



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board

Recommendation Number: (20150608 – 5A1C: Increasing SNAP Enrollment with Outreach)

WHEREAS, 18 percent of Travis County residents and 25.5 percent of Travis County children live in a food insecure household, which is directly tied to poverty, and results in increased health care costs, lower educational success, and decreased workforce readiness; and

WHEREAS, many food insecure residents have limited access to highly nutritious foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables, and are thus at greater risk of chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, has proven to be a federal nutrition program that effectively lifts many persons out of poverty; and

WHEREAS, with only 58 percent of eligible persons in Travis County enrolled in SNAP, \$298,388,273 in economic activity is lost to Travis County annually; and

WHEREAS, direct outreach and application assistance to SNAP-eligible persons has proven to significantly increase SNAP enrollment, thereby decreasing food insecurity for these persons; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board recommends that the City of Austin fund a position with a partner community organization with demonstrated expertise and an established track record of facilitating SNAP outreach and enrollment to increase SNAP enrollment in Travis County;

AND, FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board recommends that the City of Austin and Travis County partner with, and provide resources to community organizations to facilitate the establishment of effective

technology and outreach for redeeming SNAP/WIC/FMNP and providing additional incentives at all area farmers markets and farm stands.

Date of Approval: 6/8/2015

Record of the vote: 9-0

Attest: 

(Staff or board member can sign)