

**Community Services Block Grant
Programmatic/Financial Report
June 8, 2021**

The Community Services Block Grant funds the delivery of services to low income Texas residents in all 254 counties. These funds support a variety of direct services in addition to helping maintain the core administrative elements of community action agencies.

For the City of Austin, the grant provides funding for the delivery of basic needs, case management, preventive health and employment support services through the City’s six (6) Neighborhood Centers and the three (3) Outreach Sites.

- **Basic Needs** (food, clothing, information and referral, notary services, transportation, car safety education and car seats, tax preparation, Blue Santa applications, fans, Thanksgiving food baskets and other seasonal activities);
- **Preventive Health** (screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar including a1C, and cholesterol; pregnancy testing; health promotion presentations, coordination and participation in health fairs, immunizations, coordination of wellness activities, linkages to medical home providers and diabetes case management);
- **Case Management** (individual/family support counseling, advocacy, self-sufficiency case management, crisis intervention, linkages with employers, educational opportunities and training, and working with individuals on quality of life issues);
- **Employment Support** (intake, assessment and goal setting, job readiness training, job placement assistance, and job retention services)

Expenditures Categories	2021 Contract Budget	Cumulative Expenditures as of 4/30/21	% of Total
Personnel	\$704,239.27	\$185,886.43	26.4%
Fringe Benefits	\$387,277.37	\$84,930.38	22%
Other	\$10,589.36	\$0	0%
Total	\$1,102,106	\$270,816.81	25%

Austin Public Health Report on PY21 Community Action Plan

Transition Out of Poverty Goal		Goal	Achieved		Success Rate%
TOP	Individuals who transitioned out of poverty	43	0		0%

MISSION: To prevent disease, promote health, and protect the well-being of our community.

TOP 5 NEEDS: Housing; Health; Employment; Basic Needs; Education

Report Date April 2021

FNPI	Outcome Description	Target	#Enrolled	#Achieved	Success Rate %
4	Housing				
4E	Households who avoided eviction				
4E	Households who avoided eviction (CARES ACT)	1200	1013	1013	100%
5	Health and Social/Behavioral Development		#Enrolled	#Achieved	Success Rate %
5B	Individuals who demonstrated improved physical health and well being	50	0	0	
5D	Individuals who improved skills related to the adult role of parents/caregivers	50	19	19	100%
SRV	Service Description	Number Served			
30	Tax Preparation Programs				
4C	Rent Payments				
4C	Rent Payments (Cares Act)	1013			
4I	Utility Payments	69			
5A	Immunizations				
5J	Food Distribution	6,476			
7A	Case Management	38			
7B	Eligibility Determinations	892			
7D	Transportation	2			
7N	Emergency Clothing				
3A.1	Total number of volunteer hours donated to the Agency	160			

Programmatic/Administrative Updates

- 1. Neighborhood Services Unit Vacancies** – Currently, there are 2 vacancies in the NSU (two temporary administrative associates).

- 2. CDC Nomination/Selection (Elections) Spring 2021** – Working with the St. John Neighborhood Association (Responsible Organization) to facilitate a Nomination/Selection meeting for the St. John seat this month.
- 3. Neighborhood Services** – Due to the City of Austin’s COVID-19 response and safety measures our Neighborhood Centers were closed to the public at 6pm on March 16, 2020. We continue to offer Food Pantry Curbside by appt. only, Emergency Rental assistance in collaboration with the Austin Area Urban League, Self-Sufficiency case management services and utility assistance through the Austin Energy Plus One program.
- 4. Home Delivery Program** – In collaboration with the Central Texas Food Bank and Amazon, the NSU is launching a home delivery program. Eligible individuals (Travis County Resident, “Low Income” and Target Population (Household with children 0-18 or Senior 60+) will be able to sign up for monthly deliveries of pre-packed food boxes.
- 5. Community Needs Assessment** – Woollard Nichols & Associates will present their CNA findings following my report today. They were hired to conduct the NSU Community Needs Assessment. Community Needs Assessments are an integral part of a Subrecipient’s planning and are to be used to set the direction for their work. Section 676(b)(11), of the CSBG Act states “...an assurance that the State will secure from each eligible entity in the State...a community action plan...that includes a community needs assessment for the community served, which may be coordinated with community needs assessments conducted for other programs....”
- 6. CARES ACT CSBG Funding** - The Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TDHCA) has awarded the Neighborhood Services Unit CARES ACT CSBG funds with the purpose of assisting eligible clients with COVID-19 related needs such as rental assistance through July 31, 2021. In November we began working with the Austin Area Urban League to begin processing financial assistance payments for eligible clients. Through April we assisted 366 Households and processed \$861,295.62 in rent assistance payments.
- 7. Austin Energy Plus 1 Program** – Serious illness, a recent job loss, or a pandemic can make it difficult for some customers to pay their utility bills. The Plus 1 fund helps by providing emergency financial aid to customers who are having a temporary problem paying their utility bills. We continue to assist clients with utility assistance using these funds. Some good news: we have been awarded an additional \$46,551 Plus 1 funds, effective immediately.

Success Story

As told by the Community Worker who assisted this client:

Client is a 57-year-old man that was diagnosed with COVID back in October 2020. Client was in the hospital for 5 months and while he was in, he went into a coma for 2 months. Client went blind in both eyes, lost taste so with that he stated that he lost a lot of weight. Client stated that he had seen many people die while “in there” and that he was glad when it was over. Client worked at the apartment complex where he lives as a maintenance worker. While in the hospital he fell behind on his rent. Once the tenants from the complex found out they all came together to collect donations for his rent to be paid. Client is now out of the hospital and back working part time due to only having sight in one eye. Client has many doctor appointments to get himself back to normal. Client will continue to need assistance with rent. Client’s rent is \$1325.00 monthly. Client is very grateful for his neighbors and the City of Austin.

Once the gentleman was released from the hospital, his landlord actually called and secured an appointment for him and facilitated the intake and submission of paperwork.