



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Commission on Aging

Recommendation Number: (20250312-10): Increase Funding for Homeless Strategy Office

WHEREAS, the City of Austin Demographer has provided information that the aging population in Austin is the fastest growing segment of our city, currently representing 10.8% of our population¹; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 over 27.6% of our unhomed population in Austin was 50 years of age or older²; and

WHEREAS, homelessness decreases a person's life expectancy and unhouse people over 50 tend to present as much older medically and have a greater need for social services than other unhomed populations³; and

WHEREAS, while Austin leads the nation in new affordable housing construction⁴, in order to address the dynamic and multifaceted natures of poverty, homelessness, and housing instability as well as to accelerate access to concrete supports, dismantle systemic inequities, and mitigate barriers to healthy living, individuals and families, especially older adults and their caregivers with low incomes need access to safe, stable, and affordable housing bolstered by wraparound supportive services⁵; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission on Aging encourages the Austin City Council to approve additional funds and explore all available means to provide additional social services funding for the Homeless Strategy Office to allow them to better serve homeless people over 50 years of age in Austin.

Date of Approval: March 12, 2025.

Record of the vote: 11 to 0. Motioned by Commissioner Flatau, Seconded by Commissioner Van De Putte.


¹ "Age of Change, Austin's Transforming Demographics 2010-2010", City of Austin Planning Department, Published September 2023 and Updated August 2024.

² "State of the HRS, A Report on the State of the Homelessness Response System in Austin/Travis County," ECHO, August 2024, p. 11.

³ "State of the HRS, A Report on the State of the Homelessness Response System in Austin/Travis County," ECHO, August 2024, p. 11.

⁴ <https://www.kut.org/housing/2025-02-18/austin-tx-affordable-housing-construction-study>

⁵ <https://acf.gov/ocs/programs/ahssd>

Attest:  _____

(Chair)