

Education

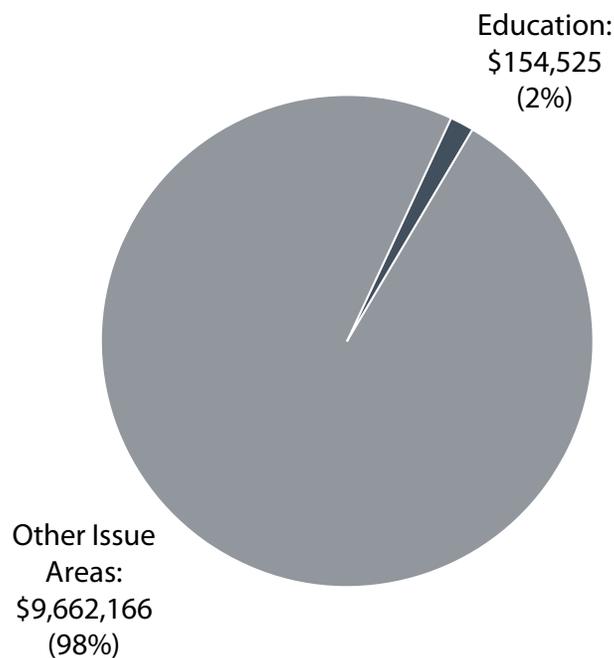
GOALS AND SERVICES

Programs within this issue area promote and support academic preparedness (school readiness) as well as educational attainment and success. Some examples of services provided by programs within this issue area include early childhood education; academic support or enrichment; literacy, GED, and adult basic education (ABE); English as a Second Language (ESL) classes; out-of-classroom activities or programs whose goals are academic-oriented (e.g. math or science camps), language or literacy fluency and/or proficiency classes; and computer or technology literacy.

CONTRACTED SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Austin Independent School District: Adult Basic Education
- BookSpring
- LifeWorks: ABE - ESL

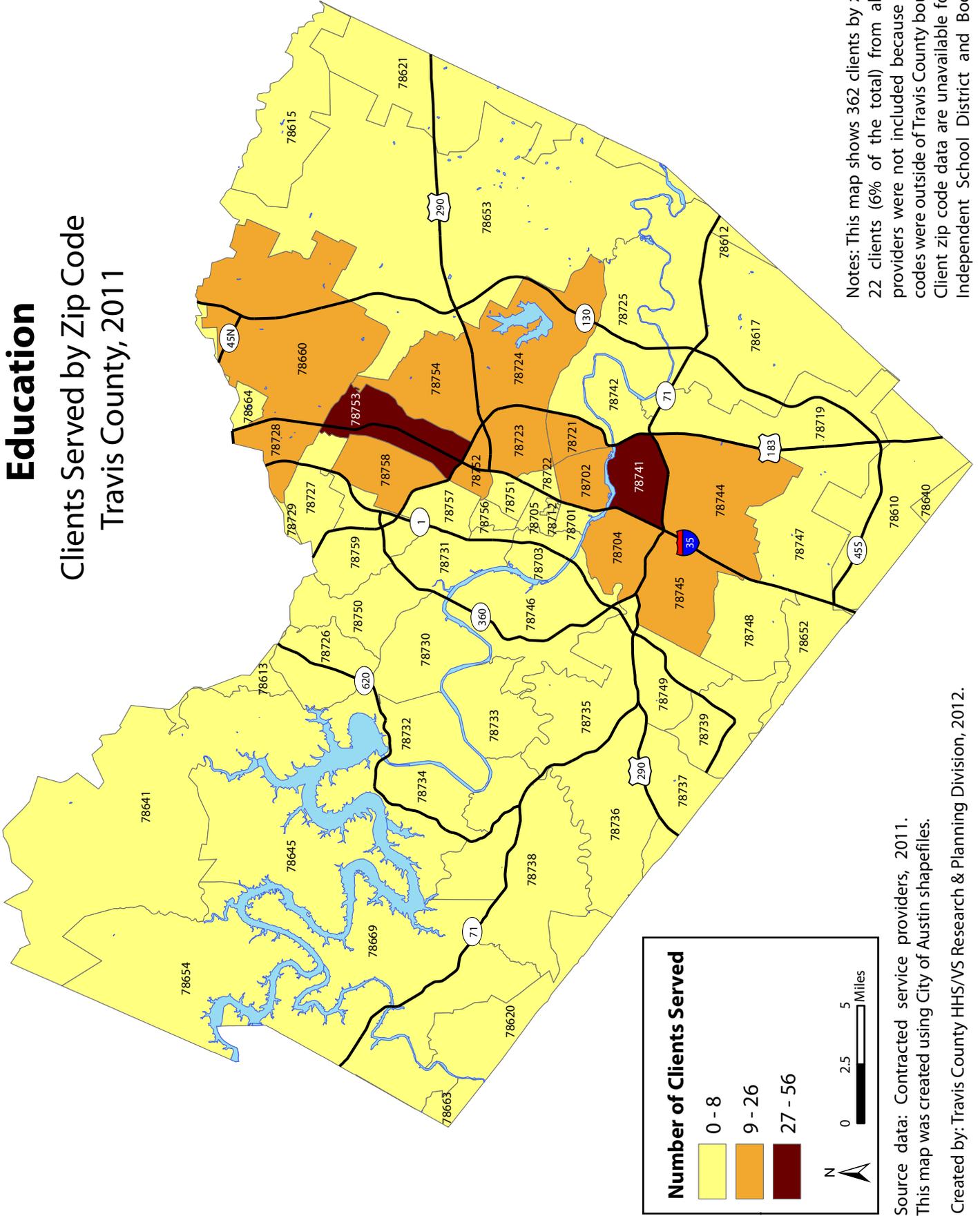
INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION AND OTHER ISSUE AREAS, 2011



Education

Clients Served by Zip Code

Travis County, 2011



Source data: Contracted service providers, 2011.
 This map was created using City of Austin shapefiles.

Created by: Travis County HHS/VIS Research & Planning Division, 2012.

Notes: This map shows 362 clients by zip code.
 22 clients (6% of the total) from all service providers were not included because their zip codes were outside of Travis County boundaries.
 Client zip code data are unavailable for Austin Independent School District and BookSpring.

Austin Independent School District

Adult Basic Education

Program Description

The purpose of the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program is to provide English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Classes are held at Austin Independent School District (AISD) schools. These classes work to help students improve proficiency in English, develop citizenship skills, and learn how to better participate in both school and community decision-making. The program also provides childcare services for children of parents attending ESL classes.

Funding

The total TCHHS/VS investment in the Adult Basic Education program from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011 was \$108,150 through an interlocal agreement.

Eligibility Criteria

The Adult Basic Education program's target population is Travis County residents in need of English proficiency and citizenship skills. TCHHS/VS also funds the Austin Independent School District's Travis County Collaborative Afterschool Program and Harvest Foundation Program, which are both described in the Child and Youth Development issue area section.

Client Demographics and Client Zip Codes

Client demographic data and client zip code data are unavailable.

Performance Goals and Results

Performance data were unavailable at the time of this report's publication. Performance data will be available for the 2012 contract year.

BookSpring

Reading Is Fundamental (RIF): Elementary School Program

Program Description

The goal of the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF): Elementary School Program is to instill children with a lifelong love of reading. The program works to mitigate the financial barriers to book ownership, motivate children to read as a leisure activity, and ensure that elementary school librarians conducting the RIF events have the most up-to-date information and research available to implement the program model effectively and ensure full fidelity to the program model. Children are provided the opportunity to choose a free book three times per year at their elementary school. Books provided are high quality and in the children's native language whenever possible. At each RIF event, librarians and community volunteers motivate children to read using festive book activities and a read-aloud presentation. The program also provides comprehensive training once a year to elementary school librarians to ensure that the librarian is supported and the program is being conducted correctly.

Funding

The total TCHHS/VS investment in the RIF Elementary School Program for 2011 was \$13,126. This investment comprised 4.6% of the total program budget.

Eligibility Criteria

This program serves children enrolled in Austin Independent School District elementary schools that have a large majority of students living in low-income households (i.e., children are eligible for the free or reduced lunch program). The program currently serves 29 elementary schools in which at least 80% of the population is considered to be low-income.

Client Demographics and Client Zip Codes

Individual student demographics and zip codes are unavailable.

Performance Goals and Results

BookSpring met all performance expectations in 2011. Program staff explained that the total number of students served (see the first output) was higher than expected because there were some changes to the schools served between the 2010-11 and the 2011-12 school years. Three schools left the program, and the three schools that were added as replacements had higher numbers of students. Although outcome rates for both the student survey (see the second outcome) and parent survey (see the third outcome) fell within the targeted range of performance, staff noted that the numbers of students and parents surveyed was lower than expected. Due to the timing of the survey, data was available for a limited number of students. Staff also reported that they had unrealistic expectations for the number of parents who would respond to the survey.

Performance Measure	Total Program Performance Results	Total Program Performance Goals	Total Program Performance Goal Achieved
Outputs			
Number of unduplicated students served	20,389	18,000	113%
Number of books distributed	56,642	54,000	105%
Outcomes			
Percentage of programs exceeding basic distribution standards (teachers stayed with their students during RIF activities; a fun, positive atmosphere was provided; a motivational activity and a read-aloud took place with each class; each child was able to choose a book without interference; and all children had equal access to the RIF program)	79% (23/29)	86% (25/29)	92%
Percentage of students who improved their attitude/behavior (children reading their books more than once, talking about their books with others, stating they like to read)	92% (610/661)	90% (1,800/2,000)	103%
Percentage of parents who improved their knowledge and skills	85% (948/1,112)	90% (1,350/1,500)	95%

LifeWorks

ABE - ESL

Program Description

The ABE - ESL program works to reduce the rate of functional illiteracy in greater Austin by helping adult students learn to read English, which will enable them to improve the quality of their lives and help them to achieve greater economic stability. The program provides instruction in Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second Language (ESL).

Funding

The total TCHHS/VS investment in the ABE - ESL program for 2011 was \$33,249. This investment comprised 9.4% of the total program budget. TCHHS/VS also funds three additional programs at LifeWorks: the Housing program, which is described in the Housing Continuum issue area section; the Youth Development program, which is described in the Child and Youth Development issue area section; and the Counseling program, which is described in the Behavioral Health issue area section.

Eligibility Criteria

Services are provided to Travis County residents age 17 and older who read below the sixth grade reading level and have incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Income Guideline level.

Client Demographics

Slightly more than half (51%) of clients served by LifeWorks were male and 49% were female. Clients were predominantly in the 25 to 39 (43%) and 40 to 59 (36%) age groups. A majority (70%) of clients were Hispanic or Latino and 74% were White. Close to two-thirds (63%) of clients had incomes below 50% of the Federal Poverty Income Guideline level. (See Appendix C for specific guideline income levels.)

Gender			Age		
	Num.	Pct.		Num.	Pct.
Female	189	49%	15 to 17	2	1%
Male	195	51%	18 to 24	59	15%
<i>Total</i>	<i>384</i>	<i>100%</i>	25 to 39	167	43%
			40 to 59	138	36%
			60 to 74	13	3%
			75 and over	5	1%
			<i>Total</i>	<i>384</i>	<i>100%</i>
Ethnicity			Income		
	Num.	Pct.		Num.	Pct.
Hispanic or Latino	268	70%	<50% of FPIG	241	63%
Not Hispanic or Latino	115	30%	50% to 100%	75	20%
Unknown	1	0.3%	101% to 150%	44	11%
<i>Total</i>	<i>384</i>	<i>100%</i>	151% to 200%	11	3%
			>200%	12	3%
			Unknown	1	0.3%
			<i>Total</i>	<i>384</i>	<i>100%</i>
Race					
	Num.	Pct.			
<i>Population of one race:</i>					
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	0.3%			
Asian	35	9%			
Black or African American	55	14%			
White	286	74%			
Some other race	5	1%			
<i>Population of two races:</i>					
Black or African American and White	2	1%			
<i>Total</i>	<i>384</i>	<i>100%</i>			

Note: Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding.

Client Zip Codes

One-quarter of clients in the ABE - ESL program resided in the Northeast area of Travis County. Much of the client population was also located in the Southeast (20%) and East (19%) areas of the county. (See Appendix F for zip code classification map.)

Northeast			Northwest			North		
	Num.	Pct.		Num.	Pct.		Num.	Pct.
78621	1	0.3%	78613	1	0.3%	78727	5	1.3%
78653	4	1.0%	78641	1	0.3%	78728	9	2.3%
78660	10	2.6%	78726	2	0.5%	78757	2	0.5%
78664	6	1.6%	78731	4	1.0%	78758	26	6.8%
78752	9	2.3%	78734	1	0.3%	78759	4	1.0%
78753	56	14.6%	78750	2	0.5%	<i>Total North</i>	46	12.0%
78754	10	2.6%	<i>Total Northwest</i>	11	2.9%			
<i>Total Northeast</i>	96	25.0%						
Southeast			Southwest			East		
	Num.	Pct.		Num.	Pct.		Num.	Pct.
78612	3	0.8%	78652	2	0.5%	78702	24	6.3%
78617	6	1.6%	78704	21	5.5%	78721	20	5.2%
78640	1	0.3%	78735	2	0.5%	78723	10	2.6%
78719	1	0.3%	78745	11	2.9%	78724	14	3.6%
78741	46	12.0%	78748	8	2.1%	78725	5	1.3%
78744	18	4.7%	78749	1	0.3%	<i>Total East</i>	73	19.0%
78747	1	0.3%	<i>Total Southwest</i>	45	11.7%			
<i>Total Southeast</i>	76	19.8%						
West			Others			Central		
	Num.	Pct.		Num.	Pct.		Num.	Pct.
78703	2	0.5%	Outside of Travis Co.	22	5.7%	78701	3	0.8%
<i>Total West</i>	2	0.5%	<i>Total Others</i>	22	5.7%	78705	1	0.3%
						78751	4	1.0%
						78756	5	1.3%
						<i>Total Central</i>	13	3.4%

Note: Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding.

Performance Goals and Results

The ABE - ESL program exceeded both outcome goals but fell short of expectations on both output measures. Staff members explained that although the program has seen an increase in ABE students, they have seen a decrease in ESL participants. Staff have increased outreach efforts, including placing additional signage at the facility—to attract foot traffic and interested students who may not know the location of the facility—and placing program information in a publication geared toward Spanish speakers. Staff also attended an Austin Community College (ACC) ESL orientation to provide program information to students who were not able to get into the ACC ESL program. Program staff attribute the success of ESL students on their BEST test scores (see the second outcome) to students continuing to utilize their workbooks outside of class, which has had a positive influence on their progress.

Performance Measure	Total Program Performance Results	Total Program Performance Goals	Total Program Performance Goal Achieved
Outputs			
Number of unduplicated clients served	384	500	77%
Number of clients who have personalized learning goals	294	385	76%
Outcomes			
Percentage of clients tested who achieved a 10-point increase in the Test of Adult Basic English (TABE) test score	64% (63/99)	60% (46/77)	107%
Percentage of clients tested who achieved a 4-point increase in the Basic English Skills Test (BEST) test score	84% (137/164)	75% (231/308)	111%