



RECOMMENDATION
Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities

Recommendation Number 20230310-3a : Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget Recommendation to increase funding for recreational services, including day habilitation services, for children and adults with intellectual disabilities

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities (MCPD) regularly considers significant and diverse issues impacting residents of and visitors to the City of Austin with disabilities, including those with intellectual disabilities;

WHEREAS, family members of children and adults with intellectual disabilities have experienced an acute lack of recreational and vocational programming for children and adults with intellectual disabilities in Austin;

WHEREAS, recreational and vocational programming for children and adults with intellectual disabilities provided by the City of Austin is not able to accommodate all of the children and adults with intellectual disabilities who need that programming;

WHEREAS, recreational and vocational programming for children and adults with intellectual disabilities provided by the City of Austin at the McBeth Recreational Center, the Alamo Recreational Center and the Dottie Jordan Recreational Center have long waiting lists, including for those children and adults using state funds for people with disabilities and those privately paying for that programming;

WHEREAS, the staffing ratios for adults with intellectual disabilities that are 22 years and older in City of Austin day habilitation programs are half of what they are for people with intellectual disabilities under 22 years of age at City of Austin recreational centers, including McBeth Recreational Center, the Alamo Recreational Center and the Dottie Jordan Recreational Center;

WHEREAS, the lack of available day habilitation programming for children and adults with intellectual disabilities negatively impacts their quality of life and negatively impacts the quality of life and ability to work of their family members who care for them;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MCPD requests that the City prioritize for funding in its Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget increased funding for programming through the City of Austin Parks Department and the City's Public Health Department for people with intellectual disabilities, including increased funding for recreational programming for children and day habilitation programming for adults with intellectual disabilities at the McBeth Recreational Center, the Alamo Recreational Center and the Dottie Jordan Recreational Center and at other recreational centers, for those paying for such programming using state funds or paying privately, and increased inclusive recreational programming for people with intellectual disabilities and those without in all parts of Austin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities requests that the Austin City Council allocate funds and explore all available means to increase programming and improve services for people with disabilities.

Date of Approval: Friday, March 10, 2023

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 6-0 vote

Attest: 

(Staff Liaison, Jacquelyn Alexander)

For: Chair Jonathan Franks, Deborah Trejo, Robin Orłowski, Kathryn Broadwater, Jennifer S. Powell, and Micheal Fetonte.