

Form Name:	Commission Budget Recommendation Form
Submission Time:	April 24, 2020 10:57 am
Browser:	Chrome 81.0.4044.122 / Windows
IP Address:	66.90.190.251
Unique ID:	604052973
Location:	30.267200469971, -97.743103027344

## Your Information

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**Your Name**

Amanda Afifi

**Your Commission**

Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission

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**After question three, which questions from the flowchart are you prepared to answer?**

What are the impacts, and gaps?

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## Root Cause Analysis

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**Story: What did you hear from the community?**

The Hispanic/Latino community in the City of Austin, Texas is estimated to constitute roughly 35% of the area population, according to the Top Ten Demographic Trends from the City of Austin. The last Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Report was finalized in late June 2013. The community expressed concerns that the City has not posted information regarding implementation of the recommendations in the report, as well as follow up data regarding the outcomes from the steps taken to address the issues. Concerns were also expressed regarding the outdated information contained in the report, and the need to conduct a new Quality of Life Report. Among many benefits, a new study will allow the City and the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission to better understand the community's strengths and diversity, as well as more effectively advocate for its needs.

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**Problem: What is the problem you identify?**

Despite the continued growth of this population, as well as the continuing disparities within communities in the City of Austin, the City has not administered an official city-wide data collection nor survey effort to better understand the current needs of the Hispanic/Latino community. Some of the issues named in the report continue to be issues faced by the community today. There are additional issues that have been voiced by the community, including police racial profiling and support for tenants' rights. Additionally, COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted the Hispanic/Latino community, and it is important to understand how these impacts have shaped and pushed issues to the forefront.

The 2013 report strongly recommended the creation of a Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission. The Commission advises the City Council on issues relating to the quality of life for the City's Hispanic/Latino community and recommends programs and policies designed to alleviate any inequities that may confront Hispanics and Latinos. However, in order for the Commission to continue to advise Council, the Commission must understand the factors that most impact the community. The problems will continue if the underlying factors are not addressed.

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**How does the problem show up in your community? Who is most impacted by the problem?**

Without current data, it is difficult to determine how the City has implemented recommendations from the report to address the issues mentioned. Additionally, the Commission continues to hear similar issues currently present in the community, such as lack of affordable housing, gentrification impacting community and cultural heritage, inadequate health coverage, lack of transportation, lack of training programs, lack of quality early childhood services, and under-funding of Latino arts. According to new research from the Episcopal Health Foundation, researchers found that there's a nearly 20-year difference in life expectancy between parts of west and east Austin. The majority of the Hispanic/Latino population live east.

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**Considering all of the information you have or have not collected above, how do we solve for this problem?**

The Commission recommends the allocation of funding to update the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life report and to evaluate how many of the recommendations from the old report were implemented. The Commission recommends that part of the study include a look into the continued educational disparities within the City. The Commission recommends the new immigrant affairs position work with the Commission during the study since a large number of immigrants are from the Hispanic/Latino community. Additionally, the Commission recommends defining this project as a Power Analysis rather than a Needs Assessment. Through a Power Analysis, it is to identify and analyze the institutional systems external to the community that create the internal realities that many people experience daily. Use of demographic data collection shall be one of many important components of the Power Analysis, as well as more holistic, narrative pieces that told the stories of often unheard and/or unaccounted for members of the Hispanic/Latino community. The Commission is committed to ensuring historically underserved populations are accounted for in this effort and that Hispanic/Latino community members have the opportunity to help shape the effort in an on-going, multi-step and co-creative process. The scope of work should include, but is not limited to the following:

- Quantify the demographics of Austin's Hispanic/Latino population with specific regard to complexity of sexual orientation and gender identity; immigration status; etc.; and
- Outline strategies for connecting with populations that have historically been difficult to reach within the broader Hispanic/Latino community; and
- Identify the factors that most impact the quality of life of members of the Hispanic/Latino community; and
- Report the current state of those factors in comparison to the population as a whole; and
- Recommend metrics for measuring and reporting progress toward equity throughout the community; and
- Be useful to policymakers now and in the future in making decisions on resource allocation, regulations, business practices, service delivery and City policies.

This recommendation is aligned with following SD2023 Outcomes: Economic Opportunity & Affordability; Mobility; Safety; Health & Environment; Culture & Lifelong Learning; and Government that works for All.

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