



One Voice Central Texas

Put People First

City of Austin Public Health and Human Services Committee

September 2, 2014

One Voice Central Texas Request

Increase the overall City investment in social services that support vulnerable residents by \$15 million for FY2014/2015

- Invest in health and human services that improve the lives and opportunities of the poor and working poor (those at 200% of poverty or below)
- Fund organizations or services that have demonstrated effectiveness at addressing the needs of the poor and working poor
- Expand existing contracted service pools (Social Services contracts, HIV, Workforce Development) as well as city programming to increase access to social services for those at or below 200% of poverty.



TALE OF TWO AUSTINS

#1

Fastest Growing City in America

#8

Best city to raise a family

#2

Top performing real estate market in 2012

#10

Fittest city in the U.S.

1/3

of all individuals in Travis County are struggling to make ends meet.

1/4

children in Austin live in poverty.

1/4

residents spend more than half of their income on housing.

35%

of low-income children in Central Texas are overweight or obese.

One Voice Central Texas is a coalition of health and human service nonprofit leadership advocating on behalf of vulnerable Central Texans and supporting best practices in nonprofit management since 1983.

www.OneVoiceCentralTX.org

ONE VOICE
CENTRAL TEXAS

Why Now?

- CAN dashboard indicators for number of low income individuals, food insecurity, and housing cost burden have all worsened
- Between 2000 and 2012, the number of people living in poverty in Austin/Round Rock MSA grew by **82.3** percent representing 230,437 individuals living in poverty (Brookings Institute)
- Children under the age of six are the fastest growing group living in poverty
- 18% of individuals live in households with limited consistent access to food

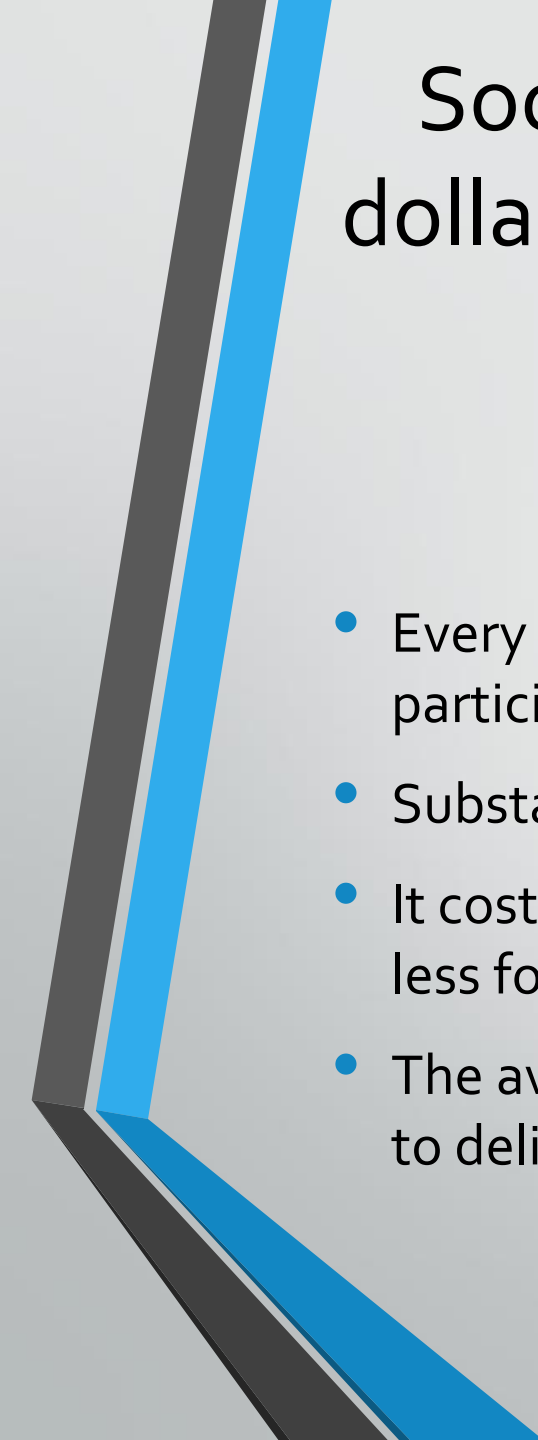
What are the driving forces that have increased our poverty trends?

- Population change
- The economy and especially suburban unemployment
- Immigration, especially the low wages paid to foreign born workers
- Housing, especially the inadequate amount of housing vouchers and affordable housing



We Should Not Allow This Trend to Continue

Investing in solutions to poverty in our community is critical.....it will make a difference.



Social Services Are a Wise Investment: For every dollar invested, national studies have demonstrated an ROI and reduction in more expensive interventions, examples include:

- Every \$1 invested in a high-quality, pre-kinder program returns up to \$17 per participant.
- Substance abuse treatment returns between \$4-\$7 for every dollar spent
- It costs \$20,000 for a youth to spend a year at Gardner Betts but generally \$1,000 or less for prevention services
- The average monthly cost for nursing home care is \$3,258 but it costs \$96 a month to deliver a meal or approximately \$1,600 to provide in-home supports

Social Services are Cost Effective

Examples of what \$1,000 will:

- Provide 20 children with nutritious meals throughout the summer
- Tutor two adults to pass the GED
- Provide 3 months of therapy and case management for a child living in a shelter
- House a chronically homeless person for a month with rent and support services
- Provide HIV tests and counseling for 83 individuals

Social Services Make a Difference

Examples of success:

- 99% of the youth receiving intensive in-school services stayed in school and 87% improved their grades, attendance or behavior.
- 79% of those receiving direct financial assistance achieved stable housing
- 68% of individuals receiving workforce assistance maintained or increased their income
- 80% of seniors receiving delivered meals have stayed in their homes 6 months or longer
- 52% of HIV/AIDS patients achieved viral load suppression in Austin vs. 28% nationally.

Social Services Impact Public Safety

Social Services organizations

- Break the cycle of violence by providing shelter, support, and prevention so it doesn't occur again
- Deliver mental health and treatment services so that the police aren't continually arresting folks displaying symptoms of their chronic illness
- Provide after-school activities and job training for young people so that they have alternatives and a more optimistic outlook
- House homeless people so the police aren't spending time arresting them for sleeping and sitting on the sidewalk
- Offer literacy and job training so that adults have the opportunity to break the crippling cycle of poverty