



Texas Homeless Network 2019 Legislative Priorities

Strategies For Change



- More than 25,000 **Texans** experience homelessness on any given day
- Over 1,900 are **families** with children
- Over 100 **children** are under the age of 18 and unaccompanied
- There are 1,935 **Veterans** experiencing homelessness

Strengthen Homeless Crisis Response Systems

Homeless Crisis Response Systems, or Continuums of Care, end homelessness through the strategic development of systems based on data-driven solutions. These systems can quickly and efficiently use funding to prevent or divert households out of homelessness.

- Increase TDHCA General Revenue funding for the Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP). HHSP helps nearly 10,000 individuals each biennium. Without this funding, Texas may be facing crises like other western states that have seen a significant increase in homelessness.
- Support the development of a homeless data sharing network. A data sharing network will allow Texas' 11 homeless crisis systems to communicate more effectively and assist households at-risk or experiencing homelessness quickly.
- Support the implementation of a disaster housing strategy for people experiencing homelessness. Collaborating with Texas' homeless crisis response systems will ensure more precise care in emergency readiness for people facing homelessness.

Expand Affordable and Accessible Housing Opportunities

Ending homelessness requires housing. Across the state, when we ask what the greatest need in the community is to help them end homelessness, overwhelmingly it's more housing. Texas must support the development and rehabilitation of more affordable housing.

- Secure dedicated sources of revenue for the Housing Trust Fund that is adequate to Texas' affordable housing needs.
- Allocate funding for a pilot program designed to provide renovation funds for affordable units that do not meet habitability standards as determined by HUD.

Target assistance to the most vulnerable Texans

Focused assistance for persons at-risk and experiencing homelessness saves funding and contributes to stability and improves permanent housing outcomes.

- Allow Healthy Community Collaborative (HCC) grantees to leverage funding from public sources (presently only private sources are accepted) to expand access to needed supports.
- Provide more opportunities for persons experiencing homelessness to divert out of the criminal justice system, expunge criminal history records when appropriate, and reintegrate back in communities to reduce recidivism.