



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Early Childhood Council

20210310-3ci: Budget Recommendation that Current Early Childhood Funding be Maintained

WHEREAS, almost 32,000 children under age 6 in Austin/Travis County live in households with low income and 90% of these 32,000 children are children of color;

WHEREAS, Only 34% of children under age 4 from families with low income are receiving any early learning services;

WHEREAS, Only 38% of children from households with low-income and only 34% of Black children begin Kindergarten ready to learn and succeed in school;

WHEREAS, decades of research prove that the disadvantages begin the moment children come into the world because children born into poverty and children of color are disproportionately born early, at low-birth-weight, or with chronic illnesses, and are less likely than their peers to be ready for, or successful at, school;

WHEREAS, a child who begins Kindergarten ready to succeed is set on a path that predicts their third-grade reading level, high-school graduation, justice system involvement, college perseverance, and adult earning potential;

WHEREAS, community investment in early childhood programs results in not only more successful individual citizens, but also significant economic benefits for the community as a whole;

WHEREAS, the current funding in the City of Austin budget aligns with the goals and strategies of the Austin/Travis County Success By 6 Strategic plan - a robust, data-driven community strategic plan designed to coordinate efforts, improve child and family outcomes as well as build more efficient and coordinated systems for equitable access;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Early Childhood Council recommends that the City of Austin maintain all current funding for early childhood programs and services through Austin Public Health including:

Social Services Contracts

\$1,652,316	Any Baby Can of Austin, Inc. - Ready Families Collaborative
\$51,128	Austin Community College District - Teacher Director TRAC

\$479,330	Child Inc. - After School and Summer Early Education and Care
\$534,831	Workforce Solutions Capital Area - Continuity of Care/Direct Child Care
\$397,011	Workforce Solutions Capital Austin – Child Care Quality
Other:	
\$274,319	Bergstrom Tech Childcare Facility Lease
\$128,000	Pre-K Classrooms in Area School Districts

Date of Approval: March 10, 2021

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a vote of 7-0

Attest:


