



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20170711-05

Date: July 12, 2017

Subject: Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding

Motioned By: Commissioner Fred McGhee

Seconded By: Commissioner Michael Tolliver

WHEREAS, the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) provides funds to communities to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty; and

WHEREAS, Austin's annual grant has been just over \$1 million for some years, used to fund 16 Austin Public Health positions at 6 Neighborhood Centers and 3 outreach locations, including licensed social workers, community workers, and Center managers and;

WHEREAS, 55,866 unduplicated low-income persons in FY 2016 received basic services through the Neighborhood Centers such as access to healthy food, clothes, transportation, connections to rent and utility assistance and other benefits and;

WHEREAS, 76 persons transitioned out of poverty through employment support services received through the Neighborhood Centers in 2016 and;

WHEREAS, 2,395 senior citizens and 1,309 people with disabilities maintained independent living through Neighborhood Center services in 2016 and;

WHEREAS, President Trump's current budget proposal reduces the CSBG program nationally to \$0; and

WHEREAS, this budget cut is in addition to proposed cuts in federal and state funding for a variety of health and human service programs, such as supportive housing, early childhood intervention, and nutrition. NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Community Development Commission recommends that the Austin City Council acts to ensure:

- that the City's FY 2017-18 budget include a \$1 million contingency fund to be used to preserve service delivery capacity if the federal CSBG funding is not received, including retaining the institutional knowledge of experienced staff and operating centers in high-poverty neighborhoods;
- that if the federal CSBG funding is received, the contingency fund be used to extend service delivery capacity and flexibility, for alignment with high-poverty neighborhoods and populations;
- that the contingency fund be spent equitably in Austin's communities of poverty, with meaningful participation in decision making by those communities; and

- that the City Manager seek a broader base of funding for health and human services neighborhood centers for future budget years.

Date of Approval: July 11, 2017

Vote: A motion to approve the recommendation was approved on Commissioner Singer's motion, Commissioner A. Villalobos' second, on a 11-0-0 vote.

For: Chair Rivera, Vice Chair Deshotel, and Commissioners Dailey, Delgado, Fadelu, Hinely, McGhee, Paup, Tolliver, A. Villalobos, and R. Villalobos

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioners Singer, Taylor and Zamora

Attest: Gilbert Rivera, CDC Chair


