



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Early Childhood Council

**Recommendation Number: 20200506-2b: Recommendations for U.S.
Department of Housing and Urban Development Coronavirus Response Funds**

WHEREAS executive orders in the City of Austin, Travis County, Williamson County, and the State of Texas have limited business operations and human social interactions to protect and promote public health in response to the COVID-19 crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's order to allow businesses to reopen while schools remain closed could place additional burdens on childcare centers and families with working parents; and

WHEREAS, child care centers serving essential workers are required to implement rigorous health and safety measures that create additional financial burdens in staffing and supply needs including placing staff at high risk of exposure; and

WHEREAS, the existing operating child care system offers little to no accessible weekend or evening care for children of families working in essential industries; and

WHEREAS, the Austin/Travis County Child Care Response Task Force has identified an unmet potential need for respite care for children whose families may be hospitalized;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Early Childhood Council encourages the Austin City Council to adopt the draft recommendations for the U.S. HUD Coronavirus Response Recommendations for use of Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) fund including:

- Approximately \$2.6 million for emergency rental assistance for low- and moderate income households impacted by the economic impacts of COVID-19 lasting no more than three consecutive months.
- Approximately \$1 million for the child care workforce to sustain jobs necessary for the response to coronavirus, avoid job loss caused by decreased enrollment of children in child care; incentivize overnight and weekend child care for essential workers by providing short-term working capital assistance to small businesses to enable retention of jobs held by low- and moderate-income persons; respite care for children whose parents or guardians are hospitalized or quarantined; and health and safety supplies needed for child care programs to operate during COVID-19 pandemic

Date of Approval: May 6, 2020

Record of the vote: 9-0

Attest: _____

Rachel Farley