







CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
ROADMAP OF SERVICES FOR UNSHELTERED RESIDENTS



www.birminghamal.gov/homelessness

2

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR WOODFIN

In Birmingham, we believe that the measure of a city is found not only in its buildings, streets, and businesses, but also in how it cares for its most vulnerable residents. As part of our commitment to redefining community, we are taking bold steps to support our unhoused neighbors in ways that build capacity, improve services, and change perceptions of homelessness.

For the first time, our city has dedicated \$1.5 million from the general fund to directly address the growing challenge of homelessness. This investment allows us to partner with community organizations and create meaningful solutions that reach every corner of Birmingham.

Our goals are clear. We will work to significantly reduce the chronically unsheltered population and to eliminate the devastating problem of youth homelessness. Unlike efforts of the past, this approach focuses not only on temporary relief but on addressing the underlying causes of homelessness meeting people where they are and ensuring they receive the resources they need to rebuild stability and dignity in their lives.

This plan is rooted in strategy and coordination. We will prioritize prevention and targeted solutions while promoting collaborative efforts and shared responsibility. Reducing homelessness in Birmingham cannot be the work of government alone—it requires us to come together as a community.

We want to move beyond an "us versus them" mindset. There are no residents on one side and unhoused individuals on another. Instead, there is one Birmingham—a community where all of us share concern and responsibility for one another's wellbeing.

Redefining community means ensuring that every person in our city has the opportunity to thrive. It means caring for all our residents, providing them with adequate resources, and making sure no one is left behind.

Together, we will build a stronger, more compassionate Birmingham.

Mayor of Birmingham

MISSION STATEMENT

The City of Birmingham is working collaboratively and compassionately to design a sustainable plan to address homelessness and redefine a community that is all inclusive.

CURRENT LANDSCAPE

Each month, an average of more than 500¹ single people are unstably housed in Birmingham. This includes persons who are chronically unhoused, have experienced multiple episodes of homelessness, and have a substantiated need for long-term case management and supportive services. The leading causes of homelessness in this community include:

- 1. lack of affordable housing,
- 2. unemployment,
- 3. poverty,
- 4. mental illness,
- 5. substance abuse,
- 6. lack of healthcare and/or mental healthcare, and
- 7. justice involvement.

A financial survey in 2019 shared that 59% of Americans were one paycheck away from experiencing homelessness. The effects of the pandemic resulted in homelessness becoming a reality for a much larger number of people.²

¹ Unhoused population counts based on Built for Zero data.

² From https://invisiblepeople.tv/59-of-americans-are-just-one-paycheck-away-from-homelessness/

BIRMINGHAM'S MILESTONES: HOMELESS STRATEGY OVER THE YEARS

2005

"A Needs Assessment of the Homeless of Birmingham and Jefferson County"

2007 - 2017

"Birmingham's Plan to Prevent and End Chronic Homelessness"

2018

"Birmingham's Plan to Prevent and End Chronic Homelessness, Progress Report"

2020

New Firehouse Shelter

2021

"Report on Homelessness in the City of Birmingham"

2021

"One Roof Homeless Youth Needs Assessment"

2022

The Way Station

2022

"Continuum of Care Plan for Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness"

2023

Built for Zero

2025

"Rebuilding Hope: The blueprint for Birmingham to play to its strengths"

2025

City of Birmingham General Fund allocation of \$1.5 million

2025

City of Birmingham "Roadmap of Services for Unsheltered Residents"

2025

Jimmy Hale Mission Capital Investment

GOALS

There are six critical goals that this Roadmap supports.

Goal 1

Offer preventive services to avert homelessness.

Preventive measures take the form of early intervention by providing those at risk with assistance to secure stable housing. At-risk individuals and families are those who have encountered various housing challenges and 1) are at risk of homelessness or 2) have recently become homeless. These challenges, which may include loss of utilities and/or evictions and foreclosures, are amplified by the lack of other affordable housing options due to a competitive housing market and the rising cost of rent.

Goal 2

Reduce the chronically unsheltered population by 40%.

Chronically homeless adults are defined as those who either 1) live with a disability and have been homeless for 365 days, or 2) live with a disability and experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness totaling twelve or more months in the past three years. Achieving a 40% reduction in adults experiencing housing instability would equate to approximately 200³ fewer unsheltered people in Birmingham by December 2026. This decrease in chronic homelessness will positively impact individuals with serious physical and mental health risks, as well as reduce interactions with law enforcement and the overall costs to the community related to homelessness.

Goal 3

Reduce the number and intensity of encampments.

A substantial number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness spend their nights in encampments, city parks, vehicles, and other similar locations. By reducing chronic homelessness, the number of persons in encampments should decline as well.





Goal 4

Reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness to Functional Zero.

Over the course of a month, there is an average of approximately 125⁴ youth in the City of Birmingham between the ages of 18 and 24 who lack shelter. Functional Zero is a milestone that Birmingham will achieve when its subpopulation of homeless youth reaches net zero based on the number of young people entering and exiting homelessness each month. Attaining Functional Zero proves the City's ability to prevent homelessness and ensures that, when youth homelessness happens, it is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Goal 5

Develop a sustainable shelter framework to support residents during extreme weather conditions.

During freezing weather conditions, the City of Birmingham and its partners provide overnight shelter for a growing number of residents experiencing homelessness, as well as residents without adequate heat in their homes. In extremely hot temperatures, the City also offers daytime shelter through the Birmingham Public Library System to protect residents from the sweltering heat. The City and its partners will collaborate on a framework to ensure the sustainability of these shelters.

Goal 6

Provide housing-insecure residents with access to Permanent Supportive Housing.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) provides unsheltered people with both access to affordable housing and wraparound services related to a disability and/or other health-related needs. Those who qualify for permanent supportive housing benefit from both living in stable housing and from onsite case management.







A ROADMAP FOR SERVICES FOR UNSHELTERED RESIDENTS

Goal 1

Offer preventive services to avert homelessness.

Goal 2

Reduce chronically homeless population by 40%.

Goal 3

Reduce the number and intensity of encampments.

Goal 4

Reduce the number of youths experiencing homelessness to Functional Zero.

Goal 5

Develop a sustainable shelter framework to support residents during extreme weather conditions.

Goal 6

Provide housing-insecure residents with access to Permanent Supportive Housing.

FUNDING

- Federal

\$516,400

\$506,318

CDBG Homeless Services | Programs Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG) General Fund –

\$1.5 Million

General Budget Fund

Other _

\$2 Million

Opioid Funds



THE NEED (MONTHLY HOMELESS DATA)

Chronic	506	
Families	92	
BCS Students	649	*****
Youth (ages 18-24)	136	21
Returning from Prison	13	1
Veterans	136	2 1

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

- Home for All
- Warming Stations
 - **HEART BHAM**
- Birmingham Re-entry

Alliance

Built for Zero

STRATEGIES

More information on each strategy are described in detail in this roadmap, including the goal the strategy supports, the city's role in executing the strategy, the agency or agencies spearheading the effort and its current funding status.

A Note about Data

The impact numbers used in this Roadmap are estimates. The impact data for most strategies and goals in this document was provided by HMIS, the Homeless Management Information System, a data collection tool specifically designed to collect client-level data on the provision of housing and services to individuals and families at risk. However, homelessness is a complex issue in that the numbers fluctuate on any given night. There is an inherent difficulty in accurately counting individuals who are unsheltered or unstably housed. Using HMIS as the single source of information may not fully reflect the impact that one or more of the strategies below will have on unsheltered individuals.

Strategy 1:

Provide proactive and accessible early intervention solutions to people who are at imminent risk of homelessness or are recently unsheltered.

Strategy 2:

Assist with the creation of 300 additional emergency and transitional beds.

Strategy 3:

Implement Built for Zero Plan.

Strategy 4:

Create a self-sustaining model for operating warming and cooling stations.

Strategy 5:

Establish a regular cadence of communication with state and county leaders for coordination of funding, policies and resources.

Strategy 6:

Update, create and support the City of Birmingham's policies and ordinances.

Strategy 7:

Reinforce and enhance the City's existing relationship with the Continuum of Care.

Strategy 8:

Reduce Homelessness for Justice-Impacted Individuals

Strategy 9:

Provide resources to Reduce Opioid Overdoses and Promote Harm Reduction

Strategy 10:

Address Mental Health and Discharge-Related Issues Associated with Unhoused Citizens

Strategy 11:

Utilize a By-Name list and Case Conferencing to more effectively address the individual needs of unsheltered residents.

Strategy 12:

Address the shortage of affordable Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).

Provide proactive and accessible early intervention solutions to people who are at imminent risk of homelessness or are recently unsheltered.

KEY POINTS

- Potential Impact: 800
- Implementation Cost Estimate: \$1,500,000
- Target Implementation Date: Funding complete and location identified by late 2026.

DESCRIPTION

Offer a variety of proactive housing and support measures to individuals and families. This assistance will focus on housing navigation, rental and utility assistance, eviction prevention, landlord engagement, and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).

GOAL ALIGNMENT

 Provide housing insecure residents with access to Permanent Supportive Housing.

LEAD AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS

- City of Birmingham
- · Community Development Department
- · One Roof/Continuum of Care Agencies
- Jefferson County

PENDING TASKS/UPCOMING MILESTONES

- IN PROGRESS: The City is currently funding a diverse range of homeless housing and support services at various locations.
- IN PROGRESS: Encourage existing landlords who provide affordable housing options and potential future landlords to offer incentives to renters.
 These incentives would increase the number of available affordable units.

FUNDING DETAILS

- Obtain additional funding for rental and utility assistance.
- Identify a source for 100 additional emergency or transitional beds.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR OPTIONS

- Track data for agencies with homelessness prevention funding.
 - Potentially evaluate the number of people who call with inquiries about homelessness prevention compared to the number who ultimately receive support.
- Consider evaluating the number of people who did/did not receive previous prevention funding compared to those who became homeless.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

- Create framework and break ground for One Stop Shop.⁵
- Break ground on Permanent Supportive housing by end 2026.

⁵ See Section 6, 'Forward Looking Initiatives', for more information.

Assist with the creation of 350 additional emergency and transitional beds.

KEY POINTS

- Potential Impact: 300 individuals
- Implementation Cost Estimate: \$3,500,000 for 2 sites
- Target Implementation Date: 2026

DESCRIPTION

In any given month, an average of more than 500⁶ single adults is without stable shelter. To address the need, the City will collaborate with partners to identify and/or create additional beds and housing options, including emergency shelter, transitional housing and rapid rehousing. The Home for All Safe Sleep Pilot program and Jimmie Hale Mission will each supply up to 100 beds toward meeting the 300-bed goal.

GOAL ALIGNMENT

- Reduce the chronically unsheltered population by 40%.
- · Reduce the number and intensity of encampments.

LEAD AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS

- City of Birmingham
 - Community Development Department
 - Mayor's Office
- Home for All (Transitional Housing)
 - Faith Chapel
- Urban Alchemy
- Jimmie Hale Mission (Emergency Shelter)

FUNDING DETAILS

- Community Development received 1) one-time federal funding specifically to support this strategy,
 2) annual federal funding which can be applied to this strategy and 3) funding for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).
- Jimmie Hale Mission has received funding.
- Identify additional subsidies to fully fund this strategy.

PENDING TASKS/UPCOMING MILESTONES

- IN PROGRESS: Work with partners Home for All (micro shelters) and Jimmie Hale Mission to design and develop a plan to increase the number of available beds. Home for All and Jimmie Hale Mission will supply up to 100 beds each.
- · Identify a source for 100 additional beds.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR OPTIONS

Track actual acquisition of beds.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

 All additional beds will be available by December 2026.

⁶ Number of beds needed based on Built for Zero data and goal to reduce the chronically unsheltered population by 40%.

Implement Built for Zero Plan.

KEY POINTS

- Potential Impact: 300 individuals
- Implementation Cost Estimate: \$210,000 paid by grant from Community Solutions
- Target Implementation Date: December 31, 2026

DESCRIPTION

The Built for Zero methodology is a measure to indicate the end of homelessness in a specific geographic area. When the number of Birmingham's unhoused youth reaches Functional Zero, it will signify that, within this subpopulation, the number experiencing homelessness at any given time is less than the number consistently exiting homelessness. This measure can also apply to other subpopulations among this community, including those who are chronically unhoused. The goal of Functional Zero is to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring for that population. It is achieved when a community's homeless support system can prevent homelessness when possible, and when homelessness does occur, it is resolved quickly.

GOAL ALIGNMENT

- Reduce the chronically unhoused population by 40%.
- Reduce the number of youths experiencing homelessness to Functional Zero.

LEAD AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS

- City of Birmingham
- One Roof

PENDING TASKS/UPCOMING MILESTONES

- Create or identify emergency and transitional beds to meet the 350-bed target.
- IN PROGRESS: Seek recommendations from Persons with Lived Experience (PLE).
- IN PROGRESS: Create a strategy to provide permanent housing for people in new transitional beds.
- IN PROGRESS: Increase landlord engagement and number of housing navigators (housing case managers).
- COMPLETED: Purchase 100 beds as part of the Home for All pilot project.
- COMPLETED: Initiate a homeless youth housing pilot.
- ONGOING: Strengthen the City's relationship with the Continuum of Care.

FUNDING DETAILS

- The City of Birmingham will identify additional funding options.
- COMPLETED: Identify Federal Funding for Housing Pilot.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR OPTIONS

Compare start and end size of each subpopulation.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

December 31, 2026

Create a self-sustaining model for operating warming and cooling stations.

KEY POINTS

- Potential Impact: 703 individuals
- Implementation Cost Estimate: \$250,000 for yearround climate stations
- Target Implementation Date: Winter of 2024/2025 tasks for warming stations completed; Summer 2025 for Cooling stations

DESCRIPTION

Individuals experiencing homelessness and others without adequate air conditioning or heating in their homes may seek out a warming or cooling station sponsored by the City and partner agencies. These organizations make the winter warming station available when the temperature drops below freezing for two consecutive nights. As many as 703 individuals have taken shelter at a warming station during inclement weather events in Birmingham. During extreme summer heat, service providers and the Birmingham Library System offer daytime shelter and water. To make this support model more effective and manageable, the City and its partners will develop a self-sustaining framework plan for inclement weather shelters.

GOAL ALIGNMENT

 Develop a sustainable shelter framework to support residents during extreme weather conditions.

LEAD AGENCY/DEPARTMENT

- Jimmie Hale Mission
- Pathways
- City of Birmingham
 - · Mayor's Office
 - Community Development
 - · Department of Public Works
 - · Birmingham Police Department

PENDING TASKS/UPCOMING MILESTONES

- · Increase number of food providers.
- Decrease number of warming station participants.
- IN PROGRESS: Establish a plan for tornadoes and other extreme weather events.
- COMPLETED: Revisit standard operating procedures for each warming station.
- COMPLETED: Add Pathways as a warming station in Winter 2024-2025.

FUNDING DETAILS

- Agencies should continue to identify additional funding sources going forward.
- Additional funding is still needed to support cooling stations and other extreme weather events.
- Engage the Jefferson County Health Department for parameters for opening cooling stations.
- COMPLETED: The city has provided funding for shelter staff and a police presence, as well as cots and blankets, for Winter 2024-2025.
- COMPLETED: Pathways acquired the necessary funding for Winter 2024-2025.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR OPTIONS

- Number of warming station participants.
- Number of unsheltered people moving to housing. As this number increases, the number of participants using the warming station should decrease.
- Compare the most recent warming station list to those who moved to housing after that point.
 Jimmie Hale may also have data.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

- Summer 2026 for cooling stations
- COMPLETED: Winter of 2024/2025 for warming stations

Establish a regular cadence of communication with state and county leaders for coordination of funding, policies and resources.

KEY POINTS

- Potential Impact: The impact is not quantifiable using currently available data.
- Implementation Cost Estimate: \$0.00
- Target Implementation Date: This is an ongoing effort.

DESCRIPTION

To maximize support and benefits from available government resources for those experiencing homelessness, the City will establish a regular cadence of communication between regional and state entities to promote regional cooperation. Additionally, the City will introduce and/or support state and county legislation and coordination of funding, policies, and resources related to the unsheltered. Through this collaborative approach, the City aims to achieve an amplified solution to homelessness.

GOAL ALIGNMENT

- Reduce the chronically unsheltered population by 40%.
- Reduce the number and intensity of encampments.

LEAD AGENCY/DEPARTMENT

- City of Birmingham
- Surrounding municipalities
- Jefferson County
- State of Alabama
 - · Governor's Office
 - Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT)

IMPLEMENTATION TASKS AND MILESTONES

- Set and maintain an agenda for coordination of resources.
- Support legislation that would address key issues, such as unsheltered persons being 'dropped off.'
- Identify a resource to function as a liaison to the Governor's Office.
- COMPLETED: Establish a schedule with the state for quarterly cleaning under the interstate.
- COMPLETED: Establish monthly meetings with ALDOT.

FUNDING DETAILS

 The strategy requires additional state funding if they prioritize support.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR OPTIONS

Determine the number of encampments on the state right-of-way.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Ongoing

Update, create and support the City of Birmingham's policies and ordinances.

KEY POINTS

- Potential Impact: The impact is not quantifiable using currently available data.
- Implementation Cost Estimate: \$0.00
- Target Implementation Date: December 31, 2025

DESCRIPTION

In conjunction with the Mayor's Office, the Office of the City Attorney, and other city departments, the City will create and amend ordinances to support law enforcement. Additionally, the City will ensure that zoning laws and policies support simple-to-build new housing, including multi-family housing, Auxiliary Dwelling Units (ADUs), and micro shelters. Currently in place are the following ordinances:

- (Encampments) Critical Infrastructure The
 prohibition of public camping within 30 FT of critical
 infrastructure stands to mitigate potential damages
 to said critical infrastructure, in the interest of the
 public. Critical infrastructure is defined here as a
 network of systems that support public welfare,
 health, and safety.
- Sidewalks Per Birmingham City municipal code (Code 1964, § 48-23; Code 1980, § 4-5-23), it is unlawful to obstruct a sidewalk, or any part thereof, through any activity not permitted by this Code, which hinders the free passage of persons on the streets or sidewalks or any part thereof.
- Private Property This ordinance stands to address the public nuisance of public camping (encampments) on private-owned property, providing enforcement measures and violation penalties.
- Charitable Feeding Ordinance This ordinance stands to format and regulate a permitting process for charitable feeding upon public rightsof-way and city-owned property. Enabling a permitting process for charitable feeding promotes accountability in sanitation and cleanliness and establishes penalties for violations.

The City's strategy to address homelessness should be supported at its foundation by a regulatory environment in which it is easy to build more housing. In particular, it should be easy to build more housing in areas where existing supporting infrastructure is already in place. No areas of the city, including historic areas, should be completely frozen in place such that infill housing is difficult to build and the area, in effect, becomes exclusionary. All areas of the City should allow a variety of housing types and accessory dwelling units by right, with reasonable guidelines, to evolve and grow by allowing the next logical increment of housing density to be built.

GOAL ALIGNMENT

- Reduce chronically unsheltered population by 40%.
- Reduce the number and intensity of encampments.

LEAD AGENCY/DEPARTMENT

City of Birmingham

PENDING TASKS/UPCOMING MILESTONES

- Create Private Property ordinance.
- IN PROGRESS: Seek recommendations from Persons with Lived Experience (PLE).
- IN PROGRESS: Create Sidewalk ordinance.
- IN PROGRESS: Create Tenting and Encampments ordinances.
- IN PROGRESS: Revise Charitable Feeding ordinance.
- Infrastructure Ordinance
- · Other housing policies:
 - Subdivision regulations-allow flag lots and remove character reference.
 - Pattern Book and infill overlay. This item
 would create a pattern book of pre-approved
 housing typologies, which are allowed by
 right in the Urban Neighborhood District, to
 reduce costs for incremental developers. The
 Infill Overlay would be applied strategically
 to incentivize infill development and allow for
 pattern book typologies regardless of zoning.
 - IN PROGRESS: Urban Neighborhood is a new zoning adopted in August of 2024. The intent of this district is to create opportunity for more housing production, walkable

neighborhoods, and to support transit. To do so, the district allows for a variety of housing types (SF, Duplex, Triplex, Quadplex, Townhouse, ADUs) up to a 12-unit multiplex at a rate of one unit per 750 square feet of land area, reduces setbacks, and allows for small commercial (less than 1,500 square feet) activities such as office, café, restaurant, and retail. This district will be applied to areas of the city that are within one-half mile of transit.

- IN PROGRESS: Develop Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Ordinance that would create requirements for ADUs and allow them by right in all districts that allow for residential uses.
- IN PROGRESS: Adaptive Reuse Amendment for abandoned schools and other public buildings will allow for reuse of them for the following: affordable housing, uses that support food access, day care, or use that provide a community benefit.
- **IN PROGRESS**: Develop temporary shelter use and definition.

FUNDING DETAILS

· Additional funding is not needed.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR OPTIONS

 Decreased calls for service regarding each of the aformentioned ordinances

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Year End 2025



Reinforce and enhance the City's existing relationship with the Continuum of Care.

KEY POINTS

- Potential Impact: The impact is not quantifiable using currently available data.
- Implementation Cost Estimate: \$0.00
- Target Implementation Date: This is an ongoing effort.

DESCRIPTION

Enhance efforts to support the unsheltered with Birmingham's Continuum of Care (CoC), a community-wide system of agencies dedicated to providing housing and support services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. One Roof leads the collaborative effort among the Continuum of Care partners. Their vision is for all community members to be appropriately and safely housed. Their goal is to connect individuals and families to appropriate resources related to their housing and service needs.⁷

GOAL ALIGNMENT

- Reduce the number of youths experiencing homelessness to Functional Zero.
- Reduce the chronically unsheltered population by 40%.

LEAD AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS

- City of Birmingham
- · One Roof and Continuum of Care

PENDING TASKS/UPCOMING MILESTONES

 Hire a system coordinator to expand the Continuum of Care's system-wide capacity and to lead the Built for Zero Improvement team.

FUNDING DETAILS

 The City has applied for a Built for Zero Community Solutions grant to fund the system coordinator position.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR OPTIONS

 Use Built for Zero Goal (40% for chronic adults and Functional Zero for youth)

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Ongoing

⁷ From https://www.oneroofonline.org/about-us

Reduce Homelessness for Justice-Impacted Individuals.

KEY POINTS

- · Potential Impact: 30 pilot participants
- Implementation Cost Estimate: \$200,000
- Target Implementation Date: Implemented in May 2024. Pilot to be concluded in December 2025.
 Project to continue through 2027.

DESCRIPTION

Twice a month, justice-impacted individuals arrive in Birmingham, often without access to shelter. To address this situation, the City has partnered with agencies to establish the Birmingham Re-Entry Alliance, an innovative, collaborative support and case management system. This pilot program is designed for individuals returning to Birmingham after incarceration in state prison, many of whom return with nothing. The Alliance will provide programs and resources to ensure housing options are available upon arrival. During the one-year pilot, a case manager will collect and analyze client and program data. The goal is to provide housing and workforce development support.

GOAL ALIGNMENT

- Reduce the number and intensity of encampments.
- Reduce the chronically unsheltered population by 40%.

LEAD AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS

- City of Birmingham
- Alabama Appleseed
- · Offender Alumni Association
- Salvation Army
- Housing Authority Birmingham District
- Jimmie Hale Mission
- · Community on the Rise
- Alethia House
- Canterbury United Methodist Church
- Hope Inspired Ministries
- Strive
- Urban Alchemy

PENDING TASKS/UPCOMING MILESTONES

- Maintain a positive relationship with the state Department of Corrections.
- Obtain access to these individuals pre-release to register them for case management and prepare housing.
- IN PROGRESS: Apply for additional funding to extend the Birmingham Re-Entry Alliance pilot.
- ONGOING: On a regular basis, obtain a list from the state of Alabama of justice-impacted Individuals who with be released in the next 12-18 months.

FUNDING DETAILS

- Apply for a Reentry Federal Grant.
- COMPLETED: Received funding from the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, Regions Bank and Alabama Power Company for the pilot.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR OPTIONS

 Number of justice-impacted individuals receiving housing and job development services during the Reentry Alliance pilot.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

- The Birmingham Reentry Alliance launched in Summer 2024. The Alliance has a number of current clients with structured housing programs receiving bill pay and job development assistance. All clients receive workforce development driven assistance.
- The Alliance's 1-year pilot has been extended until December 2025.

Provide resources to Reduce Opioid Overdoses and Promote Harm Reduction.

KEY POINTS

- Potential Impact: 55 individuals⁸
- Implementation Cost Estimate: \$1,500,000
- · Target Implementation Date: December 31, 2026

DESCRIPTION

To combat the relationship between drug abuse and homelessness, the lead agencies should provide greater access to care for unsheltered residents with drug addictions, particularly for those abusing opioids. Of the 3015 people served in Emergency Shelter and Safe Haven projects in 2024, 99 dealt with an Alcohol Use Disorder, 304 with Drug Use Disorder and 290 with both Drug and Alcohol Disorders. Opioid overdose is more common in individuals experiencing housing insecurity than in individuals who use drugs but are not homeless.⁹ The City of Birmingham will use existing resources to address a combination of prevention, treatment, harm reduction and enforcement.

GOAL ALIGNMENT

- · Reduce chronically unsheltered population by 40%.
- Reduce the number of youths experiencing homelessness to Functional Zero.

LEAD AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS

- UAB Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology
- JBS Mental Health Authority
- · Birmingham Police Department
- · Birmingham Fire and Rescue
- Jefferson County Department of Health

PENDING TASKS/UPCOMING MILESTONES

- IN PROGRESS: Work with UAB to hire social workers who will be placed in public libraries.
- IN PROGRESS: Support new and existing programs around reducing opioid overdoses.
- IN PROGRESS: Increase Narcan availability in public spaces.

FUNDING DETAILS

- Use existing opioid funding.
- Pursue additional funding options.
- Mobilize agency partners to contribute financial resources.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR OPTIONS

 Homeless Management Information System tracks overdoses on an ongoing basis. Street Outreach also interacts with those unsheltered persons who have substance abuse disorder.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

December 31, 2026

⁸ The data collected through HMIS related to the use of drugs or other substances is self-reported data. Because of this, the rate of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) among persons experiencing homelessness is an estimation and likely an underestimation of the actual rate.

⁹ https://opioidprinciples.jhsph.edu/how-stable-housing-supports-recovery-from-substance-use-disorders/

Address Mental Health and Discharge-Related Issues Associated with Unhoused Citizens.

KEY POINTS

- Potential Impact: To be determined
- Implementation Cost Estimate: \$320,000 for social workers and \$300,000 to Cahaba Medicine for Street Medicine program
- Target Implementation Date: Reintroduce legislation around drop-offs during 2026 legislative session

DESCRIPTION:

Unsheltered residents often seek refuge in the City's libraries during inclement weather and extreme temperatures. Data indicates that situating resources such as social workers in familiar settings like public libraries will enhance access to a variety of services for these individuals. To that end, the City of Birmingham will collaborate with the UAB Department of Psychiatry to make mental health resources more accessible by placing social workers in neighborhood libraries. This strategy also addresses unauthorized hospital dropoffs of unsheltered patients, who should be released to shelters rather than public hospitals or the streets. To mitigate this issue, the City will work with hospitals that engage in unauthorized drop-offs to develop or revise protocols for more appropriate patient discharge.

GOAL ALIGNMENT:

- Reduce the chronically unsheltered population by 40%.
- Reduce the number of youths experiencing homelessness to Functional Zero.

LEAD AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS

- UAB Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology
- JBS Mental Health Authority
- Urban Alchemy
- Cahaba Medicine

PENDING TASKS/UPCOMING MILESTONES

- Partner with the state to increase their involvement.
- Partner with hospitals to create more appropriate discharge protocols and cease 'drop-offs.'
- IN PROGRESS: Partner with UAB in the hiring of social workers.
- IN PROGRESS: Integrate social workers into public libraries.

FUNDING DETAILS

- Pursue grants.
- Provide City funding.
- Encourage state-funded hospitals to fund or provide medical and/or mental health services.
- · Leverage Existing Opioid funding sources.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR OPTIONS

Track the number of mental health calls to police and fire departments.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

End of Year 2025

Utilize a By-Name list and Case Conferencing to more effectively address the individual needs of unsheltered residents.

KEY POINTS

- Potential Impact: 300¹⁰
- Implementation Cost Estimate: Cost of program covered by funds from existing partner agencies.
 \$215,000 for System Coordinator is being paid through Community Solutions.
- Target Implementation Date:
 - December 2024 The Youth Advisory Board was convened and runs through November 2025
 - February 2025 Chronic Homelessness Case Conferencing implemented and is ongoing

DESCRIPTION

Utilize a case-conferencing and by-name list method to provide homeless residents with care plans suited to their individual circumstances. The Continuum of Care will create a customized care model for housing and support services based on a person's situation and needs.

GOAL ALIGNMENT

- Reduce the chronically unsheltered population by 40%.
- Reduce the number of youths experiencing homelessness to Functional Zero.
- Reduce the number and intensity of encampments.

LEAD AGENCY/DEPARTMENT

- One Roof/Continuum of Care
- UAB Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology
- Department of Human Resources
- Birmingham City Schools
- Children's of Alabama
- City of Birmingham
 - Department of Youth Services
 - Community Development

PENDING TASKS/UPCOMING MILESTONES

- Complete planning Case Conferencing Coordination.
- **COMPLETED**: Convene the Youth Advisory Board.
- ONGOING: Convene the Youth Case Conferencing Group.
- ONGOING: Chronic Homeless Adult case conferencing group

FUNDING DETAILS

- Use existing agencies' budgets. No other funding needed.
- Apply for Community Solutions funding to expand capacity for a system coordinator.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR OPTIONS

Align with projections for Built for Zero.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

- December 2024 The Youth Advisory Board was convened and runs through November 2025
- February 2025 Chronic Homelessness Case Conferencing began

¹⁰ Number impacted represents 40% goal of chronic unhoused adults and youth.

Address the shortage of affordable Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).

KEY POINTS

- Potential Impact: The current need is approximately 2000 units of Permanent Supportive Housing.
- Implementation Cost Estimate: TBD
- Target Implementation Date: By the end of 2028

DESCRIPTION

Permanent Supportive Housing provides both affordable housing assistance as well as wraparound services tailored to the specific needs of the individual. Services include mental health and substance abuse services, health care and employment services. Families with at least one disabled member and persons experiencing homelessness with or without a disability qualify for permanent supportive housing. The goal for new permanent housing, including the supportive model, is 300 units.

GOAL ALIGNMENT

- Reduce the chronically unsheltered population by 40%.
- Reduce the number of youths experiencing homelessness to Functional Zero.
- · Reduce the number and intensity of encampments.

LEAD AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS

- City of Birmingham
 - Community Development Department
- One Roof/Continuum of Care
- Community Solutions
- Service provider for case management
- Property developer

PENDING TASKS/UPCOMING MILESTONES

- · Create a Community Engagement Strategy.
- Create a site plan.
- Develop a resilient service framework to support program funding and day to day operations.
- Engage a developer and a property manager.
- · Select and engage a service provider.
- IN PROGRESS: Identify location(s).
- IN PROGRESS: Engage Stakeholders.
- COMPLETED: Investigate various supportive housing models such as hotel/motel conversions.

FUNDING DETAILS

- Engage foundations, the faith community, and the business/corporate sector.
- Explore grant options.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR OPTIONS

Development of site plan.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

December 2026

FORWARD LOOKING INITIATIVES

A Note from Alanah Melton, Director of Special Projects for the City of Birmingham

This roadmap represents an important step forward in the City of Birmingham's efforts to address homelessness. By setting clear priorities and measurable outcomes, the plan provides the structure necessary to make meaningful progress. At the same time, we recognize that the challenges before us are complex, and the work cannot end here. This work will require an ongoing, long-term commitment. Looking forward, we recognize the importance of additional initiatives and investment that are beyond the timeline and scope of this roadmap.

Chief among our vision for the future of homelessness in Birmingham is the development of a centralized One Stop Shop for housing and supportive services. We envision a hub where residents — whether sheltered or unsheltered — can access comprehensive housing navigation, supportive resources, and other vital services under one roof. From housing assistance and job training to healthcare connections and financial supports, this forward-looking model would be designed to remove barriers, streamline access, reduce duplication.

This "housing hub" represents our commitment to continued planning and ideation around homelessness and housing. Such planning will continue to include strategic coordination across city departments and with other government agencies, service providers, community partners, and residents. It is not lost on us that this type of planning will require significant and sustained ongoing investments and intentional community engagement if we are to create a lasting and integrated system of care.

Looking ahead, the City of Birmingham also intends to focus on several other key initiatives aimed at addressing those experiencing homelessness, including:

- · Creation of additional permanent supportive housing
- Expansion of mental health and substance abuse programs
- Development of workforce initiatives
- Increased focus/partnership with neighboring municipalities

The City of Birmingham, in collaboration with its partners, is committed to continuing to build on what we are creating through this roadmap. We are confident the groundwork we are laying now will set the stage for Birmingham to reduce chronic homelessness, strengthen preventive services, and begin building a coordinated service delivery model that meets the needs of our community for years to come.

This roadmap marks a critical step in our journey, but it is not the final step. Together — with vision, resources, and collective will — we will continue to build a future where every Birmingham resident has housing – and the stability, dignity, and security it provides. So, let's keep putting people first.

Sincerely,

Alanah L. Melton

Clauah L. Melton

PARTNERS ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS IN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

The following Lead Agencies and City of Birmingham departments are partnering to reach the goals described in this Roadmap.

- Alabama Appleseed
- Alabama Department of Transportation
- · Alethia House
- Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service
- · Birmingham Police Department
- Birmingham's Faith Based Community
- Canterbury United Methodist Church
- Children's of Birmingham
- · City of Birmingham
 - · Capital Projects Department
 - Community Development Department
 - · Department of Public Works
 - Department of Youth Services
 - Mayor's Office
 - · Planning, Engineering and Permits
- Community on the Rise
- Community Solutions
- Department of Human Services
- Hospitals
- Housing Authority Birmingham District
- · JBS Mental Health Authority
- Jefferson County
- Jefferson County Department of Health
- · Jefferson County Family Court
- · Jimmie Hale Mission
- Offender Alumni Association
- · One Roof
- Pathways
- Salvation Army
- State of Alabama
- Strive
- The Department of Human Resources
- The Reentry Alliance
- UAB Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology
- Urban Alchemy

TERMINOLOGY

Built for Zero - A movement of over 100 communities that use data and equity to measurably and equitably end homelessness. Community Solutions initiated the Built for Zero movement.

By-Name List and Case Conferencing - The By Name list is a roster of every unsheltered resident within a community. The list is used as the basis for Case Conferencing meetings in which service providers strive to provide customized housing and support solutions.

Chronic Homelessness - Defined as adults who either 1) live with a disability and have been homeless for 365 days, or 2) live with a disability and experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness totaling twelve or more months in the past three years.

Community Development - Department of the City of Birmingham which provides programs focused on improving housing, neighborhoods, and local businesses including support for affordable housing initiatives.

Community Solutions - Creator of Built for Zero methodology to measurably end homelessness in 100 communities that are currently actively using this strategy.

Continuum of Care (CoC) - A partnership of organizations that work together to provide housing, supportive services and community resources to those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Encampments - Temporary or semi-permanent places where people set up shelters, often in tents or makeshift structures.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) - HMIS is a data collection tool used by the Continuum of Care and is specifically designed to collect client-level data on both individuals and families experiencing homelessness and the services they receive. HMIS gathers, analyzes and utilizes accurate and comprehensive data which gives communities greater insight into the scope of homelessness, enables organizations to coordinate services, and reports on progress made in addressing homelessness.

Housing Navigator - A case manager who works with unsheltered residents to find permanent housing.

Homelessness - The state of having no home or permanent place of residence. Defined in several categories with transitional, episodic, chronic, and hidden homelessness.

Jefferson-Blount-Shelby Mental Health Authority (JBS) - Provides individualized mental health services to children, youth and adults within a region comprised of three counties.

Justice Impacted Individuals - Citizens who have been affected by the criminal justice system, such as those who have been arrested, incarcerated, on probation or parole, or otherwise involved in the legal system.

TERMINOLOGY

Micro Shelter - Small housing units designed to be built quickly and affordably, providing individual shelter and security for people experiencing homelessness and filling a critical gap in the system.

One Roof - A centralized location providing comprehensive housing services such as housing navigation, rental and utility assistance, eviction prevention and landlord engagement to sheltered and unsheltered individuals and families.

Point in Time (PIT) Count - Unduplicated count on a single night of the people in a community who are experiencing homelessness that includes both sheltered and unsheltered populations.

Point in Time Count is one-time data collection through survey on one single night in January each year.

- It is an annual count of sheltered and unsheltered numbers.
- The count gives an estimation of how many people experience homelessness on any given night in Birmingham's homeless Continuum of Care (Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair counties).
- PIT more accurately estimates unsheltered numbers because people living outdoors who
 are not engaged in the City's homeless response system as reported through our Homeless
 Management Information System (HMIS) are included.
- Note that PIT data does not give a timely snapshot of who is experiencing homelessness month-to-month and seeking/receiving services.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) - Provides unsheltered people with both access to affordable housing and wraparound services related to a disability and/or other health-related needs.

Subpopulation - An identifiable fraction or subdivision of a population such as the unsheltered population.

UAB - UAB Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology

Urban Alchemy - Leads Birmingham's HEART (Homeless Engagement Assistance Response Team), which is a community-based public safety initiative that will respond to non-emergency situations involving the unsheltered population. Heals neighborhoods by employing the unique talents of returning citizens to transform communities and urban spaces.

Youth Case Conferencing Group - Regularly scheduled meetings in which homelessness service providers and case managers collaborate to identify the most favorable housing and support solutions for unsheltered individuals for specific unsheltered individuals listed on the By Name list.

Youth Homelessness - Young individuals aged 18-24 who are homeless and without a parent or guardian, facing nights without the security, stability, and support of a family or a place to call home.



www.birming hamal.gov/homelessness