

Form Name:	Commission Budget Recommendation Form
Submission Time:	April 19, 2020 11:03 pm
Browser:	Chrome 81.0.4044.113 / Windows
IP Address:	72.182.114.173
Unique ID:	601919032
Location:	30.296100616455, -97.73690032959

Your Information

Your Name

Rebecca Austen

Your Commission

Commission for Women

Email

BC-Rebecca.Austen@austintexas.gov

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

Is there funding?
Which department holds the funding?
Which orgs receive it?
What are the impacts, and gaps?

Root Cause Analysis

Story: What did you hear from the community?

Menstruation products, such as pads, tampons, cups, and liners, are necessary purchases for the vast majority of women and girls. However, 1 in 4 women struggle to purchase period supplies due to lack of income. For these women, menstruation products are a luxury item they cannot afford - putting them at risk of isolation, infection and missed days of school and work. By making menstrual products freely accessible in public facilities, governments can offset this inequity.

Problem: What is the problem you identify?

The average woman has her period for 2,535 days of her life and will spend about \$18,000 on menstrual products. Tampons and pads are subject to sales tax and not covered by food stamps. For women below the poverty line, this means they may go without menstrual products, which may lead to missed work and school. Addressing menstrual equity helps to remedy the financial gap women face; as of 2019, women earned 79 cents for every dollar earned by men, but often pay higher prices for basic items like hygiene products. Most public places such as parks, schools, recreation centers and libraries do not supply menstrual products, or charge for them.

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

This problem affects all women and girls of menstruating age, from as young as 8 to around 55. Low-income women are most impacted, as well as women and girls experiencing homelessness, and women in prison. Even women and girls who can afford these products are impacted in public places if they do not have menstrual supplies with them. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the issue has become more acute - menstrual products may be in short supply at retailers and more costly due to scarcity. Many women in Austin have lost their jobs or are furloughed, and have no spare funds to buy the products. Women may lack transportation or be juggling work and child care, unable to get to a store that has the supplies they need.

Is there funding to address the problem?	Yes
Do multiple departments administer these funds?	No
Which department holds the funding?	Austin Public Health
Which organization(s) or program receives the funding?	APH, Parks & Recreation, Austin Public Library
What are the impacts of the funding?	<p>The Commission for Women (CFW) recommended a menstrual equity pilot in the FY20 budget cycle, which was approved and funded by APH using \$10,000 in savings from the FY19 budget. APH used the funds to purchase menstrual products, and partnered with Parks & Recreation to place supplies in six neighborhood centers. Austin Public Library used their own funds to place supplies in two public libraries. APH also worked with the Salvation Army to supply products for women and girls in homeless shelters. APH reported to the CFW in January 2020 that the pilot program was on track and well received. At that time, they were analyzing the cost, utilization, availability of ongoing funding and other factors to assess the impact of the pilot; they expected this data to be available later in 2020.</p>
Considering all of the information you have or have not collected above, how do we solve for this problem?	<p>The Commission for Women recommends extending the pilot in FY21 to cover more public locations and homeless shelters. The City should determine whether funds are held centrally by APH and distributed to other departments, included in Building Services funding, Parks and Library departments purchase products for their respective locations, or a combination of these options. The CFW also recommends that menstrual products be supplied and distributed through food banks, the Austin Diaper Bank, and other organizations who are serving families impacted by COVID-19, so that women and girls who need menstrual products can have access at home and in public places.</p>

Form Name:	Commission Budget Recommendation Form
Submission Time:	April 20, 2020 11:42 am
Browser:	Chrome 81.0.4044.113 / Windows
IP Address:	72.182.114.173
Unique ID:	602115862
Location:	30.296100616455, -97.73690032959

Your Information

Your Name	Rebecca Austen
Your Commission	Commission for Women
Email	BC-Rebecca.Austen@austintexas.gov

After question three, which questions from the flowchart are you prepared to answer?	Is there funding? Which department holds the funding? How much funding is there? Which orgs receive it? How is success measured? What are the impacts, and gaps?
---	---

Root Cause Analysis

Story: What did you hear from the community?	Menstruation products, such as pads, tampons, cups, and liners, are necessary purchases for the vast majority of women and girls. However, 1 in 4 women struggle to purchase period supplies due to lack of income. For these women, menstruation products are a luxury item they cannot afford - putting them at risk of isolation, infection and missed days of school and work. By making menstrual products freely accessible in public facilities, governments can offset this inequity.
---	---

Problem: What is the problem you identify?	The average woman has her period for 2,535 days of her life and will spend about \$18,000 on menstrual products. Tampons and pads are subject to sales tax and not covered by food stamps. For women below the poverty line, this means they may go without menstrual products, which may lead to missed work and school. Addressing menstrual equity helps to remedy the financial gap women face; as of 2019, women earned 79 cents for every dollar earned by men, but often pay higher prices for basic items like hygiene products. Most public places such as parks, schools, recreation centers and libraries do not supply menstrual products, or charge for them.
---	--

How does the problem show up in your community? Who is most impacted by the problem?	This problem affects all women and girls of menstruating age, from as young as 8 to around 55. Low-income women are most impacted, as well as women and girls experiencing homelessness, and women in prison. Even women and girls who can afford these products are impacted in public places if they do not have menstrual supplies with them. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the issue has become more acute - menstrual products may be in short supply at retailers and more costly due to scarcity. Many women in Austin have lost their jobs or are furloughed, and have no spare funds to buy the products. Women may lack transportation or be juggling work and child care, unable to get to a store that has the supplies they need.
Is there funding to address the problem?	Yes
Do multiple departments administer these funds?	No
Which department holds the funding?	Austin Public Health
How much funding is identified to address this problem?	\$10,000 in the FY20 budget (see explanation under Impacts); amount needed for FY21 has not yet been determined.
Which organization(s) or program receives the funding?	APH, Parks & Recreation, Austin Public Library
How is success measured in the contract/department? How does this align with SD2023?	See explanation under Impacts regarding measurement of the pilot outcomes later in 2020. The menstrual equity program aligns with the SD2023 outcomes for Health & Environment - Health conditions among the public and Economic Opportunity & Affordability - Homelessness.
What are the impacts of the funding?	The Commission for Women (CFW) recommended a menstrual equity pilot in the FY20 budget cycle, which was approved and funded by APH using \$10,000 in savings from their FY19 budget. APH used the funds to purchase menstrual products, and partnered with Parks & Recreation to place supplies in six neighborhood centers. Austin Public Library used their own funds to place supplies in two public libraries. APH also worked with the Salvation Army to supply products for women and girls in homeless shelters. APH reported to the CFW in January 2020 that the pilot program was on track and well received. At that time, they were analyzing the cost, utilization, availability of ongoing funding and other factors to assess the impact of the pilot; they expected this data to be available later in 2020.

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

The Commission for Women recommends extending the pilot in FY21 to cover more public locations and homeless shelters. The City should determine the optimal funding model - i.e., funds held centrally by APH and distributed to other departments, funds held within Building Services, Parks and Library departments purchase products for their respective locations, or a combination of these or other options. The CFW also recommends that menstrual products be supplied and distributed through food banks, the Austin Diaper Bank, and other organizations who are serving families impacted by COVID-19, so that women and girls who need and cannot afford menstrual products can have access at home and in public places.
