



Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department



The role of public health is to:

PROMOTE community-wide wellness,

PREVENT disease, and

PROTECT the community from infectious diseases,
environmental hazards, and epidemics

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Public Health and Human Services Subcommittee

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Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- **Government assistance program to help low-income households pay for food**
- **Most benefit periods last for 6 months but some can be as short as 1 month or as long as 3 years**
- **Can buy food, seeds and plants at stores approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**
- **Cannot use food benefits to buy alcohol, tobacco, non-food items, medicines, hot foods or food that will be eaten in the store**

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Main requirement:

Annual household income:
<\$14,079 for one person household;
+\$4,862 for each additional person
living in the household

Family Size	Monthly SNAP Award
1	\$200
2	\$367
3	\$526
4	\$668
5	\$793
6	\$952
7	\$1,052
8	\$1,202
For each additional person, add:	\$150

Local SNAP Findings

- **One of the most responsive federal programs providing additional assistance during economic downturns**
- **53% of the SNAP-eligible population in Travis County receives SNAP benefits**
- **\$1 in SNAP benefits generates \$1.79 in economic activity**
- **Local business are losing a significant potential economic return from SNAP-eligible clients not taking advantage of SNAP**

Staff Recommendations

- **Collaborate with other Health dept. outreach events/programs (flu shots, Shots for Tots, AAC pet vaccinations, disease testing, job fairs) to enroll residents in SNAP**
- **Collaborate with other community service oriented City departments and local human service organizations to identify opportunities to promote SNAP enrollment and enrollment assistance (Library, Parks and Recreation, HHSD Human Service partners)**
- **Identify public and private sector financial resources to support value added incentives at farmer's markets, grocery stores, etc.**

Staff Recommendations

- **Work in partnership with the Sustainable Food Policy Board to develop additional strategies to increase enrollment in SNAP and financial opportunities to expand SNAP benefits**
- **Bilingual and culturally appropriate outreach campaigns that address and ease the sense of mistrust that the target population may have with the government (esp. first generation immigrants)**
- **Identify opportunities to utilize communication tools heavily utilized by the target populations, such as cell phone text messages and Spanish language radio/TV**
- **Report back to PHHS in 120 days to report status of activities and needs identified**