About ECHO

The Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) is the lead agency that plans and implements community-wide strategies to end homelessness in Austin and Travis County. We are the backbone for the homeless services system and work closely with nonprofits and government agencies to coordinate assistance and housing for people experiencing homelessness in our community. ECHO manages the community-wide database on homelessness and uses research and evidence-based practices to advocate for the resources to bring the system to scale and meet the need. We believe it is the community’s responsibility to provide a compassionate response and ensure homelessness is rare, brief, and only happens once.

About this Report

ECHO created this report to inform ongoing efforts to prevent and end homelessness in our community.

This report describes the current needs and characteristics of households experiencing homelessness who are in need of housing assistance in Austin and Travis County, and outlines gaps in currently available services.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following community partners who work with ECHO on a regular basis to end homelessness in Austin and Travis County:

- Persons with lived experiences of homelessness,
- Services providers,
- Elected officials,
- Business leaders, and
- City of Austin and Travis County staff.
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Population Characteristics
Persons Experiencing Homelessness Represent a Diverse Population

**Gender**
- 40% Female
- 59% Male
- 0.4% Transgender

**Household (HH) Size**
- 83% Single-headed HH
- 14% 2-3 persons HH
- 5% 4+ persons HH

**Age**
- Adults 45-64: 46%
- Adults 25-44: 46%
- Youth 18-24: 4%
- Adults + 65: 3%

**Subpopulations**
- Chronically Homeless: 54%
- Families with Children: 12%
- Veterans: 3%
- Unaccompanied Youth: 5%

- Data reported for heads of household only.
- Categories not mutually exclusive.
- Based on Coordinated Entry assessment data through February 2019.
Black/African American Individuals Face Disparities Across Systems

Black/African American individuals are incarcerated and experience poverty at significantly higher rates compared to their makeup in the general Travis County population and are disproportionately represented in the homeless population.

Sources:
## Persons Experiencing Homelessness Face Many Challenges

Persons experiencing homelessness often have many inter-related health, social and economic challenges that make it difficult to end homelessness on their own.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have no earned income</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report having no planned activities that bring them happiness or fulfillment</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are unable to take care of basic needs like bathing, using a restroom, or accessing clean food and water</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report their homelessness is connected to previous trauma or abuse</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report currently experiencing a mental health issue that would make it difficult to live independently</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report having spent at least one night in jail</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report being a survivor of domestic violence</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report having legal stuff going on that may result in them being locked up or having to pay fines</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report that drug or alcohol use will make it difficult to maintain housing</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Categories not mutually exclusive.
## Literally Homeless Population in Austin/Travis County

### Persons counted experiencing homelessness in a given day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2,087</td>
<td>1,254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2,362</td>
<td>1,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2,244</td>
<td>1,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2,090</td>
<td>1,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1,987</td>
<td>1,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,832</td>
<td>1,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2,138</td>
<td>1,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2,036</td>
<td>1,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2,147</td>
<td>1,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2,255</td>
<td>1,169</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The count of sheltered individuals includes people in shelters and transitional housing per HUD guidance.
Current Assets & Gaps
3,116 Households are Currently Experiencing Homelessness

Our community maintains a by-name list of people who are assessed as experiencing homelessness and are in need of housing and other support services. Our current list identifies 3,116 households (HHs) in need of support.

Affordable and Low Barrier Housing Units Needed

Since the majority of the persons who experience homelessness are single-person households, the greatest housing need is for studios or one bedroom units.

- **2,585** Studios or 1 Bedroom (BR) Units needed for single-person HHs
- **380** 1-2 BR Units needed for 2-3 person HHs
- **151** 3+ BR Units for 4+ persons HH

Types of Services Needed According to Vulnerability Level

The types of services required by persons experiencing homelessness varies according to their vulnerability.

- **59%** Households need Rapid Re-Housing services, including housing location, limited rental assistance, + some supportive services
- **38%** Households need Permanent Supportive Housing services, including housing location, ongoing rental subsidies, + supportive services
- **3%** Households need Minimal Housing Assistance and minimal support

- ECHO Coordinated Entry data, February 2019.
2018 Community Assets and Gaps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interventions</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2024</th>
<th>2025</th>
<th>2026</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelter Beds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons Housed via RRH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons Housed via PSH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Point in Time data indicates that around 1,000 people experience unsheltered homelessness on a given night. This number approximates the number of additional shelter beds that the community would need to create in lieu of additional permanent housing services.

- ECHO 2018 Housing Inventory Count.
Estimated Gap in Yearly Investments to End Homelessness in Austin/Travis County

To achieve functional zero, ECHO projects an additional $30 million of system investment per year is needed to appropriately scale the response system for current and projected needs. Refer to Austin’s Action Plan to End Homelessness for more details on this investments gap.

- Current investments include City, County, state, and federal investments.
Ending Homelessness: Reaching Functional Zero

Ending homelessness does not mean individuals and families will never again experience homelessness. Instead, it means that as a community we will have a systematic response that can address immediate needs, quickly connect people to housing, and provide services to ensure long-term stability.

Current System

Inflow > Outflow

Desired System

Inflow = Outflow

Target

- Reduce inflow of newly homeless through targeted prevention
- Reduce inflow of persons returning to Homelessness
- Reduced length of time each person remains homeless
- Increased exits to housing so outflows equals inflow
Questions or Comments?

For questions or for more information, please contact Ann Howard, ECHO Executive Director at annhoward@austinecho.org or Tim Long, ECHO Director of Research and Evaluation at timothylong@austinecho.org.