



DeKalb County Government

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

Agenda Item

File ID: 2026-0385

Substitute

4/28/2026

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 Consideration of Recommendations of the Unhoused Support and Services Plan as Part of the Broader Housing Plan of DeKalb County; Establishing Implementation Expectations and Accountability; Reaffirming the Housing Strategies Currently in Place; and for Other Lawful Purposes

Information Contact: Commissioner Michelle Long Spears, Commissioner Ted Terry, Commissioner LaDena Bolton

Phone Number: 404-371-2863

PURPOSE:

A Resolution of the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia, Urging Consideration of Recommendations of the Unhoused Support and Services Plan as Part of the Broader Housing Plan of DeKalb County; Establishing Implementation Expectations and Accountability; Reaffirming the Housing Strategies Currently in Place; and for Other Lawful Purposes

NEED/IMPACT:

The recommendations in the Unhoused Support and Services Plan need to be formally considered 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 consideration of these recommendations 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:

TBD

RECOMMENDATION:

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

Scope of Work: Interagency Work Sessions on the Unhoused Support and Services Plan and Comprehensive Housing Plan Alignment

Purpose

To convene key County and partner stakeholders to evaluate, align, and prioritize the recommendations of the Unhoused Support and Services Plan, and to ensure integration with the DeKalb County Comprehensive Housing Plan. These sessions will establish a shared understanding of current activities, feasibility considerations, and a coordinated path forward for implementation.

Convening Authority

The work sessions will be convened and facilitated by the Chief Housing Officer of DeKalb County, or his designee, in coordination with participating agencies and partners.

Participating Entities

- Behavioral Health Work Group
- Community Development Department
- DeKalb County Continuum of Care (CoC) Board
- Interdepartmental Housing Working Group
- Additional County departments and implementation partners, as appropriate

Work Session 1: Plan Review, Current Activities, and Feasibility Assessment

Objective

To establish a shared baseline understanding of the Unhoused Support and Services Plan recommendations, identify current implementation efforts, and assess the operational, fiscal, and legal feasibility of each recommendation.

Scope of Activities

- **Overview of Plan Recommendations**
 - Presentation of the eight recommendations within the Unhoused Support and Services Plan
 - Clarification of intended outcomes, timelines, and estimated resource requirements

- **Departmental and Partner Responses**

- Community Development Department, CoC Board, and relevant departments provide:
 - Status of recommendations currently under active pursuit
 - Existing programs or initiatives aligned with plan recommendations.
 - Identification of lead or supporting entities for each recommendation

- **Feasibility Assessment**

- Evaluation of each recommendation across three dimensions:
 - Operational feasibility (capacity, staffing, systems, coordination requirements)
 - Fiscal feasibility (funding availability, gaps, sustainability considerations)
 - Legal and regulatory feasibility (authority, compliance, procurement constraints)

- **Gap Identification**

- Identification of recommendations not currently under active pursuit
- Preliminary discussion of barriers and constraints

Deliverables

- Consolidated matrix of:
 - Recommendations
 - Current implementation status
 - Responsible entities
 - Feasibility assessments (operational, fiscal, legal)
- Summary of key gaps, risks, and constraints

Work Session 2: Strategic Alignment, Prioritization, and Plan Integration

Objective

To align the Unhoused Support and Services Plan recommendations with the Comprehensive Housing Plan, establish implementation priorities, and reconcile current activities with future planning.

Scope of Activities

- **Overview of the Comprehensive Housing Plan**
 - Presentation of goals, strategies, and implementation framework
 - Identification of relevant housing stability, homelessness, and supportive services components
- **Prioritization Framework and Discussion**
 - Establishment of prioritization criteria (e.g., impact, feasibility, cost, timeline, alignment with County goals)
 - Facilitated discussion to rank or tier recommendations based on agreed criteria
- **Reconciliation and Alignment**
 - Comparison of:
 - Prioritized recommendations
 - Current initiatives under active pursuit
 - Gaps identified in Work Session 1
 - Determination of:
 - Which recommendations should be incorporated into the Comprehensive Housing Plan
 - Which should proceed as standalone or parallel initiatives?
 - Sequencing and phasing of implementation
- **Implementation Pathways**
 - Identification of lead entities and governance structure
 - Alignment with funding strategies and potential resource allocation
 - Coordination with procurement and partnership approaches

Deliverables

- Prioritized list of recommendations (tiered or ranked)
- Alignment matrix linking:
 - Plan recommendations
 - Current activities
 - Comprehensive Housing Plan components

EXHIBIT A

- Recommended implementation roadmap, including sequencing and responsible parties.

Final Outputs (Post-Sessions)

- Executive summary of findings and decisions from both sessions
- Integrated implementation and alignment framework
- Recommendations for incorporation into County planning, budgeting, and program development processes

Expected Outcomes

- Shared interagency alignment on priorities and roles.
- Clear understanding of feasibility and constraints
- Coordinated strategy linking homelessness response and housing policy.
- Actionable pathway for implementation and integration into the Comprehensive Housing Plan

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA, URGING CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNHOUSED SUPPORT AND SERVICES PLAN AS PART OF THE BROADER HOUSING PLAN OF DEKALB COUNTY; ESTABLISHING IMPLEMENTATION EXPECTATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY; REAFFIRMING THE HOUSING STRATEGIES CURRENTLY IN PLACE; 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 eight (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, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners has demonstrated its ongoing commitment to addressing homelessness and supporting residents experiencing housing instability through targeted funding and programmatic investments, and several of these actions align with recommendations set forth in the Unhoused Support and Services Plan including:

- (i) the approval of \$1,746,197 on March 10, 2026, to support the DeKalb County Day Center to assist residents experiencing homelessness;
- (ii) the approval of \$570,000 on November 25, 2025, to support unhoused assistance services through emergency and temporary housing, including shelters;
- (iii) the approval of \$120,000 in funding secured by Commissioner Michelle Long Spears from the 2025 general operating budget to launch the unhoused planning process in May 2025;
- (iv) the approval of \$100,000 in supplemental funding from Commissioner Robert Patrick to expand homeless street outreach efforts, resulting in the addition of personnel capacity; and
- (v) the expansion of Coordinated Entry Services through increased staffing from three (3) to eleven (11) employees, supported by a combination of funding sources, including a \$183,000 HUD Coordinated Entry Grant, \$166,000 in HOME-ARP funds, \$70,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, and \$41,000 in funding from the administration; and

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

1. Incorporates service providers and individuals with lived experience throughout the design, implementation, and evaluation phases;
2. Adheres to a defined project management structure with clear timelines, established accountability, and consistent progress tracking;
3. Engages all relevant county and municipal partners involved in serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness; and
4. Includes the development and implementation of a dashboard (public-facing or internal) to support transparency and performance monitoring.

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 consideration of the recommendations 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 inclusion of various aspects of the Unhoused Support and Services Plan within the DeKalb County Comprehensive Housing Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Executive Officer, through the Chief Housing Officer or their designee, is respectfully urged to consider and the recommendations presented by the stakeholder group, including: identifying responsibility for convening partners via an Unhoused Stakeholder Workgroup or other appropriate forum led by the Chief Housing Officer

or their designee(s) (see *Exhibit A* attached); advancing applicable procurement processes; developing implementation work plans as appropriate; and providing ongoing oversight and performance monitoring, consistent with the DeKalb County Comprehensive Housing Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County requests the Chief Housing Officer provide 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 Housing 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

TERRY PHILLIPS
County Attorney

DeKalb County, Georgia