

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, in January of 2025, the Austin City Council adopted the State of Homelessness Response and Modeling as guidance to inform and prioritize investments in the City's homelessness response system; and

WHEREAS, with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds expiring, the Homeless Strategy Office (HSO) conducted a review of ARPA-funded initiatives to identify programs essential to maintaining current service levels and advancing progress toward reducing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, HSO staff recommended continuation of several high-impact programs totaling \$15,650,000, including a proposed \$2,000,000 allocation toward community-based shelters; and

WHEREAS, community-based shelters, often operated by nonprofit and faith-based organizations, provide critical, low-barrier alternatives to City-owned shelter facilities and serve individuals and families who may not otherwise have access to shelter; and

WHEREAS, family homelessness is a growing concern in Austin, with an estimated 1,944 households with children experiencing homelessness as of October of 2024; and

WHEREAS, family shelter beds are designated shelter accommodations that allow entire families including single fathers, single mothers, and two-parent households, to stay together in a safe, supportive environment while they navigate the path to housing stability; and

WHEREAS, the demand for family shelter beds significantly exceeds the current capacity in Austin, with 218 families on the Salvation Army's family

shelter waitlist as of April of 2025, and all existing family shelters operating at full capacity; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Manager is directed to ensure that at least 50 family shelter beds are opened or re-opened in Fiscal Year 2025-2026, supported by available shelter funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to assess the capacity and feasibility of current community shelter partners to deliver family shelter services and to ensure any facilities potentially receiving funding can accommodate diverse family structures, including but not limited to, single parent families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is authorized to use the most appropriate procurement mechanism, consistent with City policies, to allocate shelter funding in a timely and effective manner to support family shelter capacity.

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

Erika Brady
City Clerk