



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Early Childhood Council

Recommendation Number: 20200506-2c: Development of CARES funding program to include a \$1 million Child Care Support Fund

WHEREAS executive orders in the City of Austin, Travis County, Williamson County, and the State of Texas have limited business operations and human social interactions to protect and promote public health in response to the COVID-19 crisis; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2020, federal guidelines for expending the CARES Act funding were released, helping to lay out the rules for which the City's programs may be reimbursable, and opening up the possibility for additional assistance opportunities for the City's non-profit sector; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's order to allow businesses to reopen while schools remain closed could place additional burdens on childcare centers and families with working parents; and

WHEREAS, Workforce Solutions Capital Area estimates that 70% of the child care programs that contract for subsidized child care - serving individuals with relatively lower incomes and eligible to serve essential workers - are not currently operating; and

WHEREAS, Without financial support, child care centers will struggle to re-open because they are dealing with a variety of issues including parental health and financial concerns, safety compliance requirements, staffing issues, and economic challenges for providers both on the cost and revenue side and have had difficult securing Small Business Administration and Paycheck Protection Program loans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Early Childhood Council encourages the Austin City Council to approve the May 7, 2020, Council agenda item #23 specifically designating a Child Care Relief Support Fund of \$1 million that would provide grants to childcare centers in Austin that (1) serve families that receive childcare subsidies, (2) have at least a 2-Star Texas Rising Star quality rating, and (3) have not received Paycheck Protection Program money through the CARES Act.

Date of Approval: May 6, 2020

Record of the vote: 8-0

Attest: _____

Rachel Farley