

Family Empowerment Report



**October and November
2025**

More Than the Weather Has Been Changing!

October and November have been months of learning, growth, and community impact for our Family Empowerment Program.

Collaboration and Learning

On October 5, 2025, five CSNT team members attended the East Side Work Group Meet-Up in Beaumont, TX. This group brings together four agencies that provide CSBG assistance to their communities:

*Tri-County Community Action, Inc.
South East Texas Regional Planning Commission
Greater East Texas Community Action Program
Community Services of Northeast Texas, Inc.*

Alongside Brittney Brymer, Program Specialist for Training and Technical Assistance, and Karen Keith, Community Affairs Training and Technical Assistance for TDHCA, we spent the day sharing strategies to better serve our customers. A major focus was improving how our data tells the story of our agencies and the people we serve—because accurate reporting means stronger programs and greater impact.

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program

Our Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) case manager is currently working with over 30 clients in the program. He collaborates closely with the CSBG Family Empowerment team and Family Empowerment Advocates to ensure TOPS clients have all the resources they need to lead improved, empowered, and self-reliant lives.

Our new Family Empowerment Director has been actively learning the inner workings of the program by walking through several inspections over the past few weeks.

Looking ahead, we are striving to increase our client load by at least 20 households in the 2026 program year—a goal that will help us reach even more families in need.

CSBG Program: Changing Lives

Our Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program continues to make a real difference in the lives of those we serve across our counties.

In November, we combined our CSBG Stabilization Program with Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) to help a man transition from living in his car to having his own apartment. While our case managers worked together to create a plan for permanent housing, we were able to provide temporary shelter in a local motel.

Through generous local donations, he received most of the household essentials needed to set up his new home. After settling in, he was even able to arrange a visit with his children—something he hadn't been able to do for several months.

This is what empowerment looks like: collaboration, compassion, and community support coming together to change lives.

Mrs. Margaret's Food Pantry

Small, but makes a difference

Food Drive Success

CSNT recently came together for a food and hygiene product drive to replenish the shelves of Mrs. Margaret's Food Pantry in our Mount Pleasant office. The drive was not only successful—it was competitive!

At the end of the competition, the clear winners are the customers we will be able to serve. Thanks to everyone who participated, we've made a big impact—but the work isn't done yet. The pantry is still in need of donations of:

- ❖ Non-perishable food items*
- ❖ Travel-sized personal hygiene products*

Most of us don't worry about what we'll eat or whether we can brush our teeth or wash our hair. But the people we serve worry every day. They could be your friend, your neighbor, a coworker, or someone who attends your church.

Want to help? Donations can be dropped off at the Mount Pleasant office. Every item makes a difference!

Expanding Our Impact

We're excited to announce that Mrs. Margaret's Food Pantry is expanding beyond food and hygiene products! Soon, we'll also provide common household items such as:

- ❖ Dishes*
- ❖ Silverware*
- ❖ Pots and pans*
- ❖ Clothing*
- ❖ Other essential items*

This expansion means we can help families not only meet basic needs but also create a safe, functional home environment.

How can you help? Donations of household goods and gently used clothing are now welcome at our Mount Pleasant office

If you would like to donate, please contact:

Amy- 430-218-8203 email amy.perales@csntexas.org

Kari- 903-717-7305 email Kari.Furnish@csntexas.org

Heather- 903-717-7301 email heatherl.humphries@csntexas.org