



## **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

### **AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

#### **Recommendation Number: 20130605-005: African American Youth Harvest Foundation Funding**

**WHEREAS**, the African American Resource Advisory Commission (the “Commission”) is authorized by Austin City Code § 2-1-521 to advise the city council on issues related to the quality of life for the City’s African American community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission is specifically authorized to recommend programs designed to alleviate any inequities that may confront African Americans in social, economic, and vocational pursuits, including (1) health care; (2) housing, including affordable housing, home ownership, and homelessness; (3) entertainment opportunities for professionals and students; (4) employment; and (5) cultural venues, including museums, theaters, art galleries, and music venues; and

**WHEREAS**, in Austin, average family income for African American households in 2011 was \$32,991, representing a decline of \$3,090 since 2000 and constituting less than half that of Anglos, who made \$91,565 on average, making this disparity one of the highest in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, in Austin, 24.8% of African Americans over 25 held a bachelors or higher education degree in 2011, compared to 44.5% for the rest of Austin.; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans in Austin ISD make up 11.7% of the total student enrollment but represent 18% of all mandatory removals and 31% of all discretionary removals district wide (57% and 56%, respectively, of removals in elementary schools), represent 74% graduation rate in 2011, and African Americans represented an over identification of Special Education students reported for discretionary removals, and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans are 2.8 times more likely than Anglos to be living in poverty in Travis County in 2011, and African American poverty rate in 2011 was 24.4%, compared to the overall local poverty rate of 15.2%; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans in 2011 are 2.3 times more likely to be unemployed than Anglos or Asians; and

**WHEREAS**, the African American share of the total population in Austin has been declining for 45 years to a low of 8.1% in 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, the highest population concentrations of African Americans in Austin occur in zip codes 78702, 78721, 78722, 78723, 78724, 78725, and surrounding areas to the north and south throughout the eastern corridor of Travis County, and these areas are characterized by disproportionately high age-adjusted and infant mortality rates; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council recognizes the need for accessible prevention and intervention services to eradicate disparities in quality of life between African Americans and other demographic groups; and

**WHEREAS**, the African American Youth Harvest Foundation has a partnership with the Travis County Health Care District (Central Health), Community Care Association, and the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department in working to improve the health of all populations in the City of Austin and Travis County including African Americans, with a proven track record of implementing effective mentoring and outreach services impacting thousands of youth and their families in five Austin-area school districts as strategies to improve educational performance measures and quality of life among African Americans;

**WHEREAS**, over the past two fiscal years (FY 2011 & 2012), the City of Austin has provided core funding of \$237,000 annually to African American Youth Harvest Foundation to provide critical services and programs to our community of which \$162,000 is for African American Youth Resource Center (COA-HHS) and \$75,000 for African American Men and Boys Conferences (Austin Energy), and

**WHEREAS**, the African American Men and Boys Conferences are in jeopardy of not continuing the conferences that serve thousands of community members due to cuts by other funding sources, and the African American Youth Resource Center has been turning away people in need of assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, the African American Youth Harvest Foundation achievements far exceeded the requirements of City of Austin contracts by serving over 3,700 unduplicated youth and parents in the community.

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE COMMISSION HEREBY ENCOURAGES THE AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR:**

the African American Youth Harvest Foundation's effort to expand its programming and build its organizational capacity to provide greater client utilization and meet service demand at the African American Youth Resource Center by providing additional funding in the amount of \$256,430 annually over the next five years, bringing total funding to \$418,430 annually. This support for the AAYRC located at 6633 Highway 290 East, Austin, Texas 78723 will accomplish the following:

- a. Fund and build the organizational capacity of the AAYHF to support the rising demand and increased numbers of individuals accessing services at the African American Youth Resource Center. With additional funding of \$75,000 a year, AAYHF will be able to respond to the overwhelming demand for services at the AAYRC and serve an additional 1,200 youth and adults in Austin's low-income areas with the following programming, but not limited to:
  - i. Dell IT Lab – computer training and technology lab
  - ii. IVY Dolls/Ladies First – college preparation mentoring for 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls
  - iii. Family Academy – family wellness truancy prevention program
  - iv. 360 SG – college preparation mentoring for 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys
  - v. Krew12 – providing media production training
  - vi. Man Up – support group and counseling
  - vii. Jump Start- life skills training and leadership development for youth aged 18-24
  - viii. Tech Wiz – science, robotics, math, and media fun for elementary and middle school youth
  - ix. SHIFT ASCENSION – In School Suspension/Out of School Suspension Program
  - x. TOPP STEPP – workplace readiness assistance
  - xi. Juvenile Mentoring Initiatives
- b. Fund and implement the proposed RAISE UP Workforce Development program that would offer critical case management, job placement, skill development and career awareness services to at risk youth with the added value of African American Youth Resource Center wrap around services for a hard to reach populations. With additional funding of \$106,430 from the City of Austin annually, AAYHF will be able to serve 150 clients with comprehensive employment services and lift them out of poverty.
- c. Continue to provide base funding of \$75,000 for the African American Men and Boys Conferences from the City of Austin, which will enable AAYHF to continue delivering these highly attended conferences (over 2,000 individuals attended in 2011-12) and utilize the conferences to facilitate to connection of Austin youth and families to AAYRC ongoing, year-round programs and services.
- d. Continue to serve as a hub and community-based operation for health and human services, information, and referrals, housed at the aforementioned location and to include the following:

- i. Teen Health Clinic
  - ii. Services for pregnancy testing, family planning, child wellness, and prenatal health
  - iii. WIC Baby tests,/Breastfeeding Counseling Services
  - iv. Sickle Cell Education
  - v. HIV Prevention Outreach
  - vi. STD Education
  - vii. Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Education
  - viii. Mobile Van Health Screenings
- e. Serve as a conduit of communication and coordination for a broad network of service providers, to including but not limited to the following:
- i. Alliance for African American Health in Central Texas
  - ii. A New Entry, Inc.
  - iii. Austin Community College
  - iv. Austin Independent School District
  - v. Austin Voices for Education and Youth
  - vi. Black Media Council
  - vii. Common Solutions Mediation Services
  - viii. City of Austin Health and Human Services Department
  - ix. Dell Technology Center
  - x. Family Academy for Family Wellness & Truancy Prevention
  - xi. Girls Inc.
  - xii. Happy Kitchen – Sustainable Food Center Cooking Class
  - xiii. International Society for Wealth After Graduation (iSWAG)
  - xiv. Karisma Pastoral Consulting and Educational Services – Spiritual Wellness
  - xv. MEM Consulting – Second Chance Services
  - xvi. MOM2MOM – Pregnancy Education and Support Services
  - xvii. Paraclete Ministries – Anger Management and Counseling
  - xviii. ReRoute – Media Development Services
  - xix. Travis County Juvenile Probation Department
  - xx. Travis County Health and Human Services Department
  - xxi. University of Texas at Austin – Division of Diversity and Community Engagement
  - xxii. Victoria L. Dorsey Professional Counseling Services

By providing \$256,430 (new funding of \$181,430 and \$75,000 for continuation funding -Austin Energy) annually over a five year period to the African American Youth Harvest Foundation, the City of Austin will partially fund the establishment, management, and coordination of existing and new services at African American Youth Resource Center, to be distributed in the following increments over the course of each fiscal year:

- \$150,000 by October 15, \$53,215 by February 15, \$53,215 by June 15.

Date of approval: June 5, 2013

Record of the vote: 7-0 (Unanimous)

Attest: Melodye Foust  
Melodye Foust  
Staff Liaison