

RESOLUTION NO. 20200729-023

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

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

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

WHEREAS, revising the Texas Rising Star certification requirement will allow childcare centers in the city's most marginalized communities to apply for this grant and align with the city's equity and affordability values, support Strategic Direction 23 outcomes associated with Economic Opportunity and Affordability and Government

That Works for All, and meet the City Council's intent to serve the most-vulnerable members of our community; and

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

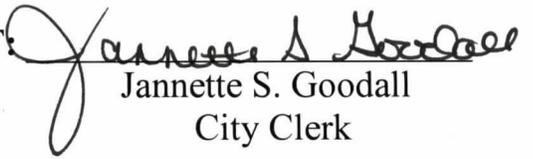
WHEREAS, removing the Paycheck Protection Program requirement will allow childcare centers to receive support for ongoing operating costs and expenses not covered by the Paycheck Protection Program. This action would provide childcare centers with sorely needed support to remain open, keep teachers and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

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

The Childcare Support Fund grant program is revised so that a childcare center in Austin qualifies for the program if the childcare center: (1) serves families that receive childcare subsidies, and (2) have at least a 2-star rating under the Texas Rising Star system or have started the process to receive a Texas Rising Star rating, and (3) have

been impacted by COVID-19 related disruptions, and/or (4) have virus mitigation and protective equipment needs.

ADOPTED: July 29, 2020

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk