

FY 2026-2027 BUDGET QUESTION

Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT(S): Austin Emergency Management; Austin Climate Action & Resilience;

CBQ NO.: 94

REQUESTED BY: (District 3) José Velásquez

DATE REQUESTED: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 9:20 AM

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REQUEST:

On page 115 (Volume I), it is stated we are “sunsetting” our year-end targets of the number of accessible facilities designed to be areas of respite during disruption or disaster, because the City is restructuring the resilience hub model. Could you describe the City’s new model and the rationale for the restructuring?

RESPONSE:

Goal CH.4: Increase community preparedness to improve resiliency and adaptability to disruptions and disasters.

Measures

Measure	2025-26 Year-end Target	2026-27 Year-end Target
Number of accessible facilities equitably designated to be areas of respite during disruption or disasters	Sunsetting*	Sunsetting*

* This measure was developed around the original resilience hub model, which the City has restructured, making the measure no longer applicable. Development of a new performance measure is in progress.

Goal and Measure Gap:

This goal and associated measure were inherited by Austin Emergency Management. We have been working to update and sunset this version from our assigned goals/measures, and Budget and Organizational Excellence's performance team will collaborate with Austin Emergency Management to replace this measure in the next City-wide Strategic Plan revision cycle to align with the current City model.

Program Background:

On April 8, 2021, [Council Resolution No. 20210408-028](#) was created, giving the City Manager direction to create a network of Resilience Hubs with the City. The Office of Resilience, Office of Sustainability, Austin Emergency Management, Austin Public Health, Austin Fire Department, Economic Development, and Equity Office worked together to coordinate the planning and implementation of Resilience Hubs leading to a pilot project that tested City-owned facilities as hubs for resilience resources, education and support.

The Resilience Hub Pilot included City-owned facilities in six areas around Austin that offered services and support for the community before, during, and after a disaster. The locations were selected through input from residents and collaboration with community

organizations. The pilot helped us to identify a need to grow beyond limited static locations into a more robust network of facilities, people, and organizations.

Additionally, City Council approved FTE positions for resilience related work within Austin Emergency Management. The FTE positions were used to build what is now the Mass Care Team. The Mass Care Team then used the outcomes from the Resilience Hub Pilot Project to evolve the Hub concept into the Austin Resilience Network.

Current Model:

The Austin Resilience Network (ARN) is a group of interconnected community and public resources that work together to enhance resilience across Austin by equitably empowering our community to prepare for, endure, and bounce back stronger from disasters. The ARN focuses on building relationships to create a scalable and flexible network that is ready to meet whatever needs the next emergency requires.

The network model provides greater flexibility and enhances the City's ability to support community needs citywide, rather than concentrating resources on specific locations that may not be experiencing impacts from the disaster.

Further, the ARN currently includes 97 formal partners, including NGO and government agencies, and an additional 64 organizations with whom the Mass Care Team engages. The ARN has been utilized to coordinate disaster response and recovery four times since inception including Winter Storm Enzo (January 2025), Microburst (May 2025), Central Texas Floods (July 2025), and Winter Storm Fern (February 2026). Partners have coordinated through the ARN to support shelter activation, food distribution, clothing donation, debris removal, and other resources as needed.