



Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department



A/TCHHSD Briefing: SFPB-related Activities/Budget

Sustainable Food Policy Board

July 23, 2012

HHSD – Food System Programs

- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Neighborhood Services Unit - Food Programs
- Environmental Health Services – Permitting, Inspection & Enforcement
- Epidemiology and Health Statistics – Foodborne Illness Surveillance
- Chronic Disease Prevention and Control - Community Transformation Grant



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Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

- WIC is a USDA federal program and funding is provided through the Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
- Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department contracts with DSHS to provide WIC services in Travis and Bastrop counties
- Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services receives approximately \$6.1 million annually (based on participation – currently @ 34,274/month)



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Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

- HHSD has 14 WIC clinics and a Mom's Place Breastfeeding Clinic
- 98 regular FTEs and 17 temporary staff
 - Health and Human Services Manager (WIC Director), WIC Area Coordinators, Public Health Educators (Nutrition and Breastfeeding Coordinators), Training Coordinator, LVNs, Marketing Rep (Outreach Coordinator and Vendor Liaison), WIC Supervisors/Nutritionist Seniors, Nutritionists, Administrative Assistants, Breastfeeding Peer Counselors



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Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

- Program for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age 5 with, or at risk of developing nutrition-related health problems
- WIC's main focus is to provide nutritious foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support, and health care referrals
- For every dollar invested in the WIC program for pregnant women, about \$2.90 is saved in Medicaid expenses in Texas for women and babies in the first 60 days after birth



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Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

- WIC foods are a “prescription” for the nutritional needs of participants
 - food package includes but not limited to whole grains, fruits and vegetables, juice, milk, cheese, eggs, beans, WIC formula, infant cereal & baby food
 - foods are rich in protein, iron, Vitamins C and A, and calcium



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Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

- Food benefits are provided on an Electronic Benefits Transfer Card (EBT) that the participant takes to local grocery store and/or farmer's market (that is a WIC approved vendor) to redeem
- WIC provides breast pump equipment and accessories and mother-to-mother support through the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program



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Neighborhood Services Unit - Food Programs

- The Neighborhood Services Unit includes 6 neighborhood centers and 3 outreach sites.
- The neighborhood centers provide a variety of basic needs, social service, preventive health and employment support programs for low and moderate income families in need.
- Funding for services provided at the neighborhood centers comes from the Community Services Block Grant, Local Public Health System Grant and the General Fund.



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Neighborhood Services Unit - Food Programs

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Neighborhood Center Based Food Programs

- Fresh Food for Families
 - Provided at all six neighborhood centers & two outreach sites in Travis County
 - Provides low-income families with **quality fruits, vegetables and bakery items** free of charge on a monthly basis at each of the six neighborhood centers
 - There are no income eligibility or residency requirements; clients must register on the day of the event to receive food
 - Distributions are administered by A/TCHHSD staff and volunteers at each site
 - Food is provided by the Capital Area Food Bank and A/TCHHSD supports the personnel costs associated with staffing the distributions



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Neighborhood Center Based Food Programs

- Healthy Options Project for the Elderly (H.O.P.E.)
 - Provided at all six neighborhood centers
 - Created by the Capital Area Food Bank of Texas in an effort to curb hunger and food insecurity challenging for the elderly
 - On a monthly basis, seniors 60+ and who meet the USDA income requirements (185% of the Federal Poverty threshold) receive an 18 to 25-pound bag of groceries to supplement their existing diet
 - Includes items like canned vegetables and meats, cereal, pasta, soups, fresh produce and personal hygiene products
 - A/TCHHSD staff conduct the eligibility screening for the HOPE program and administer the program



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Neighborhood Center Based Food Programs

- Emergency Food Pantry
 - Provided at all six neighborhood centers
 - Assistance with food and grocery products to households whose income is at or below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines
 - Conducted in partnership with the Capital Area Food Bank
 - Distributions are administered by A/TCHHSD staff and volunteers at each site
 - A/TCHHSD uses approximately \$13,000 annually from the Community Services Block Grant to purchase food through the Capital Area Food Bank for five of the six neighborhood centers



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Neighborhood Center Based Food Programs

- Mobile Food Pantry
 - Provided at three outreach sites in Travis County
 - Fill geographic and service gaps in emergency food assistance
 - Provide basic staples, fruits and vegetables, and frozen foods free of charge on a monthly basis
 - There are no income eligibility or residency requirements to access this program; clients must register on the day of the event to receive food
 - Distributions are administered by A/TCHHSD staff and volunteers at each site
 - Food is provided by the Capital Area Food Bank and A/TCHHSD supports the personnel costs associated with staffing the distributions



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Environmental Health Services – Permitting, Inspection & Enforcement

- Environmental Health Services encompass public health regulations, food establishment requirements, and pests
- 10, 834 food-related permits
 - 6,055 Food Establishments
 - 115 Farmers Markets
 - 33 Sampling
 - 4,631 Temporary Food Booths



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Environmental Health Services – Permitting, Inspection & Enforcement

- 25,186 Inspections/Compliance Visits
 - 21,852 routine food-related inspections
 - 2,241 food establishment compliance visits
 - 579 food establishment one-time inspections
 - 466 change of owner inspections
 - 48 on-call/after-hour pager investigations
- 146 foodborne illness investigations
- 474 food plans submitted & reviewed



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Environmental Health Services – Permitting, Inspection & Enforcement

- Other activities
 - 571 custodial care inspections
 - 1,868 public swimming pool/spa permits
 - 2,280 pool/spa inspections/compliance visits
 - 20 pool/spa plans submitted & reviewed
 - 2,987 miscellaneous food & environmental complaint investigation activities
 - 1,885 miscellaneous inspection/education activities
 - 160 sale/purchase activities
 - 577 Compliance Coordinator court cases filed



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Environmental Health Services – Permitting, Inspection & Enforcement

- Total budgeted expenses: \$4,301,947
- 56 staff

• Community & Consumer Protection: \$1,913,703	• Plan Review/One Stop Shop: \$79,312
• Pollution Control: \$698,240	• Training/Certification: \$56,508
• SIPPO: \$226,147	• Customer Service: \$682,057
• One-Time Inspections: \$92,998	• Rodent & Vector: \$442,947
• Compliance: \$110,035	



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Environmental Health Services – Permitting, Inspection & Enforcement

- Total budgeted revenues: \$3,461,366
 - Community & Consumer Protection: \$2,582,087
 - Food Re-inspection Clearances: \$54,000
 - Environmental Health Custom Services: \$70,404
 - Pollution Control: \$340,875
 - Swimming Pool Re-inspections: \$8,000
 - Food Manager/Handler Training & Certification: \$406,000



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Epidemiology and Health Statistics – Foodborne Illness Surveillance

- CDC estimates that each year roughly 1 in 6 Americans (or 48 million people) gets sick, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die of foodborne diseases
- Foodborne illness is typically underreported in the community.
- PFGE testing of samples for conditions such as Salmonella has increased the number of multistate outbreak investigations and response activities.



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Foodborne Illness Surveillance

- Staff that are involved in investigating case reports that may be related to foodborne illness include:
 - 1 Epidemiologist
 - 1 Epidemiologist Senior
 - 3 Disease Surveillance Nurses
 - 1 Disease Surveillance Nursing Supervisor
 - 2 Disease Surveillance Specialist
 - 1 Research Analyst
- Foodborne illness staff are also involved in follow-up for 70 other notifiable diseases and conditions, public health emergency response, planning, research and evaluation.
- Budget (salary and fringe) for these staff is \$554,298 (44% of this is grant funded)



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Foodborne Illness Surveillance

- Methods of Notification
 - Lab/Medical provider notification
 - Reportable conditions
 - Citizen complaints
 - Environmental complaint line
 - 24 hour surveillance line
 - Center for Disease Control and prevention (CDC)/ Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
 - National and statewide clusters
- The cause of the illness may be known or unknown



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Foodborne Illness Surveillance

- Lab/Medical Provider Notification

- Interview cases

- Identify potential exposures, including food history
 - Identify other potential cases
 - Assess treatment
 - Provide education
 - Answer questions

- 2011 Disease Counts*

- *Salmonella* 268 cases
 - *E.Coli* 7 cases
 - *Listeria* 0 cases
 - *Vibrio* 4 cases

*The number of cases reported is presumed to be underestimates of true disease incidence due to incomplete reporting.



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Foodborne Illness Surveillance

- Citizen Complaints

- Information gathered

- Location of suspect meal
 - Potential exposures, including food history
 - Identify Number of people ill
 - Food history
 - Medical attention sought
 - Lab confirmation

- Response

- Environmental inspection
 - Outbreak investigation



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Foodborne Illness Surveillance

- Outbreak Investigations
 - Create questionnaire
 - Conduct interviews
 - Obtain specimens for lab testing
 - Analyze data to attempt to identify the source of illness
 - 17 GI outbreaks* were investigated in 2011

*this includes GI outbreaks of unknown etiology or outbreaks of GI illnesses that identified an organism that may not be commonly associated with food consumption.



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Foodborne Illness Surveillance

- National/Statewide Clusters
 - Investigation procedures (as needed)
 - Interview cases
 - Attend periodic national/statewide calls
 - Coordinate inspections
 - Obtain food establishment Invoices
 - Collect food samples
- 2011 Cluster Data:
 - 12 clusters identified
 - 25 total cases associated with a cluster



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Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Program – Community Transformation Grant

- Out of 244 applicants, Austin was one of 35 communities selected for implementation-level funding. An additional 26 communities are receiving capacity-building funds
- The City received \$1,026,158 for the Year 1 budget of a 5-year grant program (Original request was \$5 million/year)
- Funding for Years 2-5 is dependent on the federal budget continuing the prevention-funding program of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act



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Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Program – Community Transformation Grant

- Promote policy, system, environmental & infrastructure change around:
 - Tobacco-free living
 - Healthy Eating & Active Living
 - Clinical Preventive Service
 - Healthy & Safe Physical Environments
- Efforts are jurisdiction-wide with focus on health equity across the following sectors:
 - Healthcare
 - Worksite
 - School/Child Care/Higher Learning
 - Community



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Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Program – Community Transformation Grant

- Year 1 Budget
 - 9 staff - \$351,077
 - Program Supervisor, Program Coord. (2), Planner (2), Public Health Educator, Grants Coord., Admin. Senior, Epidemiologist
 - Community Contracts - \$610,000
 - Supplies, Travel & Other - \$40,835



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Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Program – Community Transformation Grant

- Healthy Eating Initiatives
 - Sustainable Food Center
 - Sprouting Health Kids, Farm to School, community gardens, The Happy Kitchen/La Cocina Alegre™, & public education
 - Parks and Recreation Department
 - Local/Healthy food procurement, community gardens & urban farms
 - Planning and Development Review Department
 - Imagine Austin/Healthy Austin Program



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Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Program
– Community Transformation Grant

- **Healthy Eating Initiatives**
 - Central Health
 - Farm to work program & healthy food procurement
 - Huston Tillotson University
 - Local/Healthy food procurement, farm to work program & community garden
 - University of Texas School of Public Health
 - Local/Healthy food procurement in childcare settings
 - Abundant Rain Christian Fellowship
 - Local/Healthy food procurement in childcare settings



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Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Program
– Community Transformation Grant

- **Healthy Eating Initiatives**
 - SNAP Workgroup
 - Mobile Food Vendors – increase access to water
 - Local/Healthy Food procurement – ISDs, Childcare, Higher Ed., City/County venues
 - Mother Friendly Workplaces
 - Mayor's Health and Fitness Council
 - Austin Green Business Leaders



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Questions?

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