



Quality of Life Committee August 17, 2026

Michael Nichols, Director



CITY OF HOUSTON * HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



Agenda

- I. Welcome/Introductions
- II. Public Services
- III. Director's Comments
- IV. Public Comments
- V. Adjourn

II. Public Services

Melody Barr, Assistant Director

II.a. Strategic Homeless Planning Services (All Districts)

HCD recommends Council approval of an Ordinance authorizing a Second Amendment to the Contract for Strategic Homeless Planning Services,

Between the City of Houston (City) and **the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County** (The Coalition),

And providing up to an additional \$130,226.25 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for strategic homeless planning services.

II.a. Strategic Homeless Planning Services (All Districts)

As the Lead Agency for The Way Home, The Coalition is the sole-source provider of data and analysis on trends in the homeless response system that guide the development, advocacy, and coordination of community strategies to prevent and effectively end homelessness.

Their collaboration with homeless service providers, affordable housing providers, medical care facilities, community stakeholders, people with lived experience, non-profits, and for-profit businesses enables greater alignment across every aspect of planning and decision-making necessary to provide critical homeless services in the homeless response system.

II.a. Strategic Homeless Planning Services (All Districts)

The Coalition has received funding through the city for various grants since 2005. The initial Agreement term was from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, but services did not start until June 1, 2024, after council approval.

The First Amendment extended this Agreement to May 31, 2026. The term was administratively extended to August 31, 2026.

This Second Amendment will extend the Agreement term by an additional 12 months, ending on August 31, 2027.

II.a. Strategic Homeless Planning Services (All Districts)

No Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was performed as the agency is a sole-source provider being the designated Lead Agency.

There were no findings in the most recent annual compliance monitoring review.

As of April 2026, Coalition has utilized 86.82% of their funds.

II.b. The Harris Center - Independent Living Program (All Districts)

HCD recommends Council approval of an Ordinance authorizing a First Amendment extending an Agreement between the City of Houston (City) and The Harris Center for Mental Health & IDD (The Harris Center) for a program that will continue to serve approximately 120 individuals annually.

Services will include psychiatric care, individualized treatment plans, and access to treatment beds in a safe environment for homeless individuals to transition them from an inpatient hospital setting to a community-based setting.

No additional funding is being requested at this time.

II.b. The Harris Center - Independent Living Program (All Districts)

The Harris Center's Independent Living Program operates a 32-bed facility with an intense rehabilitative program designed to transition individuals who were unhoused following a stay at an inpatient psychiatric hospital setting to a more appropriate community-based setting.

Individuals will receive comprehensive care focusing on psychosocial principles to teach emotional, cognitive, and social skills to support community living and independence.

II.b. The Harris Center - Independent Living Program (All Districts)

The program serves adults for up to 180 days, focusing on those discharged from emergency or inpatient psychiatric facilities, and those released by local hospitals with a 24/7 program.

In March 2025, in partnership with Harris County and the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, the City invited organizations to submit proposals under a Request for Expression of Interest (REI). The Harris Center was one of the agencies that responded and was selected from the applicants that proposed a shelter expansion activity.

II.b. The Harris Center - Independent Living Program (All Districts)

The initial Agreement period was from August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2026. An administrative extension was approved through October 31, 2026.

This Amendment will formally extend the Agreement through July 31, 2027. The Harris Center has received funding from the City of Houston since 2008.

There were no findings or concerns in their most recent compliance monitoring review.

II.c. The Houston Recovery Center – Shelter Beds (All Districts)

An Ordinance authorizing a First Amendment to the Subrecipient Agreement between the City of Houston (City) and the Houston Recovery Center providing up to \$667,540.00 in Street Homeless funds (Fund 2012) funding for a program that will serve approximately 525 individuals annually.

Services will include 24/7 operations of 34 beds for homeless individuals at their current facility with a targeted stay of 15 days or less. Other supportive services include addressing substance-use and/or mental health needs, immediate medical concerns, peer support specialists and case management.

II.c. The Houston Recovery Center – Shelter Beds (All Districts)

On-site staff will be available for 24/7 admissions to the facility. Operations include but are not limited to Recovery Support Specialists, Peer Support Specialists, supervisory staff, food, supplies, and security.

Individuals requiring longer-term substance-use treatment can be enrolled in off-site recovery services for 30 to 60 days or transferred to another system provider.

II.c. The Houston Recovery Center – Shelter Beds (All Districts)

In March 2025, in partnership with Harris County and the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, the City invited organizations to submit proposals under a Request for Expression of Interest (REI). The Houston Recovery Center was one of the agencies that responded and was selected from the applicants that proposed a shelter expansion activity.

The initial agreement period was from August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2026. An administrative extension was executed through September 30, 2026. The First Amendment will extend the term and provide funding through September 30, 2027.

III. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Michael Nichols, Director

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council Member Julian Ramirez, Chair