

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**WHEREAS**, the need to address the negative impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic persists one year after the initial COVID-19 case was reported in Austin, Texas on March 13, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the success of post-pandemic recovery greatly depends on measures pursued by local government in partnership with community organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, the goal of policy should be to protect public health while addressing the inequitable impacts of the virus across the city, including economic hardship; and

**WHEREAS**, low-income, minority and marginalized communities have historically faced barriers to accessing health resources, which is now witnessed through COVID-19 vaccination distribution efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical to expeditiously and strategically maximize the benefits of federal funds available under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster assistance in the Austin/Travis County area, in addition to other available grant opportunities;

**NOW THEREFORE,**

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

24 The City Manager is directed to offer educational outreach to employers, with  
25 a targeted focus on those with vulnerable workforces and frontline personnel,  
26 to encourage vaccine support programs that increase access to vaccines by  
27 employees and grant time-off to those wishing to secure them.  
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30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

31 The City Manager is directed to identify existing funding, ~~or~~ funds the City  
32 receives under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, or funding available through  
33 FEMA reimbursement, able and available to be used to address the continued impact  
34 of COVID-19, consistent with other Council direction, by:

- 35 1. Prioritizing a mobile testing program and a mobile vaccine program for  
36 seniors, homebound individuals, and minority, low-income  
37 communities living in multi-generational settings;
- 38 2. Increasing agriculture and nutrition programs for individuals living in  
39 areas with limited access to grocery stores. This shall include a staff  
40 analysis determining various contracting mechanisms and options to  
41 achieve emergency food distribution to those negatively impacted by  
42 COVID-19, which could also be activated during a natural disaster;
- 43 3. Continuing support for small business assistance, including specific  
44 programs for restaurants and live music venues, as well as creating new  
45 grants for live music venues, art galleries, and cultural programming  
46 venues; and
- 47 4. Developing mental health services to address the impacts of the  
48 COVID-19 pandemic and expanding partnerships with existing

49 partners and contractors to provide mental health services. This shall  
50 also include an accessible online platform serving to connect the public  
51 to local mental health care services.

52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

53 The City Manager is directed to report back to Council no later than April 16,  
54 2021 regarding identified funding and methods for implementing or continuing the  
55 listed programs related to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the status of educational  
56 efforts with targeted employers.

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59 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk