

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## A RESIDENT DRIVEN NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR THE EAST TAMPA COMMUNITY: REPORT



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## **Funding Sources**

**East Tampa Community Revitalization Partnership (ETCRP)**

**Children's Board of Hillsborough County**

**NeighborWorks America**

## **Partners**

**USF Health, Central Hillsborough Healthy Start Project**

**ET NOW, CDC of Tampa, Inc.**

**The University of South Florida**

- College of Education
- Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute

**34th Street Church of God**

**Corner Stone Ministries**

**Miller Group**

## **Project Oversight Committee:**

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# VERVIEW

The purpose of this Resident Driven Needs Assessment was to provide the East Tampa Community and the City of Tampa with pertinent data to improve the health, educational and social services in East Tampa. The goal is to enhance the coordination of health, educational, social services and continued economic revitalization within the community (a system of care and resources) in order to increase the financial/educational success of all residents.

This was a resident-driven project proposed by the Health Education and Social Services (HESS) committee of the East Tampa Community Revitalization Partnership (ETCRP) and the Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa, Inc. to conduct a needs assessment in East Tampa. The CDC of Tampa was the fiscal agent providing administrative supports. The management and coordination of project activities was a collaborative effort of the CDC and the HESS subcommittee. Only residents of East Tampa were hired as coordinator/trainers and East Tampa residents to interview other residents. The community workers who administered the surveys also resided within the various zip codes and communities. A total of 923 individuals in the various communities within the East Tampa community were interviewed; 823 were administered a standard questionnaire and 100 participated in focus groups.

## *Demographics of Respondents*

The majority of the residents were from zip codes 33610 (80%) and 33605 (18%) representing the following East Tampa neighborhoods; East Tampa Business & Civic Association (38%), Southeast Seminole Heights Civic Association, Inc. (12%), VM Ybor Neighborhood Association and Crime Watch (.09%), and Belmont Heights Estates (7%), another 25% from other communities. There is a wide and diverse age group living in the households in the East Tampa community; the majority (64%) of questionnaire respondents were between the ages of 40-69, whereas the majority (51%) of the residents in the respondents' households were between the ages of 1 to 20 years of age. In regards to income, the majority (44.5%) of the respondents earned \$30,000 or less and the majority (59%) had a high school diploma or less education and 53.5% indicated that they received some form of assistance. However, the majority of the respondents (50.6%) lived in and owned a single family home, and 29% owned their own car.

## *Awareness and use of social services agencies/organizations*

When questioned about their familiarity and use of social services agencies/organizations, the respondents were not familiar with over half of agencies in the community. Of organizations in the East Tampa community the most familiar and frequently used social agency was the Lee Davis Neighborhood Service Center Medical facility and the least familiar used service was the Community Health Advocacy Partnership, Inc. (CHAP). Of the services used at the social service agencies/organizations, health, substance abuse prevention and social services (Women, Infants and Children Program—WIC, Section 8) were the most frequently used type of services as reported by the respondents. The services most used by the respondents were related to health or social services. In particular, the top three services used were health, substance abuse prevention and social services related. Affordable housing was the top type of service identified as a need in the community. In fact, three of the top ten related to housing conditions i.e., affordable housing, senior citizen housing and the homeless. Adult dental care was the second most requested service.

- One of the most significant findings indicated that the family was the number one support system in the community.

## *Perceived Need for Types of Businesses*

Survey data indicated that the respondents perceived super center stores as the number one type of business followed by the need for dentists in the area. The themes from the respondents' comments corroborated the service rating section of the questionnaire. More specifically, within the top five rankings of the business needs for the community, the comments and ratings suggested stores are needed, especially super stores such as Wal-Mart, Target, chain drug stores, and clothing stores that sell new items. Additionally, dentists were cited as one of the top five business needs for the area. A specific consideration was requested that the stores sell new rather than old products; no thrift stores.

## *Focus Group Perceived Need for Social Service and Business Needs*

Respondents were concerned about health, education and youth programs. Respondents were also concerned about their physical environment and safety in the neighborhoods. They often expressed desires to have clean neighborhoods and more police protection for safety. They expressed a desire for family style restaurants (e.g., mom and pop or chain—Buddy Freddy's) and proposed that bringing new businesses into the community would also translate into job training and employment opportunities. Finally assistance was desired for women in distress as well as transition services for recently released inmates and legal/credit repair services.

## *Profile Respondents*

### **Zip code area(s)**

- 33610-80%
- 33605-19%

### **Neighborhoods**

- East Tampa Business & Civic-38%
- Other-25%
- Old Seminole Heights & Southeast Semiole-12%

### **Race/Ethnicity**

- African Americans (71.3%) and majority

### **Gender**

- Females (53%).

### **Age**

- 70+ respondents -11%
- 69-40 respondents - 64%
- 39-17 respondents – 3%

### **Ages of individuals in household**

- 71+ respondents -.054%
- 70-41 respondents - 14%
- 40-1 respondents – 60%

### **Income**

- The income level by a majority of the respondents is less \$30,000.

### **Public Assistance**

- 53% received some form of public assistance

### **Current Employment**

- Full-time employment-32.1%
- Part-time employment.3.5%
- Retired, disabled or unemployed 6.6%
- Work or attended schools 40%
- Full-time students-and employed -2.6%

### **Educational Levels**

- High School Graduate (or GED)-40%
- Some College or Technical School-20%
- Less than High School-19%

### **Mode of Transportation**

- Owning one's own car 28.1%
- Bus/van 10.7%

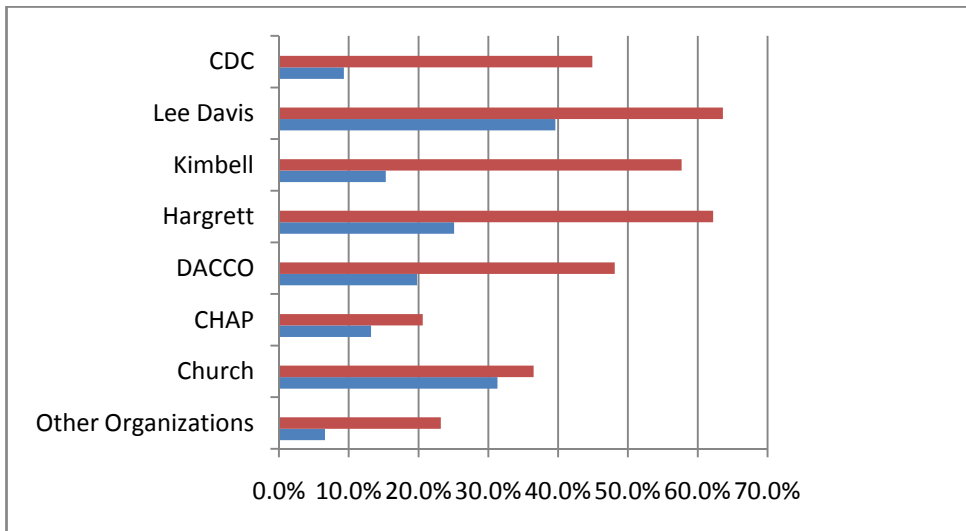
### **Homeownership**

- Owned home 50.6%
- Renters-32.2%
- Renters previously living in public housing-16.1%
- Renters currently living in public housing-15.5%
- Living in sections 80.9%

### **Marital Status**

- Married or have been married-51.2%
- Single or never married-17.2%
- Single and divorced -21.2%
- Widowed-16.6%
- Married -14%
- Living with Partner-8.6%
- Married but separated-6.5%

*Figure 1. Familiarity and Use of Services*



*Table 1. Overall Top Ten Services Used by Respondents*

Organization	Type of Service	Percentage of Respondents Who Used This Service
Lee Davis	Health	40.8% (n=352)
DACCO	Substance Abuse Prevention	23.0% (n=198)
Lee Davis	Social Services (WIC, Section 8)	16.6% (n=143)
Church	Other	15.0% (n=129)
Lee Davis	Financial Assistance	14.8% (n=128)
James Hargrett	Other	9.7% (n=84)
CDC	Job Placement	9.6% (n=83)
CDC	Open Air Markets	8.9% (n=77)
Lee Davis	Employment	8.7% (n=75)
Kimball School	Education	8.4% (n=72)

*Table 2. Participants' Perceived Need for Types of Services: by Rank Order*

Rank Order	Type of Service	Rating Average	Rank
1	Affordable Housing	4.68	1
2	Adult Dental Care	4.59	2
3	Senior Citizen Housing	4.58	3
4	Job Training	4.53	4
5	Senior Citizen Programs	4.52	5
6	Visiting Nurses	4.52	6
7	Affordable Legal	4.51	7
9	Disability (Support, Advocacy, Legal)	4.51	9
10	Homeless Program	4.51	10

*Table 3. Participants' Perceived Need for Types of Businesses: Rank Order*

Rank Order		
Type of Business	Rating Average	Rank
Super Center (Target, Wal-Mart)	4.57	1
Dentists	4.52	2
Chain Drug Stores	4.06	3
Clothing Stores-New	4.01	4
Hospital	4.01	5
Furniture Store-New	4.00	6
Hardware Stores-New	3.86	7
Chain Rests/Rest.	3.83	8
Credit Union	3.78	9
Attorneys	3.73	10

*Table 4. Questionnaire Comments Themes*

Category	Supporting Statements
Physical Environment and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents expressed a need for                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Paved Roads</li> <li>○ Sidewalks</li> <li>○ Clean Neighborhoods</li> <li>○ Speed Bumps</li> <li>○ More Police Protection</li> <li>○ Removal of Night Club from area</li> <li>○ Removal of Prostitutes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Medical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physicians who care for the                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Eyes</li> <li>○ Elderly</li> <li>○ AIDS patients</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dentists</li> <li>• Walk-in Medical Clinic</li> </ul>
Cultural/Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movie Theater</li> <li>• Bookstores</li> <li>• Places for the elderly</li> <li>• Social outlets for youth                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Game Room</li> <li>○ Skating Rink</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grocery Stores</li> <li>• Super Centers</li> <li>• Malls/Department Stores</li> <li>• Restaurants</li> <li>• Repair Shop Services (Auto, A/C, Shoes, etc.)</li> <li>• Jobs</li> </ul>

# R ECOMMENDATIONS

## Planning

1. Develop a community profile of health, educational and social service disparities that will direct program services and impact
2. Develop a process of engagement with planning, policies, services, and advocacy for East Tampa residents. Through this engagement of the residents, a determination of how human services and human capital can be integrated with community and economic development will complete the enhancement of the area.
3. Develop better communication strategies to inform residents of agencies in and their services to the community. Given the fluctuating funding for services, it is important that such communication be dynamic.
4. Enhance the collaborative efforts between social service agencies, churches, civic and business associations and the residents of the East Tampa area to address improvements in the physical environment and safety concerns in the community.
5. Engage residents in a participatory process with planning, services, advocacy and policies for East Tampa, determining how human services and human capital development can be integrated with community and economic development.
6. Orient local service programs to the HESS committee and ETCRP to promote coordination and improve service delivery in the East Tampa area.
7. Create and establish a neighborhood technology center working with local community supports including neighborhood associations, faith-based intuitions and existing agencies to improve service delivery in the East Tampa area.

## Services

8. Review the medical services at the Lee Davis Neighborhood Service Center to examine the possibility of including dental services for adults.

## Businesses

9. Further develop a plan to attract businesses to increase job training and employment opportunities in the East Tampa area.
10. Conduct a feasibility study to determine the viability of a superstore for the area.

## Housing

11. Review existing affordable housing availability and conduct a feasibility study to address housing for the elderly and homeless.

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**EAST  
TAMPA**

