

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH REINVESTMENTS WORKGROUP

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Public Health Framework



EVIDENCE
BASED



EQUITY



HARM
REDUCTION



TRAUMA-
INFORMED

Community Health Workers (CHW)

We recommend the City invest in a substantial cadre of Community Health Workers and the establishment of a CHW Network and Training Hub.

- Fund a Community health worker [Pilot program](#) to hire 50 CHW
 - \$4 million for Year 1 (50 CHW)
 - \$500,000 for evaluation of pilot program
- Establish a CHW Network and Training and Certification Hub
 - \$4 million
 - Recruitment and retention
 - Translation and interpretation
- Commit to build a cohort of 1,000 CHW by 2025.
 - Specifically serving the Eastern Crescent and communities currently suffering over-policing
 - \$70 million

See the [Biden-Harris National Strategy for COVID-19](#) as reference for these kinds of goals: "As part of the President's commitment to provide 100,000 COVID-19 contact tracers, community health workers, and public health nurses, the Administration will establish a U.S. Public Health Jobs Corps, provide support for community health workers, and mobilize Americans to support communities most at-risk"

Community Health Center staffed by Community Health Workers

Clinic

Health
Promotion
Activities

Mental Health
Services

Linkage to
Community
Supports

Food pantry

Community
Farm and
Food Forest

Medical
Supply Closet

Commercial
Kitchen

Harm Reduction Drop-In Centers + MAT

Expand and fund existing harm reduction infrastructure in Austin and offer alternative peer-run, non-punitive settings and supports such as:

- syringe access
- drop-in centers
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- accessible detox
- overdose prevention sites
- mental health crisis respite centers
- community sharps disposal program

Recommendations:

- Open two additional OTP (co-located with a harm reduction drop-in center) in Travis county in order to address the need for MAT + staff
 - \$4 million for startup costs and first year of operations
- Fund person-centered methadone treatment
 - \$3 million/year
- Open two additional drop-in centers, one center on the south side and one on the northside (co-located with an OTP)
 - \$3 million for startup costs and first year of operations
 - \$3 million/year
- Establish 40 disposal sites across Travis County for safe disposal of sharps.
 - \$500,000/year (includes all administrative and disposal costs)
- Ensure that five of these sites are co-located with Community Health Centers proposed above.

Trauma-Informed Care Assessment of APH

Invest in developing a Trauma Informed assessment process for all programs and ongoing training on Trauma Informed Care for all staff of Austin Public Health.

Recommendations:

- Develop Trauma-Informed Practice assessment process and tool
 - Funding to convene an advisory group of subject matter experts and community members to create the assessment tool and the implementation process
 - Build Trauma Informed Practice into the quality improvement plans of all APH programs.
 - \$500,000
- Establish a fund for ongoing training on Trauma Informed Care and Healing Centered Engagement
 - Begin with clinicians, community health workers and other outreach workers -
 - Make training available to new staff as well as ongoing training for all staff that consistently evolve to evaluate current practices, cultural context, and changing community needs.
 - Ensure training available in multiple languages as needed by staff.
 - \$2 million

Additional Recommendations

- Build Affordable Housing and Implement Rent Control
- Promote Positive Youth Development
- Make CapMetro Free for low-income residents
- Expand coverage of the MAP program