FOOD AND TRANSPORTATION

FY 2015 Community Impact Report

Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service

Research & Planning Division

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TRAVIS COUNTY
HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES & VETERANS SERVICE

PURPOSE

Who we are:

A Department of Travis County that serves the community under the guidance of the Commissioner's Court

What we do:

Address community needs through internal and external investments and services

What we strive to accomplish:

Maximize quality of life for all people in Travis County

- Protect vulnerable populations
- Invest in social and economic well-being
- Promote healthy living: physical, behavioral, and environmental
- Build a shared understanding of our community

VALUES

We value helping people.

- We provide accessible, person-centered services with respect and care.
- We work to empower people through our service to them, always honoring the strengths and differences of the individuals and families of Travis County.

We value the accountability and integrity of our staff.

- We value the diversity of our staff and the experience each of us brings to TCHHS/VS.
- We honor our collective service to the public, including the careful stewardship of public funds.
- We value the quality services we provide to the community in a spirit of shared responsibility.

We value cooperation and collaboration in the community at large and within TCHHS/VS.

- We are interdependent and connected.
- We treat one another with respect and value effective communication and teamwork.
- We honor our partners in the community and engage with them to more efficiently and effectively serve our clients.

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Introduction

The Travis County Commissioners Court, through Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service Department (TCHHS/VS), annually invests nearly $17.5 million in community-based social service programs. These Department investments align with and supplement our direct services to meet the needs of local residents. Community-based organizations are frequently geographically and culturally embedded in the communities they serve and are often best positioned to provide needed services.

Purpose of Report

The annual Community Impact Report provides an overview of TCHHS/VS investments in health and human services. The *FY 2015 Community Impact Report* offers highlights of community conditions most pertinent to the services purchased, and details investment, programmatic, and performance information on the Department's social service contracts. This information allows policy makers, program managers, and others to better understand these investments, recognize accomplishments, identify areas for improvement, disseminate lessons learned, and highlight areas warranting further research.

Organization of Report

This report addresses nine issue areas: Behavioral Health, Child and Youth Development, Food and Transportation, Housing Continuum, Planning and Evaluation, Public Health, Safety Intervention Services, Supportive Services for Community Living, and Workforce Development. The Investment Overview summarizes information from across all nine issue areas. Each issue area section begins with community conditions information and then provides performance highlights about the programs within that issue area. Each program is classified into the issue area most closely aligned to its goals and objectives.

Although this report highlights community conditions for individual issue areas separately, each issue area must be considered in a broader context. Community conditions related to a single issue area may have similar or related root causes and broad-level consequences. Current economic conditions also have a global impact on community conditions.

This report provides detailed information about each program covered by an issue area, including an overview of program goals, services provided, eligibility criteria, and funding. Also captured are each program's performance results, compared to its contractual performance goals, and explanations of notable variance (+/- 10%) between the performance results and goals.

Notes on Methodology

Community conditions discussed in this report reflect the most recent information available at the time of writing. The majority of the social service contracts included in the report followed a fiscal year calendar (October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015) unless otherwise noted. Program and performance highlights are drawn from contracts and reports provided by contracted service providers. Estimates from the American Community Survey have been tested at a 90% confidence level for reliability. In some cases, all noted, estimates were unreliable due to small sample sizes.

Considerations When Reading This Report

Performance results provide only a starting point for understanding the impact of these programs. These summary statistics are not necessarily an indication of the programs' overall performance, but rather a snapshot of their performance over a one-year period. Within these reports, service providers offer explanations for variance in performance, which provides context and meaning to summary results.

Performance results do not reflect programs' full value to and impact on the community. Therefore, it is important to keep the following considerations in mind when reviewing program performance.

Readers should use caution when comparing output and outcome results across programs, as participant characteristics can significantly influence a given program's performance goals and results. For example, performance results may be lower for programs with clients who face considerable challenges (e.g., serious mental illness or addiction issues) and have little social support.

Factors beyond the program's control may also impact the program's performance. For example, the relative scarcity or abundance of jobs in the local economy will impact client employment rates for a workforce development program, regardless of the quality of training and support provided. Without controlling for these factors, the true impact or efficacy of the program on outcomes cannot be discerned.

Readers should also use caution when examining outcome results for programs with less than 30 clients, in which the outcome of just a few clients can greatly affect the program's total outcome result. In these instances, examining percentages may be less helpful than examining raw numbers.

Finally, this report captures a selection of performance measures, which may not reflect the program's full impact on participants and their families, peers, and neighborhood. Performance measures may not all be equal in importance or value to the community.

Community Conditions

Food and Transportation Goals and Services

Programs and services within this issue area provide access to food to prevent hunger and transportation for critical needs, as well as related programs to promote wellness and improve food and transportation utilization. Services may include: food and meals; programs that support access to healthy food; education about nutrition, safe food preparation and handling; and transportation and access to transportation to provide health or safety needs and promote access to employment or education.

Highlights of Community Conditions

Food and transportation are basic necessities for physical and psychological health and well-being in a modern industrialized society. Food averts hunger and adequate nutrition is essential for optimal physical and mental health. Transportation supports the ability to participate in the job market, pursue an education, purchase food, or obtain medical care. When these basic needs are not met, individuals and households encounter barriers to full participation in their community.

Community Overview

Poverty statistics

Income is a primary determinant of whether one can meet basic needs. Poverty statistics are often used as a proxy measure to describe the number of people or share of the population that, because of income level, may face challenges meeting their basic needs. Poverty thresholds are used for calculating all official poverty statistics and are updated annually by the U.S. Census Bureau.[a] In 2014, the poverty threshold was $12,316 for a single adult and $24,008 for a household of two adults and two children.[1] In 2014, about 17% of Travis County residents (193,753) lived below 100% of the poverty threshold, and 34% of residents (379,254) lived below 200% of the poverty threshold.[2] The following table shows the individual

a The term poverty threshold is often misused interchangeably with the term poverty guidelines, also known as the federal poverty income guidelines (FPIG). While the poverty threshold is a statistical tool issued by the U.S. Census Bureau used to calculate the number of people in poverty, the poverty guidelines are a simplified version of the poverty thresholds issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and used to determine financial eligibility for certain programs. For more information on poverty thresholds and poverty guidelines, please see the resources section of this chapter.

and child poverty rates in Travis County from 2010 to 2014.

Poverty Status by Age
Population for Whom Poverty Status is Determined, Travis County, 2010-2014

	2010	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*
Individuals in Poverty	194,156	192,436	197,657	176,920*	193,753*
Individual Poverty Rate	19%	18%	18%	16%*	17%*
Children (under 18) in Poverty	62,168	63,680	67,791	55,554	63,659
Child Poverty Rate	25%	25%	26%	22%	24%

*The difference between the 2013 and 2014 estimates is not statistically significant.
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2015
Source data: 2014 American Community Survey 1–Year Estimates, C17001

Poverty status is used to determine eligibility for many public assistance programs but does not reflect what individuals and families need to meet basic needs. The Center for Public Policy Priorities developed a comprehensive methodology for estimating the basic cost of living, using the Better Texas Family Budgets tool. An interactive online calculator, it estimates that households in the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos metropolitan area need incomes of at least double the poverty threshold to make ends meet.[3,b] Using this standard to consider economic hardship, in 2014 more than one-third (34%) of Travis County residents (about 379,254 people) lived in households with incomes below 200% of the poverty threshold.[4]

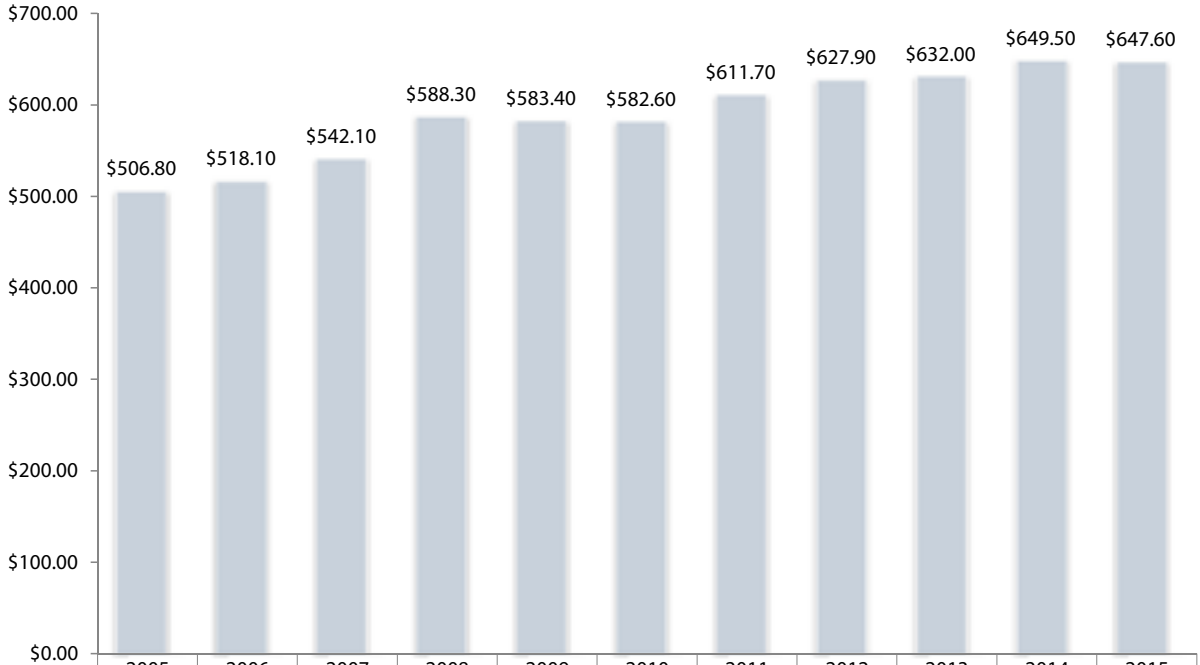
Asset poverty and liquid asset poverty are other indicators of economic insecurity. Asset poverty refers to the condition in which a household's assets, such as a savings account, or durable assets, such as a home, business or car, are overwhelmed by debt. Liquid asset poverty refers to the condition in which households have less than three months of savings to fall back on in the event of a job loss, health crisis, or other income-disrupting emergency. In Texas, about 24% of all Texans are asset poor and about 50% are liquid asset poor.[5] A closer look shows that disparities exist between White Households and Households of Color. About 17% of White Households and 37% of Households of Color are asset poor,[6] and about 38% of White Households are liquid asset poor, compared to 54% of Households of Color.[7]

b The tool calculates expenses based on the cost of housing, food, child care, medical insurance, medical out-of-pocket expenses, transportation, taxes less tax credits, and other necessities. Figures vary according to family size, type, and health insurance status. It is estimated that households in the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos metropolitan area with employer-sponsored insurance require incomes equivalent to 175-262% of the poverty threshold. For example, a single person would need an income of at least $21,612 (175% of the poverty threshold in 2014); a family of four with two children would need at least $50,016 (208% of the poverty threshold in 2014). Those without employer-sponsored insurance likely need incomes of 229-262% of the poverty threshold to cover the costs of necessities including medical insurance.

Cost of Living in Travis County

The cost of living affects the ability to secure basic necessities, such as food and transportation. The cost of food has increased by about 28% from 2005 to 2015, according to the Thrifty Food Plan.[c] In 2005, a family of four could manage on a food budget of about $507 per month, compared to $648 in 2015.[8]

Monthly Cost of Food, Thrifty Food Plan
Family of Four*, U.S., 2005-2015



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Monthly Cost	$506.80	$518.10	$542.10	$588.30	$583.40	$582.60	$611.70	$627.90	$632.00	$649.50	$647.60
Change from Prior Year	1.5%	2.2%	4.6%	8.5%	-0.8%	-0.1%	5.0%	2.6%	0.7%	2.8%	-0.3%

*Calculations are for the monthly cost of food in June, using the Thrifty Food Plan, for a family of four with two children 6-8 & 9-11 years.
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2015
Source data: United States Department of Agriculture, Center for Nutrition Policy and Nutrition, 2002-2012

While the overall cost of living has risen (as should be expected due to inflation), household income has risen at about the same pace. The following table shows that the median household income in Travis County rose from 2010 to 2014 by 10%,[9,10] while the cost of goods and services as reported by the Consumer Price Index[d] rose by 9%,[11] the cost of food rose by 10%,[12] and the cost of transportation rose by 16%.[13]

c The USDA's Thrifty Food plan serves as the national standard for a nutritious diet at a minimal cost and is used as a basis for food stamp allotments.

d The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services.

Change in Income and Costs, 2010-2014				
	Cost of Goods/Services	*Cost of Food*	*Transportation*	*Median Income*
	Consumer Price Index, All Items First Half Semi Annual Average South Urban Area	*Consumer Price Index, Food First Half Semi Annual Average South Urban Area*	*Consumer Price Index, Transportation First Half Semi Annual Average South Urban Area*	*Annual Household Median Income* Travis County*
2010	210.9	218.2	189.9	56,176
2014	230.3	240.9	220.0	61,787
Percent Change	9%	10%	16%	10%

* 2010 income is reported in 2014 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2015
Source data: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index; 2010 & 2014 American Community Survey 1–Year Estimates, B19013

System Overview: Food and Transportation Services

Food

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, food security is the ability to ensure access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members.[14] In Texas, about 17% of households were food insecure in 2012-2014, compared to about 14% nationally.[15] In Travis County, an estimated 18% of individuals (about 189,400) are food insecure,[16] and about 25% of Travis County children (about 63,800) are food insecure.[17]

Transportation

Transportation is a necessary expense for essential activities, such as maintaining a job or buying food, yet the cost can be an additional strain for those with limited incomes. Housing, jobs, and services are increasingly decentralized and widely dispersed. Travis County is largely a car-dependent region, with 81% of workers driving alone to work, versus only 4% who use public transportation.[18] Although public transportation may be an affordable option for individuals with limited incomes, it may not be available or reliable. Focus group participants for a local community health assessment in Travis County identified several problems with public transportation, including long wait times for the bus and having to walk over a mile to the nearest bus stop.[19] Focus group participants also noted that residents who live or work outside of central Austin don't have access to the public transportation system because it doesn't extend to outlying areas.[20]

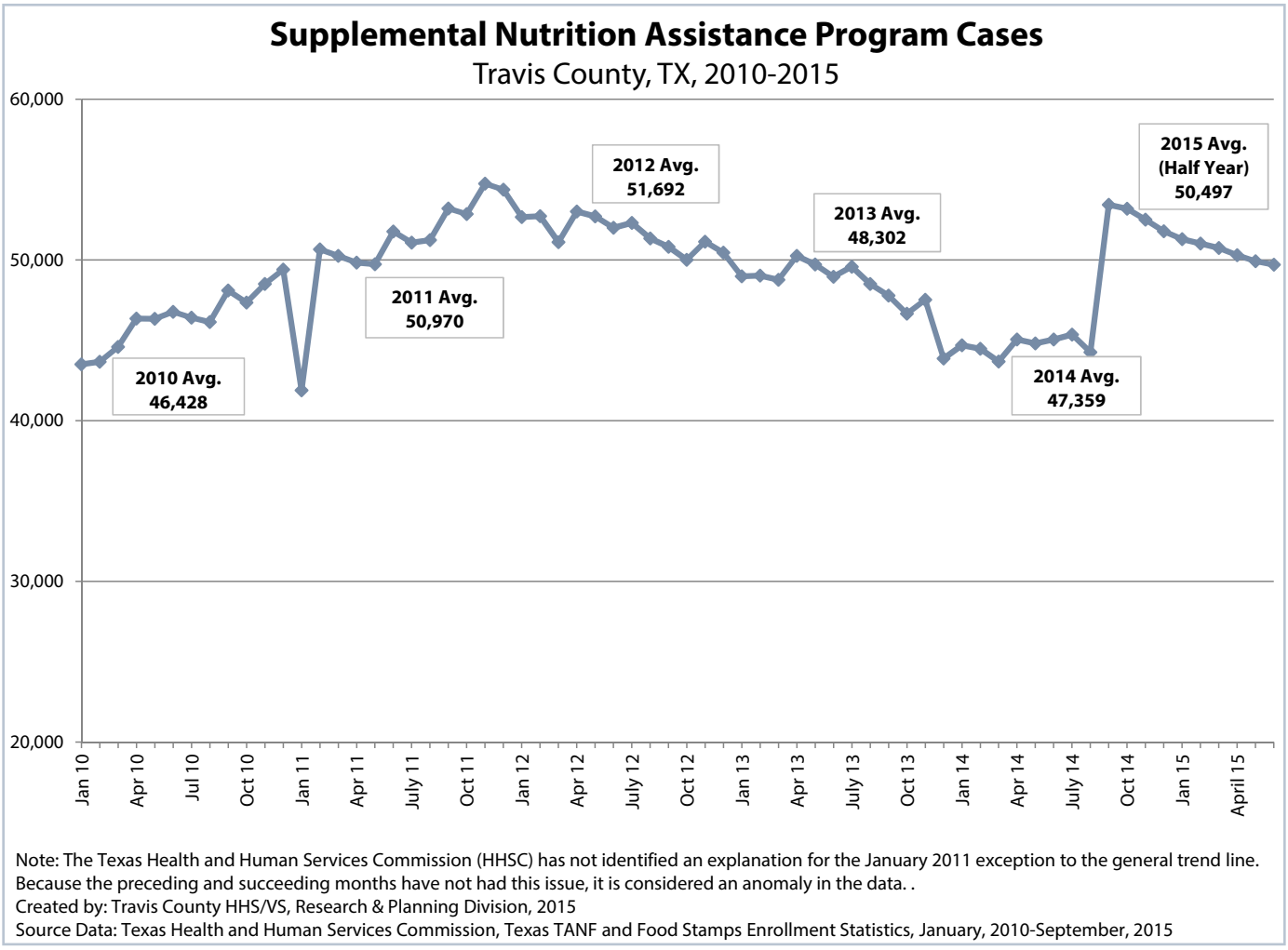
Services and Assistance Requests

The goal of a safety net is to help low-income individuals and families bridge the gap between available income and the cost of meeting basic needs. The safety net includes federally-funded, state-administered benefits and a local network of nonprofit agencies, faith-based organizations, and city and county agencies that fund and/or provide services for a combination of emergency food, rent, utility, clothing, and transportation assistance to residents in need.

Calls to 2-1-1, the United Way for Greater Austin Navigation Center, continue to suggest a significant demand for basic needs services, including food and transportation. In 2014, 2-1-1 received 113,426 calls from Travis County residents.[21] Of these calls, there were 31,439 calls for food assistance and 2,758 calls for transportation needs. Callers with needs related to existing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits or who were seeking general information about the SNAP program accounted for 24,135 needs. Callers with needs related to food pantries represented 6,429 needs. Callers with transportation-related needs most often needed transportation to medical appointments, accounting for 975 needs. Other transportation-related calls were related to bus fare (496 needs), gas money (398 needs), senior ride programs (192 needs) and disability-related transportation (131 needs).[22,e]

Food-related statistics show both a need for and use of safety net services. Enrollment in SNAP shows that individuals and families are in need of or are seeking assistance to meet their food and nutrition needs. As shown in the following chart, the number of SNAP cases in Travis County are slowly declining after a spike September 2014. In June 2015, there were 49,701 SNAP cases in Travis County with 111,614 (about 10% of all Travis County residents) receiving benefits.[23, 24] The majority of SNAP recipients in Travis County were children under 18 years of age (59%) and 34% of recipients were adults ages 18 to 59.

e 2-1-1 reported the number of total calls and unique needs. Some callers may identify multiple needs during one call.



Note: The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has not identified an explanation for the January 2011 exception to the general trend line. Because the preceding and succeeding months have not had this issue, it is considered an anomaly in the data. .
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2015
Source Data: Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Texas TANF and Food Stamps Enrollment Statistics, January, 2010-September, 2015

Gaps in the Safety Net

Despite the availability of the aforementioned services, there are gaps in the safety net. In order to be eligible for federal safety net benefits, families must meet income eligibility guidelines typically set at or slightly above the federal poverty income guidelines (FPIG).[f] For example, eligibility for SNAP requires a gross monthly income at or below 130% of FPIG.[25] However, as the cost of living in Travis County has been estimated to require an income of at least twice the poverty level,[26] many families may be ineligible for assistance yet not earn enough to fully cover the costs of their basic expenses. Some families may meet income guidelines for benefits but still be ineligible for other reasons or face barriers to obtaining them. For example, even with legal status most immigrants are not eligible to receive SNAP benefits until they have lived in the United States for at least five years. Also, while U.S.-born children living in immigrant families may be eligible for SNAP benefits, they are less likely to receive them, perhaps due to parents' misperception about eligibility or fear of interaction with government agencies.[27] Language can also

f The 2014 federal poverty income guidelines were $11,670 for an individual and $23,850 for a family of four.

be a barrier. The United States Department of Agriculture used state level administrative data and the American Community Survey to determine SNAP access rates[g] in Texas. One of the study's findings was that a lack of English proficiency may be a significant barrier to SNAP access. In Travis County, access rates for Spanish speakers who were and were not linguistically isolated[h] were 64.7% and 74.8%, respectively. Regarding individuals who spoke a language other than Spanish or English, access rates for those who were and were not linguistically isolated were 14.3% and 26.9%, respectively.[28]

Eligible individuals and families are experiencing a decrease in SNAP benefits. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) included a temporary increase in SNAP benefits, in response to the economic downturn at that time. The higher levels continued until November 2013, when the temporary increase expired and SNAP benefits were cut for all individuals and families nationwide. In Fiscal Year 2014, food stamp benefits averaged $125.37 per month or six percent less than Fiscal Year 2013.[29]

Further Resources

Community conditions discussed elsewhere in this report, particularly workforce and housing trends, also impact the ability to meet basic needs. Families facing unemployment or with limited earnings may need to rely on supports and services to bridge the gap between income and costs; those with a high housing cost burden may have less financial resources available to meet other basic necessities.

Below are selected resources that provide more information on research and data related to food security and poverty:

Food Research and Action Center

www.frac.org

The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) is the leading national nonprofit organization working to improve public policies and public-private partnerships to eradicate hunger and under-nutrition in the United States.

The Texas Hunger Initiative, Baylor University School of Social Work

www.baylor.edu/texashunger/

The Texas Hunger Initiative (THI) is a capacity-building and collaborative project with many state and federal partners. THI works to develop and implement strategies to end hunger through policy, education, community organizing, and community development.

g Access rates were defined as the proportion of eligible individuals who receive SNAP benefits. For the purpose of the study, "access rates" were used as opposed to "participation rates" in order to distinguish them because of differing methodology.

h A linguistically isolated household is one in which no member 14 years old and over: (1) speaks only English, or (2) speaks a non-English language and speaks English "very well."

Center for Public Policy Priorities—Better Texas Family Budgets Calculator

www.familybudgets.org

The Center for Public Policy Priorities evaluates public policy as it affects low- and moderate-income Texans through independent research and policy analysis, public education, advocacy, coalition-building, and technical assistance. Their Better Texas Family Budget calculator is an online public education tool that uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau and other public sources to measure what families have to earn to cover basic expenses in 26 metropolitan areas of Texas. The calculator measures rental housing and utilities, food, health insurance, child care, transportation, and other necessities.

United States Poverty Bureau—Poverty Pages

www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/

The United States Census Bureau is a leading source of quality data about people and the economy. The Census Bureau Poverty pages include reports on poverty data from several major household surveys and programs, including the American Community Survey. Information also includes research on the Supplemental Poverty Measure.

United States Census Bureau—Poverty Thresholds

www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/

Poverty thresholds, defined by the United States Census Bureau, are the dollar amounts used to determine poverty status. Thresholds vary according to family size and ages of the members. The Census Bureau provides tables by year of the poverty thresholds by size of family and number of children.

The United States Health and Human Services—Poverty Guidelines

www.aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/

The United States Department of Health and Human Services publishes the annual federal poverty income guidelines used for administrative purposes, such as determining financial eligibility for certain programs. They also provide background information on the poverty guidelines and poverty measurements.

Focus on Poverty in Travis County: Snapshot from the American Community Survey 5–year Estimates

https://www.traviscountytx.gov/images/health_human_services/Docs/acs_focus_on_poverty_2011.pdf

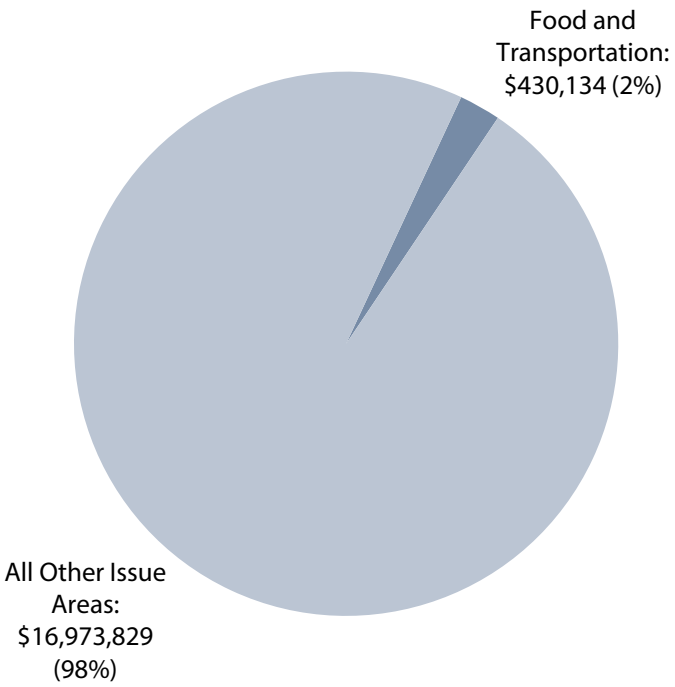
This report was researched and written by the staff at the Travis County Department of Health and Human Services & Veterans Service, Research & Planning Division. The report uses American Community Survey 2005-2009 5-Year Estimates to look at how demographic, social, and employment characteristics and geography interact with poverty.

Investment Overview

Our Investment

TCHHS/VS has departmental and contracted programs that offer services to address residents' food and transportation needs. This service area includes contracted services that provide food to avert hunger, and offer transportation assistance to meet specific public health or safety needs. These contracted services work in tandem with services provided directly by the TCHHS/VS Department. The Department is a major provider of basic needs assistance for individuals and families within Travis County. The Family Support Services division provides an array of basic needs and housing services across seven community centers.

Investment in Food and Transportation and Other Issue Areas, FY 2015



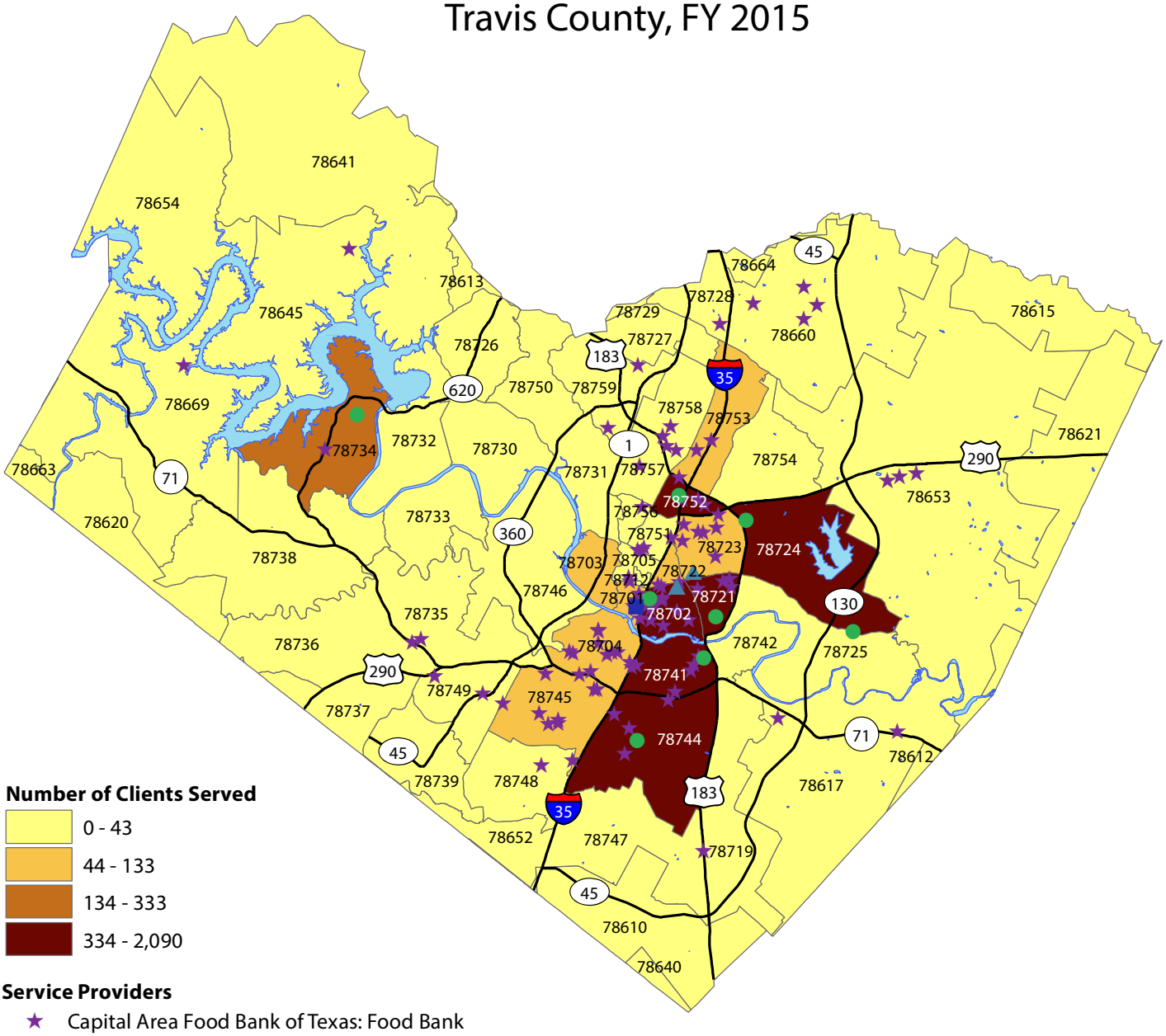
Funding Summary

The FY 2015 Funding Amount reflects 12–month funding (October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015) unless otherwise noted.

Agency Name	Program Name	FY 2015 Funding Amount
Capital Area Food Bank of Texas	Food Bank	$57,766
Capital Area Food Bank of Texas	Mobile Food Pantry	$19,312
Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS)	JARC	$75,000
Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS)	Rural Transit	$130,755
Caritas of Austin	Community Kitchen	$127,980
Sustainable Food Center	Grow Local	$19,321

Food and Transportation

Service Provision Locations and Clients Served by ZIP Code
Travis County, FY 2015



Number of Clients Served

- 0 - 43
- 44 - 133
- 134 - 333
- 334 - 2,090

Service Providers

- ★ Capital Area Food Bank of Texas: Food Bank
- ● Capital Area Food Bank of Texas: Mobile Food Pantry
- ■ Caritas of Austin
- ▲ Sustainable Food Center

Service provision locations are not included for the CARTS JARC or Rural Transit programs. JARC serves all clients accessing the Del Valle Flex route while Rural Transit services can be accessed anywhere the client is located.

N

0 2.5 5 Miles

Notes: This map shows 10,743 clients by ZIP code. 142 (1% of the total) from all service providers were not included because their ZIP codes were unknown or outside of Travis County boundaries or they were homeless. Client ZIP codes are not included for Capital Area Food Bank's Food Bank program or the CARTS JARC or Rural Transit programs. Client ZIP codes for Caritas only reflect clients completing an annual survey and not all clients served.

Source data: Contracted service providers, 2015.
This map was created using City of Austin shapefiles.
Created by: Travis County HHS/VS, Research & Planning Division, 2015.

Capital Area Food Bank of Texas

Food Bank

Program Description

Capital Area Food Bank of Texas, Inc. is the primary source of food and grocery products to other non-profit organizations. The Food Bank's primary mechanism of distributing food is through its network of 300 partner agencies. These human service agencies stock their pantry shelves with food from the Food Bank and then, in turn, directly provide the food to their clients, either as bags of groceries to fix and eat at home or as prepared meals served on-site at the agency.

The Food Bank serves as a clearinghouse that solicits, transports, and stores truckloads of donated food and other grocery products and then distributes the food and grocery products in manageable quantities to human service agencies that help people in need.

Funding

The total TCHHS/VS investment in the Food Bank program from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015 was $57,766. This investment comprised 0.6% of the total program budget. TCHHS/VS also funds the Mobile Food Pantry program, which is described later in this report.

Eligibility Criteria

Central Texas human service agencies serving children, abuse victims, the elderly, the chronically ill, the unemployed, the working poor, the homeless and other Texans impacted by recent hardships are eligible to receive food. Food Bank partner agencies include soup kitchens, emergency food pantries, shelters, senior centers, low-income child care facilities, youth programs, rehabilitation centers, emergency relief organizations, and many other groups.

Capital Area Food Bank of Texas: Food Bank

The Food Bank met or exceeded all performance goals for FY 2015. Program staff noted that more sites were served compared with the previous fiscal year, in which upon projections were based (see the first output). According to staff, the Food Bank was able to distribute more food than ever before because of increased donations from grocery retailers and distributors, which was a result of increased stewardship of store staff, coordination of more frequent pickups, and access to new stores to retrieve excess inventory for distribution to low income households (see the second and third outputs, and the first outcome).

Performance Measure	Total Program Performance Results	Total Program Performance Goals	Total Program Performance Goal Achieved
Outputs			
Number of unduplicated Travis County client agencies served	192	170	113%
Pounds of donated food provided to agencies in Travis County	7,339,907	6,500,000	113%
Number of meal equivalents provided to agencies in Travis County	6,116,589	5,416,667	113%
Outcomes			
Dollars saved by agencies in Travis County	$12,184,246	$10,790,000	113%
Percent of unduplicated Partner Agencies satisfied	96% (23/24)	90% (45/50)	106%

Capital Area Food Bank of Texas

Mobile Food Pantry

Program Description

The Mobile Food Pantry provides direct food distribution to high need areas with limited or no access to food resources via food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and other human service organizations. The program strives to ensure that no one in need lacks access to food through the provision of meals, while simultaneously trying to mitigate the growth in demand on local food pantries. Capital Area Food Bank of Texas, Inc. has two dedicated Mobile Food Pantry vehicles, capable of transporting refrigerated, non-refrigerated, and frozen items over long distances, ensuring a wide variety of food available to recipients. Currently there are seven Mobile Food Pantry distributions within the County each month, serving a monthly average of 7,500 individuals. Each individual receives an average of 15 pounds of food at each distribution.

Funding

The total TCHHS/VS investment in the Mobile Food Pantry program from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015 was $19,312. This investment comprised 5.7% of the total program budget. TCHHS/VS also funds the Food Bank program, which is described earlier in this report.

Eligibility Criteria

There are no strict income eligibility guidelines for the Mobile Food Pantry program; however, it is anticipated that all Mobile Food Pantry clients will have household incomes at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG). The neighborhoods served by the program are selected based on prevalence of poverty, therefore Capital Area Food Bank of Texas, Inc. has determined that area-eligibility is sufficient to ensure food assistance is delivered to those who need it.

Capital Area Food Bank of Texas: Mobile Food Pantry

The Mobile Food Pantry exceeded all performance goals for FY 2015. Staff reported that the Capital Area Food Bank operated two additional distribution sites throughout the year that were not originally anticipated, resulting in more clients served and more food distributed (see outputs).

Performance Measure	Total Program Performance Results	Total Program Performance Goals	Total Program Performance Goal Achieved
Outputs			
Number of unduplicated clients served	9,228	5,625	164%
Number of duplicated clients served	74,945	54,000	139%
Number of Mobile Food Pantry distributions held in Travis County	101	84	120%
Pounds of food distributed through Mobile Food Pantry distributions in Travis County	819,625	675,000	121%
Number of meal equivalents provided in Travis County	683,021	562,500	121%

Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS)

JARC

Program Description

CARTS provides public transportation services to residents who live in rural Travis County outside of the Capital Metro service area. The Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) route is a fixed route service that is a vital link for persons needing employment, medical, social, education and other services. The route helps families in Del Valle access services at the UT Children's Wellness Center, as well as providing residents with direct service to the ACC Riverside Campus, allowing transfer to other Capital Metro routes. Transportation is available between the hours of 7 am and 7 pm.

Funding

The total TCHHS/VS investment in the JARC program from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015 was $75,000. This investment comprised 5.3% of the total program budget. TCHHS/VS also funds the Rural Transit program, which is described later in this report.

Eligibility Criteria

CARTS do not require an age or income level. Transportation is provided to the public in Precinct 4 according to the Capital Metro bus schedule.

Capital Area Rural Transportation System: JARC

This program exceeded its goal for 2015. More trips were provided on the JARC route, which staff attributed to increased traffic, cost of fuel, high need in rural areas, and clients' lack of other transportation.

Performance Measure	Total Program Performance Results	Total Program Performance Goals	Total Program Performance Goal Achieved
Outputs			
Number of Trips	77,827	65,000	120%

Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS)

Rural Transit

Program Description

CARTS provides public transportation services to residents who live in rural Travis County outside of the Capital Metro service area. A variety of public transportation services are provided: General Public Dial-A-Ride services schedule rides as needed according to the published schedule and patients requesting transportation to the health clinics are scheduled as requested. Reduced fares are available to adults over 60 years of age and to people with disabilities. Veterans traveling to any VA clinic or hospital are not charged a fare for the trip; The Senior Nutrition Program transports seniors to and from nutrition sites for meals and special programs at no charge. Transportation is also available for residents receiving services from Austin Travis County Integral Care. Trips are scheduled in advance or as needed, and transportation is provided to and from programs and appointments.

Funding

The total TCHHS/VS investment in the Rural Transit program from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015 was $130,755. This investment comprised 9.0% of the total program budget. TCHHS/VS also funds the JARC program, which is described earlier in this report.

Eligibility Criteria

CARTS do not require an age or income level. Transportation is provided to the public according to the Travis County schedule and depending on availability. Persons are encouraged to call in and book their ride at least 24 hours in advance, but same day service can be provided depending on availability.

Capital Area Rural Transportation System: Rural Transit

The Rural Transit program met both goals for 2015.

Performance Measure	Total Program Performance Results	Total Program Performance Goals	Total Program Performance Goal Achieved
Outputs			
Total Number of unduplicated clients served	561	610	92%
Total Number of Trips Performed	22,843	25,000	91%

Caritas of Austin

Community Kitchen

Program Description

The goal of the Community Kitchen program is to assist low-income residents with basic nutrition. The Community Kitchen provides nutritious lunch to anyone who is hungry. Lunch usually consists of a hot entrée or sandwich; soup; vegetables; milk; fresh fruit and/or dessert. The Kitchen also offers diners a respite from the heat or inclement weather.

Funding

The total TCHHS/VS investment in the Community Kitchen program from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015 was $127,980. This investment comprised 78.3% of the total program budget. TCHHS/VS also funds the Best Single Source Plus program, which is described in the Housing Continuum issue area report.

Eligibility Criteria

The Caritas Community Kitchen serves a nutritious meal to anyone who is hungry. This well-balanced lunch meets the nutritional needs of many homeless individuals, as well as unemployed or underemployed workers.

Caritas of Austin: Community Kitchen

The Community Kitchen met both performance goals for 2015.

Performance Measure	Total Program Performance Results	Total Program Performance Goals	Total Program Performance Goal Achieved
Outputs			
Number of unduplicated clients served	81,721	90,000	91%
Outcomes			
Percentage of unduplicated Community Kitchen patrons provided a meal, who were satisfied with the meal, as measured in the annual survey	94% (195/208)	90% (180/200)	104%

Sustainable Food Center

Grow Local

Program Description

Grow Local is a community-based program that helps low-income individuals and families grow nutritious produce for their own consumption and encourages them to spread the harvest among their neighbors or through area food banks. The goal of the program is to increase the availability and consumption of locally-grown, healthy food by low-income children and adults, and enable and encourage community members to participate in their local food system. The program increases the food gardening skills of low-income children and adults by partnering with social services organizations, community gardens, schools, and other institutions to offer food gardening instruction and materials. The program also improves self-sufficiency and food security by helping gardeners produce enough fruits and vegetables for themselves and their families, to share with others, and to sell at local markets.

Clients receive seeds, transplants, compost, and soil amendments, as well as access to tools and gardening books. In addition to these resources, the program also provides educational opportunities, such as workshops and informational emails, and offers technical assistance for clients in order to improve their food gardening skills and increase their yield.

Funding

The total TCHHS/VS investment in the Grow Local program from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015 was $19,321. This investment comprised 63.6% of the total program budget.

Eligibility Criteria

The Grow Local program targets underserved children and adults within the City of Austin and Travis County, including: low-income residents (for clients supported with Travis County funds, clients must have incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines); children and adults who are at risk for household food insecurity and/or face a higher risk for diet-related problems; schools serving majority economically disadvantaged students as defined by the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-priced meals under the National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program; and underserved residents of Sustainable Food Center's target geographic areas for services.

Sustainable Food Center: Grow Local

The Sustainable Food Center had mixed performance for 2015, meeting or exceeding most goals but falling short on two. Staff noted that a collaboration with the Multicultural Refugee Coalition resulted in more gardeners receiving resources and education through this program (see the first output). According to staff, while many group gardens did join the program, most school gardens reported that a smaller than usual number of students used the garden (see the second output). Program staff reported that mild, rainy seasons resulted in very successful gardens and, thus, a large number of meal equivalents (see the third output). According to staff, members reported that they shared their harvest with fewer numbers of people but shared more food with each individual person (see the fourth output). Staff also noted that an increasing number of individuals and families are showing concern with the quality of the food they consume and how it is produced (see the second outcome).

Performance Measure	Total Program Performance Results	Total Program Performance Goals	Total Program Performance Goal Achieved
Outputs			
Number of unduplicated individual and non-institutional gardeners receiving resources and education through the Grow Local program (persons may receive services and resources on multiple occasions)	1,449	1,300	111%
Number of unduplicated gardeners in housing, school, or other group programs receiving resources and education through the Grow Local program (persons may receive services and resources on multiple occasions)	10,951	13,000	84%
Number of Meal Equivalents reported (garden fresh produce shared by gardeners; 2 meal equivalents fit into one plastic grocery store bag)	13,388	11,640	115%
Number of Meal Recipients reported (persons receiving one or more meal equivalents; duplicated)	9,011	12,416	73%
Outcomes			
Percentage of Grow Local gardeners choosing "considerable" or "very much" when asked, "To what extent do you feel growing your own food has had a positive impact on your health (diet, physical activity, social/emotional)?"	86% (692/805)	80% (640/800)	107%

Sustainable Food Center: Grow Local

Performance Goals and Results

Performance Measure	Total Program Performance Results	Total Program Performance Goals	Total Program Performance Goal Achieved
Percentage of Grow Local gardeners choosing "frequently" or "almost always" when asked, "How much do you think about the food that you eat (where it comes from, how it is produced, quality, ingredients)?"	92% (739/805)	70% (560/800)	131%
Percentage of Grow Local gardeners satisfied with services provided who returned their quarterly surveys	95% (763/805)	95% (760/800)	100%

Appendix

2015 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines

Most TCHHS/VS contracts require programs to serve participants with household incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Income Guideline (FPIG) level. Some programs have chosen to follow a more stringent threshold. The following table presents the federal poverty thresholds by household size and income.

Household Size	Income Limits by Household Size				
	50%	100%	125%	150%	200%
1 person	$5,885	$11,770	$14,713	$17,655	$23,540
2 persons	$7,965	$15,930	$19,913	$23,895	$31,860
3 persons	$10,045	$20,090	$25,113	$30,135	$40,180
4 persons	$12,125	$24,250	$30,313	$36,375	$48,500
5 persons	$14,205	$28,410	$35,513	$42,615	$56,820
6 persons	$16,285	$32,570	$40,713	$48,855	$65,140
7 persons	$18,365	$36,730	$45,913	$55,095	$73,460
8 persons	$20,445	$40,890	$51,113	$61,335	$81,780
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add $4,160 for each additional person.					

Data source: "2015 Poverty Guidelines," Office of The Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, January 22, 2015, http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/15poverty.cfm.

2015 Austin Median Family Income Guidelines

The Blackland Community Development Corporation and Foundation for the Homeless contracts require participants in their programs to have a household income at or below 50% of the Austin Median Family Income (MFI) level. Other programs may also use Austin MFI guidelines when measuring client incomes. The following table presents the median family income limits established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

Household Size	Income Limits by Household Size		
	30% (Extremely Low)	50% (Very Low)	80% (Low)
1 person	$16,150	$26,900	$43,050
2 persons	$18,450	$30,750	$49,200
3 persons	$20,750	$34,600	$55,350
4 persons	$24,250	$38,400	$61,450
5 persons	$28,410	$41,500	$66,400
6 persons	$32,570	$44,550	$71,300
7 persons	$36,730	$47,650	$76,200
8 persons	$40,890	$50,700	$81,150

Data source: "Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX MSA FY2015 Income Limits Summary," U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/il/il15/FY2015_IL_tx.pdf.

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