

Austin Civilian Conservation Corps Program Overview

Environmental Commission | 04/19/2021



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Background & Structure

ACCC Background

The Austin Civilian Conservation Corps helps Austinites who have been economically impacted by COVID-19 earn income, serve their community, and gain skills that can lead to strong new careers in conservation and sustainability fields.

Key points

- Created by Council Resolution 20200507-061 (May 2020). Happy 1 year anniversary!
- COVID-19 recovery workforce development program focused on green jobs, modeled (in spirit) after 1930s CCC program
- Focused on creating equitable access to low-barrier programs that provide income, support, and pathways to additional jobs/careers/training
- Run by a program team with representatives from eight departments
- Authorized to seek \$2.5M - \$500K from GFR and \$2M from departments

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Where We Are Now

Current Programs and Funding

Program Area	Parks, Preserves, & Wildfire	Green Building and Solar	Cultural Arts	Community Co-creation	Green Pathways
COA Departments	PARD, WPD, DSD, AWD, AFD	Sustainability, Innovation	EDD Cultural Arts, PARD	Innovation	PARD, WPD
Partner Organizations	American Youthworks, GAVA, TOOF	Gulf Coast Carpenters and Millwrights, Community 1st Village	Raasin in the Sun, Creative Action	MEASURE, Build with Humanity	Internal to COA
Participants	54	9	41	20+	4
Funding Level	\$2.81M	\$39K	\$143K	\$40K	\$200K

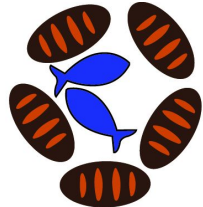
108 positions | \$3.232M | 2 years

Potential Future ACCC Programs

Program	Funding	Partner Depts	Begins	Participants	City positions?
Greenspace and Parks Conservation - \$1.598M					
Greenspace and Preserves Crew year two	\$450K	PARD	FY22	8-10	N
Stream Cleanup and Restoration Crew year two	\$223K	WPD	FY22	7	N
Green infrastructure crew	\$400K	WPD, PWD	FY21	8-10	N
Tree health team	\$450K	PARD, DSD, APL	Fy21	8-10	Y (1)
Forestry/Landscaping individual placements	\$75K	PARD, APL	FY22	3	Y (3)
Wildfire Mitigation - \$150K					
Wildfire Crew full funding year two	\$150K	AFD, AWD	FY22	8-10	N
Green Building and Renewable Energy - \$570K					
Green Building & Solar Installation (2 cohorts)	\$70k	Sustainability	FY21	18	N
Residential green building and repair crew	\$500K	HPD, DSD	FY21	8-10	N
Circular Economy and Resource Recovery - \$2.08M					
Circular economy apprenticeship program	\$550K	ARR, EDD	FY21	50	Y (1)
Community PC Repair Program expansion	\$670K	Digital Inclusion	FY21	40	Y (3)
COA office and equipment repair team	\$750K	ARR (possibly BSD)	FY21	5	Y (5)
Scale the Building Services Surplus Program	\$110K	BSD	FY21	1	Y (1)
Community Engagement and Preparedness - \$700K					
Climate emergency and mutual aid corps	\$500K	EDD, Sustainability	FY21	100	Y (1-2)
Environmental project info community outreach	\$200K	WPD	FY21	15	Y (.5-1)
Total	\$5.099M			279-286	

Partners

All current ACCC initiative rely on partner organizations to structure the programs, recruit participants, and carry out the work.



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Outreach and Engagement

Communications and web presence

- <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/austin-civilian-conservation-corps>
- Social via through department and COA accounts
- A multi-department comms team, led by CPIO distributes information about ACCC programs, runs social campaigns, etc.

Partners

- Partner organizations carry out low-barrier application processes and participant selection
- ACCC established data collection and reporting metrics that all partners must use
- In close collaboration with Travis County to establish a regional Conservation Corps



Tweet

Participants in the Austin Civilian Conservation Corps program, which helps Austinites impacted by [#COVID19](#), completed a ramp at Community First! Village. 🧑‍🔧 🧑‍🔧 They got training in construction, green building, + solar installation.

👉 Get Involved: [AustinTexas.gov/department/aus...](https://www.austintexas.gov/department/austin-civilian-conservation-corps)



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What's Next

Building the ACCC Program

Alignment

We've done a great job identifying programs opportunities from departments. Now, we want to understand what residents need and want, so that we can create programs to fulfill that.

- **Community co-creation** (in progress with partner orgs)
- **Green jobs economic analysis** (in progress with UT)
- **Green jobs incubator / accelerator** for new programs (desired, pilot in discussion)

Commitments

- Working to obtain funding commitments from departments for programs in FY22 and beyond, and permanently establish the ACCC through the FY22 budget and potentially the ARP spending framework.

Analysis and Adaptations

- Will use data from program performance, user research, and the economic analysis to understand what's working, what needs to adapt, and what gaps we need to fill in FY22 to continue to grow the ACCC.

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In the Future

Long Term Goals

The ACCC core team is working to:

- Establish the ACCC as a permanent, cross-departmental program with budget
- Evolve into a community-driven program where residents inform direction and structure
- Partner with additional groups within and outside the City org
- Expand to a regional approach, align with similar state/federal initiatives
- Help others replicate our model





Thank You! Questions?

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