

Kaleel, Halana

From: Monica Guzman <monica@goaustinvamosaustin.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Afifi, Amanda - BC; Fowler, Elaina - BC; Huang, Hanna - BC; Holbrook Janeway, Jaryn; Mchorse, Catherine - BC; Melendez, Diana - BC; Temperley, Amy - BC; Griffith, Idona - BC; Franks, Jonathan - BC
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Commission Chairs Afifi, Fowler, Huang, Gonzales, McHorse, Melendez, Temperly, Griffith, and Franks-

I am forwarding GAVA's City of Austin Budget Recommendations: Fiscal Year 2024. Please share with your respective commissions and networks.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Monica Guzmán

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Monica Guzman <monica@goaustinvamosaustin.org>
Date: Wed, Jul 5, 2023 at 3:20 PM
Subject: GAVA | City of Austin Budget Recommendations: Fiscal Year 2024
To: Kirk P Watson <Kirk.Watson@austintexas.gov>, Paige Ellis <paige.ellis@austintexas.gov>, Natasha Harper-Madison <natasha.madison@austintexas.gov>, Vanessa Fuentes <Vanessa.Fuentes@austintexas.gov>, José Miguel Anwar Velásquez <jose.velasquez@austintexas.gov>, José Vela III <Chito.Vela@austintexas.gov>, Ryan Alter <ryan.alter@austintexas.gov>, Mackenzie Kelly <Mackenzie.Kelly@austintexas.gov>, Leslie Pool <Leslie.Pool@austintexas.gov>, Zohaib Qadri <zohaib.qadri@austintexas.gov>, Alison Alter <Alison.Alter@austintexas.gov>, Jesús Garza <Jesus.Garza@austintexas.gov>, Coleman, Kellee <Kellee.Coleman@austintexas.gov>, Laura Patiño <Laura.Patino@austintexas.gov>, Rosie Truelove <Rosie.Truelove@austintexas.gov>, Ken Snipes <Ken.Snipes@austintexas.gov>, Adrienne Sturup <Adrienne.Sturup@austintexas.gov>
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Mayor Watson, MPT Ellis, Esteemed Council Members, Interim City Manager Garza, Interim Chief Equity Officer Coleman, Chief Resiliency Officer Patiño, Directors Truelove, Snipes, and Sturup-



City of Austin Budget Recommendations: Fiscal Year 2024

As a member of the Equity Action Coalition, GAVA supports the [Community Investment Budget](#) (CIB) and its priorities. We would like to draw your attention to some of the priorities contained within the CIB and provide additional context that underpins GAVA's support of these critical investments in our neighborhoods of focus and across Austin:

Tenant Notification & Relocation Assistance Ordinance [\$500,000]

Tenants are being displaced every day due to increased redevelopment that results in demolition of market-affordable housing with higher rental rates, resulting in rapid gentrification and displacement. Austin City Council approved the [Tenant Notification & Relocation Assistance Ordinance](#) in 2016, yet funding was never established for the Tenant Notification & Relocation Assistance Program.

Invest \$500,000 (\$2,000/person for up to 250 people) in the [Tenant Notification & Relocation Assistance Program](#), to mitigate the harm to communities being displaced.

Guaranteed Income Program [\$3M]

Expand the [successful Austin Guaranteed Income Pilot](#) and invest \$2.7M to maintain service levels as currently served in Fiscal Year 2023 for 135 households, at \$12,000/household + \$300,000 in operating support.

Resilience Hubs [\$5.5M]

The City allocated \$3 million from one-time American Rescue Plan Act funds to create Resilience Hubs. While six hubs are currently in the pilot phase, these funds need to continue to be prioritized and be encumbered by FY 2024 to support these hubs. Resilience hubs and neighborhood centers must be supplied with critical on-site materials and resources like generators and power banks, landlines and radio/walkie-talkies, first aid and medical equipment, personal hygiene supplies and stored water.

Resilience hubs used as heating/cooling centers during heat waves must be resourced with funding and personnel to provide extended hours and family-friendly environments. They must be stocked with basic needs items, shelf-stable food and diapers, and other critical needs.

In addition, those sites need dedicated bilingual staff members who are informed about weather conditions and social service supports for residents who come there. The Resilience Office is planning to utilize the ARPA funds to cover some of these expenses. However, additional funding is needed on an annual basis to support the long-term sustainability of the program and expansion. **Therefore we implore City Council to invest at least \$4.5M to address the funding transition from ARPA Funds to the City's base budget and \$1M to budget for:**

- Parks and Recreation Department to make improvements to facilities (resilience hubs)
- Austin Public Health to improve cold weather sheltering processes
- Economic Development Department for workforce and childcare programs
- Homeland Security and Emergency Management for disaster preparedness supplies, and
- all departments, and Office of Resilience, for outreach and education on resilience

Heat Mitigation [\$2M]

- In order to reduce negative health impacts from increased temperatures and urban heat island effect due to considerable impervious cover, we urge Council to increase funding in PARD Aquatics for splash pads, pools, and the staffing increases for maintenance of these and other heat mitigation measures in our disproportionately impacted communities, especially in the Rundberg community and St Johns neighborhood.

Early Childhood Education and Development [\$1.25M]

Support home-based registered child care providers and licensed Family, Friend, Neighbor

(FFN) caregivers with professional development and economic relief to address concerns

about lack of access to retirement and family leave support during emergencies. Direct assistance to 75 home-based registered and FFN providers + Austin Public Health operational costs. [\$1M]

Establish an Early Childhood Advisory Council for the Mayor's Child Care Initiative consisting

of providers, inclusive of home-based registered child care providers and licensed Family,

Friend, Neighbor (FFN) caregivers and parents to share their lived experience, expertise, and needs to inform the priorities of the initiative. [\$250,000]

Invest:

- \$200,000 to stipend EC Advisory Council participants
- \$50,000 for operating support

Regards,

Monica Guzmán, Policy Director

Carmen Llanes, Executive Director

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Monica Guzmán (she/her/hers)

Policy Director

GO! Austin/VAMOS! Austin

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Go Austin/Vamos Austin (GAVA) is a coalition of neighbors and community partners breaking down barriers to healthy living in Austin's Eastern Crescent. GAVA organizes and mobilizes community power to reduce barriers to health while increasing institutional capacity to respond to the people most impacted by historic inequities.

Note: COVID-19 Resources are available on the GAVA [website](#).

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Policy Director

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