



## Recommendation for Action

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**File #: 22-1215, Agenda Item #: 21.**

2/17/2022

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### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of a 12-month contract with the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition to administer landlord incentives that will be used to encourage property owners, managers, and developers to set aside available units for families and individuals exiting homelessness in the City, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

### **Lead Department**

Housing and Planning Department.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget of the Austin Public Health Department. The source of funding is the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This item has no fiscal impact.

### **For More Information:**

Rosie Truelove, Director, Housing and Planning Department, 512-974-3064; Patrick Russell, Real Estate Manager, Housing and Planning Department, 512-974-3141.

### **Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:**

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### **Additional Backup Information:**

If approved, funding will be used by the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) to administer landlord incentives including, but not limited to, risk mitigation, double deposits, and rolling credits. These incentives will be used to encourage property owners, managers, and developers to set aside available units for families and individuals exiting homelessness in the City of Austin, Travis County. The Homelessness Response System is competing with the rest of the Austin rental community for access to private market rental units. The current Austin rental market has unprecedented challenges, with lack of vacancies and increasing rents. These funds will allow the ECHO team to work with the private rental market to help gain access for the Homelessness Response System.

The Housing and Planning Department (HPD) has many years of experience negotiating and managing contracts with ECHO, including a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Consulting Contract, as well as a PSH Low Barrier Voucher Program (now expired). As part of the Homeless Response System, HPD works closely with ECHO to address barriers to housing for people exiting homelessness. This landlord incentive contract will be yet another tool to assist with ending homelessness in Austin.

The contract term will be January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022.

Deliverables may include:

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Contract Deliverables	Very Low Barrier	Low Barrier	Med/High Barrier
Number of units created - 150	75	50	25
Number of households served - 150	75	50	25

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.