

**Community Services Block Grant
2024 Contract
Programmatic/Financial Report
January 14, 2025**

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 11/30/24	% of Total
Personnel		537,955.85	
Fringe Benefits		243,019.37	
Other			
Total	\$1,140,731.00	\$780,975.22	68%

Transition Out of Poverty Goal		Goal	Achieved 2024 Total		Success Rate%
TOP	Individuals who transitioned out of poverty	43	47		109%

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 November 2024

FNPI	Outcome Description	Target	#Enrolled	#Achieved	Success Rate %
4	Housing				
4E	Households who avoided eviction	800	1200	1200	150%
5	Health and Social/Behavioral Development		#Enrolled	#Achieved	Success Rate %
5B	Individuals who demonstrated improved physical health and well being	10	46	19	41%
5D	Individuals who improved skills related to the adult role of parents/caregivers	50	95	65	%68
SRV	Service Description	Number Served		A Year Ago	
3O	Tax Preparation Programs	356		317	
4C	Rent Payments	1208			
4I	Utility Payments	199		168	
5A	Immunizations	338		349	
5J	Food Distribution	88,025		72,276	
7A	Case Management	159			
7B	Eligibility Determinations	1,441			
7D	Transportation	18			
7N	Emergency Clothing	1125		1151	
3A.1	Total number of volunteer hours donated to the Agency	2,419			

Programmatic/Administrative Updates

- 1. Neighborhood Services** – We offer Basic Needs including Food Help, Emergency Rental assistance, 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, Blackland, and Rosewood Zaragosa Neighborhood Centers are currently closed for major HVAC renovations. The public is being directed to other Neighborhood Centers for services.

- 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. We have experienced increased demand for these services.
- 3. Home Delivery Program** – The program is now run through the Central Texas Food Bank and Amazon. NSU enrolled clients continue to receive the food boxes, but the program is no longer administered through NSU.
- 4. Dove Springs Neighborhood Center** - The project was funded by a voter-approved bond measure in 2018. The health clinic and facility are a central hub for the Dove Springs community, offering a number of resources in one place, including a Neighborhood Center, WIC office, Immunizations Clinic, and a child care center. The center is having a soft opening in January 2025.
- 5. Financial Stability Rental Assistance Funding** – From January - November, we have assisted 697 people in 265 households avoid eviction using these funds. The total amount of rent assistance payments was \$836,551.45.
- 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. The NSU nurses also offer services at 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.

10. Community Development Commission Elections - The eight (8) geographically-based CDC terms end in February 2025 and are up for election. Interested candidates can complete an Interest Form by January 22, 2025 <https://forms.office.com/g/qunA8dK4zb>. For seats with more than one candidate, elections will be held on Monday, January 27th. Details have been distributed to current members and community groups and posted at the community centers and APH and City of Austin websites and social media forums.