

HILL COUNTRY COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Community Impact & Facility Expansion Brief

Serving Williamson County, Travis County, and Surrounding Rural Communities Since 1983

OVERVIEW

For more than 40 years, Hill Country Community Ministries (HCCM) has served as a trusted community resource for individuals and families experiencing hardship, hunger, and financial instability. Founded in 1983 through a coalition of churches, local businesses, civic organizations, service clubs, and caring individuals, HCCM works to break the grip of hardship, hunger, and hopelessness by improving the health and well-being of our neighbors.

Today, HCCM provides a comprehensive network of support services including food assistance, case management, financial assistance, resource navigation, home deliveries, disaster response, and other programs designed to help families stabilize during difficult times and move toward long-term self-sufficiency.

COMMUNITY NEED

- Add other need statistics including zip code data for HCCM; food insecurity data, etc.

Williamson County has experienced tremendous growth over the past two decades. While this growth has brought opportunity, it has also contributed to rising housing costs, increased living expenses, and growing pressure on working families.

- Williamson County's population has nearly tripled since 2000
- Home values have increased more than 40%*
- Rental costs have increased more than 30%*
- Household income has not kept pace with the cost of living increasing only 2.1%*
- Nearly one in four households are considered ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed)**

- * According to the 2024-2028 Williamson County Consolidated Plan and **2025 Williamson County Community Health Assessment

These households often include working families, seniors, veterans, and individuals living on fixed incomes who may not qualify for traditional assistance programs but remain one unexpected expense away from needing help.

Many of the neighbors HCCM serves are employed and working hard to support their families, yet continue to struggle with the rising costs of housing, food, transportation, healthcare, and childcare.

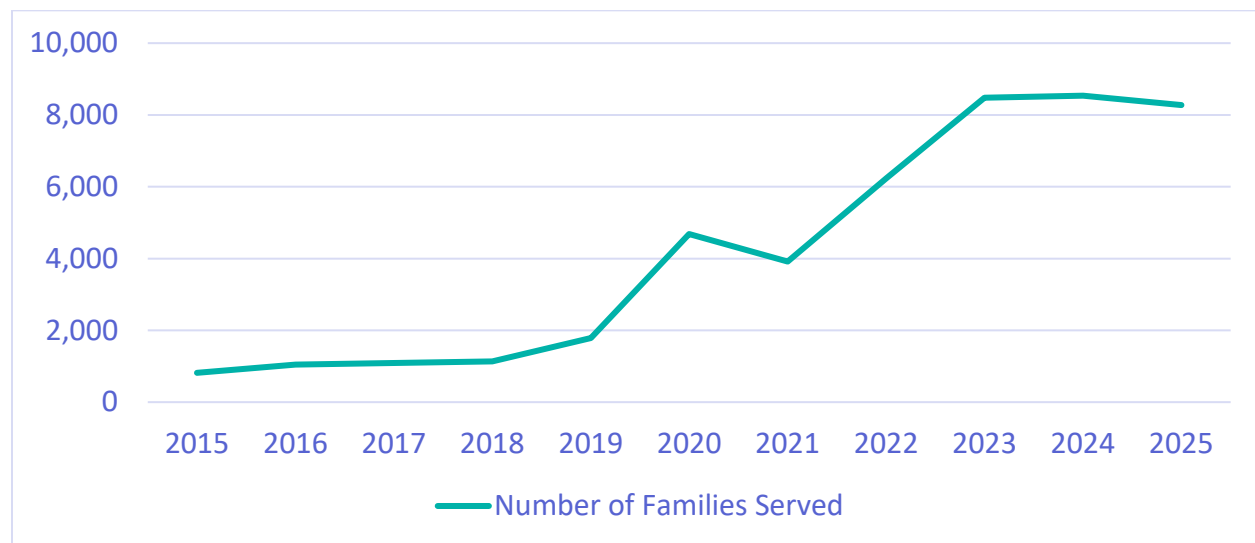
HCCM'S IMPACT

As community need has increased, HCCM has expanded its services to meet growing demand.

In 2025 alone, HCCM provided:

- More than 128,000 instances of service
- Assistance to more than 8,000 families
- More than 1.2 million pounds of food distributed
- 130 – 150 families served daily from a 900 sq. ft. food pantry
- Nearly 300 home deliveries to seniors, families, and homebound individuals
- Financial assistance and resource navigation services
- HCCM served the following zip codes in Williamson County... 76811, 76527, 76530, 76537, 76573, 76574, 76577, 76578, 78613, 78615, 78621, 78626, 78627, 78628, 78630, 78633, 78634, 78641, 78642, 78646, 78660, 78664, 78665, 78673, 78673, 78674, 78681.

Over the past decade, HCCM has grown to serve **over 8,000 families/year** and provide **over 128,000 instances of service to individuals annually (9x more than 10 years ago)** – reaching children and adults again and again when they need it most.



COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

HCCM's work is strengthened through partnerships with numerous organizations across the region, including:

- Over 20 local churches and faith communities
- Central Texas Food Bank
- Central Texas Community Foundation
- HEB
- City of Cedar Park
- LEEF
- Reveal
- AGE of Central TX
- Austin Diaper Bank
- Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County
- Family Eldercare

- The Salvation Army
- Charity Shoes and Clothing, LLC
- Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center
- Brighter Days Food Pantry
- Leander Fire and Police
- Operation Liberty Hill
- Food Donation Connection
- BOMBAS
- Cedar Park Public Library
- The Caring Place
- Agape Women's Clinic
- Food for Friends- no logo
- Hope House

These partnerships allow HCCM to maximize resources, avoid duplication of services, and connect individuals with a broad range of support systems beyond food assistance alone.

BUILDING A NEW FUTURE FOR HCCM

While the need has grown dramatically, HCCM continues to operate from a facility originally constructed in 1985. The current facility includes approximately 900 square feet of food pantry space and was never designed to support the volume of services now being provided.

Current limitations include:

- Limited food storage and distribution capacity
- Restricted truck delivery access
- Insufficient parking and ADA accommodations
- Limited space for client services and resource navigation
- Operational inefficiencies created by overcrowded facilities

These limitations impact HCCM's ability to efficiently serve families and respond to growing community demand.

To address these challenges, HCCM has secured 5.9 acres and is advancing plans for the first phase of a larger long-term vision for the site. While future opportunities may include expanded partnerships and co-located community services, HCCM's immediate priority is the development of a dedicated food pantry and resource center designed to meet today's most pressing needs.

The approximately 15,000-square-foot facility will provide:

- A modern food pantry approximately five times larger than the current pantry
- Expanded storage and distribution capacity
- Commercial kitchen space
- An upgraded Community Resource Center to better connect neighbors with supportive services
- Dedicated disaster preparedness and response capabilities
- Training and meeting space for expanded programming and volunteer engagement

- Improved accessibility, safety, and greater dignity for the neighbors we serve

PROJECTED IMPACT

The first phase of this vision – the 15,000 sq. ft. food pantry and resource center - is expected to immediately increase HCCM's capacity to serve an additional 20–25% more families through expanded space, improved operational efficiency, and enhanced service delivery.

The project will also:

- Strengthen regional food security efforts
- Improve access to support services and resource navigation
- Enhance emergency and disaster response capabilities
- Increase volunteer engagement opportunities
- Expand collaborative partnerships and community programming
- Support long-term community health and family stability

CURRENT WORKING BUDGET AND FUNDING PROGRESS

To date, over \$1.8 MILLION towards the project from individuals and community partners.

CAMPAIGN BUDGET ITEM	ESTIMATED COST
LAND PURCHASE PRICE	\$2,135,000
PRE-DEVELOPMENT COST ESTIMATES	\$1,650,000
CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATES	\$4,500,000
ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL EXPENSES: <i>FFE; CAMPAIGN EXPENSES; PROGRAMMING EXPENSES</i>	\$715,000
TOTAL	\$9,000,000

Final scope and phasing of the project is still in progress.

WHY THIS PROJECT MATTERS

HCCM serves as a critical front-line safety net for families facing food insecurity, financial hardship, and unexpected crises, often providing assistance before challenges escalate into homelessness, health emergencies, or other situations requiring more intensive interventions.

As the region continues to grow, the need for accessible, coordinated, community-based support services will continue to increase. Investment in this project represents an investment in food security, public health, family stability, emergency preparedness, and the overall well-being of our community.

As plans for this project continue to advance, HCCM welcomes the opportunity to engage with Williamson County leaders to better understand county priorities and explore opportunities to work together in support of the residents and families we collectively serve.