



Homeless Strategy Division

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Briefing Topics

1. Summit to Address Unsheltered Homelessness
2. Housing-Focused Homeless Encampment Assistance Link (HEAL) Initiative
3. Other Current/Upcoming Projects

Investment Plan Update

SUMMIT TO ADDRESS UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS

The Summit Investment Plan

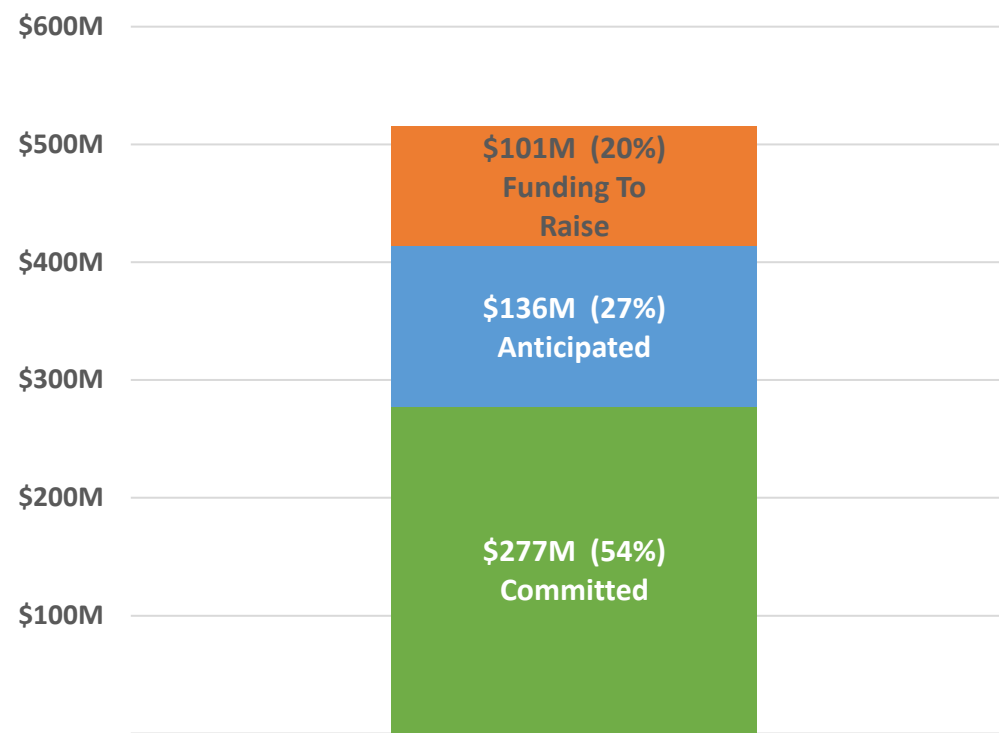
Summary of Fundraising Progress (as of January 2022)

80% Committed/Anticipated of \$515M Goal

\$14M since October 2021 briefing (75%)

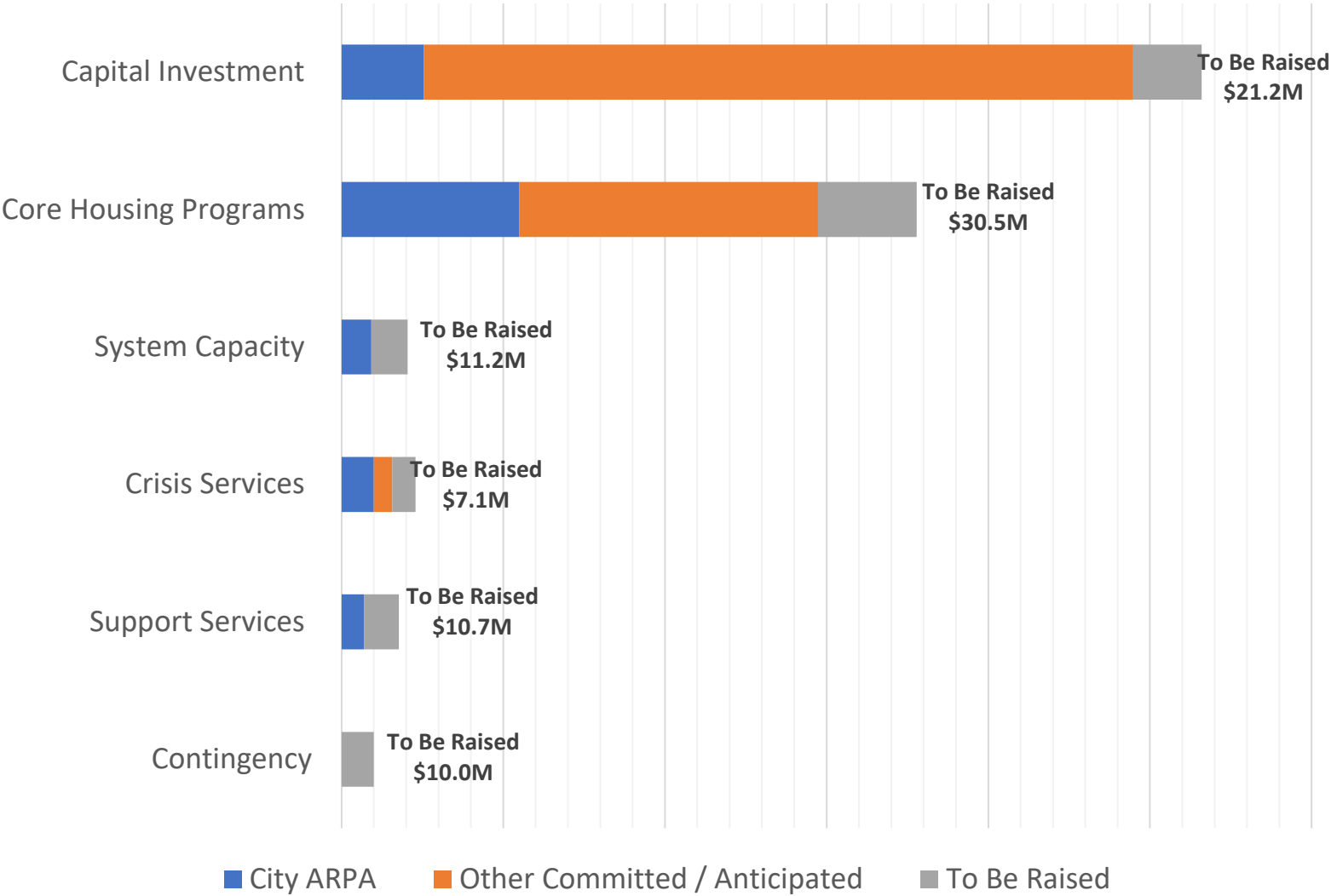
New Sources of Funding:

- St. David's Foundation
- Michael and Susan Dell Foundation
- Federal Home Loan Bank



¹ Figures in the chart do not add to \$414M due to rounding.

Summit Funding Progress by Category



American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - Homelessness: Distribution of Funds

Department	Projected Direct Expense	Projected Contracted Services	Total
Austin Public Health	\$3M	\$76M	\$79M
Housing & Planning	\$16M	\$3M	\$19M
Downtown Austin Community Court	\$7M	\$.34M	\$7.34M
Other: Innovation, HSEM	\$0.1M	\$.60M	\$.07M
TOTALS	\$26.1M	\$83M	\$106.7M

APH Solicitations for Homeless Services

Anticipated Solicitation Schedule

Solicitation Schedule	Phase #1	Phase #2	Phase #3
Focus Area	Housing Stabilization	Crisis Response	Reducing Inflow and other Supportive Services
Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Permanent Supportive Housing• Rapid Rehousing• Supportive Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shelter• Street Outreach• Other Crisis Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employment Services• Behavioral Health• Benefits Access• Capacity Building
Solicitation Amount (Combined Funds)	~\$53M	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
Anticipated Release Date	Open Applications due March 9th	March 2022	May 2022

HEAL Initiative

UPDATE AND PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

HEAL Initiative Overview

Persons Served:

- Inception to date: 182 persons relocated from 6 encampments
- Fiscal Year To Date: 40 Served from 2 encampments
- FY Goal: 200 persons served

Highlights:

- 93% Shelter Acceptance Rate
- 32 Rehoused To Date

Challenges:

- Increased Difficulty Locating Housing Units
- Limited Bridge Shelter Capacity
- Rapid Rehousing Program Capacity
- Attrition from shelter

HEAL Prioritization Framework

Prioritization of HEAL encampments is based on the public health and safety criteria

Why is Prioritization Needed?

- The need for shelter and permanent housing is greater than the supply
- Prioritization is needed to ensure City resources – human and financial capital – are focusing on encampments that pose the greatest risk to public health and public safety, and to the individuals living in the encampments

What is the Mobile Prioritization Tool capture?

- HSD, in collaboration with multiple City Departments, developed a mobile encampment assessment tool
- The tool:
 - Captures basic information about the encampment (e.g., location, # of people, # of tents, and # of vehicles,
 - Evaluates the safety and health risk of encampments based on 40 standardized variables (see next page) and produces a risk score.
- This is a prototype. It will be refined and improved.

How is the Mobile Prioritization Tool is being used?

- Currently four City Departments are testing and using the Tool to assess encampment: Homeless Strategy Division, Parks and Recreation Department, Watershed Protection, and Public Works
- The **Tool AND the availability of bridge shelter beds** are the two factors used to prioritize encampment closures for the HEAL initiative
- Between October and December 31, 2022, the tool has been used to evaluate 12 encampments
- Additional assessments are underway

HEAL Prioritization Framework

What public health and public safety factors does the Prioritization Tool assess?

Public Health factors assessed:

- High-risk health conditions
- Presence of minors and/or pregnant persons
- Access to potable water, hygiene resources
- Evidence of human waste, rodents, and accumulated trash
- EMS and ARR accessibility
- Unsafe syringe disposal
- Dumping

Public Safety factors assessed:

- Flood risk
- Wildfire risk
- Presence of combustible materials
- Observed fire activity
- Risk to public infrastructure
- Vehicle and/or pedestrian pathway risk
- First responder access
- Traffic visibility risk

Other Projects

Hotel Conversions – Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

- Two 2021 hotel acquisitions will transfer to AHFC subsidiary upon City Council approval
- Bungalows at Century Park (Burnet Road, 60 units)
 - Acquisition closed July 2021
 - Integral Care under contract as service provider/operator
 - Renovation funding on February 3rd Council agenda
 - 50 project-based vouchers awarded by Housing Authority of the City of Austin
- Pecan Park PSH (Pecan Park Blvd, 78 units)
 - Acquisition closed August 2021
 - Renovation funding expected on March Council agenda
 - Council approval of service funding expected on Council agenda March – April
 - Application submitted for 50 HACA project-based vouchers on January 17th.
- Projected occupancy: October – December 2022

Public Space Management

Since August 2021

➤ **Coordinated Enforcement/Cleanup**

- Resolution of unauthorized encampments requires multi-department coordination
- Requests for service far exceed capacity
- Over 70 encampments (not including independent APD enforcement, HEAL Initiative, or abandoned sites)
- After initial focus at underpasses, substantial focus Parks and Recreation properties
- Larger, more remote sites have complex access, require heavy machinery, and multiple days or weeks

➤ **Tonnage Collected: (including abandoned sites)**

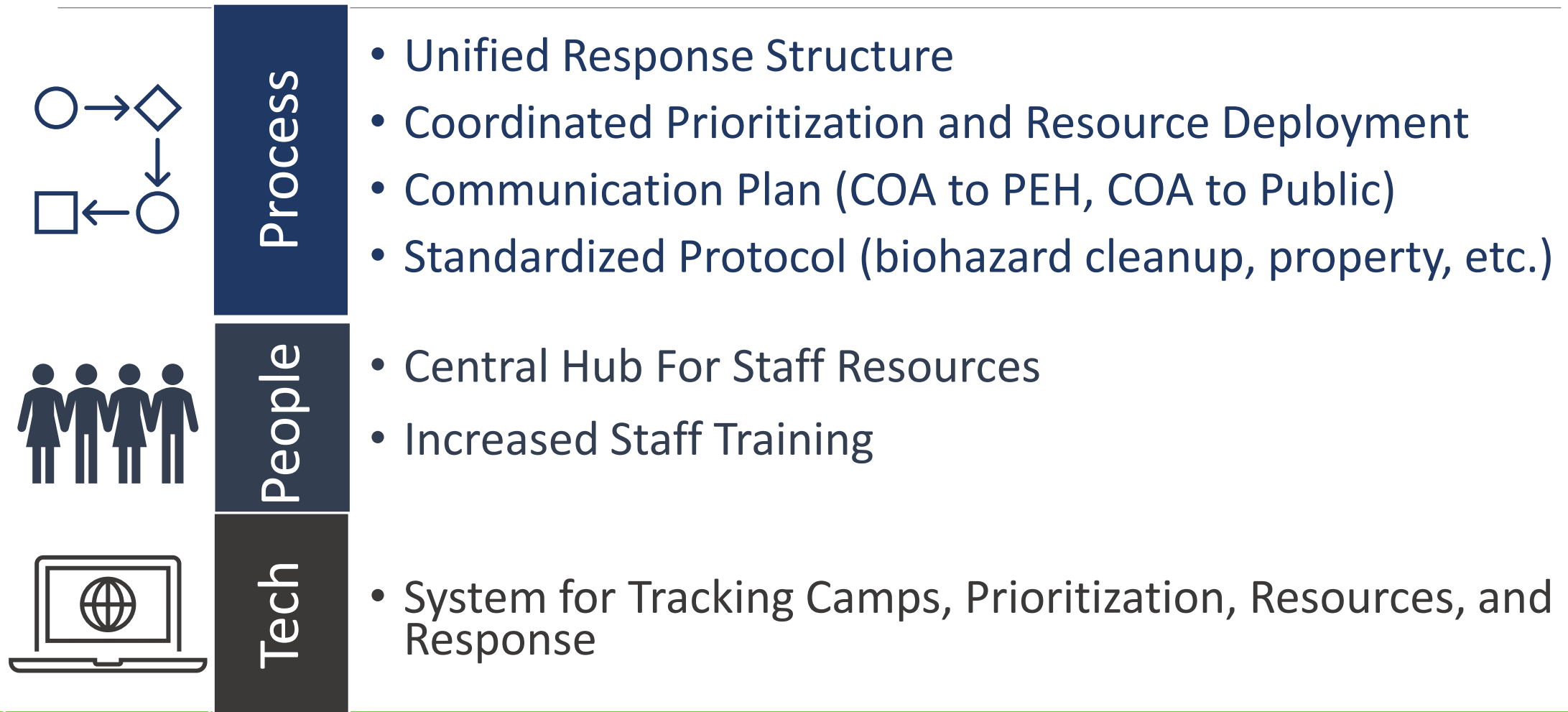
- Austin Resource Recovery: 829 tons
- Public Works: 177 tons
- Austin Watershed: 38.51

➤ **Strain on budgets, staff, and services**

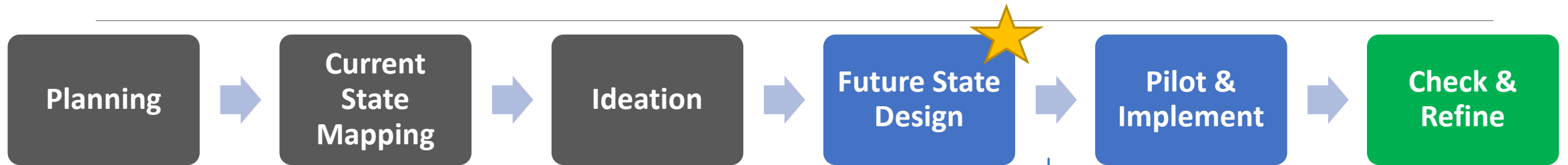
- Accelerated spend-down on third-party cleanup contracts
- Multiple avenues for service requests
- Displacement versus Shelter/Rehousing

Process Improvement

Financial Services Division – Performance Management



Homeless Encampment Management



Phase 1: Unified Response Structure

Key Departments Involved

Stakeholder Departments
Consulted/Informed

Will Inform Other Recommendations

Cold Weather Shelter: Overview

➤ **Activation**

- Overnight temperature of 32 Degrees, or
- Overnight temperature of 35 degrees and inclement weather (rain/high winds)
- Communications: Hotline, HSEM PIO, reverse text messaging, homeless service provider listserv

➤ **Embarkation Center**

- One Texas Center (Downtown Austin Community Court)
- Registration: 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- COVID Screening/Transport to Isolation Facility as Needed; COVID and Flu Vaccinations Offered
- Staffed by Austin Public Health, DACC, & Integral Care
- Meal Offered by Front Steps
- Late Transfers: Public Safety partners contact HSEM Duty Officer

Cold Weather Shelter: Overview

➤ Cold Weather Shelter Sites

- Three Recreation Centers: Capacity ~ 225
- Capital Metro transports from Embarkation Center
- Release Time 6am with Capital Metro transport downtown; later if activities do not conflict
- Staffed by Parks & Recreation; Austin Police Department on site

➤ Considerations

- Community Input: Requests for higher temperature threshold, improved access, and expansion
- Shift in ARCH participation & significant decrease in offers of church space, volunteers, food due to COVID = reliance on City staff in addition to regular duties
- HSD/APH assessing potential revisions to Cold Weather Shelter Plan and potential costs to City of Austin. There is no current budget for CWS.



Questions/Discussion
