PSH Housing Vouchers

Presentation to Community Development Commission

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Who We Are

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ABOUT ECHO

The Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) is the ***backbone of our community's Homelessness Response System****. As the lead agency for the Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care,* ***we lead and align a coalition responsible for planning and implementing community-wide strategies to end homelessness****. We work alongside people with firsthand experience of homelessness and nonprofit, government, and philanthropic partners to* ***build a future in which everyone in our community has housing of their choice that provides a foundation for optimal health, success, and stability****. Learn more: austinecho.org*

Agenda

- COA PSH Vouchers
- The Issue
- Our Ask
- PSH Expansion
- Who Benefits
- Summary
- Q&A

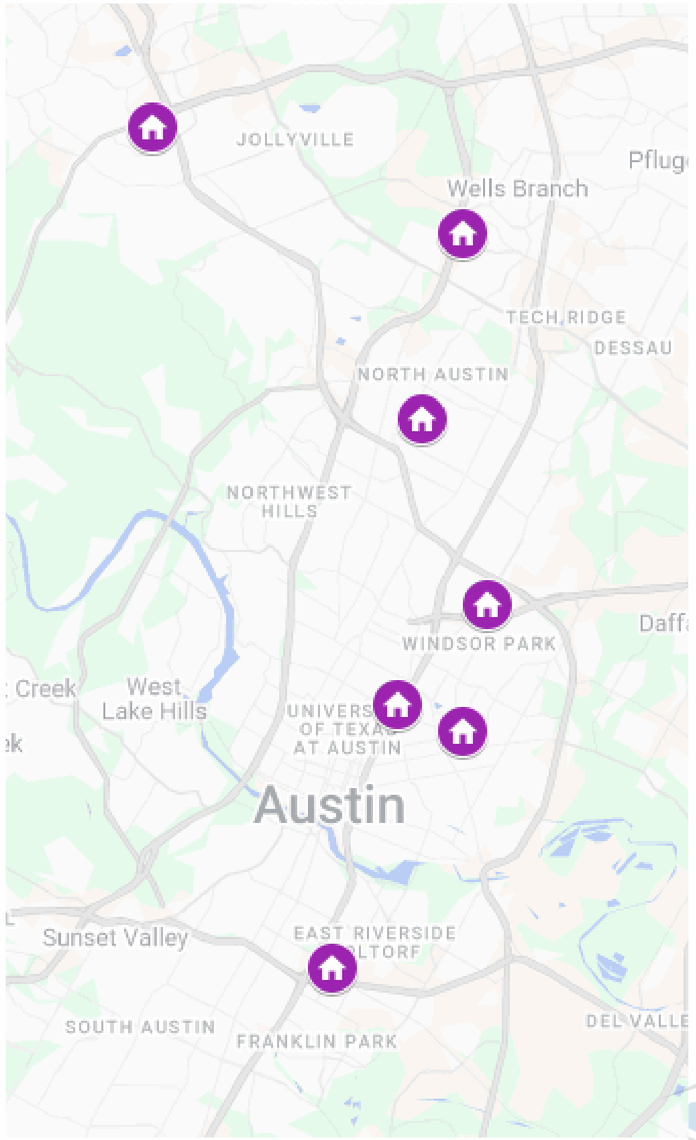
COA PSH Vouchers

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

- *Designed for people with the* ***highest needs***
- *Provides* ***rental assistance and individualized supportive services*** *for as long as someone needs them*
- *Must have a* ***disabling condition and be chronically homeless*** *to qualify*
- *Funded through* ***federal & local government budgets***
- *Requires capital (to build), vouchers (to pay for rent/operating), and service funding (robust services)*

COA funds 374 PSH vouchers

- *Vouchers used at PSH sites operated by housing partners*
- *Residents cover portion of rent and voucher covers the rest*
- *Used at* ***seven properties across six Council districts*** *(D1, D3, D4, D6, D7, D9)*



The Issue

Proposed COA budget eliminates transfer to Housing Trust Fund

- *Proposed cost-saving measure*
- *Transfer need is budgeted at $8.8 million in FY26*
- ***Supports PSH vouchers***

No alternate source of funding for PSH vouchers

- *Leaves* ***current voucher-holders at risk of returning to homelessness***
- *Eliminates an important compenent of needed growth in our Homelessness Response System*

Our Ask

Preserve funds for vouchers

- *Sign-on letter with providers*
  - *Providers of PSH utilizing COA vouchers*
  - *Sent to City Council Members', Mayor's, City Manager's offices*
- ***Ask**: **Prioritize filling the funding gap for vouchers** – $7.8 million in FY27 & $7.95 million in FY28 **to ensure no voucher-holders are pushed back into homelessness***
- *Use any additional density bonus program revenue to fund PSH services*

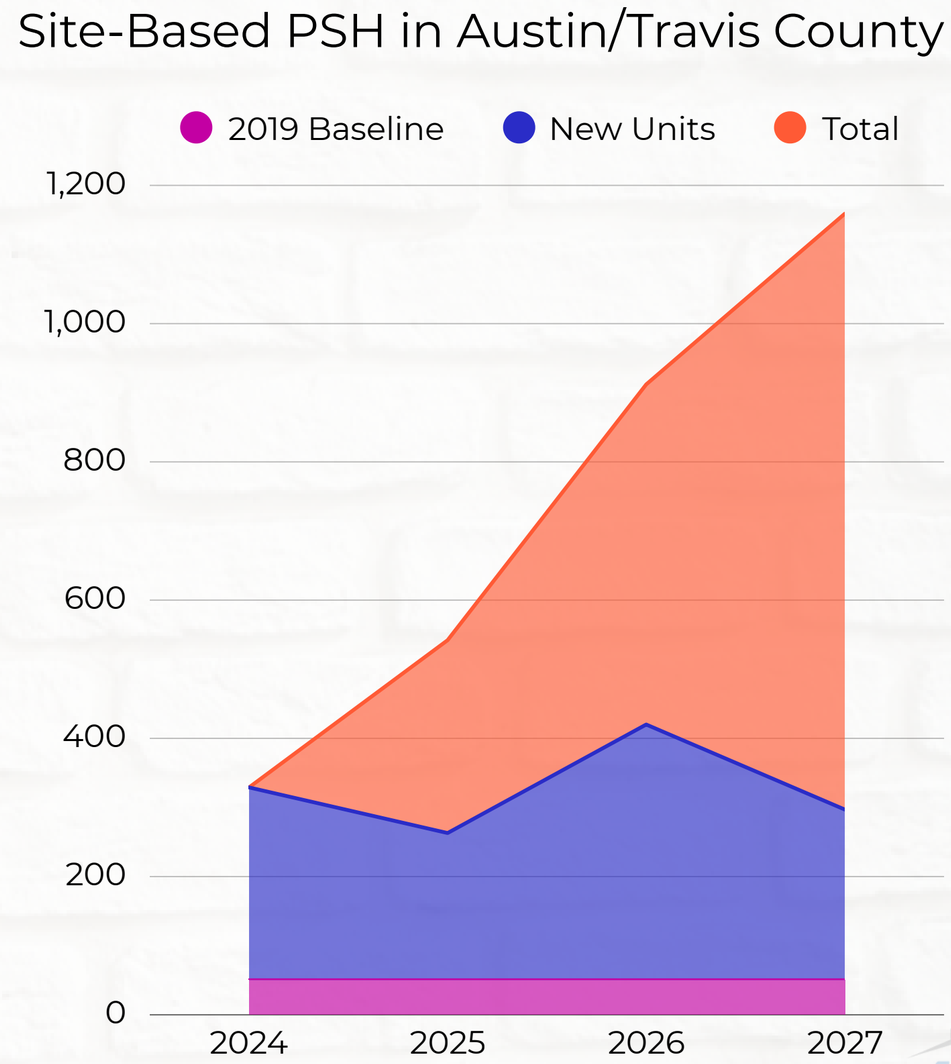
PSH Expansion

Site-based PSH in Austin/Travis County has grown substantially

- *Terrace at Oak Springs opened in 2019*
  - *First PSH-specific development*
  - *50 units*
- *No new PSH developments until 2024*
  - *Espero Rutland (Caritas of Austin)*
- ***1,100+ new units expected 2024-2027***

Vouchers support site-based PSH expansion

- *Multiple sources of funding needed for rental assistance and supportive services*



Who Benefits

“A brand new day”

- ***Judy Silva*** *(right) uses a voucher at Pecan Gardens*
- *Homeless for five years before moving into new apartment*
- *Everyone in development is an older adult with a history of chronic homelessness & disabling condition*
- *PSH services provided to Judy & neighbors by Family Eldercare include:*
  - ***Onsite medical & mental health care***
  - ***Case management***
  - ***Disability benefits enrollment***
  - ***Peer support***
  - ***Food pantry***

Photo Credit: Sam Stark/Austin Current

> *I feel like every day is a brand new day. It’s the rest of my life. …* ***I don’t live in a dark place anymore.***

Judy Silva, Austin Current, *May 2026*

Who Benefits

Our community benefits from PSH vouchers

- *Integral Care evaluated Terrace at Oak Springs in 2021*
- *Compared residents' first 12 months at TAOS to their last 12 months unhoused*
- *Key finding:* ***Housing reduced public costs by $14,486/person/year*** *by reducing other crisis interventions like EMS responses, arrests, and ER visits*

Costs - Housed Cohort (50 individuals)	12 Month Baseline Cost	12 Month Intervention Cost	Estimated Cost Savings
Total Utilization Costs (Pre/Post)	$ 1,132,063.50	$ 407,758.50	$ 724,305.00
Average Utilization Costs per Person	$ 22,641.27	$ 8,155.17	$ 14,486.10

Source: Integral Care

Summary

COA-funded PSH vouchers support people in **ending their homelessness long-term**

Ending financial support for vouchers would mean **374 people will lose stability and certainty - again**

Continuing to fund PSH vouchers would mean **cost savings in other areas during a budget crunch**

Q&A

Thank you!

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