



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: November 13, 2023

In Control: Planning and Community Development Committee

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Briefing and update on housing strategies to respond to homelessness in San Antonio

SUMMARY:

Staff will provide a briefing and update on housing strategies to respond to homelessness in San Antonio. The FY 2024 Budget included funding for additional homeless encampment abatement events, coupled with funding for strategies to prevent homelessness. The Homeless Response System will leverage other state, federal, and community resources to increase and diversify housing options for people experiencing homelessness in San Antonio. This item is briefing only to provide a status update on those housing and system coordination developments.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In December 2020, City Council approved the Strategic Plan to Respond to Homelessness in San Antonio and Bexar County. An update was last presented to the Planning and Community

Development Committee in October 2021, and an overview of the Homeless Response System and its connection to housing was provided to the Committee in May 2022. This briefing item will include an overview of the strategic plan's priority focus areas, status on actions taken to date, and next steps.

ISSUE:

The Department of Human Services worked with community funders to identify the following top FY 2024 priorities under the larger goals of the long-term community strategic plan:

- Reduce unsheltered homelessness by housing 400 people in FY 2024
- Decrease family first-time homelessness by 20% through homeless prevention
- Connect domestic violence efforts to the homeless response system
- Enhance the homeless response system for youth and young adults

The community's response to homelessness involves partnerships among several City of San Antonio Departments and nonprofit partners, collectively called the Homeless Response System. In FY 2024, the Homeless Response System will increase and diversify housing solutions for the unsheltered and sheltered, reduce the number of homeless encampments, prevent individuals from becoming homeless, and improve communication among stakeholders and neighborhoods.

Key initiatives in FY 2024 include:

- Expanding low-barrier, non-congregate shelter capacity
- Coordinating central shelter bed navigation and access
- Increasing rapid rehousing programs
- Developing additional permanent supportive housing units
- Communicating community and City progress to residents through online dashboards
- Developing partnerships to quickly provide skilled residential nursing care to people on the streets in need of such interventions
- Preventing homelessness through shelter diversion and other funds
- Further develop street outreach work through training and support
- Increase site abatements through expanded capacity
- Improving communication and education among stakeholders and neighborhoods

Staff will provide a status update on these initiatives and elaborate on next steps for the system moving forward.

FISCAL IMPACT:

For briefing purposes only

ALTERNATIVES:

For briefing purposes only

RECOMMENDATION:

For briefing purposes only