



With the help of the Summit, the HEAL initiative, and a housing-first approach, the City of Austin is prioritizing short-term and long-term solutions to homelessness.

Summit to Address Unsheltered Homelessness in Austin:

In the last year, a diverse coalition of business, city, and community leaders, advocates, service providers, and philanthropists joined one another at the Summit to Address Unsheltered Homelessness in Austin. The Summit created long-term and immediate plans to address homelessness, including a shared goal to rehouse 3,000 people experiencing homelessness in three years.

- **The Summit's goal is +3,000 homes in three years.** This will be achieved by securing 2,300 rental units in the market using landlord incentives, and building 1,000 units of permanent supportive housing.
- **The three-year cost** of \$520M will be raised with ~\$220M of incremental funding (already committed/anticipated), ~\$100M from the City of Austin's American Rescue Plan funding, and ~\$200M from Travis County, foundations, and philanthropy.

(Source: [CoA proposal](#); [ARPA funding presentation](#))

Housing-Focused Encampment Assistance Link (HEAL) Initiative:

This February, the Austin City Council also implemented and funded the Housing-Focused Homeless Encampment Assistance Link (HEAL) initiative to address unsheltered homelessness through building bridge shelters, improving community outreach and engagement, and more.

HEAL Initiative: Preliminary Budget	Amount	Funding Source
Outreach & Engagement	\$400,000	New Funding in APH FY21 Budget
Bridge Shelter	\$1,300,000	Included in APH FY21 Budget (original South Austin shelter funding)
Rapid Rehousing	\$2,400,000	New Funding in APH FY21 Budget
Personal Storage	\$200,000	New Funding in APH FY21 Budget
TOTAL PROJECTED OUTREACH & SERVICES		\$4,300,000

HEAL Initiative Preliminary Budget

- The City of Austin has already opened two bridge shelters to serve as temporary housing for people experiencing homelessness, with social services provided to assist in the transition to stable housing.
 - Opened in June 2021, the [Southbridge](#) Shelter can house up to 75 individuals.
 - Opened in August 2021, the [Northbridge](#) Shelter can house up to 60 individuals.
 - Relatedly, in August 2021, City Council approved a \$9.5M purchase of an 83-room [hotel](#) to serve as a domestic violence shelter.
- The City of Austin is supporting community partners’ efforts to address homelessness by:
 - **Waiving \$4.3M in development fees** for Community First!’s planned development of **1400 new micro-homes on a combined 127 acres**.
 - Awarding vouchers through the Housing Authority of the City of Austin to four properties that best met the criteria of serving the homeless or those who experienced chronic homelessness.
 - Espero Austin at Rutland (171 units)
 - Texas Bungalows (60 units)
 - Waterloo Terrace (132 units)
 - Capital Studios (135 units)

(Source: [CoA memo, April 2021](#); [City Council Resolution #20210204-049](#); [CoA release](#); [HACA](#))

Community Advancement on Homelessness

- **Our community added 505 permanent housing beds and community partners housed 1,879 people.**
 - This is an increase of 8% from the year before and a 43% increase since 2017.
 - The majority of permanent housing beds were added by the City of Austin.
- **SAFE provided Rapid Re-Housing services to 170 youth survivors of violence and abuse**
 - This is a 48% increase over 2019.
- **Family Eldercare distributed over \$1.5 million to support housing stability and prevent homelessness for vulnerable populations.**
 - Family Eldercare also permanently housed 125 older adults.
- **The Eating Apart Together (EAT) Initiative delivered more than 1,000,000 meals in 2020 and 2021.** The meals were delivered directly to encampments across Travis County during the pandemic.
- **Integral Care analyzed data of 50 tenants from Terrace at Oak Springs, a Housing First model. In the six months after move-in, the public saved more than \$336,000.** The public savings came from:
 - A +70% reduction in arrests
 - A +60% reduction in medical inpatient admissions
 - A near 90% reduction in medical inpatient days

(Source: [2021 HMIS Snapshot](#))