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CENTRAL TEXAS

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See our full membership at:

www.OneVoiceCentralTx.org

info@onevoicecentraltx.org

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: Support for the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department's Proposed Allocation Strategy for Additional Funding Approved in the FY16 Budget

February 29, 2016

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

One Voice Central Texas, a coalition of 89 local health and human services providers, would like to thank Austin City Council for their leadership and commitment to strengthening our community's health and human services infrastructure with the passage of the 2016 budget increases for health and human services, and the passage of a funding policy goal to continue to increase investments in health and human services over the next 3-5 years. One Voice is committed to supporting the City in making strategic investments in effective programs that address critical community needs. To this end, **One Voice supports the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department's recommendation to allocate the \$1,825,000 additional funding for social services approved by Council during the FY16 budget process to:**

1. Increase existing social service contracts by 6% (with the exception of programs funded with one-time funding, limited-term funding, or grants);
2. And issue a solicitation for new agencies with the remaining funds for capacity building and services (approximately \$390,000).

The Health and Human Services Department's proposed allocation strategy was developed with survey input from both social service providers that currently have a City contract and agencies that were not part of the City solicitation. Over 75% of social service providers that responded to the survey indicated support for an increase to existing social service contracts by 5% or more. Additionally, 57% of respondents indicated that they would like the Department to issue a solicitation to fund new social service programs.

One Voice members appreciated the opportunity to give input on the allocation strategy, and believe that the Department's recommendations address both the need for increased funding for social service providers with City contracts to meet the rising cost of operations, and the need to incubate and develop the capacity of smaller and newer agencies that have do not currently receive City funding.

Furthermore, One Voice is committed to providing training and mentorship opportunities for the agencies that receive funding through the City's new solicitation and chose to become members of One Voice so that they can build their capacity and collaborate with other agencies.

We thank you for your consideration, and look forward to working with you to strengthen the social services fabric of our community. One Voice Central Texas is prepared to work with City Council and City staff to successfully implement this allocation strategy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Howard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "H".

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