

**Community Services Block Grant
Programmatic/Financial Report
October 13, 2020**

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	2020 Contract Budget	Cumulative Expenditures as of 08/31/20	% of Total
Personnel	\$693,764.20	\$431,706.55	62.2%
Fringe Benefits	\$394,116.34	\$204,662.47	52%
Other	\$14,225.46	\$5,357	%
Total	\$1,102,106	\$542,789.60	38%

Austin Public Health Report on PY19 Community Action Plan

Transition Out of Poverty Goal		Goal	Achieved		Success Rate%
TOP	Individuals who transitioned out of poverty	43	25		58%

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 June 30, 2020

FNPI	Outcome Description	Target	#Enrolled	#Achieved	Success Rate %
4	Housing				
4E	Households who avoided eviction	500	810	810	162%
5	Health and Social/Behavioral Development		#Enrolled	#Achieved	Success Rate %
5B	Individuals who demonstrated improved physical health and well being	15	103	81	79%
5D	Individuals who improved skills related to the adult role of parents/caregivers	50	7	5	71%
SRV	Service Description	Number Served			
3O	Tax Preparation Programs	339			
4C	Rent Payments	810			
4I	Utility Payments	228			
5A	Immunizations	0			
5J	Food Distribution	13,333			
7A	Case Management	50			
7B	Eligibility Determinations	1,266			
7D	Transportation	78			
7N	Emergency Clothing	0			

Programmatic/Administrative Updates

- 1. Neighborhood Services Unit Vacancies** – Onboarded 2 Public Health Nurses (St. John Neighborhood Center/Montopolis Neighborhood Center), 1 Administrative Associate (Blackland Neighborhood Center) and 2 Community Workers (NSU). We continue to work with the COA’s Human Resources Department to hire 2 more Community Workers and 1 Administrative Associate (Montopolis).
- 2. 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 are now offering Food Pantry Curbside by appt. only services. We continue to process Emergency Rental & Utilities Assistance applications.

- 3. 2020 – 2024 NSU Strategic Plan Goals** - Austin Public Health has its own strategic plan. NSU submits a specific strategic plan/goals for the work supported by CSBG through its Neighborhood Centers to meet Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs expectations (document included in back-up). TDHCA requests documentation of approval of the Strategic Plan by the CSBG Advisory Board (Community Development Commission).
- 4. CARES ACT CSBG Funding** - The Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TDHCA) has awarded \$1,497,736.00 to the Neighborhood Services Unit. These are CARES ACT CSBG funds with the purpose of assisting eligible clients with COVID-19 related needs such as rental assistance through July 31, 2021. Austin Area Urban League has been approved by Council to be our fiscal agent for this contract.
- 5. CSBG Discretionary Funding** – This Summer, we received an additional \$53,905 from the Texas Department of Housing & Community Development (TDHCA) for rent assistance payments for eligible clients affected by COVID-19. In partnership with Easter Seals of Central Texas we expended these funds. We were able to assist 148 individuals avoid eviction.
- 6. 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 received funding on October 1st to continue assisting our clients with this funding source.

Success Story

While assigned to Case Investigations at Austin Public Health, one of our Neighborhood Center nurses interviewed a client who tested positive for Covid-19. He shared that he had been isolating/sleeping in his 18-wheeler truck to quarantine away from his family (his wife was a Health care worker and they had a child) to protect them. Client had co-morbidities and was considered high risk. Client was provided information re: the City of Austin’s Isolation Facility. He expressed interest and public health nurse assisted in making arrangements for him to isolate there. Client was transported to Isolation Facility and remained there for 2 weeks until recovery. Nurse followed up with the client at discharge and he sounded well. He stated he had just been released from the Isolation Facility and was feeling much better. During this follow-up call, she offered more information and contact numbers for rent, utilities, and food assistance.

There were also several more instances of this client reaching out to Neighborhood Services Unit staff for assistance. Follow-up phone calls to client were made for food assistance/deliveries etc. and the Community Workers/Admin staff went above and beyond to assist this client.