

**Community Services Block Grant
2024 Contract
Programmatic/Financial Report
May 14, 2024**

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, 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	2024 Contract Budget	Cumulative Expenditures as of 3/31/24	% of Total
Personnel			
Fringe Benefits			
Other			
Total	\$382,594		0%

*2023 Contract extension through March 31, 2024.

Transition Out of Poverty Goal		Goal	Achieved		Success Rate%
TOP	Individuals who transitioned out of poverty	43	6		14%

Austin Public Health Report on PY24 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 March 2024

FNPI	Outcome Description	Target	#Enrolled	#Achieved	Success Rate %
4	Housing				
4E	Households who avoided eviction	800	219	219	27%
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	50	22	13	59%
SRV	Service Description	Number Served		A Year Ago	
3O	Tax Preparation Programs	In progress			
4C	Rent Payments	219			
4I	Utility Payments	62		74	
5A	Immunizations				
5J	Food Distribution	34,873		19,256	
7A	Case Management	50			
7B	Eligibility Determinations	354			
7D	Transportation	6			
7N	Emergency Clothing	493		349	
3A.1	Total number of volunteer hours donated to the Agency	644			

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.

** The South Austin Neighborhood Center will close for major HVAC renovations at the end of May. It will reopen in January of 2025.

- 2. Rosewood Zaragosa/Blackland CDC Nomination/Selection Update** – We are reviewing the process of amending the bylaws to create more efficiencies in the nomination/selection of CDC commissioners.
- 3. 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.
- 4. Home Delivery Program** – In collaboration with the Central Texas Food Bank (CTFB) 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 March, 2,074 Households/6,098 Individuals had food boxes delivered to their doorstep. We are working closely with the CTFB on adding 10 lbs. of fresh produce to each box.
- 5. Community Needs Assessment** – Woollard Nichols Torres Consulting is conducting the Neighborhood Services Unit Community Needs Assessment. The 2024 Neighborhood Services Unit Community Needs Assessment will be presented to the CDC at the June 11th meeting. Our grantor, the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TDHCA), requires this be done every 3 years.
- 6. Emergency Rental Assistance Funding** – Austin Public Health has accepted funds from the United States Department of the Treasury, Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA 2) to provide rental assistance to households that are unable to pay rent due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In late February, we began working with the Austin Area Urban League to begin processing financial assistance payments for eligible clients. From February 26th – April 30th, we assisted 487 people in 181 households avoid eviction using these funds. The total amount of rent assistance payments was \$439,209.10.
- 7. 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.
- 8. 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. In March, the NSU nurses also attended events at the Consulate of Mexico, Gus Garcia Recreational Center, Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center (CGSAC), and the Baptist Community Center Mission.

- 9. Self-Sufficiency Case Management Services** – The Neighborhood Services Unit social workers help clients reenter the world of work, connecting them with resources, agencies, and training opportunities; including assistance with housing stability, basic needs, and public transportation.