VISION

The City of Huntsville approaches homelessness with the belief that everyone experiencing homelessness is vulnerable and deserving of being treated with dignity and respect. The City’s Community Development Department will collaborate with community partners to connect persons experiencing homelessness to housing, shelter, and services within the community.

HOMELESSNESS as defined by US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes a subset for an individual who resided in an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided;
- Individuals and families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence;
- Unaccompanied youth and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition; and
- Individuals and families who are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member

GOALS

- Help homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) gain access to permanent housing that is safe, stable, and affordable
- Assist persons in making the transition to permanent housing and independent living, and reducing the period of time persons experience homelessness
- Aid in preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

2020 - 2021 GRANT FUND DISTRIBUTION

- Emergency Shelter $308K
- Prevention/Rapid Rehousing $232K
- Street Outreach $100K

COVID GRANT FUND DISTRIBUTION

- CDBG-CV $2MIL
- ESG-CV $1.85MIL
- Homeless Facility $1.35MIL
- Rent/Utility Assistance $10.7MIL

For further information contact the City of Huntsville Community Development Department at 256-427-5400 or www.huntsvilleal.gov/communitydevelopment
STRATEGIES

- The City of Huntsville Community Development Department’s strategy to reduce and end homelessness includes continued support of the Continuum of Care (CoC) community partners.

- As lead of the CoC, the City of Huntsville Community Development Department has partnered with North Alabama Coalition for Homelessness, the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) lead, to coordinate an annual Point-In Time Assessment of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness in Madison, Morgan, and Limestone Counties. The assessment allows for distribution of federal funding from the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Acts Program.

- Since 2020, the City has distributed nearly $15 million of federal and state grant funds to twelve agencies within the community to aide in preventing and assisting with homelessness.

- The City is collaborating with First Stop and investing $2MIL toward the rehabilitation and expansion of First Stop’s homeless facility which provides case management, physical and mental health, and the basic needs of unsheltered individuals.

The City of Huntsville received more than $10 million, through the U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), to distribute to qualifying households suffering from financial hardships as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds offer direct financial assistance, on behalf of the tenant, to landlords and utility companies to cover past-due payments of rent and utility/home energy costs. The goal of the program is to prevent housing instability, potential eviction, and offer financial relief to qualifying tenants and landlords.