



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION 20160608-5Biii

Date: 06-10-2016

Subject: Child Care Continuity Services Recommendation

Motioned By: Member Doggett

Seconded By: Member Porter

Recommendation

The Early Childhood Council recommends that the Austin City Council allocate funding for the Child Care Continuity Services program in the upcoming 2016-2017 budget process as outlined in the City Manager's report to Council.

Description of Recommendation to Council

The Austin City Council passed Resolution No. 20160414-004 directing the City Manager to work with Travis County, the Health and Human Services Department, the Early Childhood Council, and Workforce Solutions to develop recommendations for Council consideration during the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget process. The Child Care Continuity Services program is a dual-generation program for low income families in Travis County. It ensures continuity of child care services in instances where child care would otherwise be terminated as a result of federal Child Care Development Fund rules. The Early Childhood Council supports this program as further stated in the attached letter below.

Rationale:

Research shows that it is important for families, particularly for vulnerable children and families, to be *consistently* engaged in high-quality child care and that they are able to build stable relationships with teachers who are familiar and sensitive to a young child's needs. Establishing this "continuity of care" ensures positive long-term outcomes in future academic and social success for young children. Furthermore, this program yields a significant return on investment rather than an expenditure to the City of Austin because data shows that family wages increase over time while enrolled in this program.

Vote 9-0-0

For: Members Brown, Doggett, Elsner, Holder, Huston, Overton, Porter, Son, Wren

Against: None

Abstain: Member Son

Absent: Members Paver and Sanchez

Attest:



**Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department
Early Childhood Council**



June 6, 2016

To: Austin City Council

From: City of Austin Early Childhood Council

Re: Child Care Continuity Services

Chairperson

Larry Elsner

Vice-Chairperson

Monica Sanchez

Members

Garry Brown
Cathy Doggett
Kyle Holder
Aletha Huston
Roscoe Overton
Rhonda Paver
Jacquie Porter
Brook Son
Sebastian Wren

Early Childhood
Council
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In April 2016, the City Council adopted a resolution instructing the City Manager to develop recommendations for Child Care Continuity Services to be considered for funding in the Fiscal year 2016-17 budget process. The City Council action was a response to a recommendation from the Early Childhood Council.

First, we want to thank you for supporting this important service, which provides up to 90 days of child care subsidies for parents who lose a job or complete job training, permitting their children to have uninterrupted care while they search for employment. Once they find a job, they are eligible for federally-funded child care subsidies.

Travis County has funded Child Care Continuity Services through Workforce Solutions since 2014. The program has served a diverse group of families, including 46% Hispanics or Latinos and 40% African-Americans.

Allocations to support this program should be seen as an investment rather than an expenditure. Support for these families at this critical time has been shown to return far-reaching dividends both tangible and intangible. The preliminary numbers in a report being prepared by the City Health and Human Services Department indicate that the program is an excellent investment leading to improved earnings and job stability for parents. The report also shows the substantial need families in our community have for this program. Members of the Early Childhood Council have been impressed by the evidence that program is a very cost-effective way to improve affordability and stability for these low-income families, and to substantially improve their prospects for long-term self-sufficiency.

The Early Childhood Council recommends that you allocate substantial funding for the program in the upcoming budget process. Child Care Continuity funding serves two generations to help break the cycle of poverty. It enables children to experience continued enrollment in high quality child care, which promotes child development and school readiness. It promotes quality of life for both parents and children.

Sincerely,

Larry Elsner, Chair

Cc: Shannon Jones, HHSD Director
Donna Sundstrom, HHSD Asst. Director