



United Way for  
Greater Austin

2000 E MLK Jr Blvd  
Austin, TX 78702  
512.472.6267  
[unitedwayaustin.org](http://unitedwayaustin.org)

May 5, 2020

Members of the Austin City Council  
Austin City Hall  
301 West 2nd Street  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear City Council Members,

United Way for Greater Austin is proud to stand with so many non-profit organizations in our joint letter to support the full \$6 million in the resolution to support our non-profit ecosystem. In addition, please accept this letter in support for Agenda Item #23 slated for discussion during the May 7<sup>th</sup> City Council Hearing. Item #23 creates a \$1 million Child Care Relief Support Fund.

The Child Care Relief Support Fund would provide grants to childcare centers in Austin that (1) serve families that receive child care subsidies (2) have at least a 2-Star quality rating and (3) have not received PPP money through CARES. Supporting access to high-quality child care is increasingly critical as providers work to reopen so families can begin returning to work.

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. Only 1,375 child care seats are currently available for essential workers in Austin/Travis County (*per 4/30/20 report from Workforce Solutions Capital Area*).

Without financial support, child care centers will struggle to reopen because they are dealing with a variety of issues including new COVID safety compliance requirements, staffing issues, and economic challenges for providers both on the cost and revenue side.

Please consider Austin's youngest constituents and their families by supporting Agenda Items #23. By doing so, you are providing vital financial support to quality child care programs, helping our children get the start they deserve to reach their full potential while creating opportunities for families wanting to get back to work to access safe and nurturing care and education for their children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David C. Smith".

David C. Smith  
Chief Executive Officer

**LIVE UNITED**