

# End Street Homelessness Action Plan



**Houston and Harris County's homeless response system is a national model, but our work is not yet done.**



### **Challenge #1**

We do not have adequate resource for unsheltered people while they wait for housing placement, so they remain on the streets.

### **Challenge #2**

There is not sufficient local, sustainable, flexible funding and have relied primarily on federal grants with pre-determined uses, some of them temporary, to fund the work.

### **Challenge #3**

We didn't have good solutions for those who suffer from severe mental illness.







Federal funding alone is **not enough** to solve homelessness in Houston. **In fact, it never has been.**



Now is the time to ask, what would it take to build out a comprehensive homelessness response and prevention system? And how could we pay for it in a sustainable way?

Now, at the direction of **Mayor John Whitmire**, the right stakeholders are coming together in an unprecedented collaboration to **Reach Equilibrium** and **End Street Homelessness**.

**Together** we will secure sustainable funding and write the next chapter of homelessness response in Houston and Harris County.



# Equilibrium will mean:



No one sleeps outside



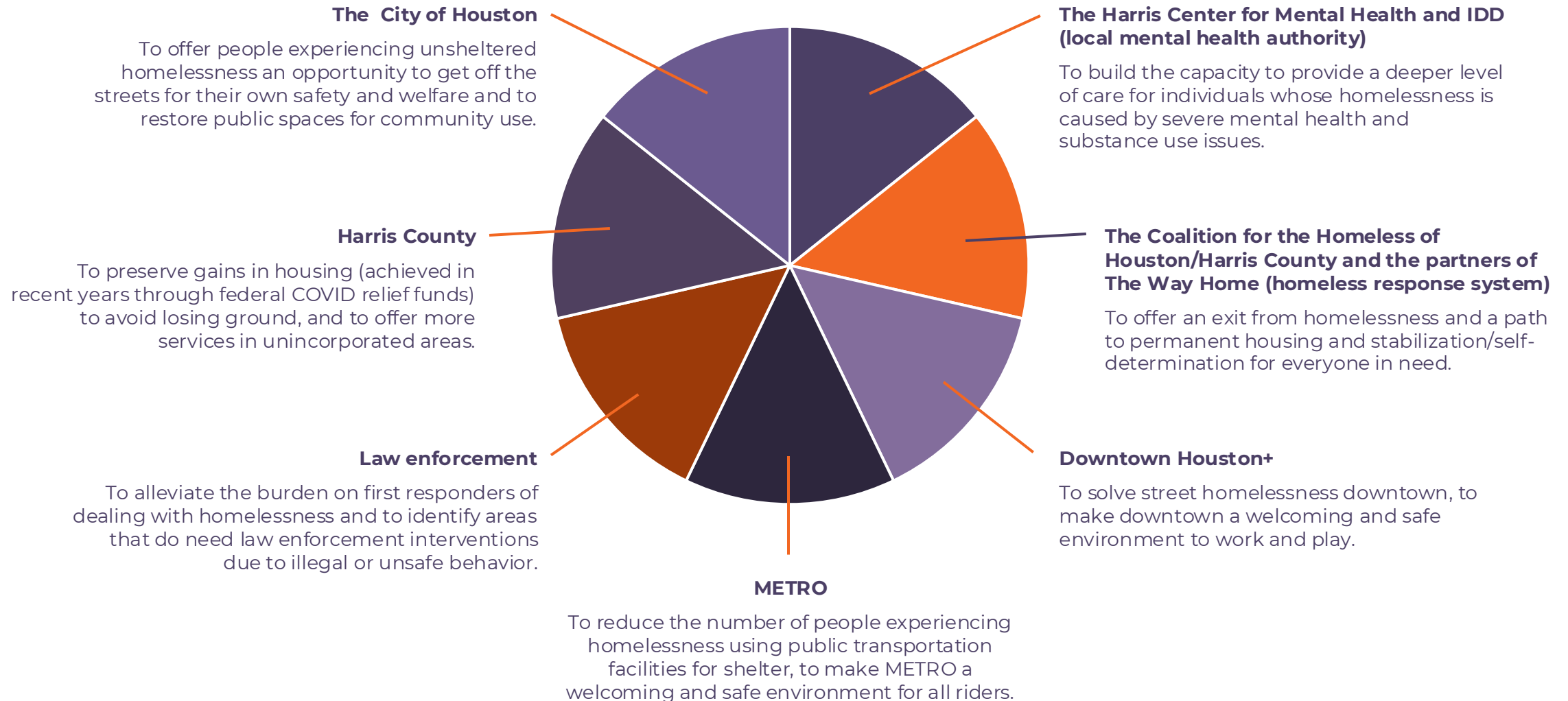
We can **resolve** homelessness for anyone entering homelessness within 90 days.



We will permanently scale our homeless response system to respond to all individuals in need each year, including by (1) working upstream to prevent homelessness and (2) creating more access points to the system.



# Each partner brings a goal that forms our shared agenda:



# What sets **this plan** apart:

Immediate access to supportive services into the evening and overnight. No more waiting on the streets.

Sustained collaboration with law enforcement, TxDOT, Public Works, etc., to keep public spaces maintained.

Strong collaboration with nonprofit service providers and charitable organizations.

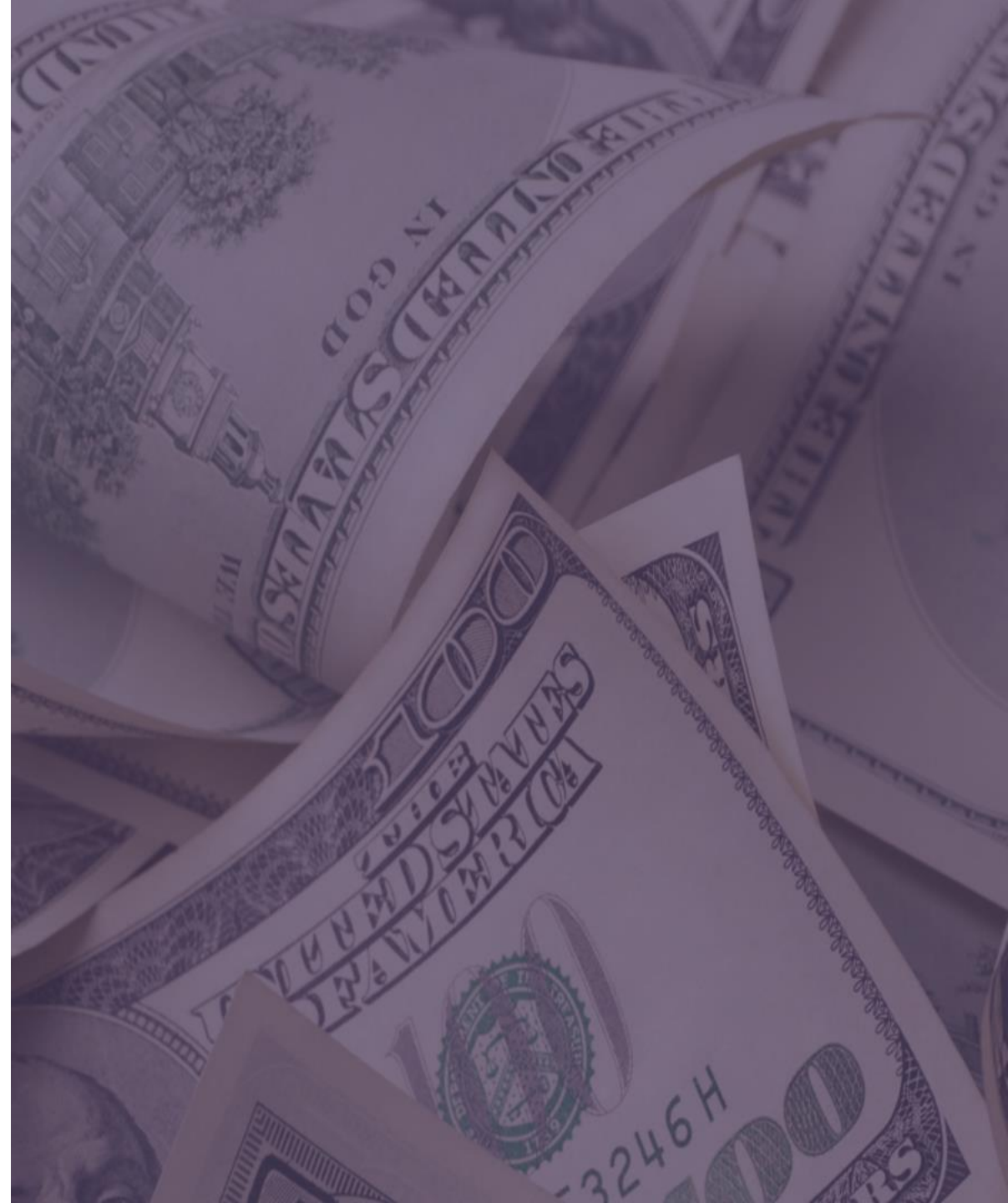
Intensified partnership with mental health services.

Sustainable long-term funding.

## What will it cost?

\$210 Million for the first 3 years (through 2027) to ramp up.

This is in addition to the system's ongoing funding from the Continuum of Care dollars and other entitlement grants.





# Progress so far



# The work is a public-private partnership.

## City of Houston

Up to \$23M • Status: Allocated

## METRO

Up to \$10M/year • Status:  
Allocated

## Houston First

Up to \$2.6M/year • Status:  
Allocated

## Harris County

Up to \$14.6M • Status: Identified  
(Pending formal approval from  
Commissioners Court)

## Houston Downtown Management District

\$1M • Status: Allocated

## Philanthropy

\$60M • Status: Requested  
(over three years)

(Amounts through 2027)

# Ending Street Homeless REI Fund

## Important Dates

REI Release Date: **January 31, 2025**

Virtual Q&A Session: **February 14, 2025**

Initial Submission Deadline: **March 14, 2025**

Rolling Submissions: **Every 3rd Friday in June, September, and December (or as updated via Letter of Clarification)**

Program Start Date: **May 2025**

# Ending Street Homeless Fund

With City Council approval, **\$33 million** in funding will be distributed over **24 months** across the following priority areas.

## Proposed Activities :

- **Housing**
- **Shelter and BH Beds**
- **Outreach, Diversion**
- **Mental Health**
- **Administration**



# DR 24 Public Services Programs | Overview

To strengthen Houston's homeless response, **\$41 million** has been **requested for allocation** to Public Services programming.

Bridge Beds &  
Shelter Operations

Street & Shelter  
Outreach

Case Management &  
Social Services

# Activities at a glance



# Exemplifies our Partnership



Partner	Role
Coalition for the Homeless (CFTH)	Overall coordination, homeless outreach
SEARCH Homeless Services	Overall coordination, homeless outreach, housing case managers
Houston Recovery Center (Sobering Center)	Overnight beds, homeless outreach
The Harris Center	Onsite mental health support
Endeavors	Housing case managers
HPD	Ongoing enforcement of “no sleeping” in cleared areas

# Chartres

## Decommissioning



**Before:** Commerce  
St. Bike Trail at  
Chartres





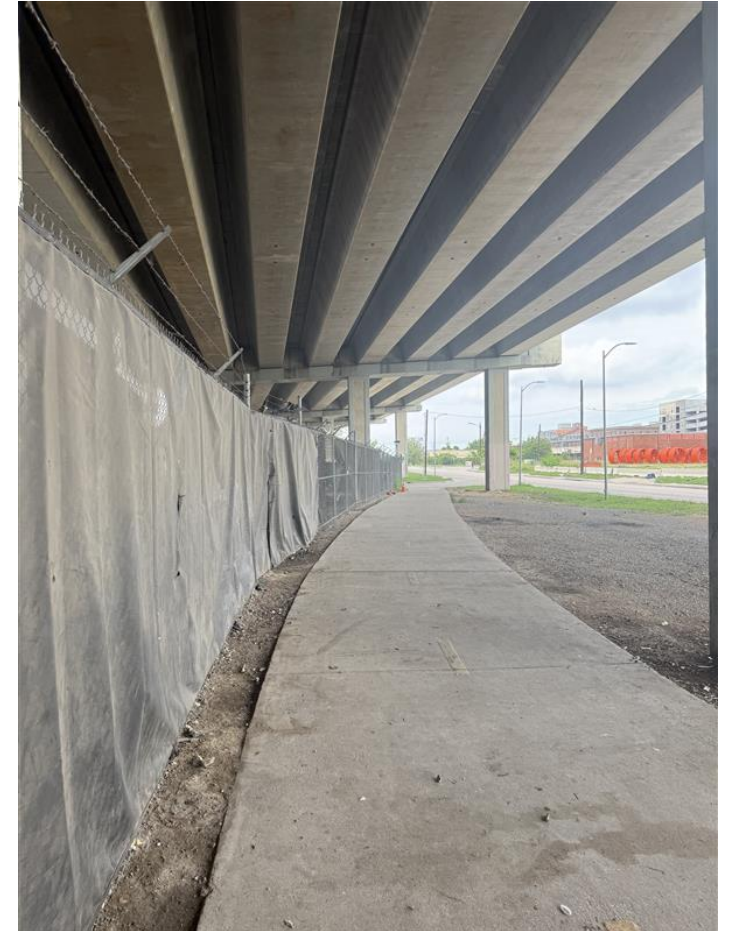
# Chartres

## Decommissioning

### Result:

**68** individuals were engaged.

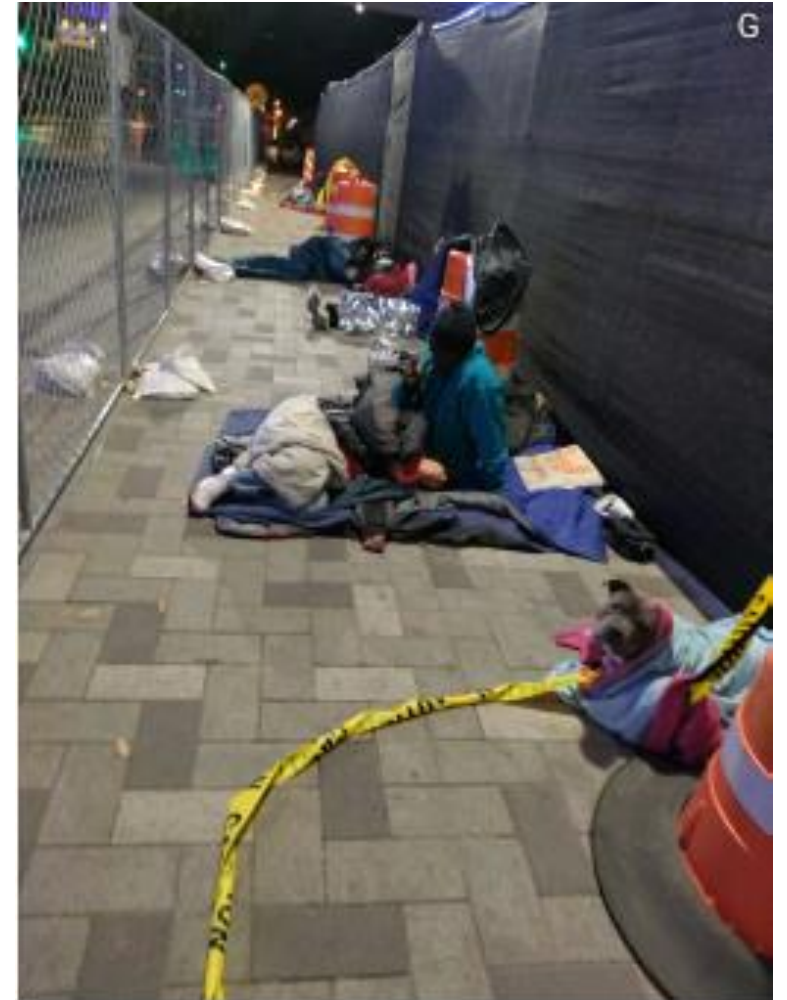
**46** individuals were successfully connected to housing solutions.



# Bayou Place Initiative

In March 2025, homeless outreach teams went out overnight to offer beds at the Sobering Center, plus services the next morning at The Beacon.

**Before:** Tranquility  
Park & Bayou Tunnel





# Bayou Place Initiative

In March 2025, homeless outreach teams went out overnight to offer beds at the Sobering Center, plus services the next morning at The Beacon.



**Result:**  
**15** individuals  
were provided a  
pathway off the  
street.



# Allen's Landing Decommissioning



**Before:** Main  
Street Bridge at  
Allen's Landing





# Allen's Landing Decommissioning

## Result:

**24** individuals were offered housing solutions.

**16** individuals moved directly into housing solutions.



# Legislative Updates:

## SB1164

Adjusts the standard for involuntary detainment for individuals who do not recognize their severe mental illness and need for care.

Passed

## SB2487

Mandates the creation of mental health crisis centers to receive individuals for evaluation and treatment.

Did not pass this session.



# Partner Spotlight



# Coordinated Outreach

## The Harris Center

### Collaboration at Work

Before the encampment decommissioning, staff worked with CFTH to identify clients approved for Navigation Center placement.

### On-the-Ground-Engagement

In advance of the decommissioning, the Harris Center and CFTH identified approved clients for the Navigation Center.

### Barrier

An individual, “Mary”, has severe mental illness. Her treatment resistance prevents her from understanding the nature of her mental illness. The team found her sitting in her own excrement on the sidewalk.



# **“Mary”- A Case Study**

## **The Harris Center**

"Mary" has a severe mental illness including psychotic episodes and untreated medical conditions. She refuses treatment and to take her medication. She can be volatile. Her history of homelessness spans at least a decade. She has more than 400 documented encounters with law enforcement.

She has come into The Harris Center's crisis system on 7 occasions but has consistently refused outpatient care.

# Mary's Transition

## The Harris Center

In May, The Harris Center transported Mary to the psychiatric hospital. She is currently inpatient mental health services.

Mary will be discharged into court-ordered Assisted Outpatient Treatment and placed into a personal care home.

# Public Safety



# Civility Ordinance Revision

**Too many lives are lost each year to homelessness in Houston and Harris County.**

The current response has not been enough.

Allowing people to live unsheltered on our streets leads to tragic outcomes.

**It's time to change course.**

# Driving Visibility

Amplifying our work through  
public-facing milestones



# Recent Engagement

## **GHP – Future of Texas**

Topic- *Update on Houston's Homeless Response System*  
May 15, 2025

**Central Houston  
Homelessness Roundtable**  
June 3, 2025

**Healthcare for the Homeless  
Roundtable**  
May 30, 2025



# THANK YOU



**DOWNTOWN  
HOUSTON+**