

Social Services are a Wise and Cost Effective Investment

One Voice Central Texas is comprised of 85 health and human service nonprofit organizations that serve on the frontlines to meet the needs of low-income and vulnerable individuals and families by using cost-effective ways to keep the city livable. Our member organizations represent the community's safety net for children and the elderly, for the hungry and the homeless, for persons with disabilities and for those who are uninsured, for those who are illiterate, those who are immigrants and for those with who are the victims of violence.

One Voice members:

- Alleviate the devastating impact of poverty
- Divert individuals from more costly health and criminal justice systems
- Provide access to high quality, affordable child care
- Equip young adults with the tools they need to be successful
- Provide the bridge from literacy to workforce
- Keep our community safe from child, sexual, and domestic violence and abuse and address the trauma when it occurs
- Give older adults support and dignity so they can safely stay in their homes
- Close the disparities in physical and behavioral health care
- House those who have fallen into homelessness

THE CHALLENGE:

Our region is witnessing one of the fastest growing income disparities in the country. The rate of poverty in Austin is growing and overall funding for social services has not kept up with the demand for services. Unless the pool of funding for health and human services is increased, we will pay in increased costs for public safety, criminal justice, and emergency services.



THE SOLUTION:

Increase investments in health and human services to create a strong network and infrastructure. The human services network is the bridge to prevention and intervention strategies that achieve long-term economic benefits for everyone. The bottom line: investing in health and human services is a smart financial decision and will save taxpayers money in the long run.

Our community has the creativity, resources, dedication, and leadership to create a sustainable community where families thrive. Increasing our investment in community members who are struggling to make ends meet is a necessary – and financially savvy – step in achieving this vision.

Following are examples of the financial impact that investing in health and human services yields for our community.

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CHILDREN & YOUTH

A \$1,000 investment will....

- ...provide 4 days of early childhood education in a dual-generation literacy program for 15 babies and toddlers
- ...provide a full year of case management for a student with social service and/or behavioral health needs
- ...provide 2 weeks of support for a youth with disabilities who is at risk in school
- ...offer prevention and intervention services to an at-risk youth at a public school who is in the "pipeline to prison"



Generating significant savings...

- ...every \$1 invested in a high-quality, pre-kindergarten (pre-k) program returns up to \$17 per participant
- ...every \$1 invested in afterschool programs returns between \$3-\$16
- ...it costs \$20,000 a year for a youth on juvenile probation inclusive of residential care, compared to \$1,000 for prevention and intervention services

Sources: The Institute for a Competitive Workforce, 2010; The Rose Institute of Claremont-McKenna College, September 2002; Boys & Girls Clubs California Alliance, 2012; BookSpring; The Arc of the Capital Area; Communities In Schools of Central Texas; Council on At-Risk Youth



OLDER ADULTS

A \$1,000 investment will....

- ...provide 3 months of basic home care assistance for an older adult
- ...provide 4 seniors with round-trip rides for a year to visit the doctor, go grocery shopping, access support groups and activity centers, and run other errands
- ...serve 400 prepared, hot, nutritious, delivered meals to homebound seniors
- ...provide 20 low-income seniors with 15-20 bags of healthy groceries delivered monthly for an entire year



Generating significant savings...

- ...Medicare spends \$39,091 a year, or \$3,258 per month, on nursing home care per individual. It costs approximately \$96 a month to deliver home meals and \$1,600 a month to provide in-home care services.

Sources: DADS, 2013; Meals on Wheels Association of Texas; American Association of Service Coordinators; H.A.N.D.; Drive a Senior; Meals on Wheels and More; Capital Area Food Bank

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EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

A \$1,000 investment will....

- ...tutor 2 adults to pass the GED exam
- ...fund a semester of tuition at community college for a high demand occupation
- ...provide 3 weeks of Career Readiness Bootcamp trainings for 45 participants
- ...provide 3 months of on-the-job training for a person with a disability
- ...offer a youth 125 hours of paid work experience to prepare them for the workforce



Generating significant savings...

- ...every \$1 invested in combined short-term and long-term workforce services for working poor adults returns \$5.01 to taxpayers over 20 years
- ...every additional high school graduate saves taxpayers \$1,770-\$3,242
- ...adults earn an average of \$9,000 more annually after passing the GED exam
- ...companies earn \$29.69 for every \$1 invested in making an accommodation for a person with disabilities

Sources: Bush School of Government & Public Service, Texas A&M University, 2014; Employment and Training Resources; Ray Marshall Center, 2011; US Census Bureau American Community Survey; Goodwill Industries of Central Texas; Capital IDEA



FAMILY VIOLENCE, CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

A \$1,000 investment will....

- ...provide 3 months of case management and therapy for a child living in a shelter
-cover one month of utility costs for 12 efficiency apartments for young women aging out of the foster care system who are working or are in college
- ...provide child abuse prevention programming for 50 children, including reporting suspected cases of abuse and providing referrals to service providers



Generating significant savings...

- ...the health care costs associated with addressing domestic violence averages \$948 per incident for female victims
- ...the annual wages of young adults aging out of foster care that graduated from high school earn \$8,500 more per year than those who dropped out
-diverting a young adult transitioning out of foster care from the criminal justice system saves \$2.5 million in incarceration, arrest, and other costs

Sources: National Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, 2013; Austin Children's Services; The Settlement Home for Children; Communities In Schools

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HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

A \$1,000 investment will...

- ...cover the costs of 6 weeks of housing, utilities and meals for a low-income college student on financial aid
- ...house a chronically homeless individual for one month, providing rent, wrap-around services, case management, and grocery gift cards
- ...provide one month of rental assistance to prevent a family in crisis from becoming homeless



Generating significant savings...

- ...in 2010, it cost \$6.7 million locally in EMS, ER, hospital and jail costs for the 100 most vulnerable homeless individuals. It would cost an estimated \$2.4 million to house and provide services to the same population.
- ...family homelessness can generate societal costs of \$49,604-\$169,431/year
- ...a previously homeless family that is placed in and maintains housing can yield cost savings of \$19,174-\$79,045

Sources: Imagine LA; ECHO; Caritas of Austin; Front Steps; College Houses



HUNGER & BASIC NEEDS

A \$1,000 investment will...

- ...provide 200 families with 5 seed packets to grow their own healthy food
- ...buy \$2,000 worth of fresh produce for low-income families at farmers' markets
- ...serve free, nutritious meals to 20 children from low-income families daily during summer months, totaling 1,350 meals served throughout the summer
- ...provide 320 households with 44 lbs of food each to prepare more than 36 meals for their families



Generating significant savings...

- ...hungry children have a greater likelihood of being hospitalized, and the average pediatric hospitalization costs approximately \$12,000
- ...hungry children are more likely to suffer from growth and developmental impairments
- ...food insecure elderly adults are 2.3x more likely to report fair or poor health status, resulting in increased incidences of disability and extended hospital stays

Sources: Food Research and Action Center; Feeding America, 2009; Sustainable Food Center; Capital Area Food Bank

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HEALTH & FITNESS

A \$1,000 investment will....

- ...buy 100 pulse ox screenings for newborns
- ...fund a 6-week session of fitness and nutrition classes, which includes 2 fitness classes and 1 nutrition class every week with childcare provided
-provide a child with 7 weeks of physical, occupational, and language therapy
- ...provide 100 nutrition education classes to individuals eligible for SNAP



Generating significant savings...

- ...the average medical costs of at-risk and overweight status amongst children and adolescents is \$200 per year
- ...overweight adolescents are more likely to develop diabetes, high blood pressure, and asthma than their normal weight counterparts

Sources: Finkelstein & Trogon, 2008; American Heart Association/American Stroke Association – Capital Area Division; WeViva; Any Baby Can; Capital Area Food Bank



MENTAL HEALTH

A \$1,000 investment will....

- ...provide weekly grief support groups for a couple who has lost their child for an entire year
- ...provide 1,400 individuals who are grieving a loved one with a resource booklet on coping with grief
- ...provide 3 months of intensive wraparound services for a child and family with serious mental health needs and other exacerbating family conditions



Generating significant savings...

- ...every \$1 invested in expanding diagnosis and treatment of depression returns \$7
- ...every \$1 invested in substance abuse treatment returns \$4-\$7
- ...providing services with a systems of care approach to a youth costs \$2,000-\$4,300 per month, whereas residential treatment facilities cost \$4,147-\$7,285 and psychiatric hospitalization costs \$11,348-13,522 per month

Sources: National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, 2012; National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health, 2014; The Christi Center; Communities in Schools

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PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

A \$1,000 investment will....

- ...provide 87 hours of home care for an adult with disabilities
- ...cover the costs of 35 social work visits for a person with a disability
- ...provide guardianship services for 2 low-income families who have a child with a disability
- ...provide bi-weekly art classes for 4 individuals with disabilities for a month
- ...cover 40 hours of one-on-one job coaching for someone with a disability



Generating significant savings...

- ...providing services so that people with disabilities can remain in their homes keeps them out of costlier institutions

Sources: H.A.N.D.; The Arc of the Capital Area



PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

A \$1,000 investment will....

- ...allow 21 HIV positive individuals to get food specific to their HIV condition and medical restrictions for one month
- ...provide HIV tests and counseling for 83 individuals
- ...provide 5 HIV positive people with necessary oral surgery
- ...offer HIV medication adherence counseling to 35 HIV positive individuals



Generating significant savings...

- ...investing \$1 in HIV testing saves almost \$2 in medical costs
- ...those who are unaware that they are HIV positive are 3-7 times more likely to transmit HIV to another person than those who know their HIV status
- For every HIV infection that is prevented, roughly \$360,000 is saved in the costs of providing lifetime HIV treatment

Sources: CDC, 2013; National AIDS Map, 2012; AIDS Services of Austin