

**Community Services Block Grant
2024 Contract
Programmatic/Financial Report
February 11, 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 (7) 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 12/31/24 | % of Total |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Personnel | | \$575,610.67 | |
| Fringe Benefits | | \$293,917.89 | |
| Other | | \$19,550 | |
| Total | \$1,140,731.00 | \$889,078.56 | 78% |

| Transition Out of Poverty Goal | | Goal | Achieved | | 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 December 2024

| FNPI | Outcome Description | Target | #Enrolled | #Achieved | Success Rate % |
|-------------|---|---------------|-----------|------------|----------------|
| 4 | Housing | | | | |
| 4E | Households who avoided eviction | 800 | 1,216 | 1,216 | 152% |
| 5 | Health and Social/Behavioral Development | | #Enrolled | #Achieved | Success Rate % |
| 5B | Individuals who demonstrated improved physical health and well being | 10 | 46 | 19 | 190% |
| 5D | Individuals who improved skills related to the adult role of parents/caregivers | 50 | 95 | 65 | 130% |
| SRV | Service Description | Number Served | | A Year Ago | |
| 3O | Tax Preparation Programs | 356 | | 317 | |
| 4C | Rent Payments | 1,216 | | | |
| 4I | Utility Payments | 204 | | 193 | |
| 5A | Immunizations | 338 | | 349 | |
| 5J | Food Distribution | 92,638 | | 72,276 | |
| 7A | Case Management | 160 | | | |
| 7B | Eligibility Determinations | 1,443 | | | |
| 7D | Transportation | 19 | | | |
| 7N | Emergency Clothing | 1,158 | | 1,598 | |
| 3A.1 | Total number of volunteer hours donated to the Agency | 2,590 | | | |

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, Blackland and Rosewood Zaragosa Neighborhood Centers are currently closed for major HVAC renovations. The public is being directed to the 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 continue to experience increased demand for these services.
- 3. Dove Springs Neighborhood Center** – The project was funded by a voter-approved bond measure in 2018. The health clinic and facility are set to act as 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.
- 4. Financial Stability Rental Assistance Funding** – From January - December, we assisted 713 people in 271 households avoid eviction using these funds. The total amount of rent assistance payments was \$860,022.95.
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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 Recreation Center, Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center (CGSAC), and the Baptist Community Center Mission.
- 7. 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.
- 8. Community Development Commission Elections** – Elections were held on Monday, January 27th, 2025 for the seats in the 8 geographic areas to represent low-income individuals. The Rosewood Zaragosa/Blackland, Dove Springs, North Austin, and Montopolis seats were filled. There will be another election on Monday, February 24th, 2025 for the St John, Colony Park, and South Austin seats. Interested

candidates can complete an Interest Form by February 14th, 2025:

<https://forms.office.com/g/dwCkBun76j>

Another election will also be held on February 24th for the Community Development Commission's East Austin Seat to ensure that candidates who completed the required candidate interest form by the posted deadline can fully participate in the democratic process.