



AUSTIN-TRAVIS COUNTY FOOD POLICY BOARD RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation Number: 20170522 – 2

Support for strategies to improve Austin's food system

WHEREAS, Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap 2017 data show that over 16% of Travis County adults and over 22% of Travis County children face food insecurity, and fall short of meeting their weekly food budget by \$17.48 per person; and

WHEREAS, Austin area school districts work to feed thousands of these lower income children two of their three daily meals with limited resources and support; and

WHEREAS, residents who have barriers such as income, housing, transportation, or physical limitations, or live outside .25 mile to a food retail establishment are more likely to be food insecure; and

WHEREAS, recent developments in state and federal immigration policies have created fear and reluctance among many in the immigrant community to ask for food assistance; and

WHEREAS, chronic, diet-related diseases such as heart disease and diabetes continue to be leading causes of death in Travis County, and

WHEREAS, 30-40% of all food in the US is wasted each year from farms, retail centers, restaurants, food service institutions, and manufacturers with estimates as high as 133 billion pounds per year; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity is a symptom of poverty, and has a significant impact on a person's mental and physical health, ability to succeed in school or work, and ability to contribute effectively to our community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Austin-Travis County Food Policy Board recommends that the Austin City Council support the following:

The creation of a school food access fund available for school districts in the City of Austin to provide innovative delivery models or programs to address food security among school-aged children;

A study of healthy food access within the City of Austin and Travis County, including metrics to determine how economic, health, housing, and transportation disparities affect a person's access to nutritious foods. The study should make recommendations on most impactful options in the economic, health, housing, and transportation sectors to improve equitable, nutritious food access;

Funding to decrease food waste and increase food recovery via the Environmental Protection Agency's Food Recovery Hierarchy through existing and new initiatives as well as private, innovative competitions.

Date of Approval: 5/22/2017

Record of the vote: 7 in favor, none opposed

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edwin Marty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

City of Austin, Office of Sustainability, Food Policy Manager/ ATCFPB Staff Liaison

Background for Austin-Travis County Food Policy Board Recommendation '20170522 – 2' to Austin City Council

1. Create a school food access fund available for school districts in the City of Austin to provide innovative delivery models or programs to address food security among school-aged children. Estimated cost: \$100,000
 - a. This funding could be used for meal delivery models, such as but not limited to: Breakfast in the Classroom, weekend backpack programs, or food trucks.
 - b. This funding could also be used to supplement needs such as kitchen equipment, salad bars, or culinary training for kitchen staff.

2. Create a study of healthy food access within the City of Austin and Travis County, including metrics to determine how economic, health, housing, and transportation disparities affect a person's access to nutritious foods. The study should make recommendations on most impactful options in the economic, health, housing, and transportation sectors to improve equitable, nutritious food access. Estimated cost: \$15,000
 - a. This study could build on the work already completed by the Office of Sustainability, including the Food Environment Analysis, to determine how to reach those most in need of healthy food.
 - b. This study also recognizes the combined effects of poverty in creating barriers to food.

3. Increase Austin and Travis County Community Center food pantry capacity in order to provide food insecure populations with an additional estimated 190,000 meals a year. Estimated cost: \$100,000
 - a. Funding could be used to purchase additional refrigeration, increase public access to food pantries, and make it easier for volunteers to make after hour food donations.

4. Establish an end-to-end food waste reduction and recovery technology infrastructure that will support city-wide food recovery efforts. Estimated Cost: \$105,000
 - a. Funding could be used to identify a technology partner, engineer and launch the technology network, and provide rebates to businesses in order to encourage participation.
 - b. This technology solution could address all four of the current roadblocks to food recovery efforts; (1) city-level data aggregation, (2) transportation solutions (3) seamless matchmaking and (4) capacity management, making waste reduction and food recovery more pervasive, efficient, and self-sustaining.
 - c. Keep Austin Fed (KAF) could be the establishing local nonprofit partner already onboard to adapt and test the technology with hopes of doubling their impact in just 12 months (from ~500k recovered annually to ~1M meals annually).