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Dear Reader,

It is with great enthusiasm that I share with you this portrait of St. Tammany Parish’s needs. The Department of Health and Human Services has worked diligently to identify our community’s assets and unmet needs as they relate to addressing the social determinants of health such as access to housing, health care, transportation, quality education, employment, and environmental protection.

St. Tammany Parish is a community of opportunity. We take pride in our beautiful natural environment, our top-notch public schools, and our numerous recreational amenities. To preserve this quality of life, St. Tammany Parish Government strives to efficiently and equitably deliver high quality public services to our residents.

As an administrator of federal, state and local public funds, the Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for helping our most vulnerable residents meet their basic needs, from helping our seniors stay in their homes by supporting home repairs, to fostering the provisions of critical behavioral and mental health services to those lacking access to essential care.

In the wake of cuts to local revenue for essential public services, it is more important than ever to take stock of the resources that our residents rely on now - and in the future - to lead a healthy and productive life in St. Tammany Parish.

The Community Needs Assessment provides us with critical data and a set of policy recommendations to inform a coordinated strategy over the next five years to achieve this goal. We look forward to continuing to convene and partner with home-builders, health care providers, health services, and workforce training organizations, and believe that this assessment will demonstrate the necessity of this work.

On behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services and St. Tammany Parish Government, I thank you for your engagement in addressing our community’s challenges, and welcome your support for helping all residents lead a fulfilling life in St. Tammany Parish.

Respectfully,
Allyson Villars

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St. Tammany Parish Government
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Executive Summary

St. Tammany Parish is a community of opportunity. Its public school system is the highest ranked in the state, outdoor recreation opportunities are abundant, on land and water, and in addition to employers in St. Tammany Parish, major job centers in New Orleans and Baton Rouge are within commuting distance. These amenities have attracted households of all types, making it the fastest growing parish in the state.

However, not all residents share the same level of access to the parish’s resources and assets. Housing, transportation, health care, and education needs vary among different groups. Vulnerable populations in the Parish, such as veterans, low-income households, seniors, and people with disabilities, can often benefit from a hand up.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) works to maintain and create a legacy of healthy, safe and sustainable community for all residents of St. Tammany Parish.

It does this by securing health services and housing assistance such as emergency utility, rental and mortgage assistance services to parish residents in need. As a recipient of the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), DHHS is required to conduct comprehensive community assessments that inventory needs and available resources and partners.

To fully assess our needs, this St. Tammany Parish Community Needs Assessment (CNA) examines recent demographic and economic data and trends, projects future demand for services, and gauges the adequacy of current levels of public services. In doing so, it aims to inform local officials, and citizens of the Parish’s housing, education, economic, public health and transportation needs, and suggests strategies to better meet them for current and future residents. This report summarizes the CNA’s findings.
Our Parish is Growing, Aging, and Becoming More Economically Divided

Many St. Tammany Parish households are doing well economically. Households had a higher median income in 2017 than those throughout the Greater New Orleans region, and are projected to remain so over the next five years. However, some are left behind. One of every nine St. Tammany Parish residents lives in poverty. The CNA is also able to examine statistics for black residents of St. Tammany Parish specifically, because they are a large enough percentage of the population to allow statistically significant analysis (see Table 1 below). Poverty rates for black households are far higher than the parish average - nearly four out of nine black households live in poverty.

14.8% of the Parish population reports having a disability. This includes about 5,200 of the Parish’s 17,810 veterans as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey - nearly one out of every three.¹ Of these veterans, 687 had income below the poverty line.

The Parish’s recent, rapid growth is expected to slow somewhat, yet remain substantial. By 2022, St. Tammany Parish is on track to gain over 18,900 new residents – about 7,000 households. But in all four areas examined in the CNA (North, Central, East and West), households earning less than $15,000 and more than $75,000 are projected to grow, while moderate- and middle-income households - those earning $25,000 to $75,000 - are expected to decline.

The loss of middle-income households and growth of low-income households could likely be the result of aging workers leaving the workforce. By 2022, the parish will gain 9,900 residents of retirement age (65-84 years old), yet will lose over 800 residents in their early twenties (2–24 years old) and over 400 residents in their prime earning years (45-54 years old). This will likely drive greater demand for housing and services that meet the individual needs of senior citizens, which may include smaller, one-story homes with low maintenance needs.

¹. 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Table 1: Population by Race and Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th></th>
<th>2022</th>
<th></th>
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<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>81.5%</td>
<td>226,708</td>
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<td>Black</td>
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<td>12.4%</td>
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<td>0.5%</td>
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<td>4,580</td>
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<td>157</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic (Any Race)</td>
<td>15,302</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>16,417</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Esri forecasts for 2017 and 2022.
A Need to Protect our Residents and Environment

St. Tammany Parish’s environment attracts residents and visitors from across Louisiana. Its acres of undeveloped wetlands offer habitat for many species, its creeks and streams offer fishing and recreational enjoyment to residents, and Lake Pontchartrain is a major recreational asset in the area. Ensuring that residents and the environment can live in harmony requires protecting residents by managing hazards like flooding, and protecting the environment from septic overflows and other effects of development. St. Tammany Parish Government operates a successful sewer inspection program to ensure that sewer overflows are not harming watersheds and comply with the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulated by the EPA. While many property owners who receive citations under this program are able to quickly clean up leaks, and overflows, low-to-moderate-income (LMI) homeowners are often unable to adequately afford repairs and upkeep of their septic system. Citations and fees, therefore, cannot motivate these residents to handle repairs, and can in fact make it more financially difficult for them to bring their systems into compliance. As inspections expand, the Parish is working to extend the grant program to meet the ongoing need for these services in additional areas of the Parish, which will require consistent funding in future years.

The Parish faces multiple flood risks that threaten properties and lives. Areas of the Parish that are adjacent to Lake Pontchartrain, including portions of East, South, and West St. Tammany, are endangered by coastal land loss that increases the risk of storm surge flooding during hurricanes.

Many other areas of East, West, and North St. Tammany are more prone to flooding from heavy rainfall; this type of flooding primarily endangers areas near wetlands, rivers, creeks, or streams that swell with water during heavy thunderstorms, hurricanes, or upstream rainfall that causes local rivers to rise. Some of the most vulnerable low-to-moderate-income populations are located in the 100-year floodplain near Lake Pontchartrain and inland rivers, streams, and bayous.

These include:

• Lake-adjacent subdivisions and rental properties near Lacombe
• Low-income areas of Slidell and Pearl River
• The West 30s area of Covington
• Rural areas of North St. Tammany who live near 100-year floodplain areas
A Need for Housing Choices

St. Tammany Parish’s housing stock is overwhelmingly owner-occupied, and few units are available to rent. Renters have difficulty finding affordable apartments, and homelessness continues to persist in St. Tammany Parish. In January 2017, 145 persons were counted as homeless. More homeless residents may exist as this count captures the homeless population at only one point during the year.

The small supply of rental housing and growing demand have ultimately led to increasing rental housing prices. Apartment rents in the Slidell area have lagged those in the West, but as of 2016 the average rent in both East and West St. Tammany has topped $1,100 per month.

Of the projected 7,134 new households in the Parish by 2022, 1,728 (24%) are projected to be renters. Most of this growth will be in 1-to-3-person households in the West and East subareas. The projected change in renter-occupied households translates into demand for over 800 1-bedroom units and efficiencies, over 600 2-bedroom units, and nearly 300 3-bedroom+ units – again, with most (over four of every five) concentrated in the West and East subareas.

Approximately 575 rental units will be in demand by households earning less than $25,000, including 314 for those earning less than $15,000. Because market rate housing at these rates is so limited, these households will require public or non-government entity support to avoid being overburdened by housing costs. An additional 261 units will be in demand by households who can afford $500 to $750 in monthly rent.

Nearly 30% of all households in St. Tammany Parish experience one of four housing problems: incomplete kitchen facilities, incomplete plumbing facilities, more than 1 person per room, or cost burden greater than 30% of household income. Stakeholders noted that substandard housing conditions in the Covington West 30s area, in subdivisions north of Slidell, and in rural areas of North St. Tammany Parish are of particular concern. Non-profits in the Parish, including Northshore Disaster Recovery Inc. (NDRI), Volunteers of America (VOA), and the Council on Aging St. Tammany (COAST) also provide home repair services, but have long waiting lists for their programs. The Parish’s Home Repair Program is therefore an essential resource for addressing needed repairs.

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2. Northlake Homeless Coalition, Highlights of 2017 Louisiana Homeless Census Point-in-Time Count
3. UNO Institute for Economic Development and Real Estate Research, 2017 New Orleans & Northshore Regional Real Estate Market Analysis
A Need for Comprehensive Health Care

While St. Tammany Parish enjoys quality health care resources, low-to-moderate income residents have unique needs and barriers that affect their ability to access care. When these residents defer meeting their health care needs because of cost, transportation, or lack of services near them, the community at large can pay high costs. Crowded emergency rooms, addiction-related criminal activity, or increases in homelessness can all be related to a lack of accessible care for those who need it. Residents of St. Tammany Parish overall have greater access to primary care doctors than those of most parishes in Louisiana. However, according to stakeholder interviews, many of these doctors do not accept Medicaid, and 12% of the parish’s population is uninsured.6

Rural residents often must travel long distances to access the nearest hospital or doctor.

6. 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Access to behavioral and mental health care has also been limited for St. Tammany Parish residents since the closure of the state-owned Southeast Louisiana Hospital in 2012. St. Tammany Parish’s rate of opioid-related deaths rose each year between 2012 and 2016. The Parish coroner’s office linked 58 deaths to opioid abuse in 2016, and 74 deaths in 2017.7

In 2015, St. Tammany Parish’s suicide rate was 14.5 per 100,000 people - higher than the Louisiana average of 11.9 per 100,000 people.8 In 2017, the Parish’s figure dropped to 13.9 per 100,000 people.

The Parish is currently working to add a Federally Qualified Health Clinic (FQHC) to locate in West St. Tammany Parish. FQHCs accept Medicaid and charge sliding-scale fees to uninsured patients based on their ability to afford care.

7. Department of Health and Human Services
8. Metropolitan Hospital Council of New Orleans Community Health Needs Assessment October 2015
A Need for Greater Mobility

St. Tammany Parish residents pay high costs in time, money and health for transportation. The average parish resident’s commute to work is 31.1 minutes, compared to the regional average of 25.7 minutes. Over a quarter (26%) commute 45 or more minutes, compared to 15% of the region’s residents.9

The need to rely on a private automobile can be a financial burden on households. Southern U.S. households spent an average $9,298 (17.7%) of total expenditures on transportation in 2016, second only to housing, and more than twice the average household expenditure on healthcare.10

Longer-than-average commutes suggest that St. Tammany Parish households likely spend an even greater share of their household budgets on transportation.

Single-use, low-density, automobile-oriented development, the high rates of commuting inside and outside of the parish for work, and lack of local and regional transit options each contribute to long commute times, and limit transportation options for residents. The Parish, in partnership with the Council on Aging St. Tammany, provides STAR Transit, but STAR is unable to guarantee rides to everyone who requests one, and users are unable to reserve more than one round-trip ride per day. Only two buses are available to serve the entire rural-designated areas of the Parish.

169 of 259 (65%) respondents to the Parish’s Assessment of Fair Housing survey in 2017 rated access to public transportation in their neighborhood “poor.” Only 34 (13.1%) rated it “excellent” or “good.”

The Parish’s lack of a dedicated stream of funds to meet the demand for public transportation, and the lack of walkable streets, further increases residents’ reliance on expensive transportation by private automobile.

A Need for Excellent Public Education

St. Tammany Parish public schools are among the highest performing in the state, making the parish a draw for young families. But while the school system is strong overall, there is room to improve as not all residents have equal access to quality education. Residents in Slidell and Lacombe have the lowest access to quality schools, more specifically students who reside in the area west of Slidell. According to the School Board, 6,717 students (17%) are served by special education services outside of the gifted and talented programs.11

St. Tammany Parish Public Schools provide essential services to children from low-income households and with special education needs. During the 2016-2017 school year, 18,031 (47%) of the 38,069 students qualified for free or reduced-price school meals. Schools with rates over 80% were Alton Elementary, Glynn H. Brock Elementary, Chahta-Ima Elementary, Abney Elementary Early Childhood Center, Carolyn Park Middle School, Bayou Lacombe Middle School, Little Pearl Elementary School, Bayou Woods Elementary School, Sixth Ward Elementary School, and Florida Avenue Elementary School.12

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9. 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
12. Common Core of Data, National Center for Educational Statistics, public school data for the 2016-2017 school year
A Need for Jobs that Pay Family-Supporting Wages

St. Tammany’s unemployment rate is lower than the state’s and Greater New Orleans region’s rates. In December 2017, 3.3% of St. Tammany residents were unemployed compared to the state’s 4.6% rate during the same period. Nearly half (46%) of employees in the parish work in Retail Trade, Health Care and Social Assistance, or Accommodation and Food Services. Health care and social assistance jobs include nurses, technicians and physicians, and generally pay higher than other service sector occupations.

Although the unemployment rate is low, parish jobs tend to pay less than other jobs in the region. Average wages in four of the five ten industry sectors are less than $25,000 per year. These are “Restaurants and other eating places,” “General merchandise stores,” “Supermarkets and other grocery stores,” and “Services for the elderly and disabled.” In 2015, 27% of jobs in the Parish paid less than $15,000 per year, compared to 24.6% in the region, and 63% paid less than $40,000, compared to 59.6% in the region. In 2017, 32% of residents in the parish earned wages that put them within the "ALICE" or "Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, and Employed" category. These residents, while gainfully employed, make too little from their employment each month to meaningfully meet the cost of housing and save money.

Between 2017 and 2027, St. Tammany is projected to see the largest job growth in the region, with the addition of 11,630 jobs - 1,160 more jobs than Orleans Parish is projected to gain. But the extent to whether this growth provides middle-skill and higher-wage job opportunities to underemployed parish residents or simply expands the number of low-wage retail and food services jobs remains to be seen.

The Parish’s ability to attract middle- and higher-skill jobs will follow its success at preparing its workforce. According to interviews with economic development stakeholders, businesses had previously been attracted to the Parish based on the available land and buildings. It is now more likely for middle-skill employers to consider demographic and core competency needs alongside space needs.

A Path Forward

The table of recommendations on page 62 lists all recommendations discussed throughout the report, and the themes that they address. DHHS alone will not be able to implement all these changes, even if funding were unconstrained. Collaboration with the Planning, Development, Public Works, and Grants Departments and elected officials will be necessary to advance the recommendations in this report.

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Introduction

The St. Tammany Parish Department of Health and Human Services works to create a legacy of a healthy, safe and sustainable community for the residents of St. Tammany Parish. This Community Needs Assessment aims to inform local officials, agencies, grantors, and citizens of the Parish’s housing, education, environment, economic, public health and transportation needs, and suggests strategies to better meet them for current and future residents. The assessment provides critical data to ensure the Parish understands the full depth of resident needs.

Why a Community Needs Assessment?

The Department of Health and Human Services is a recipient of the Federal Community Services Block Grant. A requirement of this grant is regular comprehensive community assessments that inventories community needs and available resources and partners. According to the Federal Office of Community Services, “regular assessment of needs and resources at the community level is the foundation of Community Action and a vital management and leadership tool that is used across the organization and utilized by the community to set the course for both CSBG and all agency resources.”

Methodology Note

This report references data provided by numerous sources, including the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, the UNO Institute for Economic Development and Real Estate Research’s 2017 New Orleans & Northshore Regional Real Estate Market Analysis, and Esri Business Analyst, a service that provides five-year demographic forecasts.
Study Areas

The Community Needs Assessment examines how needs vary across the Parish. To this end, it divides the Parish into four “subareas.” The West subarea includes the Cities of Covington, Madisonville and part of Mandeville; the East subarea contains Slidell and Pearl River; the Central subarea includes Lacombe; and the North subarea includes most of the rural northern side of the Parish.

Figure 1: St. Tammany Parish Study Area
Community Participation

In partnership with the City of Slidell, DHHS conducted a comprehensive community engagement process in support of both the joint Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) and the Community Needs Assessment in the fall of 2017. Engagement methods included two public meetings, three focus groups, numerous individual key stakeholder meetings, and a survey that generated 272 responses. DHHS and the City of Slidell engaged social service providers, housing developers, transportation officials and neighborhood activists on challenges and opportunities for expanding access to opportunities in St. Tammany Parish and the City of Slidell.

On October 10, 2017, DHHS conducted three focus groups centered on topics of relevance to the Needs Assessment and AFH: Education and Employment, Real Estate and Housing Development; and Transportation and Access for Persons with Disabilities.

On October 12, 2017, a public meeting was held at the Rosenwald Gym in the West 30’s neighborhood of the City of Covington. This meeting was held in conjunction with the West 30s Task Force, which regularly holds community meetings dedicated to topics including fair housing, job and education access and quality of life issues. 28 people attended this meeting. A similar meeting was held in Slidell on October 19, 2017, where six people attended. At both meetings, DHHS and Slidell staff and their consultant presented an overview of the project, responded to attendee questions and engaged participants in a variety of interactive exercises aimed at collecting perspectives on housing challenges and priorities. Color, quarter-page advertisements ran in two local newspapers (the Times-Picayune and the New Orleans Advocate) during the week prior to the meetings. Funding for these advertisements was provided by the National Fair Housing Action Center. The meetings were also advertised through the Parish’s social media accounts and listservs.

Staff also attended two public tabling events - the Northlake Health Fair in Mandeville on October 26th, and the Northshore Fall Fest Job Fair in Mandeville on November 9th.

DHHS created a freestanding website to provide general information about the process, advertise the above engagement events, and provide a link to online English and Spanish versions of the survey. Print copies of the survey in English and Spanish were provided to nonprofit partner agencies to distribute to clients.

DHHS also drew on the results of engagement conducted for a previous Community Needs Assessment effort in 2016, including a survey that garnered over 4,000 responses.
**Our Growing and Maturing Parish**

The Parish will gain over 18,900 new residents, or about 7,000 households, by 2022.

St. Tammany Parish continues to grow rapidly. An estimated 259,212 people resided in St. Tammany Parish in 2017 – a jump of 25,472 from 2010, or an average 1.56% per year. However, this rate will likely decline slightly in the next five years. Nevertheless, at an anticipated average annual growth rate of 1.46%, 18,907 additional residents are forecast by 2022, comprising approximately 7,100 households, including 3,400 in the West subarea, nearly 2,000 in the East, 1,152 in the North, and 627 in Central. This growth will continue to drive demand for new housing affordable to households at a range of income levels.

**Figure 2: Population Growth, by Subarea**

A prosperous community, yet some are left behind

Each subarea of St. Tammany Parish had a higher median income in 2017 than the region as a whole; income levels are projected to rise, and to remain higher than the regional median, over the next five years (Table 2). The West subarea stands out for being home to the greatest concentration of higher-income households, with a median income of $80,557 in 2017. Over 44% of parish households earn more than $75,000, compared to 34% of those in the region. Meanwhile, only 19% of parish households earn less than $25,000, compared to 27% in the region. (Figure 3).

Table 2: Median Income by Subarea, 2017 and 2022

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subarea</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2022</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>$56,085</td>
<td>$65,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>$80,557</td>
<td>$87,404</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central</td>
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<td>Region</td>
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<td>$53,968</td>
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</table>


Figure 3: Proportion of Households by Income Bracket, 2017

From 2012-2017, the Parish experienced a major gain in middle- to high-earning income households – the number of households earning more than $75,000 grew by 9,500 over this five-year period. Meanwhile, the number of households earning less than $25,000 has been falling; these households declined by 2,700 over the same five-year period. Despite this drop in low-income households in the recent past, there remain 9,500 households earning less than $15,000 and an additional 8,900 households earning between $15,000 and $25,000 as of 2017, and data later in this section show that these populations are projected to modestly increase in the future. Low-income households are predominantly concentrated in the North and East subareas: 22.7% of households in the North subarea and 21.1% in the East earned less than $25,000. One of every nine St. Tammany Parish residents lives in poverty, 16 35% of people in the area north of I-10 and west of Highway 41 live in poverty, as do about 30.6% of residents in the neighborhoods of Slidell bounded by US-190, Front Street, In Lacombe, 22.4% of residents south of US-190 live in poverty; in central Covington and the West 30s, 22.3% live in poverty.

**One of every nine St. Tammany Parish residents lives in poverty.**

16. U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

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**Figure 4: Households by Income Bracket and Subarea, 2017**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Subarea</th>
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<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>2891</td>
<td>2664</td>
<td>2613</td>
<td>3367</td>
<td>5724</td>
<td>5173</td>
<td>7630</td>
<td>3509</td>
<td>4008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>1917</td>
<td>1431</td>
<td>1529</td>
<td>1621</td>
<td>2658</td>
<td>1917</td>
<td>2094</td>
<td>837</td>
<td>714</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 5: Percentage of People in Poverty, 2016

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2012-2016
Low-and high-income households will grow while middle-income households decline.

In all subareas, households earning more than $75,000 and less than $15,000 are projected to grow through 2022, while moderate- and middle-income households earning $25,000 to $75,000 are forecasted to decline by over 2,700. This trend may be caused by several different factors: greater economic mobility of households from middle-wage to higher-wage occupations; an influx of higher wage earners and displacement of middle-wage earners; seniors' retirement and transition to fixed-income households; and growth in young single-occupant households.

Households earning less than $15,000 are forecasted to grow most significantly in the West and East subareas, which will add 310 and 337 of these very-low-income households, respectively. Parish-wide, this income bracket is forecasted to gain over 800 households by 2022.

An additional 150 households will earn between $15,000 and $25,000 by 2022 in the East and West subareas. Households at this income level are projected to remain nearly the same in the North and Central subareas.

Table 3: Projected Number of Households by Income, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Households by Income</th>
<th>North 2022</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>West 2022</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Central 2022</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>East 2022</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Parish 2022</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;$15,000</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>+95</td>
<td>3201</td>
<td>+310</td>
<td>1186</td>
<td>+64</td>
<td>3900</td>
<td>+337</td>
<td>10299</td>
<td>+806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,000 - $24,999</td>
<td>1430</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>2970</td>
<td>+106</td>
<td>1077</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>3580</td>
<td>+44</td>
<td>9057</td>
<td>+144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 - $34,999</td>
<td>1453</td>
<td>-76</td>
<td>2552</td>
<td>-61</td>
<td>959</td>
<td>-60</td>
<td>3245</td>
<td>-102</td>
<td>8209</td>
<td>-299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35,000 - $49,999</td>
<td>1338</td>
<td>-283</td>
<td>2878</td>
<td>-489</td>
<td>1161</td>
<td>-247</td>
<td>3730</td>
<td>-656</td>
<td>9107</td>
<td>-1675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 - $74,999</td>
<td>2306</td>
<td>+389</td>
<td>6044</td>
<td>+871</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>+274</td>
<td>5201</td>
<td>+792</td>
<td>15456</td>
<td>+2326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 - $99,999</td>
<td>2792</td>
<td>+698</td>
<td>8990</td>
<td>+1360</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>+409</td>
<td>6248</td>
<td>+1182</td>
<td>20202</td>
<td>+3649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 - $149,999</td>
<td>1092</td>
<td>+255</td>
<td>4118</td>
<td>+609</td>
<td>803</td>
<td>+172</td>
<td>2142</td>
<td>+368</td>
<td>8155</td>
<td>+1404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 - $199,999</td>
<td>953</td>
<td>+239</td>
<td>4870</td>
<td>+862</td>
<td>656</td>
<td>+151</td>
<td>1519</td>
<td>+269</td>
<td>7998</td>
<td>+1521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200,000+</td>
<td>15,870</td>
<td>+1152</td>
<td>41,179</td>
<td>+3400</td>
<td>11,356</td>
<td>+627</td>
<td>35,472</td>
<td>+1955</td>
<td>103,877</td>
<td>+7134</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Esri forecasts for 2017 and 2022, Subarea and Income Bracket
**A maturing population**

In five years, the Parish’s population aged 65 to 84 is expected to grow most significantly, adding approximately 9,900 parish-wide, while losing those aged 20 to 24 and 45 to 54. This large growth in population reaching retirement age will likely drive greater demand for housing and services that meet the individual needs of senior citizens, which may include smaller, one-story homes.

![Figure 6: Projected Change in Population by Age Group and Subarea](image)


**People with Disabilities**

14.8% of the Parish population reported having a disability in the most recent estimate of the American Community Survey (2012-2016). However, over 16% of the population in the Central, North and East subareas each reported a disability, compared to just 12.3% of West subarea residents.

“Ambulatory difficulty” was the most commonly reported disability; 7.1% of the Parish population reported this type of disability, while the North and central subareas reported the highest proportion, at 8.8% and 8.0%, respectively. The St. Tammany Parish Public School Board’s special education programs draw families seeking excellent public education opportunities for children with disabilities. Approximately 6,700 students within the public school system (17%) receive special education services outside the gifted and talented programs.
### Table 4: Population with a Disability, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>West</th>
<th>Central</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>Parish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>94,553</td>
<td>26,908</td>
<td>36,756</td>
<td>85,547</td>
<td>24,3764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population with a dis-</td>
<td>11,604</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>4,422</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>6,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a hearing difficulty</td>
<td>3,776</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>1,089</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>1,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a vision difficulty</td>
<td>2,166</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a cognitive difficulty</td>
<td>5,151</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>1,524</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>2,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With an ambulatory difficulty</td>
<td>5,356</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>2,163</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>3,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a self-care difficulty</td>
<td>2,275</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>778</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>1,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With an independent living difficulty</td>
<td>3,660</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>1,134</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>1,827</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1810*
Veterans

According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, St. Tammany Parish is home to over 17,800 veterans, approximately 9.6% of the civilian population 18 years and over. The income of 1,526 (8.6%) of these veterans in the last 12 months fell below the poverty level. Of these, 687 have a disability. An additional 4,514 veterans above the poverty line have a disability. Nearly one out of three veterans in the Parish live with a disability. DHHS has provided assistance to transform the former Danielle Inn into Camp NORA (No One Rides Alone), a property that serves as a shelter for homeless veterans, and this effort is still in need of funding to complete the purchase and renovation.
## Table 5: Veteran Population, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>Central</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>Parish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>% of age group</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>% of age group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian population 18 years and over</td>
<td>71,924</td>
<td>20,161</td>
<td>28,644</td>
<td>64,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans 18 years and over</td>
<td>6,027</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>2,455</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans 18 to 34 years</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans 35 to 54 years</td>
<td>1,635</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans 55 to 64 years</td>
<td>982</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans 65 to 74 years</td>
<td>1,249</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>623</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans 75 years and over</td>
<td>1,594</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income in the past 12 months below poverty level</strong></td>
<td>594</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income in the past 12 months below poverty level: - With a disability</strong></td>
<td>325</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income in the past 12 months at or above poverty level: - With a disability</strong></td>
<td>1534</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table C21007