




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Adrienne Sturup, Director, Austin Public Health 

THROUGH: Stephanie Hayden-Howard, LMSW, Assistant City Manager

DATE: July 15, 2022

SUBJECT: Implementation of a Trauma Recovery Center in Austin

On March 24, 2022, Austin City Council passed [Resolution 20220324-061](#), directing the City Manager to provide recommendations on the feasibility of the City's support to implement and operate a Trauma Recovery Center (TRC).

The Office of Violence Prevention is consulting with Alliance for Safety and Justice and Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice regarding the feasibility of funding and implementing the Trauma Recovery Center model in Austin. As part of its mission, Alliance for Safety and Justice works to bring TRCs to communities most impacted by crime and advocates for policies that increase public safety and reduce overreliance on incarceration. Currently, there are no Trauma Recovery Centers in Texas.

PARTNERS

Alliance for Safety and Justice and Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice conducted a landscape analysis in Austin to identify potential TRC partners. The analysis identified two local agencies as having the potential to align with the Trauma Recovery Center model. As a result of this process, Alliance for Safety and Justice has reached out to one of the agencies for further discussion.

It is also essential to consider the location of TRCs, i.e., hospitals, community, or a hybrid. Discussion concerning potential locations resulted in the Alliance for Safety and Justice recommendation of a community-based Trauma Recovery Center to ensure services in communities of highest need.

FINANCIAL FEASIBILITY

To assess financial feasibility, long-term funding models for California and Illinois TRCs (*see Table 1*) were examined. These models include funding from governmental agencies, insurance claims, in-kind support, and private philanthropy.

California and Illinois' diverse funding portfolio creates a blueprint for Trauma Recovery Center sustainability. A similar model for Austin is possible after local government dollars' initial two-year financial support.

The Alliance for Safety and Justice advocates on local, county, state, and federal levels to ensure government funding is allocated for Trauma Recovery Centers through various funding streams, including Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) dollars. All 39 Trauma Recovery Centers in the United States receive VOCA funding. With the recent VOCA Fix Act, funding for victims of crime will increase during the next federal fiscal year. As Tables 2 and Table 3 indicate, there are additional federal and state funds available that could support Trauma Recovery Centers in Austin.

In the FY2023 proposed budget, the city manager included \$1 million in one-time funding to support the Trauma Recovery Center. The Office of Violence Prevention will continue to reach out to Travis County, Central Health, and other stakeholders to build support and discuss potential interlocal collaborations, strategic planning, TRC site location, funding opportunities, and implementation strategies for TRCs.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Facilitation of a community stakeholder process to provide input and feedback on implementing a Trauma Recovery Center began in 2021 with the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force, who recommended the funding and implementation of Trauma Recovery Centers in Austin. In addition, Alliance for Safety and Justice continuously engages the community for input, feedback, and advocacy for TRCs.

RECOMMENDATION

Auston Public Health/Office for Violence Prevention supports the recommendation to move forward with a Trauma Recovery Center model through collaboration with a local community partner and utilizing funding identified in the FY2023 proposed budget for initial operations. Furthermore, Alliance for Safety and Justice will provide technical assistance and training to Trauma Recovery Centers in Austin to establish long-term funding strategies.

Please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Myles (512) 972-5068 or Michelle.Myles@austintexas.gov if you have any questions.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Anne Morgan, Acting City Manager

Attachment

Table 1: Example Sustainable Funding Sources by Percentage

Trauma Recovery Center Long-Term Funding Model						
City and County	VOCA	Specialty Medical Services	Federal Grants	Insurance Claims	In-Kind	Donations and Foundations
34%	32%	10%	10%	7%	4%	3%

Table 2 - Potential Federal Funding Source for Ongoing Trauma Recovery Center Support

SOURCE OF FUNDING	SPECIFIC GRANT
The Office of Victims of Crime	Field-Generated Solicitation: Increasing Options and Expanding Access for Victims of Crime
The Office of Victims of Crime	Advancing Hospital-Based Victim Services
The Office of Victims of Crime	Advancing the Use of Technology to Assist Victims of Crime
The Office of Victims of Crime	Enhancing Access to Victim Services
The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention	Strategies to Support Children Exposed to Violence solicitation
Congressional Earmarks Fiscal Year 23	

Table 3 - Potential State Funding Source for Ongoing Trauma Recovery Center Support

SOURCE OF FUNDING	BRIEF SUMMARY
Victim of Crimes Act (VOCA)	Provides direct services to victims of crime to help them recover and navigate the legal system.
Crime Victims' Compensation Program	Supports counseling, loss of wages, rent, loss of childcare support, and medical expenses.
STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program	Provides trauma related supports to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking