

**Community Services Block Grant
Programmatic/Financial Report
October 10, 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 two (2) 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 8/30/23	% of Total
Personnel		\$258,209.75	
Fringe Benefits		\$131,539.37	
Other		\$581.18	
Total	\$1,129,404.00	\$390,330.30	35%

Transition Out of Poverty Goal		Goal	Achieved		Success Rate%
TOP	Individuals who transitioned out of poverty	43	9		21%

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 August 2023

FNPI	Outcome Description	Target	#Enrolled	#Achieved	Success Rate %
4	Housing				
4E	Households who avoided eviction	400	389	389	97%
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	73	42	168%
SRV	Service Description	Number Served			
3O	Tax Preparation Programs	317			
4C	Rent Payments	389			
4I	Utility Payments	165			
5A	Immunizations	<i>In process (Flu)</i>			
5J	Food Distribution	49,293			
7A	Case Management	122			
7B	Eligibility Determinations	725			
7D	Transportation	133			
7N	Emergency Clothing	891			
3A.1	Total number of volunteer hours donated to the Agency	1069			

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 walk-thru or drive-thru.

- 3. COVID-19 Test Kits** – Every U.S. household can again place an order to receive four more free COVID-19 rapid tests delivered directly to their home by visiting [covid.gov/tests](https://www.covid.gov/tests). Free rapid antigen test kits are available at [APH Neighborhood Centers](#) while supplies last.

- 4. 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 August, 1,951 Households/5,754 Individuals had food boxes delivered to their doorstep.

- 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 – August 31st we assisted 257 people.

- 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. Services included: blood pressure screenings, blood sugar screenings, cholesterol screenings, health education, hemoglobin A1c, pregnancy tests, and general health information & resources.

Nursing Success Story

The RN met with a walk-in client who was new to the area and needing food assistance. During the visit, the client had mentioned to the RN that they had been to the emergency room before receiving their MAP card and was very concerned about the bills they had been receiving in the mail. They did not understand why there were so many separate bills (facility, lab, imaging, etc.) as it was their first experience with the hospital system in the USA. The RN made an appointment with the client to go through the bills and assist with making appropriate calls for

more information. Together, RN and client were able to get the lab and imaging bills down to zero by confirming her MAP benefits were retroactive; something that had not been explained to the client by the MAP office or emergency department. It was a good reminder to never assume that something has already been explained by another agency and highlights that the work of our public health RNs is not just providing screenings but educating and empowering their client's to take charge of their health and their medical bills.