

Special Report

Homelessness Spending

September 2021



City Council issued 47 resolutions, ordinances, and other direction relevant to homelessness assistance between September 2018 and May 2021. The City entered into at least 101 agreements over the last several years based on this Council direction. The City budgeted \$179 million for homelessness assistance from fiscal year 2019 to 2021. Austin Public Health, Housing and Planning Department, and Downtown Austin Community Court were responsible for managing most homelessness-related spending. We found that Austin Public Health's spending on homelessness assistance generally aligns with Council direction and stated priorities. However, there is no complete inventory of agreements and associated spending for the City's homelessness assistance efforts, and we could not determine the number of these agreements due to limitations with available data.

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- ## Objective

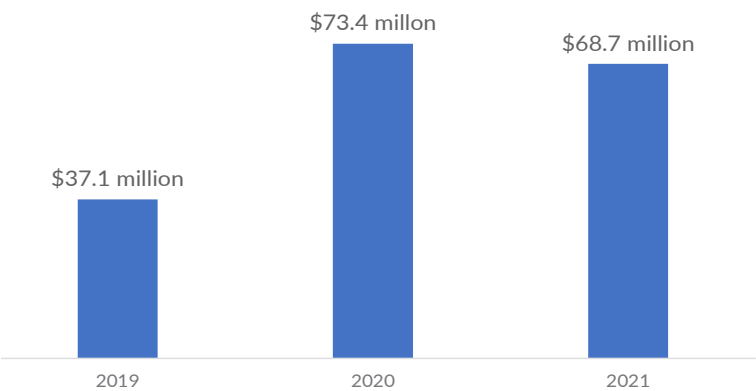
The objective of this special request was to answer the following City Council questions:

 1. Which resolutions or other direction from City Council relate to homelessness?
 2. Which agreements relate to homelessness?
 3. How are funds spent and how does spending align with direction from City Council or language in agreements?

Background

The City’s budget for homelessness assistance was \$68.7 million in fiscal year 2021, \$73.4 million in fiscal year 2020, and \$37.1 million in fiscal year 2019. Exhibit 1 shows the City’s budget for homelessness assistance.

Exhibit 1: City’s budget for homelessness assistance for fiscal years 2019 through 2021



Source: Auditor analysis of the City of Austin approved budget for fiscal year 2020-21, June 2021

There are about 15 City departments involved in the City's homelessness assistance efforts. Austin Public Health, Housing and Planning Department, and Downtown Austin Community Court manage 93% of homelessness assistance spending.

Austin Public Health is the primary department responsible for homelessness assistance with a total operating budget of \$103 million, including funds for homelessness, for fiscal year 2021. Austin Public Health's mission is to prevent disease, promote health, and protect the well-being of all. This department provides several services to help people meet their needs such as shelter, food, and clothing.

In calendar year 2020, the Austin Public Health's Homeless Strategy Division was created to coordinate homelessness efforts across City departments and with community partners. This division is responsible for ensuring City Council priorities and direction are aligned with the City's homelessness assistance spending¹ and has an operating budget of \$1.1 million for fiscal year 2021.

In calendar year 2021, the City hired a permanent Homeless Strategy Officer to coordinate the City's homelessness efforts across multiple City departments to ensure a seamless approach and response.

¹ Austin Public Health's Health Equity and Community Engagement Division manages agreements related to homelessness assistance in coordination with Homeless Strategy Division.

What We Learned

Summary

While not all spending action related to homelessness assistance can be directly traced to specific guidance from City Council, Austin Public Health's spending generally aligns with Council direction and stated priorities. City departments appear committed to the City's overall strategic direction on homelessness assistance while also having a level of discretion to allocate spending that is aligned with their department mission.

The City budgeted \$179 million for homelessness assistance from fiscal year 2019 to 2021. During this time, Austin Public Health, Housing and Planning Department, and Downtown Austin Community Court were responsible for managing 93% of the spending related to homelessness assistance, and these departments managed at least 101 related agreements. However, there is no complete inventory of agreements and associated spending for the City's homelessness assistance efforts, and the number of these agreements cannot be fully determined due to limitations with available data.

Question #1

Which resolutions or other direction from Council relate to homelessness?

City Council issued many resolutions, ordinances, and other direction² related to homelessness assistance over the last several years. City staff said that they may not be able to act on Council requests as quickly or desired by Council.

Council direction included actions to prevent homelessness and to connect people experiencing homelessness to services such as temporary shelter and permanent housing. We reviewed Council resolutions, ordinances, and other direction related to homelessness assistance from September 2018 to May 2021. Many resolutions and other direction did not appear to require direct City action related to spending on homelessness assistance.

We categorized the Council direction that did appear to require spending action on homelessness assistance according to the four categories from the City's homelessness budget framework³ for fiscal year 2021.

We found Council issued 47 resolutions, ordinances, and other direction related to these homelessness assistance categories. Most resolutions and other direction are tracked by the relevant City departments. Some direction that comes directly from Council is tracked by the City Manager's Office while other direction is tracked by City departments. Exhibit 2 shows the overview of Council direction related to homelessness assistance. Appendix A includes a description of each resolution.

² Other direction includes approval to purchase property, negotiate, and execute a contract with another agency.

³ The four categories from the City's homelessness budget framework are crisis response, housing stabilization, public space management, and reducing inflow.

Exhibit 2: Overview of Council direction related to homelessness assistance spending

Category	Description	Total Number of Council Direction
Crisis Response	Connecting people experiencing homelessness to crisis services and temporary shelter options	21
Housing Stabilization	Connecting people experiencing homelessness to permanent housing options	7
Public Space Management	Supporting the rights of all people to use and benefit from public space	3
Reducing Inflow	Preventing people from entering homelessness	0
Multiple categories	All descriptions above	16
Total number of Council direction		47

Source: Auditor analysis of Council resolutions, ordinances, and other direction related to spending on homelessness assistance from 9/2018 to 5/2021, June 2021

Question #2

Which agreements relate to homelessness?

The City's management of homelessness assistance agreements is decentralized across the City. Multiple City departments manage agreements related to homelessness assistance, but there is no single department responsible for tracking all agreements related to homelessness assistance.

As mentioned above, Austin Public Health, Housing and Planning Department, and Downtown Austin Community Court were responsible for managing most of the spending related to homelessness assistance. We focused our review on agreements managed by these City departments. These City departments entered into at least 101 agreements between fiscal year 2019 to fiscal year 2021. Exhibit 3 shows the number of agreements managed by these three City departments. Appendix B that shows the list of agreements managed by these three City departments.

Exhibit 3: Number of homelessness assistance agreements managed by three City departments

Department	Total Number of Agreements
Austin Public Health	74
Housing & Planning	17
Downtown Austin Community Court	10
Total number of agreements	101

Source: Auditor analysis of agreements related to homelessness assistance from fiscal year 2019 to 2021, August 2021.

When agreements are managed by several different departments, it is difficult for the City to know how many agreements it has and their total cost. For instance, Austin Public Health staff knows the count and cost of agreements they manage but does not have the same information for other departments' agreements. In other instances, the agreements and agencies are not standardized or updated between tracking sources and fiscal years, and the former and current agency name or agreement title is used inconsistently. As a result, there is no complete inventory of agreements, and the number of agreements related to homelessness assistance cannot be fully determined due to limitations with available data and the quality of that data.

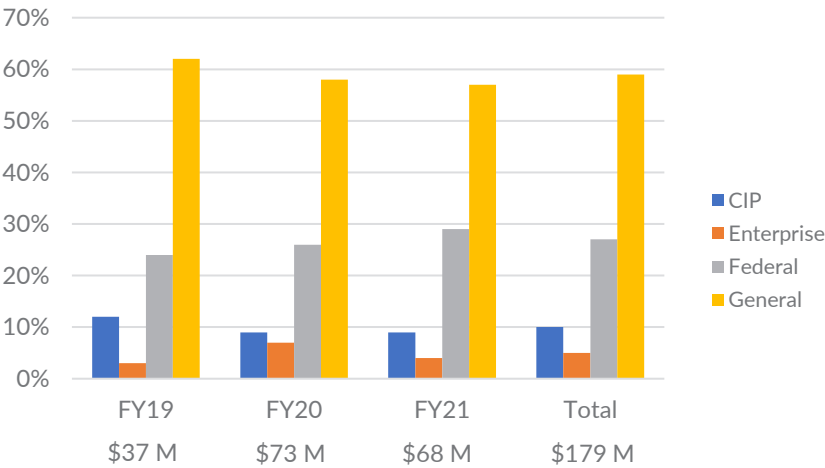
Question #3

How are funds spent and how does spending align with direction from City Council or language in agreements?

The City budgeted \$179 million for homelessness assistance from fiscal year 2019 to fiscal year 2021. During this time, the general fund contributed an average of 59% of the City's funding for homelessness assistance. State and federal funding made up an average of 27%, and the remainder came from the Capital Improvements Program and Enterprise Funds. City staff received homelessness assistance of funds in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 with an expected increase of funds in fiscal year 2022 because of the federal COVID-19 stimulus payments to the City.

While housing projects are funded with federal money, social services or case management agreements are largely funded with City money. Some agreements have mixed sources of funding, and some departments contribute money to agreements that other departments manage. Exhibit 4 shows an overview of spending by funding type.

Exhibit 4: Overview of spending by funding type



Source: Auditor analysis of City's budgeted homelessness spending by source from fiscal year 2019 to 2021, August 2021.

Overall, we found that spending generally aligns with Council direction and stated priorities. We selected a sample of five Council resolutions to assess whether City agreements and spending aligned with Council direction. We worked with Austin Public Health management to determine and identify the associated agreements and spending for their agreements.

Within the five resolutions we reviewed, we identified 10 associated agreements managed by Austin Public Health. Six of the 10 agreements had associated spending which aligned with Council direction. The remaining four agreements are in the process of being finalized or were recently created and do not yet have associated spending as of the time of this review. Appendix C shows a sample of five items from Council that we traced to relevant agreements and spending managed by Austin Public Health.

Not all spending action can be directly traced to specific guidance from Council. City departments have a level of discretion to allocate spending that is aligned with their department mission. Overall, departments appear committed to the City's strategic direction on economic opportunity and affordability.

Appendix A - Council Resolutions, Ordinances, and Other Direction

Direction Type	Number	Category	Description
Other Council Direction	20180911-001	Crisis Response	Identify immediate needs that could be addressed by the additional \$1,000,000 allocated as part of the budget adoption process for services for individuals experiencing homelessness
Ordinance	20181018-017	Crisis Response	Transfer funds within the City for homelessness services by amending the fiscal year 2018-2019 general fund to transfer money out of Austin Public Health's operating budget
Other Council Direction	20190131-028	Crisis Response	Authorize negotiation and execution of a multi-term contract with Front Steps Inc., to provide shelter operations and services for the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless for up to five years for a total contract amount not to exceed \$13,500,000
Resolution	20190131-078	Crisis Response	Prepare to purchase or lease a structure to pilot immediate shelter for people experiencing homelessness for use on or before Sept 30, 2019
Resolution	20190411-026	Crisis Response	Identify potential sources of funding to assist the Salvation Army Rathgeber Center in becoming fully operational and provide case management services at the Salvation Army's Downtown shelter
Resolution	20190606-049	Crisis Response	Begin process to purchase a property to pilot immediate shelter for people experiencing homelessness with support services including rental assistance, housing location assistance, rehabilitation, and life skills training
Ordinance	20190620-177	Crisis Response	Increase the fiscal year 2018-2019 budget for the Office of Real Estate Services by \$8,600,000 to acquire a building to provide shelter and support services to those experiencing homelessness
Resolution	20190620-178	Crisis Response	Declare intent with the U.S. Treasury to use capital expenditures to acquire a building to provide shelter and support services for people experiencing homelessness for about \$8,600,000 to be funded by certificates of obligation or other tax exempt debt
Other Council Direction	20190620-179	Crisis Response	Purchase 1112 West Ben White Boulevard for \$8,600,000 and bring the legal instrument necessary to create restrictions on the property to achieve housing-focused shelter and services according to best practices to Council for approval
Resolution	20190620-089	Crisis Response	If a 1986 ordinance is repealed, provide a report when previously uncollected taxes are collected with options for funding emergency shelter operations and other services
Resolution	20190620-184	Crisis Response	Recommend initiatives for assisting people experiencing homelessness, including safe and clean camping and parking areas, storage lockers, bathrooms, etc. Include possible options for 10 locations for a temporary or permanent shelter, with one in each council district
Other Council Direction	20190910-001	Crisis Response	Allocate funding as part of the budget adoption process for improved mental health response systems with several goals such as better matching a mental health crisis call with an appropriate mental health response
Ordinance	20191114-069	Crisis Response	Adopt the Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities, and Programs, which includes providing work opportunities in parks to help people experiencing homelessness
Ordinance	20191114-096	Crisis Response	Increase the fiscal year 2018-2019 budget for the Office of Real Estate Services by \$8,000,000 to acquire a building to provide shelter and support services to those experiencing homelessness

Appendix A - Council Resolutions, Ordinances, and Other Direction (continued)

Direction Type	Number	Category	Description
Resolution	20191114-097	Crisis Response	Declare intent with the U.S. Treasury to use capital expenditures to acquire a building to provide shelter and support services for people experiencing homelessness for about \$8,000,000 to be funded by certificates of obligation or other tax exempt debt
Resolution	20200507-059	Crisis Response	Implement plans to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among the most vulnerable residents, including people experiencing homelessness
Resolution	20200507-060	Crisis Response	Direct the City Manager to get approval of COVID-19 spending framework, including the protection of vulnerable populations such as people experiencing homelessness
Resolution	20200604-040	Crisis Response	Authorize use of federal and City funds according to COVID-19 spending framework
Resolution	20201203-048	Crisis Response	Identify potential partners and resources to expand services of the Specialty Intensive Integrated Management Treatment Team to people experiencing homelessness in areas of the City outside of downtown
Resolution	20210225-006	Crisis Response	Direct the City Manager to report on recommended actions related to disaster relief including immediate resources and plans that result in long-term housing stability for people experiencing homelessness who were impacted by the winter storm disaster
Resolution	20210506-070	Crisis Response	Direct the City Manager to present Council with a description of and budget for appropriate relocation services and infrastructure at designated encampments (e.g. lighting, water, restrooms) and present Council with a plan to implement multiple temporary designated campgrounds across the City
Resolution	20200312-042	Housing Stabilization	Target increased funding for rapid rehousing for households whose homelessness can be ended by short-term, time-limited financial assistance and assess the feasibility of City-funded housing vouchers to support individuals exiting homelessness
Resolution	20200604-048	Housing Stabilization	Consider funding a hotel and service provider to operate and manage as a protective shelter from family violence, above and beyond the City's existing hotel acquisition strategy
Resolution	20200611-096	Housing Stabilization	Direct the City Manager to bring forward a baseline budget with several items including eliminating unfilled sworn positions in the Austin Police Department and reallocating those funds to alternative strategies such as housing-focused case management for people experiencing homelessness
Other Council Direction	20200812-001	Housing Stabilization	Increase investment in homelessness response efforts for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing as part of adopting the City budget for fiscal year 2021
Resolution	20210204-049	Housing Stabilization	Implement and fund a Housing-Focused Homeless Encampment Assistance Link (HEAL) initiative to connect people experiencing homelessness to housing-focused services and supports
Ordinance	20190509-027	Housing Stabilization	Amend City Code to create a residential affordable housing development bonus program
Resolution	20200611-094	Housing Stabilization	Draft rental policies for the Rental Housing Development Assistance program to establish how landlords will consider someone's felony and misdemeanor background, and collaborate with entities and stakeholders including the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition

Appendix A - Council Resolutions, Ordinances, and Other Direction (continued)

Direction Type	Number	Category	Description
Resolution	20190808-026	Public Space Management	Approve the Austin Downtown Public Improvement District Service and Assessment Plan and Budget for 2020-2021, exhibit includes spending plan for Downtown Austin Alliance
Resolution	20190808-071	Public Space Management	Direct the City Manager to identify 10 locations to install free, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, 24-hour drinking fountains and associated budget estimate
Ordinance	20191017-029	Public Space Management	Repeal and replace City Code sections related to camping in public areas
Other Council Direction	20180911-001	Multiple categories	Allocate funding as part of the budget adoption process to provide immediate intervention for people experiencing homelessness including rapid rehousing, eviction prevention, revitalization of the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, and outreach services
Resolution	20190808-077	Multiple categories	Create a local government corporation to address homelessness in Austin
Resolution	20210325-111	Multiple categories	Identify American Rescue Plan funding available to address Austin's priority needs in a transformational way, including homelessness
Resolution	20190606-009	Multiple categories	Adopt the FY 2019 consolidated plan and annual action plan, includes homelessness assistance as a priority with actions such as addressing emergency shelter needs, helping people transition to permanent housing, and helping low income people and families avoid becoming homeless
Resolution	20181018-015	Multiple categories	Adopt the City's legislative program for the 86th Texas Legislative Session, including support for funding services for people experiencing homelessness
Resolution	20200917-017	Multiple categories	Adopt the City's legislative program for the 87th Texas Legislative Session, including support for funding services for people experiencing homelessness
Resolution	20201112-017	Multiple categories	Adopt the City's Federal legislative program for the 117th U.S. Congress, including support for funding services for people experiencing homelessness
Resolution	20190619-044	Multiple categories	Accept \$507,489 in grant funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for the Homeless Housing Services Program
Resolution	20190808-041	Multiple categories	Accept \$155,354 in grant funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for the Homeless Housing Services Program
Ordinance	20190808-042	Multiple categories	Accept \$155,354 in grant funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for the Homeless Housing Services Program
Ordinance	20200123-036	Multiple categories	Accept \$35,135 in grant funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
Resolution	20200123-037	Multiple categories	Accept \$35,135 in grant funding from the State's Ending Homelessness Fund and execute of a contract with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
Ordinance	20200423-070	Multiple categories	Accept \$2,354,866 in grant funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Emergency Solutions Grant

Appendix A - Council Resolutions, Ordinances, and Other Direction (continued)

Direction Type	Number	Category	Description
Ordinance	20200729-052	Multiple categories	Accept \$10,859,249 in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Emergency Solutions Grant to serve people experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness who have been impacted by COVID-19
Resolution	20200827-089	Multiple categories	Authorize the FY 2020-21 Action Plan which is needed to receive and spend federal grant funding, which includes homelessness assistance as a priority with actions such as addressing emergency shelter needs, helping people transition to permanent housing, and helping low income people and families avoid becoming homeless
Resolution	20201029-042	Multiple categories	Accept \$630,992 in grant funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for the Homeless Housing Services Program

Appendix B - City Agreements for Homelessness Assistance

City Department	Category	Master Agreement	Agency	Agreement	Funding Source
Austin Public Health	Multiple Categories	MA 9100 NG180000001	AIDS Services of Austin	HOPWA Multi-Part Contract	Federal
Austin Public Health	Multiple Categories	MA 4400 NA 200000061	Barbara Poppe and Associates	Barbara Poppe Consulting	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Multiple Categories	MA 9100 NG150000002	ECHO	ECHO	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Multiple Categories	CT 4700 20022400390	Matthew Doherty Consulting	Matthew Doherty Consulting	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 9100 NG170000009	Front Steps	Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS)	Federal
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 4700 NG210000196	Front Steps	ESG-CV Shelter	Federal
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 4700 NG200000015	LifeWorks	HHSP Ending Homelessness Fund	Federal
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 4700 NG190000038	LifeWorks	Youth Homelessness Set-Asides	Federal
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 9100 NG150000051	Salvation Army	Housing and Homelessness Services Program (HHSP)	Federal
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 4700 NG190000012	Front Steps	ARCH	Federal
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	CT 4700 20092301212	Austin Voices for Education and Youth	High Risk Workers Call Center	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 9100 NG150000020	Casa Marinella	Casa Marinella Shelter	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 4700 NG180000008	ECHO	Housing Navigation Program	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	CT 4700 20091501167	Family Eldercare	Mobile Hygiene Clinics	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 4700 NG200000006	Family Eldercare	Mobile Hygiene Clinics	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	CT 4700 20091501167-1	Family Eldercare	COVID-19 Mobile Hygiene Clinics	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 4700 NG180000036	Family Eldercare	Workforce First Program Pilot	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 4700 NG150000029	Foundation for the Homeless	Family Rehousing Initiative	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 4700 NG190000011	Front Steps	ARCH	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 4700 NG200000067	Front Steps	COVID ProLodge Staffing	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 9100 NG170000008	Integral Care	MAIN Mental Health Services	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 9100 NG150000044	LifeWorks	Housing Collective Impact Continuum	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	CT 4700 20060200743	Lighter Loads ATX	Lighter Loads ATX Pilot	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 4700 NG160000048	Salvation Army	Passage Child Care Voucher	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 4700 NG190000003	Salvation Army	Austin Shelter for Women and Children	General Fund

Appendix B - City Agreements for Homelessness Assistance (continued)

City Department	Category	Master Agreement	Agency	Agreement	Funding Source
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 4700 NG200000004	Salvation Army	Rathgeber Center	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 9100 NG150000035	Salvation Army	Pathways and Partnerships Shelter	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 4700 NG150000013	The SAFE Alliance	Children's Emergency Shelter	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 4700 NG150000041	The SAFE Alliance	Victim's Services/Bridge to Safety	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 4700 NG200000006	Family ElderCare	Workforce First Program	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 4700 NG210000205	The SAFE Alliance	Domestic Violence Shelter	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	MA 4700 NG210000206	The University of Texas at Austin	COVID 19 Long-Term Care Staff Wellbeing Study	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Crisis Response	CT 4700 20081901030	Workers Defense Project	High-Risk Worker Resource Center	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 9100 NG150000009	Foundation Communities	HOME	1115 Waiver
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 9100 NG150000055	Integral Care	City ACT Expansion	1115 Waiver
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 4700 NG180000001	AIDS Services of Austin	HOPWA TBRA	Federal
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 4700 NG210000101	Caritas of Austin	BSS+C ESG-CV	Federal
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA IDA-ESG 14.231-CDU	Communicable Disease Unit	Rapid Rehousing CDU	Federal
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA IDA- ESG 14.231-DACC	DACC	Rapid Rehousing	Federal
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 9100 NG150000050	Front Steps	Housing and Homelessness Services Program (HHSP)	Federal
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 9100 NG170000010	Front Steps	Front Steps ESG Rapid Rehousing	Federal
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 4700 NG180000002	Project Transitions	Temp shelter - facility based housing	Federal
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 4700 NG180000002	Project Transitions	HOPWA Project Transitions	Federal
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	CT 4700 20080500957	Caritas of Austin	ImpACT Program	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 4700 NG210000266	Caritas of Austin	Espero at Rutland PSH	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 9100 NG150000018	Caritas of Austin	Best Single Plus Source Collaborative	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 9100 NG150000019	Caritas of Austin	Behavioral Health Services	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 4700 NG180000030	Casa Marianella	Open Doors	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 4700 NG180000032	Family ElderCare	Rapid Rehousing for Older Adults	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 9100 NG120000071	Foundation Communities	Arbor Terrance	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 9100 NG160000004	Foundation Communities	Supported Employment	General Fund

Appendix B - City Agreements for Homelessness Assistance (continued)

City Department	Category	Master Agreement	Agency	Agreement	Funding Source
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 9100 NG120000054	Front Steps	Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 4700 NG190000005	Integral Care	Rapid Recovery	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 4700 NG210000216	Integral Care	PSH North	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 9100 NG170000043	Integral Care	Oak Springs PSH	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 4700 NG180000029	LifeWorks	Youth Rapid Rehousing Collaborative	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	CT 4700 21031200405	Social Finance	Multi-Partner PSH Project	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Housing Stabilization	MA 4700 NG150000042	VinCare Services of Austin	St. Louise House	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Reducing Inflow	CT 4700 20051500665	Caritas of Austin	Best Single Source Plus- RISE Covid 19	Federal
Austin Public Health	Reducing Inflow	CT 4700 20041700581	Catholic Charities of Central Texas	RISE - Catholic Charities of Central Texas	Federal
Austin Public Health	Reducing Inflow	CT 4700 20041700582	El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission	RISE: El Buen Samaritano	Federal
Austin Public Health	Reducing Inflow	CT 4700 200772100898	El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission	RISE/RISE Bridge: El Buen	Federal
Austin Public Health	Reducing Inflow	MA 4700 NG210000175	El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission	RISE 2-2	Federal
Austin Public Health	Reducing Inflow	CT 4700 20051500669	Family Eldercare	RISE - Protection, Care, and Connection for Austin's Older Adults During COVID-19	Federal
Austin Public Health	Reducing Inflow	CT 4700 20072800922	Family Independence Initiative - National	RISE 2.0 Online Portal	Federal
Austin Public Health	Reducing Inflow	CT 4700 20060800756	LifeWorks	RISE- LifeWorks COVID-19 Response	Federal
Austin Public Health	Reducing Inflow	CT 4700 20043000623	Workers Defense Project	RISE - Emergency Financial Assistance for Immigrant Workers	Federal
Austin Public Health	Reducing Inflow	CT 4700 20041700580	Austin Area Urban League	RISE Bridge	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Reducing Inflow	CT 4700 20081701006	Austin Area Urban League	COVID-19 Response Services	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Reducing Inflow	MA 9100 NG170000034	Austin Tenant's Council	Housing Stability and Debt Negotiation	General Fund

Appendix B - City Agreements for Homelessness Assistance (continued)

City Department	Category	Master Agreement	Agency	Agreement	Funding Source
Austin Public Health	Reducing Inflow	MA 4700 NG160000038	Catholic Charities of Central Texas	Financial Stability Program	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Reducing Inflow	MA 4700 NG190000020	Catholic Charities of Central Texas	Housing Assistance for Refugee Families	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Reducing Inflow	MA 4700 NG160000023	Texas RioGrande Legal Aid	Residents Advocacy	General Fund
Austin Public Health	Reducing Inflow	MA 9100 NG150000037	Texas RioGrande Legal Aid	Public Benefits and Housing Rights	General Fund
Downtown Austin Community Court	Crisis Response	MA 4600 NA190000131	Communities for Recovery	DACC Peer Support Program	General Fund
Downtown Austin Community Court	Crisis Response	MA 4600 NG200000017	Front Steps	Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) - 27 units	General Fund
Downtown Austin Community Court	Crisis Response	MA 4600 NI170000013	Integral Care	Homeless Outreach Street Team	General Fund
Downtown Austin Community Court	Crisis Response	MA 4600 NI190000008	Integral Care	Managed Services Organization (MSO)	General Fund
Downtown Austin Community Court	Housing Stabilization	MA 4600 NA190000132	Austin Recovery	Residential and Outpatient Treatment	General Fund
Downtown Austin Community Court	Housing Stabilization	MA 4600 PS200000005	Family Eldercare	Representative Payee Services & SOAR Application Assistance	General Fund
Downtown Austin Community Court	Housing Stabilization	MA 4600 NA200000161	Foundation Communities	Permanent Supportive Housing	General Fund
Downtown Austin Community Court	Housing Stabilization	MA 4600 NA190000133	Front Steps	Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) - 20 units	General Fund
Downtown Austin Community Court	Housing Stabilization	MA 4600 NA190000174	Integral Care	Road to Recovery Expansion	General Fund
Downtown Austin Community Court	Housing Stabilization	MA 4600 PI200000002	Integral Care	Road to Recovery	General Fund
Housing & Planning	Multiple Categories	CT 7200 2004300619	Dianna Grey	Professional Services - PSH Consultant	Federal

Appendix B - City Agreements for Homelessness Assistance (continued)

City Department	Category	Master Agreement	Agency	Agreement	Funding Source
Housing & Planning	Displacement Mitigation	MA 7200 NG210000013	14 community organizations ⁴	Community Outreach Contract	General Fund
Housing & Planning	Housing Stabilization	MA 7200 NG210000066	Austin Housing Authority	Tenant Based Rental Assistance	Federal
Housing & Planning	Housing Stabilization	CT 7200 21020500301	ECHO	PSH/COC Coordination	Federal
Housing & Planning	Housing Stabilization	MA 7200 NA200000112	ECHO	Permanent Supportive Housing	Federal
Housing & Planning	Housing Stabilization	MA 7200 NG190000019	ECHO	PSH/COC Coordination	Federal
Housing & Planning	Housing Stabilization	MA 7200 NG200000008	Housing Authority City of Austin	Tenant Based Rental Assistance	Federal
Housing & Planning	Housing Stabilization	MA 7200 NG210000066	Housing Authority City of Austin	Tenant Based Rental Assistance	Federal
Housing & Planning	Housing Stabilization	MA 7200 NG200000009	Salvation Army	Tenant Based Rental Assistance	Federal
Housing & Planning	Housing Stabilization	MA 7200 NG200000018	Salvation Army	Tenant Based Rental Assistance	Federal
Housing & Planning	Housing Stabilization	MA 7200 NG210000318	Espero Austin at Rutland LP	Espero Austin at Rutland	General Fund
Housing & Planning	Housing Stabilization	MA 7200 NA200000116	Project Transitions	Burnet Place	General Fund
Housing & Planning	Reducing Inflow	CT 7200 19030400291	ECHO	Rent Availability	Federal
Housing & Planning	Reducing Inflow	MA 7200 NA210000060	Austin Tenant's Council	Renter's Rights Assistance Program	General Fund
Housing & Planning	Reducing Inflow	MA 7200 NA210000126	Austin Tenant's Council	Renter's Rights Telephone and Emergency Mediation Services	General Fund
Housing & Planning	Reducing Inflow	MA 7200 N210000136	El Buen Samaritano	I Belong in Austin	General Fund
Housing & Planning	Reducing Inflow	MA 7200 NG210000067	Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid	Eviction Representation	General Fund

⁴ 14 Community Outreach Organizations include Austin Apartment Association, AAUL, BookSpring, DoveSprings Proud, Age of Central Texas, Austin Voices for Education & Youth, Economic Growth Business Incubator, El Buen Samaritano, Family Eldercare, Foundation Communities, Goodwill Central Texas, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Youth & Family Alliance, and YWCA

Appendix C - Sample of Five Council Directions Traced to Relevant Agreements and Spending Managed by Austin Public Health

Council Direction	Description	Number of Associated Agreements	Agency	Agreement	Agreement Description	Total Budget	Spending to Date
20190411-026	Identifying additional funding for Rathgeber Center and providing additional case management	2	Salvation Army	Rathgeber Center	Provide low-barrier, housing-focused emergency shelter and trauma informed services	\$1,000,000	\$976,482
			Salvation Army	Pathways & Partnerships	Provide emergency shelter, basic needs services, and case management	\$2,100,059	\$1,304,246
20190606-049	Negotiate a property for immediate shelter, include necessary funds in 2020 budget various areas of homelessness prevention and assistance, initiate a procurement for a property with 50-100 beds.	2	Integral Care	PSH North	Provide permanent supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness	\$2,992,800	n/a
			Caritas	Espero at Rutland PSH	Create programming for Espero at Rutland, build Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) capacity, expand case management/services for residents	\$1,200,000	n/a
20200312-042	Targeted increase in funding to rapid rehousing for households whose homelessness can be ended by short-term financial assistance	1	Front Steps	Bridge Shelter	Provide temporary shelter, with a focus on short stays that quickly lead clients into exiting to permanent housing	\$2,275,000	n/a

Appendix C - Sample of Five Council Directions Traced to Relevant Agreements and Spending Managed by Austin Public Health (continued)

Council Direction	Description	Number of Associated Agreements	Agency	Agreement	Agreement Description	Total Budget	Spending to Date
20210204-049	The Homeless Encampment Assistance Link (HEAL) Initiative implementation, develop timeline and resources needed to implement phase I & II of HEAL initiative, return to council with documents allowing Council to dedicate at least \$3 million to phase I of HEAL (focusing on housing-focused shelter and support services)	3	Front Steps	ESG-Shelter CV	Provide temporary shelter for adults experiencing homelessness, with a focus on short stays that quickly lead to clients exiting to permanent housing	\$1,255,787	n/a
			Integral Care	Rapid Recovery - Shelter to Housing	Engage and permanently house individuals and families at shelters and encampments, includes housing location, time-limited financial support, and tailored housing and behavioral health case management	\$1,904,112	\$677,517
			Family Eldercare	Rapid Rehousing for Older Adults	Stably house older adults experiencing homelessness in Austin and Travis County, includes ensuring long-term stability by co-enrolling clients in existing Money Management Services which provides budget training and financial oversight	\$1,975,306	\$248,989

Appendix C - Sample of Five Council Directions Traced to Relevant Agreements and Spending Managed by Austin Public Health (continued)

Council Direction	Description	Number of Associated Agreements	Agency	Agreement	Agreement Description	Total Budget	Spending to Date
20201203-048	Support the Downtown Austin Community Court, the Homeless Outreach Street Team, and Integral Care for expanded behavioral health resources for individuals experiencing homelessness, identify additional resources for behavioral health services.	2	Integral Care	COVID-19 Main Mental Health Services	Used as a match for federal and state contracts to focus on behavioral health services	\$10,676,129	\$4,147,182
			Caritas	ImpACT	House and support individuals experiencing homelessness and severe mental health issues who are frequent users of the criminal justice and emergency healthcare system in Austin/Travis County	\$315,000	\$26,542

Why We Did This Report

This report responds to a request from Council Member Mackenzie Kelly as a sponsor and Council Member Leslie Pool as a co-sponsor regarding how homelessness spending aligns with City Council direction and city agreements.

Scope

The project scope included direction given by City Council and the City's homelessness financial information for at least fiscal years 2019 to 2021.

Methodology

To complete this special request, we performed the following steps:

- Interviewed staff in the Austin Public Health Department and City's Management Services
- Communicated with staff in the Housing and Planning Department and Downtown Austin Community Court
- Reviewed relevant City Council resolutions, ordinances, and other direction
- Reviewed agreements and relevant supporting documentation related to homelessness assistance
- Reviewed documentation related to tracking homelessness assistance financial information
- Analyzed financial information related to homelessness assistance
- Selected a judgment sample of five City Council resolutions and ordinances related to homelessness assistance and traced to related financial information

Project Type

Special request projects conducted by the Office of the City Auditor are considered non-audit projects under Government Auditing Standards and are conducted in accordance with the ethics and general standards.

The Office of the City Auditor was created by the Austin City Charter as an independent office reporting to City Council to help establish accountability and improve City services. Special requests are designed to answer specific questions to assist Council in decision-making. We do not draw conclusions or make recommendations in these reports.

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