

HOMELESS STRATEGY OFFICE UPDATE

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
CITY OF AUSTIN
FEBRUARY 7, 2024

David Gray
Homeless Strategy Officer
City of Austin



HOMELESS
STRATEGY
OFFICE



TODAY'S TOPICS

**Marshalling Yard
Emergency Shelter**

Cold Weather Shelter

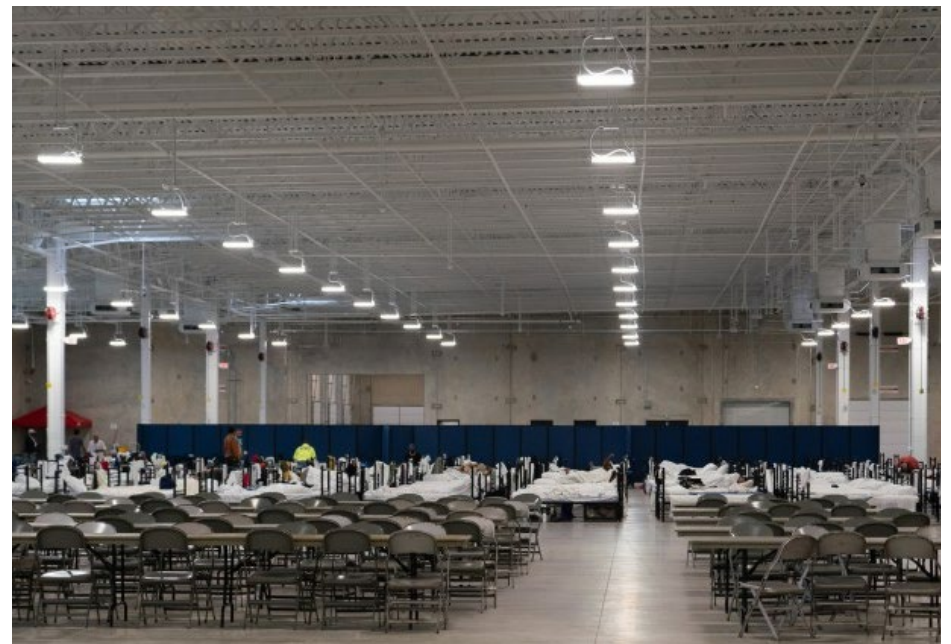
MARSHALLING YARD EMERGENCY SHELTER

Facility opened August 22, 2023.

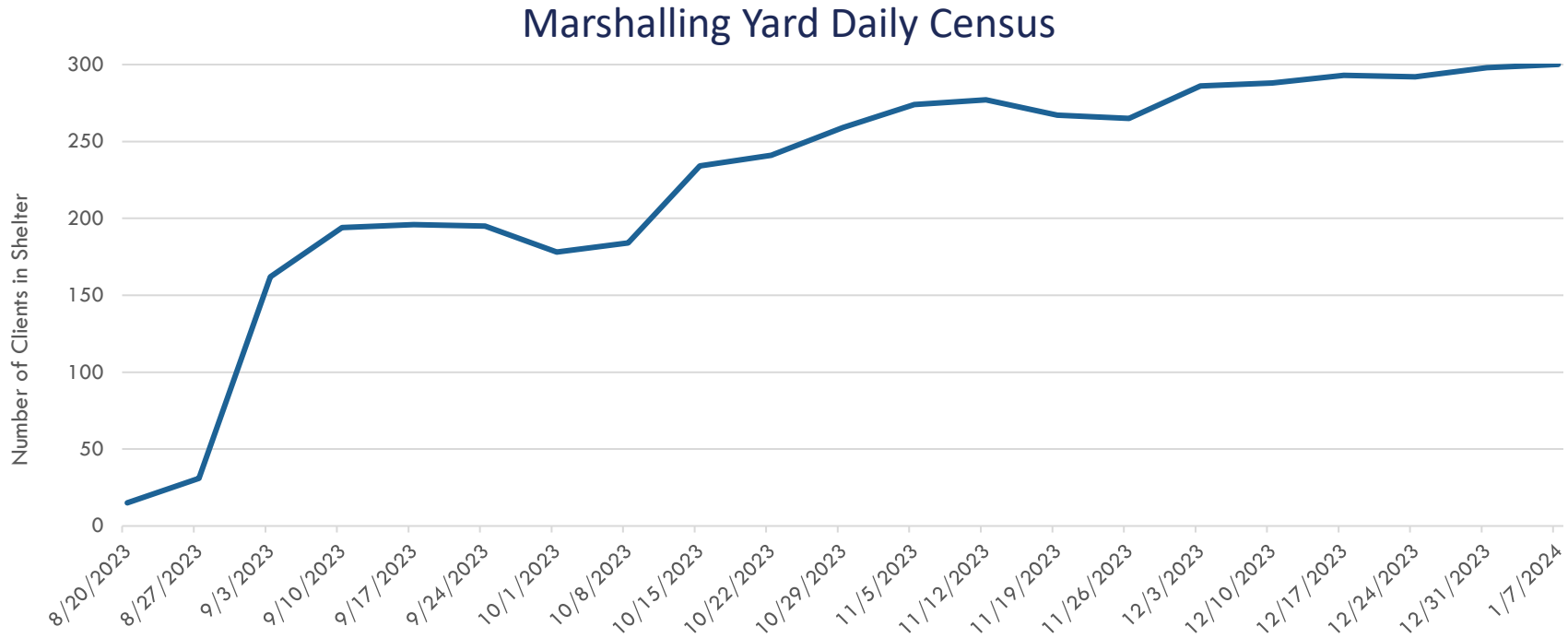
- Facility operator: Endeavors.
- Capacity: 300 clients.
- Entries: 577 clients.

Clients receive multiple services, including:

- Daily transportation services, including door-to-door transfers.
- Three meals per day.
- Pet-friendly on-site boarding facility and pet food.
- Onsite wash, dry, and folding service.
- Onsite showering facilities.
- Onsite access to case management.
- Wellness activities (e.g., television area, open Wi-Fi network, etc.)
- Patio access for outdoor activities and smoking area.



MARSHALLING YARD EMERGENCY SHELTER



**Endeavors permitted to increase capacity to 300 in Oct. 2023.*

January 15 Population Snapshot

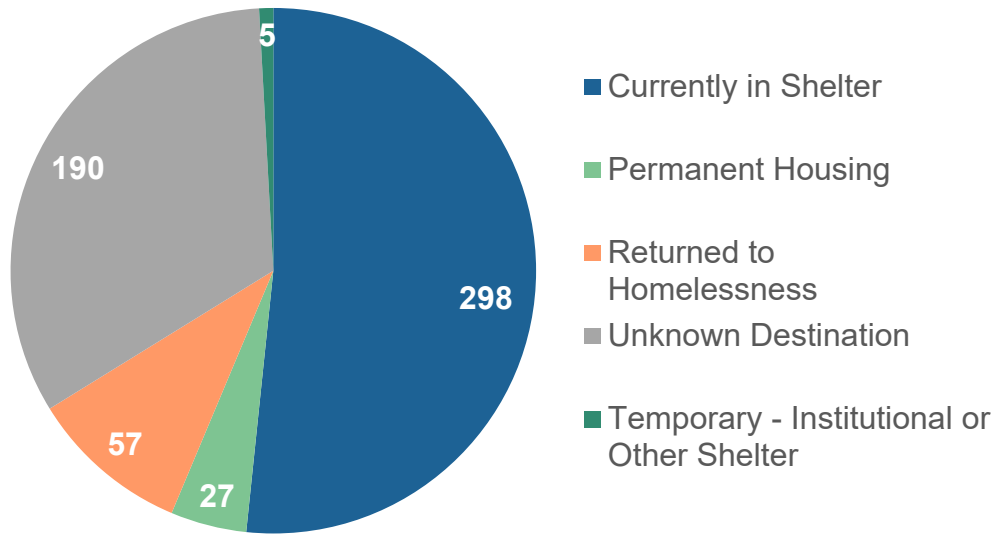
Male	193
Female	94
Gender Diverse	7
Service Animals & Pets	20

Average Length of Time in Shelter

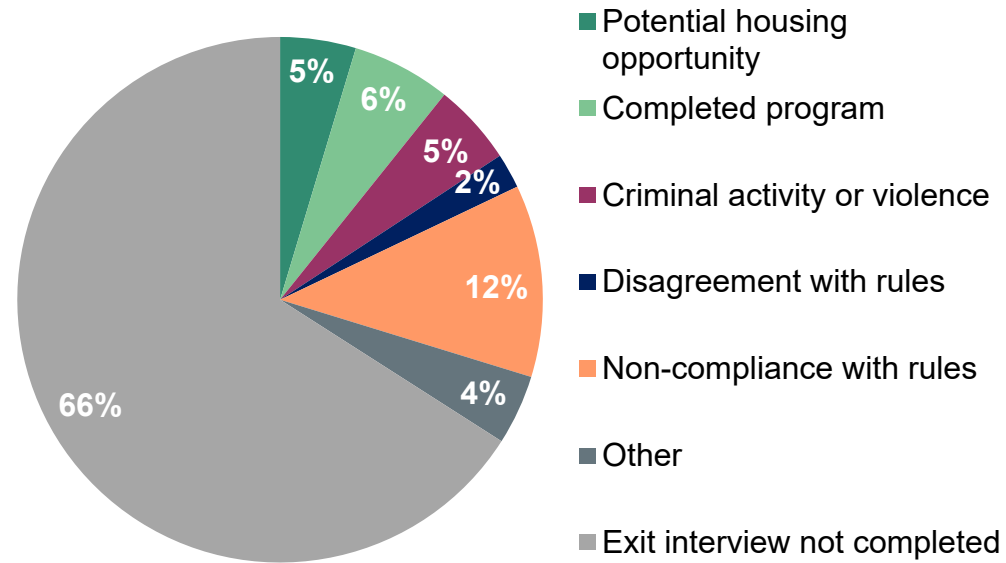
Current Participants	70 days
Average for those who exit	44 days
Positive Exit	49 days
Negative Exit	43 days

MARSHALLING YARD EMERGENCY SHELTER

Status of All Entries from Inception to January 15, 2024



Reason for Exit from Inception to January 15, 2024




COLD WEATHER SHELTER

Cold Weather Shelter (CWS)


Cold weather shelter provides temporary, overnight relief from unusually cold conditions. Registration currently occurs at a single intake point before transport to a pre-designated recreation center. Shelter clients are provided meals and bedding, couples and pets are welcome. Discharge typically occurs the following morning.

CWS Activation Thresholds

 **32°** 32 degrees or colder overnight

 35 degrees or colder overnight with precipitation

 **35°** 35 degrees or colder overnight

 35 degrees or colder overnight with wind chill of 32 or colder

Funding & Contract

The City of Austin contracts with the Austin Area Urban League (AAUL) to provide CWS services to up to 300 individuals per activation night.

City Facilities are Used as Cold Weather Shelters

Parks and Recreation facilities serve as cold weather shelters.

One Texas Center serves as the central embarkation location from 6pm to 8pm.

Austin Public Libraries serve as daytime warming centers during normal business hours.

Expanded Response

Regional severe weather events occasionally require expanded sheltering beyond the scope of standard CWS operations.

The City of Austin's Homeland Security & Emergency Management Department (HSEM) coordinates these activities.

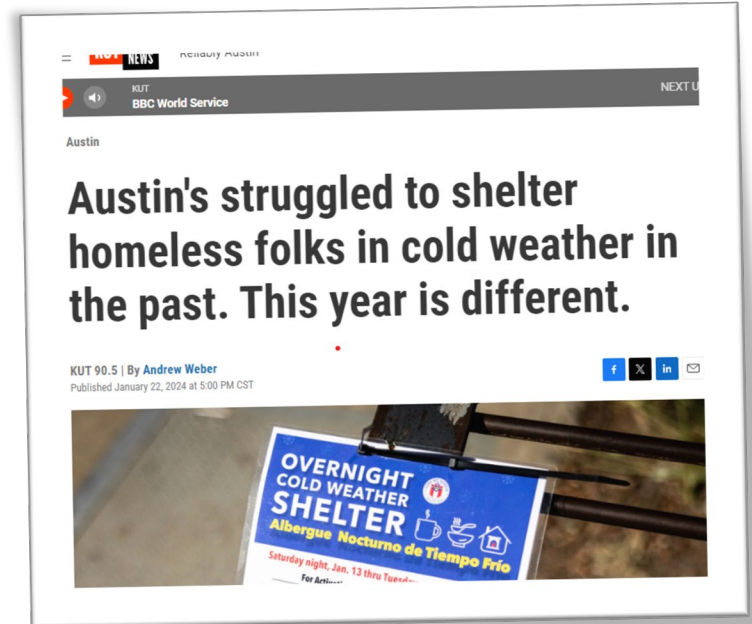
COLD WEATHER SHELTER – JANUARY 2024 WINTER STORM

Record Utilization

7	Shelters operational	659	Overnight clients served at peak utilization
8	Consecutive nights	2,991	Total client stays in CWS

Modified Operations During Winter Weather Event

- Provided two-days advanced notice of shelter activation.
- Bilingual text message notifications delivered with digital flyer, map, and bus route information to 4,992 recipients.
- Opened shelters for 24 hours rather than overnight only.
- Began embarkation from One Texas Center at 5pm rather than 6pm.
- Provided direct transportation from warming centers to shelters.
- Ceased encampment cleanups and closures.
- Opened warming centers earlier and opened additional warming centers.



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