

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, in 2008, the Families and Children Task Force Report recommended that Austin be a city in which all families, including those with children with disabilities, have access to affordable, high-quality child care near their home or workplace; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the federal funding rules of the Child Care Development Fund, low-income families lose access to federally-supported child care services immediately upon the completion of a job training program and 28 days after the loss of a job; and

WHEREAS, Travis County currently contracts with Workforce Solutions for Child Care Continuity Services which provide high quality child care services for families that are currently seeking employment after graduating from a workforce development program or experiencing recent job loss; and

WHEREAS, Child Care Continuity Services serve two generations to help break the cycle of poverty and promote family self-sufficiency by enabling parents to obtain and maintain high quality jobs; and

WHEREAS, Child Care Continuity Services promote child development and school readiness by providing high quality child care and promote child well-being by reducing disruptions in child care; and

WHEREAS, Travis County funded Child Care Continuity Services in the amount of \$500,000 by collaborating with Workforce Solutions as part of their Fiscal Year 2014 budget, and has committed to \$235,758 annually through Fiscal Year 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Early Childhood Council provided data that shows that Travis County served a total of 453 children during 2014 and 2015 at an average cost of about \$1,624 per family; and

WHEREAS, the Early Childhood Council estimates that approximately 1,500 families are on the waiting list for subsidies for child care services and a \$500,000 annual investment from the City of Austin could almost triple the number of families served; and

WHEREAS, the families served by Child Care Continuity Services are 46% Hispanic or Latino and 40% African-American; and

WHEREAS, as of January 1, 2016, 84% of families served by Child Care Continuity Services lived within the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, the Early Childhood Council passed a recommendation on October 14, 2015 for the Council to allocate \$500,000 per year for the next five years to Child Care Continuity Services; and

WHEREAS, Council would benefit from having recommendations from the City Manager for multiple levels of funding options for Child Care Continuity Services to consider during the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget process including information regarding performance measures and the number of children served for each potential funding option; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN

The City Manager is directed to work with Travis County, Workforce Solutions, the Health and Human Services Department, and the Early Childhood Council to develop recommendations and multiple levels of funding options for Child Care Continuity Services for Council consideration during the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to include a report as part of his recommendations with the following:

1. The current number of families served by Child Care Continuity Services funded through Travis County.

2. The existing unmet need for these services in the community.
3. Outputs, including but not limited to the number of families that would be served by each proposed funding level.
4. Anticipated performance measures for each proposed funding level.
5. Additional guidelines or recommendations pertaining to the funding of Child Care Continuity Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to present recommendations to Council no later than August 2, 2016.

ADOPTED: _____, 2016

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk