



**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**
FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS

ANNA M. GONZALES, MSW, CPS
DIRECTOR

January 6, 2014

Dear Commissioners:

Fort Bend County Social Services is requesting your approval and support of the National Council on Aging Grant application. Fort Bend County Social Services proposes to implement a county wide program targeting Senior Citizens (age 60+). The program entitled: *GOT SNAP?/TIENES SNAP?* will implement 3 strategies that will increase the number of Senior Citizens applying for SNAP benefits. These strategies include education/awareness, increasing points of access, and addressing policy and program silos. Multiple efforts will be used to implement these strategies to include: face-to-face interviews, group education classes with Senior Citizens and community stakeholders and focused education updates with service providers, onsite application assistance, print and social media sites. Currently in Fort Bend County there is only one Texas Health and Human Services Commission (THHSC) Office that serves Fort Bend and surrounding counties. Fort Bend County Social Services will increase access points with its team of 10 staff who are Certified Navigators (by THHSC) and by using tablets and portable scanners to provide Seniors with onsite application assistance to Seniors. In addition, FBCSS has 3 offices located in Rosenberg, Missouri City and Katy. FBCSS has worked collaboratively with Fort Bend Meals on Wheels at each of its 5 senior sites. FBCSS will work to provide education to members of churches and staff of non-profit organizations whose mission is to address hunger and provide basic human needs. These agencies will be informed of the process of becoming Community Partners with THHSC and thus becoming additional access points.

Should the grant request receive funding, it will begin February 2014 and end January 2015. The grant requires no cash match. Funds would be used to purchase tablets/IPADS, wireless internet services, portable scanners, postcard mail outs, billboard ads, Senior Resource Guide and newspaper ads, etc.

The implementation of this program will go far in providing added services to the Senior Citizens of Fort Bend County.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this project. Should you have questions please do not hesitate to contact me at (281)238-3506.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anna M. Gonzales" followed by a small mark that appears to be "MSW".

Anna M. Gonzales, MSW
Director of Social Services

cc: Ed Sturdivant
Dr. Kendrick
Kaye Reynolds