# City of Austin Early Childhood Council

August 12, 2023



# Purpose of the Early Childhood Council\*

- make recommendations to the city council for the creation, development, and implementation of programs that promote optimal development for young children;
- develop, for recommendation to city council, programs and activities that contribute to the continued development of a system of high-quality early care and education and afterschool programs for Austin's children;
- explore and develop, for recommendation to city council, cooperative arrangements with area governments in the metropolitan region to support a system of quality early care and education;

# Purpose of the Early Childhood Council\*

- encourage volunteerism and philanthropic efforts in order to generate broadbased community involvement and support for quality early care and education and promote the well being of families of young children; and
- develop, for recommendation to city council, strategies encouraging individuals and agencies to continually improve the quality of their services for young children; and
- support innovative approaches to quality early care and education and leadership development in fields relating to the optimal development of young children.

# Alignment

- The Early Childhood Council is a member of the Austin/Travis County Success by 6 Strategic Plan, and has representation at the Leadership Team.
  - City of Austin & Travis County align early childhood investments with the goals, strategies and recommendations of the ATX SX6 Strategic Plan
- The Early Childhood Council is a member of the City of Austin Joint Inclusion Committee.
  - The purpose of the JIC is to advise the council on issues pertaining to diversity and inclusion

28% or 25,000
children under six in Travis County
live in households
with low income.



of children six from experience are children

of children under six from households experiencing poverty are children of color.

# Austin / Travis County Strategic Plan Framework

MOMHY'S

Safe & Stimulating

Communities

Healthy

**Beginnings** 



Children and parents/caregivers are physically, emotionally, and socially healthy.

### **Program and Policy**

All families receive nurse home visits for newborns, and have access to negative-experience assessments, developmental screenings, and mental health consultations.

The community is aware of the public spaces.

> Civic leaders and organizations adopt, expand, and support policies and investment in high-quality early childhood programs, services, and infrastructure.

### **Child and Family** Supported **Families**

Families' basic needs are met, so that parents/caregivers can provide nurturing, responsive care, including talking, singing, and reading to their children every day.

### **Program and Policy**

Families have access to universal connection and referral systems, parent education, home visits, books, and adult education and workforce development.

## **High-Quality Care & Education**

### **Child and Family**

Children's development is fulfilled by responsive, nurturing, and engaging care either in the home, or in a licensed facility, Head Start program, or Pre-K classroom.

### **Program and Policy**

Families have access to high-quality early-learning options that meet their needs, and early childhood educators who are well-prepared and well-paid.

### **Child and Family**

importance of the early years and prioritizes children's development. including providing family-friendly

### Program and Policy

# How has this collective work impacted Family-Based Child Care Programs?

### Workforce Solutions Capital Area:

- Mentoring
- Jeanette Watson Wage Supplements
- Teacher TRAC / Director TRAC scholarships

City Child Care Relief Grants (2020/2021)

### More focus on FBCC Programs specifically:

- AVANCE Quality Child Care Matters program
- GAVA ParentChild+ Program

Mini-Grants to support Licensing/Quality Rating

### Professional Development:

- Scholarships to Austin Chapter of TXAEYC Conference
- Greenspace Training (March)
- This conference



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