

FY24

Community Investment Budget

—

Led 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.

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 Independent School
District
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
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 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...

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 more than just criminalization.

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 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.

What did the FY23 Community Investment Budget (CIB) look like?

Let's take a look!

FY24 CIB?

Let's take a look!

Environmental Highlights

- Implementation of the Austin Climate Equity Plan [\$685,000]
- Park Maintenance, Safety, Equity, and Restoration [\$3.9M]
- Value-based Food Procurement [\$3M]
- Food Sovereignty and Food Systems-Related Funding [\$2M]

How can you support?

We request that this body make a recommendation to Council to include the Community Investment Budget *in its entirety* in the upcoming budget cycle.

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

Questions?