

Homeless Advocacy Project

About

The Homeless Advocacy Project brings service providers and advocates together to discuss the most pressing issues and gaps in the homelessness response system. We meet monthly to hear from city leaders, raise concerns and get updates about the city's response. HAP is also a way to share information and resources to strengthen service and support and advocate for better policies and funding for unhoused Austinites.

History

The Homeless Advocacy Project grew from the Downtown Cluster, a gathering of faith based organizations and service providers for the homeless in downtown Austin. The group restarted in February 2023 after the pandemic. Leaders realized that the attendees came from a much wider area than downtown Austin, and the name of the group was no longer accurate. After surveying the group in the Spring of 2024, the majority agreed that the group should work on advocacy initiatives, and the name was changed from Downtown Cluster to the Homeless Advocacy Project.

Advocacy Initiatives

- *Policy paper on shelter and coordination*
- *Policy paper on sanctioned camping for the homeless*
- *Testimony at City Hall*

Outcomes: Continuation of the Marshalling Yard, city convening of shelter providers and discussion of coordination, increased communication between HSO, APD and service providers, increased information on the City's website and CTOSH.

Leadership

The Homeless Advocacy Project is facilitated by staff at Central Presbyterian Church and St. David's Episcopal Church. Meetings take place on the third Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m in person at St. David's Episcopal Church and on Zoom.

Organizations Attending

Integral Care

The Other Ones Foundation

Homeless Strategy Office

City of Austin Mayor's Office

Vocal Texas

Caritas

ECHO

Austin Youth Collective

Sobering Center

Downtown Austin Community Court

Austin Mutual Aid