



## TALE OF TWO AUSTINS – LETS PUT PEOPLE FIRST!

**One Voice Central Texas is requesting a \$15 million increase in the City investment to the Health and Human Services Department to begin to address the impact of the dramatic rise of individuals in poverty in our community.**

### **Why Now?** Community indicators are going in the wrong direction\*

- **The number of low-income individuals in Travis County has increased** – 36% of Travis County residents are low-income.
- **The number of food insecure individuals has increased** – 18% of Travis County residents live in food insecure households.
- **The number of individuals burdened by housing costs has increased** – 38% of Travis County households pay more than 30% of their income for housing.
- **The number of individuals reporting poor mental health has increased** – 21% of adults in Travis County report poor mental health.

*\*Indicators are from the 2014 CAN Dashboard*

### **Why Should the City Invest in Health and Human Services?** An investment in health and human services saves the City and the community money in both the short term and the long-term.

- **Early Education:** Every \$1 invested in a high-quality, pre-kindergarten (pre-k) program returns \$3.50 per participant.
- **After School:** Every dollar invested in afterschool programs returns between \$3-\$16.
- **Youth:** It costs \$20,000 a year for a youth on juvenile probation inclusive of residential care, compared to \$1,000 per youth to provide prevention and intervention services (Council on At-Risk Youth).
- **Workforce Development:** Every dollar invested in workforce services returns \$1.63 over five years and fully \$2.74 over ten years.
- **Literacy:** Probationers who receive literacy training have significantly lower rearrest rates than those who don't get help. Those who obtain a GED have even lower rearrest rates.
- **Substance Abuse:** A number of cost benefit studies of substance abuse treatment have found returns of \$4 to \$7 per dollar spent.
- **Senior Services:** The average cost of one month of nursing home care is \$6,540 (The American Eldercare Research Organization). It costs approximately \$96 a month (MOWAT) to deliver a home meal and approximately \$1,600 a month to provide in-home care services (American Association of Service Coordinators).
- **Permanent Supportive Housing:** In 2010, it cost \$6.7 million in EMS, emergency room, hospital and jail costs for the 100 most vulnerable homeless individuals. It is estimated it would cost \$2.4 million to house and provide services to the same population (ECHO).
- **Mental Health Treatment** reduces the need for hospital and emergency room services and improves health outcomes for people with diabetes, cancer, heart disease, chronic pain, cancer, and other serious illnesses.

**Does it Make a Difference?** Social service organizations make an impact every day. Below are some examples of ways in which local nonprofits are making an impact:

- **Children & Youth**
  - 14,201 children and youth served through City funding. 87% of them progressed to the next developmental or academic level and 86% demonstrated improved skills or knowledge (2013 COA HHSD).
  - In-school programs served 45,155 individuals 2012/2013 of which 5,877 received intensive services. Of those receiving intensive services, 99% stayed in school and 87% improved their grades, attendance or behavior.
- **Basic Needs/Shelter**
  - 10,300 individuals served through City funding. 83% of those individuals at risk of homelessness maintained housing (2013 COA HHSD)
  - In 2013, 1,817 households and 4,467 clients received direct financial assistance to help them maintain housing or end homelessness. At exit, 79% achieved housing stability and 77% continued to achieve housing stability at the 6 month follow up.
- **Workforce**
  - 3,308 individuals served through City funding of which more than 2/3 (68%) maintained or increased income (2013 COA HHSD).
- **Seniors**
  - In excess of 855,000 meals were provided in 2013 and 80% of seniors have stayed in their homes 6 months or longer.
- **Housing/Shelter**
  - 72 youth and children were housed in a Supportive Housing Program with 100% exiting to safe, stable housing.
  - 1,100 adults and youth who had experienced violence or trauma were provided with emergency shelter.
- **HIV/AIDS**
  - 85% of HIV positive patients in Austin linked to care vs 62% nationally (Austin has the highest linkage rate in Texas), 68% receiving treatment in Austin vs. 36% nationally. 52% of patients achieved viral load suppression in Austin vs. 28% nationally.

### **One Voice Members:**

- Alleviate the devastating impact of poverty
- Divert individuals from more costly health and criminal justice systems
- Provide access to high quality, affordable child care
- Equip young adults with the tools they need to be successful
- Provide the bridge from literacy to workforce
- Keep our community safe from child, sexual, and domestic violence and abuse and address the trauma when it occurs
- Give older adults support and dignity so they can safely stay in their homes
- Close the disparities in physical and behavioral health care
- House those who have fallen into homelessness

**Social Services are a Wise and Cost Effective Investment**