

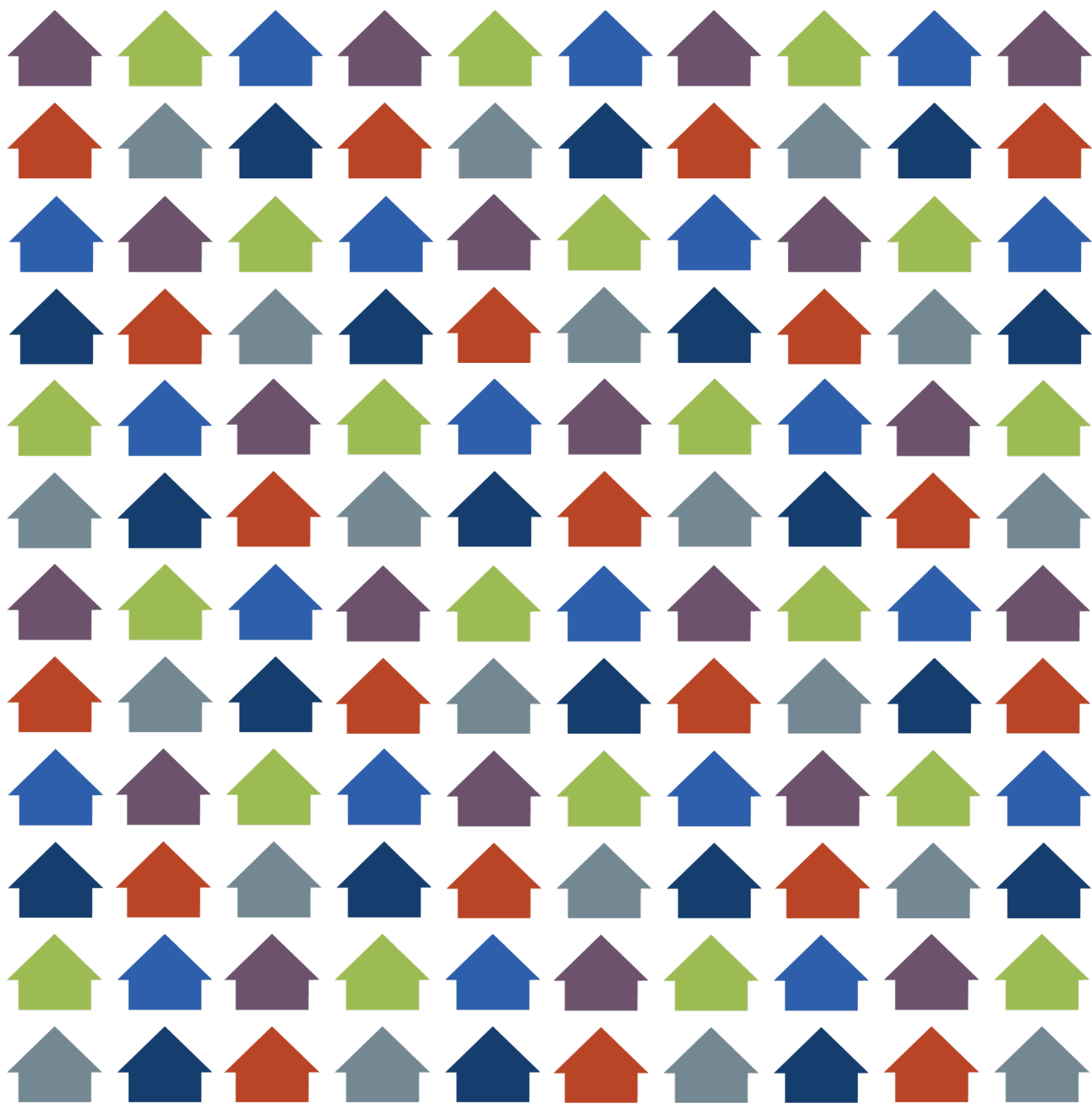
# MCO NMDOH Learning Collaborative



# MCO NMDOH Learning Collaborative Webinar

## December 15, 2023

- **The Texas Homeless Network: The Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network.** THN is testing a system that connects health information exchange data with the homelessness management system. This helps identify individuals who are both experiencing homelessness and are enrolled in Medicaid. By establishing this connection, MCOs can receive alerts when a member is homeless and can then connect them to appropriate services.
- **Double Up Food Bucks: Celebrating Our Growth and Sustaining Our Future.** Learn about this initiative and review progress on this important program expanding across the state.



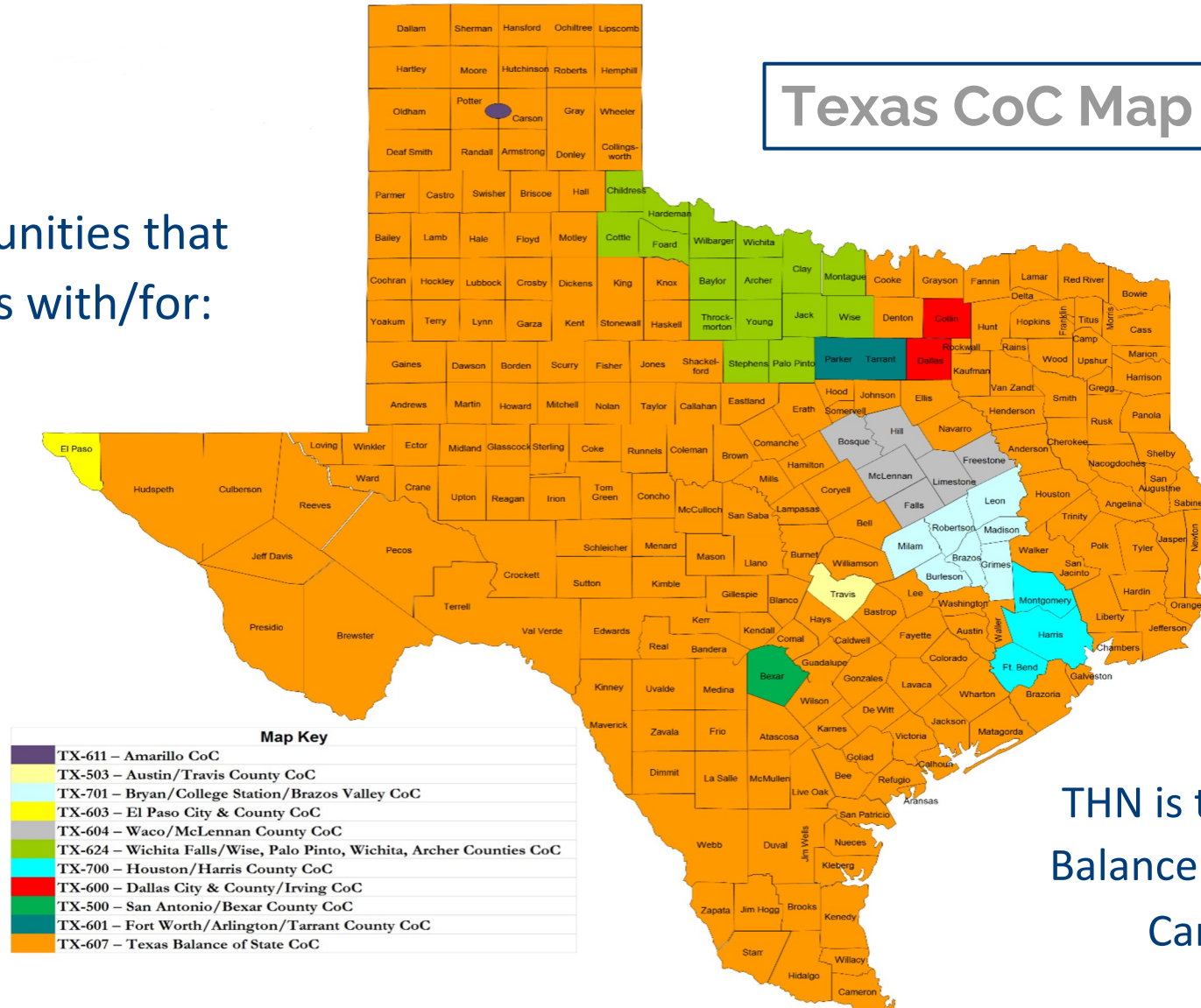
# Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network

Strategies For Change

[thn.org](http://thn.org)

# About Us: Introduction to Texas Homeless Network (THN)

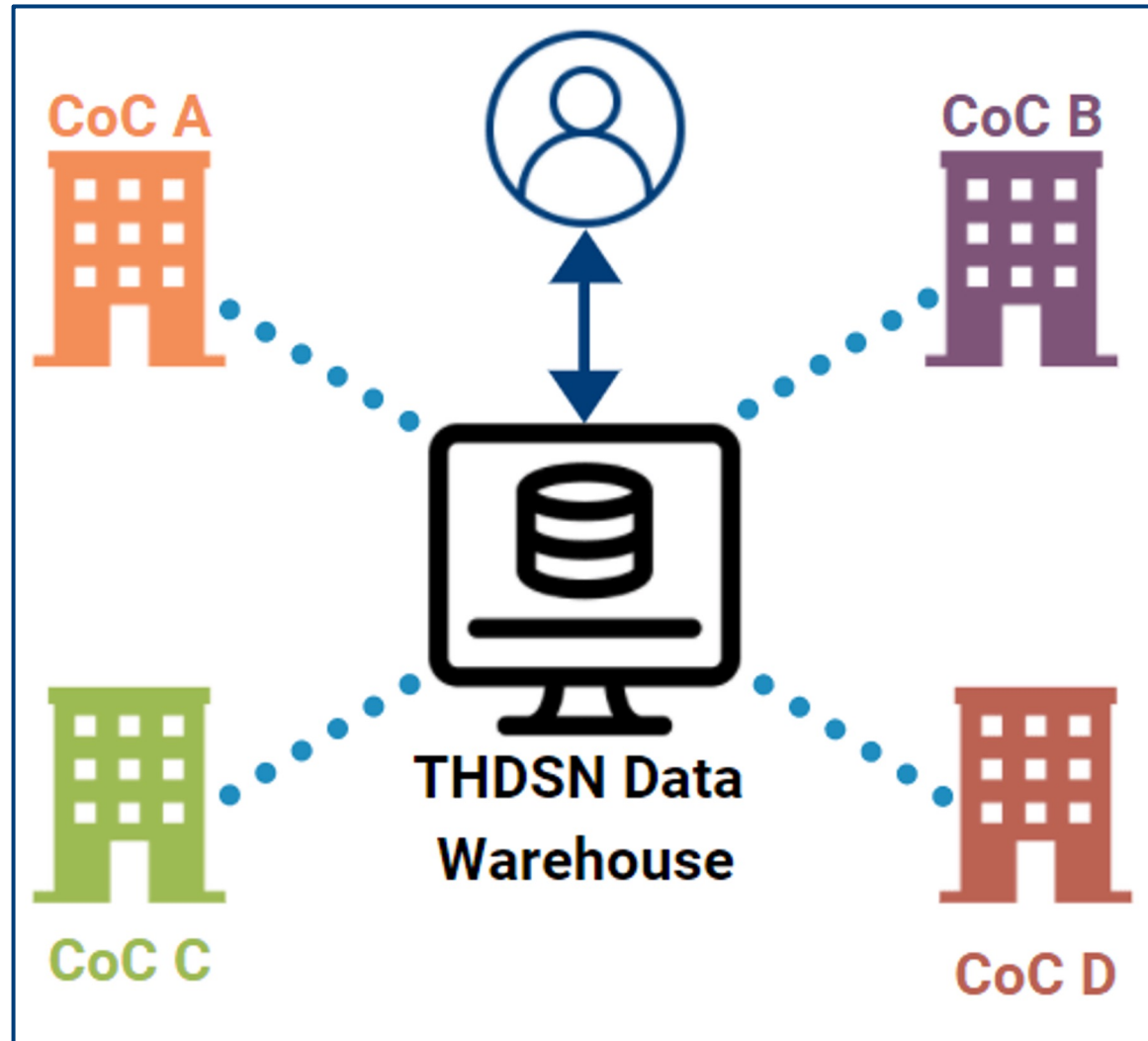
The communities that THN works with/for:



THN is the lead agency for TX Balance of State Continuum of Care (orange shade)



# Design Model



# Project Status

## CoC Cohort 1

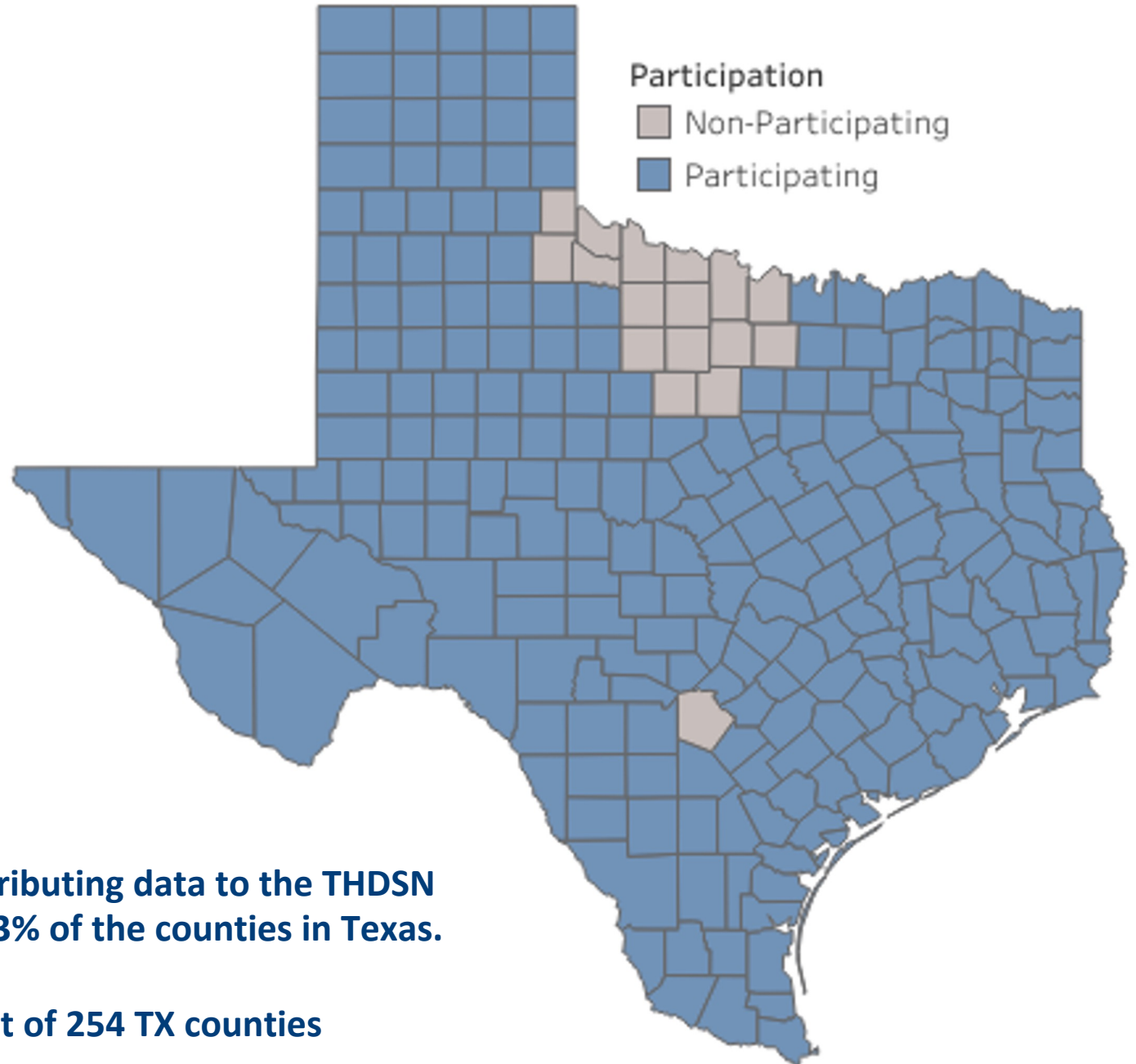
- Texas Balance of State CoC
- Houston/Harris County CoC
- Fort Worth/Arlington/Tarrant County CoC

## CoC Cohort 2

- Dallas City & County/Irving CoC
- Waco/McLennan County CoC
- Amarillo CoC

## CoC Cohort 3

- El Paso City/El Paso County CoC
- Austin/Travis County CoC
- Brazos Valley CoC

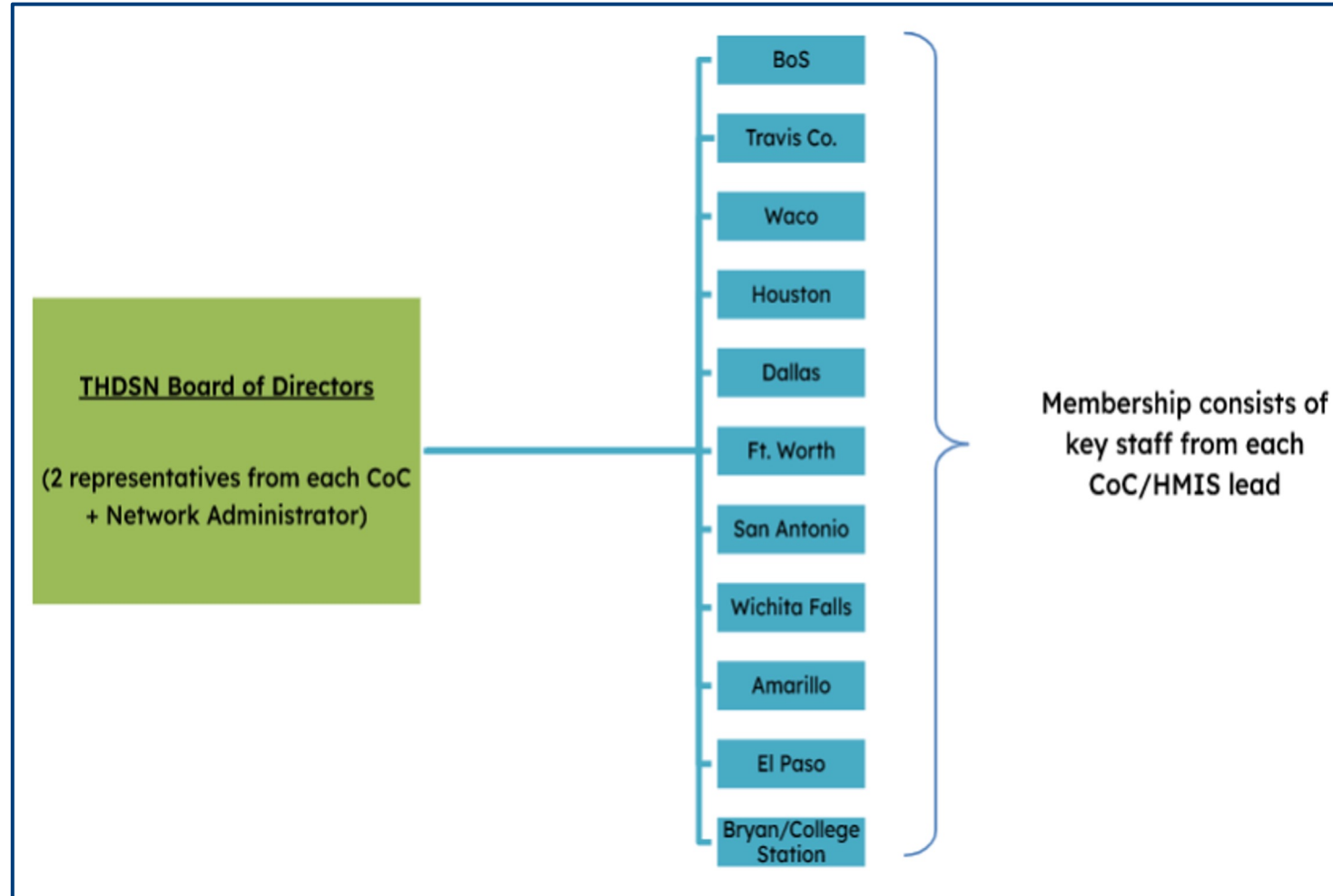


**The nine CoCs currently contributing data to the THDSN Data Warehouse represent 93% of the counties in Texas.**

**THDSN covers 237 out of 254 TX counties**



# Governance Structure

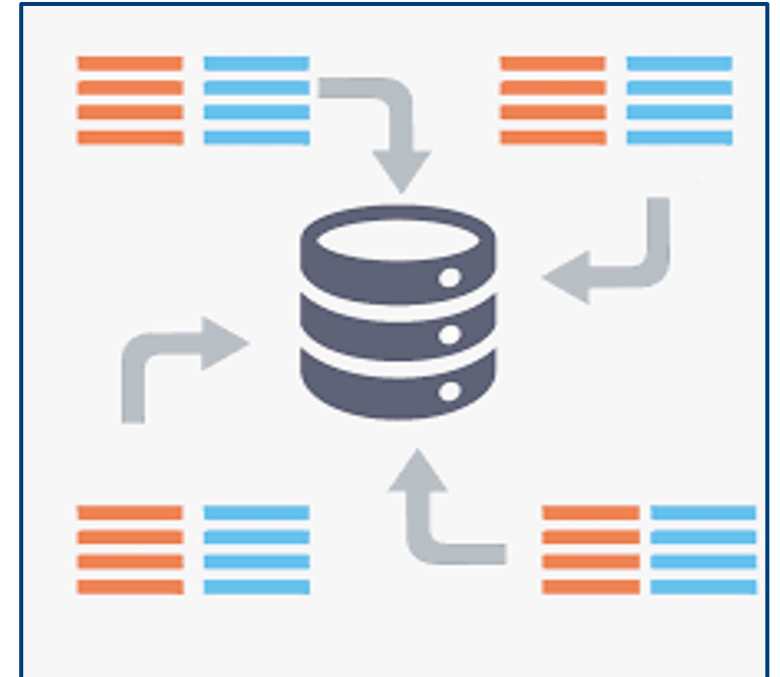


# Integrate Data Systems

People experiencing homelessness often interact with multiple agencies – housing, healthcare, law enforcement, and non-profits providing support services.

Those organizations rarely share information with each other – a challenge that, if addressed, can be a game changer in the national efforts to prevent and combat homelessness.

Utilizing data to target resources where the needs are is cost-efficient, data removes the guesswork





# Project Expansion Efforts

Through data sharing with the Texas Health Services Authority (THSA), the state's Health Information Exchange agency, as well as Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), Texas Homeless Network and our CoC partners will be able to identify, house, and provide supportive services for high-utilizers of both healthcare and homeless systems.

## Potential Outcomes of Data Sharing

- Supportive housing brings down healthcare costs for high-utilizers of healthcare and homeless systems.
- Reduction in inappropriate, non-emergency Emergency Department (ED) use.
- Meaningful difference in health functional status.
- Enhance care coordination services at the local level.



# Data Dashboard

## Total Number of People Experiencing Homelessness

41,502

Homeless Households ⓘ

53,104

Total People Experiencing Homelessness in 2023 ⓘ

23%

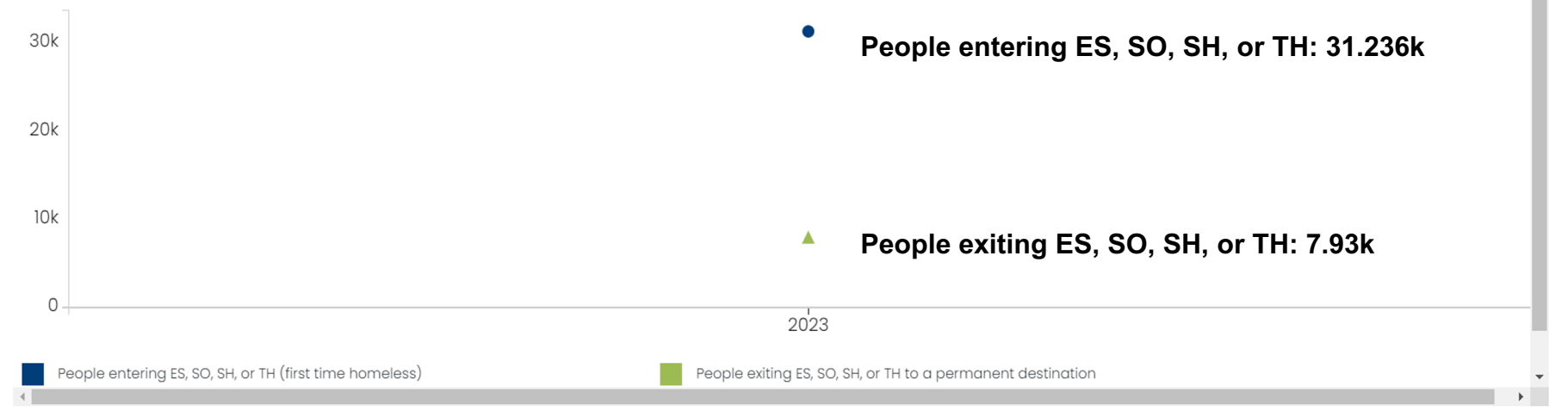
Unsheltered ⓘ

This number represents the total number of people who fell into homelessness in Texas during the listed time period that have accessed services from state and federally-funded programs. **It is important to note that this number underestimates the true rate of homelessness in Texas since not all households experiencing housing insecurity are eligible for assistance or feel comfortable with accessing services.**

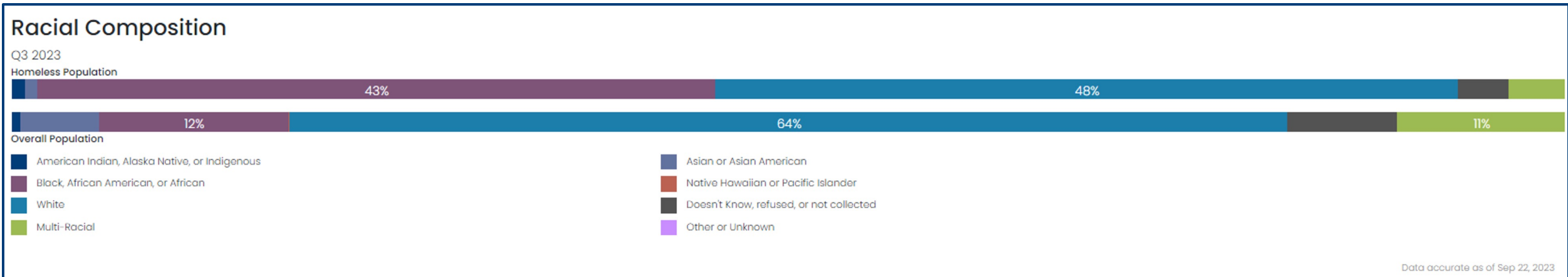
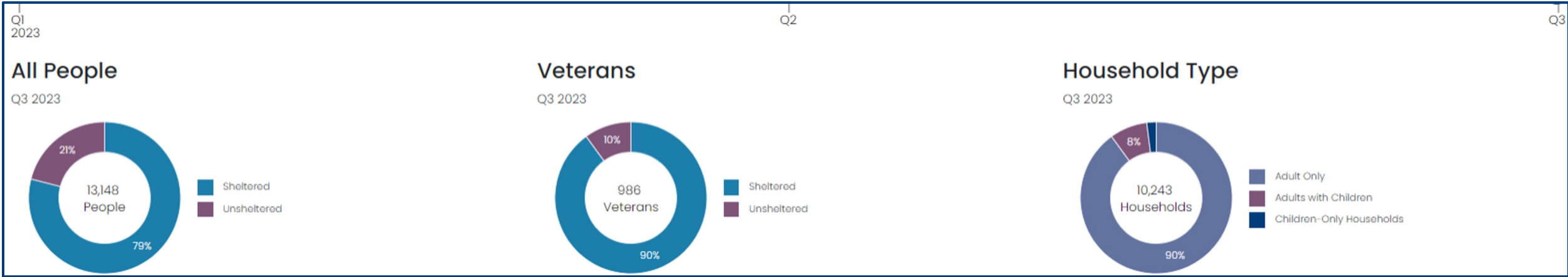
*\*In 2022, it was estimated that 92,955 individuals experienced homelessness in Texas.*



## Total Number of People Entering and Exiting Homelessness ⓘ



# Data Dashboard

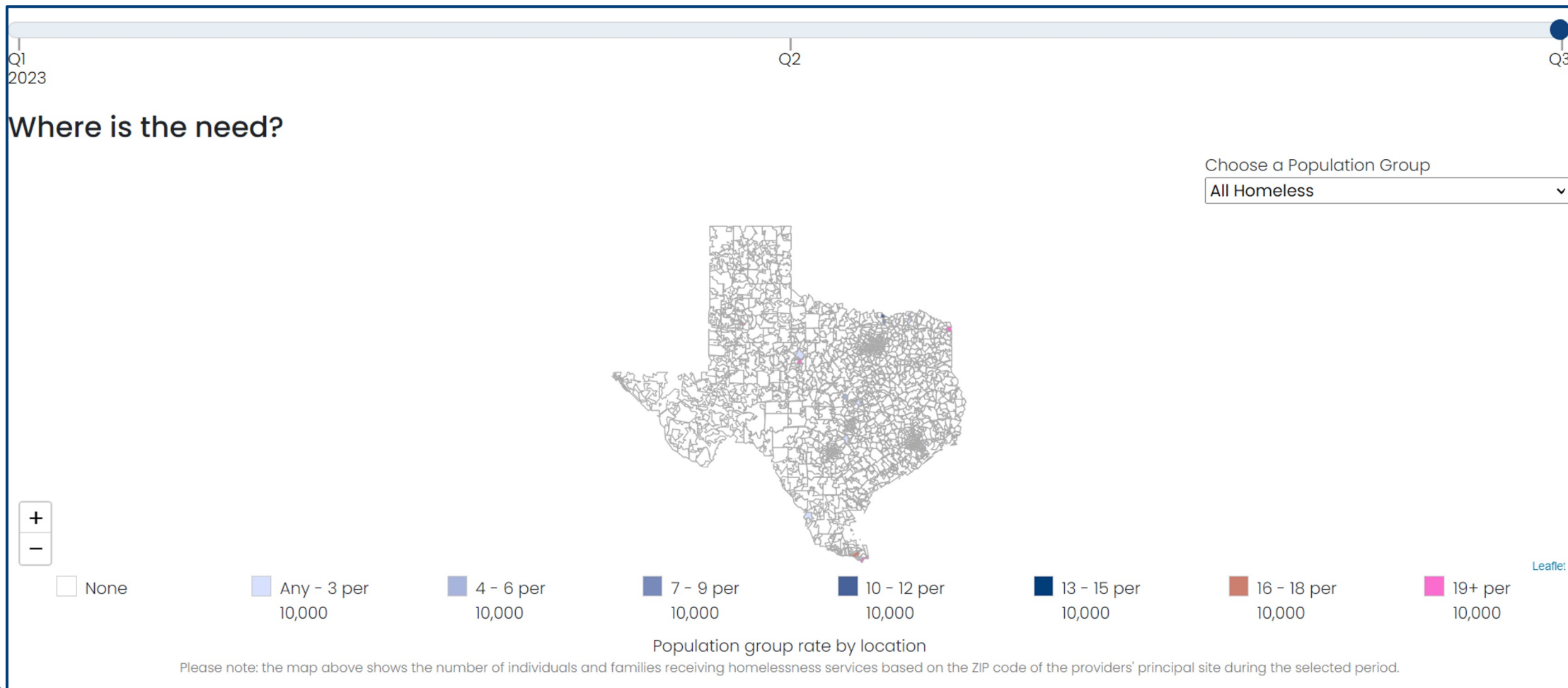


Data accurate as of Sep 22, 2023



# State of Texas Overall Map

This statewide map shows the number of homeless individuals whose data is uploaded to the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network (THDSN) on a quarterly basis. The percentage category of the selected county represents the total persons in the system during the selected timeframe. To promote anonymity of clients, the percentages are grouped by categories instead of county.



# Questions?

## Contact Information

- Website: <https://www.thn.org/thdsn/>
- Data Dashboard:  
<https://www.thn.org/thdsn/data/>

## **Eric Samuels**

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## **Anja Taylor**

THDSN Project Manager

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SUSTAINABLE FOOD CENTER

# DOUBLE UP FOOD BUCKS TEXAS

Celebrating our Growth and  
Sustaining Our Future

Hannah Thornton, MS, RD, LD

Simone Benz, MPAf

Jenifer DeAtley, MSW

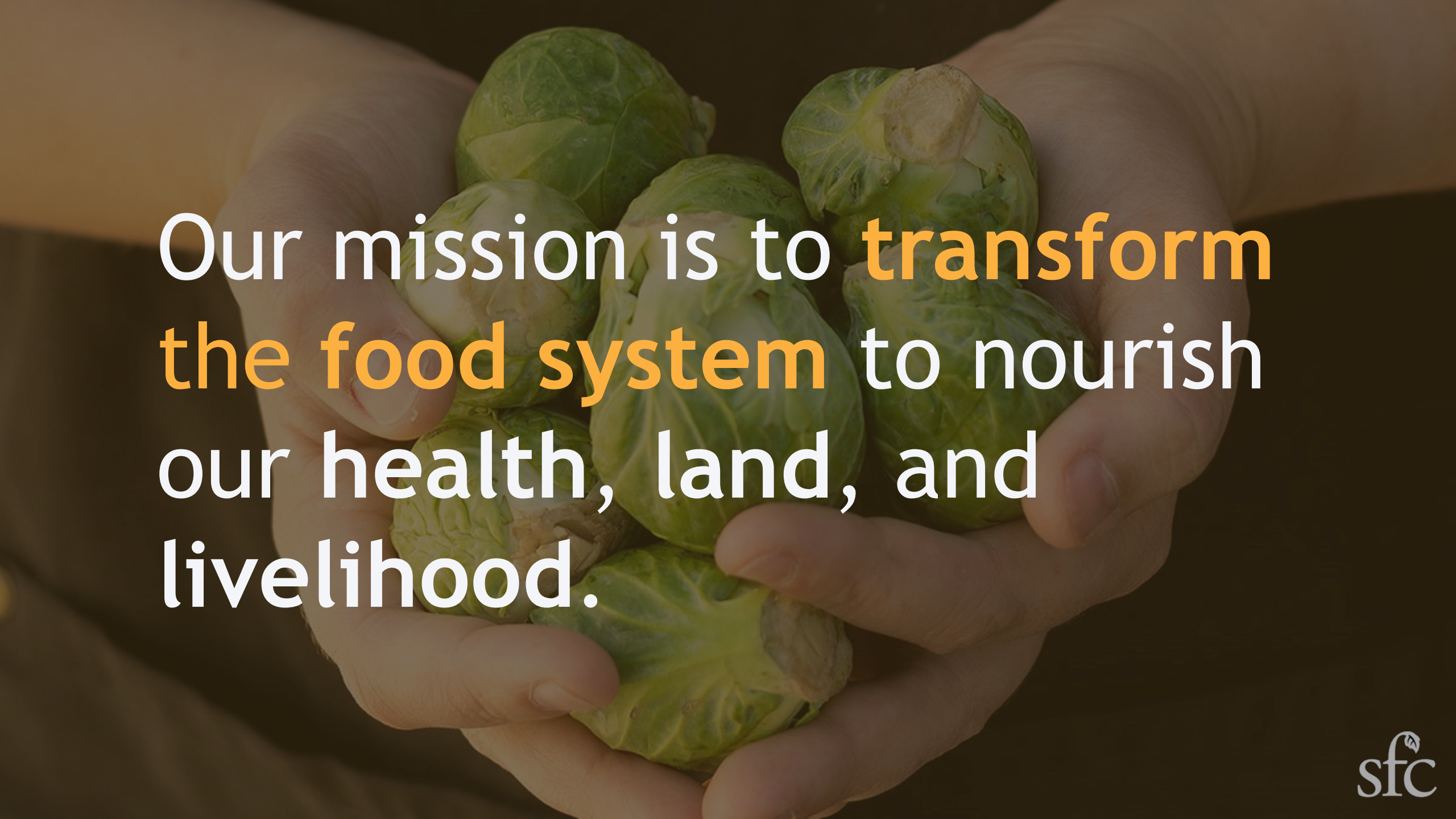
December 15, 2023



# OUR VISION

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*We envision a just, equitable, and regenerative food system where people and the environment thrive.*

A pair of hands is shown from a top-down perspective, gently cupping several fresh green Brussels sprouts. The sprouts are vibrant green with some white stems visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown, suggesting a wooden surface or a similar natural material. The lighting is warm and even, highlighting the texture of the sprouts and the skin of the hands.

Our mission is to **transform**  
**the food system** to nourish  
our health, land, and  
livelihood.



# STRATEGIC GOALS

## Goal #1

- Expand food access and reduce the risk of diet related disease for communities across Texas experiencing food insecurity.

## Goal #2

- Ensure underserved Texas growers have access to resources, land, and markets to be sustainable and successful.

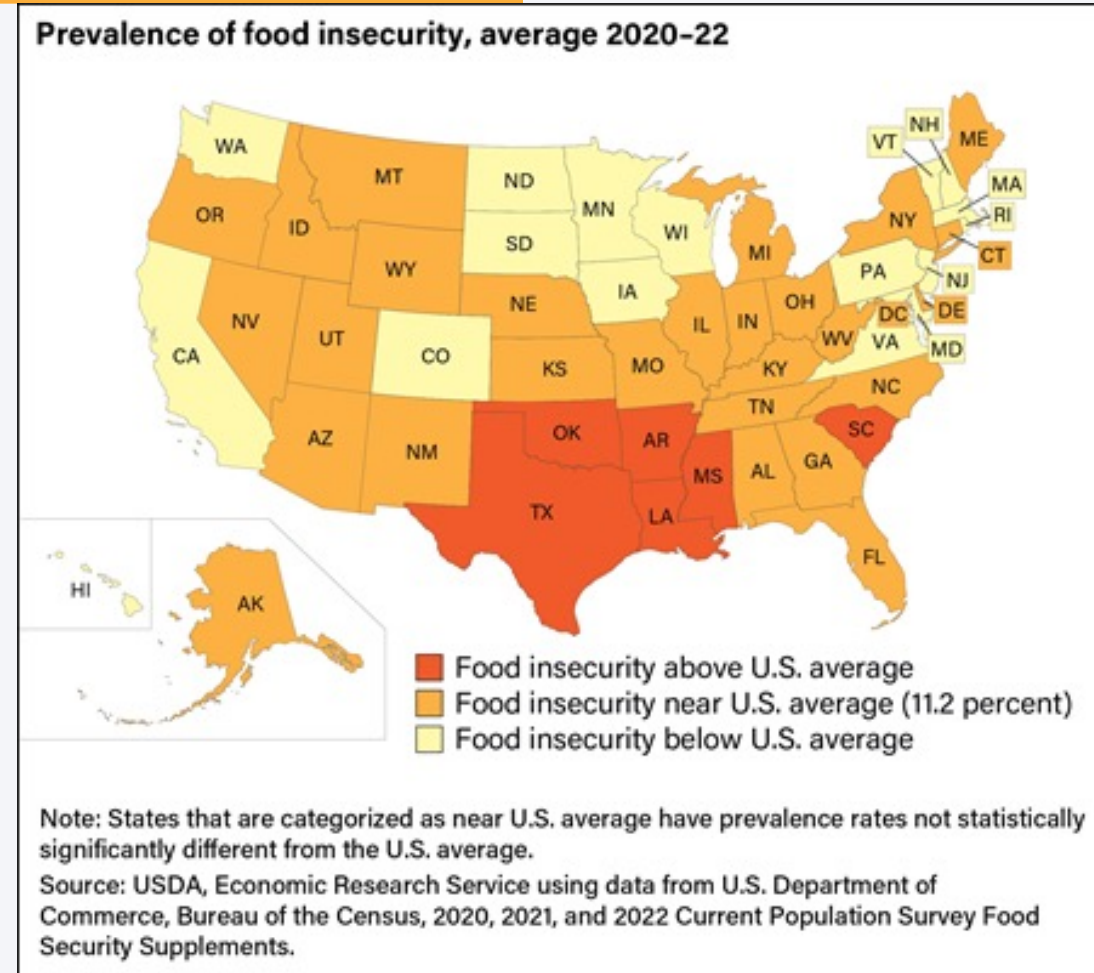
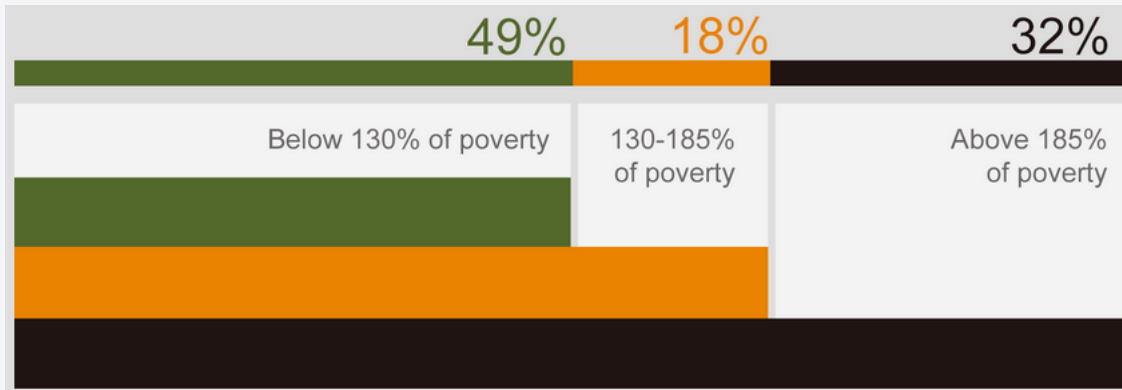
## Goal #3

- Catalyze food systems solutions to deepen impact across the state of Texas in partnership with philanthropic, government, and grassroots organizations.



# OUR WHY

- About 4.6 million people experiencing food insecurity in TX<sup>1</sup>
- 13.7% of pop (vs. 10.2% nationally)<sup>2</sup>
  - 18.1% of children; 23% of Black people
- Major drivers = low income and economic instability



1 USDA. 2023. [Food Security Status of US Households in 2022](#).

2. Feeding America, 2023. [Food Insecurity Overall in Texas](#).

# A Conceptual Framework: Cycle of Food Insecurity & Chronic Disease



Adapted: Seligman HK, Schillinger D. N Engl J Med. 2010;363:6-9.



Food-insecure families spend 20% more on health care.<sup>1</sup>



Food insecurity costs Texas \$6,011,628,000 annually.<sup>2</sup>

1. Palakshappa et al, 2023. [Health Affairs](#).
2. Feeding America Research. 2022. [The Healthcare Costs of Food Insecurity](#).

# NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

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- Aim to make nutritious food financially accessible
- Coupon programs - can be applied to any purchase
  - Most often applied to purchase of fruits & vegetables
  - Most often support people utilizing federal nutrition benefits programs
- Programs funded by mixture of philanthropic, municipal, and federal sources



# DOUBLE UP FOOD BUCKS TEXAS

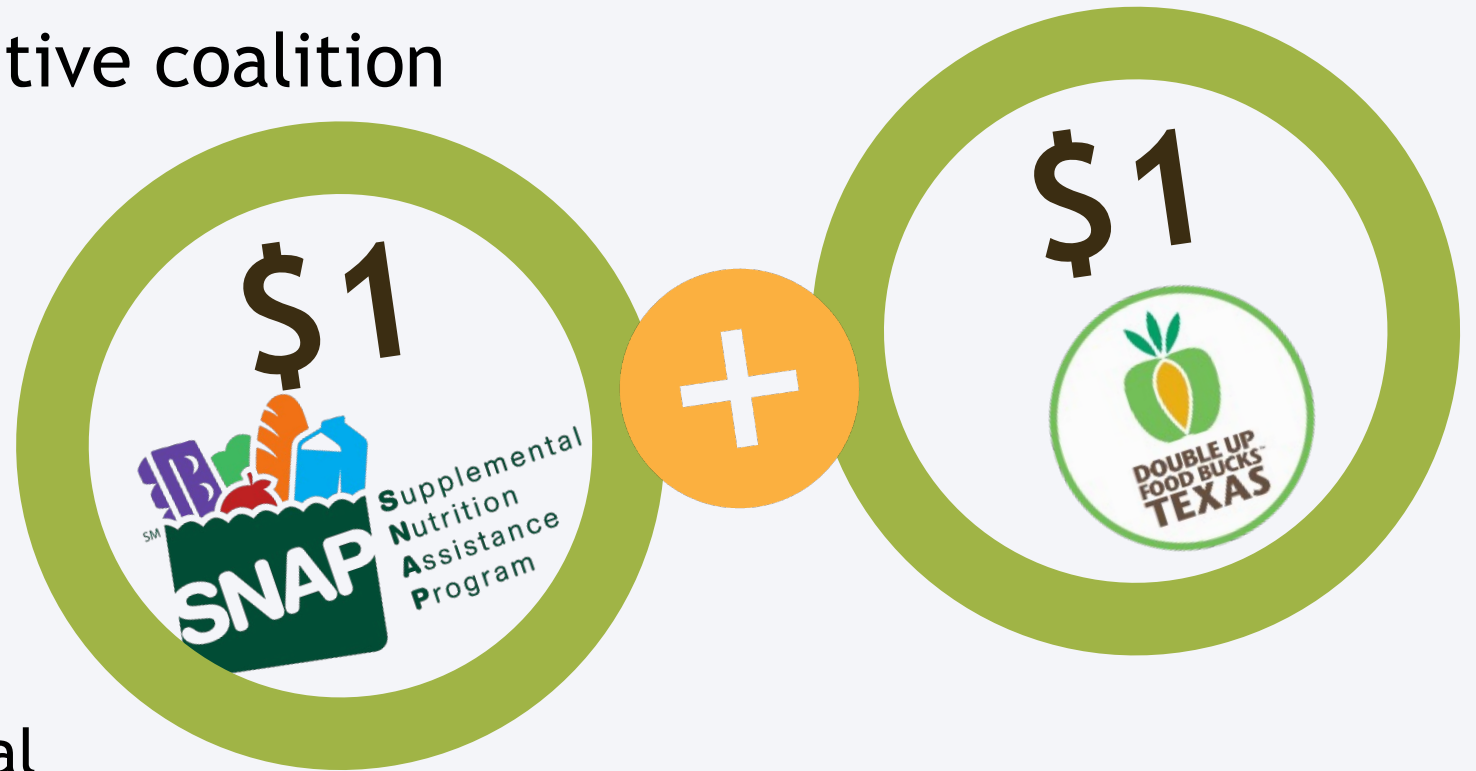
- Statewide nutrition incentive coalition

- \$1 for \$1 match on SNAP fruit and vegetable purchases

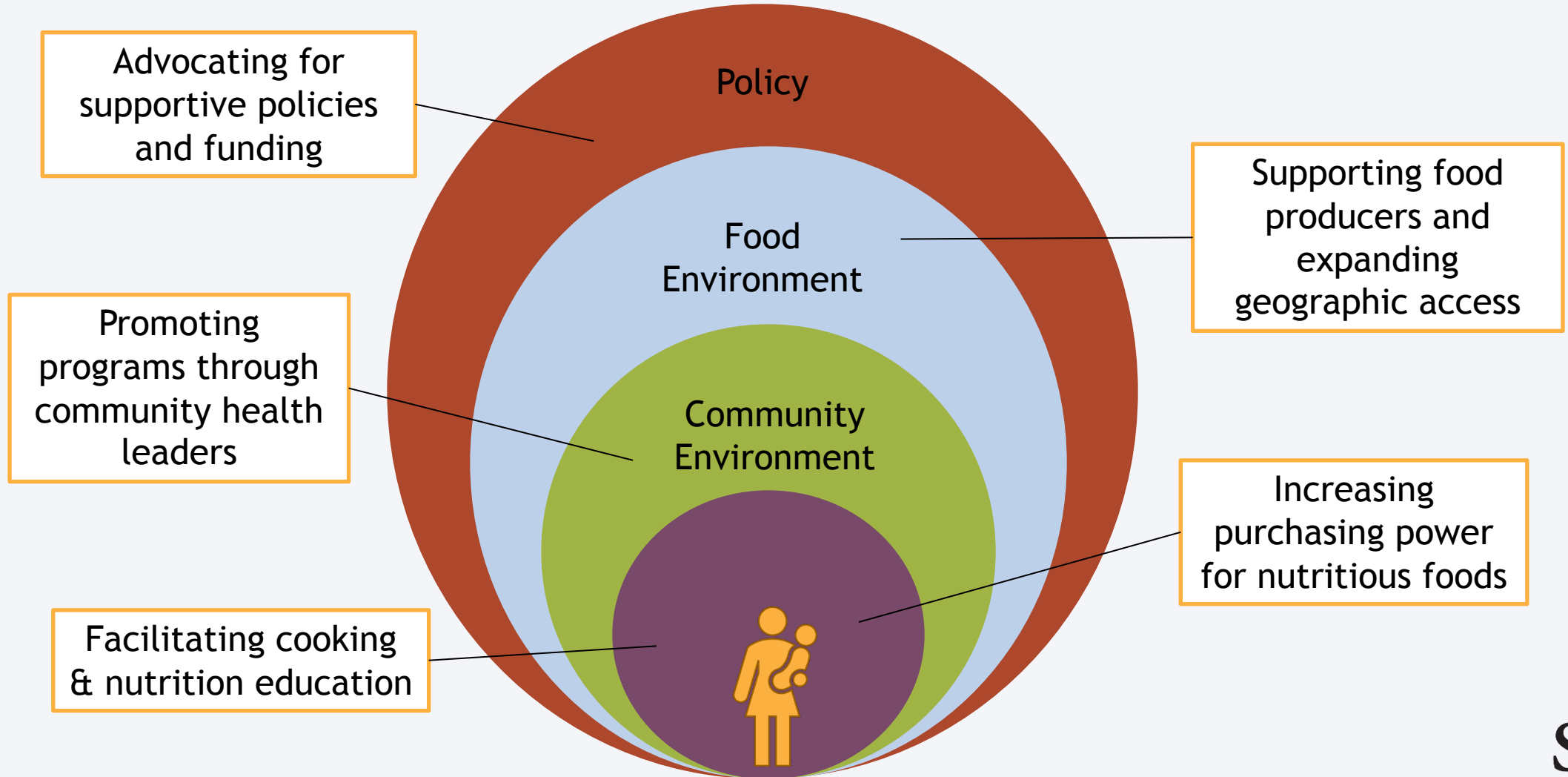
- Available at farmers' markets and grocery stores

- Philanthropic and municipal funding used as match for

- federal funding through the USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (“GusNIP”)



# THE DOUBLE UP FOOD BUCKS TEXAS MODEL





Low-income families bring home more healthy food



Local farmers gain customers and make more money

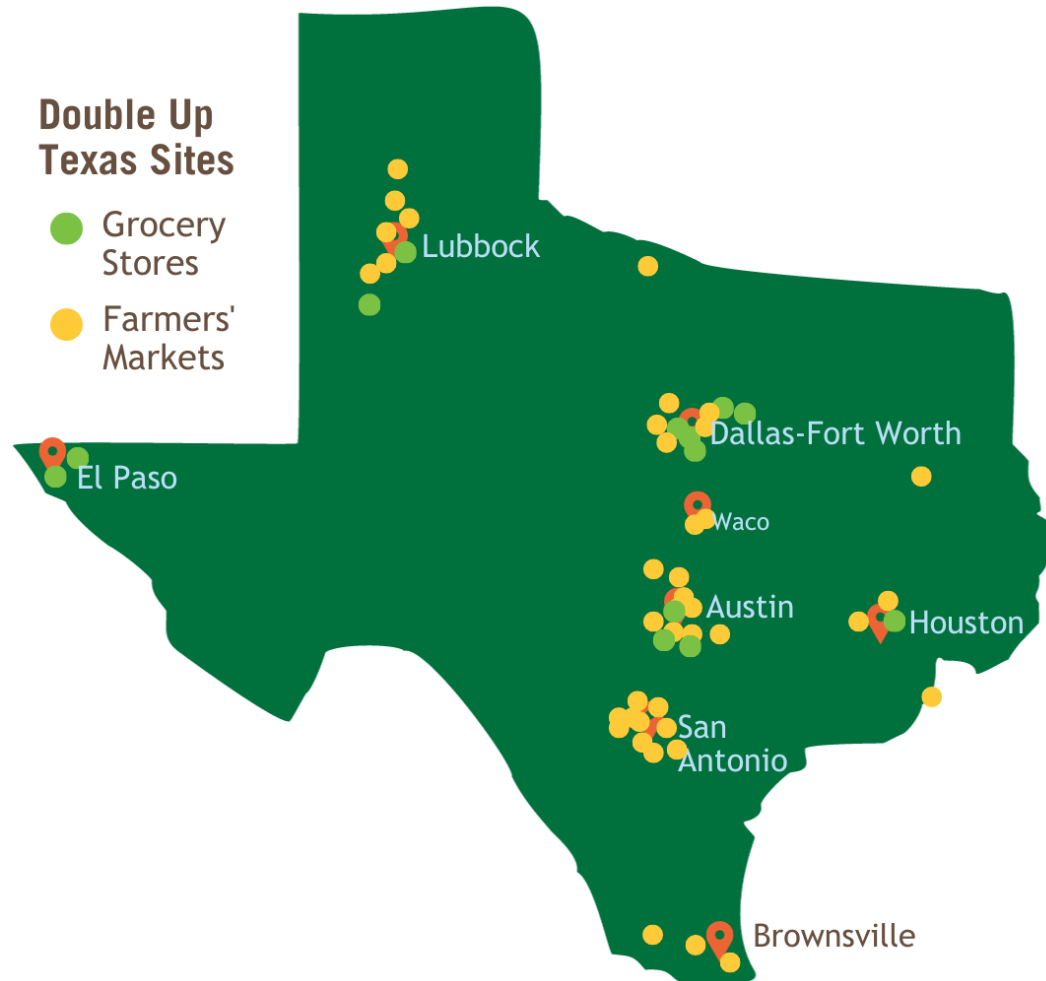


More food dollars stay in the local economy

**Double Up is a Win-Win-Win for Texas.**



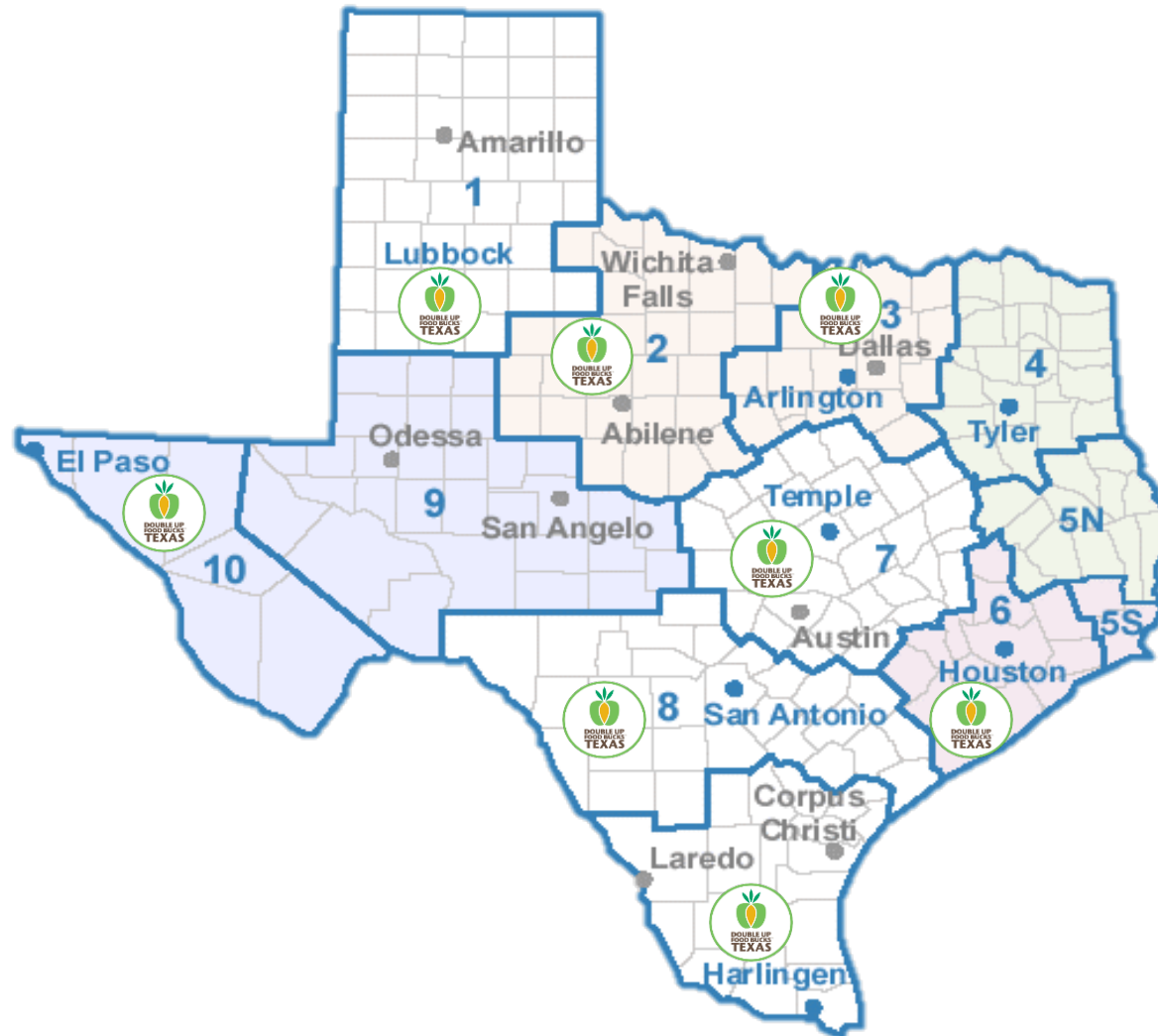
# GEOGRAPHIC EXPANSION – YEAR 1



As of Sept. 2023:

- 54 retail locations
- 8 of 11 HHSC regions have at least 1 DUFBTX firm
- Firms in 9 of the 10 most populous counties
- Sites in 19 out of 254 counties

# TEXAS HHSC REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION



# FARM DIRECT EXPANSION YEAR 1

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40

As of Sept. 2023:

- 54 total sites
- 40 farm-direct sites;
  - 25 Farmers' Markets
  - 2 Farmstands
  - 11 Mobile Markets
  - 2 CSAs with online ordering



# GROCERY RETAIL EXPANSION YEAR 1



As of Sept. 2023:

- 14 brick & mortar sites;
  - 6 Supermarkets
  - 1 Independent retailer
  - 2 Non-profit grocery stores
  - 2 Co-ops (Community owned)
  - 3 ‘Hybrid’ stores (Farmer owned)

# EXPANDED ENGAGEMENT – YEAR 1



As of Sept. 2023:

- 34,258 SNAP Households served
  - 3,615 at farm-direct sites
  - 30,643 at brick & mortar

**34,258 SNAP  
households served**

# IMPROVED HEALTH BEHAVIORS – YEAR 1

Of the SNAP Households served:

- 68% tried new fruits or vegetables for the first time
- 74% increased fruit consumption
- 82% increased vegetable consumption

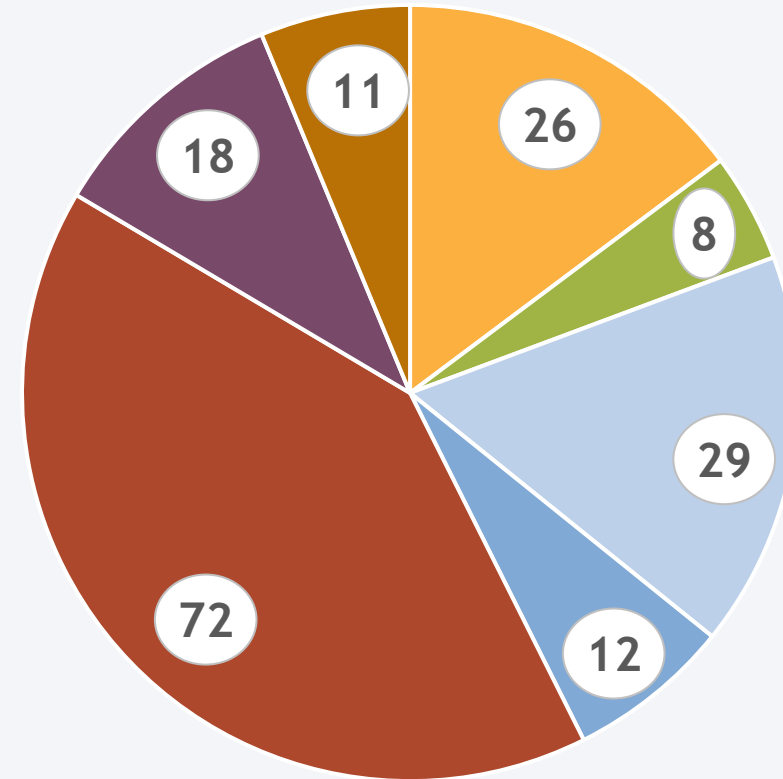


**34,258 SNAP  
households served**

# FARMER IMPACT – YEAR 1



507 farmers, ranchers, and value-added vendors supported



- Lubbock/West TX (Reg 1)
- Wichita Falls (Reg 2)
- Dallas/Fort Worth (Reg 3)
- Houston/Gulf Coast (Reg 6)
- Central TX (Reg 7)
- San Antonio (Reg 8)
- Rio Grande Valley (Reg 11)

# ECONOMIC IMPACT – YEAR 1

- \$502,978 total incentive sales
  - \$418,740 at brick & mortar stores
  - \$84,238 at farm direct outlets
  - (Additional \$120,231 SNAP sales attributable to the program)

**\$788,744**  
circulated in local  
economies





# STATEWIDE COALITION & REGIONAL LEADS



**BLUE ZONES PROJECT**  
by sharecare

Brought to you by



**Texas Health**



**BROWNSVILLE  
WELLNESS  
COALITION**

**desert  
spoon**  
FOOD HUB



# DOUBLE UP FOOD BUCKS TEXAS FUTURE GOALS



**375,000**

*Texas families double  
their dollars for fruits  
& vegetables*



**1,000**

*Texas farmers,  
ranchers, vendors  
supported*



**\$5,000,000**

*circulated in local  
economies*

# EXPANSION STRATEGIES

- Grocery retail expansion
  - Fundraising to support 1-2 large retailers
  - Recruiting smaller retailers serving rural areas
  - Grocer convenings cohosted with municipalities
  - Capacity-building support for small retailers
- Farm direct expansion
  - 1:1 support & toolkits for onboarding/operations
  - Subawards to fund staff at farmers' markets
  - Focused on least resourced areas in Texas



# FOOD SYSTEM STRATEGIES

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- Farmer support
  - Increasing local sourcing within grocery retail
  - Coordination across value chain actors statewide
- Advocacy, engagement, education
  - Further integrate culturally sustaining education
  - Strengthen feedback loop between clients and implementing partners
  - Providing food systems support within regions



# THANK YOU

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SUSTAINABLE FOOD CENTER

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