Homeless Strategy Division

DIANNA GREY, HOMELESS STRATEGY OFFICER
FEBRUARY 1, 2022
1. Summit to Address Unsheltered Homelessness
2. Housing-Focused Homeless Encampment Assistance Link (HEAL) Initiative
3. Other Current/Upcoming Projects
Investment Plan Update
SUMMIT TO ADDRESS UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS
The Summit Investment Plan

Summary of Fundraising Progress (as of January 2022)

80% Committed/Anticipated of $515M Goal

$14M since October 2021 briefing (75%)

New Sources of Funding:
- St. David’s Foundation
- Michael and Susan Dell Foundation
- Federal Home Loan Bank

$515M is the GOAL
$277M (54%) Committed
$136M (27%) Anticipated
$101M (20%) Funding To Raise

1 Figures in the chart do not add to $414M due to rounding.
Summit Funding Progress by Category

- Capital Investment: To Be Raised $21.2M
- Core Housing Programs: To Be Raised $30.5M
- System Capacity: To Be Raised $11.2M
- Crisis Services: To Be Raised $7.1M
- Support Services: To Be Raised $10.7M
- Contingency: To Be Raised $10.0M

Legend:
- City ARPA
- Other Committed / Anticipated
- To Be Raised
## American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - Homelessness: Distribution of Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Projected Direct Expense</th>
<th>Projected Contracted Services</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austin Public Health</td>
<td>$3M</td>
<td>$76M</td>
<td>$79M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing &amp; Planning</td>
<td>$16M</td>
<td>$3M</td>
<td>$19M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown Austin Community Court</td>
<td>$7M</td>
<td>$.34M</td>
<td>$7.34M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: Innovation, HSEM</td>
<td>$0.1M</td>
<td>$.60M</td>
<td>$.07M</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$26.1M</strong></td>
<td><strong>$83M</strong></td>
<td><strong>$106.7M</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# APH Solicitations for Homeless Services

## Anticipated Solicitation Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solicitation Schedule</th>
<th>Phase #1</th>
<th>Phase #2</th>
<th>Phase #3</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus Area</strong></td>
<td>Housing Stabilization</td>
<td>Crisis Response</td>
<td>Reducing Inflow and other Supportive Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Types</strong></td>
<td>• Permanent Supportive Housing</td>
<td>• Shelter</td>
<td>• Employment Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Rapid Rehousing</td>
<td>• Street Outreach</td>
<td>• Behavioral Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Supportive Services</td>
<td>• Other Crisis Services</td>
<td>• Benefits Access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Capacity Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Solicitation Amount (Combined Funds)</strong></td>
<td>~$53M</td>
<td>To Be Announced</td>
<td>To Be Announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anticipated Release Date</strong></td>
<td>Open Applications due March 9th</td>
<td>March 2022</td>
<td>May 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HEAL Initiative

UPDATE AND PRIORITIZATION PROCESS
HEAL Initiative Overview

Persons Served:
- Inception to date: 182 persons relocated from 6 encampments
- Fiscal Year To Date: 40 Served from 2 encampments
- FY Goal: 200 persons served

Highlights:
- 93% Shelter Acceptance Rate
- 32 Rehoused To Date

Challenges:
- Increased Difficulty Locating Housing Units
- Limited Bridge Shelter Capacity
- Rapid Rehousing Program Capacity
- Attrition from shelter
HEAL Prioritization Framework

Prioritization of HEAL encampments is based on the public health and safety criteria

Why is Prioritization Needed?

- The need for shelter and permanent housing is greater than the supply
- Prioritization is needed to ensure City resources – human and financial capital – are focusing on encampments that pose the greatest risk to public health and public safety, and to the individuals living in the encampments

What is the Mobile Prioritization Tool capture?

- HSD, in collaboration with multiple City Departments, developed a mobile encampment assessment tool
- The tool:
  - Captures basic information about the encampment (e.g., location, # of people, # of tents, and # of vehicles,
  - Evaluates the safety and health risk of encampments based on 40 standardized variables (see next page) and produces a risk score.
- This is a prototype. It will be refined and improved.

How is the Mobile Prioritization Tool being used?

- Currently four City Departments are testing and using the Tool to assess encampment: Homeless Strategy Division, Parks and Recreation Department, Watershed Protection, and Public Works
- The Tool AND the availability of bridge shelter beds are the two factors used to prioritize encampment closures for the HEAL initiative
- Between October and December 31, 2022, the tool has been used to evaluate 12 encampments
- Additional assessments are underway
HEAL Prioritization Framework

What public health and public safety factors does the Prioritization Tool assess?

**Public Health factors assessed:**
- High-risk health conditions
- Presence of minors and/or pregnant persons
- Access to potable water, hygiene resources
- Evidence of human waste, rodents, and accumulated trash
- EMS and ARR accessibility
- Unsafe syringe disposal
- Dumping

**Public Safety factors assessed:**
- Flood risk
- Wildfire risk
- Presence of combustible materials
- Observed fire activity
- Risk to public infrastructure
- Vehicle and/or pedestrian pathway risk
- First responder access
- Traffic visibility risk
Other Projects
Hotel Conversions – Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

- Two 2021 hotel acquisitions will transfer to AHFC subsidiary upon City Council approval
  
- Bungalows at Century Park (Burnet Road, 60 units)
  - Acquisition closed July 2021
  - Integral Care under contract as service provider/operator
  - Renovation funding on February 3\textsuperscript{rd} Council agenda
  - 50 project-based vouchers awarded by Housing Authority of the City of Austin

- Pecan Park PSH (Pecan Park Blvd, 78 units)
  - Acquisition closed August 2021
  - Renovation funding expected on March Council agenda
  - Council approval of service funding expected on Council agenda March – April
  - Application submitted for 50 HACA project-based vouchers on January 17\textsuperscript{th}.

- Projected occupancy: October – December 2022
Coordinated Enforcement/Cleanup
• Resolution of unauthorized encampments requires multi-department coordination
• Requests for service far exceed capacity
• Over 70 encampments (not including independent APD enforcement, HEAL Initiative, or abandoned sites)
• After initial focus at underpasses, substantial focus Parks and Recreation properties
• Larger, more remote sites have complex access, require heavy machinery, and multiple days or weeks

Tonnage Collected: (including abandoned sites)
• Austin Resource Recovery: 829 tons
• Public Works: 177 tons
• Austin Watershed: 38.51

Strain on budgets, staff, and services
• Accelerated spend-down on third-party cleanup contracts
• Multiple avenues for service requests
• Displacement versus Shelter/Rehousing
Process Improvement
*Financial Services Division – Performance Management*

- Unified Response Structure
- Coordinated Prioritization and Resource Deployment
- Communication Plan (COA to PEH, COA to Public)
- Standardized Protocol (biohazard cleanup, property, etc.)
- Central Hub For Staff Resources
- Increased Staff Training
- System for Tracking Camps, Prioritization, Resources, and Response
Homeless Encampment Management

Phase 1: Unified Response Structure

Key Departments Involved

Stakeholder Departments Consulted/Informed

Will Inform Other Recommendations
Cold Weather Shelter: Overview

**Activation**
- Overnight temperature of 32 Degrees, or
- Overnight temperature of 35 degrees and inclement weather (rain/high winds)
- Communications: Hotline, HSEM PIO, reverse text messaging, homeless service provider listserv

**Embarkation Center**
- One Texas Center (Downtown Austin Community Court)
- Registration: 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- COVID Screening/Transport to Isolation Facility as Needed; COVID and Flu Vaccinations Offered
- Staffed by Austin Public Health, DACC, & Integral Care
- Meal Offered by Front Steps
- Late Transfers: Public Safety partners contact HSEM Duty Officer
Cold Weather Shelter: Overview

**Cold Weather Shelter Sites**
- Three Recreation Centers: Capacity ~ 225
- Capital Metro transports from Embarkation Center
- Release Time 6am with Capital Metro transport downtown; later if activities do not conflict
- Staffed by Parks & Recreation; Austin Police Department on site

**Considerations**
- Community Input: Requests for higher temperature threshold, improved access, and expansion
- Shift in ARCH participation & significant decrease in offers of church space, volunteers, food due to COVID = reliance on City staff in addition to regular duties
- HSD/APH assessing potential revisions to Cold Weather Shelter Plan and potential costs to City of Austin. There is no current budget for CWS.
Questions/Discussion