



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS RECOMMENDATION 2020429-03B (i)  
FY 2021 Budget Recommendations**

Date: April 29, 2020

Subject: FY2021 Budget Recommendations

Motioned By: Garcia-Pittman

Seconded By: Angel

**Recommendation**

The Commission on Seniors submits the attached recommendations on the FY 2021 budget, using the “Root Cause Analysis” format requested by the Equity Office.

**Description of Recommendation to Council**

See each attached recommendation

**Rationale:**

See each attached recommendation

**Vote**

For: Briesemeister, Varteressian, Angel, Bordie, Cage, Garcia-Pittman, Grampp, Hauser, Kareithi, Nicol, Temperley, Van Sickle, Spain

Against: none

Abstain: None

Absent: Jackson, Lugo

Attest:

Jane Briesemeister, Chair

## **2021 Budget Recommendation Access to Food**

### **Root Cause Analysis**

#### **Story: What did you hear from the community?**

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission on Seniors heard from the community about difficulties in accessing food for older adults. Comments included the desire for free food delivery. Since the stay at home orders were issued Austin has risen to the challenge of ensuring older adults have access to food. Efforts include meal delivery by nonprofits and churches; Parks and Recreation shifting its congregate meal program to pick up; and expanded operations at providers such as Meals on Wheels and the Capital Area Food Bank. HEB is offering delivery to older adults at no extra charge while other businesses are offering special shopping hours for seniors. Meals on Wheels has added clients during this time. The pandemic has further underscored the need for healthy food for older adults in Austin.

#### **Problem: What is the problem you identify?**

Many older adults lack access to healthy food. Barriers include living in “food deserts” and lack of transportation to grocery stores.

#### **How does the problem show up in your community? Who is most impacted by the problem?**

Older adults with the lowest incomes and those with mobility barriers and/or limited transportation options are the most impacted.

#### **Considering all of the information you have or have not collected above, how do we solve for this problem?**

The Commission on Seniors supports adding \$40,000 to the budget of the Parks and Recreation Department to expand the congregate meal program to two additional sites: Dove Springs and Turner Roberts Recreation Center. Additional funding for the expansion comes from the Area Agency on Aging.

The Commission on Seniors recommends Austin Public Health and/or other appropriate city departments determine how to provide free or very low cost home delivery of groceries to older adults and person with disabilities who are homebound and/or have significant transportation challenges preventing them from visiting grocery stores. This could include funding through social services contracts and/or partnerships (such as with Metro Access).

Addressing this problem supports SD 2023 strategic outcomes: Government That Works For All, Health and Environment, Economic Opportunity and Affordability.

#### **After question three, which questions from the flowchart are you prepared to answer?**

\_\_Is there funding? Adding congregate meal sites requires additional funding; free or low cost grocery delivery may require additional funding or could be done with reallocation of current funding.

\_\_Which department holds the funding? Austin Public Health and Parks and Recreation Department, and potentially other departments.

\_\_How much funding is there?

\_\_Which orgs receive it?

\_\_How is success measured? A successful program will add to the number of older adults receiving congregate meals and delivery of groceries.