

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, for parents of young children, safe and consistent childcare is a critical component of seeking and maintaining employment; and

WHEREAS, the Passages Program provides full time case management to assist families with housing, employment, job training, education, childcare, counseling, legal issues, and many other needs; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 new federal guidelines eliminated childcare assistance for families receiving support through the Passages Program; and

WHEREAS, at the recommendation of the Early Childhood Council, City Council approved Resolution No. 20160211-018 and a subsequent budget measure that provided \$160,000 so that families in the Passages Program would not experience a disruption in childcare services; and

WHEREAS, this \$160,000 was allocated as a one-time grant that - absent Council action - will expire on September 30, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin funding has enabled 74 children from emergency shelters operated by The Salvation Army, Foundation for the Homeless, and SAFE Alliance to attend licensed Texas Rising Star-rated childcare centers in the Austin community; and

WHEREAS, if funding is not allocated for the Passages Program, families will experience a lack of continuity in their care plan, which could result in parents leaving the job training program due to their inability to find affordable childcare;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL:

The City Manager is directed to identify ongoing funding in the amount of \$160,000 for childcare services for Passages Program participants and to incorporate this funding into the budget recommendations that come forward for Council consideration in July 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is also directed to investigate whether a budget surplus within the Budget Stabilization Fund can be used to extend funding for the Passages Program through January 3, 2018. If funds exist, the City Manager is directed to allocate the necessary amount of funds within the Budget Stabilization Fund for the extension of childcare services for Passages Program participants through January 3, 2018.

ADOPTED: _____, 2017

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk