



21           **WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Austin has approved more than  
22 \$2 million in grants and other support for child-care centers and providers  
23 struggling with financial hardships resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, but  
24 this support is still insufficient without continued support and coordination at the  
25 state level; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

26 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

27           The State of Texas should immediately take action to address the impending  
28 economic and public health crisis that will result from the closure of child-care  
29 centers in Texas due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

30           Adequate response to this looming crisis should include:

- 31           • The creation and dissemination of a clear, action-oriented plan to release and  
32           distribute adequate resources from the state to meet the financial demands on  
33           child-care facilities with the goal of assisting them in remaining safely  
34           operational during and after the COVID-19 pandemic;
- 35           • Spending sufficient federal and state dollars to provide relief for child-care  
36           centers at risk of closing because of financial distress;
- 37           • Clear guidance for child-care facilities on safe operations to mitigate the  
38           spread of COVID-19, with recommended best practices and guidance on  
39           implementing state and local orders, such as the wearing of face masks;

- 40       • Increased coordination between public health and licensing entities at the  
41       state to ensure that child care centers maintain a central focus in Texas’s  
42       public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- 43       • Guidance and assistance for child care programs that do not serve families  
44       receiving subsidies, including private-pay and family programs;
- 45       • Guidance for parents to help them make informed decisions about their  
46       children’s safety;
- 47       • Adequate monitoring of child-care centers to ensure that licensing standards  
48       and guidance on safe operations are being followed;
- 49       • Resources and financial assistance available for employees providing care in  
50       child-care facilities, the majority of whom do not have employer-provided  
51       health insurance and who earn low wages;
- 52       • Reauthorizing the essential worker subsidy so that essential workers can be  
53       assured that they will have child care available;
- 54       • Additional funding and support for full-day child care for eligible school-age  
55       children in school districts that have opted to provide virtual instruction at  
56       the beginning of the 2020-21 school year; and
- 57       • Continuing the standard of enhanced payments based on enrollment, rather  
58       than attendance.

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60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

61           The City Manager will deliver this resolution to the Governor, Lieutenant  
62 Governor, the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, the Chair and  
63 Commissioners of the Texas Workforce Commission, the Chair and  
64 Commissioners of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, and  
65 Austin’s state legislative delegation.

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68 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2020      **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk