AUSTIN'S HOMELESS SHELTER SYSTEM
A COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT

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HOMELESS SHELTER SYSTEM ASSESSMENT
BACKGROUND

August 2022 Council direction:

- Broad assessment of community's **year-round** homeless shelter system
- Recommend vision and priorities for <u>system</u>, with focus on bed capacity, service quality, and city contracting
- Complete assessment before re-soliciting emergency contracts for **Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH) and Southbridge Shelter**

SECURE HUD TA → STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT + RESEARCH & SYNTHESIS → DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS, PARTNER FEEDBACK → FINALIZE

Related direction:
Resolution 20230209-40: City sheltering in all extreme weather events
                        HSEM update June 28, next update November
Resolution 20230608-83: Shelter geographic analysis and cost estimates
                        Geographic analysis incorporated shelter assessment, costs
                        estimates forthcoming

SHELTER SYSTEM ASSESSMENT
RESEARCH & REVIEW ELEMENTS

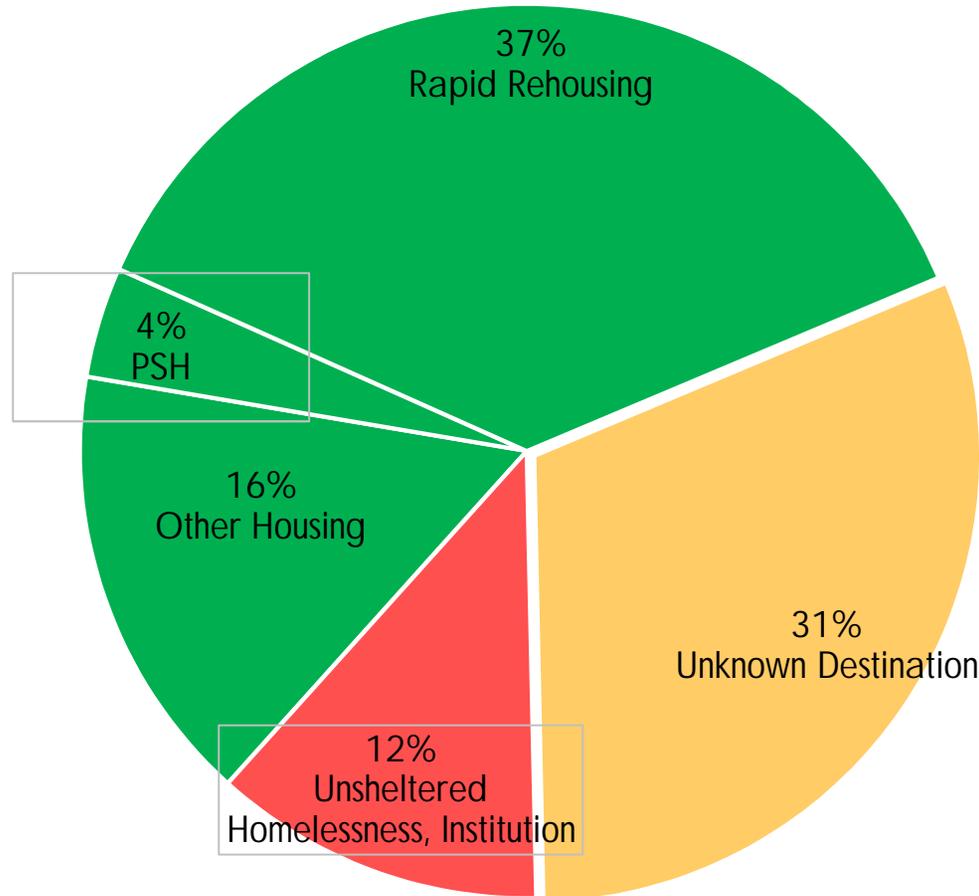| National Policy Group Strategies	Consultant Reports for Austin	Peer Cities Research	Analysis of Local Shelter Data	Provider & Participant Engagement
U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC) National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH)	Investing for Results: Priorities and Recommendations for a Systems Approach to End Homelessness (2020) Barbara Poppe and Associates Recommendations for the Re-Design of Emergency Shelters in Austin (2020) National Alliance to End Homelessness	Dallas Houston San Antonio Fort Worth Nashville San Diego Seattle Philadelphia District of Columbia Los Angeles	Shelter inventory Facility types Access and intake Performance data Policies & procedures Services offered Operational costs Funding sources	People Experiencing Homelessness • 9 focus groups, 55 participants • 34 1:1 interviews Shelter Service Providers • 7 engagement events • Small team conversations and 1:1 interviews Other Providers & Advocates • 5 feedback sessions • Feedback surveys and 1:1

RESEARCH INSIGHTS

- On any given night, Austin has approximately 1 shelter bed for every 5 persons experiencing homelessness

- 2,915 individuals used shelter services in FY22

- 92% shelter bed utilization rate

- Average stay in shelter is 115 days, regardless of exit type

- 41% of shelter participants in FY22 were chronically homeless

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RESEARCH INSIGHTS: SHELTER EXITS
57% OF THOSE EXITING SHELTER HAD CONFIRMED HOUSING (FY22)

37%
Rapid Rehousing

4%
PSH

16%
Other Housing

31%
Unknown Destination

12%
Unsheltered
Homelessness, Institution

Households Exiting Austin Homeless Shelters in FY22
(n=1,857)

AUSTIN'S SHELTER SYSTEM CAPACITY

MAY 2023

Project Name	Beds
Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH)* - Urban Alchemy	130
Austin Shelter for Women and Children* – The Salvation Army	63
Northbridge* – APH Homeless Strategy Division	65
Southbridge* – Austin Area Urban League	75
A New Entry	54
Casa Marianella & Posada Esperanza – Casa Marianella	77
Esperanza Community – The Other Ones Foundation	85
Foundation for the Homeless	6
Lifeworks Shelter	7
Rathgeber Center – The Salvation Army	212
SAFE Family Shelter	106
Total	880

*denotes City – owned facility

Shelter Capacity by Population Served

- In May 2023, City-owned facilities accounted for 333 beds, or 38% of the shelter system's capacity

- 47% beds set aside for households with children

- 53% for Single Adults
  - Only 14% regardless of gender or program
  - 1% adult women only
  - 13% adult men only

- 12% Domestic Violence

- 9% Other Special Populations (youth, veteran, immigrants, refugee, medical respite)

PROJECTED SHELTER BEDS NEEDED
~1,000 BEDS NEEDED BY 2025

o By 2025 Austin will need shelter beds for 1,519 households:

- o 1,428 single individuals
- o 91 families with children
- o Based on modeling from Investing for Results report by Barbara Poppe and Associates, June 2020, adjusted for average population growth

o Indicates gap for single individuals: 962 beds

o 'Right-sized' shelter capacity assumes an optimized system that scales all components of the Homeless Response System, including permanent housing

Shelter Beds for Single Individuals	
Projected Need (YE2025)	1,428
Minus Current Capacity (May 2023)	- 466
Additional Beds Needed (YE2025)	962

SHELTER EXPANSION UNDERWAY
ADDING BOTH PERMANENT & TEMPORARY BEDS

962 New Beds Needed 2025 — **245** Long-Term Beds in Pipeline = **717** Long-Term Beds Needed

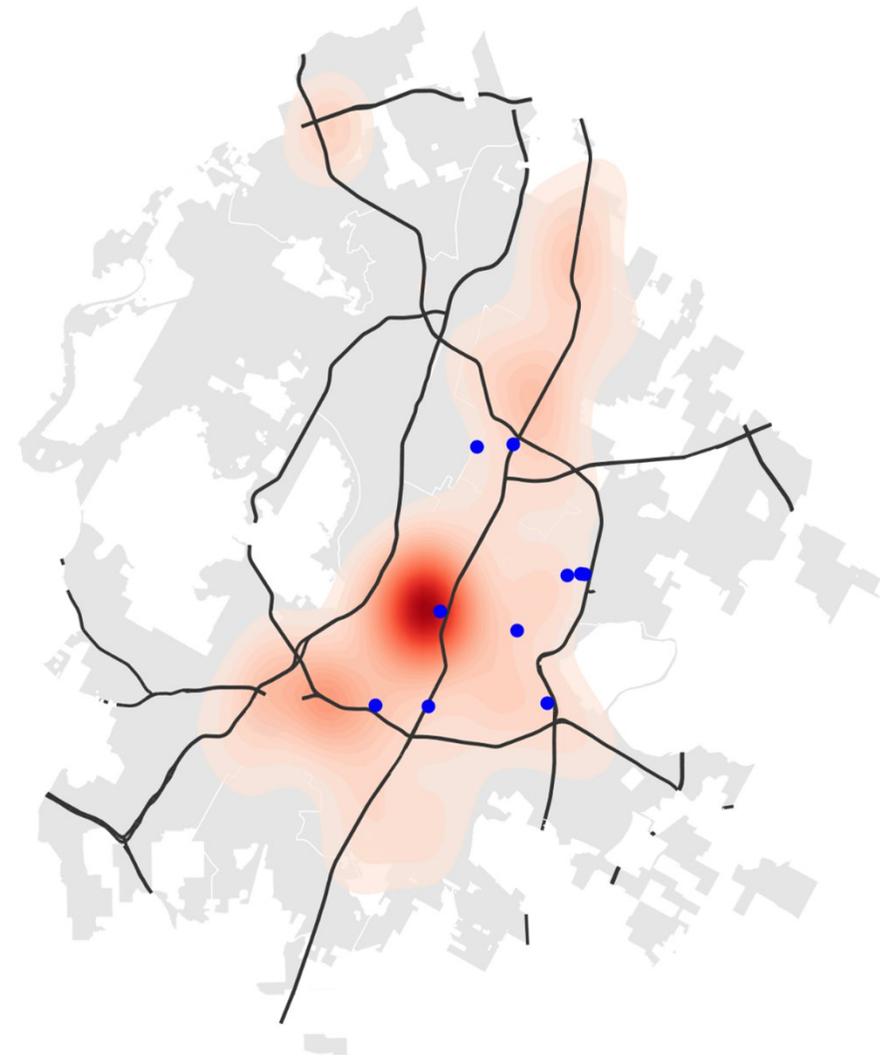| Permanent Shelter Beds in Development	Beds
Esperanza Community – The Other Ones Foundation - Ongoing build-out to 200 beds	115
Southbridge – Austin Area Urban League - Expansion to double occupancy underway	70
Northbridge – APH Homeless Strategy Division - Expansion to double occupancy (complete)	60
New Permanent Beds	245

Temporary Shelter Facilities	Beds
Marshalling Yard - Endeavors - Temporary use, pending council approval	300
501 East 8th Street - Urban Alchemy - Temporary use, Fall 2023	150
New Temporary Beds	450

GEOGRAPHIC REVIEW

❑ Austin's shelters generally clustered near downtown and in eastern crescent

❑ Recent loss of beds downtown

❑ Since 2020, shift of location of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness from central business district to other areas of the city

❑ Significant concentrations of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in south Austin and N/NW Austin, where there is no shelter

❑ Future shelter investment considerations should include geographic need as one of multiple site selection criteria

PIT Count 2023 Heatmap
With Shelter Locations

Source: Ending Community Homeless Coalition (ECHO)

TOP 10 RECOMMENDATIONS

Community-Wide Goals

1. Strive to add at 1,000 beds for single individuals by year-end 2025, including at least 80% general population and up to 20% beds for underserved populations (complex health needs, transgender)
2. Establish Diversion/Rapid Exit programming at all shelters to facilitate quick returns to housing
3. Diversify funding within shelter system and align funders on policy priorities
4. Prioritize development of shared room models, which are preferred by persons experiencing homelessness, as well as non-congregate models for special needs.

Continuum of Care / ECHO

5. Establish baseline written program standards for shelter, as well as best practice recommendations
6. Develop a system-wide policy and process for client termination, grievance, & appeal
7. Increase opportunities for collaboration and joint training among shelter providers, especially front-line staff
8. Enhance use of standardized performance metrics for active system monitoring and management

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9. Establish coordinated shelter referral & access process, bed management tool, and a common intake assessment for City-funded shelters
10. Identify opportunities to align City of Austin contracts with Continuum of Care policies/standards, as developed

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