

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

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3 **WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Austin, in Resolution 20200507-023,
4 created the Childcare Support Fund to provide grants for childcare centers in Austin; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the resolution requires childcare centers to: (1) serve families that
6 receive childcare subsidies, and (2) have at least a 2-star rating under the Texas Rising
7 Star system and have not received Payroll Protection Plan money, through CARES, and
8 (3) have been impacted by COVID-19 related disruptions, and/or (4) have virus
9 mitigation and protective equipment needs; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Texas Rising Star rating system of childcare providers is a
11 voluntary program of the Texas Workforce Commission and research indicates that there
12 is a disproportionate number of Texas Rising Star-rated childcare centers on the west
13 side of Austin and relatively few on the east side. There is also an extremely low number
14 of certified centers in northeast Austin, where many of our city’s most marginalized and
15 underserved households reside; and

16 **WHEREAS**, revising the Texas Rising Star certification requirement will allow
17 childcare centers in the city’s most marginalized communities to apply for this grant and
18 align with the city’s equity and affordability values, support Strategic Direction 23
19 outcomes associated with Economic Opportunity and Affordability and Government
20 That Works for All, and meet the City Council’s intent to serve the most-vulnerable
21 members of our community; and

22 **WHEREAS**, city staff surveyed 161 childcare centers and found that almost 70%
23 of childcare centers applied for a U.S. Small Business Administration loan, including the
24 Paycheck Protection Program, and 85% of those were approved for a loan. However, the
25 federal funds for many centers were either inadequate to cover ongoing costs or have
26 expired. Childcare operators remain concerned with having enough funding to retain
27 their staffs, maintain health and safety standards, and pay expenses like rent and utility
28 bills; and

29 **WHEREAS**, removing the Paycheck Protection Program requirement will allow
30 childcare centers to receive support for ongoing operating costs and expenses not
31 covered by the Paycheck Protection Program. This action would provide childcare
32 centers with sorely needed support to remain open, keep teachers and staff on payroll,
33 and acquire supplies to meet local, state, and federal health and safety guidelines. **NOW**

34 **THEREFORE,**

35 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

36 The Childcare Support Fund grant program is revised so that a childcare center in
37 Austin qualifies for the program if the childcare center: (1) serves families that receive
38 childcare subsidies, and (2) have at least a 2-star rating under the Texas Rising Star
39 system or have started the process to receive a Texas Rising Star rating, and (3) have
40 been impacted by COVID-19 related disruptions, and/or (4) have virus mitigation and
41 protective equipment needs.

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ADOPTED: _____, 2020

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

DRAFT