



DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Agenda Item

File ID: 2026-0385

Substitute

3/24/2026

Public Hearing: YES NO

Department: Board of Commissioner - District 2

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

A Resolution of the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia, Urging Adoption of the Unhoused Support and Services Plan; Establishing Implementation Expectations and Accountability; and for Other Lawful Purposes

Information Contact: Commissioner Michelle Long Spears

Phone Number: 404-371-2863

PURPOSE:

A Resolution of the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia, Urging Adoption of the Unhoused Support and Services Plan; Establishing Implementation Expectations and Accountability; and for Other Lawful Purposes

NEED/IMPACT:

The Unhoused Support and Services Plan needs to be formally adopted and operationalized so that DeKalb County can move from recommendations to accountable action in addressing homelessness and housing instability. While the Behavioral Health Stakeholder Group has developed a comprehensive plan with eight specific recommendations—each including estimated budgets and timelines—the resolution establishes clear implementation expectations, assigns organizational ownership, and requires structured project management, transparency, and quarterly progress reporting to the Governing Authority. By urging adoption and defining accountability measures, the resolution ensures coordinated leadership, cross-sector collaboration, and measurable outcomes necessary to produce sustained improvements in housing stability, service access, and community-level impact.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the substitute and authorize the chief executive officer or her designee to execute all necessary documents.

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA, URGING ADOPTION OF THE UNHOUSED SUPPORT AND SERVICES PLAN; ESTABLISHING IMPLEMENTATION EXPECTATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY; AND FOR OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSES

WHEREAS, DeKalb County is committed to advancing coordinated, compassionate, and effective strategies to address homelessness, housing instability, and related public health and safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, homelessness and insecure or unstable housing impacts individuals, families, seniors, youth and pets across DeKalb County, and requires a sustained, data-informed, and collaborative response involving county, municipal, nonprofit, philanthropic, faith and community partners; and

WHEREAS, the Behavioral Health Stakeholder Group undertook the development of an Unhoused Support and Services Plan, presented to the Governing Authority on January 6, 2026, which includes recommendations designed to strengthen prevention, engagement, and service coordination for individuals and families in insecure housing or experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Unhoused Support and Services Plan includes seven (8) workgroup recommendations, each of which contains an estimated budget and projected timeline, specifically:

1. Establish a DeKalb County Unhoused Support and Services Nonprofit Collaborative;
2. Develop a DeKalb Housing & Services Access Line;
3. Consolidated Dekalb Resource Guides and Create an Update Process;
4. Develop regional resource hubs;
5. Expand Coordinated Entry access and options;
6. Increase street outreach and case management capacity;
7. Establish a low-barrier family shelter;
8. Organize shared technology, data sharing, and community-level data reporting

WHEREAS, while the next steps required to advance each recommendation vary, a consistent and critical requirement across all recommendations is the identification of organizational ownership to ensure accountability, implementation, and ongoing oversight; and

WHEREAS, successful implementation of the Unhoused Support and Services Plan may require that each initiative:

1. Include service providers and individuals with lived experience throughout design, implementation, and evaluation;
2. Follow a defined project management structure with clear timelines, accountability, and consistent progress tracking; and

3. Include all relevant county and municipal partners involved in serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness; and
4. Require an implementation dashboard (public-facing or internal) be launched to support transparency; and

WHEREAS, establishing clear implementation leadership, defined timelines, and transparent progress reporting is necessary to ensure that the Plan’s recommendations produce measurable outcomes and sustain improvements in housing stability and support services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia, that the County hereby urges the formal adoption of the Unhoused Support and Services Plan, affirms its commitment to advancing the Plan’s eight (8) recommendations, where operationally, fiscally and legally feasible and permissible, through coordinated implementation and measurable accountability, and supports the incorporation of the final edition of the Unhoused Services and Support Plan into the DeKalb County Comprehensive Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Executive Officer, or designee(s), is respectfully urged to consider the recommendations presented by the stakeholder group, including identifying responsibility for convening partners via an Unhoused Stakeholder Workgroup or other applicable forum, advancing applicable procurement processes, developing implementation work plans as applicable, and providing ongoing oversight and performance monitoring, as provided within the DeKalb County Comprehensive Housing Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County requests quarterly progress updates to the Governing Authority (or an appropriate committee of the Board), including:

- status of each recommendation as incorporated and implemented via the DeKalb County Comprehensive Plan;
- selection outcomes for applicable initiatives advanced through procurement processes;
- project milestones and barriers as identified within applicable workplans;
- budget alignment and funding progress as identified under any applicable fiscal plans; and
- outcome measures and data reporting as applicable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County, this _____ day of _____, 2026.

CHAKIRA JOHNSON
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this _____ day of _____, 2026.

LORRAINE COCHRAN-JOHNSON
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BARBARA NORWOOD-SANDERS, CCC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

TERRY PHILLIPS
County Attorney