

Accessible Housing Austin!  
 AGE of Central Texas  
 AIDS Services of Austin  
 American Gateways  
 American Heart Association Capital Area Division  
 American YouthWorks  
 Any Baby Can  
 The Arc of the Capital Area  
 Asian Family Support Services of Austin  
 Austin Achieve Public Schools  
 Austin Area Urban League  
 Austin Child Guidance Center  
 Austin Children's Services  
 Austin Free-Net  
 Austin Speech Labs  
 Austin Travis County Integral Care  
 Autism Society of Central Texas  
 AVANCE – Austin  
 BookSpring  
 Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area  
 Breast Cancer Resource Centers of TX  
 Capital Area Food Bank  
 Capital City Village  
 Capital IDEA  
 The Care Communities  
 Caritas of Austin  
 CASA of Travis County  
 Catholic Charities of Central Texas  
 Center for Child Protection  
 Center for Survivors of Torture  
 Child Inc.  
 The Christi Center  
 College Houses  
 ColorCancer  
 Communities In Schools of Central TX  
 CommUnityCare  
 Council on At-Risk Youth  
 The Council on Recovery  
 Easter Seals Central TX  
 Ending Community Homelessness Coalition  
 El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission  
 Extend-A-Care for Kids  
 Family Eldercare  
 Foundation Communities  
 Foundation for the Homeless  
 Front Steps  
 Goodwill Industries of Central TX  
 H.A.N.D.  
 HealthStart Foundation  
 Interfaith Action of Central Texas  
 Jeremiah Program  
 Jewish Family Service of Austin  
 LifeWorks  
 Literacy Coalition of Central TX  
 Marathon Kids  
 Meals on Wheels and More  
 Mis Cuentas  
 NAMI Austin  
 Open Door Preschool  
 Partnerships for Children  
 People's Community Clinic  
 Ronald McDonald House Charities  
 Round Rock Area Serving Center  
 The SAFE Alliance  
 SafePlace  
 Saint Louise House  
 Salvation Army – Austin Metro Area Command  
 Samaritan Center  
 Seedling Foundation  
 Seton Cove  
 The Settlement Home for Children  
 Sickle Cell Association Marc Thomas Foundation  
 Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Diocesan Council of Austin  
 Southwest Key Programs, Inc.  
 Sustainable Food Center  
 Texas Homeless Network  
 Trinity Center  
 Upbring  
 Vaughn House  
 Vela Families  
 Volunteer Healthcare Clinic  
 Waterloo Counseling Center  
 Wonders & Worries  
 YMCA of Austin  
[Affiliate Members](#)  
 Capital Metro  
 SIMS Foundation  
 Texas Association of Charitable Clinics  
 Texas Partnership for Out of School Time

# ONE VOICE

## CENTRAL TEXAS

**To: The Honorable Mayor Steve Adler**  
**Kathie Tovo, Mayor Pro Tem**  
**Ora Houston, Council Member**  
**Delia Garza, Council Member**  
**Sabino Renteria, Council Member**  
**Greg Casar, Council Member**

**Ann Kitchen, Council Member**  
**Don Zimmerman, Council Member**  
**Leslie Pool, Council Member**  
**Ellen Troxclair, Council Member**  
**Sheri Gallo, Council Member**

**Re: Investments in Health and Human Services and Social Service Contracts**

**September 8, 2016**

**Dear Mayor Adler, Mayor Pro Tem Tovo, and City Council Members,**

Thank you for your continued work on the budget. We have followed your deliberations and recognize the difficulty in your work. However, we believe it is a mistake to ignore the work you have already done setting policy to increase HHS funding. As you know, resolutions No.20141211-114 and No.20160128-068 contain your directive to invest an additional \$11,973,307 within 2-4 years to close gaps in service provision along with a 3% cost of living increase for social service and workforce contracts in order to maintain the organizational capacity to deliver the contracted services. We urge you to honor these decisions you made earlier in the year.

**Until today, the Concept Menu has included**

- \$500,000 to fill the hole left by the Manager's budget regarding existing social service contracts. These are multi-year contracts that Council funded with 1-time money, and now has the contractual responsibility to fully fund the contracts.
- \$5.8M to increase the investment in social services per your directive from the resolution
- \$800,000 to maintain the current level of services by increasing existing contracts by 3%.

What happens if you don't make these investments? First, you would need to inform social services agencies that you are cutting their funding by \$500,000 and thus asking them to cut services to poor families. Second, is our health and human service infrastructure would fall further behind causing poor families to wait even longer for access to services. And third, community capacity to meet needs shrinks because constant dollars fail to meet rising costs of health care, rent, utilities, etc.

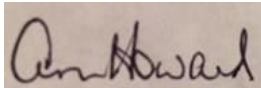
As you know, health and human services are a vital link to creating a safe and sustainable community, AND our community's human services infrastructure is straining from Austin's affordability crisis and years of failure to fund social services at a level that keeps up with the demand for services. Since 2000, the poverty rate within Austin has increased 82%, the cost of living has increased, and federal and state resources continue to decline. Your decision to make the increases outlined in your resolutions will help address critical gaps in our social services infrastructure.

Also, One Voice continues to support funding priorities that come thru community and departmental plans and processes. As boards, commissions and council identify needs and service gaps and make recommendations, a transparent process developed and conducted by department staff will allow fair access by new and old organizations and provide competition to ensure high quality service delivery.

Support for effective organizations and collaborations is a smart financial decision that produces economic benefits for the whole community. Human services have society-wide impacts – improving population health and the economy and preparing our workforce. Study after study shows that investing in social services saves the community money in both the short and long term.

Please resist ignoring the need and your own policy directive to close the gaps with increased investments in HHS.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in dark ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "Ann Howard".

Ann Howard  
2016 Chair, One Voice Central Texas  
Executive Director, Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)