

FY 2026-2027 BUDGET QUESTION

Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT(S): Austin Homeless Strategies & Operations; Austin Housing;

CBQ NO.: 87

REQUESTED BY: (District 3) José Velásquez

DATE REQUESTED: Monday, July 27, 2026 11:35 AM

DATE POSTED:

REQUEST:

Could you please break down programs within Austin Housing and Austin Homeless Strategies and Operations designated for LGBTQ+ community members, youth, and seniors in the FY26-27 budget?

RESPONSE:

There are two properties served by the Local Housing Voucher Program that serve seniors. One is Pecan Gardens with 78 vouchers committed to it, which represents \$1,626,747 of the program budget and the other is Cairn Point at Cameron with 50 vouchers and \$1,042,787 of the program budget for FY27.

For displacement prevention, Austin Housing does not have any programs designed to specifically target the LGBTQ+ community members, youth or seniors; however, these communities are not prohibited from receiving assistance from our programs. The home repair programs serve many seniors, but the target focus is homeownership, and not necessarily age.

The Community Initiated Solutions programs (which are Project Connect funded) do have some programs with a focus on youth and seniors; those populations are served with programs from Meals on Wheels, Interfaith Action of Central Texas, Communities in School and Austin Voices. The focus for all CIS programming is to address the needs of populations vulnerable to transit induced displacement.

Austin Homeless Strategies and Operations (HSO) does not operate programs that are exclusively designated for LGBTQ+ community members. However, City-owned shelters are open to all adults regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, and HSO works with shelter operators to provide appropriate accommodations for gender-diverse individuals. For example, clients at the Marshalling Yard Emergency Shelter and the Eighth Street Women's Shelter can be housed in designated areas that support the safety and privacy needs of gender-diverse residents.

HSO does fund programs for specific age groups. HSO provides approximately \$1.7 million annually through a contract with LifeWorks to deliver Rapid Rehousing services and wraparound support for youth experiencing homelessness. In addition, youth experiencing homelessness may also be served through HSO's street outreach and other homelessness response programs, as appropriate based on their needs. HSO also provides approximately \$1.3 million annually to support wraparound services at Pecan

Gardens, a Permanent Supportive Housing community with 78 units serving adults ages 55 and older.

Beyond these targeted investments, HSO's emergency shelter, street outreach, homelessness prevention, and housing programs are designed to serve individuals experiencing homelessness across the broader community based on need, rather than membership in a specific demographic group.