



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Stephanie Hayden, Director

DATE: April 30, 2020

SUBJECT: Updates on Childcare Programming at Bergstrom Tech Center

As part of the FY2020 budget adoption process, Council directed staff to “consider the feasibility of including additional subsidized childcare slots for City of Austin employees or community members in need of subsidized tuition at the new Municipal Court facility.” This memorandum provides the staff response to this resolution.

Over the past several months, Austin Public Health (APH) staff has been working to design a feasible and sustainable business model for the childcare center at Bergstrom Tech Center in building 310 across from the Municipal Court. In the Request for Proposals (RFP) for a childcare center operator, staff stipulated that the operator must initially plan to enroll at least 10 children from families receiving childcare subsidies. Staff is also exploring options that would further expand the number of seats offered to families receiving subsidies as well as potential tuition discounts for City employees. Staff will discuss with finalists ways in which the number of seats reserved for children receiving subsidies might be incrementally increased over time. In addition to seats specified for children receiving childcare subsidies, income-eligible City of Austin employees can apply for City of Austin childcare assistance benefits (\$100 weekly) through the Human Resources Department.

APH currently has a request for proposals (RFP) out to find a childcare program to operate the center at Bergstrom Tech. Given the economic hardships and ongoing uncertainty the COVID-19 pandemic is causing for the childcare sector, staff anticipate there will be fewer respondents to the RFP than there would be otherwise.

If you have any questions or if we can provide additional information, please contact Stephanie Hayden at (512) 972-5010 or Stephanie.Hayden@austintexas.gov.

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