

UPDATE

TO: The Joint Subcommittee of the City of Austin, AISD, and Travis County

FROM: Laura Patiño, City of Austin, Chief Resilience Officer
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DATE: September 12th, 2022

SUBJECT: **Austin Resilience Hubs Network Update**

On April 8, 2021, Austin City Council passed Resolution 20210408-028, directing the City Manager to engage with the Office of Sustainability and other relevant City departments, school districts, and external partners on Resilience Hubs to 1) create a plan, budget recommendations, funding strategies, and a timeline for designing and equipping an initial six pilot hubs for disasters, including the necessary power and water redundancies, and 2) budget recommendations, funding strategies, and a timeline for creating a community-wide resilience hub plan sufficient to serve all Austinites during emergencies.

On June 16, 2022, Austin City Council passed Resolution 220616-051, which directs the City Manager to expand resources for community partners including a website, preparedness guide, and toolkit for the establishment of community-owned resilience hubs.

City of Austin Staff have collaborated with Austin Independent School District (AISD), Travis County and Central Health staff since the fall of 2021 and recently added Austin Community College to the Resilience Hubs initiative's core working group. The Joint Subcommittee last received a written update from staff on June 13, 2022.

Below is the update and status report on the Austin Resilience Hub Network and summary of recent activities. This initiative represents a robust collaborative among key Central Texas agencies, which we believe will yield a strong long-term program aimed at better preparing our community to respond to and bounce back from extreme events.

For additional questions, please contact Laura.Patino@austintexas.gov

Q3 2022

Austin Resilience Hubs Network Program Status Update Dashboard



Ongoing	2022	2022-2023	2023-beyond
Stakeholder Engagement (Leadership team, CAC, Task Force, Work Groups)	Stakeholder Identification & Engagement (Leadership team, CAC, Task Force, Work Groups)	Development of Resilience Hub Network Toolkit	Expanding the Toolkit to include non-emergency services
Website development	Hazards & Vulnerability Assessment	Community-owned facilities identification, selection, & partnerships (including database development)	Expanding database for non-emergency service partnerships
Resources development	Agency Facility Assessment	Legal & Regulatory reviews	Stakeholder coordination
Joint Subcommittee Presentations	Agency Facility Selection	Emergency activation protocols for non-agency facilities	Network management and oversight
Expanding Staff Capacity	Start Agency Facility Improvements	Emergency supply management	Funding playbook
	Agency Facility Activation Protocols	Emergency communications tie-in	Increase participation of facilities
	Agency Facility Resilience Programming	Funding playbook	

Completed
Ongoing
Not yet started

Austin Resilience Hub Network

Q3 2022 Progress Report

The City of Austin, AISD, and Travis County remain on track to select 6 pilot resilience hubs in the Eastern Crescent by end of 2022, while continuing to work with partners to develop a citywide Resilience Hub Network.

Phase 1: Pilot Project Update

- 6 focus areas were identified by March 2022 through a collaborative process with the Community Advisory Committee that included data collected by University of Austin faculty.
 - Mapping Process Summary
 - Mapped data includes climate hazards
 - Mapped Social Vulnerability Indexes
 - Selection criteria identified by the Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
 - Held mapping exercise with CAC to identify six focus areas for deeper engagement
 - Analyzed the results of the exercise with CAC
 - Finalized 6 focus areas
- Within the 6 focus areas, 36 City and AISD facilities were assessed for their ability to serve as an Info Center, Warming and Cooling Center, Food/Water Distribution Center or were "Shelter-Capable". Currently, evaluating energy needs within each facility for back-up power.
- The local community engagement consultant Community Powered Workshop was hired to assist with community engagement in the 6 focus areas. Currently, staff and community leaders are working with residents of 6 focus areas to select priority locations for the pilot hubs.
 - Community Workshops
 - **Focus Area 1 (78758): Confirmed.** Tuesday, 8/30 at 6:00-8:00pm - North Austin YMCA Community Room
 - **Focus Area 2 (78753): Confirmed.** Thursday 9/1. 6:00-8:00pm. Gus Garcia Recreation Center Senior Room
 - **Focus Area 3 (78752): Confirmed.** Tuesday 9/20. 6:00-8:00pm. TBD
 - **Focus Area 4 (78724): Confirmed.** Trying Thursday 9/8. 6:15-8:15pm Turner-Roberts Recreation Center
 - **Focus Area 5 (78742): Confirmed.** Tuesday 9/13 6:00-8:00pm. Montopolis Recreation Center.
 - **Focus Area 6 (78744): Confirmed.** Trying Thursday 9/15. TBD Dove Springs Recreation Center

For updated information on meeting times and locations and to RSVP, visit

<https://community-powered-workshop.squarespace.com/resilience-hub-network>

- Interactive Platform Development - Social PinPoint
To better understand the needs, expectations, and desires of each focus area and community members, Social PinPoint, an interactive online platform, is being utilized to gather community input. Individuals can participate in site selection process by taking a survey and utilizing the map feature to mark valuable areas within each neighborhood. Visit, <https://cpworkshop.mysocialpinpoint.com/resilience-hub-network#/>

- Stakeholder engagement continues with the Community Advisory Committee (monthly), combined working group for facility improvement, hub activation, and community involvement (biweekly), Community Task Force composed of residents within the 6 focus areas (biweekly), and Leadership Committee (monthly).

Phase 2: Scaling for Emergencies

- Resilience Hub Network Website has launched www.austintexas.gov/resiliencehubs
- Development of the Resilience Hub Network toolkit has initiated. The toolkit will set the specifications and protocols and provide information for the identification, selection, establishment and operations of a community-owned/privately-owned resilience hub facility that is linked to the Austin Resilience Hub Network.
- Intake form for community owned sites has been published on website. This will be utilized to create a database of community-owned facilities and contacts to initiate outreach and development of community-run hub model. [Access the survey here!](#)
- Legal and regulatory reviews for community-owned and operated models are being identified.
- Recent hire of a joint position between the City of Austin and the University of Texas at Austin is collecting best practices of agency-owned / community operated Resilience Hubs to replicate in the Austin area.
- Reaching options to provide back-up power at community facilities

Phase 3: Scaling for Resilience

- Ongoing stakeholder coordination is taking place to identify services and programs during the day to day, including GAVA's neighborhood preparedness guide, resilience hub toolkit development, community programming, and digital equity, among other initiatives.
- Ongoing stakeholder coordination is taking place to identify structural facility improvements and structural hardening where appropriate for redundancy, continuity of operations, and overall resilience of the resilience hub facilities.
- A detailed budget for the use of \$3 Million, allocated through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, and the \$50,000, recently approved City Council Budget for Fiscal Year 2023, will be created to conduct site improvements and satisfy resource needs within selected resilience hubs. The funding will also support the further development of the Austin Resilience Hub Network, including toolkits and other resources for community-owned sites.

Other Updates:

AISD

- The AISD Board of Trustees unanimously voted (9-0) to approve a \$2.44 Billion Bond which will be placed on the November 2022 Ballot. This Bond includes the full or partial modernization of 26 campuses in addition to critical deficiency related projects at all other campuses. The identification of the modernized sites was determined through a comprehensive planning process modeled using equity by design. The planning and development of these projects will consider resilience design components and community features. Where applicable and when aligned, the projects for full modernizations will be designed to function as resilience hubs or integrated within the Resilience Hub Network. AISD staff will continue to work with COA staff to determine these opportunities.

Next Steps:

- Finalize site selection, plan facility improvements, define facility activation protocols, and create resilience programming for 6 pilot sites.
- Develop activation protocols and partnership requirements for community-owned and programmed sites, including resources like the resilience hub toolkit.
- Develop communications procedures and additional resources to tie in with individual resilience.
- Onboard staff (UT, FUSE, and additional City positions) to support long-term program needs and expansion.

Resources

- [CPW's Social Pin Point Tool/Interact Map and Survey for community engagement](#)
- [Austin Resilience Hubs Website](#)
- [Get Ready Central Texas](#)
- [Neighborhood Preparedness Guide](#)
- [Key Emergency Contacts and Information \(created in collaboration with GAVA\)](#)
- [Preparing for the effects of climate change](#)

Questions? Contact us at resilience@austintexas.gov

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