



Community Partner Program

Presented By:



TEXASHUNGER
INITIATIVE
BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

Objectives



1. Learn about hunger in Texas
2. Overview of Texas Hunger Initiative
3. Learn about the Community Partner Program
4. Why your library should become a Community Partner
5. Next Steps

Hunger In our Community



18% of households in Texas experience FOOD INSECURITY.

That's 4.8 million Texans.

1 in 4 Texas children do not have consistent access to enough nutritious food to support a healthy life.



In 2009, Jeremy Everett started the Texas Hunger Initiative as a collaborative project with the Baylor University School of Social Work.

THI has expanded to over 100 staff members in 12 regions across the state of Texas.



THI VISION



**EVERY TEXAN HAS ACCESS TO
3 HEALTHY MEALS PER DAY
7 DAYS PER WEEK**

THI MISSION



TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES
TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER THROUGH PUBLIC-
PRIVATE COLLABORATION, POLICY,
RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY
ORGANIZING.

The State of Hunger In Texas



One out of every seven Texans receives SNAP.

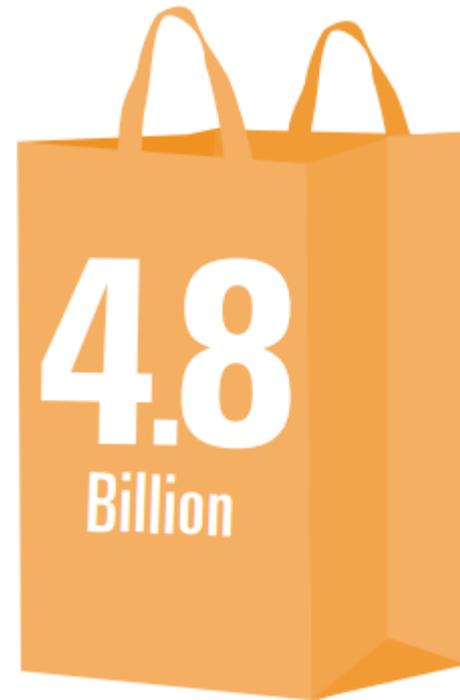


SNAP is the largest program for preventing hunger in Texas, assisting more than 4 million Texans in 2013.

Texas leaves **6 billion dollars** of federal funding for hunger relief unused each year.

In 2011, Texas food banks distributed 285 million pounds of food.

In 2011, SNAP benefits in Texas totaled nearly 4.8 billion pounds of food.



How we are working to solve hunger:



**Community Partner
Program**

No Kid Hungry Campaign



**NOKID
HUNGRY™**
SHARE OUR STRENGTH

THI Funding



What is the Community Partner Program?



An initiative of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to engage community-based organizations as Community Partners in helping people apply for, and manage, their public benefits on-line via the HHSC web portal:



Community Partner Program



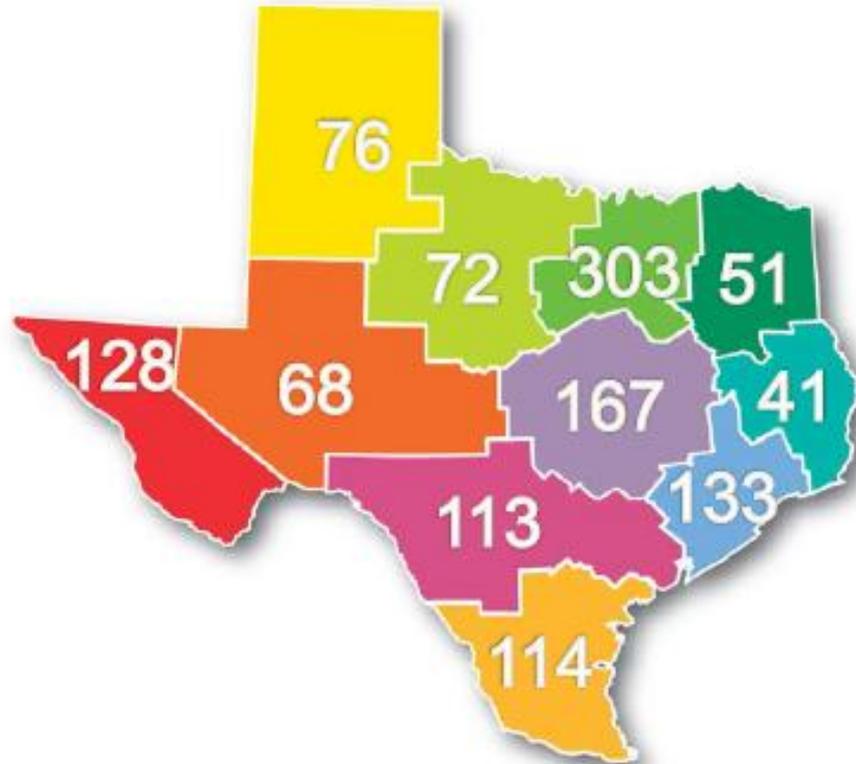
Texas Hunger Initiative (THI) is partnering with Texas Impact, a faith-based advocacy network, and the Texas Association of Community Health Centers (TACHC) to recruit community-based organizations across the state to become Community Partners.



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Current Network of Community Partners



HHSC Regions

- 1 • High Plains
- 2 • Northwest Texas
- 3 • Metroplex
- 4 • Upper East Texas
- 5 • Southeast Texas
- 6 • Gulf Coast
- 7 • Central Texas
- 8 • Upper South Texas
- 9 • West Texas
- 10 • Upper Rio Grande
- 11 • Lower South Texas

1,266 Total Partners (as of July 2015)

Why use the online application?



- **Empowers Applicants**

- o Tool they can use on their own vs. being dependent on a state office



- **Increased Efficiency**

- o Process time for benefits is faster



- **Increased Access**

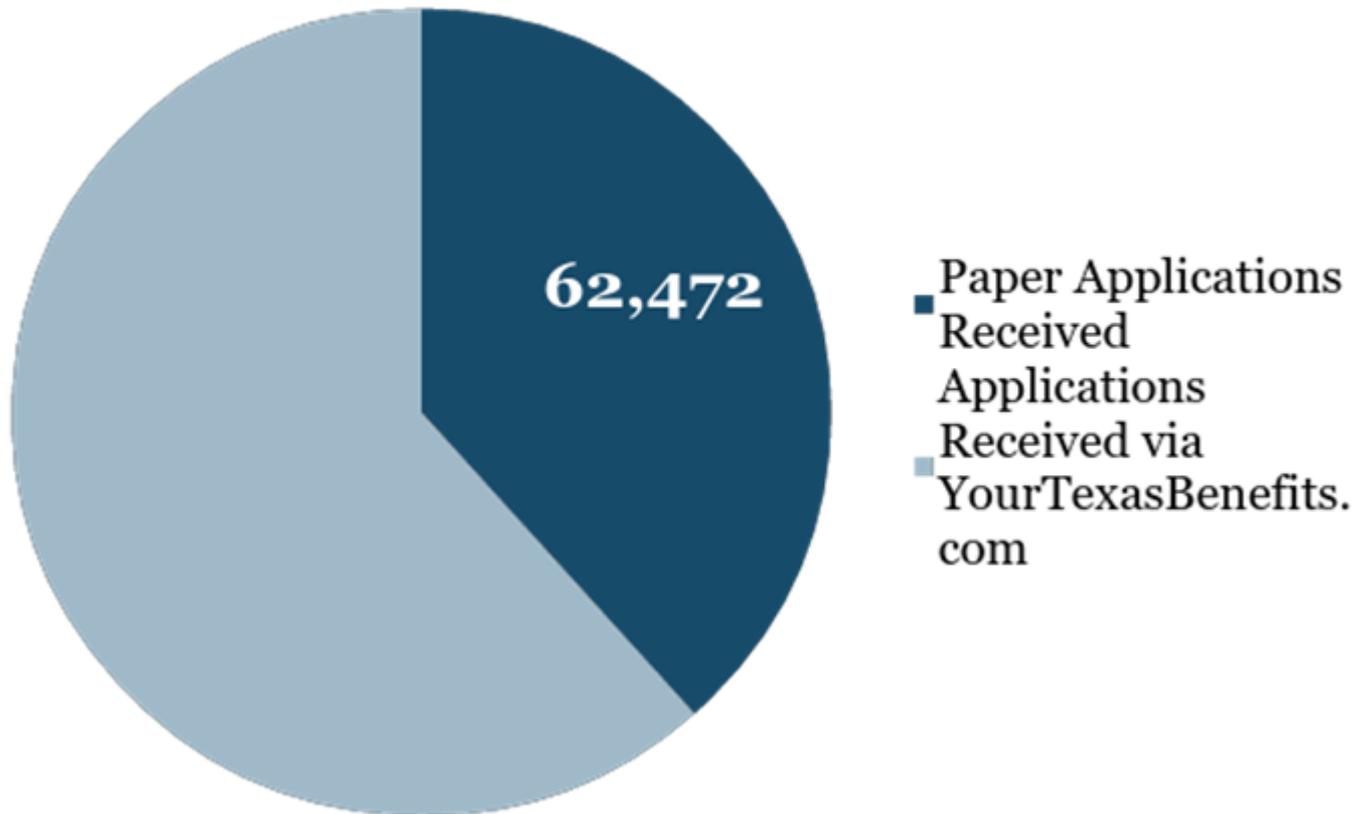
- o Not bound by office hours or location



Expansion of the Network



Example of Statewide Usage of YourTexasBenefits.com





Your Texas Benefits

Text size A A A

English | Español

Home

Should I apply

Apply for benefits

View my case

Find an office

FAQs



Should I apply?

You don't need to login

Before you apply, you can fill out a short form to see what benefits you might get.

Apply for benefits

You need to login

You can apply online for:

- SNAP food benefits (food stamps)
- Health care benefits (Medicaid)
- Cash help for families (TANF)
- Medicare savings programs
- Long-term care

You can save your online form and work on it at different times.

View my case

You need to login

After you send us the application form, you can:

- Check the status of your case.
- See which benefits you get.
- See your benefits amounts.
- Report changes to your case.
- Order or print a Medicaid card.
- View Medicaid services and health history.
- View forms which you sent us.
- See items which we still need to get from you.
- Find out if we got items you sent us.
- Get a receipt for your items you sent us.

[Learn more about benefit programs and how to get help.](#)

[Learn more about the Your Texas Benefits Medicaid card.](#)

Want to apply only for health care for children? Go to www.CHIPMedicaid.org

Public Benefits on YourTexasBenefits.com



SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)

- Formerly called Food Stamps
- Provides cash assistance for purchasing food

Medicaid

- Provides health insurance for low-income children and families, pregnant women, seniors and people with disabilities

CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program)

- Covers children in families who have too much income or too many assets to qualify for Medicaid, but cannot afford to buy private insurance

TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)

- Provides monthly cash assistance to help pay basic necessities for very low-income children and their parents

The Benefits of YourTexasBenefits.Com



- People can apply, in one application process, for multiple benefits, including SNAP, Medicaid, CHIP, and TANF
- Can be accessed from any computer with internet access, 24/7
- Ability to report changes and renew benefits without re-entering information
- Site can also be used to check application status, view benefits received and upcoming renewal dates, as well as download a temporary Medicaid card and see Medicaid services and health history
- Applicants can upload all verification documents
- Directly connects with HHSC computer eligibility system, freeing up staff from having to type in paper application information – streamlining the process

Value of Being a Community Partner (CP)

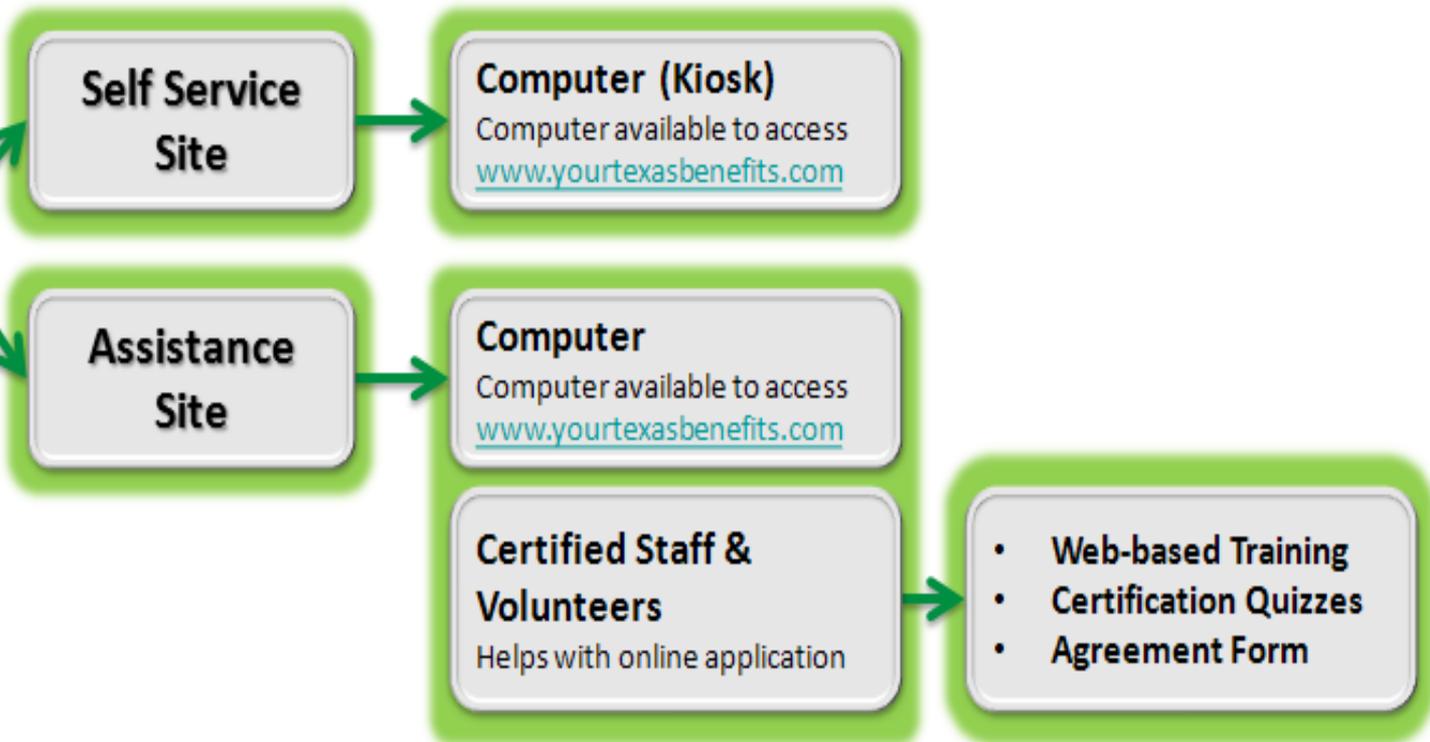


- Enhance Client Services - CP provides a tool for your organization to help your clients who are eligible for state benefits
 - Utilize your existing relationships with clients to provide them with a better experience applying for and managing their state benefits
 - Help your clients take advantage of all the benefits of using www.YourTexasBenefits.com over paper applications
- Receive a monthly report online with the number of people your organization has helped submit applications and renewals, as well as the results of those applications
- It's free!

Community Partner Program: Levels



CBO



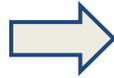
Community Partner Implementation Options



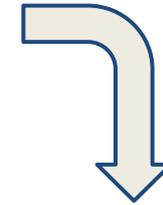
How to Become a Community Partner



1. Submit Letter of Interest
(this can be found
here:
tinyurl.com/cppinterestform)



2. Screenings and Approvals
conducted by HHSC



3. Submit Non-financial
MOU and enrollment Packet



4. Receive your organizational
login accounts from HHSC and
schedule a support visit from THI
Community Partner Support Staff



**Congrats! You're a
Community Partner!**

**You may now begin assisting
clients through
yourtexasbenefits.com**



What support is available?



- THI regional staff and Vistas provide support to organizations during the onboarding process and on-going support as a Community Partner
- Online training tutorials as well as webinars
- Quarterly newsletters and monthly HHSC CPP conference call to provide updates and answer questions
- In-person training

FREE Promotional material (English and Spanish) is available to Community Partners and may be ordered online.



How can your Library increase its impact?



By becoming a
Community Partner!



Why your library should become a Community Partner



- Your library is already known as a safe, welcoming place for individuals and families in your community, and through CPP, they can come to you for assistance rather than a state office.
- CPP can help bring even more community members into your library!
- CPP is another great way for your library to maximize its resources and can be a great addition to the services you already offer.
- Your library already has the infrastructure needed to engage effectively in CPP. This is just another way to put your technology to good use.

Why your library should become a Community Partner



- “Libraries serve as “first responders” for the increasing numbers of people in need of technology training and online resources for employment, continuing education and access to online government services. With free access to high-speed Internet and expert assistance to aid those working with technology resources, libraries serve as a “toll-free” bridge over the digital divide.”
- 62% of libraries report that they are the **only** provider of free computer and Internet access in their community
- “Libraries have been and are continuing to transform themselves to be responsive to the needs of the populations they serve,” said ALA President, “... Libraries are busy because they are central to the lives of millions of families, students, older adults, entrepreneurs and those who require assistance in weathering the economic challenges of the past few years.”

*American Library Association: [Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study 2010-2011](#)

What Libraries are saying about CPP



“Libraries are a community hub. We try to offer community services in all areas that people can benefit from. We see the Community Partner Program as something we can help our community with.”

- Denise Carter, Library Director
Lake Whitney Public Library
Whitney, TX

“The process really is quite simple once everything is figured out, and the ROI for the community is priceless. Anytime a library can offer a vital service for the community with little effort, it is a win-win situation. I continuously tell staff that “we do not need to be experts in all things.” We are, however, experts in making community connections so that the vital services can be offered in some way at the center of the community.”

- Dawn Rapoza, Assistant Director of Public Services
McAllen Public Library
McAllen, TX

