

# Community Partner Program



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17

## Overview

The Community Partner Program (CPP) is a way for congregations to assist low-income community members in applying for SNAP (also known as food stamps) and other important public benefits via the web portal [www.yourtexasbenefits.com](http://www.yourtexasbenefits.com). These congregations serve as Community Partners in collaboration with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). The Texas Hunger Initiative (THI), a project of Baylor University and Texas Impact, a faith-based advocacy organization, are working together to recruit and support congregations in becoming Community Partners.

## Impact on Hunger

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is a critical program that many low-income community members rely on to purchase food for themselves and their families. Unfortunately, only 64 percent of people in Dallas County who are eligible for benefits actually receive them. This leaves \$367 million in unused benefits each year.

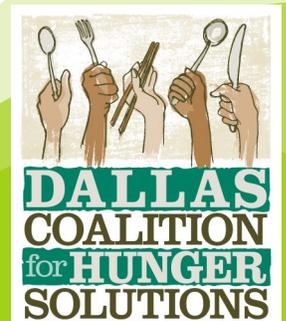
Why is SNAP so important?

- ◆ It reduces food insecurity.
- ◆ It improves a household's nutritional intake and helps prevent childhood obesity.
- ◆ Every \$1 of SNAP benefits spent returns \$1.79 to the local economy.
- ◆ SNAP allows family to focus on their long-term goal of working towards self-sufficiency rather than their short-term food needs.

## How to Help

There are two ways congregations can be Community Partners:

- ◆ Self-Service Site — Your congregation provides internet-connected computer(s) and a private space in which clients can apply for and manage their benefits on-line themselves.
- ◆ Assistance Site — In addition to providing computer access, your staff or volunteers are trained as “navigators” to help community members fill out the online benefits application.



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18

## Testimonials

“One major challenge for our parishioners is their first language being Spanish. Being a bilingual church, we are able to interpret their needs and submit their applications. Thank you for your training and sending a representative to our church to inform our congregation of their food and health benefits. We pray that we may continue to help families in need of food and medical care. We plan to move forward and continue to offer our church San Francisco de Asis as a haven for assistance.” *Debra Vela, San Francisco de Asis Iglesia Episcopal*

“The Community Partner Program is a testament to the statement, ‘Social service agencies cannot do it alone’. The program endeavors to provide access to public assistance for those in economic and social crisis that is holistic, respectful, and sensitive. Families are willing to request assistance for services that are readily available to meet their needs within faith communities. When families are taken care of in their communities, they engage in building a community from the inside out. Through CPP, our congregation has become connected with families in ways that enriches their lives, creates an environment to develop healthy children and families, and ultimately build strong communities.”  
*Dr. Michael D. Flemons, Zion Chapel Primitive Baptist Church*



## Contact

For more information about the Community Partner Program and how your congregation can become a Community Partner, contact:

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