



# Briefing on Homelessness Related Issues

## Public Health Committee

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## Briefing Topics

1. Recent Cold Weather Shelter Activation
2. Housing-Focused Encampment Assistance Link (HEAL) Initiative
3. APH Social Services Solicitation Series



# Cold Weather Shelter Activation February 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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# Winter 2021-2022 Cold Weather Shelter Activation

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## Previous 2022 Activation

- 7 Activations January 2022
- Average census 88 (83% Male, 17% Female)
- 4 nights 1 shelter; 3 nights 2 shelters

## Cold Weather Shelter Activation

- Four nights: Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday morning, February 6<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday 2/2: Three usual Cold Weather Shelter recreation center sites (via central embarkation point)
- Thursday 2/3: Five Additional recreation centers opened Thursday (walk-up)
- 24-hour operations through demobilization Sunday morning February 6<sup>th</sup>
- High census of 479 across 8 sites; 6 at capacity

## Staffing

- Shelters & Emergency Operations Center
- Parks & Recreation
- Downtown Austin Community Court
- Austin Public Health
- Integral Care
- Austin Police Department
- Travis County Sherriff's Office

# Cold Weather Shelter Operations 2/2 – 2/6

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## ➤ Transportation:

- Capital Metro buses to/from Embarkation Center (drop off downtown or to transit centers)
- Capital Metro waived fares for persons accessing cold weather shelter
- 311 Dispatch/Emergency Operations Center
  - APD, EMS, Cap Metro paratransit, private ride service
  - Included Cap Metro ~ 20 persons from Sunrise Navigation Center
  - Austin Winter Weather Collaborative

## ➤ Food & Water

- Front Steps dinners
- Other Meals through EOC, including churches
- Bottled water upon boil notice

## ➤ COVID Protocols

## ➤ Communications



# HEAL Initiative

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HOUSING-FOCUSED ENCAMPMENT ASSISTANCE LINK



# HEAL Initiative Overview

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## 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

## Bridge Shelter Snapshot at 1/20

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| ➤ Current Bridge Shelter Guests         | 95   |
| ➤ Completed Coordinated Assessment      | 92%  |
| ➤ Enrolled in Permanent Housing Program | 66%* |

(\*85% not including recent transfers)

# HEAL Initiative Demographics

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## Clients Served By Race/Ethnicity

White	48%
Black/African American	37%
Hispanic/Latinx	15%
Other	0

## Clients Served By Age

20-35	31%
36-46	30%
56+	39%





# Social Services Solicitations for Homeless Services

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AKESHIA JOHNSON-SMOTHERS,  
COMMUNITY BASED RESOURCES UNIT MANAGER



February 9, 2022



# Solicitation Strategy

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- Process
  - Homeless Strategy Division
- Funding Sources
  - General Funds
  - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
  - Federal – Emergency Solution Grant
  - State – Homeless Housing and Services Program

# Solicitation Rollout Plan

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## Three sequential solicitations will be released

- Housing Stabilization – Jan 2022
  - Rapid Rehousing (Performance Based Pilot)
  - Permanent Supportive Housing
  - Other – Housing Navigation, Landlord Outreach/Incentives and Move-in Supplies
- Crisis Response – April 2022
  - Emergency Shelter
  - Bridge Shelter
  - Outreach Services

# Solicitation Rollout Plan

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## Reducing Inflow and other Supportive Services – May 2022

- Prevention Services
- Mental Health/Substance Misuse
- Employment Services
- Benefit Access

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# Questions

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