

QoL Joint Recommendation Topics

- **Restore Rundberg ***

- Spoke to by Hispanic/Latino QoL
- **Mission:** Wants 100k for the hiring of a staff person to assist the initiative in building capacity and connecting different groups across the community
- **History:** The Initiative began as a DoJ grant, but now it's crossing over
- Not clear which Indicator to pair with, concern about unintended consequences in pairing with Safety, as the issues with Profiling and Criminalization of People of Color are well-known and demonstrated

- **Language Access**

- Spoke to by Asian-American QoL
- **Mission:** Expand the funding to translate at a departmental level to provide translation/interpretation services
- **History:** Recommended it past two years, was jointly funded with Hispanic/Latino QoL to staff a Community Language Coordinator
 - There was also a "Language Access Plan" completed by each Department, though there weren't strong plans in place for when/why to do translation

- **Immigrant Support**

- Spoke to by Hispanic/Latino QoL
- **Mission:** Provide permanent, long-term funding for direct financial assistance and legal services to immigrants, possibly including mental health assistance
- **History:** Recommended funding for emergency legal assistance, received finally last month, but only one-time funding
- Indicator: Feeling Welcomed to the Community

- **People's Plan for Anti-Displacement ***

- Spoke to by Hispanic/Latino QoL
- **Mission:** Establish a low-income housing fund, as detailed in the "People's Plan," allocation \$16M from the Budget each year for the fund
- **History:** This is one point on the 6-point "People's Plan," written by community organizers and recommended to Council by the Anti-Displacement Task Force
 - There is an "affordable" housing fund within the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department, but this would be specifically low-income and involve third-party oversight

- **Mental Health ***

- Spoke to by African American QoL
- **Mission:** "Mental health funding specifically earmarked for partnerships with community organizations or entities providing mental health facilities at no cost or on a sliding scale within communities"
- **History:** Last year requested \$750k for this purpose, was not approved
- Crosses over with LGBTQ QoL Working Group on Health

- Must not go to providers there now, as those partners haven't moved the needle for PoC
- Specific emphasis on 1st and last bullets of "Vendor Characteristic" portion of QoL Form
- Asian American QoL would also request support for alternative forms of care, as is common in other cultures
- **Job training/Workforce Development***
 - Spoke to by African American QoL
 - **Mission:** 1.5M to provide economic opportunities around job training for Science, Technology, Engineering, (Arts), and Math and healthcare positions, particularly targeted to 18-24-year-olds who have double-digit unemployment rates
 - **History:** Requested last year, not approved.
 - Asian American Quality of Life is also working on a 55+ training program, as they are the other age demographic with particularly high unemployment rates
 - Also, work being done in City to develop system of "Workforce Solutions" targeting a hire of 10,000 people in the next 3-4 years
- **Fair Justice***
 - **Mission:** Ensure the contracts passed gives weight to offices created by City, such as the Office of the Police Monitor with the Austin Police Department contract
- **LGBTQ+ QoL survey/study**
 - Spoke to by LGBTQ QoL
 - **Mission:** Commission a survey, as with the other Commissions, to establish a data set and measure needs within the LGBTQI+ community
 - **History:** Requested last year, not approved. The other QoL Commissions have undergone surveys such as these to establish rich data source from which to draw needs
 - Cuts across all Commissions
- **PrEP Access***
 - Spoke to by LGBTQ QoL
 - **Mission:** Expand awareness and access to PrEP pills, a treatment demonstrated to be 92% effective (according to the CDC) in reducing the risk of HIV infection
 - **History:** Received \$35k last year but requested ~4 times more.
 - Could also be a form of reallocation from other Austin Public Health HIV prevention programs
 - Cuts across all other Commissions
- **Community Health Workers/Navigators***
 - Spoke to by Asian American QoL
 - **Mission:** Expand program beyond pilot program, and instead contract with community health organizations. Connects people of different cultures and languages to direct healthcare services.
 - **History:** An original program of the Asian American QoL, it's being run in coordination with APH through the Asian American Resource Center non-profit.

Received only half of requested funding last year, and program is operating as a pilot still. As is, employees of program themselves do not have health insurance due to low funding.

- **Access to health insurance***

- Spoke to by Asian American QoL
- **Mission:** Provide money to organizations providing community services in obtaining/understanding health insurance, as 65+ immigrants frequently haven't spent enough time in the country to be eligible for Medicare
- **History:** Hispanic/Latino QoL was receiving \$238k to provide this service for the whole county, but now it's been cut to \$13k

- **Senior transportation***

- Spoke to by Asian American QoL
- **Mission:** Provide greater funding to reduce social isolation among seniors
- **History:** The program exists at the Asian American Resource Center, and was previously approved for a van, but it has not been delivered in two years.
- There was also discussion around finding a more flexible solution, or partner to reach a greater number of seniors
- Ride Austin vouchers have been discussed
- Further, there was a question of whether to align this with Mobility, and it was decided to start at outcome: reducing social isolation, and working from there, so probably not Mobility

- **Welcoming Cities Program** serving immigrants, refugees, isolated communities, diverse cultures

- Spoke to by Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life
- **Mission:** Create a more clear, accessible resource to understand the services and programs offered by the City
- **History:** Used to be a city program, but now it has come out of the Asian American Quality of Life survey that the community doesn't know what services are available.

- **Arts and Culture**

- Spoke to by Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life
- **Mission:** Provide funding for capital building and maintenance of cultural centers, along with programming in those cultural centers
- **History:** This was included in the bond requests, and the Hispanic/Latino QoL was supposed to receive \$75k for this, but has never seen the money since

* Correlates with Council's ["Top 10" Indicator categories](#)