

**Community Services Block Grant
Programmatic/Financial Report
June 13, 2023**

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.

Mission: *The Neighborhood Services Unit improves the lives and health of people experiencing poverty by providing public health and social services and connecting residents of Austin and Travis County to community resources.*

- **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)

Expenditures Categories	2023 Contract Budget	Cumulative Expenditures as of 4/30/23	% of Total
Personnel		\$45,134.28	
Fringe Benefits		\$21,757.40	
Total	\$564,702	\$66,891.68	12%

Transition Out of Poverty Goal		Goal	Achieved		Success Rate%
TOP	Individuals who transitioned out of poverty	43	2		5%

Austin Public Health Report on PY22 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 2023

FNPI	Outcome Description	Target	#Enrolled	#Achieved	Success Rate %
4	Housing				
4E	Households who avoided eviction	400	164	164	41%
5	Health and Social/Behavioral Development		#Enrolled	#Achieved	Success Rate %
5B	Individuals who demonstrated improved physical health and well being	10	0	0	
5D	Individuals who improved skills related to the adult role of parents/caregivers	25	39	19	49%
SRV	Service Description	Number Served			
3O	Tax Preparation Programs	317			
4C	Rent Payments	164			
4I	Utility Payments	93			
5A	Immunizations				
5J	Food Distribution	24,998			
7A	Case Management	31			
7B	Eligibility Determinations	364			
7D	Transportation	64			
7N	Emergency Clothing	459			
3A.1	Total number of volunteer hours donated to the Agency	516			

Programmatic/Administrative Updates

- 1. Neighborhood Services** – We offer Basic Needs including Food Help, Emergency Rental assistance in collaboration with Catholic Charities of Central Texas, Utility Assistance, Self-Sufficiency Case Management services, Bus Passes, Health Screenings, Information & Referrals, and Seasonal Services* at our six Neighborhood Centers.

*Child Safety Seats, Fans and Income Tax filing.

- 2. Fresh Foods For Families (FFFF)** – The Neighborhood Centers in collaboration with the Central Texas Food Bank holds Fresh Food For Families events that provide free monthly distributions of fruits, vegetables and other fresh foods to low-income families. These distributions supplement existing grocery budgets with much-needed nutritious foods. The events are drive-thru.
- 3. Home Delivery Program** – In collaboration with the Central Texas Food Bank and Amazon, the NSU offer a home delivery food program. Eligible individuals (*Travis County Residents, “Low Income,” Target Population (Household with children 0-18 or Senior 60+), Individuals with a disability, Veterans and Active Military members*) can sign up to receive a box of shelf stable foods monthly. In April, 2,587 Households/7,515 Individuals had food boxes delivered to their doorstep.
- 4. Tax Help Services** – This tax season, tax services were offered at the Rosewood Zaragosa Neighborhood Center. This collaboration with AARP primarily seeks to increase access to free tax preparation services to underserved populations. We were able to assist 237 people. The AARP Tax Help staff was able to assist clients in filing 173 tax returns with a refund. The refund total equaled \$225,215. Total tax payers, spouses and dependents was 317 people.
- 5. COA Financial Stability Funding** – In partnership with Catholic Charities of Central Texas, the Neighborhood Services Unit provides rental assistance to clients facing a crisis that puts their housing at risk. From Jan 1st – April 30th we assisted 164 people with a total of \$127,226.44.
- 6. Austin Energy Plus 1 Program** – Serious illness, a recent job loss, or the pandemic 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.
- 7. NSU Public Health Nursing** - The Neighborhood Services nurses are offering free health screenings at the Neighborhood Centers. The following services are available for free: Blood Pressure, A1c Testing, Blood Sugar Reading, Cholesterol Testing, Pregnancy Tests, and general Health Information & Resources.

