



Austin Interfaith

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Budget Priorities FY 2015-2016

City of Austin

- Primetime After-School: Ensure \$800,000 to continue current Basic Prime Time 2014-15 funding level and \$400,000 to continue Expanded Prime Time funding to improve academic opportunities for students.
- New High School Youth Leadership Development Program Internships: \$250,000 to provide internship opportunities for at-risk youth.
- Capital IDEA: \$350,000 in additional city funds to allow enrollment growth for 70 more Austin adults to prepare for living wage jobs.
- “Living Wage” wage floor: \$2 million to increase city wage floor to \$13.03 in all areas the city has authority to increase, except for summer youth internships.
- Parks: \$11.6 million increase from current budget level to implement local park teams’ site plans in 78744 and 78745. Expand the Summer Playgrounds Program to 20 parks in underserved areas. Continue support for Police Activities League staff position spearheading soccer program for low income, at promise youth in 78745 and 78744-Dove Springs.
- Public water fountains: \$1,500,000 to add water fountains, restrooms and showers to downtown and university areas to serve the public and address needs of homeless persons.
- VICTORY Tutorial Program: \$51,000 to restore funding cut in 2014-5 for the school year. \$20,000 to expand tutoring into the summer.
- Libraries: Continue the \$750,000 increase from 2014-15 budget to keep expanded days and hours. \$400,000 increase from current funding for 5 additional children’s and seniors’ librarian and outreach staff in underserved east and south side areas to help improve the health and literacy of low income children, youth and senior citizens.
- Healthy food incentives: \$250,000 for healthy food incentives to local food retail stores in 78744 and 78745 to increase access to healthy, nutritious foods to decrease childhood obesity and lower health care costs. \$55,000 for a full time Food Retail Organizer.
- Affordable Housing: \$1 million for rental assistance to provide renters relief similar to the homestead exemption; \$500,000 to strengthen code compliance with designated prosecutor/judge to improve safe, affordable housing in Austin; \$4 million for purchase of mobile home park(s) (pilot project); \$1 million for housing assistance for residents affected by the Onion Creek flood.
- Housing for seniors and disabled: \$1.1 million to increase homestead exemption from \$71,000 to \$77,000 for over age sixty-five and/or disabled to reduce impact of increased appraisals.
- Austin Energy & Utilities: \$7 million for low income weatherization to help low income residents conserve energy, lower costs and reduce bad debt.
- Parent Support Specialists: Ensure \$680,000 to continue city funding for parent support specialists in Austin ISD elementary and secondary schools, to prevent reduction in staffing due to pressures on Austin ISD budget.

County

- Capital IDEA: \$125,000 in additional county funds for paid internships for participants. \$114,200 in additional funds for childcare costs to cover gap until regular childcare begins.