

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

Wednesday June 17, 2020 9:00 AM

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Meeting Recording:

Topic: COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers (April 8-June 30 invite)

Date: June 17, 2020 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/wZwyce3r-WdObJ3H1GPxYfR9ToHfaaa8hiAf-vYiyh4K_J7KGVxf_L5BgalDIYct

Password: 2r!*Ow@!

Meeting Agenda

Austin/Travis County

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers
June 17th Agenda



City of Austin / Austin Public Health



Agency Updates



Wrap Up – Next Call: Friday, June 19th @ 9:00am

Meeting Notes:

COA – Laura Foss

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/austins-homeless-strategy-covid-19-support>

- 4,771 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Travis County; 3,729 recovered; and 106 deaths
 - Demographic information on cases available at <http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19>
- At least 50 individuals experiencing homelessness have tested positive, including 27 that have recovered.
 - The count of cases among people experiencing homelessness is likely an undercount due to private labs and providers not necessarily recording each person's housing status when they test.
- City has extended stay at home orders till **August 15th** due to a spike in cases
- Austin/Travis County Health Authority stating **masks when outside the home or in public are recommended**
 - Physical distancing of at least 6 feet between individuals is still recommended
- Quarantine and Alternate Facilities
 - Pro-Lodges 1-4 are operational with some rooms available
 - All Prolodges are secure and not open to the public

- If any agency is interested in learning more about the Pro-lodge operations and services please contact Robert at Robert.Kingham@austintexas.gov
 - If programs have capacity to work with people staying at Pro-Lodge sites, please contact Vella Karmen, vella.karmen@austintexas.gov
 - Eating Apart Together (EAT); Food access for people experiencing homelessness
 - Extended through the end of July
 - Will continue to operate in it's current form receiving shelf stable food from the Central Texas Food Bank
 - City has extended it's contract with Revolutions Food for prepared meals for 4 additional weeks
 - Will extend to July 21st
 - EAT Initiative will continuing to investigate food access needs for those experiencing homelessness
 - To determine the scope and length of need as a response to COVID19
 - The EAT 123 survey
 - Include information on encampment trash pickup needs
 - EAT has the hopes of providing or increasing trash pickup in the identified locations
 - Or send information to Michelle.miles@austintexas.gov
 - If you want to participate in any aspect of Eating Apart Together Initiative Zach Shlachter at zack.shlachter@austintexas.gov
 - Communications Update
 - Austin Public Health is providing its weekly virtual media Q & A with Leadership team
 - To give reporters the opportunity to ask about COVID19
 - Today at 10:30 AM
 - Access it at ATXN or ATXN 3 in Spanish
 - ATXN.tv
 - City of Austin launched the How to Help Campaign-a new hub for opportunities for Austin community members to help during COVID19 yesterday June 16th
 - If your organization has opportunities for people to help with COVID19 related activities i.e. donations or volunteer opportunities
 - Please sign up on the Hub
 - We are using Give Poles as the platform
 - If you sign up your organization Gif Poll is offering a free Silver Account to post your opportunities
 - Will be promoted by City leaders, elected officials, newsletter, press releases, social media, email marketing, and more
 - The more opportunities the more successful the campaign
 - You can access the website here <http://austintexas.gov/department/covid-19-how-help-austin>

- City's committed to a transparent and inclusive budget development process that utilizes resident and stakeholder feedback to ensure budget priorities are being met
 - City's looking for feedback on the city's budget through July 1st
 - Access it here <https://www.speakupaustin.org/budget-2021>
- 2 Upcoming virtual City Forums
 - Will be about available resources including COVID19 testing, food assistance, rental / utility assistance, health / mental health care, and substance use resources
 - One in English held on Saturday June 27th at 11 AM
 - 2nd forum will be held in Spanish on June 27th at 1 PM
- 2nd Community Event focusing on persons of color July 11th
 - More information to come
- Downtown Austin Community Court Update (DACC)
 - Continue to offer walk-in triage case management services 8am-5pm Monday through Friday
 - Triage case manager provides flyers to all clients with information on COVID19 and safety planning
 - June 12th, 15th, and 16th DACC served 104 individuals through triage case management
 - And since March 16th they have served 1,493 individuals, an average of 19 individuals a day
 - Individuals accessing basic hygiene resources or client's case managers reach remotely are not factored into this number
- City's Homeless Support Strategy
 - Posted an open solicitation for CBDG and ESG Cares Act Funding
 - Seeks qualified applicants from social service providers that can demonstrate experience providing services using Rapid Rehousing, Homelessness Prevention, and/ or Diversion Interventions to persons experiencing or at eminent risk of experiencing homelessness in Austin and Travis County
 - Social Service Providers encouraged to submit application by June 24th no later than 12 PM
 - Access it here <https://www.austintexas.gov/article/rfa-005-covid-housing-2020-nps>
- HUD Announcements
 - Allocation of \$2.96 billion in Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Funding
 - To support homeless Americans and individuals at risk of becoming homeless due to hardships such as job loss, wage reduction, or illness due to COVID19
 - Will be in addition to the \$1 billion of ESG grants
 - Released notification that \$10.8 million in additional ESG cares funding will be allocated to Austin
 - Waiting on more information on this

- Access press release here
https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_20_077

ECHO Updates:

- Local CoC Policy and Practice Committee moved to 9:30 AM today June 17th
 - If you need access to that meeting email Dylans@HACAnet.org
- Please attend Friday's meeting for committee updates

Agency Updates

None

Chat Box:

From Andrew Willard to Everyone: 10:01 AM

Good Morning Everyone! If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to drop them here in the chat!

From Iarafoss to Everyone: 10:10 AM

For demographic breakdowns and more information, you can visit the <http://austintexas.gov/covid19> web site

If any agency is interested in learning more about the Pro-lodge operations and services please contact Robert at Robert.Kingham@austintexas.gov . All Pro-lodge facilities are secure and not open to the public.

If any programs have capacity to serve clients at these Pro-lodge sites, please contact Vella Karman at Vella.Karman@austintexas.gov

Please include information regarding trash pickup needs for encampments in the EAT Initiative 1,2,3 survey when food is distributed in the community or send this information to michelle.myles@austintexas.gov

If you are interested in participating in any aspect of the Eating Apart Together Initiative please contact Zack Shlachter (zack.shlachter@austintexas.gov).

How to Help Campaign:

<http://austintexas.gov/department/covid-19-how-help-austin>

Budget engagement:

<https://www.speakupaustin.org/budget-2021>

The City has posted an Open solicitation for CDBG & ESG CARES Act funding

Social service providers are encouraged to submit an application by June 24, 2020 no later than 12 PM CST. <https://www.austintexas.gov/article/rfa-005-covid-housing-2020-nps>

From Iarafoss to Everyone: 10:10 AM

HUD released a notification that \$10.8M in additional ESG CARES Act funding will be allocated to the City of Austin (awaiting more details from HUD)

https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_20_077