

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, according to the State of the Homelessness Response System report, the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) highlights our local Homelessness Response System is in need of approximately \$350 million over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, all remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding is encumbered and unable to fund any additional investments in the homeless response system in the future; and

WHEREAS, during the October 22, 2024 work session, the budget office identified an estimated annual cost for ongoing needs for rapid rehousing and emergency shelters at a minimum of \$15.4 million; and

WHEREAS, Austin has a higher rate of people experiencing chronic homelessness than most other cities; and

WHEREAS, the City's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget strategic priorities include optimizing investments, partnerships, and service delivery to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness in Austin; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified alleviating homelessness as a key priority; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City of Austin adopts the State of Homelessness Response System report and modeling to inform and guide investments in the homelessness response system.

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

25 Starting with the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget, the City Manager is
26 directed to explore sustainable funding sources, partnerships, and opportunities to
27 prioritize ongoing investments in a balanced homelessness response system.

28 Investments should include, but are not limited to:

- 29 • Identifying which homelessness programs that are currently funded by
30 ARPA should continue and how they will be funded;
- 31 • Resources and staffing within the Homeless Strategy Office for
32 collaborating City departments, community organizations, and service
33 providers;
- 34 • Strategies to increase capacity utilization of existing interventions such
35 as shelter and rapid rehousing by increasing the placement rates for
36 participants into housing;
- 37 • Capital and service funds for Emergency Shelter, Permanent
38 Supportive Housing (PSH), and Rapid Rehousing; and
- 39 • Diversion, navigation, and prevention programs and strategies.

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

41 The City Manager is directed to identify any policy or administrative
42 changes necessary to construct and operate the existing PSH units to be
43 completed between 2024-2027 and the 575-650 units of PSH needed each year
44 from 2028-2034. Such recommendations should include modifying the timeline
45 and proposed usage of 2022 affordable housing bonds, prioritization of resources
46 to and within the Housing Department and Austin Housing Finance Corporation,
47 and what percentage of the identified PSH need should be primarily financed by
48 the City versus other local partners.

49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

50 The City Manager is directed to provide an update to the Public Health
51 Committee by March 2025. As part of this update, the Manager should identify
52 what funding amounts are needed for one-time capital investments and what are
53 ongoing operational expenses. The report should also include a status update
54 regarding on-going collaboration between regional partner entities including, but
55 not limited to: ECHO, Travis County, Central Health, and Integral Care.

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58 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2025 **ATTEST:** _____

59 Myrna Rios
60 City Clerk