



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Human Rights Commission

Recommendation Number 20200427-002a (ii): Fiscal Year 2021 Budget/Financial Assistance for families in Travis County

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Commission of the City of Austin (“Commission”) advocates on behalf of human rights for all people in the City of Austin (“City”); and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Strategic Direction 2023, including the strategic outcomes of Economic Opportunity and Affordability; Mobility; Safety; Health and Environment; Culture and Lifelong Learning; and Government That Works for All; and

WHEREAS, the Commission conducted a Budget Engagement Community Forum on February 24, 2020 during the regularly scheduled meeting to receive feedback from the community on budget priorities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Human Rights Commission recommends the City Council to give careful consideration to the following Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Proposal:

WHEREAS, Ivanna Neri, Director, Family Independence Initiative, provided testimony that her organization has tracked 380 families in Austin, Texas, and found that families that are provided funds directly with no restrictions on the use of the funds, eventually experience an aggregate 25% raise in their incomes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Human Rights Commission Request the Austin City Council:

Reallocate at least \$1.5 million from existing social services contracts to direct and unrestricted cash transfers to individuals and families struggling with poverty as a way to advance their social and economic mobility, while prioritizing people with a gross income of less than \$30,000 annually who have not qualified or received financial assistance through other relief programs, including but not limited to:

- Immigrants;
- People experiencing homelessness;
- People who have previously been incarcerated;
- Minors supporting themselves or supporting their families; and
- Persons of color.

Date of Approval: April 27, 2020

Record of the vote: 8-0; Chair Davis motion, Commissioner Museitif second. Voting in favor were Chair Davis, Vice Chair Caballero, Commissioner Breckenridge, Commissioner Garry Brown, Commissioner Jamarr Brown, Commissioner Casas, Commissioner Griffith, and Commissioner Museitif. Commissioner Santana, Commissioner Weigel, and Commissioner White were absent.

Attest:



Jonathan Babiak

Staff Liaison, Human Rights Commission