



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date:

July 8, 2014

Prepared By/Phone Number:

Juanita Jackson – 854-4467

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Sherri E. Fleming, County Executive for Health and Human Services and Veterans Service

Commissioners Court Sponsor:

Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Resolution From the Sustainable Food Policy Board (SFPB) Requesting that Travis County Provide Support to Non-Profit Agencies to Assist Residents with Applications for SNAP Benefits (Food Stamps)

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

See Attachment

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

HHS/VS currently assists residents when it can with Food Stamp applications. The Family Support Services Division brochure is attached. In addition, most social services agencies can provide information on where to apply for food stamps if requested. Staff has attached a list of providers and the amount of county funds provided. A few agencies have been highlighted because they provide case management services that would likely include help with applying for food stamps. It is important to note that most social services agencies likely provide the information to residents, even if they do not advertise the service.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

See Attachment

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Mary Etta Gerhardt, Assistant County Attorney
 Leroy Nellis, Acting County Executive, Planning and Budget Office
 Cyd Grimes, CPM, Travis County Purchasing Agent
 Nicki Riley, CAP, CMA, Travis County Auditor
 Patty Lennon, Financial Analyst, Travis County Auditor's Office
 Aerin Pfaffenberger, Analyst, Planning and Budget Office
 Sherri Fleming, County Executive, HHSVS

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to County Judge's office at Agenda@co.travis.tx.us by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. for the next week's meeting.



SUSTAINABLE FOOD POLICY BOARD

Ronda Rutledge, Chairperson
7111 Oak Shores Drive
Austin, Texas 78730

Sherri Fleming, Executive Liaison
Austin/Travis County HHSD
P. O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767



June 3, 2014

The Honorable Samuel T. Biscoe, County Judge
Travis County Commissioners
Travis County Commissioners Court
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767

Dear Judge Biscoe and Commissioners:

The Austin-Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board (SFPB), an advisory board to the Austin City Council and the Travis County Commissioners Court, is charged with improving the availability of safe, nutritious, local, and sustainably grown food at reasonable prices for all residents, particularly those in need. Recognizing that 18% of Travis County residents live in a food insecure household, the SFPB has developed budget recommendations to address this need through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. Attached, you will find these recommendations from the SFPB to the Austin City Council and the Travis County Commissioners Court for the upcoming FY15 city and county budgets, respectively.

Our food insecure residents cannot participate fully in the future of our community. They suffer from higher chronic health issues, and are at higher risk for mental illness. Children in food insecure households face educational challenges as well. SNAP has proven to be one of the most effective programs in helping low income persons stay out of poverty, increase food access, and avoid making difficult choices among basic needs. Additionally, those initiatives that double the value of SNAP benefits for fresh produce improve the nutritional quality of food these residents.

We appreciate your consideration of our recommendations to fund SNAP-related initiatives in the FY15 Travis County budget. The SFPB stands ready to continue our work with Travis County in improving the health of our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronda Rutledge".

Ronda Rutledge
Chair, Austin-Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board

Recommendation Number (20140512-7D): SNAP Outreach and Enrollment; Improving Farmers Market and Farm Stand Access for Low-Income Residents

WHEREAS, 18 percent of Travis County residents and 25.5 percent of Travis County children live in a food insecure household, which is directly tied to poverty, and results in increased health care costs, lower educational success, and decreased workforce productivity; and

WHEREAS, many food insecure residents have limited access to highly nutritious foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables, and are thus at greater risk of chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, has proven to be a federal nutrition program that effectively lifts many persons out of poverty and has a 1.79 local economic multiplier effect; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 only 57 percent of eligible persons in Travis County enrolled in SNAP, a loss of \$169,304,251 in federal SNAP benefits, and a loss of \$303,054,609 of economic activity to Travis County that year; and

WHEREAS, direct outreach and application assistance to SNAP-eligible persons has proven to significantly increase SNAP enrollment, thereby decreasing food insecurity for these persons; and

WHEREAS, in April, 2012, the Sustainable Food Policy Board (SFPB) recommended to the Austin City Council that the City implement outreach and assistance efforts to increase participation in the SNAP program; and

WHEREAS, in February, 2013 and August, 2013 the SFPB again recommended to the Austin City Council investment of funding to increase outreach and enrollment in SNAP; and

WHEREAS, students at the LBJ School of Public Affairs reported in May 2013 that throughout the U.S. farmers market incentives programs successfully generated increased purchases of fresh produce by

SNAP recipients while also benefitting local farmers, including Sustainable Food Center's Double Dollars Incentive Program; and

WHEREAS, in May 2013, the Sustainable Food Policy Board recommended, in relation to the Economic Impact of Austin's Food Sector Report, that the City streamline regulations and permitting for farmers markets and farm stands and incentivize adoption of EBT technology to increase healthy food access for low-income persons; and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan and the Austin/Travis County Community Health Improvement Plan align in their goals of increasing access to healthy foods and the impact of federal food and nutrition assistance programs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board recommends that the City of Austin fund a position with a partner community organization with demonstrated expertise and an established track record of facilitating SNAP outreach and enrollment to increase SNAP enrollment in Travis County;

AND, FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board recommends that the City of Austin and Travis County jointly fund an outreach campaign to increase awareness and enrollment in SNAP for eligible persons;

AND, FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board recommends that the City of Austin and Travis County partner with, and provide resources to community organizations to facilitate the establishment of effective technology and outreach for redeeming SNAP/WIC/FMNP and providing additional incentives at all area farmers markets and farm stands.

Date of Approval: May 12, 2014

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 10-0 vote

Attest: 

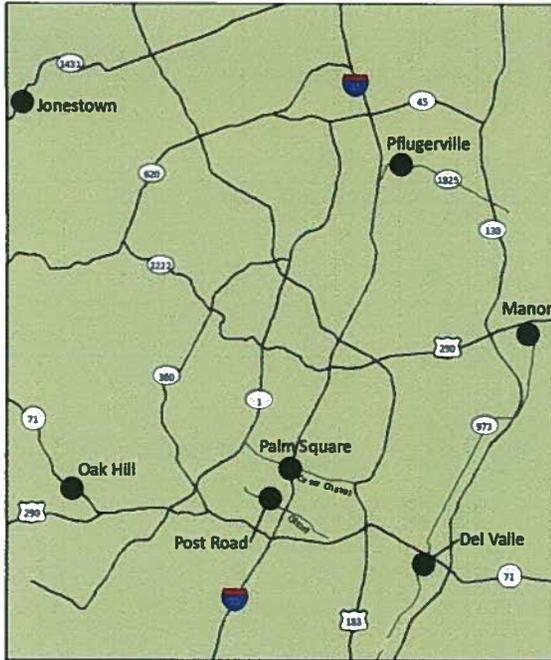
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Background Information

Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board Budget Recommendation: SNAP Outreach and Enrollment; Improving Farmers Market and Farm Stand Access for Low-Income Residents

1. The estimated cost per year for a SNAP outreach/enrollment position is \$15.50/hr. plus benefits. This is based on information from community non-profits with similar positions on staff.
2. The cost of an outreach campaign will depend on types of media utilized, and cost of airtime and/or printing of materials. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food Research Action Center both have print materials available free to download: <http://snap.ntis.gov/download.aspx>; <http://frac.org/snapfood-stamps-outreach-and-access-toolkit/>
3. The recommended cost for expanding the Double Dollars Incentive Program is \$75,000. This is based on research from students at the LBJ School of Public Affairs <http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=189723>; and cost estimates for administration and equipment, as used by the Sustainable Food Center in their program.
4. The lower-income community is frequently challenged in accessing healthy food, which can contribute to higher chronic disease rates. <http://www.policylink.org/atf/cf/%7B97C6D565-BB43-406D-A6D5-ECA3BBF35AF0%7D/FINALGroceryGap.pdf>
5. The Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation recommend that "food assistance programs should encourage and incentivize the purchase of healthy foods." <http://www.fasinfat.org/healthy-affordable-foods/>
6. A recent Gallup nationwide study found that lack of access to healthier food alone is not related to higher obesity rates. Lack of income has a higher correlation. <http://www.gallup.com/poll/164513/income-not-food-deserts-blame-obesity.aspx#1>



Helpful Resources



www.co.travis.tx.us

**Medical Assistance Program
(MAP) 978-8130**

**Women, Infant, and Children's Program
(WIC) 1-800-942-3678**

**Aircheck - Vehicle Emission Repairs
854-5020**

Veterans Services 854-9340

Locations

Downtown Austin:

**Palm Square Building
100 N. IH 35, Suite 2000
Phone: 854-4120 Fax: 854-4118**

South Austin:

**Post Road
2201 Post Road, Suite 101
Phone: 854-9130 Fax: 854-9158**

Oak Hill:

**West Rural Community Center
8656-A Hwy 71 W., Suite A
Phone: 854-2130 Fax: 854-2145**

Del Valle:

**South Rural Community Center
3518 FM 973
Phone: 247-4407 Fax: 247-3108**

Jonestown:

**Travis County Community Center
18649 FM 1431, Suite 6A
Phone: 267-3245 Fax: 267-4068**

Manor:

**East Rural Community Center
600 W. Carrie Manor St.
Phone: 272-5561 Fax: 272-8750**

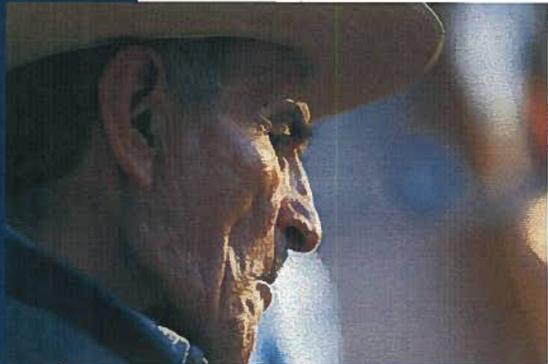
Pflugerville:

**Travis County Community Center
15822 Foothill Farms Loop, Suite D
Phone: 251-4168 Fax: 251-4385**

Business Hours @ all Locations:

**8:00 AM to 5:00 PM; M-F
Closed on County Holidays**

About Our Services



**Travis County
Health & Human Services
and Veterans Service
Department
Family
Support Services
Division**

Services

Waiting List for Appointment:

- Utility Assistance
- Rent and Mortgage Assistance
- Prescription Assistance
- Home Repair/ Weatherization Referrals

Same Day Assistance:

- Food Pantry
- Clothes Closet (Some Sites)
- Professional Social Work Services (By Appointment)
- Indigent Burial (Downtown only, By Appointment)
- Bread & Food Donation Program (Some Sites)
- Job Search Computer Access (Some Sites)

Partner Agency Services:

- Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch Program (Some Sites)
- Goodwill Job Search Assistance (Some Sites)

Required Documents

- **Photo ID** (drivers' license, military ID, State ID, etc.)
- **Social Security Card & Numbers** for ALL household members who have them
- **Proof of ALL household income for the past 30 days** (check stubs, Social Security award letters for current year, unemployment, child support, workers comp, Workforce Solutions registration printout, etc.)
- For utility assistance bring your **current utility bill or termination notice**
- For rent or mortgage assistance bring proof of amount owed (**letter from landlord, mortgage statement, etc.**)
- **Proof of Travis County residency**

Failure to provide the required documents will delay or deny the processing of your request for assistance.

Eligibility

Your eligibility for assistance depends on these factors:

- Travis County residency
- Income
- Resources/assets (i.e. property, savings)
- Disability status
- Age and number of household members
- How often you receive help
- Your utility provider/landlord
- Extreme temperature dates
- Utility disconnection status
- Proof of participation in workforce development activities

Application Process

Applications are accepted at all seven sites from 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday. Please include as many of the required documents as possible when you turn in your application.

Once received, **your application will be placed on the waiting list** for that site. When your turn in line comes up, a case worker will call you to discuss your application and schedule an appointment.

Your application is good for 30 days. If you have not heard from us (OR if you have not been contacted by us within 30 days) and you are still in need of assistance, you may call us to have your application extended for another 30 days or you may come back in to reapply.

2012 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT FUNDING OVERVIEW

The 2012 Community Impact Report reflects only purchased services through community-based organizations and does not reflect direct services offered by Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service. This overview represents over \$11 million in investments and provides the amount of 2012 funding for each agency and program by issue area. The 2012 Funding Amount reflects calendar year funding (January 1 through December 31, 2012) unless otherwise noted.

Agency Name	Program Name	2012 Funding Amount
Basic Needs		\$424,190
Capital Area Food Bank of Texas, Inc.	Food Bank	\$57,766
Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS)	Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC)	\$75,000
Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS)	Public Transportation Rural Travis County	\$163,444 ⁱⁱ
Caritas of Austin	Basic Needs–Community Kitchen	\$127,980
Behavioral Health		\$3,397,089
Austin Child Guidance Center	Children's Outpatient Mental Health & Evaluation Services	\$101,343
Austin Travis County Integral Care	Main Mental Health Interlocal	\$1,436,054
Austin Travis County Integral Care	Substance Abuse Managed Services Organization	\$611,799 ⁱ
Austin Travis County Integral Care	System of Care Managed Services Organization	\$594,206 ⁱ
Capital Area Counseling	Low Cost, No Session Limit, Outpatient Counseling	\$17,174
Communities In Schools of Central Texas	Care Coordination Program for Youth and Family Assessment Center	\$394,949
LifeWorks	Counseling	\$94,585
Out Youth	Youth Development	\$12,880

i. Fiscal year funding (October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012).

ii. Extended year funding (15-month or 17-month funding ending December 31, 2012)

iii. Calendar year funding plus supplemental extended year funding

Agency Name	Program Name	2012 Funding Amount
Worker's Assistance Program, Inc.	Youth Advocacy—Creating Lasting Family Connections	\$43,503
Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Greater Austin	YW Counseling & Referral Center	\$90,596
Child and Youth Development		\$2,298,384
African American Men and Boys Harvest Foundation	AAMB Conferences	\$25,000
African American Men and Boys Harvest Foundation	African American Youth Resource Center	\$257,000
Any Baby Can of Austin, Inc.	Any Baby Can of Austin	\$179,538
Austin Independent School District	Travis County Collaborative Afterschool Program	\$706,000 ⁱⁱ
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas, Inc.	Mentoring	\$62,257
Child Inc	Early Education and Care	\$208,780
Communities In Schools of Central Texas	Dropout Prevention	\$100,000
Greater Calvary Rights of Passage	Character Centered Leadership Development	\$31,482
LifeWorks	Youth Development	\$72,561
Pflugerville Independent School District	After the Bell	\$136,942 ⁱⁱ
River City Youth Foundation	Dove Springs Youth Services	\$45,083
Workforce Solutions—Capital Area Workforce Board	Child Care Local Match	\$223,741 ⁱ
Workforce Solutions—Capital Area Workforce Board	Quality Child Care Collaborative	\$250,000 ⁱⁱ
Education		\$204,896
Austin Independent School District	Adult Education/English Language Learners Program	\$135,187 ⁱⁱ
BookSpring	Reading is Fundamental (RIF) Elementary School Program	\$13,126

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Agency Name	Program Name	2012 Funding Amount
LifeWorks	ABE and ESL	\$33,249
Literacy Coalition of Central Texas	Literacy Campaign of the Joint Subcommittee	\$23,334
Housing Continuum		\$839,384
Austin Children's Shelter	Emergency Shelter Program	\$54,123
Austin Tenants' Council	Telephone Counseling & Mediation	\$24,848
Blackland Community Development Corporation	Blackland Transitional Housing	\$9,301
Caritas of Austin	Best Single Source Plus	\$262,500
Foundation for the Homeless, Inc.	Family Promise-Interfaith Hospitality Network	\$13,310
Green Doors	Supportive Housing Program	\$12,978
Green Doors	Veterans Transitional Rental Assistance Program	\$38,934
LifeWorks	Housing	\$140,107
SafePlace	Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services	\$184,964
The Salvation Army	Pathways and Partnerships	\$98,319
Legal Services		\$268,980
CASA of Travis County	Child Advocacy	\$85,000
Immigration Counseling and Outreach Services (now Catholic Charities)	Status Improvement Assistance	\$10,305
Texas RioGrande Legal Aid	Legal Assistance Program	\$173,675
Planning and Evaluation		\$131,170
Community Action Network	Community Action Network	\$81,770 ⁱ
Green Doors	Opportunity Mapping Initiative	\$6,000

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Agency Name	Program Name	2012 Funding Amount
Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources	Workforce Development Evaluation Services	\$43,400
Public Health and Access to Healthcare		\$516,059
AIDS Services of Austin	Food Bank	\$62,500
AIDS Services of Austin	MPOWERment	\$80,360
AIDS Services of Austin	Non-Medical Case Management	\$193,937
AIDS Services of Austin	VOICES	\$54,640
Planned Parenthood of Austin Family Planning, Inc.	Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program	\$29,601
Sustainable Food Center	Grow Local	\$19,321
Wright House Wellness Center, Inc.	Case Management	\$75,700
Supportive Services for Independent Living		\$630,947
The Arc of The Capital Area	Case Management and Advocacy Services	\$97,656
Easter Seals Central Texas	Developmental and Clinical Solutions	\$123,241
Easter Seals Central Texas	Employment Solutions	\$64,500
Family Eldercare	In-Home Care and Money Management	\$78,465
Helping the Aging, Needy, and Disabled, Inc.	Homemaker/Personal Assistance	\$22,849
Meals On Wheels And More	Congregate Meal Program	\$81,981
Meals On Wheels And More	Meals on Wheels	\$115,026
Vaughn House, Inc.	Community Rehabilitation Provider	\$47,229
Workforce Development		\$2,367,981
American YouthWorks	Workforce Development	\$285,292

- i. Fiscal year funding (October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012).
- ii. Extended year funding (15-month or 17-month funding ending December 31, 2012)
- iii. Calendar year funding plus supplemental extended year funding

Agency Name	Program Name	2012 Funding Amount
Ascend Center for Learning	Workplace Competency	\$43,609
Austin Area Urban League	Essential Office Skills Training	\$45,774
Austin Community College	Teacher and Director TRAC	\$56,758 ⁱ
BiGAUSTIN	Small Business and Job Creation Ex-Offender Re-Entry Program	\$25,000
Capital IDEA	Long-Term Training	\$913,869 ⁱⁱⁱ
Goodwill Industries of Central Texas	Ready to Work	\$137,439
Skillpoint Alliance	Youth College and Career/Adult Workforce (Gateway)	\$394,965 ⁱⁱⁱ
Travis County Emergency Services District (ESD) 4	Travis County ESD 4 Fire Academy	\$96,000 ⁱ
Workforce Solutions–Capital Area Workforce Board	Rapid Employment Model	\$369,275 ⁱⁱⁱ

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