



FAQs

Austin has a once in a generation opportunity to change the trajectory of homelessness in our community. Stepping up to this challenge now will not be simple, but with a compassionate, data-driven, and collaborative approach we can achieve Functional Zero by 2025.

What is Finding Home ATX?

Is a community-fueled collaborative that is working with service providers, people with lived experience, policy makers, business leaders and community advocates to end chronic homelessness in Austin. What began as a conversations amongst these groups produced the Action Plan to End Homelessness in early 2021. Since then momentum has grown towards raising the \$515 million of investment necessary to take action now to solve homelessness. Finding Home ATX cares about equity, data and outcomes as we work to transform Austin's homelessness response system.

What is Functional Zero?

Functional Zero is the state of being in which the number of people experiencing homelessness in Austin will be no greater than our ability to place them in housing within a month.

How is equity part of this work?

Homelessness affects our entire community, but not in the same ways. Our unhoused neighbors are disproportionately black, disabled, and older adults. This is not a coincidence, but the outcome of generations of policies and systemic disadvantages that make specific people more vulnerable to being without housing. For this effort to be successful, it must be done with those who are most impacted, not for them. This means that the table of leaders, the style of decision-making, and transparency of operations will look different from previous efforts. Maintaining traditional power structures will maintain current inequalities. This isn't charity - this is transformation.

Why do we need another homeless-serving organization?

For decades service providers in the social sector have incrementally increased their programs and capacity to keep pace with the needs of our rapidly growing community. In 2011 leaders from homeless serving organizations came together to form Ending Community Homelessness in Austin (ECHO) as the Continuum of Care lead, creating a single entity to bring in millions of dollars in federal funding from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and meeting the requirements that come with those funds. ECHO will continue to manage those critical resources responsibly and equitably. However, Finding Home ATX is designed to engage more stakeholders in the community, growing the pool of resources being used within the Continuum of Care and beyond to reach functional zero.

How will Finding Home ATX work with organizations I already support?

Finding Home ATX will stay laser focused on the success of homeless-serving organizations connecting people to safe, stable housing. We will not compete for dollars, but work to build the total investment in our community through dollars, in-kind gifts, pro-bono work, or whatever creative opportunity can contribute to the system's ability to serve our unhoused neighbors.

To learn more about Finding Home ATX, visit FindingHomeATX.com