

ONE VOICE

CENTRAL TEXAS

Executive Committee

Rabbi Amy Cohen

Shalom Austin
Chair

Lisa Barden

Keep Austin Fed
Vice Chair

Suzanne Anderson

AGE of Central Texas
Past Chair & Interim Treasurer

Paul Scott

Health Alliance for Austin Musicians
Secretary

Christopher Hamilton

Texas Health Action
Investment Committee Chair

Serita Lacasse

Senior Access
Membership Committee Co-Chair

Ebonie Trice

Mission Accomplished
Membership Committee Co-Chair

Nicole Golden

Texas Gun Sense
Public Policy Committee Co-Chair

Mark Bethell

Sustainable Food Center
Public Policy Committee Co-Chair

Celia Hughes

Art Spark Texas
Standards of Excellence Committee Chair

Dan Leal

Seedling Foundation
Sustainability Committee Chair

See our full membership at:

www.OneVoiceCentralTx.org
info@onevoicecentraltx.org

To: Judge Andy Brown & Travis County Commissioners

June 24, 2024

Dear Judge Andy Brown and Travis County Commissioners,

WHEREAS, for decades, families in Travis County have struggled to find affordable, quality child care and afterschool and summer programming for children birth to high school graduation (henceforth referred to as “child care”)

WHEREAS, child care is the highest expense for families after housing in Travis County. And one year of child care costs more than one year of tuition at the University of Texas at Austin.

WHEREAS, the current waiting list for families with low income who need child care subsidies has more than 4,600 children on it, enrollment is closed, and there is now a 2-year waiting list period.

WHEREAS, child care costs are out of reach for many families in Travis County. While families cannot afford the current prices, child care tuition rarely covers the true cost of providing a high-quality program. Costs for quality child care programs (including paying staff a living wage) have increased but families cannot afford to pay more.

WHEREAS, the child care and out-of-school time workforce, predominantly women of color, earns less than a living wage resulting in high turnover (over 30% annually) and under-staffed programs serving fewer children and cutting hours. Turnover hurts children and creates stress for families.

WHEREAS, families rely on affordable quality child care to participate in and complete education, training programs, or the workforce;

WHEREAS, child care and out of school time challenges particularly impact individuals and communities of color that have been historically excluded from economic prosperity:

- 81% of children under age 6 receiving child care subsidies in Travis County are Black, Hispanic, or non-white/multi-racial.
- the share of Travis County children under age 6 in working families who have parents working nontraditional hours is 47.1% Black and 42.1% Hispanic.
- the child care workforce in Texas is overwhelmingly female and 62% are either Black or Hispanic.

WHEREAS, A local investment in affordable quality child care and out of school time programs will result in better outcomes for children, greater workforce participation, family economic stability and a stronger economy;

WHEREAS, Quality afterschool and summer programs increase youth’s academic skills and skill development for future careers, improve school day attendance, support positive mental and physical health, and support working families by providing a safe environment for youth when school is out;

WHEREAS, With the high cost of living for families and rapid population growth in Travis County, increased access to affordable quality child care is imperative to nurture children's development, support working families, and foster community well-being. These programs provide a safe environment for children to learn and play, contributing to improved academic outcomes and reduced crime rates. Moreover, by enabling parents to participate in the workforce, these investments boost productivity and strengthen the local economy. Ultimately, prioritizing these initiatives ensures a brighter, more equitable future for all residents of Travis County.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED:

One Voice Central Texas, a coalition of nearly 100 health and human service nonprofits in the Austin area, supports a ballot initiative in Travis County that would generate sustainable funding each year to support quality, affordable child care, including early childhood care and afterschool programming and summer programs. This would add more funding to expand access to quality programs for children and youth, support working families, and help to provide better pay to staff and resources for children and youth across Travis County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

One Voice Central Texas is a member of Affordable Child Care Now, a broad coalition of Travis County civic organizations, businesses, and community leaders who support equitable access to affordable, quality child care for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Cohen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Rabbi Amy Cohen, 2024 Executive Committee Chair

One Voice Central Texas

ONE VOICE

CENTRAL TEXAS

2024 MEMBERSHIP

As of June 24, 2024

AGE of Central Texas	Girl Scouts of Central Texas	Shalom Austin
American Youthworks	Goodwill Central Texas	Shield Ranch Foundation
Any Baby Can	Hand to Hold	Sickle Cell Association of Texas
Art Spark Texas	Health Alliance for Austin	Marc Thomas Foundation
Asian Family Support Services of Austin	Musicians	SIMS Foundation
Austin Allies	Hope Alliance (Williamson County Crisis Center)	Sobering Center
Austin Child Guidance Center	HousingWorks Austin	Sustainable Food Center
Austin Clubhouse	ICC Austin	Swan Songs
Austin Community Law Center	Interagency Support Council of Eastern Williamson County	Texas Gun Sense
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas	JoyRx	Texas Health Action
Blackland Community Development	Keep Austin Fed	Texas Partnership for Out of School Time (TXPOST)
BookSpring	LifeWorks	The Adara Collective
Breast Cancer Resource Center	Literacy First	The Austin Center for Grief & Loss
Building Promise USA	Mary Lee Foundation	The Christi Center
Capital IDEA	Meals on Wheels Central Texas	The Church Lab
Caritas of Austin	Meals on Wheels Central Texas In-Home Care	The New Philanthropists
Chariot	Mission Accomplished	The Ramjaane Joshua Foundation
Communities In Schools of Central Texas	Mission Capital	The Rise Center for Liberation in Early Childhood Education
Community Advancement Network	Movability, Inc	The Settlement Home for Children
Dell Medical School at UT Austin	NAMI Central Texas	Travis County HHS
Down Home Ranch	Open Door Preschools	Trinity Center
Drive a Senior ATX	Partnerships for Children	United Way For Greater Austin
Drive a Senior Northwest	Peerbagh	Urban Roots
East Austin Conservancy	Project Transitions	We Are Those People
Easterseals Central Texas Inc.	RAISE Texas	Women's Storybook Project of Texas
El Buen Samaritano	rebuilding together	YMCA of Austin
Empowering Women out of Prison	Regarding Cancer	
Family Eldercare	Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas	
Feeding Texas	SAFE Alliance	
	Seedling Foundation	
	Senior Access	

A coalition that influences and educates policy makers and the public about what it takes for everyone in our community to thrive, and ensures our members have the tools and resources to be effective.