



TALE OF TWO AUSTINS – LETS PUT PEOPLE FIRST!

One Voice Central Texas is requesting a \$6.7 million increase in the City investment to the Health and Human Services Department to begin to address the impact of the dramatic rise of individuals in poverty in our community.

Why Now? Community indicators are going in the wrong direction*

- 1/3 of Travis County residents are low-income.
- The number of food insecure individuals has increased – 18% of Travis County residents live in food insecure households.
- 36% of Travis County households pay more than 30% of their income for housing.
- The number of individuals reporting poor mental health has increased – 22% of adults in Travis County report poor mental health.

**Indicators are from the 2015 CAN Dashboard*

Why Should the City Invest in Health and Human Services? An investment in health and human services saves the City and the community money in both the short term and the long-term.

- **Early Education:** Every \$1 invested in a high-quality, pre-kindergarten (pre-k) program returns \$3.50 per participant.
- **After School:** Every dollar invested in afterschool programs returns between \$3-\$16.
- **Youth:** It costs \$20,000 a year for a youth on juvenile probation inclusive of residential care, compared to \$1,000 per youth to provide prevention and intervention services (Council on At-Risk Youth).
- **Workforce Development:** Every dollar invested in workforce services returns \$1.63 over five years and fully \$2.74 over ten years.
- **Literacy:** Probationers who receive literacy training have significantly lower rearrest rates than those who don't get help. Those who obtain a GED have even lower rearrest rates.
- **Substance Abuse:** A number of cost benefit studies of substance abuse treatment have found returns of \$4 to \$7 per dollar spent.
- **Senior Services:** The average cost of one month of nursing home care is \$6,540 (The American Eldercare Research Organization). It costs approximately \$96 a month (MOWAT) to deliver a home meal and approximately \$1,600 a month to provide in-home care services (American Association of Service Coordinators).
- **Permanent Supportive Housing:** In 2010, it cost \$6.7 million in EMS, emergency room, hospital and jail costs for the 100 most vulnerable homeless individuals. It is estimated it would cost \$2.4 million to house and provide services to the same population (ECHO).
- **Mental Health Treatment** reduces the need for hospital and emergency room services and improves health outcomes for people with diabetes, cancer, heart disease, chronic pain, cancer, and other serious illnesses.

Does it Make a Difference? Social service organizations make an impact every day. Below are some examples of ways in which local nonprofits are making an impact:

- **Children & Youth**
 - 14,201 children and youth are served through City funding. 87% of them progressed to the next developmental or academic level and 86% demonstrated improved skills or knowledge (2013 COA HHSD).
 - In-school programs served 45,155 individuals 2012/2013 of which 5,877 received intensive services. Of those receiving intensive services, 99% stayed in school and 87% improved their grades, attendance or behavior.
- **Basic Needs/Shelter**
 - 10,300 individuals served through City funding. 83% of those individuals at risk of homelessness maintained housing (2013 COA HHSD)
 - In 2013, 1,817 households and 4,467 clients received direct financial assistance to help them maintain housing or end homelessness. At exit, 79% achieved housing stability and 77% continued to achieve housing stability at the 6 month follow up.
- **Workforce**
 - 3,308 individuals served through City funding of which more than 2/3 (68%) maintained or increased income (2013 COA HHSD).
- **Seniors**
 - In excess of 855,000 meals were provided in 2013 and 80% of seniors have stayed in their homes 6 months or longer.
- **Housing/Shelter**
 - 72 youth and children were housed in a Supportive Housing Program with 100% exiting to safe, stable housing.
 - 1,100 adults and youth who had experienced violence or trauma were provided with emergency shelter.
- **HIV/AIDS**
 - 85% of HIV positive patients in Austin linked to care vs 62% nationally (Austin has the highest linkage rate in Texas), 68% receiving treatment in Austin vs. 36% nationally. 52% of patients achieved viral load suppression in Austin vs. 28% nationally.

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

Social Services are a Wise and Cost Effective Investment