



Central TX Interfaith Leaders share plans for \$200M, will be used to address homelessness

by Jessica Taylor

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The conversation on homelessness solutions continues with Mayor Adler and judge Andy Brown joining Central Texas Interfaith leaders to discuss the need for more housing and support services. Tonight, the group says the number one priority for the nearly \$200 million is to build houses and offer more services.

The \$200 million comes from federal funding committed by the Travis County Commissioners and Austin City Council.

"Central Texas interfaith has always believed available, affordable, and safe housing for all of our neighbors is essential for shaping a community," said Reverend Miles Brandon.

Travis County commissioners voted back in September to bring in \$110 million, which will help build 2,000 homes across the region. Here is how it breaks down:

- \$50 million will go towards 700 units in Burleson Village
- \$6.5 million will go toward 100 Juniper Creek Apartments that come with supportive services
- \$3 million will go towards building 200 tiny homes at Camp Esperanza in Southeast Austin

- \$50 million will go towards the Travis County Supportive Housing Collaborative

"I just want to say how thankful I am for you as a partner, and implementing these 110 million dollars," said Brown.

Around \$106 million comes from the City of Austin. More than two-thirds of that amount is going towards supportive programming.

"That means crisis services, social workers, health clinicians, human support for folks transitioning out of homelessness or trying to prevent falling into homelessness," said Carlota Garcia.

These dollars are only part of the overall plan. Garcia says \$515 million will be invested over the next three years to support housing for 3,000 people. Right now, they're 77 million shorts of that goal.

"I think we're just months away from being able to put ourselves in the position where the three years spend to house over 3,000 people, we otherwise would not have housed," said Adler.

Both Mayor Adler and Judge Brown said they promise to work with interfaith leaders to help find more sources of funding for rental assistance and affordable housing.