



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Stephanie Hayden, Director

**DATE:** April 20, 2020 

**SUBJECT:** Response to Resolution 20200409-81 Austin Public Health

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On April 9, 2020 Austin City Council approved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute amendments to existing social services contracts and to negotiate and execute new emergency contracts funded from the Relief in a State of Emergency (RISE) Fund to offer immediate support services and direct financial assistance to residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis.

In response to this resolution, Austin Public Health worked expeditiously to ensure funds are distributed equitably by partnering with social services agencies and developing a process for additional agencies to apply for funding. The following agencies have been identified to provide immediate services. These agencies have demonstrated experience providing community-based services and financial assistance.

- Catholic Charities
- Asian Family Support Services
- El Buen Samaritano
- Austin Area Urban League

This process allows the City to quickly provide direct services and assistance to our most vulnerable populations and Austinites impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the immediate needs in our community, RISE funds will be distributed in two phases. Phase 1 will distribute funds in April and Phase 2 in the month of May.

The application portal is currently open and we have already received a few applications. Staff anticipates awarding multiple agreements with a minimum request of \$250,000 and maximum request up to \$2 million. Smaller amounts may be considered for smaller non-profit organizations who have experience reaching vulnerable populations. Applications will be reviewed on a case by case basis. In accordance with City policy, interested agencies who wish to apply must be a registered vendor with the City of Austin. To assist with the process, staff has developed a step-by-step guide for the application stages.



Austin Public Health is partnering with the Equity Office to administer funds. The Equity Office has selected Family Independence Initiative (FII). FII will work with several small community-based organizations to administer funds.

Social services providers may visit [www.AustinTexas.gov/RISE](http://www.AustinTexas.gov/RISE) to apply and view the supporting documentation. A press release announcing the RISE funding opportunity will be distributed today.

If you have any questions, or if I can provide additional information, please contact me at (512) 972-5010 or via email at [Stephanie.Hayden@austintexas.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Hayden@austintexas.gov).

Cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager  
Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde, Deputy City Manager  
Chris Shorter, Assistant City Manager  
Brion Oaks, Chief Equity Officer