



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018

Early Childhood Council

The Board/Commission mission statement (per section 2-1-123 of the City Code) **is:**
The Early Childhood Council shall:

- (1) Make recommendations to the city council for the creation, development, and implementation of programs that promote optimal development for young children,
- (2) 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 after-school programs for Austin's children;
- (3) 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;
- (4) Encourage volunteerism and philanthropic efforts in order to generate broad-based community involvement and support for quality early care and education and promote the wellbeing of families of young children; and
- (5) Develop, for recommendation to city council, strategies encouraging individuals and agencies to continually improve the quality of their services for young children; and
- (6) Support innovative approaches to quality early care and education and leadership development in fields relating to the optimal development of young children.

1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.

(Reference all reports, recommendations, letters or resolutions presented to the City Council on mission-specific issues. If some of the elements of the mission statement were not acted on by the board in the past year, the report should explain why no action was taken.)

- The Early Childhood Council (ECC) created a [brochure with early childhood statistics for each City Council District](#) and ECC members met with City Council members or their staff in Summer/Fall 2016 to discuss this information and ways the City could help increase the availability of affordable, high-quality early care and education. In the brochures, the ECC urges Council to give priority to two goals:
 1. Improve the economic stability of families with young children by promoting job and housing security
 2. Dramatically improve the quality and quantity of early education and child care centers available to low-income families across the city.
- On 9/13/2017, the ECC [recommended](#) that City Council continue the current level of funding for the AISD Parent Support Specialists at Title I schools and explore ways of expanding support for parent support specialists in Title I schools in other school districts that serve Austin children.
- On 4/11/2018, the ECC [endorsed and recommended](#) Council action on all items for Council Consideration developed by the Work Group that are included in the High Quality Child Care and Pre-K 3 Report developed in response to Council Resolution 20170928-057.
- On 4/11/2018, the ECC [endorsed and recommended](#) Council action on all items for Council Consideration included in the High Quality Child Care and Pre-K 3 Report developed in response to Council Resolution 20170928-057. This recommendation is for Council to include all four funding items for Council consideration in the Fiscal Year 2018-19 City of Austin budget. These items were the following:
 - Leverage up to \$112,000 in State funding per classroom per year by investing in one-time startup costs associated with setting up new Pre-K 3 classrooms, including up to eight classrooms in Austin Independent School District and up to 3 classrooms in Pflugerville Independent School District. Continue to invest in the expansion of Pre-K 3 by exploring opportunities with these and other school districts for similar investments in future budget years (\$176,000 based on \$16,000 in one-time costs per classroom, with up to 32 children served per classroom for half-day curriculum).

- Leverage up to \$280,000 in State funding and expand community-based Pre-K partnerships that could serve up to 80 children in high quality centers. Partner with Texas Association for the Education of Young Children (TAEYC) to provide scholarship funding for eligible child care and Head Start teachers to earn Texas State Teacher Certification through the Alternative Teaching Program (ACC, Huston-Tillotson, Region XIII Service Center). (\$41,800 annually with 5 student participants)
 - Invest in a partnership with the Austin Community College Child Care and Development Department to accelerate child care teachers through the CDA Preparation Certificate to improve quality of child care services for approximately 280 children (\$137,600 annually with 20 student participants).
 - Economic Development Department and Austin Public Health should work with United Way for Greater Austin, Early Matters Greater Austin, and other community partners to understand and define the needs for a consultant to study potential incentive programs and public private partnerships that could be effectively implemented in Austin around quality child care (Estimated \$75,000 for consultant cost)
- On 4/11/2018, the ECC [recommended](#) that Council to support the inclusion of the Dove Springs Health Center with a high quality child care center in the 2018 City of Austin Bond referendum.
- On 4/11/2018, the ECC [recommended](#) that the City Council review the policies and priorities outlined in two recommendations previously passed by the ECC and use that information to help guide the investments in the affordable housing portion of the 2018 City of Austin Bond Referendum. The previously passed recommendations were 20170510-6bi and 20170510-6cii related to the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development 2017-18 Action Plan and CodeNEXT, both of which outline priorities around approaches to affordable housing that will benefit and serve families with young children. These recommendations include, but are not limited to prioritizing 3 and 4 bedroom units, as well as locating affordable housing projects in close proximity to child care and transportation options.
- On 5/9/2018, the ECC [recommended](#):
 - that the Bond Advisory Task Force and the Austin City Council consider including a provision for “family-friendly housing” in the part of the 2018 Bond that supports the development of affordable housing; and

- that “family-friendly housing” be defined as “3 or 4 bedroom units with proximity to child care and transportation” and that a goal of 30% of the housing units built with affordable housing bonds approved as part of the 2018 bond election be set aside for housing units that are “family-friendly”; and
 - that the above-mentioned provision for “family-friendly housing” include a requirement that “family-friendly units” serve families from a range of incomes.
- On 5/9/2018, the ECC [recommended](#) that the following items be included in the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD) 2018-2019 Action Plan:
 1. Any new development for Affordable Housing should be built in proximity to quality child care centers or include on-site quality child care as part of the development where appropriate;
 2. The NHCD 2018-2019 Action Plan should align with the 2015-2018 School Readiness Action Plan where appropriate;
 3. NHCD should recognize that the Early Childhood Council has made engagement with Affordable Housing stakeholders a priority in their work. Therefore, the Early Childhood Council should be invited to participate in community stakeholder discussions;
 4. The Early Childhood Council supports, at minimum, the maintenance of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding in the amount of \$650,000 for child care services related to:
 - a. Early Head Start Child Care
 - b. Teen Parent Services
 - c. Teen Parent Child Care
 - d. Child Care Bridge Program; and
 5. Target early childhood educators for Community Land Trust housing opportunities to preserve stable, affordable housing for this critical workforce.
- 2. **Determine if the board’s actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.**

(If any of the board’s actions were outside the scope of the mission statement, the report should explain the non-compliance issues.)

Yes, the board’s actions comply with the ECC mission statement.
- 3. **List the board’s goals and objectives for the new calendar year.**

(Make sure the goals and objectives fall within the mission statement of the board/commission.)

Policy goals:

- Promote policies that support young children and their families, such as those related to increasing the availability and affordability of high quality child care for all families, new parent support and education, Pre-K, special needs assistance, and those that support child care centers.
- Make policy recommendations that ensure that the needs of families with young children are infused in all City plans (e.g. CodeNext – consideration of child care in all neighborhoods, affordability in housing, transportation options, etc.).
- Establish a family and child-friendly framework or tool with criteria to evaluate whether the needs of families with young children are being considered or met by City programs, policies, and spending. Advocate that City plans and policies include a child/family “impact statement” based on the criteria.
- Coordinate and align all ECC efforts with the community’s Success by 6 Action Plan (the School Readiness Action Plan, or SRAP) as detailed in the Cooperative Agreement Between Members of the SRAP Leadership Team by:
 - Appointing at least one ECC member as a dedicated and active representative to the SRAP Leadership Team. This representative (or if necessary, a proxy) will attend monthly meetings, collaborate with other member organizations and the community, and will report on relevant activities the ECC engaged in to further the written goals of the SRAP;
 - Completing assigned activities outlined in the SRAP and/or agreed upon by the Leadership Team within the agreed upon timeframe. If circumstances do not allow the activity to move forward as planned, alternatives may be developed.
 - Representatives will promote the SRAP and its goals and priority strategies within the ECC.
 - When developing ECC plans related to school readiness, the ECC will make every attempt to align such plans with those identified and promoted in the SRAP and the SRAP tactics documents.
 - While participating in SRAP activities or meetings, professional behavior of members of the SRAP will be guided, in part, by the Early Childhood Code of Ethics.

Goals related to City spending:

- Advocate for sustained and/or increased funding for items affecting families with young children, e.g. high quality child care, after school programs, child care subsidies, parklands, summer camps, rec centers.

Community partnership and engagement goals:

- Seek out mechanisms to ensure the voices of parents and early childhood service providers are heard by the ECC so that ECC members are learning from community members and these voices are informing ECC recommendations.
- Stay apprised of and support early childhood initiatives and programs in the community such as Success by 6, Children in Nature collaborative, Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, Prenatal to Age 3 work, etc.
- Liaise with other boards and commissions on efforts and recommendations related to early childhood.
- Sustain and expand ECC partnership with Austin Police Department in ways that will support families and child care centers.