



One Voice Central Texas

Put People First

City of Austin Public Policy: Social Services

March 30, 2015

One Voice Central Texas

- Represents more than 75 local health and human services nonprofit
- Brings in excess of \$100 million to the community in State, Federal, & Foundation funding
- Employs more than 6,500 individuals
- Provides a critical network of services for our most vulnerable residents that helps them move out of poverty and avoid more costly emergency, hospital, and institutional care
- Focus: Creating a standard for excellence, advocating for vulnerable populations, and creating efficiencies



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



Critical Public Policy Issues to Address

- **Planning:** Identify a process the City can use to engage in comprehensive health and human services planning to determine City health and human services priorities
- **Social Determinants of Health:** When addressing health include discussion of the impact of the social determinants of health: housing, education, economic stability
- **Coordinate with Travis County:** Identify how the City of Austin and Travis County Health and Human Services departments can coordinate more closely to use available research and fund collaborative efforts to address the suburbanization of poverty

Critical Public Policy Issues to Address

- **Prevention and Diversion:** Review how the City can move its focus to prevention and diversion and away from more costly outcomes, such as incarceration, hospitalization, and institutionalization
- **Social Services Index:** Implement the Social Services Index to increase the overall City investment in social services that support vulnerable residents
- **Clear Expectation and Efficient Regulations:** Review the expectations and regulations for health and human services providers to ensure that accountable and efficient processes are in place