

May 29, 2014

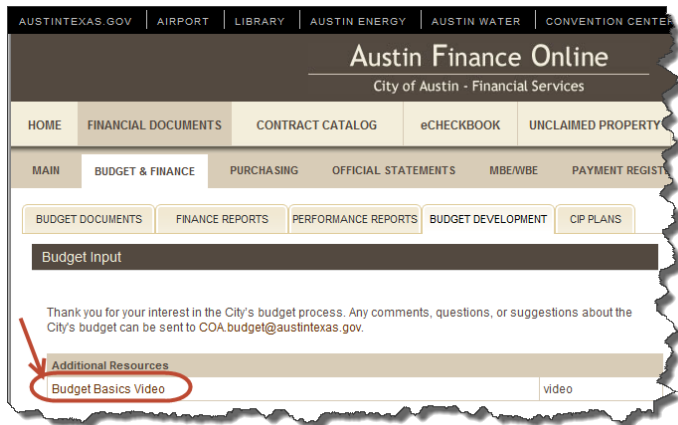
City of Austin, Texas

ICMA 2014 Certificate of Excellence abbreviated award application supplement

Further discussion of the City's progress with **Criteria 7. Public Reporting**

BUDGET BASICS VIDEO

In addition to the [Annual Performance Report](#), which has been published in its current form for the past four years, several new ways to engage with the public were added or enhanced in 2013. For the FY 2013-14 Proposed Budget process, an 8-minute budget basics video was created to inform citizens about how the City's budget works, what services are provided and how they are funded. It also included high-level performance information for the most recent prior year, FY 2011-12. The performance information highlighted included the animal shelter live outcome rate, the safest city national ranking, the waste diversion rate, the number of jobs created from economic development efforts, the number of inspections, and the ton of recyclable materials collected, among others. This video won 2nd place in the instruction/training category in the 2013 Programming Awards presented by the Texas Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors. This video has been updated for the FY 2014-15 Proposed Budget process, with performance data now reflecting progress in FY 2012-13. A [link to the video](#) is on the City's Austin Finance Online website, with a direct link here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebIVQSkMFaQ&feature=youtu.be>.



Other public reporting efforts include Austin's Open Government (<https://austintexas.gov/open-government>). In the City of Austin, open government includes three major areas: Austin Finance Online, the Open Data Portal, and Code for America.

AUSTIN FINANCE ONLINE



Austin Finance Online

Austin Finance Online is an award winning tool that allows the access of city financial, purchasing, and performance data online. It includes links to [eCheckbook](#), the [Online Contract Catalog](#), [ePerformance Measures](#), Citizen Survey reports, and financial and performance reports as well as [raw budget data](#).

OPEN DATA PORTAL



Austin Data Portal

The Austin Open Data Portal (<https://data.austintexas.gov/>) is designed to provide high value city data to users interested in finding out more about their city, researching specific topics or using data to develop software applications. The data found here is designed to be accessible, usable and customizable based on your needs. Examples of the information that can be found here include [restaurant inspection scores](#), [Municipal Court caseload information](#), [crime statistics](#), [animal center statistics](#), and [water quality sampling data](#).

CODE FOR AMERICA



Code for America

In 2012, the City of Austin was selected as a partner with the groundbreaking program Code for America. As a partner City, Austin worked with talented developers and peer cities to find creative and innovative solutions to common City problems. Since then, the City of Austin has created an Innovation Office as a way to further encourage transparency and collaboration with the tech industry. There is also an active tech group that continues to support civic innovation. The 2nd annual ATX Hack for Change is set for May 31-June 1, 2014, and the data sets provided on Austin's Open Data Portal may be the source for some creative civic projects.

DEPARTMENTAL EFFORTS

Expanding upon Austin's Open Government portal, individual departments are also presenting performance data and statistics on their websites. For instance, the Austin Police Department publishes monthly, quarterly, and annual crime statistic reports in addition to the data sets that can be found on the data portal (<https://austintexas.gov/department/apd-reports>). Several other departments also publish end of the year reviews which are full of performance information, including the [Austin Fire Department](#), the [Austin Parks and Recreation Department](#), the [City Manager's Office](#), the [City Auditor's Office](#), and [Austin Energy](#) (the city-owned electric utility). All of these reports, along with other important information for the public on city activities can be found on the city's website, Austintexas.gov. This website was awarded the 2013 best city website as part of the [2013 Best of the Web Awards](#), organized by Government Technology magazine and the Center for Digital Government. This honor came two years after a complete redesign of the City's website in 2011. This website redesign, along with the City's mission to be the best managed city in the country and an increase in transparency efforts, has allowed Austin to take the public reporting of performance information to the next level.