



**JOINT INCLUSION COMMITTEE (JIC)
FY23-2024 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION 20230322-013
HEALTH PRIORITY – MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Date: March 22, 2023

Subject: Joint Endorsement of the Asian American Quality-of-Life Advisory Commission's FY23-24 Budget Recommendation 0230321-010: Mental Health Services (JIC Health Priority)

Motioned by: Commissioner Amy Temperley Seconded By: Commissioner Jennifer Powell

ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY-OF-LIFE ADISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20230321-010

JOINTLY ENDORSED RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL ON FY23-2024 BUDGET

The Joint Inclusion Committee (JIC) collectively endorses the Asian American Quality-of-Life Advisory Commission's recommendation that Austin City Council increase funding of existing Asian Pacific Islander (API) focused mental health services at \$250,000 annually through APH's Health Equity contracting portfolio.

For the FY 2020 City Budget, the Asian American Quality-of-Life Advisory Commission submitted a budget recommendation for mental health education, outreach, and service provision in the amount of \$200,000. This item was funded in the FY 2020 Approved Budget at \$100,000. This funding is ongoing. The need in the community is increasing and the Commission recommends ongoing funding of \$350,000 ongoing, an increase of \$250,000.

Data from the City's Asian American Quality of Life Initiative study showed higher levels of mental distress and serious mental illness across all of Austin's largest Asian American ethnic groups when compared to the general U.S. population. Growing political tensions with China results in increased need for mental health services in the community. In addition, these groups also exhibited low utilization levels of psychiatrists, psychologists, and other mental health professionals (counselors, marriage therapists, social workers).

According to data from APH's community surveys, respondents consistently rank additional access to behavior health services as a top need. An increase of funds would allow APH to identify and potentially contract with additional behavioral health providers that provide services, especially in underserved communities.

Cost is \$250,000 ongoing (total ongoing cost of \$350,000 inclusive of the current \$100,000 funding level).

DEPARTMENT

Austin Public Health

ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Health & Environment: Healthy conditions among individuals (absence of unhealthy conditions).

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 – 0

For: African American Resource Advisory Commission: Gregory Smith
Commission for Women: Rebecca Austen
Commission on Aging: Amy Temperley
Early Childhood Council: Raul Alvarez
Hispanic/Latino Quality-of-Life-Resource Advisory Commission: Amanda Afifi
LGBTQ+ Quality-of-Life Advisory Commission: Charles Curry
Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities: Jennifer Powell

Against: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Commission on Immigrant Affairs: Juan Vences-Benitez
Human Rights Commission: Idonna Griffith
Asian American Quality-of-Life Advisory Commission: Hanna Huang

Attest: Jeremy Garza, Staff Liaison, Equity Office:

x Jeremy Garza