



**JOINT INCLUSION COMMITTEE (JIC)
FY23-2024 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION 20230322-015
AFFORDABILITY PRIORITY – EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENTS**

Date: March 22, 2023

Subject: Joint Endorsement of the Early Childhood Council’s FY23-24 Budget Recommendation 20230308-10: Regarding Early Childhood Investments (JIC Affordability Priority)

Motioned by: Commissioner Raul Alvarez Seconded By: Commissioner Amy Temperley

EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION 20230308-10

JOINTLY ENDORSED RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL ON FY23-2024 BUDGET

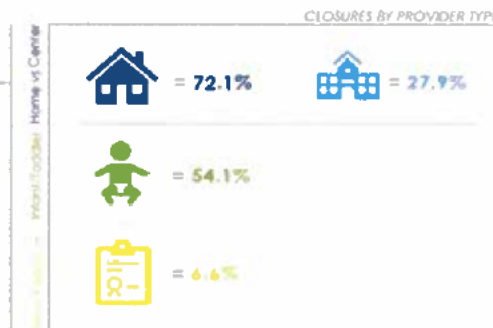
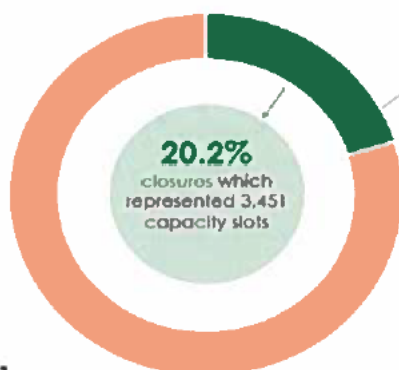
WHEREAS, in the City of Austin, only 36% of children under age four living in households with low income are receiving any early learning services at all; and

WHEREAS, 90% of these children age birth to 4 are children of color; and

WHEREAS, decades of research prove that 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; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the early childhood sector in Texas, with an estimated loss of 22% of the state childcare supply, as well as a disproportionate effect on communities of color in Austin; and

Capital Area Closures as of September 2021



WHEREAS, current City investments in early childhood programs align 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; and

WHEREAS, the investments align with the City of Austin Strategic Direction Strategic EOA.10: "Create equitable access to quality Early Childhood Education (ECE) by supporting families who do not qualify for existing free programs and cannot afford quality programs on their own, increasing availability of quality ECE programs, and encouraging living wages for ECE providers"; and

WHEREAS, these investments also align with the Strategic Direction 2023, including equity, affordability, sustainability, resiliency, proactive prevention, community trust, & relationships;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Joint Inclusion Committee collectively endorses the Early Childhood Council's recommendation to Council that City of Austin maintains all current investments in early childhood programs and infrastructure, including but not limited to:

- Social service contracts
 - Ready Families Collaborative for Home Visiting/Parent Support
 - Teacher-Director TRAC (Scholarships)
 - Afterschool & Summer Care - Early Head Start & Head Start
 - Quality Child Care Initiatives and Continuity of Care
- Start-up costs for PreK classrooms in Area School Districts
- Staffing (two FTE) positions specifically for early childhood in Austin Public Health
- City-funded early childhood facilities
- Essential infrastructure such as Family Connects, Maternal and Infant Outreach Program, and WIC programs specifically serve families with young children from prenatal to age six.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Inclusion Committee collectively endorses the Early Childhood Council recommendation to Council that the City of Austin also:

- Allocate full funding to pilot the innovative Economic Development Grant Program for Child Care Programs, which has been identified in City Council Resolution No. 20230126-0SS as a mechanism to increase access to high-quality affordable early childhood services; and
- Incorporate inflation-adjusted increases of 20% for early childhood social service contracts.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 – 0

For: African American Resource Advisory Commission: Gregory Smith
Asian American Quality-of-Life Advisory Commission: Hanna Huang
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

Attest: Jeremy Garza, Staff Liaison, Equity Office:

x Jeremy Garza