

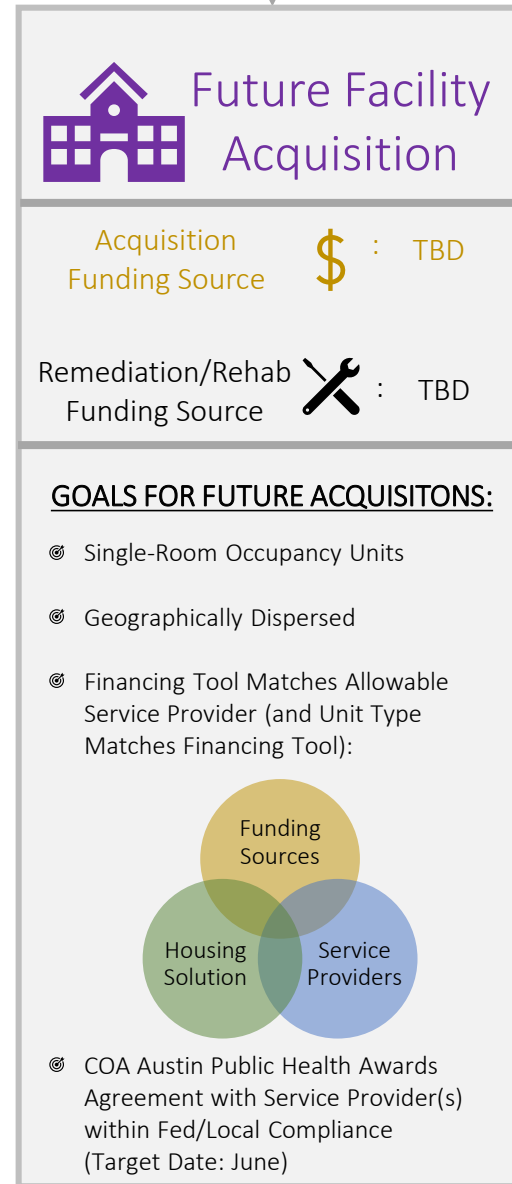
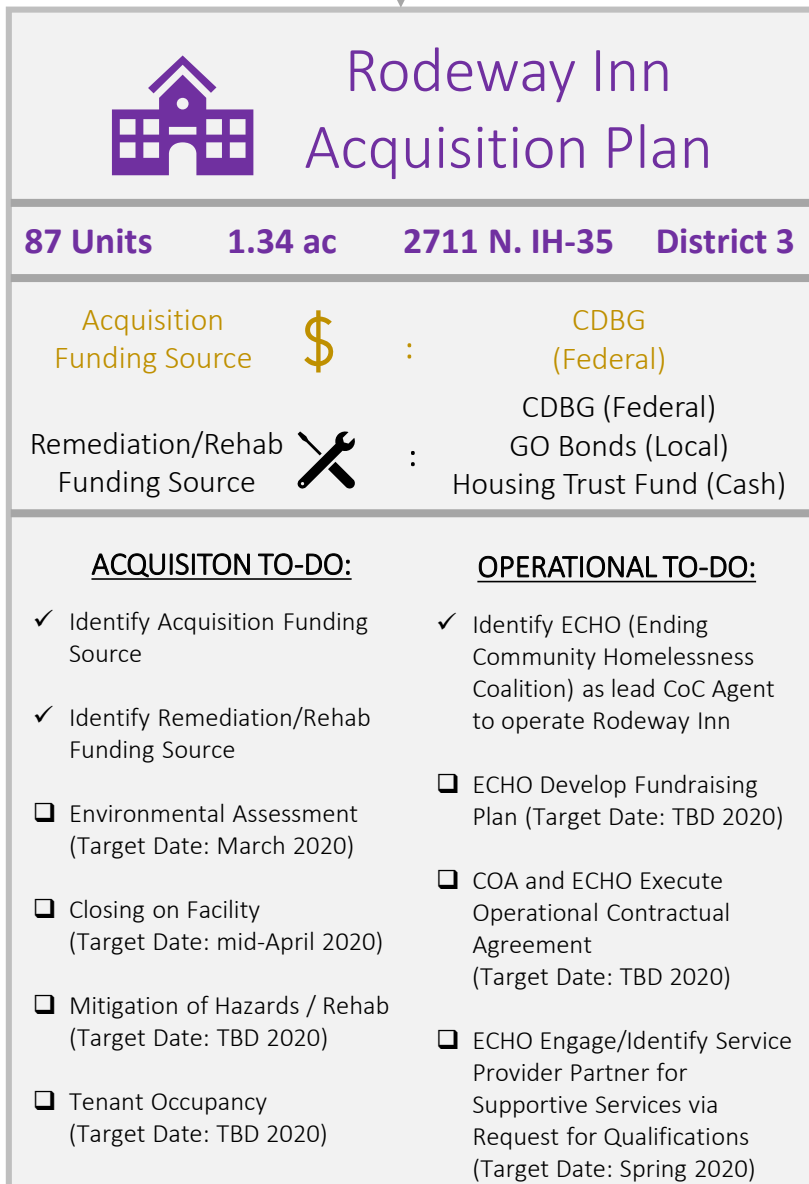
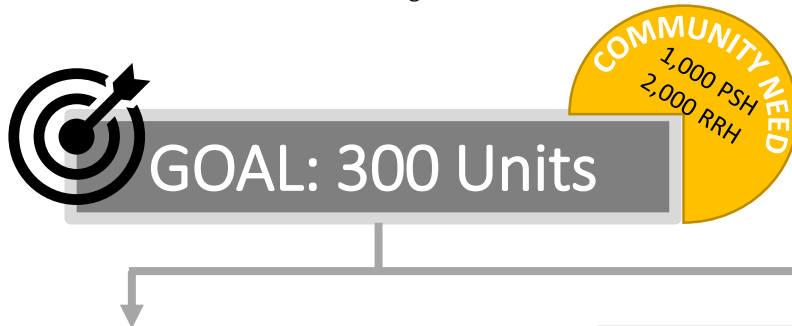
# City of Austin

## Motel Conversion Strategy Implementation

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



The City of Austin is implementing a multi-faceted Motel Conversion Strategy that creates housing for 300 housing units to assist people experiencing homelessness. The City is currently in the process of acquiring Rodeway Inn and will be seeking acquisition of additional properties in the future to contribute toward these goals.



# Motel Conversion Strategy Definitions

## COMMUNITY IN NEED:

**GOAL:** 300 units achieved through the City of Austin's Motel Conversion Strategy. The overall community need is 1,000 Permanent Supportive Housing units and 2,000 Rapid Re-housing units.

**Population:** Individuals and families who are chronically homeless and/or currently homeless as prioritized by the Coordinated Entry System (via ECHO). Subpopulations include individuals who are veterans, elderly, or transition-age youth, individuals involved with the criminal justice system, and individuals with disabilities such as serious mental illness, substance use disorder, physical or developmental disabilities, or HIV/AIDS.

## COMMUNITY COMMITMENT:

**Continuum of Care (CoC):** The Continuum of Care Program run by ECHO is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide communication of funding announcements for efforts by nonprofit providers, State and local governments, and faith based organizations to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing trauma and dislocation; promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

**Coordinated Entry System:** Coordinated Assessment within the Coordinated Entry System (Via ECHO) is a centralized process designed to coordinate program participant intake, assessment, and provision of referrals.

## HOUSING SOLUTIONS:

**PSH / Permanent Supportive Housing:** Permanent Supportive Housing is permanent, deeply affordable housing where services are offered to help homeless, disabled and low-income people live independently in the community. Tenants have leases or lease-like agreements; apartments are affordable; rent cannot exceed 30% of tenants' income; and property management and services are provided by not-for-profit organizations. The concept behind supportive housing is simple: tenants rent attractive, safe, affordable apartments and have access from on-site or off-site professionals to whatever support they need to stay housed and healthy. Permanent supportive housing does not include shelters, transitional housing, group homes, assisted living facilities, any other congregate setting, or other specialized licensed residential facilities.

**Capital Funds.** Public dollars available for acquiring the facility is supported through multiple funding sources, including different types of bonds (debt), grants and cash as well as other smaller sources of funding.

**Supportive Services:** Case management, integrated healthcare, substance use treatment, employment, life skills, and tenant advocacy, available to the tenant on a voluntary basis with participation having no bearing on the lease.

**Rental Housing Voucher.** Rental assistance such as a Housing Choice Voucher that serves as a permanent rental subsidy for housing stability over time.

**Housing First:** Housing First is an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements. Supportive services are offered to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness as opposed to addressing predetermined treatment goals prior to permanent housing entry.

**Bridge Housing (or "Interim" Housing):** Interim housing is not a type of housing but rather a housing situation where a chronically homeless person has: applied for permanent housing, has been accepted, a unit/voucher for permanent housing has been reserved for them, but for which there is some other situation that prevents them from moving immediately into housing (e.g. apartment getting painted, old tenant moving out, has a voucher but is looking for the unit, etc.). In such cases, where it has been determined to be absolutely necessary that to keep the client engaged and moving towards housing a temporary solution must be utilized and transitional housing is used the client should then be identified upon move in to the permanent house as coming from "interim housing".

**Transitional Housing:** A project that is designed to provide housing and appropriate supportive services to homeless persons to facilitate movement to independent living. The housing is short-term, typically less than 24 months.

**RRH / Rapid Re-housing:** Given the short-term accessibility requirement of RRH, those units do not fit the Motel Conversion Strategy model. However, these are critical to meeting the need of our most vulnerable population. Rapid Re-housing provides short-term rental assistance and services. The goals are to help people obtain housing quickly, increase self-sufficiency, and stay housed. It is offered without preconditions (such as employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety) and the resources and services provided are typically tailored to the needs of the person.