

# Austin Homeless Strategies and Operations Bond Priorities

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Austin Homeless Strategies and Operations (HSO) | November 5, 2025



## Our Vision:

Everyone has access to stable housing and the support they need to thrive.



# Austin-Travis County Homeless Response System Data and Performance Metrics.

**Est. Nightly Homeless Population: 6,300**

**People Exiting Homelessness: 3,055**  
(14% increase from 2023)

**Unique People Served: 28,348**  
(13% increase from 2023)

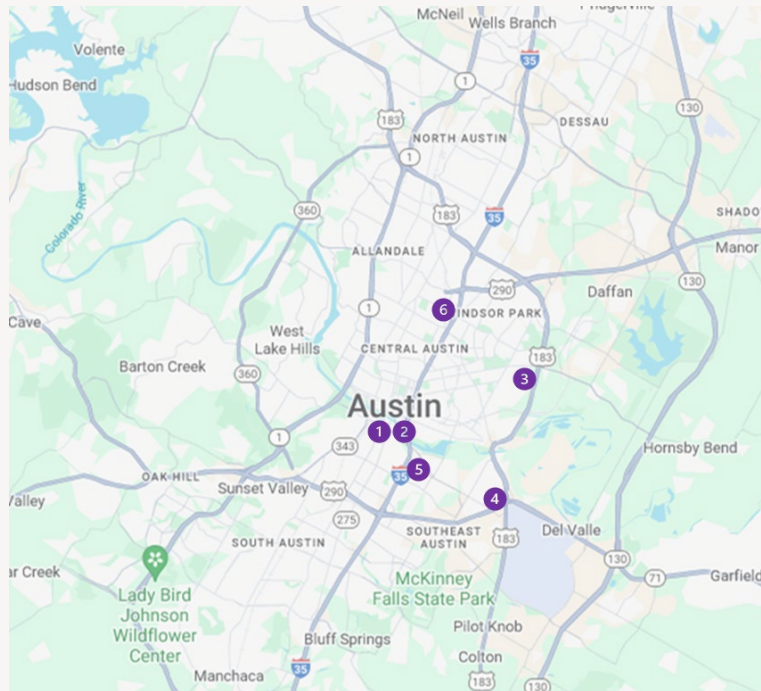
**Number of First-Time Served: 7,909**  
(5% decrease from 2023)

**Chronic Homeless Rate: 30%**

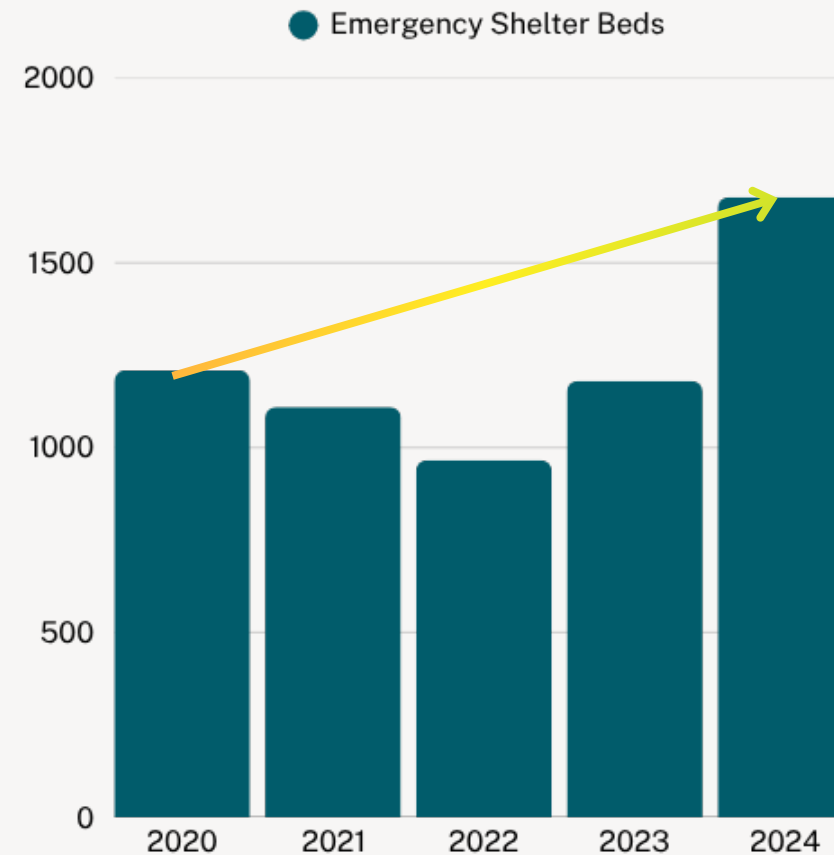


We're building the capacity to serve more households and reduce unsheltered homelessness.

## City-Owned Shelter Network



1. Austin Resource Center for the Homeless
2. Eighth Street Women's Shelter
3. Austin Shelter for Women & Children
4. Marshalling Yard Emergency Shelter
5. Southbridge Shelter
6. Northbridge Shelter





Our bond priorities are informed by the needs of our clients and our strategic goals.

## **Homeless Response System Ongoing Investment Opportunities.**

AHSO staff delivered a memorandum on June 25, 2025, to respond to Council Resolution No. 20250130-083 regarding prioritizing ongoing investments in the homelessness response system.

### **Produce a measurable reduction in the prevalence of homelessness.**

Investments must reduce overall homeless count in Austin.

### **Focus upstream by preventing homelessness before it starts.**

Investments must ensure those at-risk of homelessness remain housed or can be quickly sheltered/housed.

### **Provide most appropriate interventions for those experiencing homelessness.**

Investments must be used in a manner that serves people with the most appropriate interventions for their needs.

Our top bond priorities are opening more shelter beds and establishing navigation centers.

## Homeless Shelter Bed Expansion - \$50M

- Purchase, build, and/or refurbish a building to serve as a new homeless shelter.
- The new shelter will provide emergency beds, social services, and possibly respite care.
- Needs assessment dollar amount is preliminary.

## North Austin Housing Navigation Center - \$15M

- Purchase, build, and/or refurbish a building to serve as a Housing Navigation Center.
- The center will provide access to case managers and staff who connect individuals and families to shelters and services, along with on-site access to restrooms, showers, clothing, and other immediate needs.



*Eighth St. Women's Shelter Room*

We're continuing to engage with stakeholders to build a better homeless service system.

## **Next Steps for Implementation**

### **Site Identification and Evaluation**

- Identify and map potential locations for the shelter and navigation center based on zoning, accessibility, community impact, and proximity to services.
- Conduct site feasibility screenings (utilities, environmental conditions, acquisition costs, readiness).
- Engage with city planning, public works, and community stakeholders to validate site suitability and align with local priorities.

### **Program and Feasibility Finalization**

- Work with the consultant team (CBRE) to finalize shelter programming, including capacity, service model, design requirements, and cost assumptions.
- Complete feasibility analysis, incorporating capital, operational, and long-term maintenance costs.
- Align the program with best practices and community input to ensure flexibility and sustainability.

We're continuing to engage with stakeholders to build a better homeless service system.

## **Next Steps for Implementation**

### **Financial and Funding Strategy**

- Refine bond fund allocation based on updated cost estimates.
- Identify complementary funding sources (state/federal grants, philanthropic, or private partnerships).
- Develop a phasing plan if multiple sites or stages are anticipated.

### **Stakeholder Engagement and Communication**

- Continue engagement with stakeholders to share progress and gather feedback.
- Coordinate with city council and advisory committees for decision points and approvals.

### **Implementation Planning**

- Define procurement and design timelines (RFP for design/build, environmental review, permitting).
- Establish project governance and oversight structure.
- Develop risk management plan addressing cost escalation, site constraints, and regulatory hurdles.

### **Reporting and Decision Milestones**

- Present site recommendations and feasibility findings to leadership for direction.
- Set key milestones for decision-making and council actions leading to project launch.



# Thank You!

