

City of Austin Food Policy Updates

FOOD POLICY MANAGER

CITY OF AUSTIN



OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY

CITY OF AUSTIN

Winter Weather Uri Disaster Response

- After Action Report: Food Access Hotwash
- Over-all After Action Report
- Development of a Food Access Appendix to the Emergency Operations Plan

COVID 19 Food Access Task Force

- Multiple parts of the COVID 19 Emergency Operation Center are demobilizing
- Food Access Task Force has demobilized
- Friday Emergency Food Access call will continue. Opportunity to transition this call into the work of the Food Policy Board

Austin City Council Resolution on ARPA

Resolution 111 - American Rescue Plan

- “Austin and Travis County have other priority challenges including early childhood care and education, workforce development and work programs, and food insecurity that could also benefit from significant and material investment of a scale that would not be available absent this ARP opportunity and for which the ARP can provide long-term capacity building”
- Interdepartmental COA team developed a 12-part proposal called ‘Nourish Austin’, utilizing many of the ATCFPB recommendations to COA Council. Proposal was shared with City Management and integrated into the over-all staff response that includes funding for childcare, homelessness, and workforce development.
- City Council voted on a spending framework with \$3 million allocated for food access.

Proposed Food Access ARPA spending framework

- Continue and evolve emergency feeding programs - Lead: APH, FY21 \$2M
- Develop a food system plan - Lead: OOS, FY22 \$0.5M
- Support the development of non-profit and cooperatively owned grocery stores - Lead: EDD, FY22 \$0.5M

Austin City Council Resolution on Food Resiliency

The City Manager is directed to **initiate a planning process and multi-lingual engagement strategy for the creation of the Austin Travis County Food System Plan**

- The City Manager is directed to return to Council with an engagement strategy, recommendations regarding the formation and membership of the Community Advisory Board, identified stakeholders, and timeline for finalization no later than August 2021.
- Proposed Lead: **Office of Sustainability**
- Proposed Sub-Departments: EDD, APH, ARR, Housing and Planning, PARD, WPD, Real-estate Services, HSEM, Equity, Travis County
- Timeline: Due August 2021

The City Manager shall conduct or seek a community partner to conduct a **needs assessment** regarding food insecurity and access in our **unsheltered community** during times of both non-crisis and crisis.

- Proposed Lead: **APH – Homeless Service Division**
- Proposed Sub-Departments: OoS, Equity (Chief Resilience Officer), HSEM, DACC, PARD, Austin Travis County EMS, WPD, PWD
- Timeline: proposed for end of summer

The City Manager shall review and recommend eligible **financial resources to support the growth and stabilization of the local food system**, including possible funds from the American Rescue Plan, bonds, and Chapter 380 financial incentives. The City Manager shall also explore what financial vehicles other areas such as New York City and Hawaii have used for such purposes and shall provide Council with a memorandum detailing possible options no later than August 2021.

- Proposed Lead: **EDD**
- Proposed Sub-Departments: OoS, Equity (Chief Resilience Officer), APH
- Timeline: Due August 2021

The City Manager shall estimate costs required to **address the needs identified** in Community Engagement and Health Equity Division of UT Dell Medical School survey for the Food Access Task Force and the June 2020 COVID-19 food system response recommendations from the Austin Travis County Food Policy Board and shall provide these to Council in conjunction with the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 budget. July 2021

- Proposed Lead: **Office of Sustainability**
- Proposed Sub-Departments: APH Social Service, OoS, Equity (Chief Resilience Officer), Budget
- Timeline: Due July 2021

Austin City Council Resolution on Food Resiliency – Part two

The City Manager is directed to create a prioritization matrix that can be used to **assess city-owned land** for the purposes of strengthening our local and regional food system and promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion in urban farm opportunities. The City Manager is directed to build upon the City research that has been conducted thus far, such as the analysis of the Williamson Creek Wastewater Treatment Plan and the surplus tracts identified in the 2015 Office of Real Estate Services memo. The City Manager is further directed to bring the list of all properties identified in preferred ranking for such a purpose(s) to the Public Health Committee and via memorandum no later than August 2021

- Proposed Lead: **Office of Sustainability**
- Proposed Sub-Departments: EDD, ORES, APH, PARD, WPD, HSEM, Equity, Travis County
- Timeline: Due August 2021

The City Manager shall **engage appropriate nonprofits or other partners who may be interested in funding and managing the EAT operations**. Prior to the end of June, the City Manager is directed to provide sufficient notice to contracted food vendors, community partners, and the public.

- Proposed Lead: **APH – Homeless Service Division**
- Proposed Sub-Departments: OoS, Equity (Chief Resilience Officer), HSEM
- Timeline: Due “prior to end of June”; working on memo and press conference

The City Council affirms its endorsement of the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration and directs the City Manager to pledge the City of Austin's support in advance of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) in Glasgow in November 2021

- Proposed Lead: **Office of Sustainability**