



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council Members

**FROM:** Laura Patiño, Chief Resilience Officer *LP*

**THROUGH:** Jason Alexander, Chief of Staff

**DATE:** September 14, 2022

**SUBJECT:** **Update on Neighborhood Resilience Hub Resources (Resolution No. 20220616-051)**

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This memo serves as an update to [Resolution No. 20220616-051](#) regarding neighborhood resilience hub resources, including a newly created website, preparedness guide, and toolkit. It also provides information on [Resolution No. 20210408-018](#) regarding resilience hubs.

### Website

The first iteration of the [Austin Resilience Hub Network website](#) has been created and can now be accessed. The website will be updated regularly as the Austin Resilience Hub Network program expands. It contains general information on resilience hubs, status updates on the pilot program, and information on community events that will take place in the coming months. Ultimately, the website will contain information of location, services, and programming of resilience hubs within the network, city-wide. It will also be connected to the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (HSEM) emergency communications, once the program is kicked off with the six initial hubs. The website also contains a survey, where we are collecting information from individuals and partners who are interested in setting up community hubs in private facilities. The initial [survey](#) is the first step and a significant milestone in the creation of a database of available locations and resources and resilience hub toolkit for community-owned sites. The preparation of the toolkit is anticipated to begin in the October 2022, once additional capacity to the Resilience Office is onboarded.

### Toolkit

Staff members are in the process of developing a comprehensive toolkit that provides guidance on establishing resilience hubs owned and operated by the community. To ensure success of the program, proper protocols will need to be established to align with City emergency plans and serve different community needs through our community partners. The toolkit will provide guidance on establishing resilience hubs within community or privately owned sites and will include information required for facility attributes, activation protocols, and long-term resilience planning efforts to help support neighborhoods before, during, and after a disaster and during the day-to-day. Steps staff are taking to prepare this toolkit include:

1. Including a [survey](#) in the Austin Resilience Hubs Network website to collect information and details of potential partners interested in setting up a community hub. This has been completed and survey is LIVE.
2. Documenting materials and best practices from the six pilot resilience hubs to inform the toolkit.

3. Anticipating the onboarding of a FUSE Corps fellow in Fall 2022, pending approval from City Council in September 2022. The fellow will report to the Chief Resilience Officer and assist in the planning and programming of the Resilience Hub Network. This position will utilize the data collected from the survey and the information obtained through the pilot program to create a comprehensive toolkit with a checklist of structural and programmatic elements within facilities and proper activation protocols for community-owned hubs during disasters and the day-to-day.

### **Disaster Preparedness Guide**

The Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office, Watershed Protection Department, Office of Sustainability, and The University of Texas at Austin researchers, in partnership with Go! Austin /Vamos! Austin (GAVA), co-created the Dove Springs Neighborhood Preparedness Guide in 2021. This guide is community-driven and serves as a comprehensive guide for providing emergency preparedness information in a format that helps build individual and household preparedness and resilience capacity. The Dove Springs Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness guide has been adapted and expanded by City and partners into a comprehensive [Citywide Neighborhood Preparedness Guide](#). The guide has been released as a resource on the City's website in English and is currently being translated in Spanish.

### **Collaboration**

Collaboration is taking place with Austin Independent School District, Travis County, the Community Advisory Committee, and the Community Task Force to develop the Austin Resilience Hub Network Program. Furthermore, additional engagement will continue, including school-age children, to take place as the toolkit and preparedness guides are developed.

### **Funding & Staff Capacity**

Three million dollars have been allocated through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to support the six initial resilience hubs and the creation of the Austin Resilience Hub Network. \$50,000 have been allocated through the Fiscal Year 2023 budget for the support of the toolkit development and implementation. In addition, staff capacity has been increased through the reclassification of two positions for the support of the program under HSEM and formalization of a partnership with UT for a two-year fellow. Additional staff capacity for resilience hubs was approved in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget and will be placed within HSEM. An agreement between the Office of Resilience, Office of Sustainability, and HSEM is being developed to outline management structure and operations of the Resilience Hub Network.

On September 12, 2022, staff provided a thorough update of the Austin Resilience Hub Network to the City of Austin, Travis County, and Austin Independent School District Joint Subcommittee. The report will be posted in the Austin Resilience Hub Network website and include information on [Resolution No. 20210408-018](#) and community engagement as well. Future Resilience Hub Network communications and updates will be streamlined with the cadence of the joint subcommittee meetings and will be provided to Council on a quarterly basis.

If you have additional questions, please contact me at [laura.patino@austintexas.gov](mailto:laura.patino@austintexas.gov).

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager  
Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager  
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