

HOMELESSNESS

Like so many in growing metropolitan areas, Austin's unhoused population has increased in recent decades. Throughout his terms, Mayor Adler has worked alongside non-profits, public safety officials, public health officials, and corporations to make homelessness in Austin brief, rare, and non-recurring. By connecting people with affordable housing and other community resources, the city works toward the goal of ending homelessness one day at a time. With the help and guidance of Mayor Adler, the City of Austin has been able to take some tremendous strides toward reaching net zero homelessness. He has set a standard for helping people that Austinites will continue to uphold in the future, including through efforts like Finding Home ATX.

Ending Veteran Homelessness

Austin's Homeless Veterans Initiative (AHVI) began in 2013 with funding from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and consisted of multiple programs/agencies working to house veterans experiencing homelessness. In May 2015, Mayor Adler convened a passionate group of community stakeholders to support and tackle veteran homelessness head on. Mayor Adler's Task Force included representation from Senator Kirk Watson's office, the Austin Apartment Association, the Austin Board of Realtors, the Austin Chamber of Commerce, and other dedicated community leaders.

As a result of the Mayor's Veterans Homeless Task Force, over 900 veterans have been housed and veteran homelessness is down significantly since 2011, when veterans accounted for over 14% of the homeless population. In 2016, The United States Interagency Council of Homelessness certified the City of Austin as having ended veteran homelessness.

This was made possible by Support Services for Veteran Families (SSVF). The SSVF has programs that make it possible for veterans to secure employment and be placed in rehousing assistance programs that assist in finding stable permanent housing.

(Source: [ECHO](#))

Summit to End Unsheltered Homelessness / Finding Home ATX

In 2021, community leaders, Austin Justice Coalition, Austin Chamber, the Downtown Austin Alliance, Mayor Adler, and others brought together more than two hundred City, County, non-profit, and business leaders for the Summit to End Unsheltered Homelessness. The main outcome of the Summit was an implementation plan to rehouse 3,000 additional people in three years and reach a point of equilibrium in five years, which allows those who become homeless to be given the resources needed to be rehoused immediately.

Funding for the \$515 million plan includes:

- \$268 million from multiple sources at the City and Travis County
- \$150 million from the American Rescue Plan funding
- \$131 million anticipated from other public sources within the next few years
- \$116 million is left to be filled by private sources

(Source: [CoA](#))

Housing-Focused Homeless Encampment Assistance Link (HEAL) Initiative

In February of 2021, the Austin City Council also implemented and funded the HEAL initiative to address unsheltered homelessness by securing bridge shelters, improving community outreach and engagement, and more. Since 2021, HEAL has moved over 250 people from public encampments to temporary shelters.

(Source: [CoA](#); [CoA](#); data.austintexas.gov)