

Welcome to the Community Investment Budget Information Session!

Hosted by Equity Action ATX

Introductions

Who is Equity Action?

- Equity Action is a Political Action Committee (PAC) focused on centering equity and justice in Austin's political system.

What is the Community Investment Budget?

- In collaboration with dozens of community organizations, Equity Action has been facilitating a 2024 Community Investment Budget that will ask Austin City Council to commit to invest directly to community needs, such as: increased wages for Parent Support Specialists, emergency rental assistance and tenant support services, social services for those experiencing homelessness, increased funding for park support, and much more.

History of CIB and other Community-Led Budget Initiatives

Austin has a long history of community-based budgeting.

- Over many years Communities of Color United presented their People's Budget. They started something amazing, where people discuss and decide priorities for local spending.
- Then in 2021, the Austin Police Association and Save Austin Now put a measure on the ballot that would have required Austin to spend all the available new money coming in on police, regardless of other needs. Austin said No Way!
- Out of that big coalition to protect the budget came the first Community Investment Budget for FY22-23. We pressed the city to think about public safety in a new way -- well maintained parks, shelter, youth activities, EMS's staffing, an independent forensic lab.
- This year we're back, because housing stability, workforce development, child development, and increasing wages for City Employees and EMS should be of utmost priority in the upcoming budget cycle.

Who are the organizations involved?

ACLU of Texas
Alliance for Safety and Justice
Austin Area Urban League
Austin Community Law Center
Austin Environmental Democrats
Austin Justice Coalition
Austin Mutual Aid
Austin Urban Technology
Movement
Avow
Blackland CDC
Black Lives Veggies The
Nonprofit
Black Mamas ATX
Community Resilience Trust
Crime Survivors for Safety and
Justice

District 5 for Black Lives
East Austin Conservancy
Education Austin
Equity Action
Fruitful Commons
Fund Texas Choice
Go Austin/ Vamos Austin
Ground Game Texas
Hungry Hill Foundation
Just Liberty
Lilith Fund
MISMA (Mujeres Inspiradas en
Sueños, Metas y Acciones)
Planning Our Communities
Pro Choice with Heart
Public Citizen
Save Our Springs Alliance

Sierra Club, Austin Regional Group
Statewide Leadership Council
Sunrise Movement Austin
Survive2Thrive Foundation
Sustainable Food Center
Texas Center for Justice and Equity
Texas Fair Defense Project
Texas Harm Reduction Alliance
Texas Women's Justice Coalition
The NICE Project
Tomorrow's Promise Foundation
Undoing White Supremacy Austin
University Democrats
Zilker Neighborhood Association
And the list continues to grow...

How does the City Budget work?

- Community input → Boards & Commissions
 - November thru March
- Boards & Commissions → City departments, Staff, City Council
 - April thru August
- City Manager releases Proposed Budget
 - July 14
- City Council works on budget based on CM's proposal
 - August

The FY2023-24 Proposed Budget document will be delivered to each council office on Friday, July 14, 2023. Staff will also provide a proposed budget presentation to the full council on Wednesday, July 19, 2023. The full proposed budget calendar dates are below.

April	
Friday, April 28, 2023	Financial Forecast Report Delivered
*Tuesday May 2, 2023	Financial Forecast Presentation

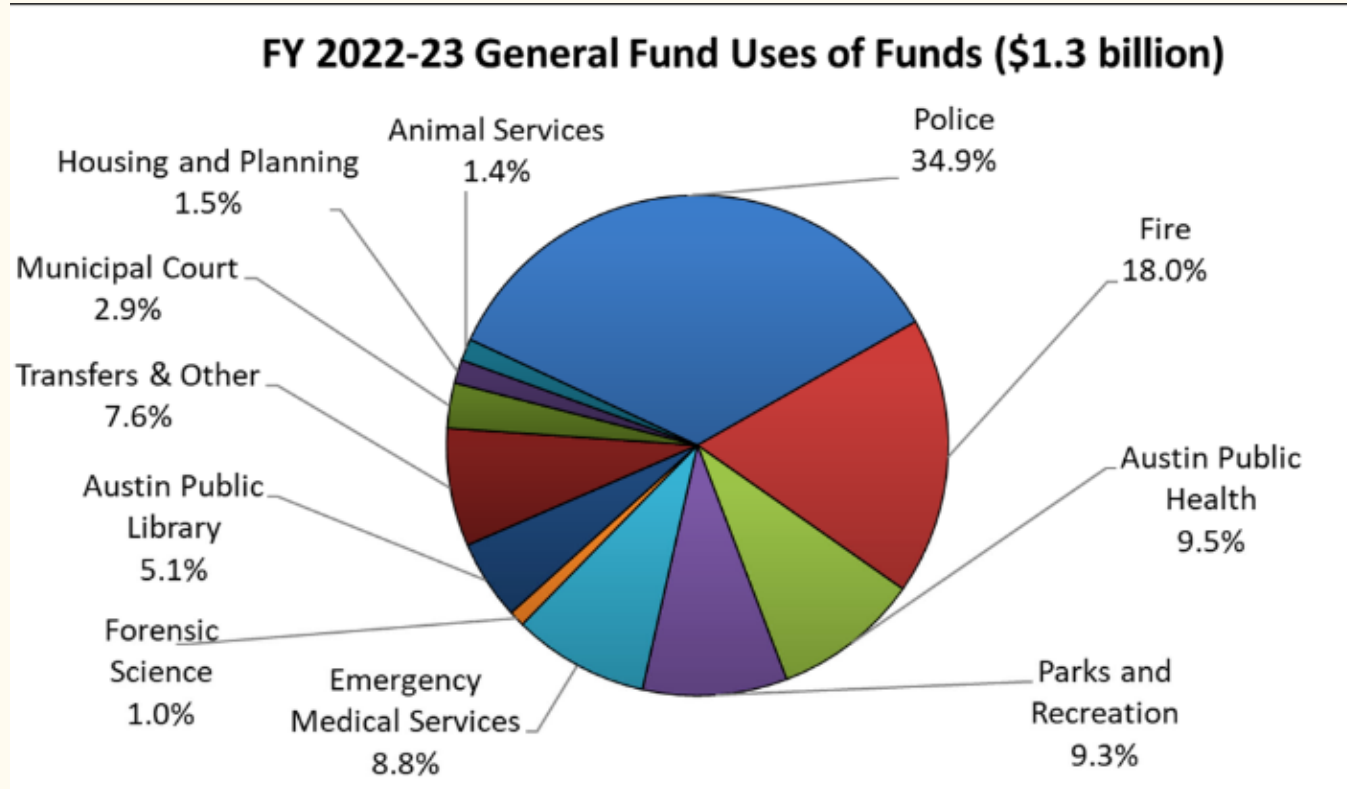
July	
Friday July 14, 2023	Proposed Budget Distributed
*Wednesday, July 19, 2023	Proposed Budget Presentation
Wednesday, July 26, 2023	Council Budget Work Session & Input Meeting (10am)

August	
Tuesday, August 1, 2023	Council Budget work session (10am)
Thursday, August 3, 2023	Council Budget Work Session (10am), *set max tax rate & community input (3pm)
Tuesday, August 8, 2023	Council budget work session (10am)
Thursday, August 10, 2023	Council Budget Work session (10am)
Wednesday, August 16, 2023	Budget Public Hearing & Public Hearing on Tax Rate
Wednesday-Friday, August 16-18, 2023	Budget Readings(10am); includes ratify increase and adopt tax rate (10am); call election, if necessary

What did last year's Community Investment Budget (CIB) look like?

Let's take a look!

What did the '23 -'24 COA Budget look like?



What does this year's CIB look like?

Let's take a look!

Why is the CIB important?

When Winter Storm Uri wreaked havoc across Austin, community members and organizations were the first to respond.

Parent Support Specialists checked in on families to make sure they had what they needed to be safe, mutual aid and nonprofit organizations mobilized to rescue people from their homes (whether in a house or on the street), and local restaurants donated their time, food, and space to prepare and distribute meals.

Our public libraries serve as community spaces, resource centers for unhoused and low-income people, and cultural hubs. EMS and City Workers are exploring opportunities in other cities due to salaries that have not kept pace with the increase cost of living in Austin. Lack of affordable, safe childcare is a barrier from employment and other opportunities to many families across the city.

Why is the CIB important?

Safety and security mean people to call on when it might take a village. That sometimes means an arrest and a criminal charge, but often that is not the best answer to the problem at hand. Maybe mental health services. Maybe shelter.

A safe and secure community is one in which people's basic needs are met; one in which everyone has access to safe and clean housing, to a good education, to fresh and healthful food, to resources during times of crisis, to well-maintained parks, and more.

The City of Austin spends more than 1/3 of its budget on police alone, which addresses only a fraction of safety overall. The CIB was created to provide guidance on how to address community safety using the remaining 2/3 of the City budget.

Why is the CIB important?

While Austin is considered one of the best cities in the country to live in for many people, we still have a long way to go to ensure that it is the best for everyone- regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, and income.

The CIB details just over \$100 million, or 7% of the roughly \$1.3 billion General Revenue budget, in funding recommendations to directly address existing community needs and ways to improve the quality of life for Austinites across the city.

In Austin, we value and cherish our neighbors, and our City's spending should reflect it. It is in our power to do it. But as a community, we need to tell our leaders: this is what we want.

Does APD need more money?

You have no doubt heard about the vacancies at APD.

Adding money to APD's budget this year will not help. APD has more than enough money already and cannot possibly hire and train enough people this year to fill the open seats (for which it already has funding.)

Meanwhile, EMS continues to also face high vacancies and cannot match salaries with competing options for trained staff. The 911 call center is in crisis, with vacancy rates topping 40%. If you call 911 and no one can answer the phone, then the rest of the system fails.

How can you support?

Contact the City Manager's Office

Contact your City Council Member

Contact a Board or Commission that is relevant to your life

Follow Equity Action on social media (@equityactionatx) and repost/engage with any content about the CIB

Community/neighborhood Meetings

Endorse the CIB (as an individual or a group)

For more information and to request the CIB Advocacy Packet with further instructions on how to participate, contact Daniela Silva at danielasilvatx@gmail.com

Questions?