

FY 2026-2027 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT(S): Austin Public Health; Austin Parks and Recreation

CBQ NO.: 117

REQUESTED BY: (District 2) Vanessa Fuentes

DATE REQUESTED: Thursday, July 30, 2026 10:34 AM

DATE POSTED: Thursday, August 6, 2026

REQUEST:

Please provide a breakdown of funding toward food access (ex. food banks, food delivered meals, food for older adults, etc.). How does this compare to FY 25-26?

RESPONSE:

Austin Parks and Recreation

Austin Parks and Recreation (APR) currently has a budget of \$367,134 in FY25-26 to support the Congregate Meal Program in cooperation with the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) for delivery of congregate meals. The funding amount for this program will potentially be reduced by \$73,062 for FY26-27 as part of the city's review of social services contracts. This program operates to serve a fresh lunch meal to adults 60 years and older Monday through Friday at 8 City of Austin locations. This program, in collaboration with the senior transportation program, helps senior citizens successfully age in place by decreasing isolation and ensuring access to nutritious meals. The cost of meals has risen recently, which will result in even fewer meals being available, compounding the impact of the proposed budget reduction.

APR also operates the Kid's Café at Dove Springs, Turner Roberts and Montopolis Recreation Centers with a budget of \$12K per site for a total of \$36K per year. This program provides after-school meals and is operated in partnership with the Central Texas Food Bank and Feeding America. The program is designed to provide nutritious meals to low-income children who may not otherwise have access to healthy food outside of school hours.

Austin Public Health

The Food Access Program was funded at \$400,000 in FY26, but is being eliminated as part of a prioritization in FY27.

A breakdown of social service contracts funding is provided in the table below:

Organization Name	Contract Name	Brief Contract Description	FY26 Allocation	FY27 Proposed
Central Texas Food Bank Inc	College Food Access	This program will work with Austin's colleges and universities to provide targeted funds, guidance, and/or food-related services to assist them in serving their student, faculty and staff populations. The College Food Access Services program design will leverage student-driven initiatives to strategically address hunger on their campuses, with CTFB providing tailored resources to awardees, focusing on impact and sustainability.	\$141,750	\$0
Central Texas Food Bank Inc	Eastern Crescent	The Mobile Food Pantry program provides emergency food assistance to eligible food-insecure individuals and households ("Clients") living in Travis County and the City of Austin. The goal of this program is to provide healthy, nutritious food in a client-choice model. The program is designed to serve communities that are not served by other agencies because of a lack of capacity or where no agencies are present.	\$162,000	\$162,000
Central Texas Food Bank Inc	Food Distribution +	The goal of the Food Distribution program is to relieve hunger for low-income and food-insecure people living in Travis County and the City of Austin. The primary strategy to achieve this is to distribute groceries to low-income households through Partner Agencies. Central Texas Food Bank (CTFB) employs a streamlined model of hunger relief, developing large-scale resources and providing infrastructure, affordable food, and services to Travis County-area Partner Agencies.	\$360,055	\$360,055
Central Texas Food Bank Inc	Travis County School Food Access	The goal of this program is to increase food security for children and families in Travis County. During the initial contract period, CTFB and school district administrative leaders will	\$150,000	\$150,000

		select two schools within Travis County and launch school pantries at these sites. Once complete, these pantries will improve access to consistent, healthy food for students, families, and school staff.		
Central Texas Food Bank Inc	Travis County Senior Nutrition	The goal of the program is to reduce food insecurity and increase nutritional intake among older adults aged 55+ in Travis County, ultimately improving their physical, mental, and social functioning by providing reliable, direct monthly home deliveries of fresh groceries at no cost each fiscal year.	\$93,316	\$0
El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission	Rundberg Food Access & Equity Program	El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission's (El Buen) Rundberg Food Access and Equity Program is a place-based initiative that provides access to food and support services to individuals living, working, and/or attending school in the Austin-Travis Rundberg area.	\$90,000	\$90,000
Farmshare Austin	Mobile Markets and Home Delivery	Fresh for Less Mobile Markets and Home Delivery (FFL) aims to increase access to affordable, healthy food in neighborhoods facing the four most common food access barriers in the Austin area: low proximity to healthy food retail, low household income, limited mobility options, and a lack of healthy food nearby. FFL also builds resilience in the local food supply to ensure a consistent, affordable supply of the freshest, healthiest, and most nutrient-dense produce.	\$272,344	\$222,344
Foundation Communities Inc	Food Access and Benefit Enrollment	The goal of this program is to increase food access for Foundation Communities (FC) residents and Austin community members, specifically underserved and hard-to-reach communities, as well as to destigmatize the food pantry experience overall.	\$65,742	\$65,742

Meals on Wheels & More, Inc.	Home Delivered Meals	The meals provided through the MOWCTX HDM program are the foundation of our organization, designed to meet the specific dietary needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities, delivered 5 days a week. All meals are overseen by a Registered and Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). The RDNs ensure meals meet the US Department of Agriculture's Dietary Guidelines for Americans and provide one-third of the Daily Reference Intake of vital nutrients. Meals include whole grains, lean protein, legumes, fruit, vegetables, and low-fat milk. We also offer nine medically tailored meals for individuals on restricted diets, such as Renal-Friendly, Digestive-Friendly, Mechanical Soft, Pureed, Vegetarian, and combinations of these, all of which are Diabetes-Friendly and heart-healthy. Daily meals are delivered hot and ready to eat, making them ideal for clients with limited mobility or who struggle to prepare meals. MOWCTX also offers a choice in entrée for the majority of our HDM clients through our Menu Choice program.	\$164,914	\$164,914
Sustainable Food Center	Double Up Food Bucks Austin	The goal of the program is to increase food access by: 1) Operating Double Up Food Bucks at two Sustainable Food Center -managed farmers' market sites, partner farmers' market sites, and partner mobile market sites; and 2) Providing culturally rooted and linguistically diverse community engagement, outreach, and promotion for the Double Up program.	\$87,196	55,224
Total			1,587,317	1,270,279