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Dear Friends,

We are thrilled to report we had the best year yet for **Amplify Austin**. Because of your generosity, we raised **\$12,361** for our work in leading the homelessness system in Austin. There is always a need to expand our reach and our initiatives, and this funding will help us do that and further our goal to end homelessness in Austin. ***You made a difference!***

If you could not donate but still want to help, please check out volunteer [opportunities](#) with our partner agencies. You can also help by spreading the word about our work and follow us on social media. Like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), and share our posts. We need to spread the word about the great work on homelessness in our community, and raise awareness about the solutions.

Homelessness Awareness Day is April 4th!

We would like to see everyone in Austin who is committed to ending homelessness show up at the Capitol on April 4th to lend your voice and support, and ensure our legislators know that NOW is the time to end homelessness. People will be traveling from across the state to come to Austin, and we hope you will join us all at 9:00 a.m. at the Capitol. No prior experience is necessary, people will visit legislators in teams and talking points will be provided. Sign up [here](#) by March 22nd!

New Needs and Gaps Analysis

ECHO staff recently drafted our annual Needs and Gaps Analysis which provides data on the homeless population and describes the resources needed to address the crisis in Austin. The table below shows the housing required to meet the need.

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+ person HHs

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

- Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO). Estimated Needs based on current Coordinated Entry By-Name list with persons active within the last year, February 2019.

What's up with the Affordable Housing Bond Funds?

ECHO is working with the City's Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department to ensure that the bond funds help develop housing that is accessible to people who have been experiencing homelessness. The housing must be affordable but should also welcome people who have not had housing, have poor rental history or a criminal record and those paying rent with a voucher. These will be CoC units, defined as rental units that will be filled with tenants coming from the Coordinated Entry System, most likely in a Rapid Rehousing or Permanent Supportive Housing Program. This is a fantastic development that will help meet our

housing need.

The City is sponsoring a training about developing CoC units with bond funds on March 28. Get more information [here](#).

Austin News

[Real Estate Group hears tough talk from homeless advocates](#) – This Austin Monitor coverage quotes ECHO Executive Director Ann Howard, “It’s not always pretty, but these are real people with real problems,” she said. “I’m getting impatient and you guys need to demand that these resources materialize to actually house the homeless.”

A Word from our Executive Director

Recently, I shared with my amazing team here at ECHO that I will be transitioning out of my role as executive director in order to take an exciting leap and run for Travis County Commissioner. I will continue with ECHO until the end of May, at which time new executive leadership will be identified to continue to advance our critical mission.

What I can tell you after 7.5 years of helping to lead a sometimes bossy but always bold and fiercely committed ECHO is that we ARE those things because of the staff, the Board, the funders and you, the partners, who believe we can impact the lives of those suffering without homes. ECHO is strong, and it’s much, much bigger than me. I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and the impact of our work - and I’m not leaving it. In fact, I think of my next step as an effort to take our work to a broader level.

Over the weeks ahead I will begin to devote significant energy to my race for County Commissioner in Precinct 3 in the March 2020 primary election. I will build a campaign based on the core values that have driven my service to ECHO and to our community – and I plan to win! :) You can learn more here if you are interested: [campaign kick-off](#)

For now, its full steam ahead to house more people more quickly. Thank you so much for your partnership, your leadership and your friendship!

Sincerely,

Ann Howard

National News

- [To Reduce Chronic Homelessness, a Chicago hospital is treating it as a medical condition.](#)
- It's Women's History Month. The number of individual women experiencing homelessness increased nationwide by 3 percent in 2017. This year in Austin, the Salvation Army will open its women and children's shelter to try and reduce the number of women on the streets.

Community Workgroups

ECHO facilitates many workgroups on homelessness, and this month we are highlighting the work of the Local Policy and Practice Committee. Members have been working on standards for board and care homes, along with review of many other aspects of the homelessness system in Austin. Join us at our next meeting at ECHO, 300 E. Highland Mall Blvd., on March 20th, 9:00 a.m. All are welcome.



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