

FY 2026-2027 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT(S): Austin Economic Development;

CBQ NO.: 118

REQUESTED BY: (District 6) Krista Laine

DATE REQUESTED: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 1:08 PM

DATE POSTED:

REQUEST:

There's a Key Performance Indicator for Economic Development for 'Amount of funding contributed to the community' in which the numbers over the years range from as high as \$54 million to as low as \$1.6 million. What causes this much variance over the years? What variables impact this?

RESPONSE:

The significant year-to-year variation in recent years is largely attributed to organizational changes in the department. Programs moved from Austin Economic Development to Financial Services or the Arts, Culture, Music and Entertainment Department. In FY24, \$52.6 million of the \$54.2 million reported was associated with programs that are no longer managed by Austin Economic Development, including: AEDC/Rally Austin, Redevelopment, Cultural Arts Grants, Historic Preservation Grants, Art in Public Places, Live Music Fund Grants, Live Music Performances, and CSAP Grants.

As a result, the FY24 figure largely reflects programs that have since transitioned out of the department's portfolio and the remaining \$1.6 million represents funding associated with programs sustained in Austin Economic Development department.

Prior to FY24, year-to-year variations were primarily attributed to the impact of the pandemic on the tourism industry and Hotel Occupancy Tax revenue collections, which supports cultural arts, live music, and historic preservation activities.