

Policy Direction:

The accompanying amendment to allocate \$150,000 in one-time funds and \$252,700 in ongoing funds ~~will support a program piloted by EQUIDAD ATX, called Equidad Express.~~ This program ~~will~~ address social determinants of health by bringing convenient and consistent access to affordable groceries, health and wellness resources, financial literacy resources, and other services to underserved communities as they await more permanent solutions, like full-service grocery stores.

Of these funds, \$150,000 will support the cost of retrofitting a bus donated by Capital Metro, and the remaining funds will support ongoing costs, ~~including 2 FTEs:~~

- \$54,600 for program specialist ~~(1 FTE)~~
- \$62,400 for bus driver ~~(1 FTE)~~
- \$5,700 for restocking driver (\$38/hr x 3 = \$114/1 hour per stop)
- \$25,000 for bus maintenance costs
- \$25,000 for operating costs (insurance, gas, other)
- \$45,000 for food costs
- \$25,000 for communications, engagement, marketing, branding, printing, etc.
- \$10,000 for administrative costs

These funds are intended to augment, not replace, investments in food access programs in the FY21 Budget, and thus equitably cover a critical gap between resources and community need.

The program will reach communities in Northeast and Southeast Austin and Travis County who suffer from a lack of basic services in their communities, and will offer groceries and services along a sliding scale as appropriate. Community partners such as the Central Texas Food Bank ~~will continue~~ should be sought to support the work of this program, as well as the outreach needed to ensure it reaches target populations.