



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Early Childhood Council

Recommendation Number: 20190410-6bi2:

Relating to the Development of the City of Austin 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan

WHEREAS the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan states:

- Economically mixed and diverse neighborhoods across all parts of the city have a range of affordable housing options. [Austin is Livable, pg. 84]
- People across all parts of the city and of all ages and income levels live in safe, stable neighborhoods with a variety of affordable and accessible homes with access to healthy food, economic opportunity, healthcare, education and transportation. [Austin Values and Respects its People, pg. 87]; and

WHEREAS Strategic Direction 2023 adopted by the Austin City Council in March 2018 includes the following strategies in the Economic Opportunity & Affordability outcome areas:

- Developing and acting on recommendations to reduce the number of households and businesses displaced from Austin due to unaffordability. [pg. 6]; and

WHEREAS the stated values in the Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint include:

- Preventing households from being priced out of Austin. [pg. 20];
- Helping Austinites reduce their households costs. [pg. 36]; and

WHEREAS the Anti-Displacement Task Force Report suggests:

- Placing an equal emphasis on the preservation of affordable housing as is given to new construction of affordable units [pg. 5];
- Adopting and implementing a “right to remain and right to return” policy and programs to support its execution [pg. 8];
- Developing an Office of Housing Stability to: integrate all assistance programs, simplify processes and develop a targeted outreach program to ensure seniors, low-income homeowners, long-time homeowners and disabled homeowners in neighborhoods at risk of displacement. [pg. 9]; and

WHEREAS the goals of the **Austin/Travis County 2-Generation Strategic Plan** include:

- Developing programs and systems that support families with low income are coordinated and aligned, creating an ecosystem of support to meet the needs of both generations [pg . 17];
- Families achieve educational success through....adult education and job training leading to the potential of employment with a family-sustaining wage. [pg. 19]

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Early Childhood Council** encourages the Austin City Council to include in the **2019-2023 Consolidated Plan** being developed by the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office a strategy for promoting "Family Stability" that includes establishment of a "Family Stability Fund" that:

- Helps to assess the needs of low-income individuals and families at risk of displacement and stabilize their situation by alleviating the impact of the largest cost drivers in their household budget; and
- Provides funding for transportation, quality child care and other obstacles to accessing adult education and job training opportunities that can lead to financial stability and success.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Early Childhood Council** encourages the Austin City Council to develop an office or program that is charged with proactively informing families at risk of displacement about programs and resources that can help provide financial stability and expand economic opportunity.

Date of Approval: April 10, 2019

Record of the vote: 9-0

Attest: _____

Rachel Faraday