



ECHO Plan to End Homelessness Action Plan

Improve Health & Housing Stability

- Implement discharge policies and procedures in areas of health care, foster care, mental health, and corrections that are consistent with the Continuum of Care application.
- Integrate primary and behavioral health services with homeless services to reduce vulnerability and improve outcomes.
- Prioritize resources for individuals who have frequent contact with EMS, hospitals, and the criminal justice system
- Expand treatment programs, including the availability of detox beds, that provide substance abuse and mental health services to chronically homeless individuals
- Work with landlords and legal aid providers on eviction prevention.

Increase the Number of Units of Safe & Stable Housing

Goal 1: Expand housing and services capacity to prevent and end chronic homelessness.

- Support the CSH recommendation for 1,889 new units of permanent supportive housing over the next 10 years and 350 units in the next four years.
- Promote and support additional opportunities to expand permanent supportive housing.
- Explore Prop. 15 alternatives.
- Advocate for the adoption of evidence-based supportive housing models serving the most vulnerable and hard to serve populations such as Housing First/Harm Reduction programs;
- Identify the specific number of units for designated subpopulations (i.e. youth aging out of foster care, people with criminal backgrounds, veterans, and people with HIV/AIDS) for individuals who experience long-term homelessness.
- Capitalize on new opportunities (BJRI, VASH, & 1115 projects)

Goal 2: Expand the stock of affordable housing for people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.

- Develop screening and evaluation tools to assess a clients risk for homelessness and determine the most appropriate housing strategy.
- Identify housing locators to identify and develop units for people who are homeless, including special needs populations such as re-entry, youth, and veterans.
- Continue to build on successful rapid re-housing models (BSS+, SSVF, VHPD, HPRP) and communicate the cost-effectiveness of these strategies.
- Explore availability of parcels of land held by public entities, faith communities and nonprofits, and redevelop them into housing with an allocation of units for people who are homeless
- Explore development opportunities utilizing existing structures such as older hotels, condos, and apartment complexes to expand the stock of transitional housing units.

Increase Economic Security

Goal 1: Expand access to mainstream resources, job training programs, and employment support to reduce financial insecurity.

- Expand access to mainstream services, i.e., SSI, SSDI, Veterans benefits, etc.
- Continue to improve and expand support services to assist the homeless in gaining stability through Community Voice Mail, case management, representative payee programs, counseling, transportation, and child-care.

Goal 2: Support meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities for homeless individuals or individuals at-risk of homelessness.

- Identify & support opportunities to increase job training, education, and employment opportunities for homeless individuals.
- Expand employment opportunities and workforce development programs to address insufficient income/wages that are specifically targeted at the homeless.

Leadership, Collaboration, and Civic Engagement

Goal 1: Establish a sustainable structure to implement community-wide strategies to end homelessness.

- Incorporate ECHO as a 501(c)3 coordinating entity with a re-designed governance structure
- Secure funding for staffing and program activities to ensure implementation of the Plan
- Move Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) management and lead applicant status for the HUD Continuum of Care grant to ECHO
- Continue to evaluate organizational efficiency and effectiveness.

Goal 2: Develop a mechanism to strengthen policy development and advocacy efforts to end homelessness.

- Advocate for funding and policies to support homeless services and affordable housing units at the federal, state, and local level
- Provide funding recommendations to public entities and others based on local data
- Engage active partnership with the City, County, State, AISD, and the Healthcare District to develop policies to end homelessness

Goal 3: Continue to manage and improve the annual HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) process.

- Secure adequate resources to ensure continuous compliance with year-round, HUD-required activities for data improvement, local community planning, and program performance
- Strengthen planning and coordination activities with other federally funded programs such as HPRP, CDBG, NSP, HUD-VASH, and Tax Credit Assistance.
- Continue to improve HMIS data quality and to engage non-HUD funded agencies in the system
- Continue to explore ways of leveraging local resources to increase CoC funding
- Provide technical assistance to CoC grantees and potential applicants

- Conduct the point-in-time homeless count and survey annually
- Use HMIS to help improve client outcomes through community-wide assessment and coordinated service delivery

Goal 4: Increase the community's knowledge about collaboration, homelessness, and successful intervention strategies to prevent and end homelessness.

- Disseminate HMIS and other data about the state of homelessness.
- Generate community progress reports with policy recommendations on a regular basis.
- Develop an education curriculum on homelessness.
- Form alliances with community development corporations, neighborhood associations, and other neighborhood coalitions with shared interests (to lay groundwork for placement of permanent affordable housing), including the Austin Neighborhoods Council, the Downtown Austin Alliance, the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association, et al.

2013 Work Group Action Plans

Housing Work Group

Activity:	Time Frame	Notes:
Transition Planning from Jail Initiative	Jan.-Dec. 2013	Co-host 2 stakeholder update meetings, examine how housing specialists may be able to be a resource, develop 3 cross/shared training for CJ and case managers
Mental Health First Aid Training Series	Ongoing	Determine how apartment locators can be utilized
Case Manager Training on Employment Resources	TBD	Employment Task Group
Expand Landlord Outreach	Long term	10 new landlord accepting VASH vouchers
SOAR	Ongoing	Coordinated with the Employment Task Group – host 2 trainings in 2013

Outreach & Education Work Group

Activity:	Time Frame	Notes:
Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week	November	Events: Open Mike Night, Poverty Simulation, Safe Sleep, Work-share Garden Day, VA event/Stand Down, Children's story hour
Speakers Bureau	Ongoing	Ambassador program
Community Messaging/Branding	Ongoing	website/social media utilization
Poverty Simulation	3 events in 2013	1. Junior League 2. TBD 3. H&H Week
Develop Resource Fair Calendar	TBD	
Support Role: Case Manager Training on Employment Resources	TBD	Housing Work Group
Support Role: Mental Health First Aid	TBD	Housing Work Group
Support Role: PIT Count	Nov.-Jan.	Volunteer Recruitment / Community Outreach & Messaging

CoC Work Group

Activity:	Time Frame	Notes:
HUD CoC NOFA	Ongoing	Develop metrics for client outcomes/performance measures
HEARTH Implementation	Ongoing	
Improve coordination with ESG and other HUD funding streams	Ongoing	
Supporting Role: Coordinated Intake System Initiative		Membership Council

Data Work Group

Activity:	Time Frame	Notes:
Implement Governance Model	Ongoing	
Improve/Evaluate HMIS Data Quality	Ongoing	
Develop reports to highlight needs/gaps	Ongoing	For community priorities
Explore opportunities to include alternate data sources	Ongoing	
Supporting Role: Directing Internal & External Data Requests	Ongoing	

Membership Council

Activity:	Time Frame	Notes:
Coordinated Intake System Initiative	Feb.-Dec. 2013	With CSH and the Steering Committee
Oversee Progress of the Work Groups	Ongoing	
Supporting Role: Advocacy for COA Housing Bonds	Jan.-Nov. 2013	Board of Directors
Supporting Role: Unified Funding Agency Conversation	Ongoing	Board of Directors
Supporting Role: Finalize Community Priorities	TBD	Board of Directors
Supporting Role: THN Conference	TBD	THN