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## Your Information

<b>Your Name</b>	Amanda Afifi
<b>Your Commission</b>	Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission
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<b>After question three, which questions from the flowchart are you prepared to answer?</b>	Is there funding? Which department holds the funding?

## Root Cause Analysis

<b>Story: What did you hear from the community?</b>	We heard that the City of Austin is not investing enough funds to early childhood initiatives.
<b>Problem: What is the problem you identify?</b>	The City of Austin needs to allocate more funding to early childhood initiatives, including, parenting classes, high quality childcare, high quality early childhood programs, therapy for low income who do not qualify for federal services etc. These initiatives should be culturally competent, and implemented with equity.
<b>How does the problem show up in your community? Who is most impacted by the problem?</b>	<p>In Austin/Travis County:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* More than 1 in 3 children under age 6 live in households with low-income<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 90% of children under age 6 experiencing poverty are children of color</li><li>- 73% of these children are Hispanic/Latino</li></ul></li><li>* Pre-term birth rates for Hispanic families is 12.3% (Rate for White families is 8%)</li><li>* 35.8% of Hispanic Families get no prenatal care or late prenatal care (White families = 15.1%)</li><li>* Less than half of the child care programs serving families with low-income are high quality</li><li>* Our community has capacity to serve only 34% of income eligible young children with programs and services to support their health and development.</li><li>* The City of Austin last year invested \$220 per low-income child under age 6 in early childhood services last year (San Antonio = \$419; Portland = \$965)</li><li>* Only 44% of Hispanic children enter kindergarten with the developmental skills and behaviors that are "school-ready"</li></ul>

<b>Is there funding to address the problem?</b>	Yes
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**Do multiple departments administer these funds?**

No

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**Which department holds the funding?**

Austin Public Health

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**Considering all of the information you have or have not collected above, how do we solve for this problem?**

The Commission recommends investing in Early Childhood Education and Development for Latinx families by:

- Allocating funds for culturally led parent education programs;
- Allocating additional funds to increase capacity to serve more income eligible young children with programs and services to support their health and development; and
- Allocating funds to hire an additional FTE in Austin Public Works to support efforts to coordinate early childhood initiative, programs, and services with other city departments.

This recommendation aligns with the following SD 2023 Outcome:  
Economic Opportunity & Affordability.

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