We are Austin Public Health!





Message from the Director

I am pleased to share with you our Annual Report from Austin Public Health, our department's new name. Formerly known as Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services, we believe that Austin Public Health more accurately defines who we are, what we do and, most importantly, we hope it is a name that's easier for everyone to remember and understand.

Public health plays a critical role in protecting and supporting the health and well-being of people and communities. Austin Public Health provides a range of programs and human services that promote healthy behaviors, prevent diseases, provide food protection, offer life-saving immunizations, prepare and respond to public health emergencies, and help people navigate through crises. Building well-being means more than just preventing illness or helping out with basic needs. It involves supporting people to fully reach their potential. When, as a community, we make sure that everyone can contribute to society, we all benefit.

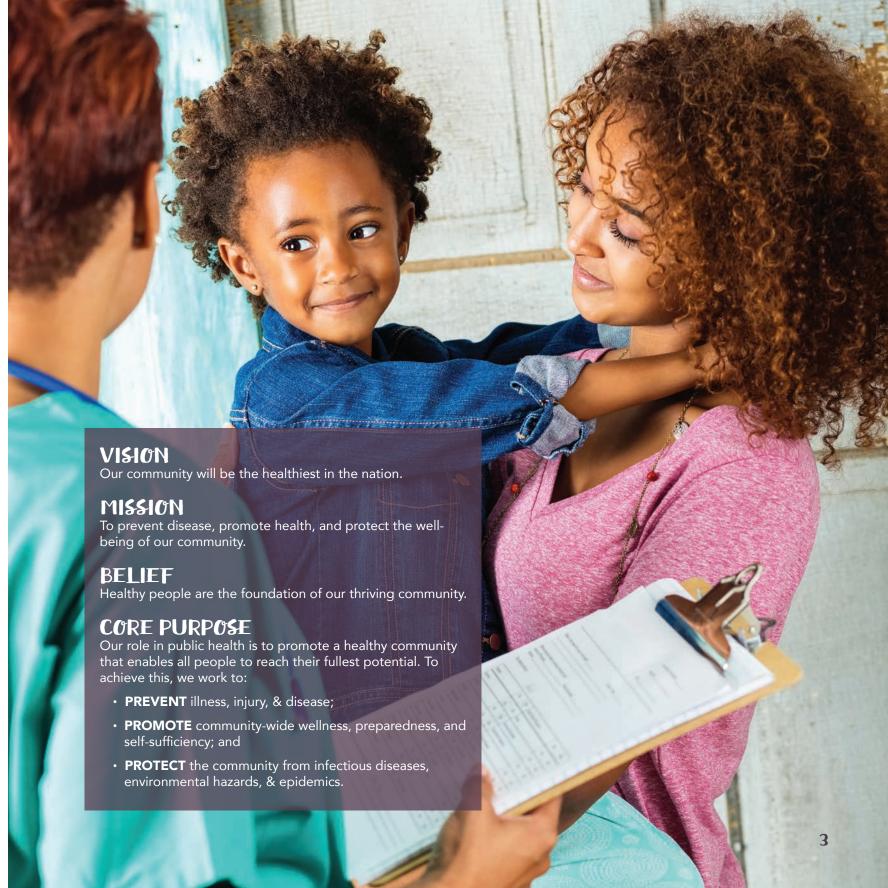
Austin Public Health reached a tremendous milestone this year by earning national accreditation. The department met or exceeded rigorous public health standards and demonstrated a strong commitment to our public health mission to protect and promote the health of our community. Accreditation status is an on-going process with re-accreditation taking place every five years.

Working with our partners, stakeholders and residents we are addressing the many factors that influence health and well-being including rates of childhood poverty, chronic diseases, teen birth rates, access to care, access to healthy foods and levels of physical activity. As our population continues to grow our community becomes increasingly diverse—economically, linguistically, culturally and geographically. While there is great prosperity in our community, significant disparities in the health status of our population persist. Our goal is to secure health equity and ensure the well-being of our entire population.

The accomplishments achieved this year are a direct result of our dedicated staff, the support of our city and county elected officials and the many partner collaborations we have throughout the community. Ultimately, the strength of an effective public health system relies on its ability to use best practices and work with community partners to deliver essential public health services everywhere and every day. That's what Austin Public Health does and we will build upon those successes in the coming year.

Shannon W. Jones IIIDirector
Austin Public Health





Public Health Accreditation

After seven years of preparation and application, in May of 2016 Austin Public Health earned accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board. This milestone is national recognition that the department meets or exceeds the rigorous public health standards established by the non-profit non-governmental accreditation board. Accreditation opens the door to share innovative strategies and best practices with an elite network of accredited health departments and to leverage funding opportunities.

The rigorous department-wide process involved strengthening essential public health services, submitting hundreds of implemented deliverables, and hosting a site visit team of public health professionals this past year.

The site visit team reported that Austin Public Health excelled in many areas and submitted glowing remarks including: (1) the professionalism, knowledge, and expertise of staff; (2) outstanding education and outreach to the community; (3) engagement of City Council; and (4) exceptional and supportive range of partners. The Department continues to strengthen all services including advanced protocols and interactive emergency preparedness exercises, development of culturally and linguistically appropriate materials and programs for our diverse community, and building a stronger workforce through trainings and professional development.



The accreditation board, supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against which the nation's more than 3,000 governmental public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. Austin Public Health is the third health department in Texas to be accredited.

A COMMITMENT TO

Health Equity

Health disparities are the differences in health status among groups of people. Health inequities are reflected in differences in length of life; quality of life; rates of disease, disability, and death; severity of disease; and access to treatment.

Austin's African American, Hispanic, and Asian residents experience poorer health outcomes compared to that of white residents. For example, African Americans experience higher rates of diabetes, heart disease, stroke, HIV, and other sexually transmitted infections. Hispanics also experience higher rates of diabetes compared to white residents, and Asians are at a higher risk of developing diabetes at a younger age.

Poverty, low levels of educational attainment, and geographical access are some of the barriers that prevent our communities of color from achieving the highest standard of health. Many neighborhoods that are home to these residents don't have access to everyday resources that many of us take for granted like bus routes, health clinics, grocery stores, or safe places to play. These resources support health and a good quality of life allowing all residents to thrive and contribute fully to the community.



The Health Equity Unit provides community based programs and services to ensure that all our residents have the opportunity to reach their full health potential no matter their race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, immigration status, or income level. Services include:

- **Mobile Van Program** visits various community locations in underserved areas to offer free health screenings to help residents learn their risk for chronic diseases. Services include blood sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol screenings; pregnancy and HIV/STD testing; resource referrals; and health insurance information.
- The Employment Support Program works with various job training programs, employers, and community organizations to help job seekers with their preparation and search for employment to improve their quality of life. In addition to job readiness workshops and career fairs, clients are also connected with free resources to help with interview attire and transportation to job interviews.
- Promoting Healthy Lifestyles through education and health promotion activities, residents have access to tools, resources and support to help them live longer, healthier lives. Topics include diabetes education, chronic illness prevention and education, and health and wellness activities.
- Maternal and Infant Outreach Program provides support to African American women who are pregnant, have a baby, or are planning a pregnancy, through the first year of the child's life. The program employs African American community health workers to provide free services to low-income African American women in Travis County. These services include health education, navigation assistance, one-on-one home visits, birth education, and labor and delivery support.



Who We Are and What We Do

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Communications/Community
Development manages media
relations outreach to ensure
accurate and appropriate messaging
is disseminated to the public.

Audit & Monitoring/Contract Compliance performs risk-based internal audits to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of processes; and monitors social service contracts to ensure compliance and internal procedures are followed.

Accreditation requires continuous process improvement to meet specific performance standards.

15 employees

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Neighborhood Centers provide a variety of basic human services to low and moderate income families in need including health screenings, food and clothes distribution, and referrals, in six locations.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is the free supplemental nutrition program for pregnant women, new mothers, and young children. Participants receive benefits to purchase healthy foods at 14 WIC clinics.

Mom's Place is a specialized clinic where mothers can receive free breastfeeding help, support, and follow-up care by certified lactation consultants and peer counselors.

Family Health Services:

- **Early Childhood** program works with providers to offer subsidized child care for low-income families, operated by Workforce Solutions Child Care Services.
- **Peer-to-Peer Health Education** helps youth increase their knowledge and attitudes about health choices while becoming empowered to disseminate this information to their peers.
- Austin Healthy Adolescent (AHA) program engages, empowers, and collaborates with youth to take ownership of their own health and work to advance the health of their communities.
- **Healthy Texas Babies Initiative** works with partners to reduce disparities in birth outcomes by focusing on teen health and teen pregnancy prevention.
- Community Youth Development provides juvenile delinquency prevention services for families and enhances the positive development of youth in the Dove Springs area in Southeast Austin.
- **Youth Development** program employs young adults to remove graffiti from private and public property anywhere in the City of Austin, providing job development skills and work experience for these youth.

Day Labor Center community counselors provide a safe and supervised environment where those who need workers can come together with laborers who need work.

159 employees

Who We Are and What We Do

HEALTH EQUITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Health Equity unit provides programs and services to ensure all residents have the opportunity to reach their full health potential, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, immigration status, or income level.

- **Quality of Life** programs focus on the health equity needs of African Americans, Hispanics, and Asians.
- Maternal Infant Outreach Program provides support to African American women who are pregnant, have a baby, or are planning a pregnancy.

Social Services program directs funding to local community-based organizations that provide services for clients. Programs promote self-sufficiency across a life continuum, from birth to old age.

 Homeless Assistance supports the City's Self-Sufficiency and Responsibility Initiative, a comprehensive approach that provides services to help homeless people get back on their feet.

Community Transformation programs, through federal funds, improve the health outcomes of our community, with projects to enhance access to care and increase quality of care.

Planning and Evaluation works together with partners, stakeholders, and community members to address health issues, and develop Community Health Assessments and execute Improvement Plans.

HIV Planning Council is a federally-mandated planning body to support the local Ryan White HIV/AIDS program.

HIV Resources Administration Unit is responsible for procuring and monitoring HIV/AIDS primary medical care, treatment, and support services for HIV prevention and care services.

36 $_{\sf employees}$

DISEASE PREVENTION/HEALTH PROMOTION -- OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention programs promote health and quality of life by working within the community to prevent and control disease.

- **Diabetes** program offers free nutrition, physical fitness, and self-management classes in locations throughout Austin.
- **Injury Prevention** program works with community partners to take action to prevent injuries before they happen, including child passenger and bicycle safety, and infant safe sleep.
- Tobacco/Smoking Cessation and Prevention offers help to quit tobacco as well as support to help make long-lasting changes that promote tobacco-free living.

Immunizations program provides vaccines to uninsured children or those with Medicaid and to uninsured adults at two clinics in North and South Austin. They also operate flu vaccine clinics.

Communicable Disease:

- Hepatitis program offers hepatitis immunizations and testing, perinatal Hepatitis B program, and Hepatitis C prevention.
- HIV Prevention program offers free confidential and anonymous counseling and testing for HIV in a mobile van that travels to locations throughout Austin.
- STD (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) Clinic provides low-cost counseling and testing, outreach and education, surveillance, and case management services for clients with STDs, including HIV.
- Tuberculosis Clinic provides evaluation of clients for latent and active TB disease and conducts outreach investigations for those who are exposed to TB.
- **Refugee Clinic** provides health screening services to refugees, asylum-seekers, and victims of human trafficking relocating to the Austin/Travis County area.

116 employees

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance monitors disease trends over time, detects disease outbreaks, and increases our knowledge of risk factors contributing to disease development.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness is critical to protect everyone's health and well-being in such emergencies as natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and potential biological or chemical attacks.

- Maintains and develops updates to plans for public health emergencies.
- Ensures that all staff have completed public health emergency response training.
- Works with multi-jurisdictional partners to develop plans for exercises to test emergency readiness and response.

Vital Records registers and issues birth and death certificates for the City of Austin.

 $33_{\text{employees}}$

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Food Protection System promotes health and prevents disease through education, training, and regulation in partnership with operators and employees of more than 5,000 food service locations.

Restaurants, Mobile Food Vendors, and Temporary Food Event Inspection programs ensure proper food safety at all food establishments through inspections and permitting.

Restaurant Inspection Scores makes publicly available the scoring of the inspections of more than 5,000 food establishments in Austin conducted twice yearly.

Environmental Rodent and Vector Control assists individual property owners with eradicating mosquitoes and rodents on their property.

Smoking in Public Places program is responsible for enforcement of the Smoking Ordinance and the Minor's Access to Tobacco Ordinance. Citations are issued for witnessed violations.

Pool and Spa program ensures that all public and semi-public aquatic facilities follow proper safety guidelines through inspection and permitting, including interactive water features and fountains

 $64_{\text{employees}}$

ADMINISTRATION

Accounting ensures that all invoices are paid timely and grant billings and reporting are completed timely and accurately.

Budget and Analysis develops and monitors the department's budget and performance measures.

Contract Management manages the day-to-day administration of more than 100 social service contracts, ensuring that grant funds are properly expended.

Human Resources manages employment, employee relations, compensation and benefits, training and development, safety, and workers' compensation.

Information Systems provides technology development and support for programs, including data security

Records Management is a critical component in the protection of citizens' rights and privacy, as well as compliance with legal requirements.

 $49_{\text{employees}}$

Transforming the Community

Using federal dollars, Austin Public Health is improving the health outcomes of our community. Through the Public Health and Human Services 1115 Waiver funding source, projects enhance access to health care, increase quality of care, or increase the cost-effectiveness of care and the health of the patient and families served.

Permanent Supportive Housing for the Homeless

Two of the projects provide intensive support services for the chronically homeless, helping them maintain housing stability, which will not only benefit them but the community at large.

Community Diabetes Project Expansion

Free diabetes self-management education classes are offered in Spanish or English by community health workers in community settings for individuals living with diabetes.

Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program targeting 18-24 year olds

To reduce tobacco use among the 18-24 year old population, free and confidential counseling services are provided, as well as support and information from trained professionals.

Immunizations for High Risk Populations

This project provides vaccines for uninsured or Medicaid/Medicare eligible high-risk populations, specifically targeting clients seeking STD & HIV services, day laborers, homeless individuals, and substance abusers.

Maternal Infant Outreach Program

Community health workers provide support for African American women before and during their pregnancies and throughout the child's first year of life, helping moms access health and human services, providing health education and birth education, and providing labor and delivery support.

Healthy Families Expansion

This program provides long-term home visiting services to support the needs of first-time African American parents. Services begin during the woman's pregnancy and continue until the child turns three years old.

Peer to Peer Health Education to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

This intervention for all youth participants increases their knowledge, skills, and attitudes about health and personal choices to help them become empowered to share this information with their peers.

Increasing the Healthcare Workforce

This project expands enrollment in programs that provide primary training to increase the number of registered nurses who commit to serve in medically-underserved areas. This project builds on workforce development investments that are helping individuals become self-sufficient.

Infectious Disease Management through Electronic Health Records

New clinical protocols are being integrated into electronic medical records to increase efficiencies and decrease duplication of infectious disease management services.

PREVENTING HIV

Austin Public Health offers free confidential and anonymous counseling and testing for HIV for those who are not experiencing symptoms. In the fight against HIV/AIDS, getting tested is critical. People are more likely to use caution if they know they can spread the virus.

Our **STD** (**Sexually Transmitted Disease**) **Clinic** at the Rebekah Baines Johnson health center, located centrally at IH 35 and Lady Bird Lake, provides evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of all sexually treated infections, including HIV, at low cost, including lab testing.

For people who may not be able to make it into our clinic, our **Mobile HIV testing** van can be found in a variety of locations around Austin. The van, staffed with trained community workers and public health educators, goes to gay bars on Sixth Street on weekend nights, to area drug stores, fitness gyms, city recreational facilities, and other locations convenient for those who may need testing.

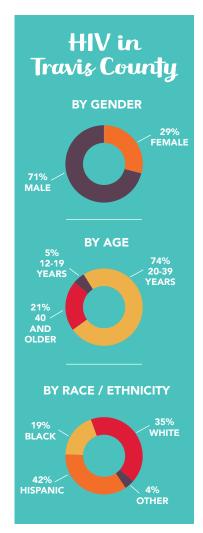
The van can provide counseling, free rapid HIV testing, STI testing, community resources, condoms, and other free items. The schedule is posted online and distributed to community groups for their clients' information.

We also fight the spread of HIV by distributing condoms throughout the city, to neighborhood centers, barber shops, liquor stores, bars, and other easily accessible local establishments.

How great and convenient it was to be able to go somewhere downtown, to be tested by professionals without stigma or shame. It was super quick, easy, and gave me peace of mind!

- Drew









Caring for People Seeking a Better Life

For the more than 1,500 new refugees who relocated to the Austin/Travis County area last year, the Refugee Health Screening Clinic provides essential services to ensure their health and the health of the community.

Clients receive a general physical exam and an assessment of their vision and hearing ability as well as their general dental condition. They are screened for a number of diseases including TB, HIV, hepatitis, syphilis, and parasites, and receive immunizations. Medical social services for clients ensure they receive any follow-up healthcare that may be necessary. The clinic scheduled more than 7,100 appointments last year.

This group also includes asylum seekers (individuals allowed to stay permanently in safety in the US), and certified victims of human trafficking. Clients come from Cuba, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Syria, Congo, Ethiopia, Sudan, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Guatemala, Somalia, and Eritrea, and speak 17 different languages for which translation services are provided.

We have had very nice services at this clinic. We and the other refugee families have all said how friendly everyone is at the clinic and how much all the services have helped us. We're happy to be in the US and happy to be in Austin. We love the refugee clinic.

- Mohammed and Hayat



Social Service Contracts

(111 AGENCY CONTRACTS)

Basic Needs: provides stable housing and other essential services to low-income persons to meet their immediate basic needs.

Behavioral Health: offers an array of mental health and substance abuse services for eligible individuals so they can improve their quality of life.

Early Childhood and Youth: affords training and technical assistance to childcare program providers and early education services to support enrichment activities for eligible youth, and provides positive activities during out-of-school time and increases the likelihood that they will remain in school and avoid risky behaviors.

Health Equity: provides an array of social services that promote maternal and infant health, elderly health and wellness, African American health disparities, LGBTQ sexual health and wellness, and immigrant mental health.

HIV: advances education, prevents the spread of HIV and, comprehensively treats and supports HIV-infected individuals to maintain or improve their quality of life.

Homeless: provides a continuum of services that help transition people from being homeless into people who are successfully housed.

Planning and Administration: evaluates the effectiveness of the City's social services investment, identifies key community indicators, and develops strategies to prioritize community investments.

Workforce Development: provides an array of services to improve self-sufficiency and increase household income.



Fight the Bite, Day and Night

With the threat of Zika virus and the ongoing presence of West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses, Austin Public Health actively takes steps to be prepared. Our focus is on preventing mosquito bites and eliminating mosquito breeding grounds, and education is our most effective tool.

Outreach and Education: We reach out to the community in a variety of ways, such as frequent media releases and social media posts, widely-distributed flyers in multiple languages, information in neighborhood communiqués, utility bill inserts, and videos available on our website.

Monitoring and Surveillance: We actively monitor the situation locally, state-wide, and nationally. Our epidemiologists and disease surveillance staff meet regularly to evaluate disease outbreaks and environmental health issues in Austin, and produce a weekly Situational Report available on our website.

Partners: We work closely with the Travis County Medical Society, local healthcare providers, and area partners to provide information and guidance on reporting notifiable conditions.

Environmental Testing: Our environmental health staff stay current on local mosquito-borne illnesses by collecting mosquito specimens and sending them to the state lab for testing, as well as investigating mosquito complaints.

Community Survey:

We conducted the first community Zika survey in the nation to evaluate Zika virus health communications, mosquito prevention behaviors, and emergency preparedness in the community. The information will be used to quide future public health and emergency planning efforts.





4,064

Vector Control field activities (mosquito surveillance water sampling)

177

Community interviews/ surveys completed over two days

1,000

Houses approached by the community Survey

PUBLIC HEALTH S

8,291

Phone calls for lactation support

1,875

Lactation Consultations and Support

91%

Breastfeeding rate (one month after initial visit)



Mom's Place

Breastfeeding is the best food for a baby during the first year of life. Breast milk provides the best nutrition for the baby and also protects infants from illness and infection. But sometimes women need extra help to breastfeed. And that is where the breastfeeding experts at Mom's place can help. Mom's Place is a specialized clinic where mothers can receive free breastfeeding

assistance from International Board-Certified Lactation Consultants and Registered Nurses and peer counselors who provide basic support and follow-up care.

Services are offered at no cost to the entire community, regardless of income.

Additional services include weight checks for baby, a telephone help line, and breastfeeding education. The center is also able to loan hospital-grade breast pumps at no charge to parents in need.

Partnering with local hospitals, Mom's Place holds trainings for health care workers in breastfeeding skills, baby behavior, and a clinical lactation practicum. Staff also serve as breastfeeding experts in consulting with worksites and workgroups to expand breastfeeding support in workplaces.



I researched breastfeeding support in Austin and it was one of the first places that came up online as well as being a free community service. It is challenging to meet the needs of two preemie babies. Staff check the quality of my milk and my techniques. If it wasn't for Mom's Place, I probably would have given up long ago. It's been a fantastic experience.

- Daniela

EMPOWERING YOUTH TO MAKE

Healthy Choices

The Austin Healthy Adolescent Program focuses on improving the overall health and well-being of adolescents ages 13 to 24. The program collaborates with community partners to engage youth as active participants in programming and community efforts. Youth also become empowered to take ownership of their own health and work toward advancing the health of their communities.

Peer-2-Peer

This innovative peer-led health project is an intervention for youth ages 13 to 19 to increase their knowledge, skills, and attitudes about healthy relationships and empower them to share this information with their peers.

Youth Adult Council

The Council, a collaboration between youth and adults, is actively engaged in achieving health equity for youth of color and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) youth. It empowers them through education and community engagement to make healthy choices and reduce the rate of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases.

Young Artist Project

Young adult leaders and youth work together to create opportunities for creative expression to build resiliency among low to moderate income youth.

PUBLIC HEALTH S

2,750

Number of sex education and skills development encounters (more than double the projected goal of 1,200)



Austin/Travis County Ranks in Top Ten Healthiest Texas Counties

Travis County is ranked the ninth healthiest county in Texas (out of 241 reporting counties) for the annual County Health Rankings.* The rankings show how counties compare on 30 factors that impact health, including education, jobs, housing, exercise, smoking, obesity, and child poverty.

The rankings reflect the priority each county places on influencing the factors that affect residents' health and it also shows how important it will be to sustain those programs and services if communities want to build a culture of health. Here in Austin/Travis County, Austin Public Health continues to address health inequities and conditions to expand the opportunity for all to be healthy.



*University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Vaccines for Special Populations

Over the last two years, Austin Public Health has provided vaccinations for populations at higher risk of preventable diseases at locations such as homeless and women's shelters, alcohol and drug rehab centers, and psychiatric emergency services, under a special program using federal funds. Working with partners and our STD clinic, the program provided 12,207 vaccinations to 5,784 clients over a two year period.





STD Clinic Lab Given Highest Rating

Austin Public Health's STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease) lab received a perfect score of 100% on the lab inspection from the Department of Health and Human Services. All aspects of lab performance and quality control were examined and no deficiencies were found. The lab processes about 33,000 tests per year.

FOOD Safety



To ensure food safety in food establishments in our community, our environmental health services inspects all food facilities. Last year, we exceeded the

national standard of two inspections per restaurant to ensure food is being handled properly from the time it's received, stored, cooked and served to the consumer. Inspections by licensed health department personnel include observing food handling practices, taking food temperatures, prevention of food contamination, observing employee health practices, and inspection of facilities.

FOOD Security

To increase access to fresh, affordable and nutritious food for residents who live in food deserts and areas with limited access, the City of Austin partnered with Go Austin/Vamos Austin to offer a healthy corner store initiative in zip codes 78744 and 78745. Additionally, the Sustainable Food Center offers school and community farm stands in 78744, 78745, and 78702, and FarmShare Austin provides a mobile produce market in 78724 and 78617.



For the Win



HEALTHCARE EQUALITY INDEX

Austin Public Health's Rebekah Baines Johnson (RBJ) Health Clinics, including the Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic and the Tuberculosis clinic, have

been recognized as a "Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality" by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation (LGBT rights), for its inclusive policies and practices related to LGBT patients, visitors, and employees. The RBJ Center was the only location in Austin recognized for this honor.

Because of our innovative and integrated approach to health, the **National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention (NFHDSP)**selected Austin Public Health to pilot their

public awareness campaign to encourage mothers aged 35-55 years of age to manage their cholesterol risk.



The **Office of Vital Records** received Texas Vital Statistics' highest honor for the 15th year in a row when they were awarded the 2016 Five Star Award for Local Registration from the Texas Department of State Health Services. The award



recognizes partners who go above and beyond their duties in timeliness, document management, information systems, and training.

PUBLIC HEALTH Counts

Neighborhood Centers Providing Self-Sufficiency Services

60%

Percentage of clients who report they have reduced or eliminated barriers to bringing income into their households

Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)

365,230

Number of food benefit packages to women, infants, and children under 5

94%

Percentage of women on WIC who breastfed their infants after birth

Immunizations

24,312

Number of shots administered at our Immunizations Clinics for uninsured children and adults

2,323

Number of flu shots given

Neighborhood Services

51,724

Number of low-income clients helped with basic needs (food distribution and pantry, clothes closet, child safety seats, notary services and form/application assistance)

7,819

Number of individuals who received health screenings by public health nurses

Tuberculosis Screenings

9,808

Number of visits to our TB Clinic

Restaurant Inspections

10,401

Restaurant inspections

1,586

Food trailer inspections

1,125

Temporary food booth inspections

33,782

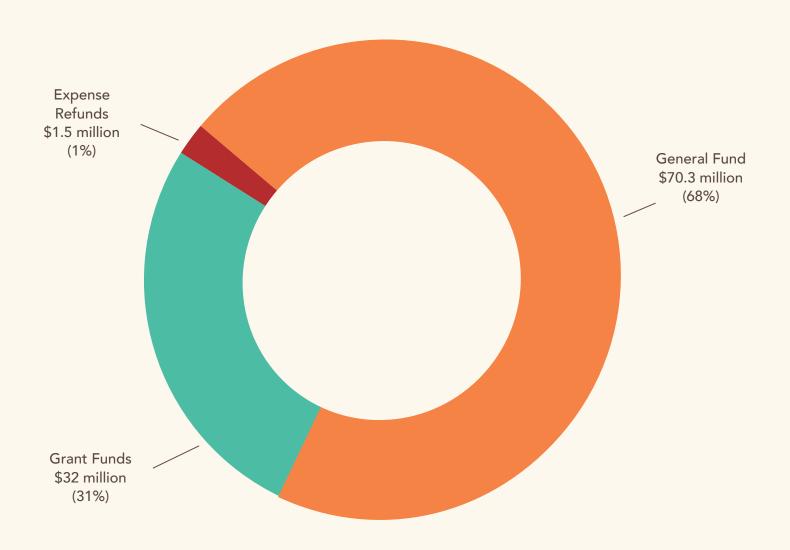
Number of food managers/ food handlers registered

Financial Overview

FISCAL YEAR 2016

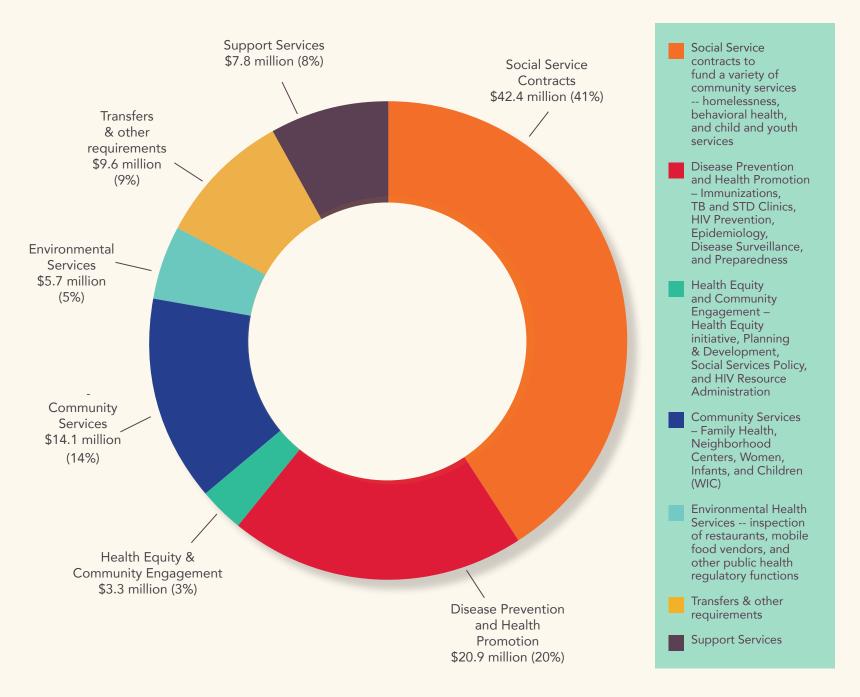
FUNDING SOURCES

Total budget \$103.7 million

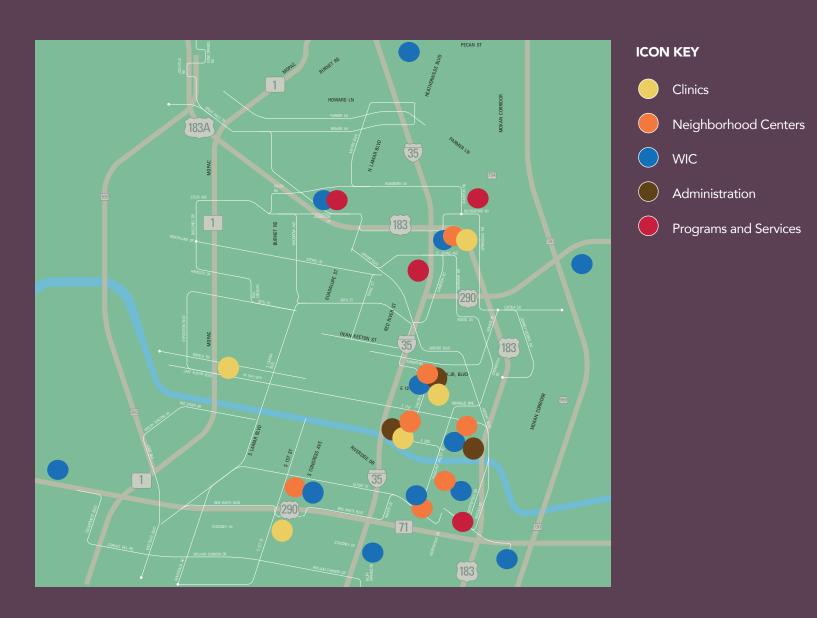


ALLOCATIONS

Fiscal Year 2016



Austin Public Health Locations



For detailed information, visit: www.austintexas.gov/department/health/locations

