



Success By 6 Coalition Strategic Plan to Make Austin / Travis County a Happy, Healthy, and Enriching Place for Families and Young Children



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Austin / Travis County Community Context

United Way for
Greater Austin



In Austin/ Travis County....

More than **one in three**
children under six living in Travis County
**live in households with
low income.**



34,000
children under six in Travis County

**live in households
with low income.**

90% of children under
six from households
experiencing poverty
are children of color.

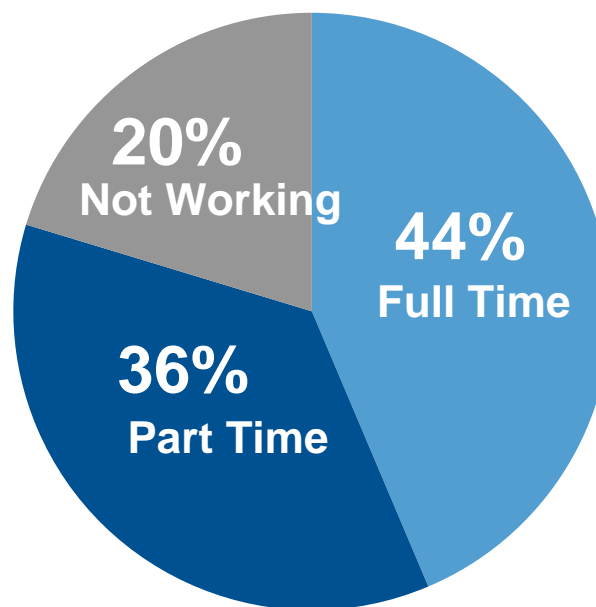
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UNITED WE WIN.

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Single Parents Struggle to Make Ends Meet—Even when Working Full Time



- 80% of single-parent families with low income* are currently working



Data source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey PUMS
*Under 200% of the Federal Poverty Line

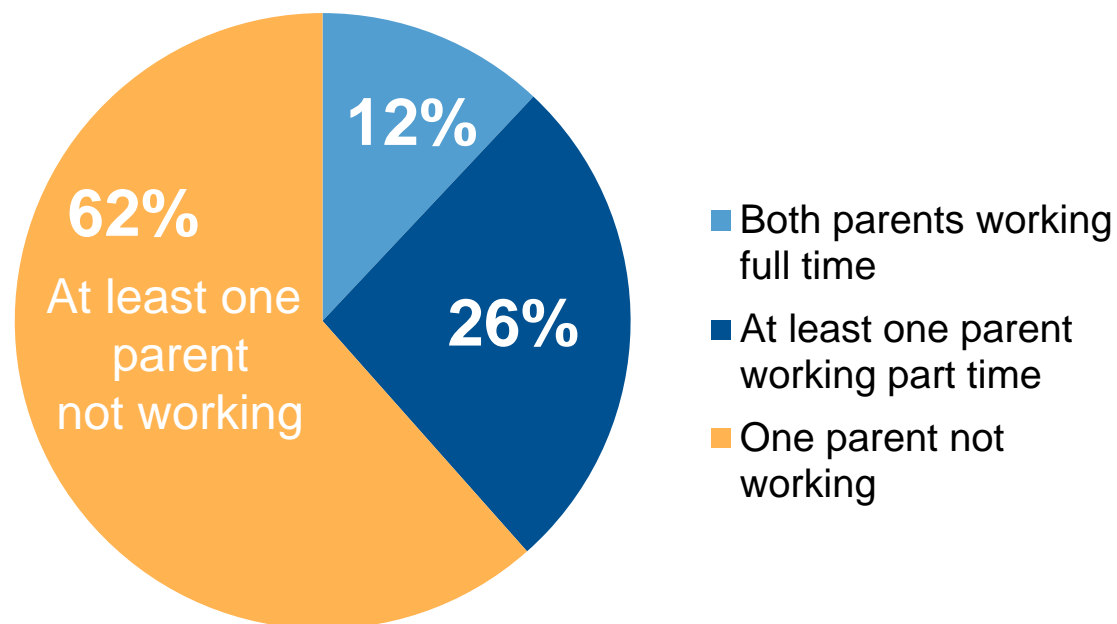
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A Large Percentage of Parents in Two Parent Families are not Working



Work status of two-parent families with low income*

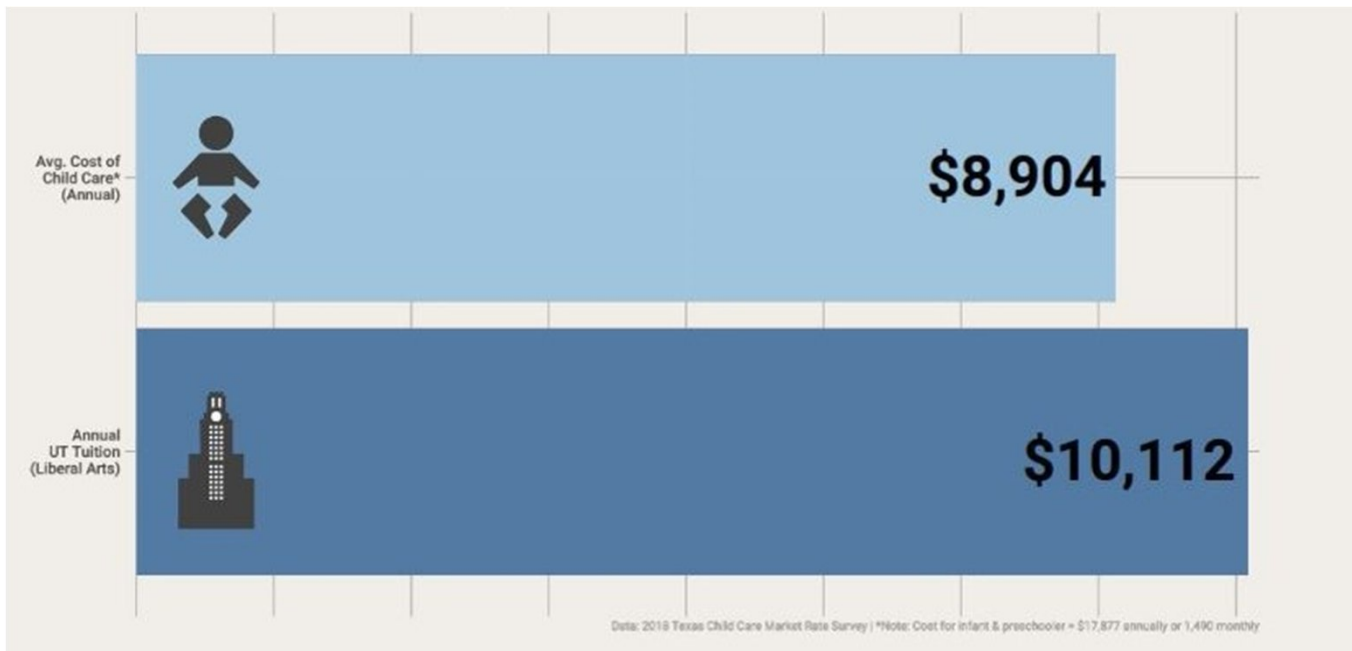


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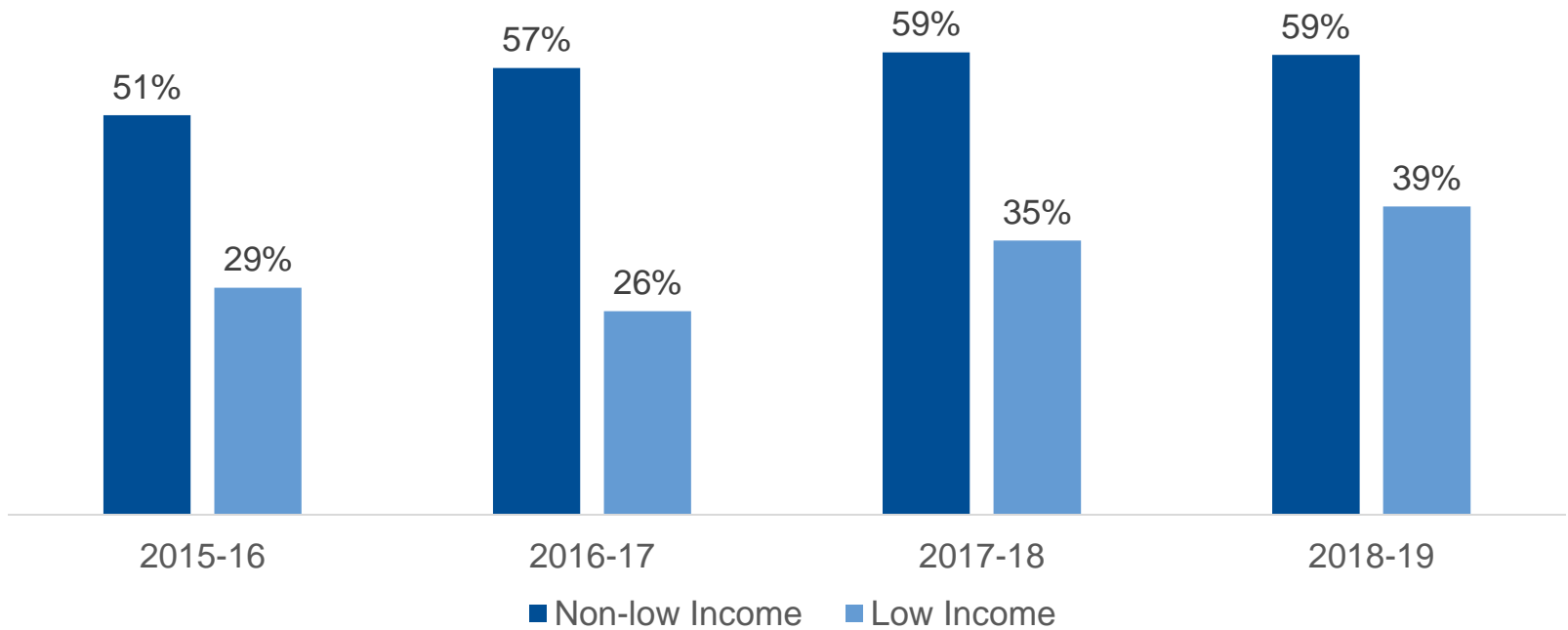
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Child Care is Incredibly Expensive



45% of programs serving children from households with low income are high quality.

Percent of Children who are School Ready



Disproportionality in Low Rates

Overall School Readiness				
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
All Students	38%	41%	46%	49%
Non-low Income	51%	57%	59%	59%
Low Income	29%	26%	35%	39%
Black	36%	21%	35%	36%
Hispanic	31%	32%	37%	44%
White	50%	59%	61%	63%

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We still have work to do...

Austin/Travis County invested

\$220

in early childhood last year per child
under 6 from low-income households.

San Antonio
invested **\$419** per capita

\$650 per capita
Portland
budgeted

Denver
spent **\$935** per capita

\$1,141 per capita
Philadelphia
invested

more than 5x what Austin spends



34%

of children under four from
households with low income
are receiving any early learning
services at all.

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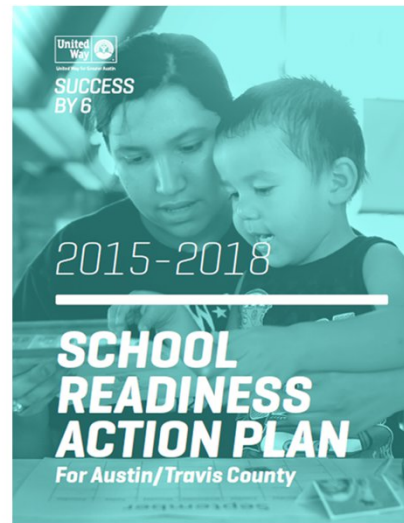
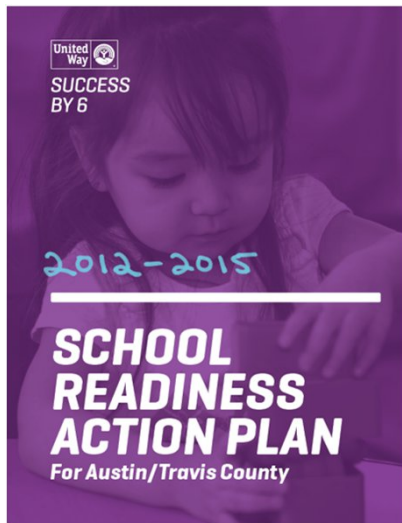
Success By 6 Coalition Strategic Plan: A 2,000 Day Journey

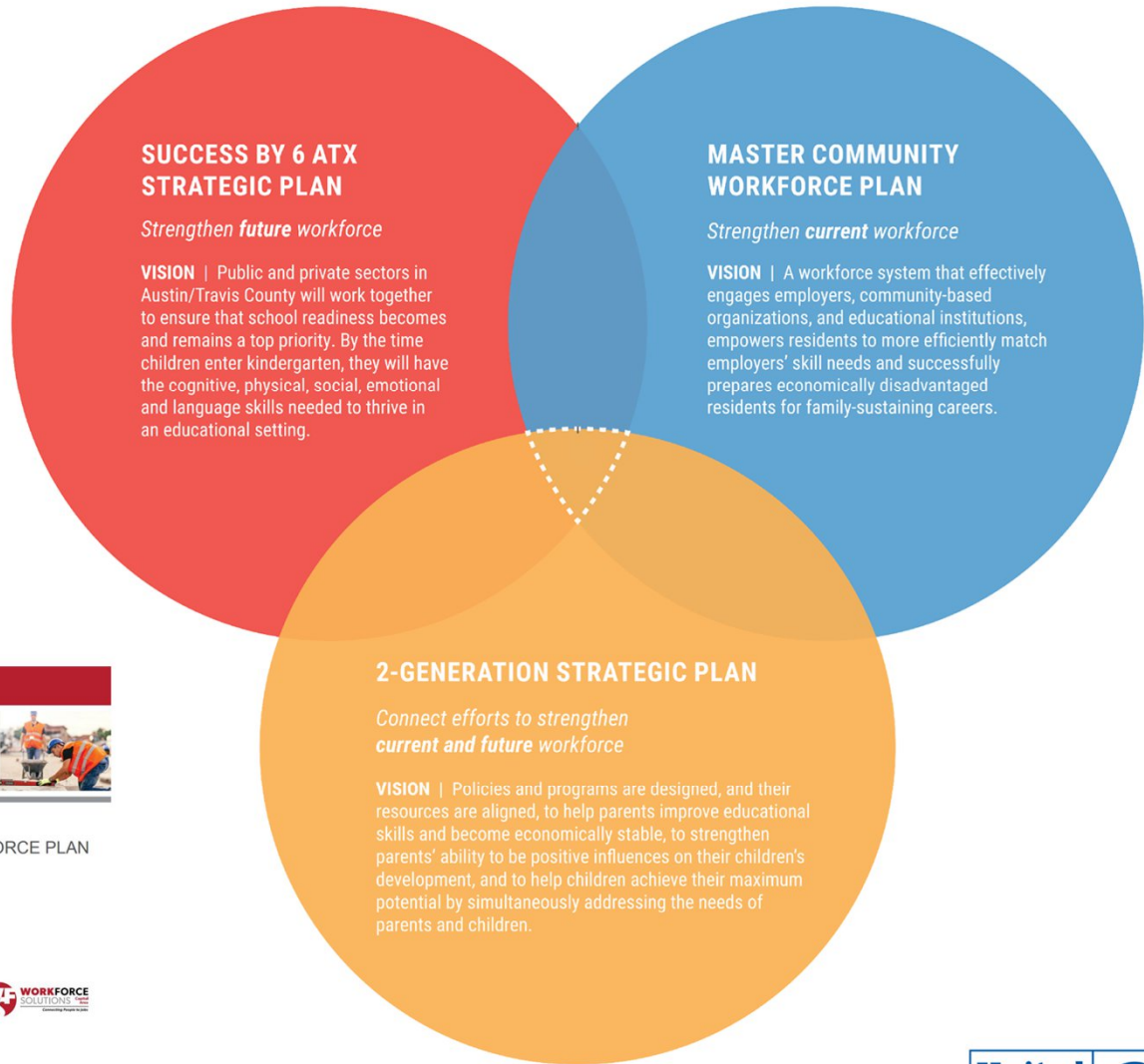
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Success By 6 Coalition







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SX6 Coalition Leadership



United Way for Greater Austin



children's
optimal health



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Framework



Healthy Beginnings

SX6 Goal: To ensure all children receive early and regular developmental screenings and immunizations, and are linked to accessible and coordinated, integrated and responsive basic needs, medical, dental, and mental health services including services for children with developmental delays.

Big Wins:

- Launched Family Connects – served over 760 families in 2019.
- National recognition for our work – Pritzker Children's Initiative.

Challenges:

- Developing meaningful relationships with clinicians
- Limitations and gaps within our healthcare systems

Opportunities:

- Larger focus on prenatal to three
- Expanding Family Connects
- Expanding Centering Pregnancy
- System for development screenings and closed loop referrals.

Today in Austin

14,000 babies are born in Austin/Travis County each year.

95%

of families have physical, mental, or social-emotional health needs within the first few weeks of a baby's birth.

15%

of African-American infants born in Austin/Travis County are born early, and 13% are born at low birth-weight.

1 in 5

children under 18 experience food insecurity.

Supported Families

SX6 Goal: To ensure families have access to and use the resources that provide them with the knowledge, skills, confidence and social supports to positively nurture the health, safety, and development of their children, and to develop greater financial stability.

Big Wins:

- Served 648 families through the City funded Ready Families Collaborative
- Recently secured foundation grants to expand home visiting and parent education services

Challenges:

- Austin affordability is making it harder to retain qualified staff
- Multiple barriers for families in participating – transportation, waitlists, etc.

Opportunities:

- Bringing in new and unexpected partners to address barriers
- New home visiting providers with different program models
- Closed-loop referral processes through ConnectATX

Today in Austin

33%

of two-parent families with low income have both parents working.

80% of single-parent families with low income are working and are still unable to meet their basic needs.

Only 8% of children 0-3 receive research- and evidence-based home visiting or parent-education services.

1,200

children younger than six are confirmed victims of child abuse or neglect.

High Quality Care & Education

SX6 Goal: To ensure children and families are informed and able to access high-quality early learning environments that demonstrate positive developmental outcomes for all children (including children with unique developmental and cultural needs) through competent, responsive, and caring relationships.

Big Wins:

- Increased the number children enrolled in AISD pre-K3 by 3,000%.
- Increase the number of children served through subsidies and enrolled in quality-rated centers by more than 80%.
- Drawing down more than \$300,000 in state funding for high-quality care through an innovative partnership between child care centers and school districts (and increasing AISD enrollment by 450+ preK students)

Challenges:

- Lack of access to quality-rated child care programs for families that rely on child care subsidies.
- Barriers to child care subsidy due to state policies & practices that impact non-English speakers.
- ECE Workforce - Disproportionality, food insecurity, and difficulty hiring

Opportunities:

- Economic Development Corporation as a vehicle to provide tangible support for access to high-quality child care.
- Expand pre-k partnerships.
- Support for Family Child Care providers

Today in Austin

The cost of high-quality infant care ranges from \$15,000 per year on Austin's east side to \$20,000 on the city's west side.

45% of programs serving children from households with low income are high quality.

Child care workers earn \$10.67 to \$14.07 an hour, but our city's living wage is \$15.

1 in 4 potential students are served by Austin ISD Pre-K3, and children from families with low income who attend Pre-K are more than twice as likely to be school ready.



Safe & Stimulating Communities

SX6 Goal: To ensure public and private sectors in Austin/Travis County work together to ensure that the community has the resources and infrastructure to deliver services to children and their families, and to provide a safe and healthy environment in which to raise children. .

Big Wins:

- New relationships: Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Commission, Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Early Childhood Council on Joint Inclusion Committee.
- Launching Connect ATX
- Launched Early Matters Greater Austin, an active and growing group of business leaders dedicated to improving early childhood outcomes.

Challenges:

- Early Childhood is often invisible or forgotten between sectors of health and education.
- ECE system is inherently fragile and fragmented with disparate eligibility requirements because of funding streams, complicated by systemic inequalities.

Opportunities:

- Redistribute public investment into early childhood sector to reduce inequity.
- Using AISD and other city/county facilities for Early Childhood programming

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\$935 per capita Denver budgeted

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\$1,141 Philadelphia invested per capita

more than 5x what Austin spends

Priorities for SX6 Coalition

- Focus on Prenatal to three
- Establish Family Leadership Initiative to elevate community voice (Fall 2019)
- Focus on Equity:
 - SX6 Coalition participation in Beyond Diversity and Undoing Racism (Fall 2019)
 - SX6 Leadership Team Strategy Sessions: Embedding an Equity Lens in Coalition and Strategic Planning (Jan. 2020)
 - Evaluate Leadership Team composition to incorporate community voice (Feb 2020)
 - Improve collection of disaggregated data to inform strategies and action steps (2020)
 - Collaboration with ATX Quality of Life Initiatives (2020)
- Ensure a Complete Count in TX 2020



Priority Asks for COA

- Hire one new FTE staff member at Austin Public Health to coordinate early childhood initiatives, programs, and services with other city departments.
- Recommend new property tax revenue from the “Manana Fund” be directed to early childhood initiatives to meet the City’s Strategic Direction 2023 goals.
- Preserve current and future funding for Parent Support Specialists (PSS) within AISD.
- Create an Economic Development Corporation as a vehicle to provide tangible support for access to high-quality child care.





Thank you