

Youth Homelessness Funds Late Backup to Leverage Federal HUD Initiative

Strategic Outcomes: Economic Opportunity & Affordability

Following conversations this week with some of my colleagues working on homelessness issues, my staff and I discussed the necessity of posting this budget amendment separately since it is such a specific need for a defined purpose. The conversation about additional funding for homelessness will be part of a broader conversation for Thursday, September 6 work session and September 11.

This proposal is to leverage the federal dollars for Youth Homelessness that our community advocacy groups are already working on, and will fill a needed gap in that funding. Austin is one of ten U.S. cities participating in Round 1 of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2017 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. We received \$5.2 million to assist our efforts toward preventing and ending youth homelessness.

Our community partners in this effort are coordinating on a plan that includes prevention using a homelessness diversion project, plus rapid rehousing with wrap-around services, and innovative transition projects to assist young people into self-sufficiency.

This initiative engages a multitude of our social service organizations: ECHO, Lifeworks, Caritas, and SAFE, all collaborating on innovative approaches to prevent and end youth homelessness.

In gathering the required matching funds to meet federal guidelines, Lifeworks identified a \$160,000 gap (\$148,000 – Lifeworks, \$12,000 – SAFE) needed to complete the community plan. The dollars can be used for wrap-around services as well as rapid rehousing through rental and direct assistance.

FY 19 Cost:

\$160,000 One-Time Funds (allocated through Public Health)