

**Community Services Block Grant
Programmatic/Financial Report
June 14, 2022**

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.

Mission: *The Neighborhood Services Unit improves the lives and health of people experiencing poverty by providing public health and social services and connecting residents of Austin and Travis County to community resources.*

- **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	2022 Contract Budget*	Cumulative Expenditures as of 4/30/22	% of Total
Personnel		\$118,472.06	
Fringe Benefits		\$40,794.92	
Other		\$0	
Total	\$545,928.00	\$159,266.98	29%

*Amount received from TDHCA's 1st installment.

Transition Out of Poverty Goal		Goal	Achieved		Success Rate%
TOP	Individuals who transitioned out of poverty	43	6		14%

Austin Public Health Report on PY22 Community Action Plan

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 2022

FNPI	Outcome Description	Target	#Enrolled	#Achieved	Success Rate %
4	Housing				
4E	Households who avoided eviction	400	323	323	81%
4E	Households who avoided eviction (CARES ACT) *2021	1200	1,458	1,458	122%
5	Health and Social/Behavioral Development		#Enrolled	#Achieved	Success Rate %
5B	Individuals who demonstrated improved physical health and well being	50	0	0	On hold due to COVID-19
5D	Individuals who improved skills related to the adult role of parents/caregivers	25	10	6	60%
SRV	Service Description	Number Served			
3O	Tax Preparation Programs	327			
4C	Rent Payments	323			
4C	Rent Payments (Cares Act) *2021	1,451			
4I	Utility Payments	81			
5A	Immunizations				
5J	Food Distribution	13,452			
7A	Case Management	23			
7B	Eligibility Determinations	531			
7D	Transportation	6			
7N	Emergency Clothing				
3A.1	Total number of volunteer hours donated to the Agency	405			

Programmatic/Administrative Updates

- 1. Neighborhood Services Unit Vacancies** – Working with HR to fill vacancies.
- 2. Neighborhood Services** – Reopened our Neighborhood Centers to the public on Monday, May 2, 2022. Due to the City of Austin’s COVID-19 response and safety measures our Neighborhood Centers had been closed to the public since March 16, 2020. We continue to offer Food Pantry Curbside & HOPE services, Home Delivery Program, Emergency Rental assistance in collaboration with Catholic Charities of Central Texas, Self-Sufficiency case management services and utility assistance through the Austin Energy Plus 1 program.
- 3. Fresh Foods For Families (FFFF)** – The Neighborhood Centers in collaboration with the Central Texas Food Bank holds Fresh Food For Families events that provide free monthly distributions of fruits, vegetables and other fresh foods to low-income families. These distributions supplement existing grocery budgets with much-needed nutritious foods. The events are drive-thru. In April, we served 739 individuals through this service.
- 4. Tax Help Services** – This tax season, tax services were offered at the Rosewood Zaragosa and Montopolis Neighborhood Centers. This collaboration with AARP and Foundation Communities primarily seeks to increase access to free tax preparation services to underserved populations. We were able to assist 327 people. The AARP Tax Help staff was able to assist clients in filing 173 tax returns with a refund. The refund total equaled \$178,846.
- 5. Home Delivery Program** – In collaboration with the Central Texas Food Bank and Amazon, the NSU launched a home delivery program. Eligible individuals (Travis County Resident, “Low Income” and Target Population (Household with children 0-18 or Senior 60+) have begun signing up for monthly deliveries of pre-packed food boxes. Expanded eligibility in August to include individuals with a disability, Veterans and Active Military members. In April 1,073 Households/3,231 Individuals had food boxes delivered to their doorstep. Some exciting news is that we are in the process of adding Fridays as a delivery day!
- 6. COA Financial Stability Funding** – In partnership with Catholic Charities of Central Texas, the Neighborhood Services Unit provides rental assistance to clients facing a crisis that puts their housing at risk. January – April 2022 we assisted 323 people in 94 households avoid eviction using these funds.
- 7. Austin Energy Plus 1 Program** – Serious illness, a recent job loss, or the 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.

