



# EARLY CHILDHOOD



**SUCCESS BY 6**  
AUSTIN/TRAVIS COALITION

**ONLY  
34 %**

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

**There is a gap between our community needs and service capacity. We have many more children who are at risk and eligible for early childhood services than our funding and programs can serve.**

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

## FUNDING GAP

Austin/Travis County investments are lagging those of other communities.

### Today in Austin

Austin/Travis County invested

**\$220**

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

San Antonio invested

**\$419** per capita

**\$935** per capita

Denver budgeted

Portland spent

**\$650** per capita

**\$1,141** per capita

Philadelphia invested

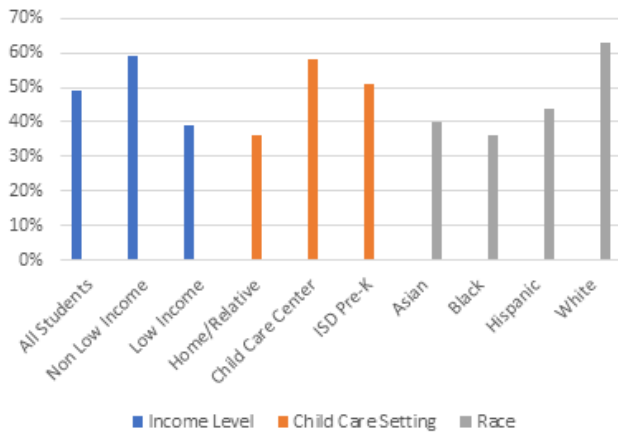
more than 5x what Austin spends

## SX6 AND 2-GEN BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Aligning with City Strategic Direction 2023 Goals

- **Hire one new FTE staff member at Austin Public Health to support Early Childhood initiatives. (\$95,000 annual cost)**
  - Bolsters early childhood integration within all relevant city departments including Quality of Life Commissions (Parks and Rec, Library, the Health Department and Schools, etc.) to improve coordination, planning service implementation and capacity building.
  - Demonstrates a strong public/private partnership by helping the community meet a required matching grant as part of \$425,000 philanthropic investment by the Pritzker Children's Learning Initiative.
  - From 1995 – 1999, the City had three staff members focused on early childhood. In 2000, budget cuts eliminated two of those positions. Since 2000, only one staff member – a program coordinator – has focused on early childhood.
- **Preserve Parent Support Specialists (PSS) funding within AISD (\$1,290,000 annual cost)**
  - PSS empower parents to become active participants in the education of their children. They develop and promote inclusive Family-Friendly Schools. Instrumental in creating a strong connection between the school, City and County departments, and community service providers using a coordinated integrated services model approach that improves the quality of life of families.
  - In 2018–2019, PSS provided services to 11,223 students' parents, families or guardians, of whom 66% had students at elementary grade levels.
  - PSS organize and/or conduct classes, trainings, and workshops to support parent education and life skills. Last year, AISD families participated in 3,339 of these events at 70 schools.
  - Using a combination of federal, district, and city funding, AISD employs PSS in 60 Title I schools. The majority are elementary schools.
- **Recommend the estimated \$3M in new property tax revenue from the "Manana Fund" be directed to early childhood initiatives as outlined in Resolution #20190620-089.**
  - Funding will help scale proven and effective programs aimed at improving access and quality and advance coordination and navigation for families and service providers.

### Percent of Children Entering Kindergarten Ready: 2018-2019



Kindergarten readiness is highly predictive of academic performance in 3rd grade, and students not reading on grade level by 3rd grade are four times more likely to drop out of school.

### MAKING ENDS MEET IN TRAVIS COUNTY

Income for a Family of 4	Low-income (200% FPL)	Survival Budget
Annual	\$52,400	\$65,688
Hourly	\$26.20	\$32.84

Survival Budget based on United Way Worldwide's ALICE Budget

### NON-BUDGETARY ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- Explore opportunities to create an Economic Development Corporation (EDC) as a vehicle to provide tangible support for access to high-quality child care.
- Expand access to underutilized Austin ISD facilities for one-stop/co-located 2-Gen models serving parents with low income and their children, including community schools and/or schools with Family Resource Centers.

### CITY OF AUSTIN DATA ON CHILDREN FROM FAMILIES WITH LOW INCOME\*

District	Approximate Number of Children Under 6 per District	Approximate Number of Young Children Living in Low Income Families (Below 200% FPL)	Percentage
1	8607	5417	63%
2	7050	4245	60%
3	6580	4642	71%
4	8392	6576	78%
5	7082	2189	31%
6	8300	1969	24%
7	7858	2138	27%
8	6400	1177	18%
9	3252	776	24%
10	5917	715	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>69439</b>	<b>29844</b>	<b>43%</b>

\*Source: 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; Table B17024 by Census Tract. Note: Ryan Robinson, City of Austin Demographer, provided United Way for Greater Austin with information about how Census Tracts map onto/overlap with City Council Districts. This information was used to calculate the percentage of children in each district. Additionally, some of these Census Tract level data have large margins of errors and for these two reasons, these numbers above are estimates and only approximate numbers.