

June 4, 2023

Dear Members of the Austin City Council,

We represent the seven members of the Travis County Supportive Housing Collaborative, a group of local non-profit organizations providing supportive housing in response to our homelessness crisis: A New Entry, Austin Area Urban League, Caritas of Austin, Family Eldercare, Integral Care, LifeWorks, and The SAFE Alliance. The members of the Collaborative are currently raising funds, obtaining land, and securing permits for 620 homelessness-response supportive housing units in Austin, which will more than triple the city's current count of 241 supportive housing units.

We write to ask that the City Council authorize the Housing Authority of Travis County to complete the public facility corporation (PFC) designations for the three projects that will host three Collaborative permanent supportive housing developments that will together house 260 Austin families experiencing homelessness, and help support hundreds more.

It is hard to overstate the importance of the PFC authorization to our projects. These projects will help Collaborative members quickly secure good, transit-served land worth approximately \$10.9 million dollars. The Housing Authority of Travis County has also agreed to give up about \$4 million in one-time fees to the Collaborative during development. Additionally, the Housing Authority is passing along almost all of its annual fees to the Collaborative, at an estimated \$1 million across the three projects. That is \$14.9 million that Collaborative members will not have to raise or request from the City of Austin. The \$1 million in annual income will go to defray the estimated \$10 million in annual support service costs that Collaborative members will otherwise have to raise from public and private sources.

Combined, these supports will make the Collaborative's homelessness-response projects more financially resilient and feasible at a time when the Austin community is desperate for real solutions.

We recognize that this authorization is an extraordinary request, but this is an extraordinary opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Soleece Watson  
Interim Executive Director  
A New Entry

Jo Kathryn Quinn  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Caritas of Austin

Quincy Dunlap  
Chief Executive Officer  
Austin Area Urban League

Aaron Alarcon  
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Dawn Handley  
Chief Operations Officer  
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Susan McDowell  
Chief Executive Officer  
LifeWorks Austin

Julia Spann  
Chief Executive Officer  
The SAFE Alliance