

FY 2026-2027 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT(S): Austin Budget & Organizational Excellence;

CBQ NO.: 43

REQUESTED BY: (District 2) Vanessa Fuentes

DATE REQUESTED: Friday, July 17, 2026 12:16 PM

DATE POSTED: Thursday, August 6, 2026

REQUEST:

What new initiatives or programs are being funded in the new budget?

RESPONSE:

The following new initiatives and programs are being funded in the FY27 Proposed Budget:

Austin Arts, Culture, Music, and Entertainment:

The department is adding a position dedicated to community vision planning for the Montopolis Negro School redevelopment. This initiative will receive \$113,423 in FY27 and will be funded by the Historic Preservation Fund.

The department is launching Community Navigator services to provide dedicated in-Spanish language assistance to help residents navigate, complete, and submit Austin Arts, Culture, Music, and Entertainment applications on time, reducing barriers and improving equitable participation. The initiative is receiving \$60,000 in FY27 and will be funded by the Cultural Arts Fund.

Austin Facilities Management:

The Revolving Energy Efficiency Fund provides funding for energy efficiency equipment upgrades in City facilities and captures generated cost savings. These cost savings are then reinvested in further energy efficiency improvements. The program is receiving a one-time \$500,000 investment in FY27 to provide the initial funding.

Austin Water:

Customer Account Leak Mitigation provides emergency leak repairs for low-income customers, aiming to prevent high bills, reduce water waste, and support households that cannot access other assistance. The program is receiving \$100,000 in FY27.

Small Business Advancement helps qualifying small businesses install or replace grease interceptors, reducing financial barriers and improving compliance with wastewater regulations. The program is receiving \$375,000 in FY27.

Austin Water Pipeline Maintenance addresses wastewater issues on private-side sewer infrastructure, reducing service disruptions and improving reliability for customers. The program is receiving \$25,000 in FY27.