COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

Wednesday June 17, 2020 9:00 AM

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-vYlyh4K_J7KGVxf_L5BgalDlYCT

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

- 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 in 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 imminent risk of experiencing homelessness in Austin and Travis County
- Social Service Providers encouraged to submit application by June 24th no later than 12 PM

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

ECHO Updates:
- Local CoC Policy and Practice Committee moved to 9:30 AM today June 17th
  - If you need access to that meeting email Dylan@HACA.net.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 larafoss 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](https://www.austintexas.gov/article/rfa-005-covid-housing-2020-nps)

**From larafoss 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)