

**Community Services Block Grant  
Programmatic/Financial Report  
June 9, 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)

<b>Expenditures Categories</b>	<b>2020 Contract Budget</b>	<b>Cumulative Expenditures as of 04/30/20</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Personnel	\$693,764.20	\$165,619.60	24%
Fringe Benefits	\$394,116.34	\$80,718.71	20.5%
Other	\$14,225.46	\$0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,102,106</b>	<b>\$246,338.31</b>	<b>22.4%</b>

## Austin Public Health Report on PY19 Community Action Plan

**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 April 30, 2020**

<b>FNPI</b>	<b>Outcome Description</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>#Enrolled</b>	<b>#Achieved</b>	<b>Success Rate %</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Employment</b>				
<b>1B</b>	Unemployed adults who obtained a job up to a living wage	45	37	8	18% <b>Efficacy Rate:</b> 22%
<b>1C</b>	Unemployed adults obtained and maintained a job for at least 90 days (up to a living wage)	15	36	0	0%
<b>1E</b>	Unemployed adults who obtained a job with a living wage	20	37	3	15% <b>Efficacy Rate:</b> 8%
<b>1H</b>	Employed participants in a career-advancement related program who entered or transitioned into a position with increased income and/or benefits	70	44	11	16% <b>Efficacy Rate:</b> 25%
<b>2</b>	<b>Education and Cognitive Development</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>#Enrolled</b>	<b>#Achieved</b>	<b>Success Rate %</b>
<b>2F</b>	Adults who demonstrated improved basic education	15	8	4	50%
<b>2H</b>	Individuals who obtained a recognized credential, certificate or degree relating to the achievement of educational or vocational skills	7	7	0	0%
<b>4</b>	<b>Housing</b>				
<b>4E</b>	Households who avoided eviction	500	336	336	100%
<b>5</b>	<b>Health and Social/Behavioral Development</b>		<b>#Enrolled</b>	<b>#Achieved</b>	<b>Success Rate %</b>
<b>5B</b>	Individuals who demonstrated improved physical health and well being	15	103	81	79%
<b>5D</b>	Individuals who improved skills related to the adult role of parents/caregivers	50	7	5	71%
<b>SRV</b>	<b>Service Description</b>	<b>Number Served</b>			
<b>3O</b>	Tax Preparation Programs	339			
<b>4C</b>	Rent Payments	133			
<b>4I</b>	Utility Payments	107			
<b>5A</b>	Immunizations	0			
<b>5J</b>	Food Distribution	7,308			
<b>7A</b>	Case Management	24			
<b>7B</b>	Eligibility Determinations	556			
<b>7D</b>	Transportation	77			
<b>7N</b>	Emergency Clothing	87			

Transition Out of Poverty Goal		Goal	Achieved		Success Rate%
TOP	Individuals who transitioned out of poverty	43	16		37%

***Programmatic/Administrative Updates***

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- 1. Neighborhood Services Unit Vacancies** – Working with the COA’s Human Resources Department to hire Social Work and Community Worker staff for the new Montopolis Neighborhood Center (Montopolis Recreation & Community Center).
- 2. Community Development Commission (CDC) Vacancy** – The nomination/selection meeting scheduled for March 24, 2020 for the Blackland/Rosewood Zaragosa CDC vacancy was postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3. 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 continue to distribute Emergency Food boxes and process Emergency Rental & Utilities Assistance applications. We have activated an Emergency Food Helpline and an Emergency Rental & Utilities Assistance Helpline.

Through April, staff have assembled and delivered 678 emergency food bags. That adds up to 8,136 pounds of shelf stable foods! This effort has addressed the food insecurity needs of thousands of our most vulnerable City of Austin/Travis County residents.

In April, Emergency Rent & Utility Assistance staff assisted 728 Households with information/referral and/or with rent/utility assistance services.

- 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, 2020. We have submitted a simplified needs assessment for Commission Development Commission Chair approval per TDHCA request.
- 5. Austin Energy Plus 1 Program** – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, We were awarded and additional \$15,249.48 Plus1 funds, effective immediately. Serious illness, a recent job loss, or other emergencies 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.

**6. Neighborhood Center Improvements –**

The construction of the new **Montopolis Recreation and Community Center** continues to make progress. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the grand opening has been moved to “late summer 2020.”



*Art in Public Places artist Agustina Rodriguez's rendering of her design to be installed in the southeast corner of the new building. She draws her inspiration from the Montopolis Bridge's circular design. The intent is to "bridge Montopolis to the rest of Austin." - AR*

The City of Austin voters approved a proposition by Austin Public Health (APH) as part of the 2018 Bond Election to build a new neighborhood center with public health services. The **Dove Springs Public Health Facility** will house a fully staffed Neighborhood Center. The NC will be operated by APH staff including a program manager, community workers, social worker, and a full-time nurse. Services will include self-sufficiency case management, food pantry and other food distributions, assistance applying for benefits, health screenings, flu shots, clothes closet, referrals to other services, and baskets for special events like Thanksgiving and Christmas.

It is a goal of the project team to incorporate as many green features as possible including solar panels, rainwater collection, pervious parking and sidewalks, grass-pave pervious fire lane, rain gardens and collection of condensate water. Council approved a resolution requiring that LEED-Silver certification is achieved using the latest applicable version of LEED.

#### **DSPHF Update:**

The facility has an official address: 5811 Palo Blanco Lane.

### **Success Story**

This month I would like to highlight the work of one of the Neighborhood Services Unit (NSU) Public Health Nursing staff. This is in the Nurse's own words:

Health Equity referred a female client, 41 years of age, with history of diabetes type 2, for case management. I first met client in May of 2019, her hemoglobin A1c was 9.1. She stated she was going through a lot of stress. Client stated she wanted to start exercising and making healthier choices. We discussed beginning a walking routine and talked about healthy nutrition. Client reported at a later time that she had started walking for exercise and eating healthier. In October 2019, her hemoglobin A1c was 8.9 and stated was eating healthier foods and exercising. We talked about her health and concerns via phone at times, she could not come in due to her work schedule. On one occasion, I called her and she was frustrated due to trying to get help from CommUnity Care for 2 weeks. She had not been able to get a medication refill at her pharmacy. I walked over to South Austin CommUnity Care to report client's frustration, and staff member relayed the message to client's doctor. Client was then able to get her medication refill. What had happened was that her medication dose had been changed and they had not notified the pharmacy. I called client for follow-up on March 24, 2020, she stated she was laid off for 2 weeks because her employer closed due to COVID-19. I provided her with the information for our Neighborhood Center's Emergency Food Delivery services and Central

Texas Food Bank. She said she would use our services. On May 1, 2020, I called to follow-up and she sounded so happy. She had returned to work and stated that she had just recently gone to CommUnity Care to see her doctor and her A1c was 6.7. Client sounded so happy that her A1c had come down, that she was back at work and that she and her family were all doing well.

I am going to follow-up with client next week and let her know she can call NSU nurses for assistance when needed.

*The Neighborhood Services Unit will continue to operate and be there for those individuals who need to access our services.*