



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — September 10, 2018
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HACA Receives 89 New Mainstream Vouchers to Provide Permanent Homes for Persons with Disabilities

The [Housing Authority of the City of Austin](#) (HACA) has received 89 additional vouchers from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide permanent affordable housing to non-elderly persons with disabilities who are transitioning out of homelessness or congregate living facilities.

This award brings the agency's total Mainstream Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV) allocation to 148. The Mainstream Voucher Program is a subset of the HCV program (formerly known as Section 8).

"HACA is dedicated to ensuring persons with disabilities and their families have a safe, healthy and affordable place to live," said HACA President & CEO Michael Gerber. "Working closely with our local partners, we help our residents with special needs live as independently as possible, and provide them with the opportunity to achieve their full potential."

HACA uses a portion of its Mainstream Vouchers to target at-risk populations with instruction from HUD. To do this, the Austin housing authority collaborates with local organizations including the [Ending Community Homelessness Coalition](#) (ECHO), [Integral Care](#), and [ARCIL, Inc.](#) on a comprehensive approach that provides subsidized housing vouchers and robust services to help individuals experiencing homelessness get back into safe and stable housing.

"These vouchers help leverage funding for support services so that people once homeless can now afford housing in Austin and have a real shot at maintaining the housing – and healing," said ECHO Executive Director Ann Howard.

Don Martinez, project director of Home By Choice at ARCIL, Inc. says the Mainstream Voucher Program helps further the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act by helping persons with disabilities live in the most integrated setting.

"Over the years, we have helped hundreds of individuals to transition from institutions back to their communities and families," Martinez said. "These vouchers are critical."

Darilynn Cardona-Beiler, Director of Adult Behavioral Health Systems with Integral Care, says the program also encourages partnerships with health and human service agencies with a demonstrated capacity to coordinate voluntary services and supports to enable individuals to live independently in the community.

“When individuals experiencing a disability are able to live independently and have the tools they need to thrive, they’re able to share their unique gifts and talents and make meaningful contributions to our community,” Cardona-Beiler said. “Partners in Travis County are coming together to meet the diverse needs of our population and ensure Austinites have support to reach health and well-being in a safe, stable home.”

About HACA: For more than 80 years, HACA has been a national leader in providing safe, healthy and affordable housing options in the Austin community. As one of the first housing authorities in the United States, HACA has been recognized as a “High Performer” for the last 15 years by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for its operations, as well as a perfect score of 100 percent in the Section Eight Management Assessment Program that measures effective and efficient administration of the HCV program. HACA is committed to fair housing and provides all qualified individuals with an equal opportunity to participate in HACA housing programs, activities and services.

About ECHO: The Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) is a nonprofit that plans, develops, prioritizes, and implements systemic, community-wide strategies to end homelessness in Austin and Travis County, Texas. Together with its community partners, ECHO uses strategic, data-driven decision making and innovative, bold thinking to transform the system to end homelessness.

About Integral Care: Integral Care helps people build health and well-being so everyone has the foundation to reach their full potential. They support adults and children living with mental illness, substance use disorder and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Their services include a 24-hour helpline for anyone who needs immediate support, ongoing counseling to improve mental health, drug and alcohol treatment to help with recovery, and housing to regain health and independence. Integral Care helps provide a strong foundation for well-being. Founded in 1967, Integral Care is the Local Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority for Travis County.

About ARCIL, Inc.: ARCIL, Inc. of Austin, Texas provides independent living services to persons with disabilities, their families, and communities throughout Travis and surrounding counties. ARCIL also provides services throughout Hays, Caldwell, Comal and Blanco counties at ARCIL San Marcos (San Marcos, Texas), and Williamson, Bell, Burnet, and Milam counties at ARCIL Round Rock (Round Rock, Texas). ARCIL is a private nonprofit corporation dedicated to the advancement and full participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life.

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