

Rent and Mortgage Assistance

AIDS Services of Austin

Any Baby Can

Arc of the Capital Area

Austin/Travis County
Mental Health & Mental
Retardation

Austin Tenants Council

Austin/Travis County
Health & Human
Services Department

Capital Area Food Bank

Caritas of Austin

Catholic Charities of
Central Texas

Community Action
Network

Eastside Community
Connection

Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd

Family Eldercare

Foundation Communities

Foundation for the
Homeless

Goodwill Industries of
Central Texas

Housing Authority of the
City of Austin

Meals on Wheels and
More

Micah 6

SafePlace

Salvation Army

St. Louis Parish Social
Ministries

Sustainable Food Center

Texas Rio Grande Legal
Aid

Travis County Health and
Human Services &
Veterans Service

Travis County Re-entry
Roundtable

Trinity Center

United Way Capital Area

Did you know...?

- **123,370 Travis County households (or 36.5%) spend more than 30% of their annual income on housing.** The generally accepted definition of affordability is that a household spends no more than 30% of its annual income on housing costs. When compared to both the Texas and National averages, a greater percentage of Travis County households face housing affordability challenges (*2004 American Community Survey, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*).
- **Rents in the Austin-San Marcos MSA are higher than in any other metropolitan area in the state.** The Fair Market Rent (rent and utility costs) for a 2-bedroom apartment in Austin is \$912 compared with \$868 for the Dallas PMSA, which is the area with the second highest rates (*U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2005*).
- **United Way's information and referral line, 2-1-1 Texas cites Rental Assistance as the third most frequently requested need among its callers** (utility assistance is the top need, followed by food). In 2004, 5,013 callers requested help paying rent or with a rental deposit, an 11% increase over 2003 (*July 04- June 05 Community Needs and Trends Report*).
- **Costs to the community increase dramatically when families lose their housing.** Providing services to a homeless family can cost as much as \$4,300 per month for a family of three (including transitional housing costs and other potential expenses). The cost of maintaining a household in their current housing is approximately \$1,500 per month (*Basic Needs Service Delivery System Interim Report, 2002*).
- **The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) has 4,406 people on the waiting list for one of their 1,928 units in public housing and 1,067 people on the waiting list for a Section 8 voucher. The wait for a Section 8 voucher can be up to 4 years** depending on funding, while **the wait for public housing ranges from 2 months to 2 years** (*Housing Authority of the City of Austin, February 2006*).
- **The demand for rent and mortgage assistance is much greater than the level of resources available to meet the need.** For example, in FY 2004, **Caritas of Austin provided 1,350 households with over \$387,000 in rent or utility assistance, but had to turn away 17,364 requests due to lack of funding** (*Caritas of Austin, 2004*).

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About Basic Needs

What's being done?

- In FY2005, **Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service provided 2,086 households with over \$585,000 in rent and mortgage assistance.** Local nonprofits and faith-based organizations also provide rent or mortgage assistance, which like Travis County's program help to prevent immediate eviction or foreclosure
- Through its Best Single Source (BSS) project, the Basic Needs Coalition has developed a more efficient, user-friendly service delivery system that partners case management with emergency assistance. **In 2005, Best Single Source provided \$330,782 in rent and mortgage assistance to 401 clients.** 93% of BSS clients maintain equal or better housing.
- Basic Needs Coalition **members operate affordable housing communities, offer education and counseling on housing rights and responsibilities, and provide mediation services or legal assistance** in housing-related disputes. These services can help low-income individual families find or maintain suitable, affordable housing and achieve or sustain self-sufficiency.

How can you make a difference?

- **Donate directly to local helping agencies**—money, time or goods. See www.basicneeds-ctx.org for more information.
- **Learn more about housing and homelessness.** Visit www.caction.org for information.
- Learn more about housing affordability issues in Austin and **support efforts to ensure that every community member has the opportunity to live in a safe, decent and affordable home.** Visit www.austinhousing.org.
- Look for opportunities to participate in community planning processes in order to **provide your input as to how to best address housing issues in our community.**