

Memo

To: STIF Committee

From: Patricia Fink, HRCTD Executive Director

Date: 10/5/2018

Re: Legislative Intent & STIF Role – Defining Low Income

While the overall intent of the STIF legislature was to increase and expand public transportation options within the State of Oregon – an important focus was to ensure that the State’s low-income populations were served by this funding expansion. The legislature set the poverty standard for the STIF funds at the 200% above the federal poverty level, however, they have left it up to the local qualified entities to define “high levels of low-income households” within their counties.

As outlined in the bylaws, the Board is asking that the STIF Committee play a role in this decision:

Gather data and seek public input regarding low-income households within the County, including those within the corporate limits of municipalities within the County, and make and publish a determination of how the plan defines “high percentage of low-income households” and where those communities exist for purposes of guiding the STIF Plan;

The Task for the committee is then to recommend to the Board how the HRCTD should define “high percentage of low-income households” in Hood River County for the HRCTD STIF Plan. I have prepared a table which uses the Hood River County census block group data to define income by percentage of poverty – and have included a map of the associated block groups. In the attached table I have highlighted the block group areas in dark blue on the map that meet the “safe harbor” rule for the legislative standard (e.g. A geographic area where the percentage of low-income households is equal to or higher than the State of Oregon percentage of low-income households in the same year). I have also highlighted some areas that are “close” to the standard. The Committee can:

- Use this safe harbor model – to identify the high poverty areas;
- Set another more aggressive standard (e.g. beyond safe harbor standard);
- Use this standard with other standards (weighted average) that might better reflect local equity issues – particularly as they relate to things like density, % of youth, % of older adults; % of disabled adults, % of minority communities, etc.

If the committee decides to use a weighted standard, the factors they use should be easily available and replicable as we will be asked by ODOT to provide them both as a measure of our ability to meet legislature's goals as well as use them in our project prioritization process.

POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY HOUSEHOLD

| Census Tract | Numbers of People by Level of Poverty | | | | | | | | | | Total % of Households at Level of Poverty | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------|-----------|----|-------------|----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|---|------|--------------|------|---------------|
| | Total | < .50 | 50% - 99% | | 100% - 124% | | 125% - 149% | | 150% - 185% | | 200% | 200% | 125% | 100% | Median Income |
| | | | 35 | 25 | 73 | 53 | 17 | 262 | | | | | | | |
| Block Group 1, Census Tract 9501, Hood River County | 534 | 32 | 35 | 25 | 73 | 53 | 17 | 262 | 44% | 31% | 17% | 13% | \$ 34,375.00 | | |
| Block Group 2, Census Tract 9501, Hood River County | 318 | 1 | 31 | 84 | 11 | 5 | 0 | 185 | 41% | 40% | 36% | 10% | \$ 52,411.00 | | |
| Block Group 3, Census Tract 9501, Hood River County | 195 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 8 | 10 | 0 | 158 | 15% | 9% | 5% | 5% | \$ 66,250.00 | | |
| Block Group 4, Census Tract 9501, Hood River County | 275 | 6 | 0 | 59 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 180 | 30% | 24% | 24% | 2% | \$ 88,875.00 | | |
| Block Group 1, Census Tract 9502, Hood River County | 507 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 54 | 8 | 18 | 413 | 19% | 14% | 3% | 0% | \$ 58,125.00 | | |
| Block Group 2, Census Tract 9502, Hood River County | 229 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 32 | 7 | 171 | 25% | 8% | 5% | 5% | \$ 55,815.00 | | |
| Block Group 3, Census Tract 9502, Hood River County | 525 | 47 | 0 | 56 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 399 | 24% | 20% | 20% | 9% | \$ 71,793.00 | | |
| Block Group 4, Census Tract 9502, Hood River County | 726 | 49 | 50 | 35 | 14 | 57 | 25 | 495 | 32% | 21% | 19% | 14% | \$ 57,419.00 | | |
| Block Group 5, Census Tract 9502, Hood River County | 616 | 72 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 528 | 14% | 13% | 13% | 12% | \$ 81,569.00 | | |
| Block Group 1, Census Tract 9503, Hood River County | 403 | 66 | 4 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 299 | 26% | 20% | 20% | 17% | \$ 33,829.00 | | |
| Block Group 2, Census Tract 9503, Hood River County | 541 | 28 | 144 | 22 | 7 | 38 | 0 | 302 | 44% | 37% | 36% | 32% | \$ 45,977.00 | | |
| Block Group 3, Census Tract 9503, Hood River County | 161 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 7 | 11 | 7 | 108 | 33% | 21% | 17% | 17% | | | |
| Block Group 4, Census Tract 9503, Hood River County | 317 | 0 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 5 | 256 | 19% | 14% | 14% | 14% | \$ 50,592.00 | | |
| Block Group 5, Census Tract 9503, Hood River County | 292 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 13 | 262 | 10% | 0% | 0% | 0% | \$ 67,600.00 | | |
| Block Group 6, Census Tract 9503, Hood River County | 649 | 43 | 183 | 24 | 43 | 0 | 6 | 350 | 46% | 45% | 39% | 35% | \$ 33,980.00 | | |
| Block Group 1, Census Tract 9504, Hood River County | 615 | 32 | 42 | 15 | 71 | 57 | 9 | 389 | 37% | 26% | 14% | 12% | \$ 57,798.00 | | |
| Block Group 2, Census Tract 9504, Hood River County | 507 | 30 | 2 | 43 | 102 | 29 | 21 | 280 | 45% | 35% | 15% | 6% | \$ 59,607.00 | | |
| Block Group 3, Census Tract 9504, Hood River County | 654 | 45 | 9 | 16 | 60 | 67 | 23 | 434 | 34% | 20% | 11% | 8% | \$ 60,898.00 | | |
| Block Group 4, Census Tract 9504, Hood River County, Oregon | 149 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 19 | 112 | 25% | 12% | 0% | 0% | \$ 50,662.00 | | |
| State of Oregon | | | | | | | | | 35% | 25% | 21% | 16% | \$ 57,532.00 | | |

