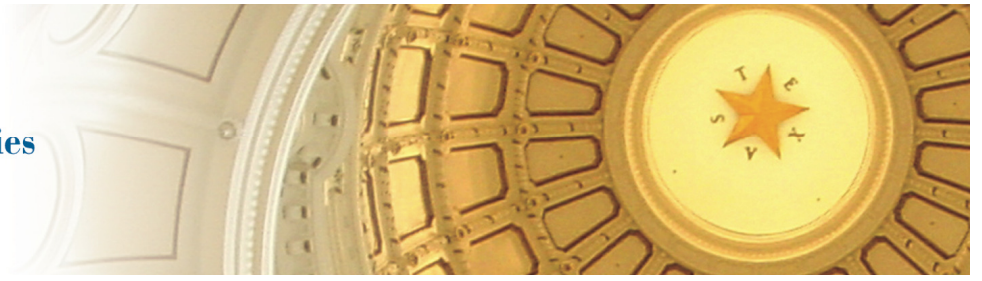




Center *for* Public Policy Priorities



Food Security Reports and Local Participation in Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs

September 26, 2011

New Data Highlight Need, Resources in Travis County

- American Community Survey poverty data for 2010
 - USDA food insecurity data by state for 2008-10
 - Texas Food Bank Network county-level analysis of food insecurity and available resources
-

2010 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Family Size	Annual Income*	Monthly	Hourly**
1	\$10,830	\$ 902	\$5.20
2	14,570	1,214	7.00
3	18,310	1,525	8.80
4	22,050	1,837	10.60
5	25,790	2,149	12.39
6	29,530	2,460	14.19

*For each additional person, add \$3,740

**Calculation based on 52 weeks at 40 hours per week

Source *Federal Register*, Vol. 75, No. 148, August 3, 2010

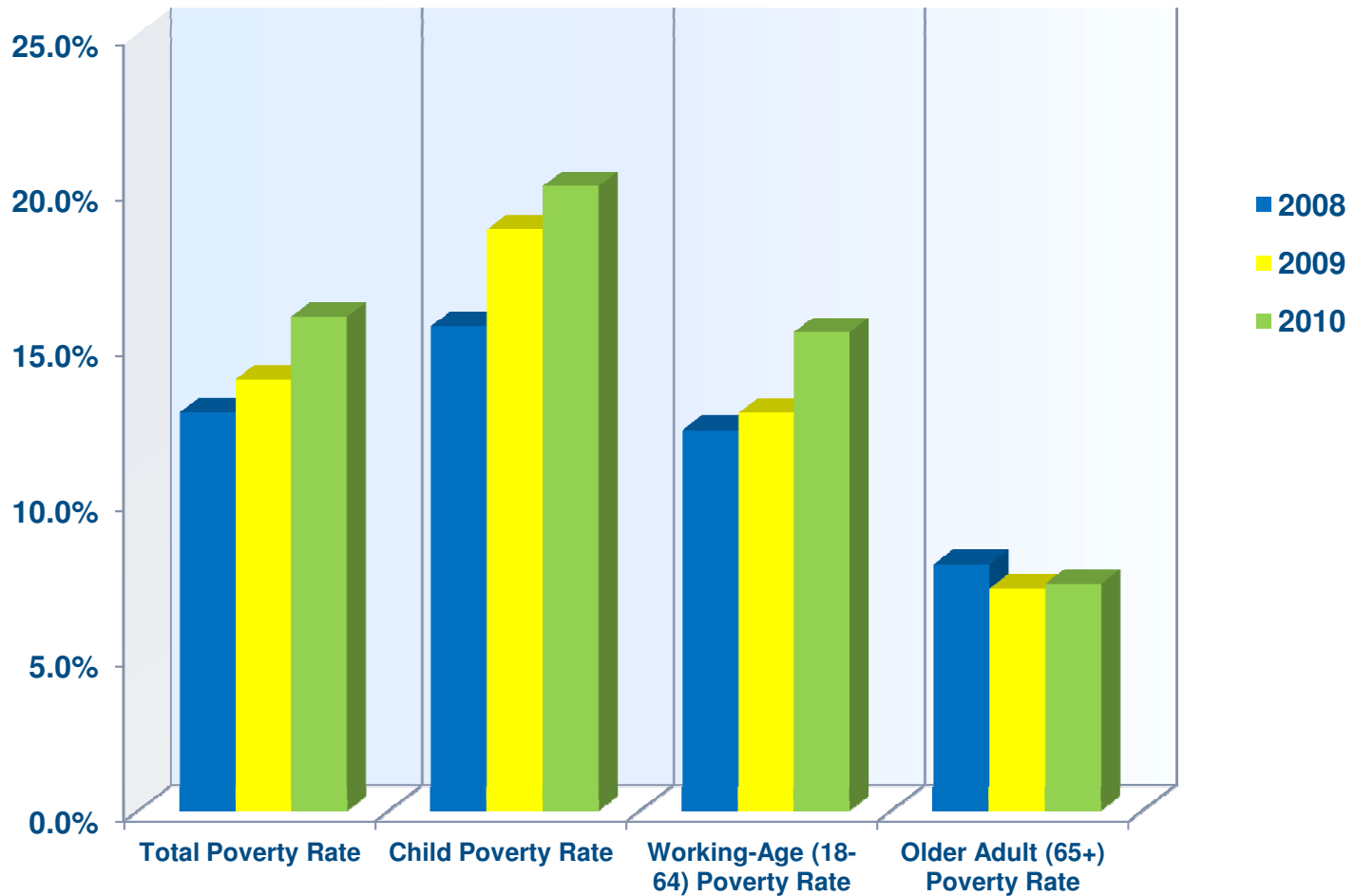
2010 Poverty Rates by Race & Hispanic Origin					
	White, Not-Hispanic	Hispanic	Black or African American	Asian	Total
Austin-Round Rock	9.3%	25.6%	25.2%	13.9%	15.9%
Texas	9.3%	26.8%	24.8%	12.6%	17.9%
United States	10.6%	24.8%	27.1%	12.5%	15.3%

SOURCE: Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey (ACS)

Poverty in Austin-Round Rock					
2008		2009		2010	
People in Poverty	Poverty Rate	People in Poverty	Poverty Rate	People in Poverty	Poverty Rate
206,337	12.8%	232,478	13.9%	268,740	15.9%
Child Poverty in Austin-Round Rock					
2008		2009		2010	
Children in Poverty	Child Poverty Rate	Children in Poverty	Child Poverty Rate	Children in Poverty	Child Poverty Rate
66,060	15.6%	80,027	18.7%	86,474	20.1%
Working-Age (18-64) Poverty in Austin-Round Rock					
2008		2009		2010	
Working-Age People in Poverty	Working-Age Poverty Rate	Working-Age People in Poverty	Working-Age Poverty Rate	Work-Age People in Poverty	Working-Age Poverty Rate
130,995	12.3%	143,274	12.8%	172,364	15.4%
Older Adult (65+) Poverty in Austin-Round Rock					
2008		2009		2010	
Elderly in Poverty	Elderly Poverty Rate	Elderly in Poverty	Elderly Poverty Rate	Elderly in Poverty	Elderly Poverty Rate
9,282	7.9%	9,177	7.1%	9,902	7.3%

SOURCE: Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey (ACS)

Austin-Round Rock Poverty Rates 2008-2010

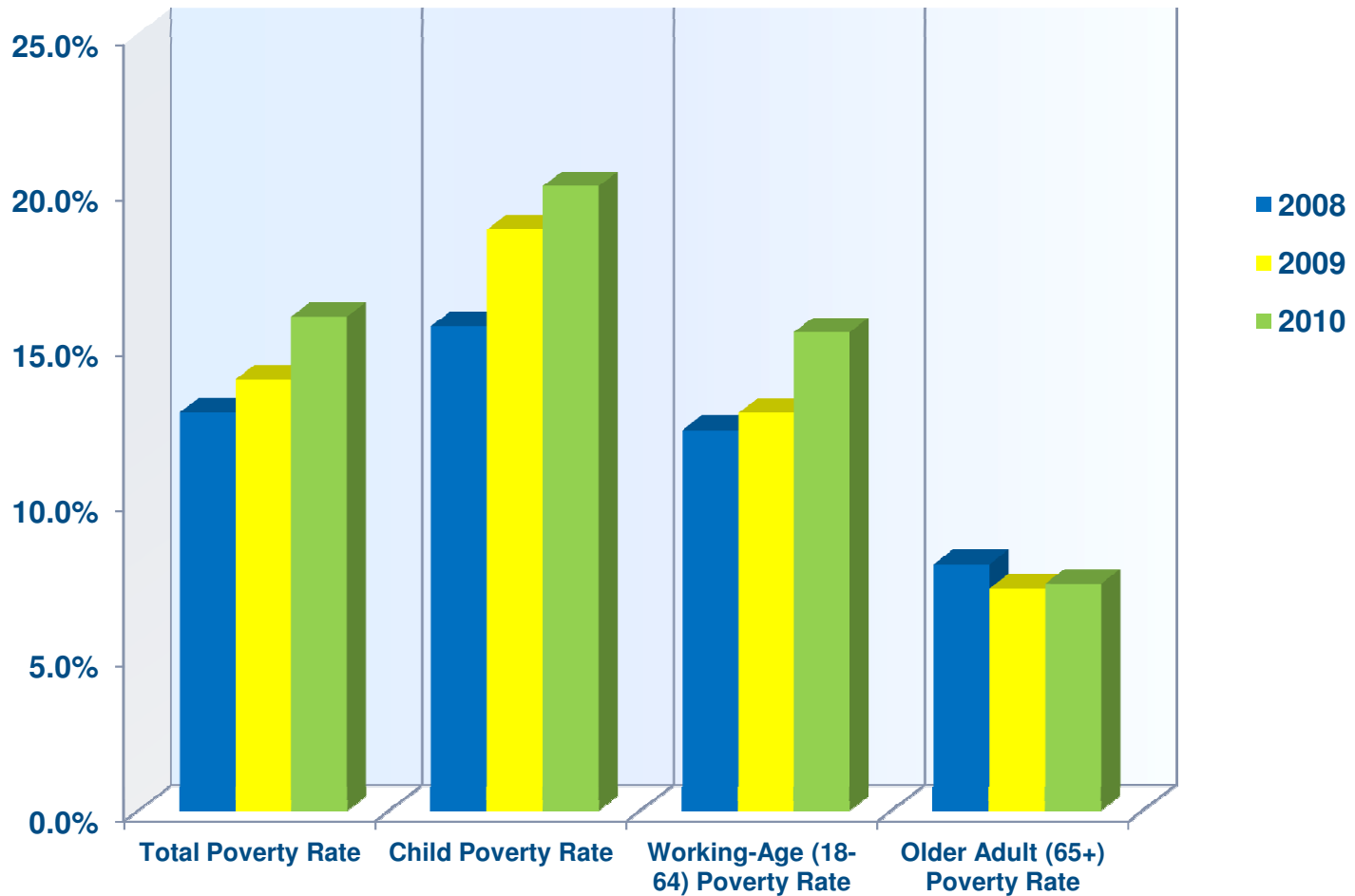


SOURCE: Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey (ACS)

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Austin-Round Rock Poverty Rates 2008-2010



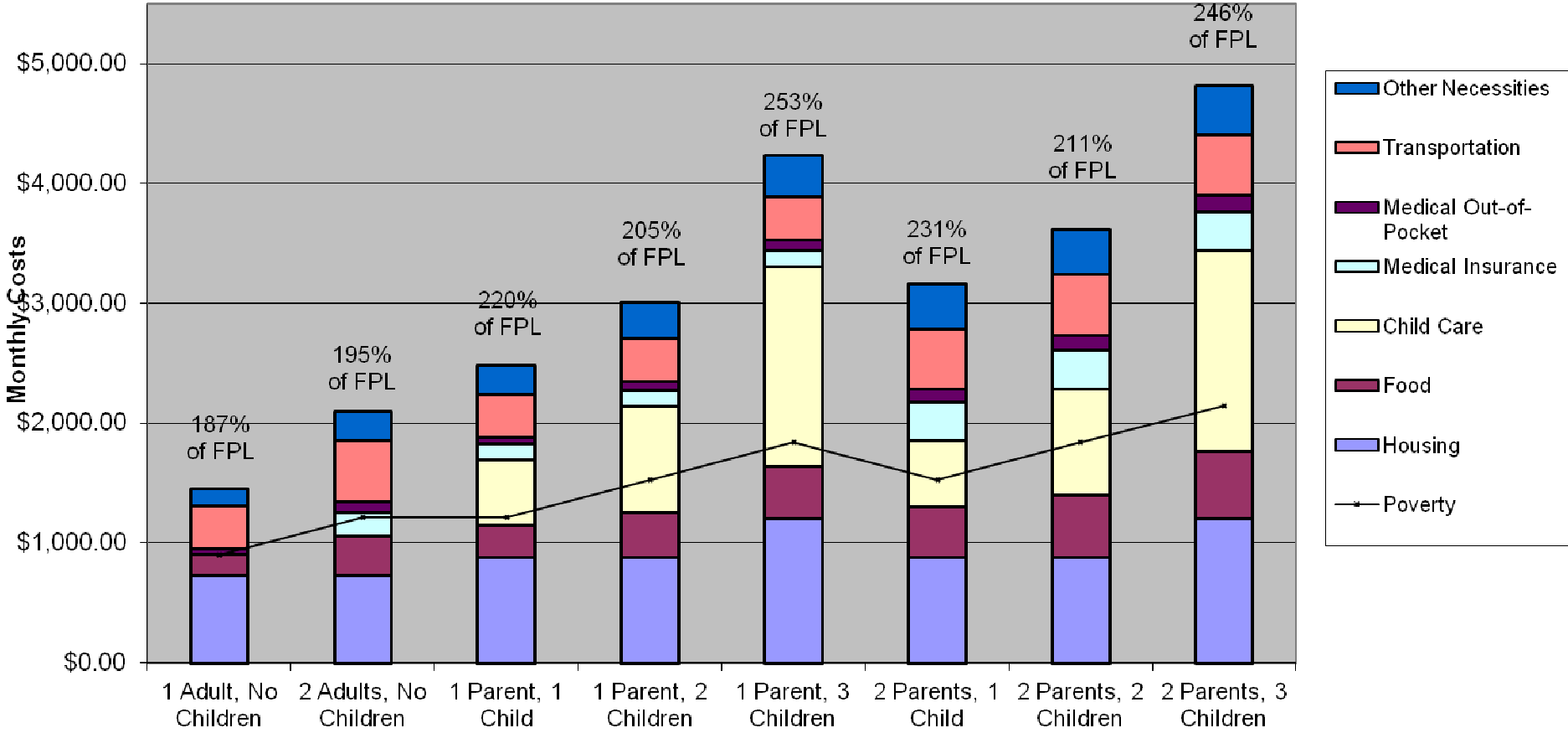
SOURCE: Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey (ACS)

Median Household Income

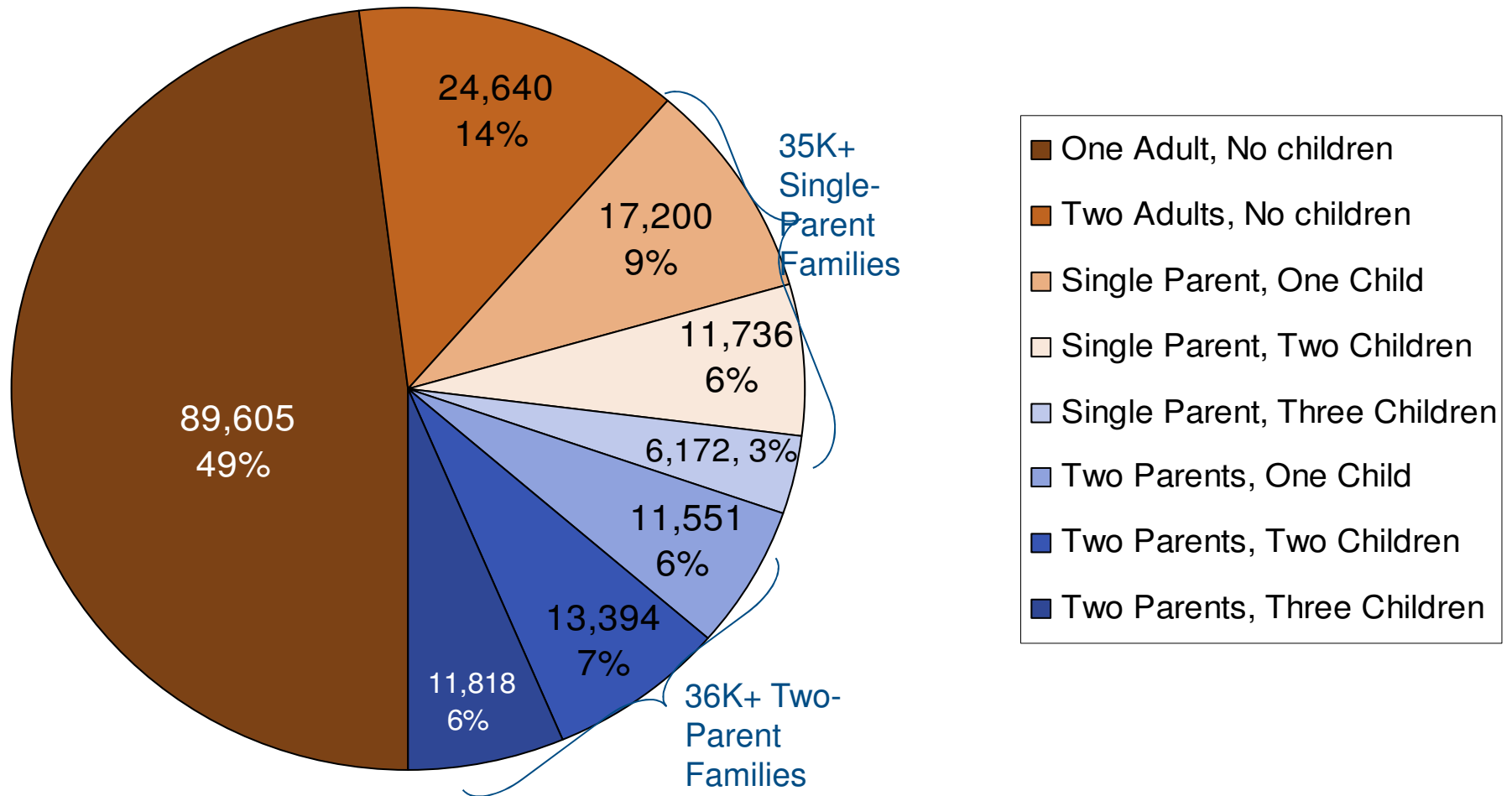
	2008 (adj. to 2010 dollars)	2009 (adj. to 2010 dollars)	2010
Austin-Round Rock	\$59,449	\$57,016	\$55,744
Texas	\$50,310	\$49,123	\$48,615
United States	\$52,488	\$51,190	\$50,046

SOURCE: Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey (ACS)

Total Monthly Expenses for Families in Austin-Round Rock as Percentage of the Federal Poverty Level



Over 186,000 (38%) of Austin-Round Rock families' incomes struggle to afford expenses

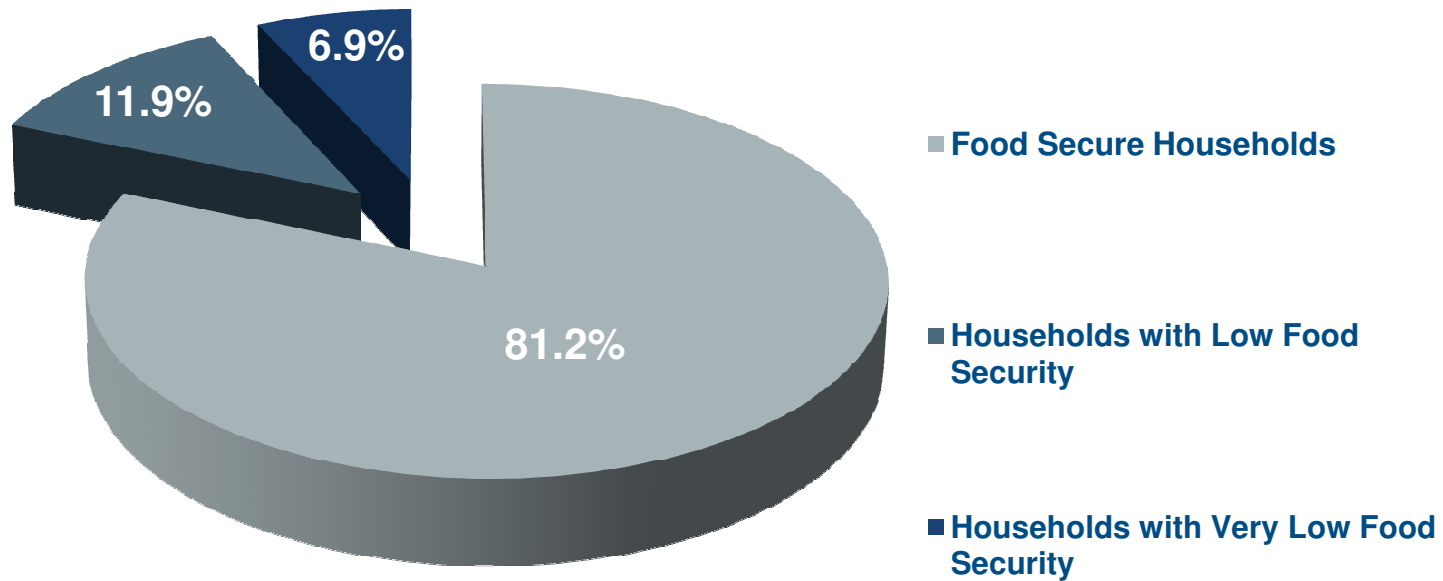


SOURCES: Numbers and percentages estimated by the Population Reference Bureau using CPPP Family Budget Estimator data and income data from the 2006 American Community Survey from the U.S. Census Bureau. **Note:** Monthly expenses are **not** adjusted to 2010 dollars.

Measuring Food Insecurity

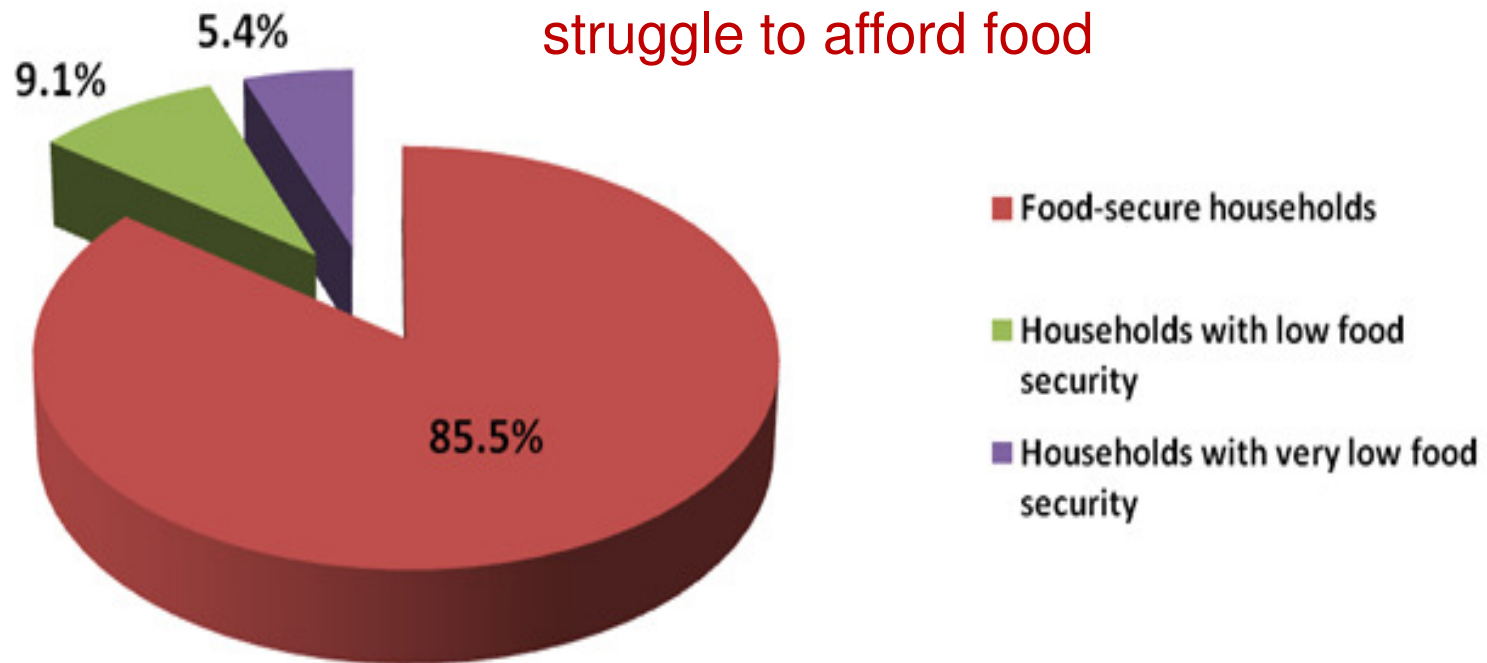
- USDA measures hunger by asking families whether there was a time in the previous year when they had difficulty meeting their food needs.
 - Depending on their response, families are classified as being “food secure” or having “low” or “very low food insecurity.”
-

Food Security Status of Texas Households, 2010



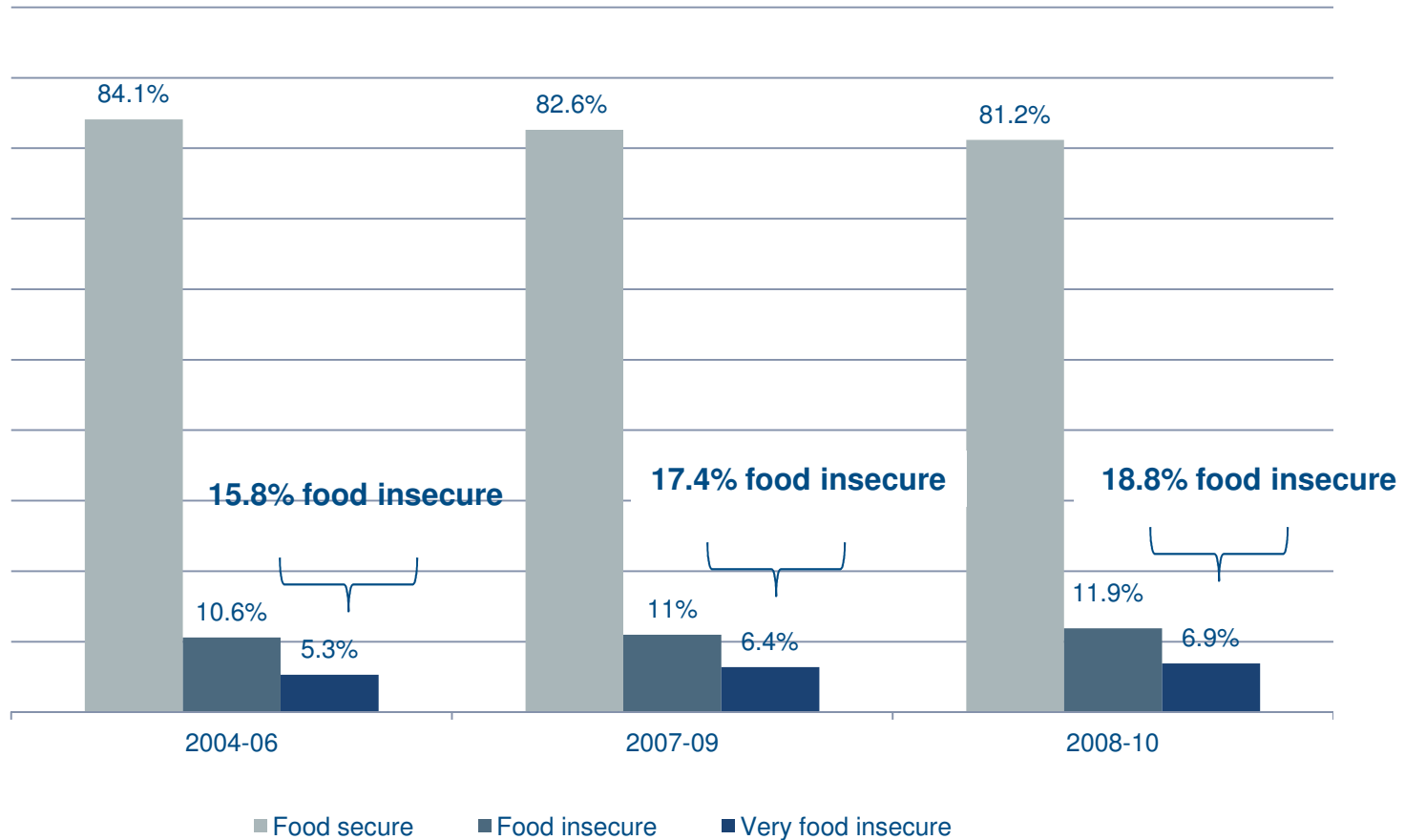
Food-security Status of US Households, 2010

14.5% of U.S. households struggle to afford food



Source: USDA Report: Household Food Security in the United States 2010

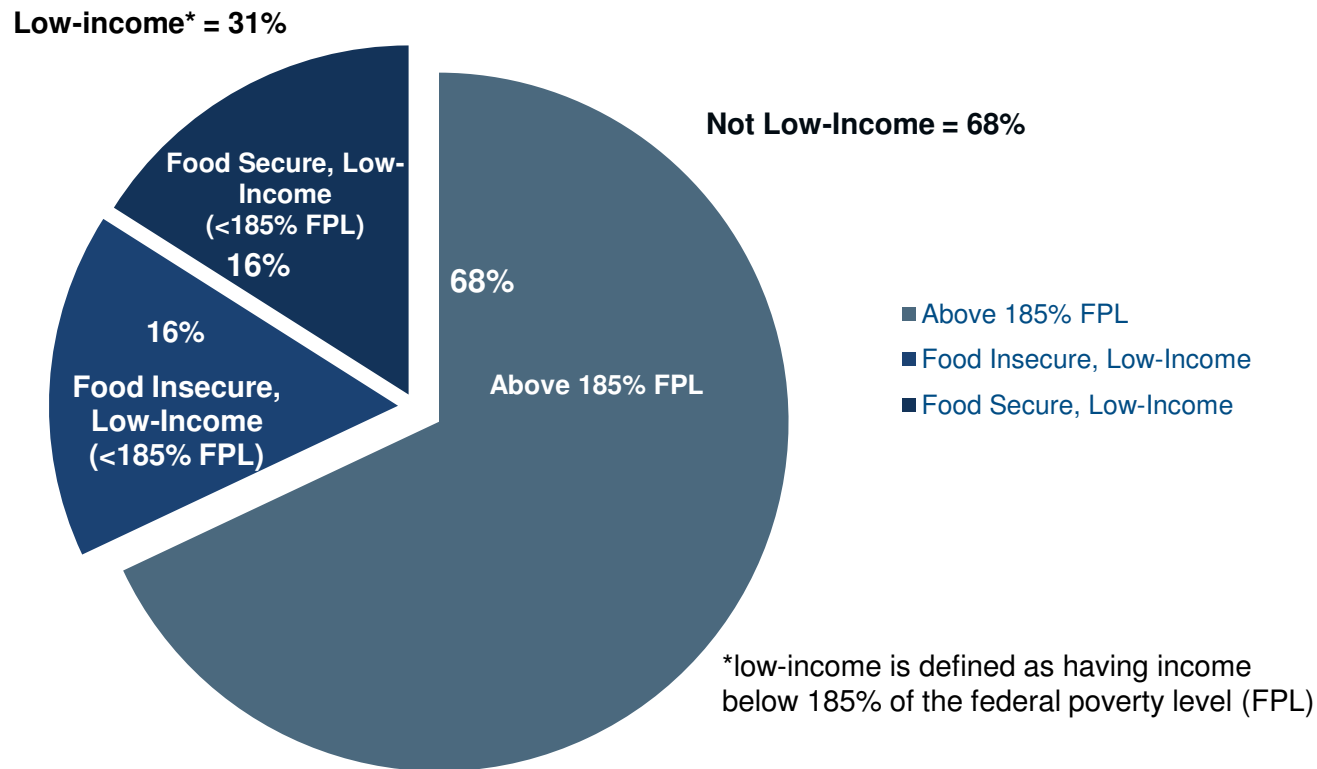
Food Insecurity Reached Record Highs in 2009 Remained High in 2010



Source: *Household Food Security in the United States in 2010*, Alisha Coleman-Jensen, Mark Nord, Margaret Andrews, and Steven Carlson, Economic Research Report No. (ERR-125), September 2011.

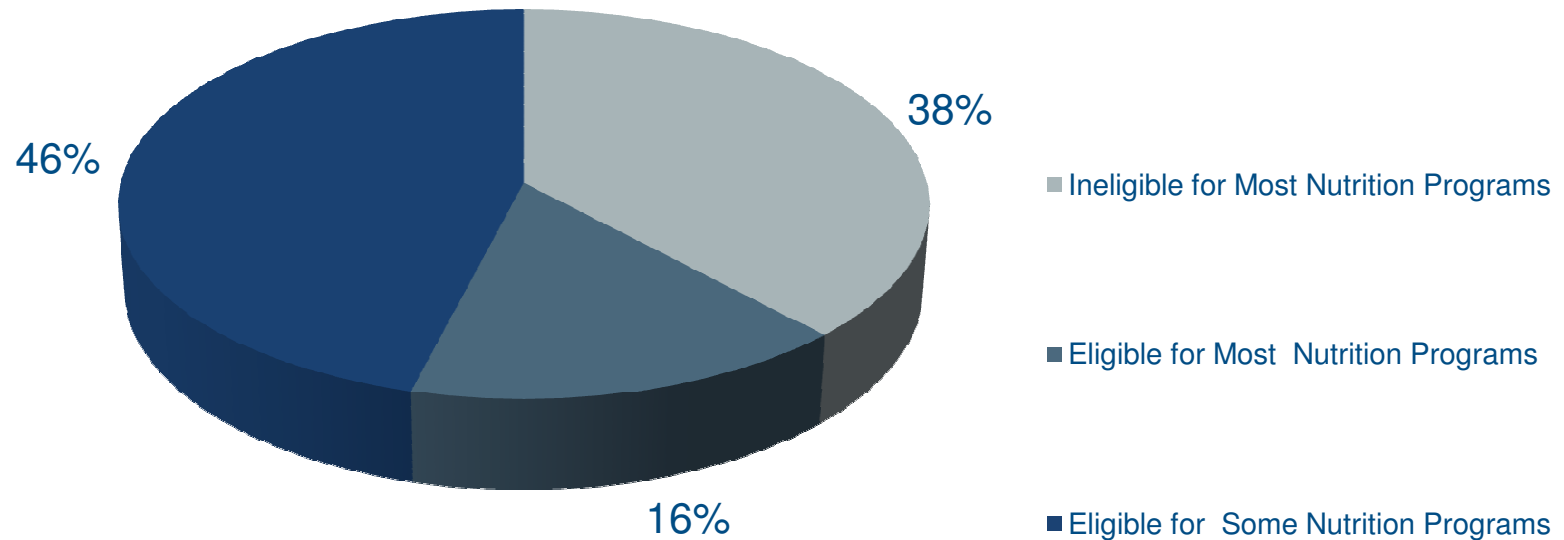
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/Err125/>

Food Security Status of Travis County Residents



Sources: Hunger by the Numbers: A Blueprint for Ending Hunger in Texas, Texas Food Bank Network (TFBN), in partnership with the Texas Hunger Initiative (THI) and First Choice Power, September 2010 (<http://www.firstchoicepower.com/landing/hunger-gap-report.aspx>). Feeding America's "Map the Meal Gap" Project (<http://feedingamerica.org/our-network/thestudies/map-the-gap.aspx>). Texas Food Bank Network analyses using public data.

Nutrition Assistance Eligibility Food Insecure Travis County Residents



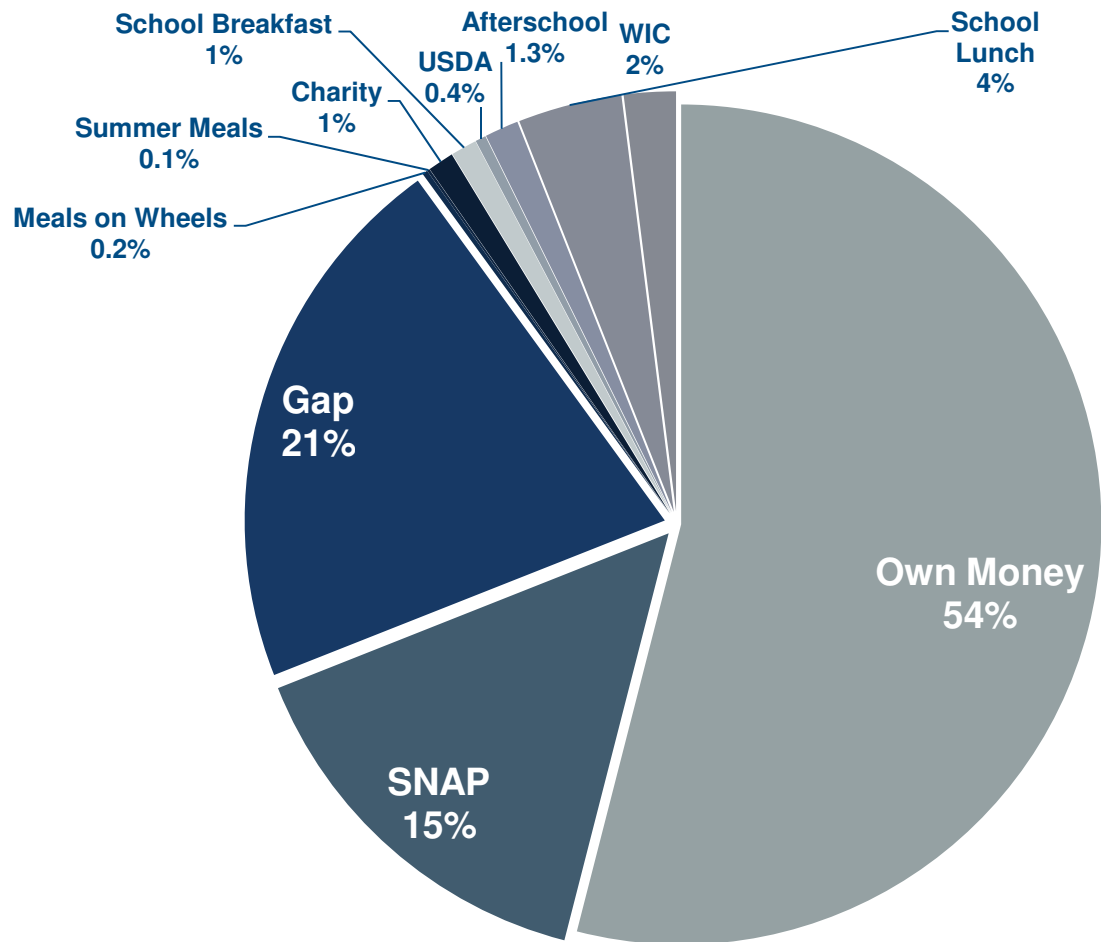
Sources: Hunger by the Numbers: A Blueprint for Ending Hunger in Texas , Texas Food Bank Network (TFBN), in partnership with the Texas Hunger Initiative (THI) and First Choice Power, September 2010. Feeding America’s “Map the Meal Gap” Project. <http://feedingamerica.org/our-network/thestudies/map-the-gap.aspx>. Texas Food Bank Network analyses using public data.

Food Insecurity in Travis County

- On average, these food insecure residents report an annual budget shortfall of \$400 needed to afford “just enough” food.
- Many are eligible for federal nutrition programs like SNAP (food stamps), WIC or school meals.
- 54% may earn too much money to receive SNAP, and 39% may be ineligible for most federal nutrition programs.

Sources: Hunger by the Numbers: A Blueprint for Ending Hunger in Texas , Texas Food Bank Network (TFBN), in partnership with the Texas Hunger Initiative (THI) and First Choice Power, September 2010. Feeding America’s “Map the Meal Gap” Project. <http://feedingamerica.org/our-network/thestudies/map-the-gap.aspx>. Texas Food Bank Network analyses using public data.

What Resources Are Available to Travis County Residents?



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What Resources Are Available to Travis County Residents?

- Compares the food resources of a vulnerable population to a dietary standard.
 - According to USDA, a moderately-priced, nutritious diet for all of Travis County's low-income residents (incomes <185% of the poverty line) costs \$908,544,729 annually.
 - Currently, low-income county residents purchase the bulk of this food with their own money (54%).
 - To make ends meet, many then combine their money with a patchwork of resources, the largest of which are SNAP (15%) and School Lunch (4%).
 - Even after combining their own money with assistance, these residents face a 21% gap between their resources and the USDA standard, equal to \$194,424,780 annually.
 - This resource gap may lead to poor nutrition or food insecurity.
-

Travis County School Breakfast Program, May 2011				
Paid Average Daily Participation	Reduced Average Daily Participation	Free Average Daily Participation	Total Average Daily Participation	Enrollment
2,658	1,585	24,011	28,254	116,257

Travis County National School Lunch Program Participation, May 2011				
Paid Average Daily Participation	Reduced Average Daily Participation	Free Average Daily Participation	Total Average Daily Participation	Enrollment
17,301	5,585	59,516	82,402	137,612

School breakfast reached only 39% of low-income children who eat lunch, compared to 32% statewide

SOURCE: Texas Department of Agriculture

Travis County SNAP Participation						
July 2008 - SNAP Recipients	2008 Population Census Estimate	Participation Rates	Jan 2010 SNAP Recipients	2010 Population Census Data	Participation Rate	2 YEAR difference
81,361	998,561	8.15%	116,203	1,024,266	11.35%	3.20%

2009	Population Income-Eligible for SNAP	Population Receiving SNAP	% of Income-Eligible Pop. Receiving SNAP	Income-Eligible Population Not Receiving SNAP	Lost SNAP Benefits (Annual in \$millions)	Lost Economic Activity (Annual in \$millions)
Texas	5,545,469	2,846,264	51%	2,699,205	\$3,83	\$6,83
Travis	210,416	99,882	47%	110,535	\$157.2	\$281.40

SNAP reached only 47 % of eligible Travis County residents in 2009, compared to 51% statewide. This translated to the loss of \$157 million in federal funds and \$281 million in lost economic activity.

SOURCE: Texas Food Bank Network analysis of HHSC data and U.S. Census Bureau SAIPE 2009 poverty data

Policy Recommendations

Federal:

- Protect funding and structure of SNAP and other low-income programs in Super Committee and 2012 Farm Bill
- Find out more: www.frac.org

Policy Recommendations

State:

- Continue HHSC efforts to streamline SNAP enrollment and enhance online application (self-service portal at www.yourtexasbenefits.com)
 - Take advantage of new USDA school meal access resources (TX Dept. of Agriculture)
 - Maximize benefits of changes in Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (TDA)
 - Expand free-for-all breakfast programs (TDA)
 - Increase number/quality of summer food sites and expand mobile feeding (TDA)
-

Policy Recommendations

Travis County:

- Identify community partners to provide application assistance using HHSC's enhanced self-service portal (www.yourtexasbenefits.com) – April 2012
 - Conduct outreach to increase participation in summer food program
 - Support AISD efforts to improve meal quality and bring more fresh produce into schools
 - Encourage TDA to take advantage of new USDA school meal access resources & maximize benefits of changes in Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act
-

Resources

- CPPP analysis of ACS 2010 Poverty Data, <http://www.cppp.org/research.php?aid=1137>.
 - *Hunger by the Numbers: A Blueprint for Ending Hunger in Texas*, Texas Food Bank Network (TFBN), in partnership with the Texas Hunger Initiative (THI) and First Choice Power, September 2010.
(<http://www.firstchoicepower.com/landing/hunger-gap-report.aspx>) Feeding America's "Map the Meal Gap" Project.
(<http://feedingamerica.org/our-network/thestudies/map-the-gap.aspx>)
 - *Household Food Security in the United States in 2010*, Alisha Coleman-Jensen, Mark Nord, Margaret Andrews, and Steven Carlson, Economic Research Report No. (ERR-125), September 2011.
(<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/Err125/>)
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**Center for Public Policy Priorities
900 Lydia Street
Austin, TX 78702
P 512/320-0222 F 512/320-0227**
