



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION 20160608-5Bi

Date: 06-10-2016

Subject: Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Recommendation

Motioned By: Member Son

Seconded By: Member Holder

Recommendation

The Early Childhood Council recommends that the following items be included in the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD) 2016-2017 Action Plan:

1. Any new development for Affordable Housing should be built in proximity to quality child care centers or include on-site quality child care as part of the development;

2. The NHCD 2016-2017 Action Plan should align with the 2015-2018 School Readiness Action Plan where appropriate;

3. NHCD should recognize that the Early Childhood Council has made engagement with Affordable Housing stakeholders a priority in their 2016-2017 Work Plan. Therefore, the Early Childhood Council should be invited to participate in community stakeholder discussions

4. The Early Childhood Council supports maintenance of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding in the amount of \$650,000 for child care services related to:

- a. Early Head Start Child Care*
- b. Teen Parent Services*
- c. Teen Parent Child Care*
- d. Child Care Bridge Program*

Description of Recommendation to Council

The City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD) Office has released their Draft Austin Housing Plan, a comprehensive approach to address Austin's most pressing housing challenges informed by input from the citizens of Austin. The Early Childhood Council is submitting the above recommendations to be included in the NHCD 2016-2017 Action Plan.

Rationale:

Families need access to quality child care centers in close proximity to their home. It not only helps a child's development but it also helps support parents who are struggling to balance work and family obligations. The location and availability of child care can affect other community development goals and activities including smart growth and sustainability planning initiatives. Furthermore, the City of Austin should align community plans where appropriate to strengthen the City's comprehensive Imagine Austin plan. Lastly, the child care services currently funded by the CDBG grant are vital to teen parents, very low income families, and families facing

homelessness. Maintenance of these dollars is critical to supporting families by removing barriers for accessing affordable, high-quality child care as families work towards establishing self-sufficiency.

Vote **8-0-1**

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

Against: None

Abstain: Member Porter

Absent: Members Paver and Sanchez

Attest:

