# Modeling the Need

*Investments needed to build a response system that makes homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring in Austin/Travis County*

## Austin City Council | Public Health Committee
## November 6, 2024

ECHO

# Presenters

● **Joseph Montaño** (he/him)
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● **Kate Moore** (she/her)
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## About ECHO

The Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) is the **backbone of our community's Homelessness Response System**. As the lead agency for the Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care, **we lead and align a coalition responsible for planning and implementing community-wide strategies to end homelessness**. We work alongside people with firsthand experience of homelessness and nonprofit, government, and philanthropic partners to **build a future in which everyone in our community has housing of their choice that provides a foundation for optimal health, success, and stability**. Learn more: austinecho.org
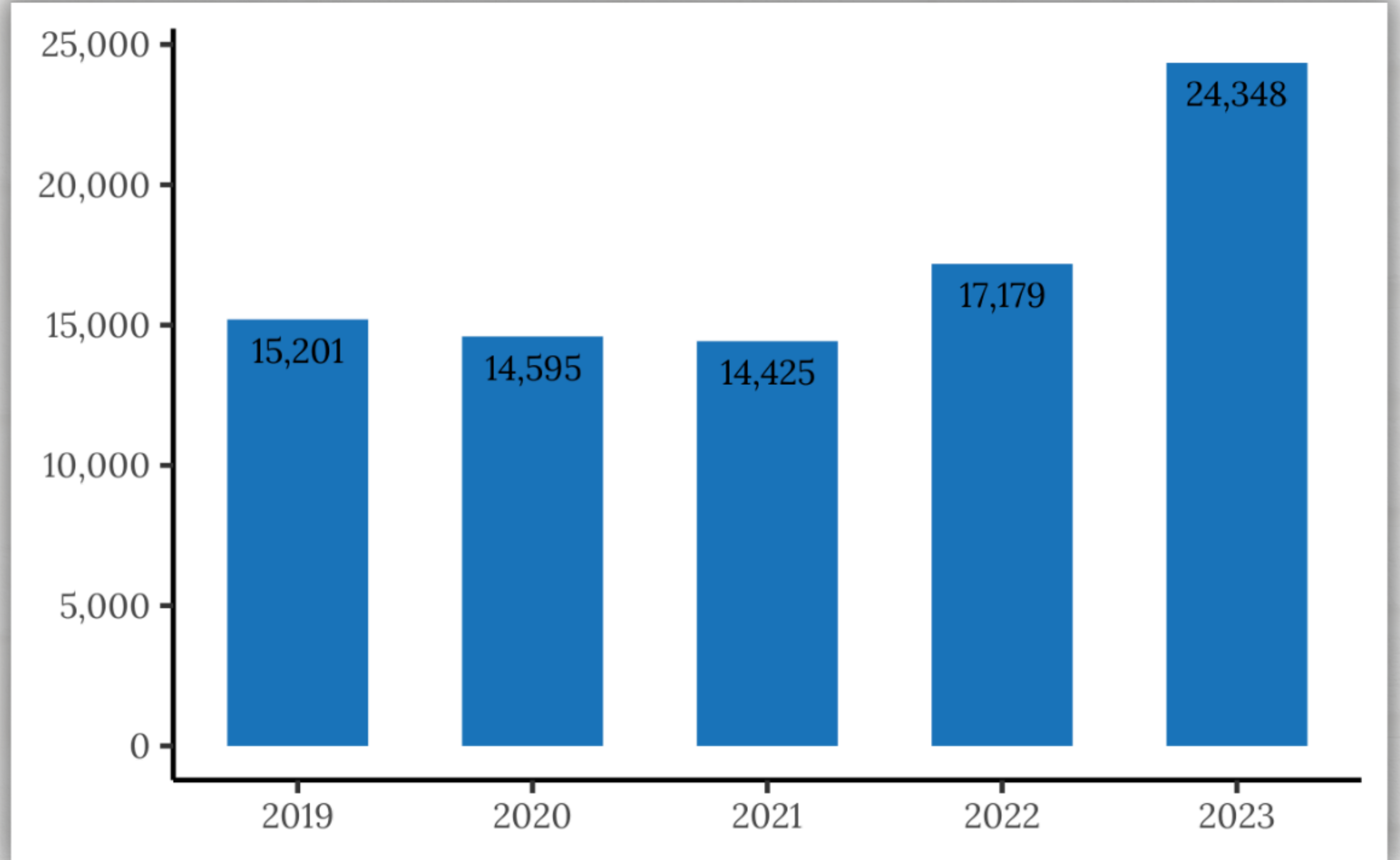
# Agenda

- People Served by the System
- Chronic Homelessness
- Homelessness Response System (HRS) Growth
- System Modeling
- Data-Informed Modeling
- Intervention Definitions
- System Baselines
- Current Capacity
- Formulas
- System Needs
- Investment Needed by Year
- Recommendations
- Q&A

*Number of **People Served** by all Homelessness Response System (HRS) Programs*

People Served

# Chronic Homelessness

## Sheltered PIT

1,108 (2023)

1,709 (2024)

## Unsheltered PIT

1,266 (2023)

*Subpopulations* of People Served by the HRS

| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chronically Homeless | 3,914 25.7% | 3,992 27.4% | 4,186 29.0% | 5,254 30.6% | 7,322 30.1% |
| Domestic Violence Survivors | 4,750 32.2% | 4,695 34.0% | 4,574 35.0% | 5,445 34.7% | 6,456 30.0% |
| Families with Children | 1,467 12.9% | 1,493 14.0% | 1,490 13.8% | 1,569 11.8% | 1,829 9.2% |
| Veterans | 1,608 10.9% | 1,480 10.7% | 1,466 10.8% | 1,668 10.4% | 1,916 8.3% |
| Unaccompanied Youth | 1,177 10.9% | 1,111 11.4% | 1,162 12.7% | 1,204 10.5% | 1,811 10.2% |

Categories are not mutually exclusive.

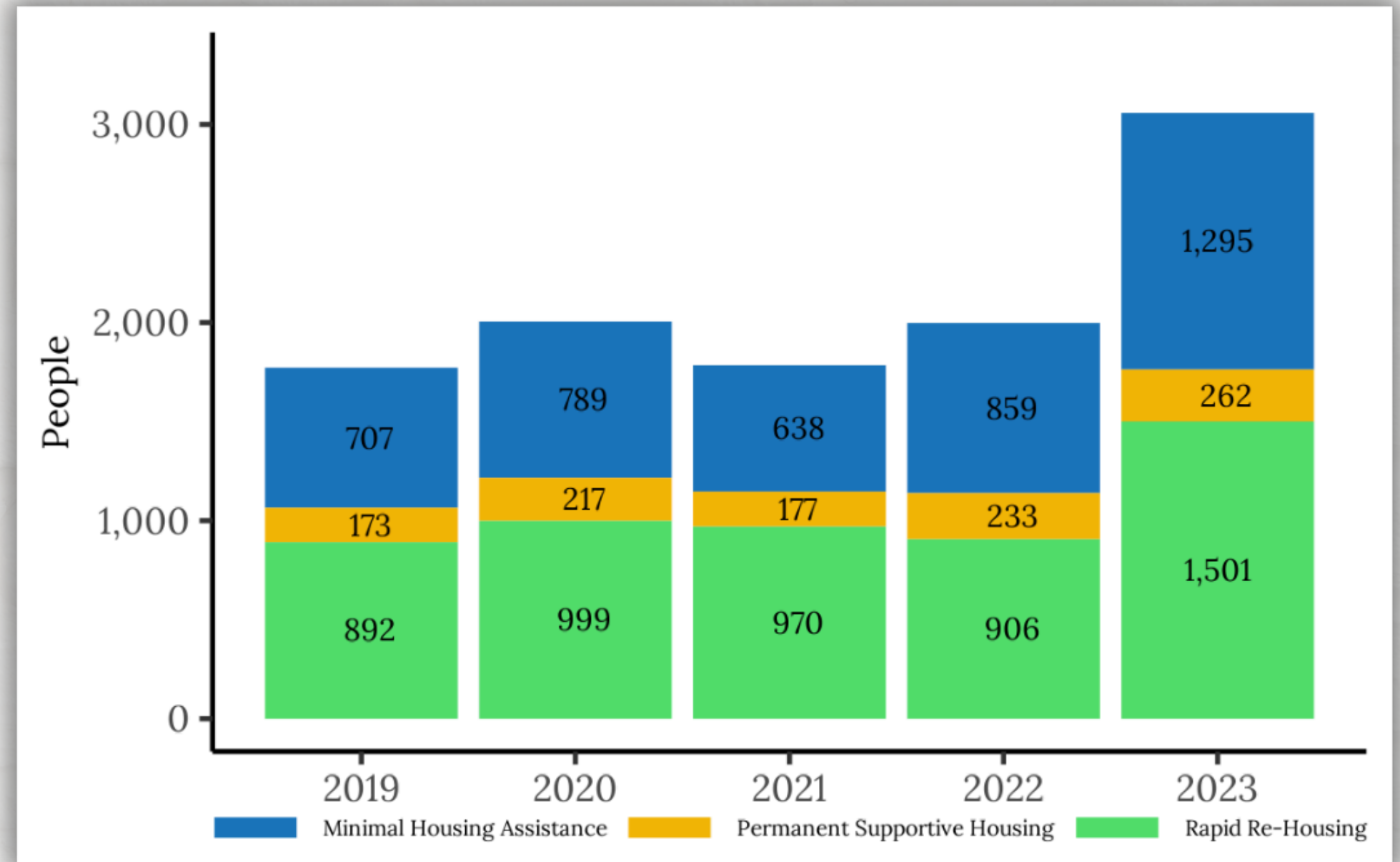✳ *30% of people experiencing homelessness are chronically homeless*

# HRS Growth

## Despite large growth in the HRS, we are still playing catch-up

- *Providers in our community helped **3,058** **new people** find places to live in 2023, a 73% increase from 2019.*



*Number of **People** Who Moved Into Housing*

| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minimal Housing Assistance | 707 | 789 | 638 | 859 | 1,295 |
| Permanent Supportive Housing | 173 | 217 | 177 | 233 | 262 |
| Rapid Re-Housing | 892 | 999 | 970 | 906 | 1,501 |

# Despite large growth in the HRS, we are still playing catch-up

**Beds per person experiencing homelessness (shelter + housing)**

Chart showing beds per person experiencing homelessness by city:
- Houston: ~4
- San Francisco: ~2.55
- Philadelphia: ~2.45
- San Antonio: ~2.25
- Fort Worth: ~2.2
- Dallas: ~2.0
- **Austin**: ~1.9
- Portland: ~1.9
- Phoenix: ~1.5
- Seattle: ~1.4

- Austin's inventory to shelter and house people **remains the lowest among big Texas cities** and among the lowest compared to peer cities across the country.
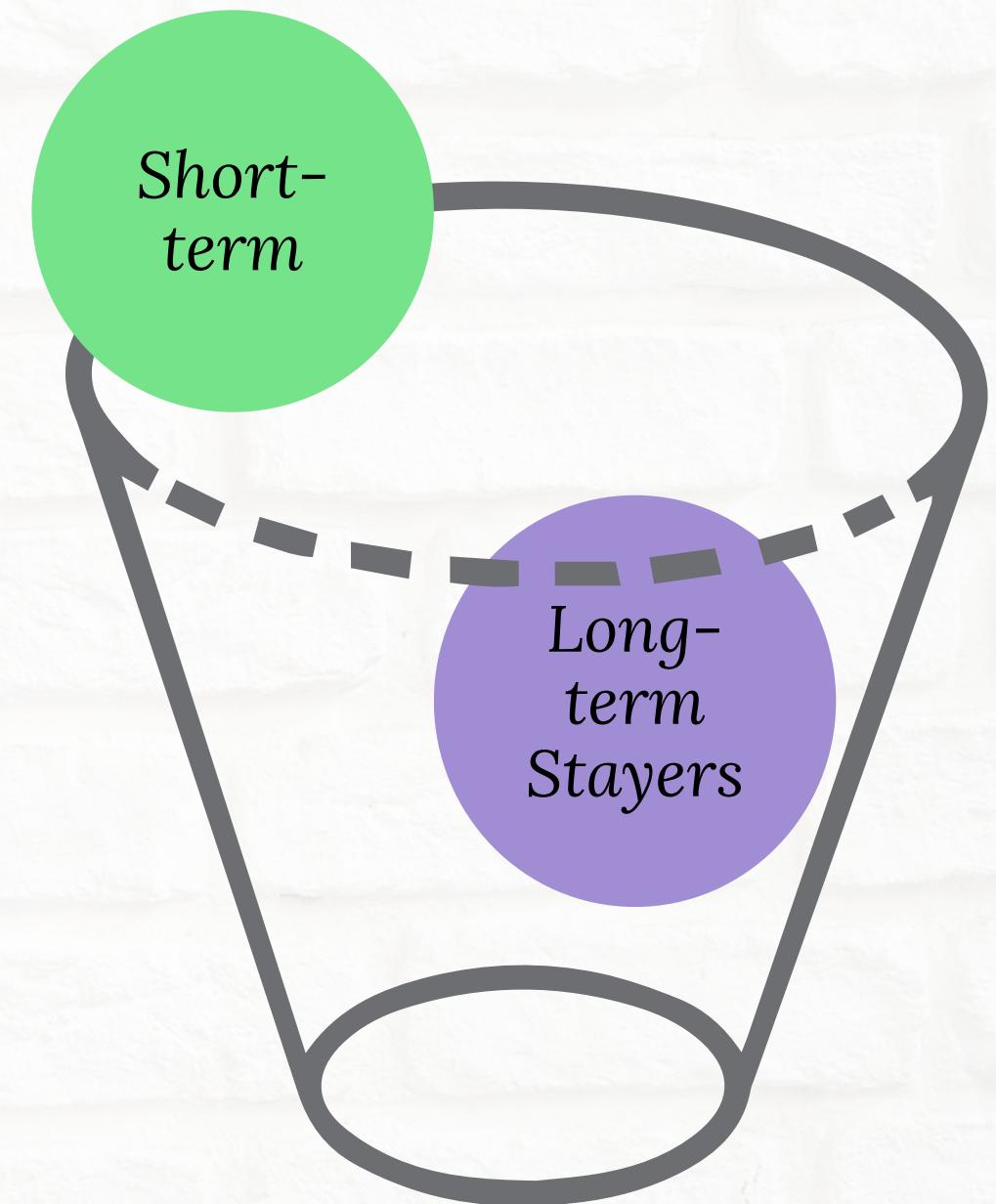
System Modeling

System Modeling is intended to address needs for BOTH short-term and long-term services.

Short-term

Long-term Stayers

Short-term

Long-term Stayers
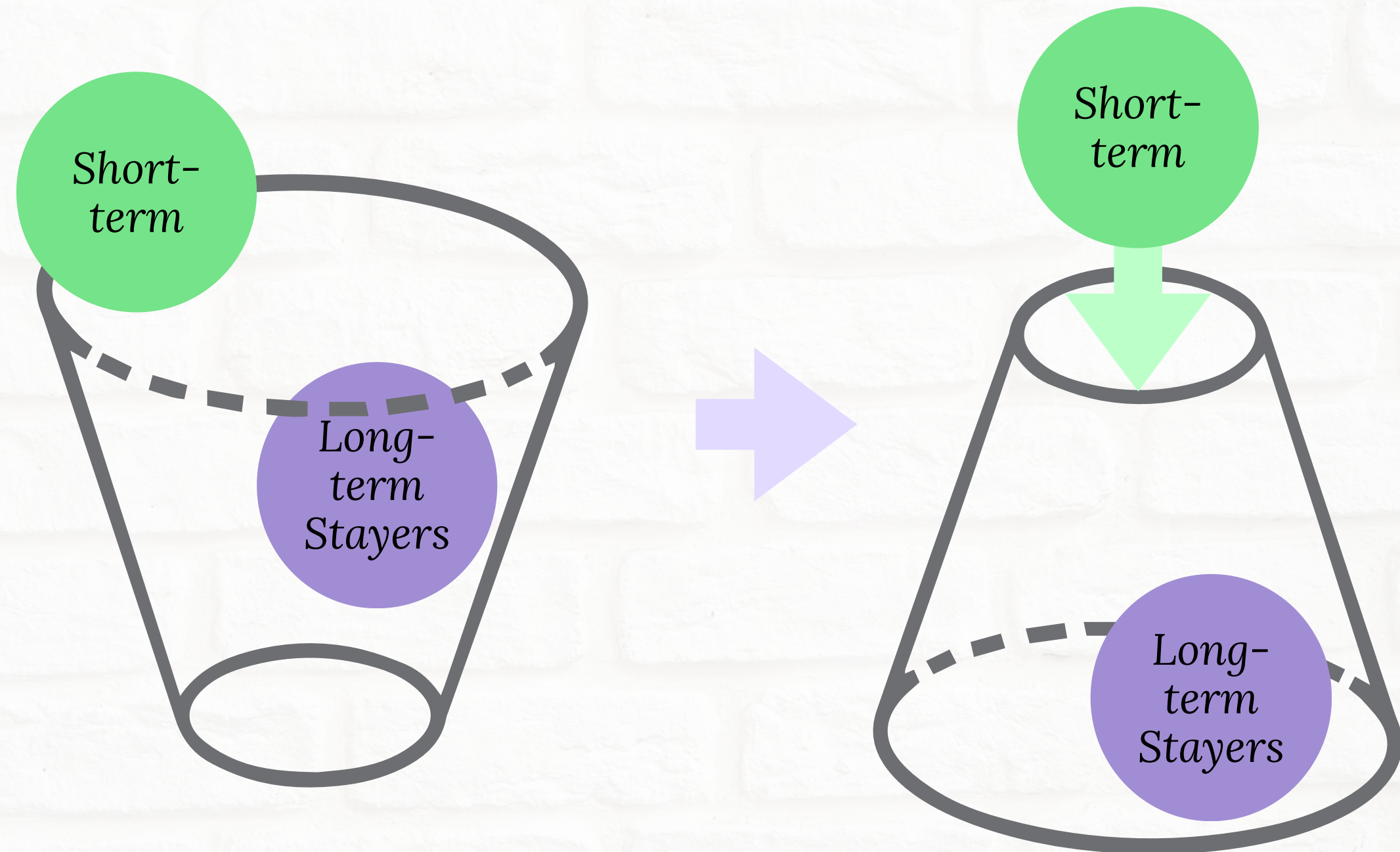
**Because people continue to fall into homelessness, the instinct is to grow a big funnel to provide short-term services.**

- *But our data shows that the **number of people who are experiencing long-term homelessness is consistently high** and hasn't gone down.*

Short-term

Long-term Stayers

**What we likely need is an inverted funnel to exit more people successfully to housing. This requires more long-term services.**

- *This two-pronged strategy would provide **housing options and services to people who need them**, especially folks who've been in system for more than a year, and **use diversion and other short term services** for people coming into the system.*

Short-term

Long-term Stayers

## Data-Informed Modeling
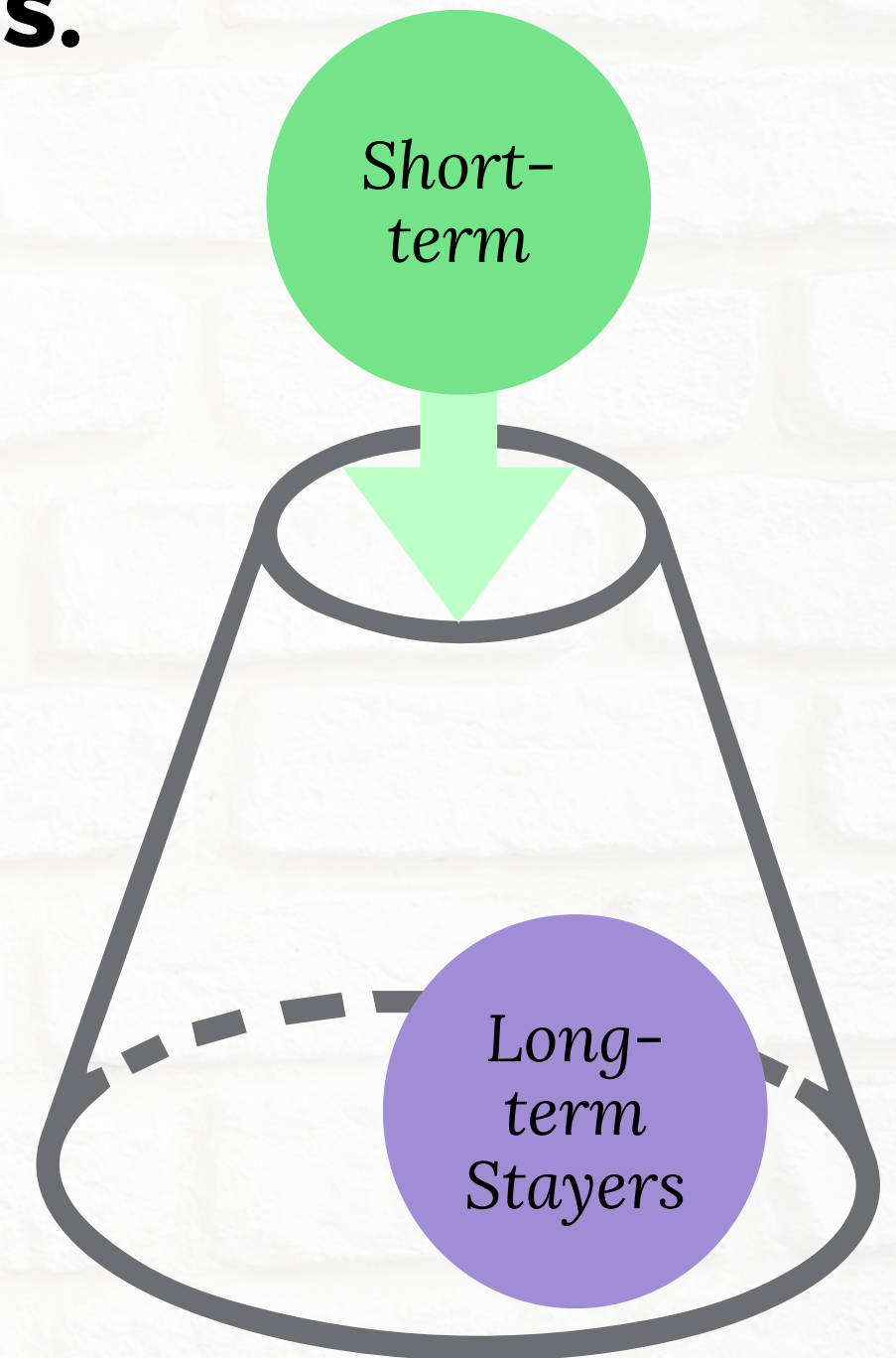
# The model is informed by the following:

- **Expected Demand** is based on people's history of homelessness, health and service needs, and incomes. Some assumptions include:
  - People who are chronically homeless would best be served by PSH.
  - Those with a modest amount of income could be served well by diversion/RE.
- **Unit turnover rate** is based on average length of stay and number of households served per year – and average utilization rates.
- **Current Capacity** is based on HMIS and known changes in capacity for the community (e.g., PSH pipeline, ARPA cliff).
- **Exit & Return Estimates** based on self-resolution rates, returns to homelessness rates, and number of first-time households experiencing homelessness based on service data and HMIS

# Intervention Definitions

- **Emergency Shelters (ES)** – *Critical short-term lifeline for many people who experience homelessness. Can be congregate (bunk-style) or non-congregate (tiny homes or individual micro-shelters). Often leads to other supports and can lead to long-term housing*

- **Rapid Rehousing (RRH)** - *Short-term housing option that provides 6-24 months of rental assistance and some supportive services; designed for people who can start paying for housing on their own when assistance ends.*

- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** – *Designed for people with the highest needs; provides rental assistance and individualized supportive services for along as someone needs them. Must have a disabling condition and be chronically homeless to qualify.*

- **Prevention** – *Designed for people who are housed, who need resources, such as rental or utility assistance and legal help to stay housed.*

- **Diversion** – *A "light touch" service that provides short-term or one-time assistance to quickly help people resolve their homelessness.*

# System Baselines

| | Emergency Shelter | Rapid Re-Housing | Permanent Supportive Housing | Diversion | Prevention |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Singles** | 3720 | 2088 | 4000 | 1250 | 816 |
| **Families** | 460 | 1392 | 500 | 750 | 544 |

# Current Capacity

| | Emergency Shelter | Rapid Re-Housing | Permanent Supportive Housing | Diversion | Prevention |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Singles** | 1282 | 842 | 1538 | 500 | 410 |
| **Families** | 270 | 527 | 99 | 400 | 270 |

# Formulas

## Households Exited to Housing

$$=$$

$$\text{Current Capacity} \times \text{Turnover Rate} \times \text{Utilization Rate}$$

## Units Needed

$$=$$

$$\text{Baseline} - \text{HH Exited To Housing} - \text{Self-Resolutions} + \text{Returns To Homelessness} + \text{Newly Homeless}$$

# System Needs

| | Emergency Shelter | Rapid Re-Housing | Permanent Supportive Housing |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Median yearly new capacity needed** | 100 | 275 | 575 |
| **Total units needed (10 years)** | 550 | 2355 | 4175 |
| **Total units cost (10 years)** | $24,399,259 | $104,473,188 | $217,411,093 |

\* *Diversion & Prevention not included due to limitations of historical data on exits and returns*

\*\* *Does not include PSH pipeline*

# Investment Needed by Year

## Singles

| | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031 | 2032 | 2033 | 2034 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ES | 0 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RRH | 0 | -430 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 |
| PSH | 310 | 241 | 340 | 222 | 500 | 500 | 450 | 450 | 450 | 450 | 450 |
| | | $3.5M | $10.8M | $11.1M | $33.4M | $33.6M | $28.3M | $29.1M | $30M | $30.9M | $31.8M |

✳ *Red indicates known changes, such as ARPA ending and the PSH Pipeline which are not accounted for in the costs*

# Investment Needed by Year

## Families

| | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031 | 2032 | 2033 | 2034 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ES | 0 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RRH | 0 | -210 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| PSH | 34 | 27 | 38 | 25 | 150 | 150 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 |
| | | $1.8M | $2.7M | $2.8M | $9.5M | $9.7M | $8.9M | $9.1M | $9.4M | $9.7M | $10M |

✳ *Red* indicates known changes, such as ARPA ending and the PSH Pipeline which are not accounted for in the costs

- **Expand current investments** in Diversion to diversify pathways for quick exits from Homelessness
- **Develop new investments** in Prevention efforts to stabilize the inflow of people entering homelessness
- **Continue to prioritize collaboration** between the City, Travis County, people who've received services from our system, & community stakeholders to make this a living model with a continuous review process
- **Partner with other funders** of the system to fully fund the Emergency Shelter, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Rapid Rehousing our community needs

Q&A

# Thank you!

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