

Talking Points: Housing & Homeless Services

Key Messages:

We believe access to housing is key to a person's ability to regain health and maintain independence in their lives. Achieving good health and wellness is difficult when someone doesn't have stable housing. As part of our mental health recovery programs, Integral Care has multiple ways to help people access stable, affordable housing

How does Integral Care support the homeless community in Travis County?

- Integral Care has supported our homeless community for 20 years with a goal of moving people from the streets into housing as quickly as possible.
- We use housing as a health intervention. With a safe place to live and appropriate support services, recovery from homelessness, mental health issues and substance use disorder begins.
- Integral Care has specialized teams that provide support to individuals from homeless to housed.
 - Integral Care builds relationships with individuals living on the street in order to connect them to services that support their mental and physical health – providing direct care both in the community and at our clinics.
 - Once housed, Integral Care provides ongoing care to individuals in their new homes – either owned by Integral Care or privately-owned apartments in the community.

- When someone has access to tools like housing to regain health and independence, counseling and a community to support emotional health, primary care to improve physical health, and drug and alcohol treatment to help with recovery, they can reach their full potential and contribute to the community.

Does Integral Care provide housing?

- Integral Care has been providing housing services in our community since the 1980s. Our housing programs provide access to housing and support services to nearly 500 individuals.
- Currently, Integral Care operates Permanent Supportive Housing complexes with on-site services like healthcare, counseling, job assistance, and more, all in one place. This helps people get their lives back on track and stay there- for good.
- To qualify for our Permanent Supportive Housing program, a person must be approved through ECHO's Coordinated Entry system.

Does Integral Care partner with anyone to support the homeless community?

- Great things happen when partners come together for the health of our community.
- Integral Care partners with ECHO, Foundation Communities, Mobile Loaves and Fishes, Austin Police Department, EMS, Downtown Austin Community Court, City of Austin, Housing Authority of the City of Austin, Austin Public Library and many more to support the health and well-being of individuals experiencing homelessness in our community.

Who is Integral Care?

Integral Care is the Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA) and Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority (LIDDA) for Travis County. Since 1967, our mission has remained the same: to provide accessible, high-quality mental health care and social services—at low or no cost—to individuals affected by mental health conditions, substance use disorders, and intellectual or developmental disabilities. We support people in achieving well-being and independence through compassionate care available 24/7.