time. The Metro Plan reflects the “comprehensive nature encompassing physical land use, social, and economic implications for the metropolitan area.” Metro Plan establishes a cooperative framework to help in the planning and implementation of growth management, residential land use and housing, economic, environmental resources, transportation, public facilities, public services, energy resources, and citizen involvement decision-making. The Metro Plan provides an overall framework for the future of the two jurisdictions and is supplemented by more detailed refinement plans, programs, and policies.

- Both Eugene and Springfield are in the process of adopting 20-year comprehensive plans (Envision Eugene and Springfield 2030). As these plans move into implementation, the EOA provides a wealth of community information to inform almost every planning effort.
- Specifically, efforts in Eugene are underway to determine the best approach for expansion of the industrial lands inventory.
- Another project is underway to better understand current environmental justice issues in Northwest Eugene.
- Identify opportunities for connecting transportation and land use concerns with other community concerns such as economic development and health.

Economic Development, Workforce, and Financial Stability

The region’s efforts to achieve economic prosperity are led by a coalition of public and business organizations that work together through multiple forums. The Lane Workforce Partnership and the Metro Partnership are nongovernmental agencies that provide significant support for regional workforce development and economic development activities. Both Eugene and Springfield also have Chambers of Commerce. In addition, Lane Community College plays a significant role in providing the education necessary for gainful employment.

These efforts are guided by several specific plans that are summarized below.

- 2010-2015 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy²³⁹ - Regional commitment to a diversified economy with a range of employment opportunities that provide stable family wage jobs, lifelong learning and training opportunities, sustainable natural resources, and an integrated infrastructure.

²³⁹ <http://eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/2140>

- Lane Workforce Partnership Local Strategic Unified Workforce Plan²⁴⁰ -- To meet the workforce needs of employers and individuals through partnerships and innovation by serving businesses, universal job seekers, and low-income adults.
- Regional Prosperity Economic Development Plan²⁴¹ -- Provides a shared vision for economic development that builds upon the region's existing assets and resources by reducing unemployment rate to the state average or below and increasing the average wage to exceed the state average.
- Eugene-Springfield Consolidated Plan 2010-2015²⁴² -- Both Eugene and Springfield have utilized Community Development Block Grant funds to support a range of efforts to increase job opportunities, support emerging businesses, and improve downtown and neighborhood business districts.

The Assessment data can inform a broad array of economic prosperity plans, programs, investments, and public participation strategies. Recommendations for how to incorporate issues of equity, access, and opportunity into these areas are identified below.

- Use EOA data to inform economic development, workforce, and financial stability plans, investments, and public participations processes. In particular, EOA can be used to identify linkages between education, workforce development, and economic development.
- Utilize EOA data to draw connections between existing workforce characteristics, training resources, and site planning.
- Use EOA data in the prioritization of brownfield redevelopment opportunities. This recommendation has already been implemented by the regional Brownfields Coalition which received a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Identify types, locations, and mix of desired businesses and services appropriate for neighborhood business development and recruitment.
- Identify “hot spots” within the community that are eligible for funding programs or could be ripe for private business investment, including redevelopment of brownfields.
- Use data to identify environmental justice impacts related to existing and proposed industrial expansion areas.
- Support the development of area plans for economic prosperity where there is greater economic vulnerability.

Housing, Human Services, and Community Development

The development and maintenance of the region's housing is perhaps one of the most complex policy and investment areas. Local units of government play central roles in planning for the location and future development but are reliant upon private developers to build housing and private owners to maintain the housing stock. Local jurisdictions and Oregon Housing and Community Services direct resources for the

²⁴⁰ <http://laneworkforce.org/media/LWP-2007-09Plan%20Mod.pdf>

²⁴¹ <http://www.eugene-or.gov/index.aspx?NID=815>

²⁴² “Eugene Springfield Consolidated Plan 2010-2015” July 1, 2010. <http://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/2140>

development of subsidized affordable housing to multiple agencies including the Housing and Community Services Agency of Lane County and other nonprofit developers.

Area public sector and nonprofit agencies work together in a variety of ways to enhance access to affordable housing, human services, and support the needs of low-income areas. A complex set of local, state, and federal goals and funding resources have shaped the related plans, policies and programs implemented within the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is the most significant federal influencer as a major source of funding for local affordable housing, community development, and human services. The Cities of Eugene and Springfield both receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds directly from HUD through formula allocations. Eugene and Springfield receive HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds as a Consortium. Lane County receives funding for human services through the Emergency Solutions Grant and Continuum of Care. The State of Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services (OHCS) provides some resources for human services and also awards funding for affordable housing development through a competitive process. In addition, OHCS receives CDBG and HOME funds that can be used in areas outside of the Cities of Eugene and Springfield.

Eugene, Springfield, and Lane County augment these resources in a variety of ways and also play a significant role in selection of the recipients of federal, state, and local resources. Local nonprofit organizations and funders also play significant roles in developing and implementing affordable housing, community development, and human services activities.

There are two regional forums that create opportunities for regional coordination and collaboration. First, the Housing Policy Board advises Eugene, Springfield, and Lane County a wide range of housing policy issues as well as use of CDBG and HOME funds for affordable housing development, downpayment assistance, and rental assistance. Second, the Human Services Commission advises on the collective use of federal, state, and local funds for human service and homelessness assistance programs. In addition, both Eugene and Springfield maintain separate advisory bodies to advise on project specific uses of CDBG and HOME funds.

There are three primary plans that assess needs and set forth goals, strategies, and programs including the Eugene-Springfield Consolidated Plan, Eugene-Springfield Fair Housing Plan, and the Human Services Plan for Lane County. Each plan and its relationship to equity, access, and opportunity is described in further detail below.

- Eugene-Springfield Consolidated Plan 2010-2015²⁴³ – The Consolidated Plan assesses the needs of low- and moderate income persons in the Eugene-Springfield area, establishes goals, and identifies housing and community development strategies to meet those needs.
- Fair Housing Plan²⁴⁴ –Eugene and Springfield have jointly created this document to examine laws, demographics related to population, housing, and housing choice. The Fair Housing Plan also identifies

²⁴³ “Eugene Springfield Consolidated Plan 2010-2015” July 1, 2010. <http://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/2140>

roadblocks affecting fair housing choice. This assessment included a thorough HUD Regulatory Checklist of resources available within the community related to access to affordable housing.

- Human Services Plan for Lane County²⁴⁵ -- A strategic policy guide, the Human Services Plan for the Human Services Commission (HSC) decision-making process. Priorities identified in the plan guide the distribution of operating funds for 65 human service programs for all ages, from infants to older adults.

The Assessment data can inform a broad array of housing, human services, and community development plans, programs, investments, and public participation strategies. Recommendations for how to incorporate issues of equity, access, and opportunity into these areas are identified below.

- Utilize EOA data to inform a broad array of affordable housing, human services, and community development plans, programs, investments, and public participation strategies.
- Specifically, EOA data will be incorporated into the development of the 2015 Eugene-Springfield Consolidated Plan, which guides the use of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Program funds.
- The EOA also provides additional insights in the multitude of challenges faced by specific neighborhoods with concentrations of demographically and economically vulnerable people. While these areas have already been targeted for assistance by public and nonprofit agencies, the EOA will support new actions and partnerships to benefit these areas.
- EOA data combined with the qualitative research on the perspectives of Latinos and affordable housing residents will inform the development of the 2015 Eugene-Springfield Fair Housing Plan. The Fair Housing Plan identifies impediments to fair housing as well as specific strategies to address those impediments.
- The EOA data combined with information about the location of existing affordable housing developments identifies key gaps and opportunities for future investments. EOA data could inform Eugene's process for identification of sites for new affordable housing development and other projects, including Eugene's Housing Dispersal Policy and use of CDBG and HOME funds for affordable housing.
- Use EOA data to better understand the impacts of affordable housing on other community concerns such as health, employment, and educational outcomes. In particular, the comments from affordable housing residents identify how these areas interconnect.

Health

Lane County's Public Health Authority along with regional hospitals and the newly formed Coordinated Care Organization, Trillium play a leadership role in achieving community health outcomes. Additional federal mandates require planning agencies to address transportation and housing concerns related to community

²⁴⁴ "Assessment of Impediments to Fair Housing and Fair Housing Plan Strategies: Eugene and Springfield, Oregon" April 13, 2010. <http://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/2019>

²⁴⁵ <http://eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/2140>

health. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 will enhance federal direction across local prevention and community health efforts.

Oregon's local public health authorities operate under intergovernmental agreements regulated by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). These agreements allow local health authorities to receive state categorical funds to meet specific federal and state mandates. A description of major plans that guide investments, policies, and actions are summarized below.

- Lane County Public Health Authority Comprehensive Plan²⁴⁶ -- Revised annually, this plan addresses performance measures related to health concerns among Lane County residents, specifically addressing services among high priority and underserved populations.
- National Prevention Strategy²⁴⁷ -- To achieve the overarching goal of increasing the number of Americans who are healthy at every stage of life, Lane County adopted National Prevention Strategy aiming to eliminate health disparities among target populations while improving the quality of life for all Americans.
- Oregon Health Improvement Plan²⁴⁸ -- The Oregon Health Improvement Plan (OHIP) includes innovative solutions to improve the lifelong health of all Oregonians; increase the quality, reliability and availability of care; and lower or contain the cost of care is it is affordable to everyone. Its primary goal is to “Achieve health equity and population health by improving social, economic and environmental factors.” The Oregon Health Policy Board (OHPB) created the OHIP In an effort to more holistically address community health determinants. This document guides evidence-based interventions, systems and environmental approaches to ensure the overall health of all Oregonians.
- Community Health Needs Assessment -- A collaboration between Lane County Public Health, PeaceHealth, Trillium Health Plan, and United Way of Lane County, the Community Health Needs Assessment aims to improve overall community health by focusing the entire region on common community health objectives. By highlighting at-risk populations, such as elderly and persons living in poverty, this needs assessment identifies trends related to social determinants of health, as well as the rates of access to affordable health care within Lane County.
- Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)²⁴⁹ – Following up the Community Health Needs Assessment, the CHIP’s objectives²⁵⁰ include examining health improvement strategies through an “equity lens to reduce disproportionate impacts,” “raising awareness and understanding of health

²⁴⁶http://public.health.oregon.gov/ProviderPartnerResources/LocalHealthDepartmentResources/Documents/Annual%20Plans/Lane_County_2012_Annual_Plan.pdf

²⁴⁷ U.S. Surgeon General’s office, “National Prevention Strategy.”

<http://www.surgeongeneralhealthcare.gov/initiatives/prevention/nphpphc/strategy/report.pdf>

²⁴⁸<http://public.health.oregon.gov/ProviderPartnerResources/HealthSystemTransformation/OregonHealthImprovementPlan/Pages/index.aspx>

²⁴⁹ “Lane County Community Health Improvement Plan: Summary” (May 2013) p. 6-7. <http://www.preventionlane.org/presentations/CHIP-Lane-County-summary.pdf>

²⁵⁰ Jordan, Jennifer. (April 2013) Lane County Public Health. “Community Health Improvement Plan” p.10-11. http://www.preventionlane.org/Docs/Lane-County-Health-Future_CHIP_2013.pdf

disparities among elected officials and other community leaders,” as well as engagement of diverse communities in policy and activities.

The Assessment data can inform a broad array of community health plans, programs, investments, and public participation strategies. Recommendations for how to incorporate issues of equity, access, and opportunity into these areas are identified below.

- Use EOA data for outreach strategies in enrollment of vulnerable populations in the expansion of health care coverage (Coordinated Care Organizations). This may include siting of services and specific programming.
- EOA data is a tool for helping the community to understand the social determinants of health, while identifying targeted approaches (especially with neighborhood associations and other existing, grassroots organizations) to improve health outcomes.
- Data can be used as an evaluation tool to analyze the costs and benefits of policy and planning activities on health of residents and identify opportunities for connecting with health issues.

13.4. Concluding Statement

The Equity and Opportunity Assessment, when taken together with other products developed through the Lane Livability Consortium, provides an accessible analysis of current conditions for many groups within the Eugene-Springfield MPO. Access to opportunity can be considered, in its broadest sense, in future decision-making to identify areas of vulnerability within the region. Future investments can be made not only to promote community values, but to also be cognizant of disproportionate impacts investments have on vulnerable populations. In doing so, this Assessment will help decision-makers invest to help vulnerable groups overcome barriers to accessing opportunity.

