



DOWNTOWN AUSTIN COMMUNITY COURT ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATION 20230324-005

Date: March 24, 2023

Subject: Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Recommendations

Motioned By: Vice Chair Nicole Goldman

Seconded By: Commissioner Sylvia Alvarado

Recommendation

1. Secure a centrally located, permanent facility for the DACC;
2. \$2,029,800 of ongoing funding for six grant-funded clinical case managers and programmatic funding to continue connecting clients to housing;
3. \$150,000 of ongoing funding to enhance the Violet KeepSafe Storage Program; and
4. \$676,600 of ongoing funding to augment DACC's Intensive Case Management capacity by adding two clinical case manager FTEs and programmatic funding to continue connecting clients to housing.

Description of Recommendation to Council

1. For more than 7 years, DACC functioned without adequate space for its operation at 719 E 6th St. Its current location at One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Rd., is more spacious, but only temporary and less proximate to other downtown services. It is vital that DACC be provided a permanent, centrally located home to provide essential community-based services for individuals experiencing homelessness.
2. Six clinical case managers and funding for housing expenses for clients served by these case managers were initially funded by Emergency Solutions Grants – CARES Act funding, which ended in 2022. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are currently being used for these staff and programmatic funding to connect clients to housing, which will end in December 2024.

Ongoing funding should be identified for these staff and programmatic expenses to maintain current service capacity of connecting 50 individuals to housing per year. If ongoing funds through the City are allocated in the fiscal year 2024 budget, continuity for the case management and housing resources would be ensured. ARPA funds currently being utilized by DACC could be reallocated to other homeless service providers through 2026 due to ARPA terms allowing the City to provide contracted

services through this time period.

3. Increase funding for the Violet KeepSafe Storage program to contract with a nonprofit provider for oversight, wraparound supports and employment benefits for staff, which are not available currently for the temporary employees currently operating the program.
4. Funds for two additional permanent Case Manager positions, along with an additional vehicle and corresponding social service dollars per case manager. On average over the last several years, DACC has consistently had a waitlist of between 200-300 people wanting to engage in housing-focused Intensive Case Management services. DACC's five-year plan is to expand staff sustainably each year to address this need over time.

Rationale:

DACC is serving Austin's most vulnerable citizens and stabilizing their lives to the benefit of the entire Austin community. The Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Board wholeheartedly and enthusiastically supports the DACC services and the Courts request for resources to continue providing needed services to its clients. **The Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Board urges City Council to allocate funds and explore all available means to avoid setbacks and instead increase DACC's efforts to address homelessness in Austin.**

Vote

For: *Lea Downey Gallatin, Chair; Nicole Golden, Vice Chair; Sylvia Alvarado, Jason English, Jocelyn Schwartz, Roy Woody, Kate Garza*

Against: N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: *Kergin Bedell*

Attest: *Lea Downey Gallatin, Chair*


