

FY 2026-2027 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT(S): Austin Parks & Recreation;

CBQ NO.: 81

REQUESTED BY: (District 3) José Velásquez

DATE REQUESTED: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 9:20 AM

DATE POSTED: Tuesday, August 4, 2026

REQUEST:

On the service prioritization list, \$80,000 is reduced by “consolidating youth and teen outreach programs.” Could you please breakdown what outreach programs were consolidated and what this looks like in practice?

RESPONSE:

The \$80,000 reduction identified on the service prioritization list under “consolidating youth and teen outreach programs” would be achieved through both program consolidation and program elimination within the Youth and Teen Outreach Services portfolio.

The first action involves combining similar outreach programs to streamline service delivery. Specifically, the Roving Leaders Specialist position would be integrated into the Totally Cool Totally Art (TCTA) Teen Outreach program. TCTA, established in 1996, offers free arts-based programming for teens and provides mentoring, creative skill development, and positive engagement during high-risk after-school hours. By consolidating the Roving Leaders program with TCTA, the department reduces the standalone Roving Leaders budget while continuing to offer its core youth-development elements. Under this model, the Roving Leaders position will support TCTA initiatives, expanding program offerings to include leadership development, financial literacy, philanthropy, and public service opportunities, in addition to the traditional arts curriculum. This consolidation results in an estimated savings of \$50,000.

The second action is the elimination of the Teens in Leadership Training (TILT) program. TILT provides leadership and job-readiness training for youth ages 15–18, preparing participants for employment opportunities within Austin Parks and Recreation and other city departments at the conclusion of the program. While some leadership components and job readiness may be incorporated into the enhanced TCTA model, eliminating TILT reduces programmatic, staffing, and operational expenses, resulting in an estimated savings of \$30,000.

Together, these two actions of the consolidation of Roving Leaders into TCTA and the elimination of TILT, produces a total reduction of \$80,000. These changes streamline

operations while maintaining core youth development services and ensuring continued positive engagement opportunities for teens across Austin.