

Summary of Strategic Plan to Reduce & Prevent Homelessness (SPRPH) Public Comment Period

The purpose of this document is to share a summary of the comprehensive public input campaign for the Strategic Plan to Reduce and Prevent Homelessness (SPRPH) between September 5 and September 27, 2023. Specifically, this document includes an overview of activities offered to the public, a thematic summary of comments received, and ACCGov's staff's response to these comments. This document was also shared with M&C as part of the Agenda Report associated with the scheduled vote on October 3, 2023. To learn more about the SPRPH and to download a copy of the most updated version, please visit www.accgov.com/arpa.

Summary of Activities

As outlined on pages 8-9 of the SPRPH, ACC stakeholders and residents were engaged in the development phase of the SPRPH between December 2022 -July 2023 through activities like:

1. 20 interviews with people currently or at risk of homelessness
2. 27 interviews with local service providers
3. ACCGov staff and stakeholders, including non-profit and for-profit housing developers, non-profit agencies, and business leaders
4. 3 targeted surveys (business community, students, and service providers) that garnered 327 unique responses
5. 8 listening sessions, attended by 30 stakeholders
6. HOME-ARP Allocation Plan activities (surveys, meetings, interviews, etc.)
7. Collaboration with the Athens Homeless Coalition to develop and disseminate a survey specifically for landlords; 19 responses were received between May 3-July 26, 2023
8. The accgov.com/arpa website was regularly updated with copies of presentations delivered during advisory committee meetings, summaries of proposed strategies, and details of engagement activities outlined above.

Between September 5 and September 27, 2023, residents were also asked to provide input on the final draft of the SPRPH before the Mayor and Commission's vote on October 3, 2023:

1. The accgov.com/arpa website was updated to include:
 - Full draft of plan, as well as a one-sheeter outlining key strategies in English and Spanish
 - Video recording of staff presenting an overview of the key components of the plan
 - Recording from August 16, 2023 ARPA Homelessness Advisory Committee meeting
 - Description and schedule of all public input opportunities related to this plan
2. Four in-person community forums whereby staff presented an overview of key plan components and accepted oral and written public comment. These events were held at locations and times accessible to stakeholders *and* residents who are most impacted by housing affordability:
 - Forum #1: Heard Park Multipurpose Room, Tuesday, September 5, 2023 (11 am -1 pm)
 - Forum #2: Snipes Water Resource Center, Wednesday, September 13, 2023 (3-5 pm)
 - Forum #3: ACC Library, Wednesday, September 20, 2023 (11am -1 pm)
 - Forum #4: ACC Library, Wednesday, September 20, 2023 (6-8 pm)

3. Online input form for individuals to provide written, confidential comment (September 5-27, 2023).

These activities were promoted heavily by staff through ACCGov News Flash, emails to stakeholders and non-profits (including Neighborhood Leaders), social media posts, flyers and A-frame posters in College Square, and interviews with local outlets.

Additionally, the public is invited to provide additional input and comments to the Mayor and Commission in relation to the SPRPH at the rescheduled M&C Regular Voting Session (Oct. 3, 2023). The meeting will be held at City Hall, beginning at 6 p.m. For more information, please visit www.accgov.com/publicinput.

Public Comment Received

Over the public comment period (September 5 – September 27, 2023), ACCGov staff received a total of 915 comments and questions as outlined below. Residents were encouraged to participate in as many of the activities as possible, so it is difficult to discern a unique number of residents who participated in these activities (e.g., a resident may have submitted comment via the online form, attended a forum and sent an email to staff). Please note that the analysis below does not include comments or questions emailed directly to Mayor and Commission.

| Activity | Dates | # of residents | # of unique comments |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Online Form | 09/05/2023-09/27/2023 | 98 | 711 |
| Email to Staff | 09/06/2023-09/27/2023 | 13 | 15 |
| Forum 1 @ Heard Park Multipurpose Room | 09/05/2023 | 0 | 174 |
| Forum 2 @ Snipes Water Resource Center | 09/13/2023 | 40 | |
| Forum 3 @ ACC Library | 09/20/2023 | 18 | |
| Forum 4 @ ACC Library | 09/20/2023 | 42 | |
| Original M&C Agenda Setting | 09/19/2023 | 4 | 5 |
| Comment source not recorded | 09/05/23-09/27/23 | 9 | 10 |
| TOTALS | | 215 | 915 |

Comment Analysis:

Sentiment (Does commenter support strategy?)

| Strategy # | Neutral Sentiment | Against | In Support | Percent of comments in support of strategy | Percent of comments against strategy | Total responses for strategy |
|------------|-------------------|---------|------------|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | 6 | 23 | 30 | 50.8% | 39.0% | 59 |
| 2 | 9 | 17 | 34 | 56.7% | 28.3% | 60 |
| 3 | 7 | 23 | 26 | 46.4% | 41.1% | 56 |
| 4 | 8 | 21 | 35 | 54.7% | 32.8% | 64 |
| 5 | 16 | 26 | 23 | 35.4% | 40.0% | 65 |
| 6 | 13 | 38 | 33 | 39.3% | 45.2% | 84 |
| 7 | 14 | 22 | 23 | 39.0% | 37.3% | 59 |

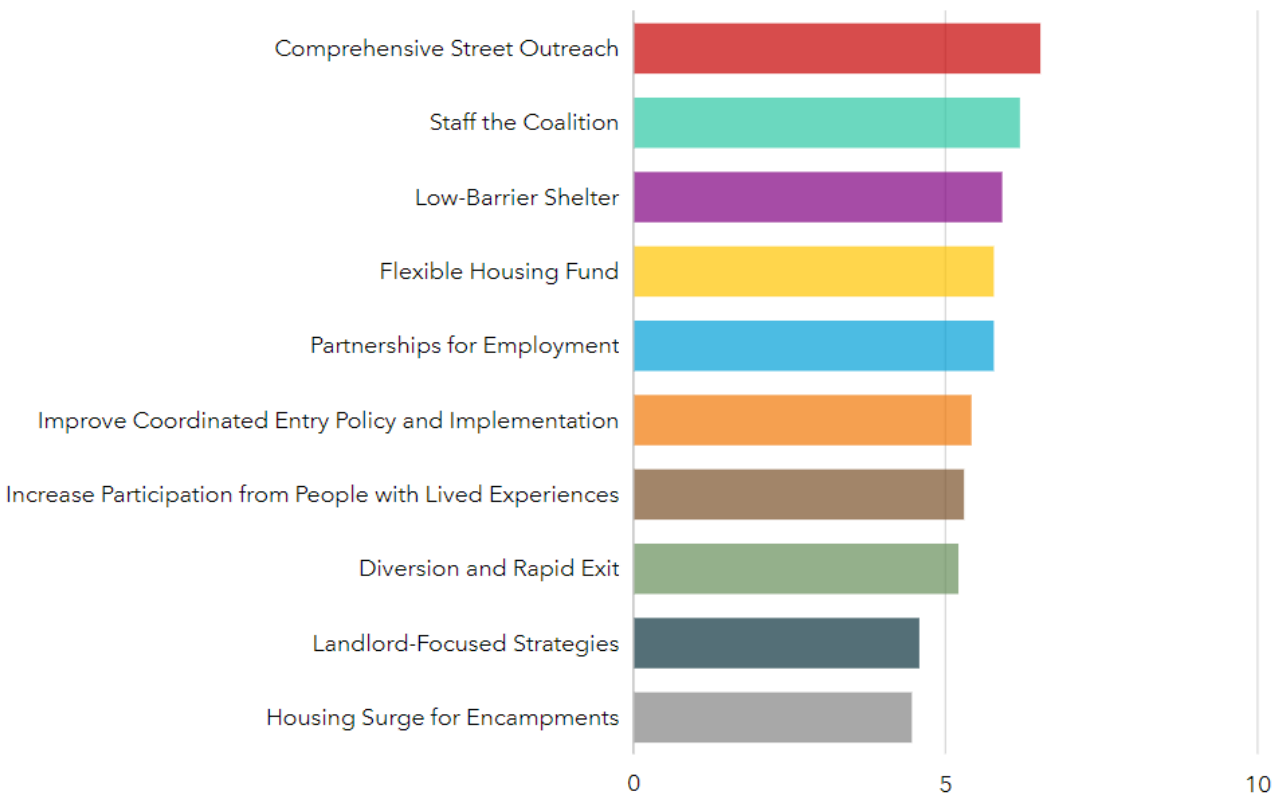
| | | | | | | |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----|
| 8 | 7 | 22 | 29 | 50.0% | 37.9% | 58 |
| 9 | 15 | 27 | 21 | 33.3% | 42.9% | 63 |
| 10 | 8 | 19 | 45 | 62.5% | 26.4% | 72 |
| General | 101 | 107 | 67 | 24.4% | 38.9% | 275 |
| Total | 204 | 345 | 366 | n/a | n/a | 915 |

Top 15 comment themes

| Rank | Comment Subject | Number of Comments |
|----------|--|--------------------|
| 1 | Support Partnerships for Employment (Strategy 10) and other opportunities for workforce development and/or education | 43 |
| 2 | Funding more services & acting as a hub encourages more homeless to come to ACC | 42 |
| 3 | Plan should include development of mental health housing and treatment (tie-in to Behavioral Health ARPA bucket) | 30 |
| 4 | Individuals must want to help themselves for services provided to make a lasting impact | 27 |
| 5 | Support for Comprehensive Street Outreach (Strategy 4) | 26 |
| 6 | Support for paid COC participation of people with lived experience (Strategy 2) | 25 |
| 7 | There should be behavior expectations for people accessing services (drug testing, searching for/maintaining employment, participating in mental health treatment, etc.) | 24 |
| 8 (tie) | Increase the availability of affordable housing (tie-in to Affordable Housing Investment Strategy) | 22 |
| 8 (tie) | Support for Coordinated Entry and better data integration between providers (Strategy 3) | 22 |
| 9 | Funds are not being used effectively (existing and proposed funding) | 20 |
| 10 (tie) | Prioritize creation of additional shelter beds (Strategy 6) *primarily general support, but some specified that they only support higher barrier shelters | 19 |
| 10 (tie) | Support for the Flexible Housing Fund (Strategy 8) | 19 |
| 10 (tie) | Support strengthening the CoC through staffing and enhanced collaboration between organizations (Strategy 1) | 19 |
| 10 (tie) | Concern with amount of funding going to salaries and administration | 19 |
| 10 (tie) | Concern about tax burden on ACC residents | 19 |
| 11 | Concern about sustainability of programs once ARPA funding runs out | 18 |
| 12 (tie) | Support for Landlord Focused Strategies (Strategy 9), including a variety of specific strategy suggestions | 16 |
| 12 (tie) | Need a clear measure of success and likewise, failure | 16 |
| 13 | ACC should work with surrounding counties to bolster their capacity & discourage drop-offs | 15 |
| 14 (tie) | Reduce panhandling, begging, urban camping, and littering by homeless population | 13 |
| 14 (tie) | Do not support additional low barrier shelter (Strategy 6) | 13 |
| 14 (tie) | Current level of homeless presence in ACC creates a threatening environment | 13 |
| 14 (tie) | Prioritize substance abuse treatment | 13 |

| | | |
|-----------------|---|----|
| 14 (tie) | Services provided are not aligned with actual needs and don't address root problems | 13 |
| 15 | General support for Diversion and Rapid Exit (Strategy 7) | 12 |

Strategy Prioritization Results (online survey responses only)



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Received by Staff:

1. How is ACCGov going to address root causes of homelessness, including:

a. Mental illness & substance abuse

Mayor and Commission allocated ARPA funding into five “buckets,” or focal areas, on March 1, 2022. This allocation included \$4 million for behavioral health. That funding has been committed to provide additional financing for SPLOST 2020 Project 28, Mental Health Recovery Facility, following a recommendation from the Safety and Justice Committee, and then a Mayor and Commission vote on June 6, 2023. More information and current updates about this project can be accessed on the SPLOST 2020 [website](#).

Additionally, several of the strategies in the SPRPH will assist individuals in connecting with services, including mental health and substance abuse treatment. For example, Strategy 4, Comprehensive Street Outreach (pg. 32) will enhance street outreach workers’ ability to form relationships with and provide support to unsheltered individuals. Those employees will provide case management and check-ins needed to ensure that clients are able to access (and continue accessing) needed care. Likewise, implementation of Strategy 3, Coordinated Entry

Improvement (pg. 26), will assist providers in assessing each individual's needs and referring them to the appropriate services.

b. Lack of income

Many commenters pointed out that there is a population of working homeless who, despite maintaining employment, do not receive adequate income to meet their needs. Many other homeless individuals face barriers to employment including high childcare costs, lack of transportation, inability to obtain a job due to lack of a permanent address or bank account, criminal record, and other varied issues. The SPRPH addresses these needs directly through Strategy 10, Partnerships for Employment (pg. 52). This strategy will facilitate coordination between service providers and employment partners. The business survey completed during SPRPH development (see Appendix D, p. 71) indicated that there was significant interest from local businesses in playing a role in supporting successful employment and transition of homeless individuals. If implemented, this strategy will work to facilitate the connections and support needed to assist homeless individuals in obtaining and maintaining employment. This strategy may also assist homeless individuals in accessing the training needed to enhance employment prospects and obtain a higher paying job.

A second strategy which may be instrumental assisting individuals at risk of homelessness in maintaining or obtaining employment is Strategy 7, Diversion and Rapid Exit (pg. 41). This strategy will pair intensive case management with limited flexible funding, which could come from Strategy 8 (Support Fund to Reduce & Prevent Homelessness, p. 46). For example, this funding could be used to assist an individual who is already employed with a car repair, ensuring that the individual does not lose their job. Alternately, funding could be used to assist with employment start-up costs such as uniforms or equipment, allowing an individual to obtain employment.

Mayor and Commission has allocated an additional \$4 million of ARPA funding to [Business Development and Workforce Support](#). This allocation is meant to connect Athens residents with high wage employment. A Business Development and Workforce Support Task Force has been convened and will be meeting from August to December 2023 to define achievable outcomes and programming recommendations for this bucket area.

c. Lack of affordable housing

Given the inherent inter-relatedness between affordable housing and homelessness, strategic plans were developed concurrently by HR&A Advisors and The Cloudburst Groups, respectively, in collaboration with the ACCGov Housing and Community Development Department and interdepartmental ARPA team, and in consultation with local stakeholders and community members. If accepted on October 3, 2023, the [Affordable Housing Investment Strategy](#) will guide ACCGov in obtaining and dedicating additional funding to affordable housing projects.

To date, ACCGov has allocated ~\$15 million in ARPA funding to affordable housing projects including new affordable home construction, home renovation for low-income homeowners,

and the North Downtown Athens Redevelopment project. More information about these projects is available on the [ARPA Affordable Housing](#) web page.

Additionally, the SPRPH seeks to eliminate some of the barriers unhoused individuals face in accessing affordable housing directly through Strategy 9, Landlord-Focused Strategies (pg. 47). Many homeless individuals who obtain rapid rehousing vouchers or Section 8 vouchers are unable to find housing due to a lack of properties accepting these vouchers locally. While many commenters noted that “it is not in a property manager’s business interest to accept a “risky” tenant such as a homeless person,” this strategy will address those concerns by providing initiatives and risk mitigation measures paired with ongoing support of the tenant to promote a successful transition. The goal of this strategy is to increase the number of units available and willing to individuals transitioning out of homelessness.

2. How will programs be sustained after ARPA funding is depleted?

While some of the funding in this plan is one-time in nature (for example, the bulk of the \$2.2 million to build or rehabilitate additional low-barrier shelter units), there will be ongoing costs associated with most of the strategies. One of the goals of this plan is to strengthen the CoC’s competitiveness for federal funding and capacity to apply for other sources of funding, as outlined in Goal 1, Strengthen CoC Capacity (pg. 23). This will be accomplished through hiring a dedicated staff person to spearhead these efforts, as well as through improved data collection, which will better demonstrate ACC’s need for federal funding. ACC’s Mayor and Commission may also choose to consider other local methods to provide ongoing funding.

3. Why is Athens a hub for homeless services? It seems that adding more services will continue to enforce ACC’s reputation as a “Hub” and lead to more homeless individuals coming here. ACC taxpayers should not be expected to pay for services for individuals migrating in from other areas. How do we get neighboring counties to pull their weight?

Athens-Clarke County is a regional hub for a lot of different services and offerings, including education, healthcare, culture & arts, and social services. According to Table 5 in the SPRPH (pg. 38 and included below), ACC has the greatest number of year-round shelter and transitional housing beds in the region. Of all surrounding counties, only Barrow County has 25 transitional housing beds.

Table 5: Housing Inventory in Neighboring Counties, 2021¹⁴

| County | 2021 Year-Round Shelter Beds | 2021 Transitional Housing Beds |
|------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Barrow | 0 | 25 |
| Jackson | 0 | 0 |
| Madison | 0 | 0 |
| Oconee | 0 | 0 |
| Oglethorpe | 0 | 0 |
| Clarke | 139 | 22 |

Source: HIC

While Athens may offer more homeless services than surrounding counties, the [2023 Point-in-Time Count](#) (PIT) identified that the most common reason why homeless individuals came to ACC was because of “Family/Friends” (the second most common reason was “I previously lived in ACC”, and the third was “Better Resources/Services”). The 2023 PIT count also identified that 79% of homeless individuals surveyed have lived in Athens for at least 1 year and that the last county of permanent residence for the majority of respondents was Athens-Clarke. In short, while individuals may be coming to ACC specifically seeking shelter or homeless services, the vast majority of individuals experiencing homelessness are county residents.

Goal #1 of the SPRPH seeks to Strengthen CoC Capacity. In doing so, the Athens Homeless Coalition (currently the governing body of the Athens-Clarke County CoC) would have increased capacity to establish new and grow existing relationships with service providers across county lines. The Athens Homeless Coalition has expressed a strong desire to help those organizations (e.g., share best practices) to increase their capacity to better address homelessness in neighboring counties. The Mayor & Commission have also expressed a desire in opening lines of communication with surrounding local governments about this issue. Finally, residents may also express their concerns about this issue with elected officials at the state level.

4. What are the outcomes of the \$2.5 million in funding to the First Step sanctioned homeless encampment? What is the encampment’s status and what will happen over the coming months?

The First Step encampment has been in operation since March 2022 and has served 311 individuals in that time (numbers provided through August 2023 reporting period). As with other ACCGov ARPA contracts, the operator submits monthly reports detailing expenditures and performance outcomes. Detailed camp outcomes are available on the [First Step Homeless Encampment dashboard](#) on the [ARPA Data Hub](#).

The sanctioned homeless encampment contract is set to expire on December 31, 2023. Mayor and Commission will be voting on October 3, 2023 on a transition plan, including hotel vouchers for current residents during the colder months (January-April 2024). The full transition plan is available as Attachment 1 on the [Agenda Item](#).

5. What is the housing first model? Has it been shown to work?

As defined by the [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#), “Housing First is a homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus ending their homelessness and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life. This approach is guided by the belief that people need basic necessities like food and a place to live before attending to anything less critical, such as getting a job, budgeting properly, or attending to substance use issues.” A brief overview of the history and evidence base around the housing first model is available from HUD here:

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/periodicals/em/spring-summer-23/highlight2.html>

6. If this plan is implemented how will success be measured? What data will we use to determine which strategies are working?

There are a variety of ways to measure the success of the plan. For example, the total number of homeless individuals in ACC is an obvious metric that comes to mind for many. This is measured through annual Point in Time counts and through the use of HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) data. However, the total homeless population can be heavily influenced by outside variables, including broader economic and nationwide trends in homelessness rates. Additionally, as Coordinated Entry practices improve, ACC expects to gain access to data from service providers who were not previously using HMIS or sharing by-name data with other providers. This improvement in data management could lead to the temporary appearance of an increase in homelessness, when in fact the rise is due to better data collection.

Thus, it is important to look at a variety of performance measures to determine the success of the plan. Each strategy of the SPRPH lists a few performance measures suggested by the Cloudburst Group, along with methods to track those measures. Monitoring the number of exits from homelessness, average length of time to exit homelessness, 6-months and 12-month outcomes following an exit from homelessness, and successful connection to services such as mental health care, are just a few of the methods ACC can use to measure the success of the plan. If numbers are not trending in the right direction (for example, if the average time to exit homelessness is increasing rather than decreasing) ACCGov will work to identify potential causes and will work with contracted service providers to adjust their programs to address any issues. Please see pages 61-63 of the SPRPH for a summary of proposed tracking and reporting of activities related to the strategies outlined within.

7. How many positions are funded through this plan? How does paying people to deal with homelessness help prevent homelessness?

If the SPRPH is accepted by the M&C, then ACCGov's Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) will release a series of Requests for Proposals (RFP) to solicit organizations interested in providing the programs outlined in the 10 strategies (related strategies will be grouped together, rather than releasing 10 separate RFPs). Each organization submitting a proposal sets their own budget, including any new employees required to successfully implement their proposed program. Depending on existing capacity and employee roles within the organization, this could be a full-time staff request, part-time staff request, or an organization may choose to use existing staff and request funding for other elements of the program. HCD will evaluate and recommend organizations to receive funding based on overall capacity and feasibility, agency risk, and value of the services provided. Mayor & Commission would then vote on the recommended providers and decide final awards. Due to this competitive RFP process, the exact number of positions funded through this plan is not known at this time. However, a full-time position is anticipated for Strategy 1, and full or part time positions are anticipated for other strategies. Anticipated components of funding are listed on pages 58-60.

Generally, service providers need experienced and qualified staff to implement their programs designed to prevent and/or reduce homelessness. It is case managers, for example, who meet with individuals experiencing homelessness (or at risk of) on a regular basis to identify ways in which they

can exit the system. For example, staff involved in Strategy 7, Implement Diversion and Rapid Exit (pg. 41) would offer intensive case management over a short time duration to assist households at risk of homelessness in identifying alternative solutions and accessing funding to address temporary or one-time needs. Similarly, staff working to implement Strategy 8, Flexible Housing Fund and Strategy 9, Landlord-Focused Initiatives could help *reduce* homelessness by assisting individuals currently experiencing homelessness directly with housing-focused strategies

8. How does this plan help address the needs of homeless families and students? What about other specialized populations (e.g., survivors of domestic violence, LGBTQIA+, etc.)?

None of these strategies specifically exclude the needs of families, students or other specialized populations that are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness. In implementing any strategy outlined in this plan, ACCGov staff will work closely with service providers selected through a competitive RFP process to ensure that the specific needs of specialized populations are considered.

Full Public Comments

The following table includes comments received from staff during the activities outlined above. They do not include comments emailed directly to Mayor and Commission. Comments submitted through the online survey or email appear here verbatim. Staff made every effort possible to capture comments shared during in-person meetings (e.g., agenda setting and public forums) as close to verbatim as possible.

| Source | Goal # | Strategy # | Comment |
|--------|--------|------------|--|
| Forum | 1 | 1 | What is different between this and other bureaucratic efforts, I was there for united way - 10 years to eradicate homelessness. I was there with the VA doing the housing first voucher program in ACC. We were at or stayed near zero with housing first. This, unlike other bureaucratic initiatives is that it requires collaboration and it should be noted and not disregarded just because it comes from government. How do we get Jackson County and Barrow County to pull their weight? It is by getting to know them. You are not going to get the Barrow County sheriff and tell them what to do, but you can walk up to collaborate and get to know them. To me it feels like we are moving in the same way, toward collaboration. We are looking to diminish problems. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | <p>Ethical Dilemma: The plan's goals could attract homeless individuals to Athens-Clarke County. Without adequate staffing for the Athens Homeless Coalition, we risk abandoning these individuals, worsening the homelessness issue.</p> <p>Staffing Concerns: The plan outlines the need for dedicated staffing for the Athens Homeless Coalition but lacks clarity on long term funding. This raises questions about the plan's feasibility.</p> <p>Recommendations: Update the plan to specify funding for staffing.</p> |

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| | | | <p>Engage stakeholders for dedicated funding. Develop contingency plans and ethical guidelines.</p> <p>The plan is ambitious but lacks details on long term crucial staffing funding. Failure to address this could exacerbate homelessness and poses an ethical dilemma.</p> |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | What happens when the ARPA funds run out? Will this fall onto the tax payers? Seems like a good idea although more administration means less efficiency. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | MR. SHANE, MS.BRIDGET, MYSELF AND ANYONE WHO BELIEVES THAT HOME IS ANYWHERE THAT PERSON'S HEART IS AND THAT WE CAN HELP THEM FIND THEIR WAY TO FOLLOWING THEIR DREAMS AND BELIEFS AND THEY HAVE THE MUSTARD SEED OF FAITH THAT EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OKAY!!!! |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | Not going to work. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | <p>I've been collecting homeless data for 3 years and have never once met or been contacted by anyone from AHC. I've never seen them in camps. Any data or point in time count they provide I wouldn't trust.</p> <p>Other than the mayor picking up trash on the side of the road from time to time I have never seen a county commissioner in a camp or engaging with the homeless. They push it off on other county divisions to deal with so they don't look like the bad guys.</p> |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | no do not agree to this. let other counties do there share. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | <p>First, stupid acronym - do better as immature persons are not going to take this seriously with a sophomoric name.</p> <p>While there is a nexus of homelessness, mental health, substance abuse, and other underlying issues which drive homelessness (and homelessness is an extremely broad term with elements inclusive of systemic issues, long-term vs. short-term housing gaps, etc.) - you should have partnerships with providers - not allow providers (e.g., Advantage, UGA) to drive the discussions and outreach initiatives as they have vested interests in service delivery elements and evaluation.</p> <p>Also, hypothetically, why is it that a member of the Commission could sit on a service provider's board and also vote / advocate for the provision of funds for a service provider?</p> |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | We need to spend money on a Coalition in order to decide how to spend money on homeless people? Seems like a very bad use of tax payer dollars. It accounts for more than 50% of the money we are spending on Goal 1 and only serves to create more bureaucrats instead of going to the people your goal is to assist. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | Sensible plan |

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| Survey | 1 | 1 | NO! That would be a waste of money when you got Organizations already doing the work needed. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | No! The Homeless Coalition is primarily providers looking to increase their funding and grow their business. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | Reduce available services to homeless and stop providing for them. They chose to be homeless. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | I agree with staffing the coalition but need a vetting process and an accountant. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | This is ok- depending on how well the people on the coalition understand homelessness. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | I don't want more government workers. This will cost taxpayers too much. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | How does over paying people to deal with homelessness prevent homelessness? In my experience you're going to hire more bureaucrats that will just keep telling us they need more money to fix the problem. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | There is zero reason to spend almost half a million dollars to pay a staff for a Homeless Coalition. This is a waste of money. We have countless resources and churches that have dealt with the homeless and low income problems in our city for years. Spending this money for "staff" is a waste and typical of the Government trying to look busy and still not fix the problems at hand. Use the experienced individuals that have worked in the trenches for years. Jamie at Sparrow's Nest is the first person that comes to mind. He deals with the homeless in our community with compassion and truly wants them to succeed. Common Sense is a free commodity. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | My answer is going to be the same for all of these sections. All of these programs are doing nothing but incentivizing homeless to come to Athens. My wife has been harassed and followed by homeless chasing her into her gym in the morning. A homeless man waving a knife approached me last weekend. Over Christmas a homeless set up his tent on the back portion of my neighbors fence. Spending this money will do nothing but have more homeless move into the area and continue to exasperate the problem. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | As long as there is strict guideline as to the job expected by each associate working and that there is oversight to the funds. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | This is a sham just to line politicians pockets. This money will not be utilized correctly, and will help nothing. It's disgusting. Watch and see. These comments that I've made will prove true. Nothing will change. It will only get worse and the money will be gone! |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | Stop giving the tax payers money to the homeless. They can find a damn job and if you keep raising taxes like you do by over \$100 every single chance you get, we will all be homeless. You should all |

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| | | | be ashamed to kick out the loyal hardworking homeowners in this town to give someone who doesn't even work a handout. And stop using mental health as an excuse. You know other counties tell them to come here for a reason and it's because you give them everything they want. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | Believe this is required to achieve results. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | Please do not waste \$400,000 that could house many many people experiencing homelessness on a payroll |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | No |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | This is so important. We are much too big of a city to have such an important function done by volunteers. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | I support dedicated staffing but hope the goal of such staffing is to decrease the government role in the Coalition and turn services over to a coordinated group of non-profits. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | These funds are essential for work to be done to effectively coordinate with the homelessness population |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | This is all nonsense speak. You can help people that don't want to be helped. There are some homeless in athens that just need help to get back on their feet (very few) the rest are active drug addicts/alcoholics who do not want help. Unless you can force people into treatment for their addiction and subsequent mental issues they will not change. They have no reason to bc their needs are met by government |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | Dedicated staff with a clearly defined mission and performance measures in place are required from the outset of any program aimed at reducing homelessness. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | This is an insane amount of money for staff. The money needs to be re-allocated. This entire plan is a waste of tax dollars. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | How do you intend to fund these programs when the federal money is no longer available? |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | I agree that this is an important strategy and should be done. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | How many positions does 400k get you? |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | The quality of life in Athens is quickly headed down and much of it has to do with homeless camps established all over the city. Our intown neighborhoods have been taken over by these encampments, some of which are not so much a home to a group of people but a hangout for the group and for people that aren't homeless at all. Unless the staff of the coalition and the people that have a lived experience are all in on this problem and really care about working for these people and for Athens, and unless they have the strong support of the city and our government, this won't succeed. Right now, the city doesn't seem to care what is going on for the people that live near these camps in these neighborhoods who have worked hard to make the neighborhood what it is. This is a good plan. I hope for success. |

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| Survey | 1 | 1 | Agree with the proposal |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | Fully support this. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | Wise provision. This staff need to be paid, with benefits. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | The Coalition should most definitely be staffed, but it should be staffed by people that have lived experienced, not necessarily with people with acronyms after their names. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | Bussing them to a sanctuary city would be far cheaper and more effective. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | Why can't this be done within the existing housing departments of Athens Clarke County? Why do we need a new separate entity that spends enough money to give 100 people funds to pay for lodging for three months so they can get a JOB! ? |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | It is imperative to staff the coalition so that there is an entity collecting and analyzing data so that we know what strategies are working, how to best spend funds dedicated to homelessness. Also, a staffed coalition will be able to seek out and leverage more grant funding, taking the burden off ACC local funding sources. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | I wholeheartedly support the Athens Homeless Coalition's strategic direction to address our local housing and homelessness issues. Their move to self-leadership, inspired by similar CoCs, is commendable. Their focus on full-time staffing, trust-building, and infrastructure development shows foresight and dedication to long-term solutions. By emphasizing community organizing and understanding HUD regulations, the Coalition displays a well-rounded, informed approach. I believe this strategy, with its comprehensive vision and drive, will greatly benefit our community in the coming years. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | I support. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | I fully agree with the plan entirely. To address the problem of homelessness, a dedicated staff is necessary. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | This group definitely needs to move beyond an all volunteer organization. With adequate staff, they could drastically increase the funding that comes into Athens to address homelessness. This may be the place to collect data and start really using data driven solutions. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | Creating staffing opportunities will ensure more consistency for the AHC. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | Sounds like people are just hired to push paperwork and show numbers. Not really helping the problem. Waist of money |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | Do it! |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | Require 20% of members be people with lived experience. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | Please see comments in question #6: Low-Barrier Shelter. |
| Survey | 1 | 1 | This would be an indefinite commitment and the amount would only increase, probably year by year. What happens when we are out of ARPA funds? |

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| Email | 1 | 2 | I'm not clear on how much we should pay those with lived-experience to serve on the Board. The plan did not talk amounts, but mentioned an hourly rate. A small amount works, but a large amount may encourage people to seek this position just for the pay. |
| Email | 1 | 2 | I love the power-sharing stuff and the importance of listening. I've been involved in self-advocacy in the IDD world, and I like the idea of organizations and spokespeople who can get information from their peers and pass it on. I did this with a large day program in the 90s, and the first thing they communicated was their dislike of having only diet/healthy drinks in the soda machines. Over the strong objections of the parents, we listened. |
| Email | 1 | 2 | I love the idea of creating a lived experience committee. They could have a representative seat on the Board for the nonprofit. This enables the homeless committee to organize and easily forward the most pressing issues to the Board. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | <p>As someone who has lived through homelessness in Athens, I appreciate the plan's intent to include a committee for people with lived experience. However, several concerns need immediate attention:</p> <p>Accountability: The committee's recommendations must be binding to avoid becoming a token gesture. Clear metrics for success and follow-up actions are essential.</p> <p>Burnout: Revisiting traumatic experiences can be emotionally draining. Support mechanisms for committee members are crucial to prevent burnout.</p> <p>Tokenism: The risk of the committee serving as a symbolic entity rather than an influential body is high. Genuine power-sharing is key to meaningful inclusion.</p> <p>Funding: While compensation is mentioned, the source of this funding is unclear. This could hinder the committee's effectiveness and long-term sustainability.</p> |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Sounds good. Could be helpful. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | THE STAFF WILL HAVE THE SPIRIT OF A SERVANT AND THEY ARE DEDICATED TO HELPING OTHERS BECAUSE JESUS SAID TO LOVE OTHERS AS YOURSELF.(PHILIPPINES 2:3-5 |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | How is that supposed to work? |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Why? Our city is over run with Homelessness. I am all for housing them in areas like the Barber Street Encampment. However you refuse to pass an urban camping bill. They lay everywhere downtown. They trash up our streets and are a blight on our community and you do nothing. |

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| Survey | 1 | 2 | You're enabling the problem at this point. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | do not want this. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | This should be an element of the general wellness outreach approach for all communities in ACCGov, not just homelessness. You also need to examine elements of short-term vs. long-term unhoused. To focus just on long-term unhoused and their experiences, would prove unwise. You also should seek to understand the connectedness and sense of community as experienced by the unhoused - not just examine preconceived notions of community disconnect and desired housing alternatives. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Who or how are we deciding what people with lived experience participate? What message are we trying to promote? My understanding is that we plan on educating the homeless how to properly use the programs we have in place to maximize the benefits provided to them by the city. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Makes sense, so long as this is well balanced to not overburden those moving through or beyond homelessness |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | No. Separate the over half of unsheltered homeless people with mental illness and/or substance abuse from the "working homeless" who are primarily comprised of fatherless working mothers with their children. Different needs, different solutions. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Quit spending tax dollars to care for people who have no desire to change. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | 100% yes, also include community members with experience in working with the homeless- workers at the Advantage Day Reporting Center, public defender's office, probation, etc. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | I think this is the most important piece. As a person who has experienced homelessness, we have a wealth of knowledge to share about what homeless people actually need. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | I don't want my tax dollars going to this. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Yes let's keep the poor, poor. Keep the lowest common denominators together. Good Plan. Or have better role models to follow than a bunch of losers in the same situation. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Why are you paying someone to tell you their experience?! All you have to do is drive around our city and see that people are addicts and have lost there way putting themselves into the homeless situation. It is the same story on repeat! You do not need to pay someone for their life experience. Interview various homeless people for free. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | My answer is going to be the same for all of these sections. All of these programs are doing nothing but incentivizing homeless to come to Athens. My wife has been harassed and followed by homeless chasing her into her gym in the morning. A homeless man waving a knife approached me last weekend. Over Christmas a homeless set up his tent on the back portion of my neighbors |

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| | | | fence. Spending this money will do nothing but have more homeless move into the area and continue to exasperate the problem. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | This is a sham just to line politicians pockets. This money will not be utilized correctly, and will help nothing. It's disgusting. Watch and see. These comments that I've made will prove true. Nothing will change. It will only get worse and the money will be gone! |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | I doubt this will help and you all know how the people of Clarke county feel about this topic. How about stopping the panhandling and begging on each road. Makes us look like trash and I'm ashamed of this county. You elected officials think you're so high and mighty but yet you voted AGAINST tax breaks? Our own governor had to step in to help the people of this state and it's a disgrace in Clarke county and Kelly Girtz you need to step down and quit giving away money. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Outreach may provide more feedback that "committee". |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | No, this should be a volunteer position. I personally have experienced homelessness and will volunteer |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | No |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | N/a |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Highly approve. People are experts on their own experience, we stand to gain very valuable knowledge by doing the hard work of this engagement. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | I agree that people who serve on such committees should be reimbursed for reasonable expenses and their time. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | yes |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | These funds are essential for work to be done to effectively coordinate with the homelessness population |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Again, this seems like a waste of money. If people want help, there is help available. People who are allowed to live in tents and do drugs and have drugs supplied for them have no reason to change |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | This is critical. Only those who have experienced homelessness can understand the degradation and vulnerability of this condition. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | This is confusing. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Also agree this is important. I'm concerned about how low the budget it is on this strategy. It was discussed that paying people with lived experience would be part of this strategy, and I agree they should be paid, but I'm concerned this is much lower than the budgets for staff positions in other strategies. The funding should be used pay people for their time and expertise that is higher than just a few dollars on giftcard. I'd like to see more money go to this strategy to increased in order to encourage more people with lived experience to share that experience. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Particularly people who have overcome addiction. |

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| Survey | 1 | 2 | Agree with the proposal |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Fully support this. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Listen to and learn from those who have been homeless. Respond from intelligent input, not "we mean well but don't know what we are talking about" point of view. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Much more money should be going to this. What does "engagement" mean? |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Lived experience is good, but end of the day these folks have to want to get off the street. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | How are you not engaged with them already? There is a camp where you can go discuss the issue with them.....there are shelters who have people who talk to homeless people all day long....there are charities that interact with the homeless population. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | People with lived experiences have insight into what works, and what does not. They won't "sugar-coat" the facts and what it takes to move from homelessness to being housed. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | I am thoroughly impressed with the initiative to integrate people with lived experiences of homelessness into decision-making processes. This holistic approach, rooted in real-life experiences, will undoubtedly provide valuable insights to tackle homelessness. Emulating practices from the Midwest communities, like defining clear roles, compensating for time, and ensuring power-sharing, speaks to the commitment to genuinely engage and respect the input from those with lived experiences. Additionally, emphasizing one-on-one conversations showcases a genuine attempt at understanding individual challenges and needs. Adopting such a strategy in Athens-Clarke County can significantly enhance our efforts to combat homelessness and provide more effective, compassionate solutions. I truly believe that these efforts will pave the way for improved outcomes in our community. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Please be sure to recruit people from different situations with lived experience, e.g. making sure that families with children are represented, including providing childcare if need be during meeting times, etc. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | I support |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Also a very good idea. There is no substitute for Lived experience. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | This is crucial. We cannot be making decisions for people without their input and leadership. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Are theses people really leading normal lives in society. Do they have jobs and permanent place to live. Have they been rehabilitated |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Do it! |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | Absolutely critical, and only \$30,000?!? Take funds from above. |
| Survey | 1 | 2 | As kind as this sounds, engaging people (this would be individually I would suspect and I have done it several times out in the |

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| | | | community) is a very romantic idea in that it sounds like trying to form relationships that will be long term. As someone who assisted and participated with my son when he headed up the PBJ (Peanut Butter and Jelly) Ministry, a type of short term relationship can be formed but most of these folks have alcohol or drug addictions and are engage-able only when they want to be. They can be angry when you show up, high, or not want to be bothered. All three were specifically my or my son's experience. |
| Email | 1 | 3 | I love the idea of having coordinated entry use a "no wrong door" approach that providers and outreach teams can use to collect data and educate the participants about the system. I also like the idea of having a conference call with providers on a regular basis to discuss what has been doing with the new cases. This expands the problem-solving and gives accountability to the entire group for solving a problem. I don't see much value in the Housing Central Command Approach, with many teams under it. This concept is mainly talked about for relocating large tent camps, but we don't have that many of those. I feel we're too small a town for that, and we can use the coordinated entry system to accomplish this with some changes. We already have a tuesday zoom that can be expanded so that it includes more folks. This would include providers, advocates, housing experts, county staff, coalition rep, and those working with special populations. Some of the funds should be used to fund providers so that they can beef up their involvement in this. It probably won't work if it has to wait until the CEO has a free moment. With additional money, agencies could hire an admissions/discharge manager to do this. |
| Email | 1 | 3 | It talked about a uniform entry procedure for shelters. This will only work if money is provided to all shelters so that they can implement. Even so, some shelters will likely resist efforts to change their intake procedures and rules. Bigger Vision, which takes no HUD funds, requires that everyone call right at 4pm to get a slot, first come, first serve, unless a hospital says they need approval a day in advance. Having a uniform coordinated entry really should involve a solution that can be planned in advance, rather than at 4:30pm on the day in question. Standardizing such things often involves difficult change. |
| Forum | 1 | 3 | When my clients come and ask me where to find housing, we cannot find housing. I have one guy who had aggravated assault since 1991 or 1981 and cannot find housing due to the charge years ago. We want to figure out how to get a better data system that integrates hospital data and jail data and the community costs associated with that. We are talking about community conversations. The cost we are experiencing doing nothing is high and is growing and until we can figure this out as a community, the cost is going to keep growing. |

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| Survey | 1 | 3 | <p>Clarity (Page 27): Lack of public information on CE access could cause confusion.</p> <p>HMIS Integration (Page 28): Providers' reluctance to use HMIS may affect data collection and coordination.</p> <p>Staffing (Page 28): Unclear funding for staffing roles could impact sustainability.</p> <p>Flexibility vs. Compliance (Page 28): Allowing less than 100% compliance may lead to service inconsistencies.</p> <p>Prioritization (Page 27): The Vulnerability Index may overlook factors like mental health.</p> <p>Diversion (Page 27): A focus on diversion could result in inadequate support for those diverted.</p> <p>These concerns, identified across various pages, need to be addressed for effective and sustainable CE implementation.</p> |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | ANYONE STRUGGLING TO FIND THEMSELVES AND THEIR OWN PLACE IN THIS CRAZY DANGEROUS WORLD |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | No |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | Who cares as long as our city is being held hostage! |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | you have people in housing and development that have never been in the homeless camps. They don't have a clue what the homeless want. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | no against this |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | I do not understand why tiny houses and microplots are so despised by the M&C. You can restrict their use so they do not become Air BnB's - but alas you built "Tent City." Great job limiting potential solutions and nothing long-term has been accomplished! |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | Streamline is a very general statement. What fraud prevention efforts will be taken? We all know that there are many panhandlers that claim to be homeless when they are not. How can we be sure that we are not inviting criminals into our community? |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | Makes sense locally, but what about people who may want to relocate to surrounding counties (or further)? |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | Fund Advantage so they can complete the 60 bed mental health treatment housing facility ON-SITE. They need the \$5 million from the ARP SLFRF "homeless" bucket. We have had 132 drop offs from other counties in 2022 that are KNOWN. Imagine the ones not known. Stop pushing "housing first" which doesn't work well for this crowd without the 24/7 consistent on site treatment. Big states like CA, NY, even SC understand how they have it all wrong. |

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| | | | <p>\$20 billion dollars spent in 5 years with no improvement. They are going for mental health treatment housong and CARE COURTS.</p> <p>ACCGOV needs to pick consultants with better up-to-date templates of solutions. Lol</p> |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | Hide and make them seek you out, then you only help those who really want it. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | I don't know what this means. Sounds like buzzwords that don't actually do anything meaningful or substantive. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | I don't want my tax dollars going to this. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | Homeless Women with children are the homeless people that have the most available resources to get themselves out of poverty. So why do we need this? |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | This is not even clear what \$350,000 would be spent on and what this category is doing to stop homelessness in our city?! |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | My answer is going to be the same for all of these sections. All of these programs are doing nothing but incentivizing homeless to come to Athens. My wife has been harassed and followed by homeless chasing her into her gym in the morning. A homeless man waving a knife approached me last weekend. Over Christmas a homeless set up his tent on the back portion of my neighbors fence. Spending this money will do nothing but have more homeless move into the area and continue to exasperate the problem. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | This is a sham just to line politicians pockets. This money will not be utilized correctly, and will help nothing. It's disgusting. Watch and see. These comments that I've made will prove true. Nothing will change. It will only get worse and the money will be gone! |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | Good luck with that, how are you going to track them? By the trail of trash they leave all over town. Go take a look at shifty Joe that hangs out at the Forest Heights subdivision. Advantage gave him over \$800 worth of gift certificates, offered him clean clothes and a shower. What does he do? He craps all in the floor and spreads it all over the walls. The trail of trash from Oglethorpe Ave to Tallassee is left by this one piece of trash. And don't say he's mental because he was smart enough to get \$800. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | You have not outlined a plan. Please do not pass this! The proposal is full of fluff. Please do not waste tax dollars on this! |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | No |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | N/a |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | Approve. Having to make 6 phone calls would be a huge barrier to me if I was looking for help. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | There should be one coordinated list and way to serve the homeless population instead of the multiple and duplicated entry problems that are now common. |

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| Survey | 1 | 3 | yes |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | These funds are essential for work to be done to effectively coordinate with the homelessness population |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | This is all virtue signaling. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | A single phone number to access resources for emergency shelter, housing assistance, etc., would reduce the burden on homeless persons (or those at risk of homelessness) and would simplify the administration of the program. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | "Robust staffing." More of the same as above. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | I think the staffing will be important but more so than just doing a staffing is the quality of those. I'd like to see training of the providers as well as thoughtful questions be discussed during staffing. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | Require drug testing |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | All of the key players in the many working parts of this ambitious plan need to be committed to communication with each other across the many groups that have a part in the goal - an efficient, working machine from beginning to end that benefits people that need help. Any of us could easily be one of these people. Each has a story. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | It seems that the amount of the total funds allotted for this strategy is unnecessarily large and a large part of these funds could be used for strategies that have a more direct and immediate impact on reducing and addressing homelessness. I just simply do not understand how it could take anywhere near \$300,000 to develop a coordinated system for entering those experiencing homelessness into the the systems we have in place to serve them. I would suggest moving at least half of these funds to strategy 8. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | Agree with the proposal |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | Fully support this. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | Smart inclusion. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | This needs better explication, even with what has been given. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | Jist bus them out. Don't waste your money. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | Successful communities have found that coordinated entry is the most efficient way to get people to the right resources and moving people through the system into housing as quickly as possible. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | I'm heartened by the dedicated efforts to streamline and enhance the Continuum of Care (CoC) processes. Taking cues from HUD's mandates, it's vital for Athens-Clarke County CoC to ensure transparency in its Coordinated Entry (CE) process, allowing the community to be well-informed. I appreciate the consideration of adopting Lane County's effective "No Wrong Door" approach. Their successful strategies, from the dynamic by-name list and integration of diversion to robust staffing and their emphasis on |

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| | | | continuous improvement, are noteworthy. Their mantra, “Don’t let perfect get in the way of progress,” resonates deeply, urging community collaboration for impactful outcomes. Drawing inspiration from these practices and tailoring them to our community’s needs can significantly enhance our housing and homelessness initiatives. I’m optimistic that these considerations will translate into tangible benefits for our residents. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | I support. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | Again the whole plan seems comprehensive and doable. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | Government should be working with the university and AThens tech and their social work students and psychologists. These people on the streets need emotional support and some rehab for their addictions. Also, DFCS should be involved as well. You are so busy spending money and getting policies in place that you are not helping these people. And the sad thing some don’t want help and will never get off the street. |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | Do it! |
| Survey | 1 | 3 | More acronyms and money wasted. |
| Forum | 2 | 4 | This lady and John have come to our community to talk to us. What is important to us is familiarity. I know if I see John, I can speak to him. Everyone here is saying homeless people do not want to be homeless, no what homeless people want is to not have people in their face all the time |
| Forum | 2 | 4 | You talked about street outreach before. It sounds like they need to be reached when they are dropped off if hospitals and treatment centers drop off people. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | <p>Outreach Zones (Page 32): Complex zoning could lead to coordination issues.</p> <p>Leadership (Page 32): Multiple outreach providers, including nonprofits and possibly churches, could result in fragmented or religiously-biased efforts.</p> <p>Dispatch Issues (Page 33): Specific requests may divert resources from broader needs.</p> <p>Data Gaps (Page 34): Inconsistent data logging could affect program assessment.</p> <p>Funding (Page 34): Unclear sustainability of diverse funding sources.</p> <p>Although not specifically mentioned, the non profits will likely be including religious organizations. In outreach they add a religious element that could blur church-state lines and conflict with individuals' rights to not engage in religious activities</p> |

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| Survey | 2 | 4 | What will this do? Inform homeless folks about a limited capacity shelter? I find it odd almost all surrounding counties have no shelters! |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | HAVE ONE SINGLE GET TOGETHER AT LEAST EVERYDAY FOR AT LEAST AM HOUR TO FELLOWSHIP AND COMMUNION AND HAVE ENCOURAGEMENT |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | You fail to realize the ones on the street are drug addicts and alcoholics. They do not want your assistance. The rest of society is diminished by your constant wokeness and wanting to feel like you are doing good. This plan will just waste money and do nothing without some sort of control of the laws being broken and new laws to prevent the above-mentioned horrors. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | The mayor and Commission need to outreach to other communities about them bringing homeless to Athens. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | no to this |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Waste of time and a large portion of the unhoused - at least the persons in the downtown corridor - appear not to be from Athens or surrounding counties. Time would best be spent on reducing the perception of danger and or the presence of biological hazards (e.g., human waste) within the downtown corridor. I know persons, myself included, who have been berated multiple times by homeless persons for just walking on the street and I DO NOT feel safe in downtown Athens. The persons downtown are the MOST aggressive I have seen anywhere in the US - bar none. The M&C invited this issue and needs to fix it. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | In what way would a comprehensive outreach plan reduce the impact of unsheltered homelessness? |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | The plan seems logical |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | No. Street Outreach don't do anything with helping the homeless population. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Fund Block by Block outreach ambassadors with SMART System for real-time engagement under the direction of Advantage Outreach. Get UGA to fund additional BBB support for student escorts. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Aside from street outreach, it would be great to have a member of this team dedicated to working/partnering with other community organizations such as the ACCL that serve as unofficial "daytime shelters." |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Athens has become a dumping ground for homeless and is now carrying the burden for surrounding counties in the northeast. Outreach to other homeless only increases the population and the problem. No one has been helped yet. If you can't help one, then why increase. |

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| Survey | 2 | 4 | Street outreach is already being performed by Advantage staff. I would prefer bolstering their program over creating a new one. They already have established staff who know the population. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Street outreach is good- important to remember there are a number of invisible homeless. Yes, your average panhandler may be homeless, but a lot aren't. There are numerous women, children, and others that are homeless. They get overlooked because of people having an idea that homelessness has a universal "look". |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | This will cost taxpayers too much. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | So spend \$400,000 to corral homeless people. But just women and children. Not the drug addicts, and deplorable men, that are the real problem. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | The city has already spent 2.5 million with the Homeless encampment and what improvement has it brought to our city? Fights, arrest....nothing positive. If this type of program worked then our city would have less problems, but instead we are non as the homeless friendly city and the problems have only gotten worse since the the money was spent on the homeless encampment. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | My answer is going to be the same for all of these sections. All of these programs are doing nothing but incentivizing homeless to come to Athens. My wife has been harassed and followed by homeless chasing her into her gym in the morning. A homeless man waving a knife approached me last weekend. Over Christmas a homeless set up his tent on the back portion of my neighbors fence. Spending this money will do nothing but have more homeless move into the area and continue to exasperate the problem. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Yes there needs to be street outreach. But I believe there needs to be a hard line on this. The homeless should not be allowed to dirty the streets and not pick up after themselves. There needs to be no tolerance for pan handling on street corners. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | This is a sham just to line politicians pockets. This money will not be utilized correctly, and will help nothing. It's disgusting. Watch and see. These comments that I've made will prove true. Nothing will change. It will only get worse and the money will be gone! |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Yeah kick them off the streets. I'm ashamed for visiting teams to come into Athens to UGA events and see the trash all over town, people begging, and then getting verbally abusive when you don't give them a dollar. Wake up people they are scam artists. A lady that works in Atlanta asks them how they find out about Athens and they say oh they give out free money and tents, and if we commit a crime, they have no cash bail so we won't serve a day in prison. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Yes. |

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| Survey | 2 | 4 | You have not outlined a plan with measured success. This is wasting taxpayer money |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | No |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | N/a |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | There should be a coordinated plan and outreach. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | yes |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Outreach is needed to direct individuals better |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Don't allow homeless people to sleep on the street on private property, etc you are promoting it currently In Athens the homeless drug addicts Rights supersede property owner/tax payer rights. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Again, staffing -- people on the ground -- is the best way to find and support people experiencing homelessness. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | See above. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Yes to more street outreach and I'd like to see this be through more than one agency. A key to having good street outreach is relationship building and knowledge of services. If Advantage is the only one employing outreach workers, with their low salaries, I expect high turn over and staffed with new grads just like the rest of their departments. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Great idea! Ask them if you can help them repeatedly. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | It seems that #4 & 5 here should be one item. They go hand in hand. A couple of years ago, I talked to one of these groups about a problem with a camp in our neighborhood. The man I spoke with was completely uninterested but he said he would come and take a look and talk to people. He never did. We have to have trained people going into these camps and talking to people. Each camp should be identified so that the people and their living situations can be addressed. Get to know who is where. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | I think outreach and education of programs is a great idea. The homeless cannot get help if they do not know it exists. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Agree with the proposal |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Fully support this. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Outreach plan essential. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | I believe that this is a good idea. Again, but should be staffed by those with lived experienced and NOT through ABHS. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Why are we looking for more homeless people by an outreach program??? They are all over the place. We don't need to look for them. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Every community that has significantly reduced their homeless population has a successful street outreach program. It is critical to fully staff street outreach. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | I commend the focus on a comprehensive street outreach strategy. Such an approach, emphasizing intentional relationship-building and efficient use of resources, is essential in making |

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| | | | <p>meaningful progress for those experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The themes and considerations drawn from other communities offer valuable insights for Athens-Clarke County. Coordinated systems, clear leadership roles, consistent outreach engagement, and effective dispatch and prioritization all highlight the importance of a well-structured and responsive approach. Additionally, emphasizing data and outcomes will not only help in tracking progress but also in refining our strategies over time. It's heartening to see this holistic approach, blending various funding sources and focusing on tangible results, with the ultimate goal of supporting our most vulnerable residents. Kudos to the local government for championing this initiative!</p> |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | There's no outlined strategy in the Strategic Plan to deal with drug/alcohol addiction. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | I support. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | I agree also with outreach. You can't make decisions without knowing the extent of the problem. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Very important to get people off the streets and into housing and give them job training. If they don't have an address and bank account they can't get a job. Begging on the corner of our streets isn't a job, they aren't working to better themselves, their family or our community this way. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Without the Street Outreach program, homelessness would have increased far more drastically during COVID. If something is working, particularly that well, we should do more of it. |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Having more consistent outreach is important for those without a lot of consistency |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | There is a facility in Sarasota Florida called resurrection house. It is a place where homeless can come to do everything from wash clothes to get counseling and get help finding work and a place to stay. You should look into the program. A lot of the workers are volunteers |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | Do it! |
| Survey | 2 | 4 | What does this mean? Walking the street and interviewing? |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | <p>HCC Structure: The Housing Central Command (HCC) is outlined but could face coordination challenges among multiple functional teams (Page 35).</p> <p>Expert Support: The plan mentions the need for expert support but lacks details on sourcing and funding (Page 35).</p> <p>Communication: Frequent internal and community communication is emphasized, but logistical management is not addressed (Page 35).</p> <p>Quick Action: The plan acknowledges that mistakes are expected</p> |

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| | | | <p>due to a quick action approach but offers no mitigation strategies (Page 35).</p> <p>Risk Planning: Notably absent is any form of risk assessment or contingency planning, which could lead to inefficiencies or missteps.</p> |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | Where is all the money you spent on tent city? Time for an audit! |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | BRING YOUR OWN SUPPLIES NO NARCOTICS AND OR ALCOHOL ALLOWED ALSO IF EQUIPMENT IS NEEDED THEN IT WILL BE PROVIDED |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | The county needs to fund a homeless street outreach outside of Advantage. Advantage only cares about Advantage. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | no to this |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | The solution to homelessness is not build more shelters. If you build it - they will come. The solution is to understand the systematic issues which underpin unaffordable housing (thanks for approving all the student housing which inflates the general housing prices throughout ACC). You also need to understand are the persons truly unhoused or is it that they see a college town with persons who will provide for them, moderate weather, and they actively seek out Athens given the ability of such resources. I have often felt the M&C treats persons not from Athens in a more caring manner that they do their own residents. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | There is already a housing shortage. Are we planning on taking more housing options away from families already having to share homes with other families because of the housing shortage? This strategy is prioritizing the unsheltered/homeless over the hard working family scraping to get by. By overlooking those that are barely sheltered it may lead to them becoming unsheltered/homeless themselves. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | The tent encampments (including the ACC coordinated one) are a little distressing, even as temporary help. Tents do not provide physical security or adequate weather protection. Although costs would be more, even providing tiny houses at the Barber St. location might be preferable, especially if this is seen as a longer term bridge solution. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | this could be good if the right people is picked. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | No. We have small camps all throughout the county and it changes from night to night, riding the "free" buses |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | <p>- I would propose repurposing a shut down large building or building a new building and modeling it to look like Japanese capsule hotels for the Homeless population to live in (rent very very cheaply at a price they can afford) with communal bathrooms.</p> <p>- Europe has machines that you can deposit recyclable materials in</p> |

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| | | | for cash. With Athens being so dirty a way to give these people income to rent the capsule hotels and clean up the city could be to have machines where a certain amount of trash/recyclables would be equivalent to a certain length of time to stay in the hotel. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | Not my job to provide housing for another person. That is called communism. Nobody provides for me and my family and I've made everything I have for myself. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | While encampments being decommissioned sounds nice, reading between the lines, it sounds like you're just kicking people out of their homes. Encampment-> shelter is not an upgrade for some. You're destroying their community they have built |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | This is good. I'm unsure if this is enough money for this piece. This seems like a very important piece- helping people actually access housing. It should probably get a larger share of the budget. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | Why do we have to pay for the encampments to come down? We didn't want them in the first place. Our city council should foot the bill because it's gotten worse under their leadership. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | The city has police, and bulldozers. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | The majority of the homeless are not going to change their ways because they are addicts unwilling to get clean and get on path to having a housing they can keep thru a steady job. That is the reality. The majority of homeless people I see around Athens are young people age and battered from drug use. They are only interested in their next hit and getting high. Until the drug problems are dealt with and our streets are cleaned from the gangs and drug dealers no amount of offering shelter is going to stop the addictions going on in our homeless population. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | My answer is going to be the same for all of these sections. All of these programs are doing nothing but incentivizing homeless to come to Athens. My wife has been harassed and followed by homeless chasing her into her gym in the morning. A homeless man waving a knife approached me last weekend. Over Christmas a homeless set up his tent on the back portion of my neighbors fence. Spending this money will do nothing but have more homeless move into the area and continue to exasperate the problem. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | I do not think this will work. I believe most of the homeless prefer to be on there own and not be told where to stay or rules that must be followed in order to stag in the shelters. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | Encampments are an essential transition point, and while the Barber St encampment has had a fair share of problems, an encampment is a transition point that is much needed in the Athens community. More permanent housing options are imperative and a permanent sanctioned encampment will ease the transition from homelessness for many in the current homeless population in athens. |

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| Survey | 2 | 5 | This is a sham just to line politicians pockets. This money will not be utilized correctly, and will help nothing. It's disgusting. Watch and see. These comments that I've made will prove true. Nothing will change. It will only get worse and the money will be gone! |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | Yeah put them far away from subdivisions, apartments, and any other person that wants to live safely. You have Advantage in 3 or more locations how many more are you going to give these people? Gave a criminal that had been arrested 2.5 million to start tent city and that fool took the money and ran. Do you think 25 tents amounted to 2.5 million. Kelly Girtz is a complete idiot. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | Temporary shelter access and housing programs sound good. Decommissioning encampments sounds like a failed approach to sheltered access and housing programs. Encouraging and making alternate solutions attractive when compared to encampments is best. People hunt solutions where they feel safe. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | No |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | No |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | N/a |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | Good idea - don't know how well it will work when we just don't have enough housing to surge people into. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | not sure |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | The decommissioning of encampments should only be done if everyone is said encampment is able to have permanent shelter |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | Who is going to pay for this? People are already paying high taxes for sub par services and for other people that will never hold jobs or pay taxes |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | This is very difficult and dirty work. First, the people in the camps need a place to go. Second, they need a place to safeguard their personal papers and property. Finally, they need access to sanitary toilets, showers, and laundry facilities. Is \$150,000 enough? |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | I'd love to see more access to permanent housing just not sure you folks have the understanding of the needs based on the lack of information surrounding the needs of the homeless in the presentation. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | Require drug / alcohol screening repeatedly |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | I thought the tent city was marginal to begin with. I'm glad it will be replaced with more solid sollution. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | Yes. Encampments ruin quality of life for everyone. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | I think that there are already entities in place to get rid of encampments once the people leave. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | Agree with the proposal |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | Fully support this. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | People want housing, and access to safe shelters. Prefer this to encampment. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | Encampments should not be "decommissioned." These are homes. |

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| Survey | 2 | 5 | Put a fucking tax on every luxury condo rental every month and put it toward affordable housing. If they won't build them on their own because they're not profitable, reduce the profitability of the luxury homes. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | Preparation is key. Hopefully this same group could prepare for other scenarios as well, so we can be prepared for other instances, such as the bitter cold this past December, when staff was scrambling to make sure no one froze to death. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | The HCC approach presents a transformative strategy to address homelessness in our community. By leveraging national disaster response methodologies and fostering collaborative teamwork, HCCs have displayed success in several communities. The structured teams, iterative problem-solving, and daily action-oriented meetings promote transparency and accountability. The approach ensures that every individual's needs are met swiftly and efficiently. I am particularly impressed by the emphasis on continuous communication and the involvement of those with lived experiences. By focusing on daily goals and immediate actions, while embracing an adaptive mindset, we can expedite solutions for our homeless population. The potential long-term benefits, such as reduced unsheltered homelessness and increased exits to permanent housing, underscore the significance of this initiative. I commend the local government for considering such an innovative and holistic solution. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | Especially in/around public parks/Greenway/Firefly Trail. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | Funding here seems a bit low. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | I support. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | Here again, the final goal , Namely, more permanent, housing, requires ultimately the decommission of encampments. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | Absolutely! I'm all for decommissioning encampments! But teach them to fish and they can fish for themselves. As a small business owner I couldn't hire a homeless person because they didn't have a bank account to receive direct deposit funds. And they couldn't get a bank account without an address. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | I do think encampments are still important for those who choose not to participate in shelter access. |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | There are so many empty stores in Athens. Why can't they be used for temporary shelters for homeless. And most are near bus routs so they can get work instead of working the street and begging for money I think they should have to pay to get in. Even if it is just \$5 a night. Take ownership and even clean up. Those that hang around on north ave leave the area littered it is terrible |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | Do it! |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | The homeless need a door they can lock to sleep safely, either alone or with family, and store belongings. Group quarters and tents should only be consider 1 or 2 night stop-gap measures. |

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| | | | Figure out how to supply safe, ultra-cheap, micro-housing and people without drug addiction or mental illness can recover. For those with these afflictions, safe and private sleep is also necessary but not sufficient (see below). |
| Survey | 2 | 5 | For this to happen the Planning Commission and the A-C commission must stop approving massive developments where none of the living spaces are affordable for lower income. We have FAMILIES in our schools that are HOMELESS. How does any of this help them? |
| Email | 3 | 6 | I like that they put in needing more indoor short-term shelter beds. |
| Forum | 3 | 6 | Seems like we are creating this money to create more money - or becoming more competitive for funds. What are we doing to reduce homelessness? I feel like this is more paying admin costs but we are leaving people in the wayside and attracting more people in. Spending more money only attracts more money but perpetuates the problem by attracting more people in, and creates the need to spend more money. You have 300,000 to create an organization to create a support fund.....is this a part of the \$4.4million of ARPA funds? Where has creating new shelters been shown to work? It seems to only exacerbate the problem - we had an encampment here and it cost \$153,000/person to help put people in housing. If you give the \$153,000 dollars to someone they can stay housed for a long time. It seems like a lot of money is going to the program and not the people. We need to land on having no program because everyone is good. I have been in business for 13 years, but nothing has changed. What if it (spending the ARPA money) grows the problem? |
| Forum | 3 | 6 | I just want to clarify that Athens is a HUB. It's not wanting to be a hub and inviting people in. It's to build and help people with MH and help people to become different. Some people are saying when we are spending money to invite people but it's just that we want to use money make the hub better. I'm interested in the shelter units. I struggle with MH. You can't get out of it by yourself and you need to put them at a place at night. During the day they have to live and you should offer classes during the day. We need to start these programs. That's how you end this by greatly reducing MH issues. |
| Forum | 3 | 6 | I like to see the money go to the people who are homeless. We don't need more tent cities. Take this money and put it in a building. No one deserves a tent. I see where the money is. Cause I'm sorry I saw this money was wasted. Tents? Give them a building. Some may move out, some may not. I don't want people living in tents. |
| Forum | 3 | 6 | To me it sounds like we must spend it or it goes away. Who is accountable for the money? Did that fall under the Commission and Mayor money for the encampment? Where are the figures? I |

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| | | | believe in our community, there are resources to help people. Salvation Army has 70-ish beds. They need some funding to make better beds. Why can't these funds be used for that? There are solutions we can tap into immediately. |
| Forum | 3 | 6 | Concerning the low barrier shelter - so they will be permanently living here? |
| Forum | 3 | 6 | What is the proposed number of beds for this project? 5000? |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | <p>Potential for "Shanty Towns": Poorly managed or underfunded shelters could devolve into shanty towns.</p> <p>Funding (Page 59): \$350,000 is allocated, but long-term sustainability is unclear. Insufficient funding could lead to poorly maintained spaces.</p> <p>Staffing (Page 40): Specialized staff are needed for low-barrier shelters, but the plan lacks details on sustaining this.</p> <p>Quality vs. Quantity: Risk of overcrowding or inadequate services if not well-managed.</p> <p>Metrics (Page 40): Plan mentions metrics but lacks clarity on how they'll be used for accountability.</p> <p>Community Impact: No discussion on integration into communities or potential NIMBY issues.</p> <p>Legal Concerns (Page 40): Plan is vague on conditions for termination from shelter, risking arbitrariness.</p> |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | ALL OUTSIDE SHELTERS AND OR FACILITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE AND EVERYONE AND WE WILL ONLY PROVIDE EMERGENCY SERVICES AND THEN WE'LL PASS ALONG YOUR FILE TO ONE OF THE FACILITIES |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | need to look at the tiny house model in savannah. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | no do not want us to be a sacuary city |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | Unless we improve the general ability of housing - this is just buying more tents. "Tent City" was one of the worst ideas ACCGov has championed and the operation of the facility was disgraceful. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | Individuals utilizing ACC shelters should be required to follow safety rules at all times. This includes actions outside of the shelter. If a shelter resident is committing crimes during the day, while not on the shelter property, they should be immediately removed from the program. Shelter residents should also be required to participate in planned chores, life skills classes, and work connection sessions. A successful person must follow the law, have basic life skills, and have a certain work ethic. If they |

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| | | | chose to use the service, they must chose to follow the rules that will help them when they leave. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | Again what are the parameters of low-barrier emergency shelters? How long is one allowed to stay in one of these? Will this not attract more homeless from outside Athens to come to Athens, thus straining the system even more? |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | Well thought out ideas. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | No. Don't build a homeless hub. Give the \$5 million to Advantage to build the 60 bed mental health treatment housing facility. LA PD homeless guru Deon Joseph will tell you this and people must have accountability. 15-20 people entered and exited on a monthly basis from the Barber St camp. A "homeless resort". We have many many transient homeless come to Athens for ease of camping (wooded areas next to bus lines) and lots of free food. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | This should definitely be considered the highest priority. Various studies have shown that once safe shelter can be guaranteed, people experiencing homelessness have the security needed to focus on the other aspects of their lives. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | Sounds like a waste of money. Teach them bushcrafting skills and how to hunt. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | Again, sounds nice but seems like a bandaid. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | The shelter needs to have some way to have pods or cubicles or individual rooms- provide some semblance of privacy and safety. Some way for people to leave their items, and feel assured that their items are safe. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | Way too much. Taxpayers can't afford this. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | You wasted money on hiring an unqualified entity to run the last shelter! Ridiculous! |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | 2.2million? What we get 5 people sheltered for that? Or are we just going to build more government slums? |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | As I stated above, we have already spend \$2.5 million on our homeless encampment and our homeless problems have only gotten worse. I do not approve of our City's money being spent. There are too many non profits and churches that truly understand the needs of our city. If anything, I would rather this money be given to these organizations that know the needs inside and out and understand how to truly help the individuals who truly want to get clean and start a fresh path in life. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | My answer is going to be the same for all of these sections. All of these programs are doing nothing but incentivizing homeless to come to Athens. My wife has been harassed and followed by homeless chasing her into her gym in the morning. A homeless man waving a knife approached me last weekend. Over Christmas a homeless set up his tent on the back portion of my neighbors fence. Spending this money will do nothing but have more |

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| | | | homeless move into the area and continue to exasperate the problem. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | I think this will be a huge waste of time and money. Most of the homeless in the area have mental illness. You are not going to rehabilitate someone with mental illness. They need someone to medicate them with the drugs that are necessary for them to be functional in society. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | Needs go far beyond emergency shelter. increased access to permanent/long-term housing and encampments are essential to end homelessness. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | This is a sham just to line politicians pockets. This money will not be utilized correctly, and will help nothing. It's disgusting. Watch and see. These comments that I've made will prove true. Nothing will change. It will only get worse and the money will be gone! |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | No more shelters tell them to get a job. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | I'm unfamiliar with low-barrier shelter. Providing and funding "showers" would be ideal. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | Please do not waste \$5 mil on this |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | No |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | N/a |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | We obviously need this!! |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | I do not like the idea of spending so much money on emergency shelters. A low barrier shelter is a temporary solution, especially if people are required to leave during the day and have no privacy. I believe the money would be better spent on permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, and diversion. Providing more shelter beds is not a solution to our problems and may exacerbate them. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | yes |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | This will be needed to physically house the homeless population |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | If this shelter is for women with children or families with kids, I'm all for it. But able bodied adults who are addicts shouldn't take those spots |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | "Housing First" is the term I've heard about successful programs. Once a person is safe, clean, and fed he or she will be receptive to receiving help to address underlying conditions resulting in homelessness (mental illness, substance abuse, etc.) |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | This is an abomination. Allowing people using drugs and alcohol to be admitted to shelters creates chaos and an unstable environment for those doing to work to get out of homelessness by working to be sober. This is one of the most bizarre choices you all make. I'd love to see more shelters with more resources. But if someone wants to truly exist this cycle there should be an expectation of sobriety and work to do so. it's a two way street. Blowing funds to enrich the problem is insane. |

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| Survey | 3 | 6 | Is it ironic that less than half of the budget is going to actual shelter? Maybe increase this to 51%. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | Must include drug testing |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | Rehabilitate and reuse the many empty buildings around this town!!! If we can keep building dorms for uga, then we can create spaces for a much smaller group than the students that we've sold out Athens for. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | I thought the tent city was marginal to begin with. I'm glad it will be replaced with more solid sollution. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | Yes, please. This seems like the single most important thing we can do to help people through homelessness. I don't think most people are aware of the barriers presented by the current shelters. Speed would be great here, too. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | This is ridiculous and irresponsible to spend so much taxpayer money on this. Building homes for the homeless will just draw more homeless compounding the issue we already have. A lot less money could be spend more wisely educating and assisting the homeless as a means to get them a home. You cannot force an end to homelessness. The homeless must make a choice to want to improve their situation and make an effort to do so. Providing services and transitional housing during this process is fine but we do not need over 2 million dollars for this. I would rather spend money on finding those homeless that are truly in need and want to make a change. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | Agree with the proposal |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | Fully support this. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | Smart to begin with fewer barriers to allow unhoused people shelter. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | Low barrier means low incentive to get their shit together. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | The key is that everyone is focused on getting people in shelters housed, with adequate wrap-around services, including mental health assistance where needed. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | Please make these shelters trans inclusive. A lot of trans women remain on the streets as they are forced to choose between safe places to sleep or being made to room with men. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | I support. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | I also agree with temporary emergency housing. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | We must lower barriers as much as possible. I love this idea |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | Do it! |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | The homeless need a door they can lock to sleep safely, either alone or with family, and store belongings. Group quarters and tents should only be consider 1 or 2 night stop-gap measures. Figure out how to supply safe, ultra-cheap, micro-housing and people without drug addiction or mental illness can recover. For |

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| | | | those with these afflictions, safe and private sleep is also necessary but not sufficient (see below). |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | IMPORTANT! The only time in the entire Strategic Plan that mental illness and/or addiction is addressed is on pages 39-40 -- Key Strategy #6: Increase Number of Low-Barrier Shelter Units. Allowing guests of the encampment to be there while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol is called enabling. PLEASE, please do some research about addiction and enabling. These two pages - - 39 & 40 -- represent a microcosm of the fatal flaw of this entire five million dollar strategic debacle. It only enables the mentally ill and addicted homeless guests of the encampments. If it is okay to be drunk and stoned, they will continue to be drunk & stoned. And they will meet new guests of the encampments who are also drunk & stoned, where they can network and discover new sources of drugs and alcohol. The entire Strategic Plan will only attract more homeless people, since it rewards addiction and does not address mental illness. |
| Survey | 3 | 6 | This sounds dreadfully scary, especially for women, children, families and even men who are not addicted. |
| Email | 3 | 7 | I don't see how having a diversion network for those who lose housing needs to be different from coordinated entry. |
| Forum | 3 | 7 | It would be invaluable of the one-on-one interviews. What do you need? It's important to have the one of one and follow-up. We need a quick direct contact. |
| Forum | 3 | 7 | Piggybacking on that, I came in late so I did not hear your introductions and I know that the Cloudburst Group did this. I was just curious - how did you find that group? What was the cost for that consultant? Did that come out of the ARPA money? I have another one, and I know the money has to be spent by 2026 but it does not strictly have to be spent on homelessness? The rapid exit - the way i interpret this, you want to help these people and help with education and employment...has this been a goal with the tent camp and how many have had rapid exit? |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | <p>The plan allocates \$200,000 over two years, but it's unclear if this will cover both the setup and ongoing costs of intensive case management, including staffing and training.</p> <p>Sustainability: There's no mention of long-term funding, raising concerns about the sustainability and quality of the service over time.</p> <p>Effectiveness Metrics: The plan doesn't outline how the effectiveness of this service will be measured, leaving a gap in accountability.</p> <p>Scope and Scale: Given the limited budget, the reach and impact of the service could be restricted.</p> |

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| | | | <p>Specialized Needs: The plan doesn't specify how complex issues like mental health or substance abuse will be addressed, which are often integral to homelessness.</p> <p>Community Integration: There's no discussion on how this service will coordinate with other community services for a holistic approach.</p> <p>Ethical Concerns: Intensive case management involves deep involvement in individuals' lives, raising ethical questions about privacy and autonomy.</p> |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | FIRST AND FOREMOST LISTEN TO THE NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THEN MAKE A PLAN TO HELP ELIMINATE THE ISSUE |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | It will not make a difference with the amount of drop-offs we have. You shelter 1 and 3 more replace them. Look at our treatment courts. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | no dont want this |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | Meaningless jargon - what are you actually doing. ART? Jail Diversion? CIT? Define what you are doing and measurable GOALS. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | There should be a maximum time allowed to reside in any given shelter. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | What are these techniques and where have they been shown to work? |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | Excellent plan |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | Stop it with the money. Sounds like throwing spaghetti against the wall to see if any sticks. Imagine if you could take 60 unsheltered homeless off the streets either mental illness and/or substance abuse out of the 177 counted in the 2023 PIT count. Fund MHTH at Advantage. Should have already been built. Why did cloudburst or the homeless coalition report on the 48% of unsheltered with mental illness and 40% of unsheltered with substance abuse, eh? HCD had to report these numbers to HUD yet left off reports. how disingenuous. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | Now homelessness will be ranked? Sounds like Canadian Health Care. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | I don't want to fund this w my tax dollars. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | I don't even know what this means so why spend \$200,000 on it |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | I am not clear on the use of what this money would be used for so I do not approve. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | My answer is going to be the same for all of these sections. All of these programs are doing nothing but incentivizing homeless to come to Athens. My wife has been harassed and followed by homeless chasing her into her gym in the morning. A homeless man waving a knife approached me last weekend. Over Christmas a homeless set up his tent on the back portion of my neighbors |

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| | | | fence. Spending this money will do nothing but have more homeless move into the area and continue to exasperate the problem. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | This needs as much funding as possible as case management is paramount to the success of ending homelessness. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | This is a sham just to line politicians pockets. This money will not be utilized correctly, and will help nothing. It's disgusting. Watch and see. These comments that I've made will prove true. Nothing will change. It will only get worse and the money will be gone! |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | They don't need it, go to Advantage. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | Yes. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | Please do not waste funds on this |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | No |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | Does this mean to enact a strategy to move homeless out of Athens? Arrest them when they break the law? |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | I do believe we need much more support and mental health options and supervised housing for people with mental health and substance abuse issues. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | maybe |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | Dedicated support to homeless is needed for case work to help them rebuild their lives. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | Again, if this is for truly physically disabled people or families with children. Fine but no drug addicts |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | Is \$200,000 sufficient to prevent evictions in Athens-Clarke? |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | From my conversations this is a big issue. I'm not sure you cover it wholly. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | If someone admits they need help, is willing to undergo process mentioned beforehand with stipulations for drug testing, we should help with rent support and keeping them on their own |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | No issues. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | Agree with the proposal |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | Fully support this. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | Yes. Does this include any health care component? Lack of elemental Health care makes getting stable housing, and keeping it, difficult. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | Stop psychopathologizing everything and get people some housing. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | If you think it'll help...I'm skeptical. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | Devote all the funds to this for short term relocation, job searching skills, and VERY temporary shelter. When the subsidized housing was first established, it was temporary and yet there are GENERATIONS that have lived there. |

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| Survey | 3 | 7 | Case management is key. That's where New York failed when they tried to house people in the vacant hotels during the beginning of COVID. Not nearly enough wrap-around services. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | Funding seems a bit low. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | I support. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | Here again, rapid exit is part of the total plan and is necessary Again, in order to be successful with the transition from lack of housing to adequate housing funds need to be made available to support the ultimate outcome which is independent living. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | I hope this involves getting them a bank account, getting them an address and teaching them basic job skills and finding them a job. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | Case managers - waste of money. Need people either out on the streets picking up these people to get them help or a facility for them to come to for help and a lot of them need help with addiction and really don't want the help That's the problem |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | Do it! |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | This can be rolled into a more general, unified strategy. |
| Survey | 3 | 7 | THIS MAKES SENSE |
| Email | 4 | 8 | Flexible spending is a good way to fill in a small gap that is providing a barrier, like a deposit for the electricity to be turned on. Or a fridge or other furnishings. There are probably limitations posed by the funding source. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | <p>Ethical Concerns: One-time financial assistance could create unsustainable dependency, potentially leading to a cycle of homelessness.</p> <p>Funding (Page 46): \$300,000 of ARPA dollars are allocated, but the long-term sustainability is unclear.</p> <p>Eligibility (Page 47): Low-barrier principles are emphasized, but documentation requirements are not specified, risking inconsistencies.</p> <p>Community Partners (Page 47): Multiple organizations are involved, but coordination is not addressed.</p> <p>Data Collection (Page 47): HMIS is suggested for data, but implementation across diverse organizations is unclear.</p> <p>Returns to Homelessness (Page 52): The plan acknowledges the risk of households returning to homelessness, questioning the long-term impact of one-time assistance.</p> <p>Adaptability (Page 47): The program can adapt to community needs, but how this will be managed is not outlined.</p> |

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| Survey | 4 | 8 | ARPA funds were supposed to help all RESIDENTS of ACC but instead all the money has gone to the transient homeless population and undocumented |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | ANY AND ALL DONATIONS WELCOME HOWEVER WE DON'T CHARGE FOR OUR SERVICES |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Ridiculous |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | waste of money. the person should be required to become steady involved in services and a job before exiting temporary housing. you will see a revolving door much like our court system. people will become dependent on the county to provide for them. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | no to this |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | I fear your selection criteria may create unintended biases. This will likely be problematic - also how does it not potentially run afoul of the Georgia Constitution and the gratuities statute? |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | County tax dollars should not go toward more and more shelters. If we just build more and more shelters and housing, more homeless will come. It will be an ever increasing beacon bring more people and cause a bigger drain on the County. We should not use TEMPORARY ARPA funds on permanent programs. This will only require the County to allocate tax payer funds when the ARPA funds go away. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | This makes more sense than any of the above in helping those in need getting back on their feet for good. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Recognize that "one-time" may be something that covers more than initial costs. For example, child care costs change with new work commitments or with school calendars. Utilities might escalate seasonally. Access to emergency funding should be covered. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Focus affordable housing efforts on "working homeless" unwed mothers with kids. CCSD has a program to help house "homeless students" - why don't you bring this up, eh? And the VA housing voucher program, eh? |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Either they have a home or not. You are homeless or you are not. If they have made it to the point where they have an income then no further assistance is needed. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | This should have the most funds. And there needs to be some safety nets for incarceration since most of the homeless population in Athens is over-policed. Many, many people have lost their apartments for getting arrested for very minor infractions. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | This needs more funds, but it seems that is being acknowledged. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Hardworking taxpayers shouldn't have to pay even more for the homeless problem that our city council has introduced. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Government Slums |

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| Survey | 4 | 8 | If this money is being used to obtain housing for the homeless it is not going to work for long term success. If you try to home someone that is not clean and not willing to stay off drugs then this will be more wasted money and again is not stopping the homeless problem long term. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | My answer is going to be the same for all of these sections. All of these programs are doing nothing but incentivizing homeless to come to Athens. My wife has been harassed and followed by homeless chasing her into her gym in the morning. A homeless man waving a knife approached me last weekend. Over Christmas a homeless set up his tent on the back portion of my neighbors fence. Spending this money will do nothing but have more homeless move into the area and continue to exasperate the problem. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | No, there are already funds set aside for low income earners. Use the programs already established. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | This is a sham just to line politicians pockets. This money will not be utilized correctly, and will help nothing. It's disgusting. Watch and see. These comments that I've made will prove true. Nothing will change. It will only get worse and the money will be gone! |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | If they can't keep a job how do you expect them to afford a house in this town? |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Yes. Work with community groups (churches) in addition to using public funds to prevent competition of ideas and reduced benefit from available resources. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Please do not waste tax dollars on this proposal with no clear plan |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | No |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | See my comments below |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | We should be putting much more money into this fund and using it well. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | yes |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Increasing housing should be increased as low cost housing is the ultimate solution to homelessness |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | I'm fine with a one time usage |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Setting up a household is costly. Providing basics for someone moving into stable housing allows him/her to live in a state better than camping. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | So. Much. Money. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Agree this is needed and should be done. I would also like to see this low barrier. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Drug testing required |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | I support this idea. If someone has shown that they are ready to fly, give them help to make that last step. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Engage the state to provide homeless assistance across all counties so Clarke isn't stuck with it. Perhaps Clarke can export its |

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| | | | successes to other counties. If Clarke can get people, any people into permanent housing and jobs then who cares where they come from. They would pay Clarke taxes. Locate resources in the middle of Clarke away from the borders so that other counties aren't too close and the people won't pay taxes for food in Oconee. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Yes, please |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | I think that spending so much taxpayer money on this is unwise and not responsible but using private funds is great. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | I would like to see the amount of funds dedicated to this strategy increased, perhaps by using some of the funding from strategy 3, as getting unhoused individuals into safe and stable conditions is a crucial first step in becoming self-sustaining. Studies have shown how effective it is to get financial resources into the hands of individuals experiencing homelessness both in terms of ultimate outcomes and in terms of conserving resources. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Agree with the proposal |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Fully support this. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Smart provision. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Tax. LUXURY. CONDOS. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | This has worked so well in other communities, and can work here if managed correctly. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | I support. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | I hope this doesn't mean ACC is going to write them a check or give them cash. We need to set up a system with vouchers to be used for groceries or paying the landlord directly. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Highly support |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Will it really be a one time need. If they continue to be out of work we should not give them free housing. Especially if they continue with any addiction |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Do it! |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | Critical and worthy cost; see micro-housing comments throughout. |
| Survey | 4 | 8 | THIS MAKES SENSE |
| Email | 4 | 9 | I don't know much about what incentives will work for landlords. |
| Forum | 4 | 9 | I have a few things but I am also nervous. I have been a licensed real estate broke since 1982, I have spent the last few years doing property management in Athens & before I was in Key West. In both of those places we have similar issues. As a property management, I was responsible for protecting the asset of the owner. I have always taken on the extra risk for advocating for those with section 8 vouchers. how are we supposed to assure to the homeowner that their asset is going to be taken care of. In Athens, it is hand to mouth but we are talking 4.4 million dollars. we have people here today that are starving, there are people happy to get a package of pretzels. What assurance for people |

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| | | | with section 8 vouchers are not going to destroy their property, I made the commitment of looking after those property every month? because these people matter. Why are the people in this room not being tapped for this? the reason I brought up the vouchers to begin with - and I know that this is a little bit different, but Ms. smith how many are ready (22 is a number said), they are ready but they are living in a tent because there are no places available that are affordable that will accept section 8 |
| Forum | 4 | 9 | I have a question about strategy 9. I want to remind everyone, nobody would be here if you didn't care. We care for everyone. That's why we are passionate. There have been a lot of buy-outs and a lot of multi-million-dollar sales with people displaced. People need to talk about short-term rentals like AirBnB. The tent camp wasn't bid on except by one operator. I don't think anyone wants tents. They are talking about structural integrity. We want that for people. My question is that has to do with landlords and collaborative efforts. Is it (strategy 9) geared toward landlords or property managers? |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | <p>Sustainability: The plan doesn't discuss long-term funding, raising questions about the sustainability of this initiative.</p> <p>Coordination (Page 48): While the plan involves multiple homeless service organizations, it doesn't address how these organizations will coordinate effectively to administer the funds.</p> <p>Risk Mitigation (Page 48): The plan mentions risk mitigation funds but doesn't specify the conditions under which these would be used, potentially leading to inconsistencies.</p> <p>Data Points (Page 48): The plan suggests tracking the number of landlords engaged and units committed, but it's unclear how this data will be used for accountability.</p> <p>Community Impact: The plan doesn't discuss the potential for stigmatization or NIMBY ("Not In My Back Yard") issues that could arise from concentrated landlord participation.</p> |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | HELP SETTLE INDIFFERENCES BETWEEN TENANT AND LANDLORD |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Yeah lets force people and their private property to take care of those who refuse to do it themselves. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | very few landlords want to rent to homeless, courts, or Advantage regardless of guaranteed funds. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | no to this |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Nope |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Forcing Landlords to accept reduced rent, in order to get permits approved, is extortion. it lowers the quality of living for hardworking people that can afford a decent apartment complex. |

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| Survey | 4 | 9 | This also could prove to help those people that just need a bit of assistance to keep their families housed so they don't become homeless. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | There has been an increase in housing acquisition from enormous corporate entities (eg the Florida based "Prosperity" group), with resultant exponential rent increases. Is there a way to limit the increases? |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Stop it! Rapid Rehousing doesn't work especially when you are placing people next to their drug dealers. A 30% failure rate within 12 months. Diverting people who really should be in mental health treatment housing facilities on-site with professional psychiatric services and a pharmacy. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Most businesses will always be focused on the money first and foremost; what we need are robust laws that prevent housing discrimination and can hold landlords accountable if they fail to provide adequate housing. Athens in particular has experienced large corporations, some not even in Georgia, buying out swaths of housing and then altering rules to evict tenants. There is no point in paying these type of people to remain committed to a partnership unless the funds are limitless *and* could be increased at a high enough rate to have it remain the more economically beneficial option than the alternative. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Being a landlord is a business. Business exist to make money or a profit. Landlords do not want people moving in who have no vested interest in the property. If housing is provided then you haven't solved the issue. Now they are just homeless in a home which means nothing to them. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Yeah, right. Needs so a lot of accountability that the money is being used properly. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | This needs less funding. Your average landlord doesn't really care that much. Getting them to care is more systemic than Athens possibly has time for. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | So are you going to put everyone in unsanitary hotels? This will create more problems. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Subsidize privately owned slums. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | I worked in property management for over 7 years. I know personally, there is no way I would have put myself or my staff in the situation to house homeless people unless that person had been clean of any type of substance abuse for a minimum of 12 months. I even remember a time when a local church took a lease for two homeless young men. They agreed to pay the rent for two months, go the boys jobs, and then at the two month mark the boys were supposed to stay clean and continue their lease and paying their rent. We had to evict them the third month of their lease. They had already lost their jobs and started drug use again. |

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| Survey | 4 | 9 | My answer is going to be the same for all of these sections. All of these programs are doing nothing but incentivizing homeless to come to Athens. My wife has been harassed and followed by homeless chasing her into her gym in the morning. A homeless man waving a knife approached me last weekend. Over Christmas a homeless set up his tent on the back portion of my neighbors fence. Spending this money will do nothing but have more homeless move into the area and continue to exasperate the problem. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Same as above. I do not agree with this plan. Use the resources already available. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Legislation is what is needed for landlords to provide more opportunities for low-income and homeless housing. Move this funding elsewhere and crack down on predatory landlord practices! |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | This is a sham just to line politicians pockets. This money will not be utilized correctly, and will help nothing. It's disgusting. Watch and see. These comments that I've made will prove true. Nothing will change. It will only get worse and the money will be gone! |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | What a joke. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Could be challenging. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Absolutely not |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | No |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Really important |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | I'm not hopeful given the results of the survey the coalition put out this year (weird those results weren't mentioned in this study) showing that almost no landlords were willing to work with these programs. Worth trying, seeing how much money they demand in order to participate, then reevaluating the cost-effectiveness. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | In order to increase landlords' willingness to rent, we need to provide supervision and property management assistance. A one time increase in security deposit means nothing when thousands of dollars worth of damage can be done to a unit. Probably a monthly check up of the condition of housing and support in cleaning and services may be needed. This fund needs much more money in order to be effective. I own a rental house and would need much more assurance of help before I would consider renting to someone leaving such services. (and most people would describe me as a "bleeding heart liberal", former school teacher) |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | yes. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | This should be done and followup with these landlords are needed to make sure they follow agreements and respect tenant rights |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Tax payers who are already paying for their own houses should t be paying for others |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Too many landlords are too quick to evict. |

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| Survey | 4 | 9 | Agree landlord buy in and understanding their perspective is very important to get the whole Athens community buy in. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Hmm |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Great idea, but I have no idea how you are going to combat the strong greed that has taken over landlords and property owners. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | I thought the plan was really difficult to read and understand. It doesn't seem to have enough about permanent low income housing. Too much on temporary housing. How about taxing developers to create a fund for permanent housing or developers can provide a certain amount of low income housing to get out of the tax but it doesn't have to be in the same unit. They can build low income housing to off set high income housing. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | The city council should consider implementing a rental cap or tax breaks to landlords who rent to single families & not students or temporary residents. People experiencing homelessness that have jobs are simply not able to afford rent. Years of turning over this city's housing market to student rentals has driven up the homeless population, invited out of state investors, & cause the rental market to be unaffordable to most people who work in Athens. The average wage is simply too low for a family to rent a home in Athens. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Homeless people tend to bring a lot of baggage with them and many times substance abuse. Placing certain individuals in established properties might bring much of that baggage with it. You must take this into account when "housing" the homeless. This could create negative consequences for the landlords as established residents might not like this idea. Also if you put them up in an area that is not nice, the possibility of compounding substance abuse issues rises. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Agree with the proposal |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Fully support this. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Wealthy property owners and lax property managers turn a blind eye to even current tenants. This goal needs legal teeth to be effective. ACC can be dealing with powerful people, politically, financially, legally who will not conduct themselves with decency. Only conduct themselves to make money. Who are property owners and are currently untouchable. Don't let this get way-laid by powerful people, local, state, and national, who just want to keep making money and let the homeless languish. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Landlords don't give a shit about the homeless. Only when the next rent check is coming in. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Landlords have taxes and bank loans to repay. They want their rent! They might be more willing if their properties didn't get torn up, drugs being sold in them, shootings where people want them to pay for security guards.... |

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| Survey | 4 | 9 | Landlords and Property managers have to be educated about the reality of taking in people whose rent is paid by government funds. The more success we have, the more landlords will be willing to be engaged. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | I support. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Again, if this is gonna be a success for the tempted, reducing the number of people who are without shelter, Ben, working with landlords is a requirement, and should be a centerpoint of the transition to more permanent housing. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Highly support |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | The county keeps complaining that there is not enough low income housing. So my question is why did you approve all the apartments on the east side and west side recently built that are renting for high dollars. |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | Do it! |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | \$240,000 to engage landlords? Sounds suspicious . . . |
| Survey | 4 | 9 | This city leadership continues to make this impossible by approving massive developments that are in NO way accomodating to low income and WORKING people. |
| Email | 5 | 10 | Co-location of services makes sense because some places are vacant for big stretches of time. |
| Email | 5 | 10 | I love the idea of a person paid through the grant to be a link to the employment providers and systems. We also want a separate person to be a link to the educational systems - we have that already on the tuesday zoom. (or used to!) |
| Forum | 5 | 10 | Do you have something related to education, workforce development? To put people to work? |
| Forum | 5 | 10 | I'm from Seattle Washington. I went to school for 3 yrs. I'm qualified to weld your bridges. A way back to work is all that we need. We need work to jumpstart. We as the people need that. |
| Forum | 5 | 10 | I would love to go back to school, I tried to go back to school for a little while after being inspired to go back. I can be trained for something hands on and I can do that. I took a math class and I did not go to the counselor for any advice, this one math class I kept thinking it was a different teacher, and I kept dropping this math class it happened 3 times. they ended up dropping my FAFSA. Someone ended up talking to us about doing factory work, but my body cannot do that. I worked with advantage. I am trying to get back to school. There are a lot of people in Athens with hopes and dreams |
| Forum | 5 | 10 | Think from bottom up. Little one like me building the bridge. I failed the welding test the first time I took it. It costs a lot of money to pay for that class. Next time I took the class, I passed because I'm focused. I need books. I need transportation. I ride a bicycle. I have a flat tire. Can you help with that? |

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| Forum | 5 | 10 | Pleased to hear about partnership for employment. 4% of funding is allocated for that. That seems very low when this a priority that will actually will help them get out of their situation. 195 k compared to other services, that's low. Why is that? A follow-up, is this considered less urgent? Less impactful? Cause homelessness has always existed. The 4% is just too low. Additional information should be specified then if funding is already provided for that section. |
| Forum | 5 | 10 | They do their jobs, but I wish there were more resources to make sure the homeless were accountable and I wish there was more training to make sure the homeless were accountable |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | <p>Staffing and Governance: The plan suggests dedicating a staff person to facilitate collaboration between CoCs and workforce programs. While this could be beneficial, it raises questions about who will fund this position and how governance will be shared.</p> <p>Case Conferencing: The plan recommends formalizing partnerships through case conferencing, but it's unclear how roles and responsibilities will be defined, potentially leading to inconsistencies.</p> <p>Co-location of Services: It may also require significant logistical adjustments and funding.</p> <p>Performance Metrics: HUD measures CoC performance with employment and income growth, but additional metrics like the number of commitments from local employers are suggested without clear implementation details.</p> <p>Cost and Funding: The primary cost is staff time, which may be covered under federal grants, but long-term sustainability is not discussed.</p> |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | This is good. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | ALL AND ANY HELP IS APPRECIATED THANK YOU |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | You guys are oblivious. Maybe come out and meet some of these people in their element and you will see they do not want jobs. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | the homeless make more panhandling than they would working. We saw that with Covid and welfare. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | no to this |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Places persons in a precarious position where there housing is tied to their employment status - unfair bargaining position and power. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Participants should be required to participate in life skills classes, job skills classes, and job interviews in order to receive any services. The focus should be prepare people for a job, finding them a job, and then they support themselves. |

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| Survey | 5 | 10 | More should be done in this area as well. 8, 9, 10 should be prioritized as they take the approach of helping people make their own way and not rely on the government to succeed. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | When we say "local," do we mean ACC only, or surrounding counties as well? |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | waste. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | <p>Homeless individuals who were at the Barber St camp who went to Pilgrims to work quit within two weeks!!! Couldn't take it. They probably needed MHTH as well. (Mental health issues - and no not caused by being homeless)</p> <p>The "working homeless" unwed mothers with two kids are the ones who need help with affordable housing.</p> <p>And as far as the ranking below. Bias weren't they? NOTHING with regard to mental health which is half of the unsheltered problem. Why? Because all you care about is getting those HUD "housing" dollars and NOT the community, you are building a "homeless hub", not even caring about the homeless! If homelessness was reduced with real solutions, providers would be out of jobs!!! This is agenda driven "social housing for all" - a nationally driven agenda.</p> |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | They can work now, all they have to do is apply. I have watched people offer jobs to the homeless and they refuse it. Joel at College Square says why work when other people give him everything. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | This is the only good part of the plan. Get these people working again. Most of the homeless in Athens are middle aged males who should be working, not sucking up our towns resources. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | As a business owner good luck. Every "homeless" person I've ever tried to help has always ended up being a total waste. People that actually want to turn their lives around have and will. You can't force losers drunks to be good people. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | <p>Again, most employees are not going to take on the risk of higher someone if they have a history of drug use. I can only see this category working if you have someone that truly fell on hard times and is trying to obtain long term employment to be able to obtain a permanent place to live.</p> <p>This is the only category that seems could possibly be a stepping stone for success. You need to have a local person such as the operator of Sparrow's Nest be in charge of this type of program because he had deal with the homeless for years and he does it in a kind and compassionate way.</p> |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | My answer is going to be the same for all of these sections. All of these programs are doing nothing but incentivizing homeless to come to Athens. My wife has been harassed and followed by |

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| | | | homeless chasing her into her gym in the morning. A homeless man waving a knife approached me last weekend. Over Christmas a homeless set up his tent on the back portion of my neighbors fence. Spending this money will do nothing but have more homeless move into the area and continue to exasperate the problem. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | I think the amount is far to much. The concept is ok but I think the amount should be much less. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Providing employment opportunities is key to ending homelessness - more funding should be allocated for this. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | This is a sham just to line politicians pockets. This money will not be utilized correctly, and will help nothing. It's disgusting. Watch and see. These comments that I've made will prove true. Nothing will change. It will only get worse and the money will be gone! |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Good luck with that one. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Also city county. Road and park clean up work may be possible. Asking homeless to be "community watch" could also provide value in places most don't see. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | No |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Amazing opportunity |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | I don't fully understand what any of these options mean. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | This fund needs more money to begin to be effective. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | yes |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | This is important once people are housed such as being more accommodating with a person's potential health issues while be employed |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | This is something I can get behind, if people want to work, great. Help them with job training etc. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Not every homeless person is capable of holding a job -- some are physically disabled or past retirement age and others are mentally disabled or otherwise incapacitated. Parents with small children need assistance with childcare if they are to have time to work for pay and that childcare must be high quality. Raising children is important work in itself. We should consider subsidizing parents who care for children full time. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Why does this take 195k? Insane. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Great idea if they're being drug tested for housing they'll likely hold down a job |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Engage the state to provide homeless assistance across all counties so Clarke isn't stuck with it. Perhaps Clarke can export its successes to other counties. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Yes. Working gives them something to do. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | I think it is a good idea to assist people with finding employment as they will eventually need funds to get out of homelessness. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Agree with the proposal |

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| Survey | 5 | 10 | Fully support this. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Great to see this. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | These should be partnerships with employers that support living wages and understand the experiences of people (e.g., formerly incarcerated backgrounds, etc.) |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | I see the same homeless folks panhandling the same corners year after year walking right past help wanted signs. You think these folks actually want to work? The naive students are all the salary they need. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | They are enough employment opportunities in Athens NOW! It doesn't take a college degree to do a great number of the jobs that are currently open. It does take getting up in the morning and going to work on time and working 8 hours. But many of them drug test so that's another hurdle. Walmart has lots of openings at their warehouse, Pilgrim is hiring, almost everywhere needs help! |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Currently, Athens has a huge lack of workforce. The timing is great to engage with local employers. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Funding seems a bit low. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | I support. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Again, this is part of a comprehensive plan. If it's going to work, you're gonna have to get the whole community involved. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | As a small business owner who has struggled to find employees this will be a great asset to ACC. But with my CPA requiring direct deposit as many businesses do, this needs to involve getting them a bank account and and an address. Intown Suites has been a tremendous asset for my business in providing housing for "homeless" employees. Please consider reaching out to them for help. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Decreasing barriers to work is incredibly important |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Partner with the labor department. |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Do it! |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Important task depending on how funds are used (see below). |
| Survey | 5 | 10 | Yes! But find me homeless that want to work. Charles at the corner of Baxter and Alps Rd does not want to work. Has anyone talked to him? |
| Forum | 1 | | I am a service provider and I need to learn more and hear from others. To a regional approach, there's nothing more frustrating than to see people who are here who don't know what they are doing here. It's frustrating to see people wind up here. Our first act is to talk to them about getting them to the places they came from. If the counties around us are not helping, that's why we need a person who is set in the Coalition, who can create these conversations with Jackson, Barrow etc. They don't know how to apply for the federal funds, we can help empower them. We need |

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| | | | a staff person for that. We need regional solutions. If they refuse, we will think to get other communities to do their part. It's a free country so they can come here. I oversee hotel voucher program and permanent housing vouchers as well as fixed income disability. They only get \$900 per month. That is nothing. It can't pay for market rate units. They can't get housing so they stay in the hotel. That means other people can't have a place at the hotel. We are doing everything they can do, my best efforts, and we still can't find housing in Athens. How do we build more housing? I talked to a couple of developers and we spent 2 years to go through ordinances and zoning. We tried to create a treatment house to help people build those new neural pathways to rejoin the community. It's been taking years. We are still trying to push forward to move dirt. We need that facility, we need a case worker to find people a place to sleep. Them and I put together can't find housing for people. We want a better data management system like HMIS for all providers. We need to integrate housing, hospital and jail related data. |
| Forum | 1 | | For me being homeless right now, I am working at the salvation army right now. For me being behind the curtain, there is difficulty finding work (you need someone to watch your children while you work, etc.) & the stress can affect your mental situation. Some people who do want a job do not get one just because of the way they look, that also causes problems for them mentally. The outreach would be more beneficial because a lot of people come here to hang out, but they need some more people out there. Not one organization or one person cannot do it all. The salvation army has helped me. The funding that is a big issue too, as you are pouring out and helping out other people you need help too |
| Forum | 1 | | Have to get all the groups together. |
| Email | 2 | | I know little about how street outreach should be done or improved. |
| Forum | 2 | | 2 things. 1. A lot of people have said MH and nothing is being done. Last week 2 people from the hospital were dropped off. Piedmont is dropping right out in front of the hospital. We can't do anything for the people who are at extreme MH issues. This has to be front and center. I see nothing here for the mentally ill. You need to figure out the first people to get on the street. I created an organization called umbrella of love and next June we will bake the world's longest loaf of bread to provide money for charities. The churches want to come together. We partner with people. We bring community together. The awareness of what's being done and what's happening in the streets. We need grassroots. We've got to see something different. We need to look at it as a grassroots effort. |
| Email | 3 | | First, I would like to thank the Mayor of Athens Georgia for even attempting to manage the problem with homelessness. My first |

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| | | | <p>input would be prevention of homelessness help those who are helping their selves first I stay at a residence that I'm paying over Eight hundred dollars a month and it's subject to change at any renewal date. My second input would be affordable housing to reduce the numbers of eviction that causes homelessness go ahead and investigate what's taking the Athens housing authority over two years to put disabled people in affordable housing which is my case if it had not been for St. Joseph Catholic rent assistance here in Athens Georgia, I would have been homeless months ago and Beechwood Church also in Athens Georgia for assisting with Georgia Power. So my main input would be where do you put those who refuse to follow directions and lawful order and have bad habits. So i believe that prevention is the key to not having to experience the problem with whatever it is you are worried about it also apeopleies to Homelessness and prevention of Homelessness. Help those who need the Athens Housing Authority to save money meaning people whom are disabled first then the working class to prevent them to be on the streets or in over crowded shelters whom is not kid friendly. My name is (redacted), I'm a Athenian born in (redacted) Hospital On (date redacted),I stay in (address redacted) in Athens Georgia.so I've been here all my life I know Athens like no other but have a blessed day</p> |
| Forum | 3 | | <p>I wanted to add one more thing that I did not add earlier, there is another group that is not in bigger vision or in tents - what impacted me one night. I came home one night and saw a man lying on the ground. it made me freeze. It was 22 degrees outside, so I immediately stopped my car and called the police. the police and ambulance showed up and they were able to arouse him and I was able to start breathing again. The EMT stood in front of him and he was so disoriented he could not tell his name for a bit. He said how many fingers he was holding up, and the man answered. The police went back in the car, but said there was nothing they could do. They left the man in the freezing temperatures because there was nothing else that they could do. You mentioned that the 1:1 takes money, sometimes we will volunteer and please do the 1:1s.</p> |
| Forum | 3 | | <p>Or we need to put the money in putting people inside and not keeping them outside. As a stakeholder who has sat through all of these sessions but this is very frustrating and this is the last time I am wasting my time.</p> |
| Forum | 3 | | <p>Like she said, can that be earmarked- assisted living - if there was funding for something that mandates mentally ill need to stay on their medication. There can be Medicaid, and also for the alcoholics or the drug users - they need to be off or in rehab the whole time. There has to be some kind of (restrictions)... I mean that was the only way to get my sister stabilized - she is 67 years old. If 48% percent of the population is on drugs or alcohol, they're</p> |

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| | | | going to need more than a home. No landlord worth their weight in salt is going to rent to them. I wouldn't, and land in Athens is incredibly expensive. And this is going to need to be built outside of Athens |
| Email | 4 | | I know little about how street outreach should be done or improved. Inclement weather plan seems like a good idea. |
| Email | 4 | | I happen to like the permanent supportive housing model. I have never managed it, but I was trying to start at Bigger Vision. Note that people in that program 85% of folks have been in the program more than 1 year. |
| Forum | 4 | | We've lost 634 voucher units since 2019. That's what needs to be addressed in the housing plan. What's on the books right now? These 634 voucher units are lost until today. That's the working homeless issue. The CCSD gets voucher money to deal with homelessness. They get housed in couches in trailers. We can't make it about one thing. The working homeless who lost vouchers. Then the other people who are mentally ill need mental health treatment housing. State needs to take ownership. |
| Forum | 4 | | Case management is needed. Our COC is needed because it's a struggle with providing services. The housing vouchers are a momentum starter. A good percentage of them are prepared to go housing. The landlords want and should come to the table. |
| Forum | 4 | | They've completed legal stuff; they have IDs and jobs but living in tents because no vouchers being accepted. Can we expand to Jackson? |
| Forum | 4 | | I just wanted to ask a question about assisted living programs that deal with mental health. My grandmother was a schizophrenic but with Medicaid and Medicare she was living in an assisted living facility. Depending on your level - that person would be put in the assisted living facility which could help the dementia patients that have been dropped off. They need to take their medication, they could go as they please and have a job, etc. I am from New York and I have seen it a lot in New York - do you have that kind of program down here? |
| Forum | 4 | | I go to UGA. I care a lot about it. I interned in DC before. I think that everyone's intention is good. History demonstrates that if people are not receiving help, we play a big part as localities. The ethos behind it. I have a problem. One thing that was telling was that, goal 4. homelessness is ended through permanent housing. Ultimately, we can set up low-barrier housing. We are not going to have ARPA forever. A lot of things interplay with homelessness. A lot of other stuff that matters. We had one mother who had to live with us because she was about to become homeless. When they were talking about tents, they were not being removed for substance abuse. There needs to be expectations for the people to continue good behavior. |

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| Email | general | | I agree we need a data system that measures our outcomes to see how we are doing in each area. |
| Email | general | | I like the overall goals and strategies they came up with in a general sense. |
| Email | general | | None of this talks about a regional approach to some of these issues (not just our county), but we talked about considering that at our meeting. |
| Email | general | | I certainly agree that we need more case management staff paid for, and that they should focus not just on entry but temporary and permanent exits for folks. Some shelters have no case managers at all. Those with mental health issues can get case managers within that system, but the person really needs an overall case manager for the homelessness piece. |
| Email | general | | I was astounded to see the extent to which blacks are far more likely to be below the poverty line and homeless in Athens. We might consider special outreach approaches to educate their community. |
| Email | general | | I wonder why 911 calls to police about homelessness increased so much in 2022 from all the prior years (despite the undercount in 2021.) Also note that, of 2023 calls about the homeless, only 5% involved violence. |
| Email | general | | The coalition nonprofit stuff seems much like discussed. |
| M&C Agenda Setting | general | | Athens resident who has been working with Advantage Street Outreach team is concerned about Athens cutting themselves off from our unhoused community members he's been involved in discussions regarding this strategic plan and has heard comments about Athens being a hub, and if it were to pass these plans it would become more of a hub. There is a sadness he feels when he hears these comments because it feels like people are saying "we don't want these people here at all" because these plans do actually address the challenges of housing and homelessness on a local, regional and state level by empowering the homeless coalition to build coalition and take more macro level action on a regional and state level. This might be a news flash but we actually send our people elsewhere as well. All the time we're sending people to Macon, Augusta, and Monroe because we don't have housing here where we can house people at a fair market value. There is such a premium and such a limit, we are sending people elsewhere as well people who have lived in Athens their whole lives. So, I think we need both of these plans to be able to take care of our community members that are living here now and that have been here and I think there are creative ways that we can fund the affordable housing plan that could even also include a small property tax rollback for average residents. So overall I just want to say let's not close ourselves off to our community members because these folks may have a lot to offer us as well so let's stay open to the things we have to offer each other. |

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| M&C Agenda Setting | general | <p>Although I know this is the agenda setting session and not the voting session. I hope that these plans are approved during the next voting meeting in October. These are very important plans that are very comprehensive, very data driven, they offer from all the data used the best possible recommendations that the team were able to produce that address these issues in terms of affordable housing as well as homelessness. I hope that since not doing anything is not an option, we need to put our resources even if it does means actually putting money toward these issues as soon as we can towards these investments in local housing and preventing homelessness and being able to vote on that in the next voting meeting in October so that the associated advisory committees can began to draft plans to set these in motion. I also hope that if these plans are adopted that before the voting meeting all of the commissioners can make sure to do a very deep dive into these plans and that if they do have issues with one aspect or the other of the plan that they are able to specifically bring up issues with certain options and portions of the plan and can be discussed in terms of the plans adoption versus the alternative being a road to denial and not accepting the plan because something needs to be done and some amount of resources need to be given towards these plans that I hope are approved in Octobers meeting.</p> |
| M&C Agenda Setting | general | <p>I am speaking towards affordable housing, homeless, and homelessness and I want to use a term "unintended consequences". I'm going to take a page from Commissioner Houle's playbook and talk about let's pretend for a second that the bathtub has running water and its running until it overflows. You grab a mop and start cleaning up the water as it continues to rise and flow over the tub. You call your family in to bring more mops and they diligently mop up water right beside you. Water begins to flow downstairs and you begin to call your neighbors with their mops. They are compassionate souls and they begin to come over to help you, it's their civic duty. The water then begins to flow over onto the streets, and you call your city officials because they were elected to help. The city officials call a special meeting to discuss and vote on what should be done after a 3 hours session the city officials votes for a special study the dangers of overflowing bathtubs and to get insight on what other similar towns are doing about similar water situations admitting that they are ill equipped to determine how to tackle the ongoing citywide problem, the county officials calls for a resolution announce their concern for the rising problem to mitigate the flooding resolution. Whereas we have flooding problems in one house we ask the community to turn on the water in their bathtubs so we can level out the water now flood into the streets to establish an equitable water level, and to establish equitable living conditions for all residents.</p> |

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| | | | <p>Whereas compassion dictates we keep people out of the water. The city council will assemble a study to purchase boats and ask for a submission of RFPs to vote on purchasing boats for everyone in the community. Whereas this is a humane and equitable effort to keep people dry we will also consider electric boats to support our green eco-friendly mandate. In the meantime, the city council cannot come to an agreement on the size of the boat and whether rowboats would be considered offensive to some parties a commission on diversity, equity and inclusion is discussed in order to maintain standards of diversity there is a motion on the board to check with Portland or Seattle to see if they have statistics on rowboats versus electric boats in times of crisis, meanwhile there is little concern about the water that is still overflowing the bathtub that started it all in the first place. This is episode one of let's pretend for a second.</p> |
| M&C Agenda Setting | general | | <p>Episode 2: Let's pretend that the water is still flowing because of a faucet that has not been shut off. Water continues to flow and has saturated the town an unsustainable crisis exists. Let's pretend that this impossible situation requires help from the federal government. A quote grant writing team is summoned from the local university to write a compelling grant for funds. As a request for the federal dollars is being drafted there is a motion called for a SPLOST referendum to add another 1% sales tax on every dollar spent in this city. How should those dollars be spent you ask? Residents are homeless because of the flooding, property values are depreciating businesses have closed their doors and moving to cities that are more secure. In order to engage the public a notice is added to the website calling for project proposals. Sales tax dollars will fund the projects as well-organized elite and already well funded groups present detailed proposals there is to be a project wish list complete with an itemized dollar amount for each amenity. Once all proposals for funds have been submitted the city council will vote on the best and brightest smart town elite ideas and budget them for next year's budget. The project list is approved. Important note: the project list that details the culprit of the water leak is rejected. All the while the water continues to run from the same bathtub that started this story. Meanwhile the town remains underwater literally and financially. What's to be done? The city council decides to hire a consultant firm at \$250k to do a study on the water overflow. The consultant recommends project clean water amongst a multimillion-dollar water purifying system that will purify the water still standing in the streams. It is promoted as a health and safety project that can double a leisure service youth project to provide clean swimming water with a bang for your buck. While the multimillion-dollar facility is being discussed month after month the council makes a motion on an act to stem the tide. A mandate to conserve water as well as a</p> |

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| | | | city-wide moratorium on bathtub usage because of the water shortage. A closed-door meeting is held by the city council to discuss what the public should not be told yet. Let's pretend for a second that it is insane to keep on doing the same thing again and again and the things aren't working. Stop bleeding the funds and get to the source |
| Forum | general | | Seems like you are creating this money to create more money. How are we trying to get the number of homeless people down? This is a lot of administrative costs. All the money, I mean 2.2 million is being spent on just administrative costs. IF you increase capacity with this money, you increasing the hub of services which makes the people to come here more. Cloudburst doesn't have a great record of solving homelessness. How will this be more different? Where has that been showed to help? What is a measure of success? 2.2 million was spent. but no success. what's the measure of failure and when to stop the money for being spent on this? These are my tax money and it is only getting worse. |
| Forum | general | | I have been a ACC citizen since 1999, I have lived off of North Ave. for the last 19 years. and I have seen how the homelessness in that area has grown. And I have seen different degrees of it - I have seen those with a drug problem and I have seen those who just need a little bit to get back right. I am a grad student who after a ten-year illness picked myself back up, I went back to school at the age 59 but after seeing what I am seeing in my neighborhood - I am originally from Memphis, TN but I ain't going back to TN. I have decided that I want to be a part of the solution. I did not come here to ask questions, but I came here to ask solutions because I want to be a part of the solution and bring all the sectors of the community together either by opening up doors or setting up a nonprofit. I do not want to see the redundancy of us taking time out of our schedule to hear the same thing every day. are we not asking the right questions? we have five things going on that is the part of the same problem. we need a team set up like the United Nations that is set up to help solve all the problems from different angles. but throwing money at the solution, specifically tax payer money, is not going to solve the problem. We cannot put a band aid on the problem - where I live I see it's getting worse by the day and by the minute. someone mentioned what is going on in CA and they mentioned the word accountability - it is one thing to have something to give but holding counties accountable - for those who drop off their people in Athens. the tax payers should be given constantly given updates and everyone who is a part of the team like the United Nations should be representative of everyone in this room. we need to create another strategic plan to address all the solutions and work through them. I brought this up with my professor last night and he said - "well this is what we are |

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| | | | doing in Chicago," let us take a page out of the book of successful cities. I am telling you "put me into work," I am not going out like this. |
| Forum | general | | I think it's about us. Drugs and crime go hand in hand. None of these looked at the cause. How are we spending 5 million on something that we don't even know about the cause? This is a stepping stone to never ending spending. I see more and more. I don't see compassion. I see people screaming into the ether and not living well. Are Athenians not doing enough? Our stable homeowners are continuously paying taxes and prices of homes are increasing and then you have displacement and more homelessness. |
| Forum | general | | There comes a point where we as a community feel like we are screaming at the ether, we are all saying the same thing as community members - it becomes a frustration to hear ... that this is how we are going to be represented. We (the group) are a group of market researchers, boots on the ground. I know where people are coming from - I was on a run in Buena Vista and saw people being dropped off from another county. We create a liability for everyone in this town when we lower the barrier for housing. It has been more concerned with our employees or our children coming and going about going to the park alone, etc. and it is exhausting and I think it is time you start to listen to us as the community. I would really like something to come of this saying that this is maybe a draft and we need to pull back. We see a lot of money going to staffing and it makes a lot of people very nervous |
| Forum | general | | There is a fundamental mistake by calling it a service hub. When people come for these entertainment services, you are putting more money into Athens. There has been no referendum to sustain or grow this (homeless) money. Where do we get the biggest bang for the buck? You are throwing money against the wall to see what sticks. The more money you spread out, there will be more money tied to staffing rather than direct services. Where would you get the biggest bang for the buck in the 2-year time frame? No one has voted to see this in 2 years. |
| Forum | general | | I have worked in EMS in the surrounding areas for the past 3 years, there is a pipeline into Athens for the past three years. I have taken people to the VA, that places is a mess and has devoured itself with its own funding. I could have kept a day job doing pickups through Oglethorpe, Wilkes, and the other county to come into the county for the hospitals. There is a main line of people using tax payer ambulance bills and taxi rides. The unfunded liabilities for Piedmont is atrocious |
| Forum | general | | I am the one with my son. I'm the one who was running the government. When you can't do nothing locally because shelter is funding by local and state level. What good is the money if you |

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| | | | can't do nothing? It's an opportunity to steal. The govt. officials steal and put money in the back pocket. |
| Forum | general | | For those of you who don't know me. I'm a taxpayer. I was on the board of a national veteran coalition. I've seen countless bureaucratic efforts where millions and billions were spent on fixing homelessness. Now it's just poured into service providers who are more interested in sustaining themselves rather than helping people. Homelessness isn't about housing first. It's about treating other people. It's not addressing root problem. The consulting company just put this out there. It makes a lot of assumptions about what ACCGov will fund when there is no proof. When Athens sells our water, the other counties pay. We need to get reimbursed somehow. We can't even take care of our own people. Go back to square one and have a conversation about the real fundamentals. |
| Forum | general | | I've done the Point in time counts. I'm having real conversations with the people out there. |
| Forum | general | | I came in later. How much of the 1/2 million will be spent on salaries activities etc.? |
| Forum | general | | Who in this picture, who would ultimately be where the buck stops? Who is responsible to say that money can't be used for salaries? Who gets to decide the limits in fundings? |
| Forum | general | | I disagree that any funding go to Advantage. I put a hold on it. I would talk to people in private. I don't want any grant to advantage. |
| Forum | general | | I can't stand you mis characterizing us as the bad people. we are not the bad people. |
| Forum | general | | What if this increasing the problem |
| Forum | general | | We didn't create this hub. We didn't ask for this. |
| Forum | general | | The beauty of our community. But I don't want to get threatened in the parks by these people with my kids. |
| Forum | general | | I want to add balance. First of all, I like it. I am grateful for this. I am not going to say its prefect. A couple of points: Athens is a hub, it's a truth. Homeless people spend money here too. It will be fact - we are a hub. As a community, we deciding people are valuable. We don't want to throw money after bad money is what I'm hearing. What your government representatives are putting forth are current best ideas. Let's have those RFPs, let's make sure that our RFPs are collaborative in nature. Speaking on the same terms. In sum, as a former provider and volunteer this makes sense to me. |
| Forum | general | | What are the metrics? |
| Forum | general | | I will piggyback on the man that said something about Athens being a HUB. Because of the hub, how is ACCGov working with the surrounding counties working together? They are from out of |

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| | | | town but once they get in here, they are residents. Clarke county has to pay for that. How do we fund all that? |
| Forum | general | | There are people living here with no homes. In the last 18 months, that are known drop-offs who are dropped off by agencies from hospitals. |
| Forum | general | | I saw west Athens and Bethel. Affordable housing that is being paid with HOME, CDBG and ARPA funds and money. How many units are being built? |
| Forum | general | | The reality is this will go to the commission and mayor. They will vote on it on Oct 3. This will be the last time they will get feedback. |
| Forum | general | | Ok so, I want to address the questions that business owner had. There is no mention of MH or Substance abuse. Greater than 50% of people have Mental Health/Substance Abuse (MH/SA). I'm from California and let's take a look there. They spent 20 billion in the state and nothing to show for it. Now, they put 4 billion into MH services and centers. Now the care court process in California can make people get treatment. Even though its only 4 billion, it's all on MH. You could have developed Advantage but you didn't - they don't put this 7 million into Advantage. They can really help. This will help working homeless people. They will find the rent. You are putting the wrong people in rapid rehousing. You can make a huge dent right away with Advantage Behavioral. |
| Forum | general | | What I want to say is, you don't want to give none of it back? Why can't we have the 55 people to build these. We have a neat staff. We have seen the places moving up and staff is better. We got a lot of people coming in with good attitudes. I just want to know why all this money... not going to those 55 people. |
| Forum | general | | We aren't addressing the root of the problem. the service providers are thinking that they are helping but they really aren't. |
| Forum | general | | You cannot do anything about homelessness unless you go to the "top," and you cannot do anything local without going to the "top." If you have never lived homeless you do not know what they need, taking money is an opportunity to steal money from those who need it. |
| Forum | general | | I was in the woods for a for a few years working as street outreach. writing grants to create these programs but we need to come together as one to solve this problem. It's not about us it's about them. I will still work in any way I can but if I can get a bottle of water. We need to listen to the people. We need to unify together for solutions. Try to see where we can get together. |
| Forum | general | | First of all, I strongly support many endeavors in ACC. What other communities have done the housing first model in the USA and have been successful? There is a reason I ask this, I have done my research and I have found more failures than I have found successes. I want to support but throwing money at something |

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| | | | <p>other communities have not been successful with is concerning. That's another thing, spending the 4.4 million dollars on this without a way to sustain it is concerning. If you take my comment as being totally negative you are misunderstanding. I went to the meeting yesterday and there were many questions that came up that there were few answers. I read the cloudburst report and there are many, many flaws in this report. You talk about wanting input, there was something before the M&C about a police advisory committee and 84% of the community said that they did not want one - and yet the M&C had one. I want you to be successful.</p> |
| Forum | general | | <p>The question goes back - he asked and several people have asked - you get this money. and we ask: what about the next year, and the next year and you say we do not know. We already did this with the tent city and now poof - gone! This was an experimental program, what went on with them? That is my question: where are they going to go? Is there money coming from somewhere else to move them somewhere else? They were scattered around before, and the "tent city" brought them together to receive services and now that this program has ended that they are back to being scattered out.</p> |
| Forum | general | | <p>One of these things, I keep coming to hear stuff differently. I know that you are just providing information to the mayor. All we get is a PowerPoint. What is the HMIS? Where is their data that shows that 1200 or 2000 people? How do you see this database? Where is it? I hear your story. I wonder if there's something I can do to contribute to this story. I don't have that equipment but I know people who do. 2000 or 6000, is it not public? What is the greatest need? This is what falling in the cracks looks like. It's not being done since 1991 since it's been unified. We keep making the mention of connection to services. That's a problem, low-barrier problem. Non-profits by nature compete with each other so they won't work together. That's very common sense. And many people who are homeless before and never want to remember that. People have experience and have lived experience. And how they got past it.</p> |
| Forum | general | | <p>You are asking the tax payers of Clarke County to pay 4 million dollars, I do not see any staff increases etc. I go to the hospital, I cannot get in because of the homeless. I go to the mall, I cannot get in because of the homeless. I do not see this problem in Oconee or Jackson County, and now you are asking for more! Are we recruiting for more people to come?</p> |
| Forum | general | | <p>My dad was commissioner for 26 yrs. Athens has changed so much from taking so many funds. They go everywhere but they don't really help. The money was mismanaged and it was supposed to clean up Athens. You can't go anywhere without feeling like you</p> |

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| | | | can't do something. We just want to do our 10%. We can't help the whole world. Why are we promoting people to come here? |
| Forum | general | | I would like to point out that \$2 million is allocated for services. Only \$1 million for transition to permanent housing. Why do you think you won't increase the number of people who are homeless? Because right now, if we have a 73 percent turnover, it costs \$13k per year per person. How will you ensure the turnover rate to increase when you have more people coming in here and depleting our services? I have one more question, what is the budget for HCD? |
| Forum | general | | If something like refugee drop-off happens, then it would deplete our resources. I was curious how you found cloudburst? What was the cost of their funding? Their total budget was \$133k. It was paid by ARPA? I know money has to be spent by 2026. Can it be used for other stuff? Because we have \$4 million left. Looking at the goals, the rapid-exit, is it to help with education, employment... has that been a goal in conjunction to encampment people. These goals are great but are they working? |
| Forum | general | | My experience briefly, I didn't have a job. I was homeless 5 times. I'm a proud prodigy of provided programs. As a homeless person, it's up to you to do the work. Tension becomes hot when you talk about money around people who have none. You are a prodigy of programs and you have to do the work. Even if the tents have rain, we are trying to do the work. It's in our mind that we can't do this or do that. I started my career. If you are willing to do the work go stand up for something. If you ain't got it, then make it work for you. If they don't make you feel comfortable, then you got to do the work. Just because we throw the money don't mean the change will happen unless we are together. We are in this room caring about the same room. I still do the work. I still try. I'm speaking on behalf of the coalition and the homeless people. |
| Forum | general | | We are against wasting money with our money. |
| Forum | general | | What is working in our programs, and what's not? Where are the gaps in funding? When we talk about homelessness the experience intersects differently for everyone. We want to create that dialogue table. We don't have numbers and that is why we are trying to. |
| Forum | general | | When I invest financially or time on something. I want to see ROI. I don't want to contribute anymore if I don't have ROI. We need to see data. |
| Forum | general | | I want to attest to the fact for the rules and regulations that are involved for state, local, and federal that are not the way it was in the 1960s. It is not the way where we used to do business by handshake. I want to address Maslow's hierarchy of needs. If you are going to build a house: you must first look at the topography and get a design. But until you see a foundation laid that is visual - people out there working and putting up a structure - you say "this |

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| | | | is really going to happen." There is no visual happening in Athens and that is reducing the supportiveness you are going to accomplish. The hierarchy of needs does not start out with someone needing a home. It starts out with someone housing them - it could be a neighbor or a church. Nobody that is paying taxes or is paying for the things that they need..... there used to be starter homes, a one bedroom and a one bath. You have to start somewhere and the foundation is being built through PowerPoints but we are looking for the structure. I look to the lady at the salvation army - with the structure - having the land and having the space. You have to talk to a broad community and start giving visuals to get a broad support. |
| Forum | general | | If you don't put any of these monies in place without the plan, then it's a waste. A circle. Spend your flex amount is what it's like. |
| Forum | general | | Can we know where these properties will be located? Is there any list of properties? I have constructive criticism of the homeless and affordable housing plans. It's like healing gun shot with gauze. You have no self-worth, no motivation, and I want to see a reformation process. Not just a tent. It's counter intuitive. We need to fix the problem like psych evals and take their problems and provide solutions. Just because we staff the coalition, doesn't solve anything b/c it's a minuscule part of the problem. We can throw money but we won't get to where we want to be. If we take the 73 percent retention. We could have given 10 k to everyone that was involved. Everyone needs to know how much money ARPA has squandered. The past 2 years, we have 7 million, 5 million was staffing. \$2.5 million for eviction prevention. \$2.3 million for employee retention bonuses. They just gave bonuses for the employees in Athens. \$2 million to balance 2023. A million for vaccines. \$17 million squandered. You can buy a hotel. Police encounters have been 200 % past 2 yrs. We apparently are going about it the wrong way. Fix the problem, the housing is just a bandage. We need REFORMATION and stability. |
| Forum | general | | Thanks for the presentation. I like the COC. Working for Advantage, I have worked with case management and worked with the COC. Working with different people to make COC better. Been homeless and housing first model is great. I moved here from Atlanta. I was on the streets and doing very bad. I was hearing voices and everything. The work you're doing is very effective. Street outreach and everything coming together. I am on the coalition board and happened to have lived experience. Your minds can take you over. Separate you from the real world. It's rough, really rough, you have to get stable first and then you need a house and then case manager and you'll want to work after that. You don't want to get out the bed, you don't want to go to the job because... you need a support system. I am working and you need all at the table. You need all forces and come up with a plan. I just |

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| | | | want to thank you and let you know that there's hope. I've got my BS, masters and working on doctoral. |
| Forum | general | | As a service hub, we don't have any hospitals like Ridgewood or other stuff for addiction, substance abuse. How can we even consider ourselves a service hub when we don't have these resources to provide? |
| Forum | general | | If you remodel a house, maybe it is an old house and if you remodel a house - and you picked out the colors and the flooring and a person who knows more about the house says you have to fix the roof first, and what I see with HCD there is a step-by-step process that is extremely frustrating and it has to be extremely frustrating to you guys, and I know people who renovated a house and put paper in the walls to live in there day after day. But when I hear, and I would love to hear and I need to know if the 6,000 thing that the fellow mentioned was accurate - the people of Athens need to know. If the people of Athens do not know, it will not be a pretty picture. There is an overflow thing and it does not make sense. We have an oversight committee, are they paid? Some of these groups, they are organized with boards and everything but are there things coming in everyday like this homeless flood - are there other groups or organizations that can yield some of their organized people to help with something like this? I feel like our resources are spread thin - can we not work together to fix this thing? |
| Forum | general | | I had a schizophrenic mother and sister. To address the gentleman in the front, it's naive to think that you can get them in housing. No one wants to live with people who live with this experience. She wouldn't take meds. I'd also like to ask the gentleman, what was the first step to getting out of it? The drug addiction, you can't help them unless they want to help themselves. When it comes to MH, it's not just a slight case of depression/anxiety. I don't see how you will get them to a place and get it all better. |
| Forum | general | | Forty years ago, I ran a homeless program in Athens-Clarke County and I thought I could cure homelessness. I have seen dozens of these, have seen millions and maybe a billion but it may be like he said - a Band-Aid. But what I have come to think that it may sound naive but if people out there who are truly interested would adopt a homeless - maybe not into their homes, of course not into their homes but shepherd them with a class or through resources, I can see y'all helping develop such a program and I know it sounds naive and I think it can start a solution. |
| Forum | general | | Life could come to a halt tomorrow. Tomorrow could change dramatically but I know for sure that giving something is not going to motivate me. We all could be homeless tomorrow. I keep going to the fact that HMIS is not being utilized. With FedEx and Amazon collecting data, why can't we collect these data? I worked with someone with Medicaid. They keep bringing her pills for BP but |

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| | | | she doesn't need them. HMIS needs to put people, resources so we can better connect people with resources. There are legal issues that go with the street outreach and working with people one on one. I want to be a solution but I see problems because they are not being addressed. |
| Forum | general | | We can work together to save money of your taxpayers' money. |
| Forum | general | | How many positions is it going to take the build all of these strategies? |
| Forum | general | | The cost of not spending is higher than spending right now for something. |
| Forum | general | | I guess just a couple of things - 90% of the people who are homeless in ACC have lived here for over ten years. A lot of folks are looking at a small number of folks who are being bused in. I want to go back to something that we started the meeting with "do not let perfect get in the way of progress," I - as a taxpayer think we need to do something. For folks who think that this is not it - I would love to know what your solutions were instead of attacking someone who is trying to do something in their community. |
| Forum | general | | Why is it that homeless people are stereotyped as people who are prostitutes, drug users, mentally ill? You all don't know. Live homeless, then you will know. I don't look like I live in a tent. I also write poetry and wrote a book and change the food. Just because you live in tents, don't mean you are uneducated or second-class citizens. |
| Forum | general | | My name is Katrina and I'm like most people in the encampments, they are simply falling on dark times. We are smart educated people. If you gave us a chance. One minute you are an educated scholar, next minute, you are going to implode. It doesn't make you a criminal. Ignorance is bliss. My beloved people, my family and friends, they are told dirty stupid things on the street. We need help sometimes. Not a handout. A chance to live with dignity. |
| Forum | general | | 330 people have gone through encampment and 73 percent of people are in permanent housing now. Some are case-by-case. Some leave early, some stay because it's hard to transition. We create a sense of community. We partner with Advantage. We provide them resources like medication, housing, & employment. |
| Forum | general | | There's a concern in the community. A worry, that as you provide services, the numbers will grow. When I look at the homeless population, we will never reduce the number because the number is always increasing. We might be successful if the number doesn't grow. This is creating homelessness faster than ever. We will unfortunately be inviting even more people to ACC |
| Forum | general | | 18 people in this town may spend \$18,000, 18 homeless people will probably cost us the same amount. What we are doing in |

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| | | | Athens is saying bring us your homeless, bring us your alcohol, bring us your drug addiction and have Piedmont Hospital take care of all of them. |
| Forum | general | | For this money in year 2, do we have any guarantee of funding after year 2? Where are the funds to maintain the salaries and other stuff? |
| Forum | general | | I have a compliment for you all. You have done a fabulous job of collecting solutions for a difficult problem. I hope the commission spends a lot of time thinking about it instead of giving a negative response of "we don't want those people here". You've been giving thoughtful solutions. |
| Forum | general | | This seems to me like there's more drug overdoses. |
| Forum | general | | Street gang and drugs, that's the problem. Every other day we have overdoses and deaths. The street gangs and drugs are messing this city up. |
| Forum | general | | You just mentioned a MH facility with 66 beds. Can you tell us how many homelessness shelters there are and their beds? Barrow has less than 12 beds. |
| Forum | general | | We are getting buried by so many people who represent the same entities. For example, I get contacted from multiple police support orgs asking for money. When they say they don't have time to report success - that's the only way we can differentiate and you can know which one to help. |
| Forum | general | | I have learned the importance of reintegration from the military. Even after the war in Syria, we gave them a slum to live in but it became a slum. Where is the reintegration? We (humans) go back to the easiest pathway. If you put the money into random stuff, and advertise, if you don't have the system to improve, then they won't change mindset. New neural pathways aren't being made if you are not training them for reintegration. I see a lot of the sending the message out there and put the money to make people act. Where is the training? You are taking out the block by reducing barriers. |
| Forum | general | | IS the commission and mayor taking any input |
| Forum | general | | In full disclosure, I think it will help to remind the public - when you speak in front of the Mayor & Commission you have 3 minutes, the public does not have an opportunity to go before the Mayor & Commission in a forum like this where a question can be asked and there can be dialogue back and forth. |
| Forum | general | | The M&C need to hear from the people who were here. The faces that are here are not getting in front of the M&C to say these things. Your faces need to be in front of the M&C, you are a number until they see your face and hear your story |
| Forum | general | | Assisted living takes 35 hundred a month. How will that be affordable? |
| Forum | general | | What happened to the encampment? and why? |

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| Forum | general | | I think my question goes back to this federal money and we paid taxes. They can apply with the grants. We have already done this with the tent city. It was almost like an experiment because now we have to move them and what's going to happen to them? 55 people and no money anymore. Will they be dispersed? Is there money coming from somewhere else? The idea was to create a control to where these people are, but now they will be scattered again. |
| Forum | general | | How many have been successful with the housing first approach? |
| Forum | general | | Where is that facility (Advantage) being built? |
| Forum | general | | Salvation Army have 74 beds. |
| Forum | general | | We got 57 million and can't solve homelessness? |
| Forum | general | | So many orgs are doing great work. We (Salvation Army) do our best to partner with other orgs. We are blessed with the funding we have now but it's hard. Of course, we need to do better job of sharing the story. Funding is a major part of the issue. We have 74 beds and land. We have been flying under the radar but we continue to serve as best as we can. |
| Forum | general | | My understanding is that 40% are substance abuse/ 48% MH, 12 % is other. I see you supporting a lot of services and how do we cure their addiction? They don't change unless they know they need to change. In my family, there was an individual who was hooked on drugs, he lived in a pretty bad life style but the family cut off assistance to him and eventually he turned his life around. There's another example from a friend I know where they continue to support their addicted family member and that person never changes, it's been 10 years now. How can we change them unless they actually want to? Will this really help? How do we ensure that they will really change? |
| Forum | general | | A housing first model has saved a lot of money in Salt Lake City. Drugs are a psychological issue. They are taking drugs because they are not having their needs met. |
| Forum | general | | I was just going to say that homelessness happens for many different reasons. I have been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia when I was 13, I have been off of my medication for 8 years since I had my first child. Everything to help starts with having a roof. You need to house them, then help find the cause that caused them to become homeless |
| Forum | general | | I became homeless because they came and bought up the apartments, a lot of people in Lexington Heights became homeless because the guy bought the apartment and upped the rent. It is not all about drugs, it is not all about gang members. I was not on drugs, I was told in 90 days you have to go. Because of my disability I could not really go to work, and I had nowhere to go. It is not just because people do not want to work. |

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| Forum | general | | Everybody don't want to be homeless. I was homeless at one time because I have an aggravated assault charge for a police record thirty years ago and it will not be expunged unless I was pardoned. But everybody don't want to be homeless. That is just like, some people may need something for a cold and some people need something for cancer in terms of the homeless situation. It is a lot going on, a lot of people do not want to be homeless but they have so much going on. Some of them are sick, some of them have AIDS and nobody wants to take them and they have gone into depression. At any time, one of us can be homeless - it can happen to us all. I have a cousin who graduated dental school, she has kids but has fallen into a depression and cannot do anything and it can happen to anybody. I understand that we cannot just hand out money but somebody got to help. Somebody has to start to help the homeless. |
| Forum | general | | One thing to say is that a lot of people are homeless, but you have to be a drug addict to get into a housing situation. It seems like you put more drug addicts in a house than people who actually need housing solutions. You are putting more drug addicts in and that is why you are not receiving any solutions. |
| Forum | general | | They don't want to be there in encampments. How many people have we rehabilitated? So over 200 people? And I know that there are some proposed encampments like on Tallahassee Road. I'm pretty sure that's why everyone is in the room. There's a property. I saw the email from mayor Girtz. |
| Forum | general | | The conversation happened but nothing is finalized. It was just a conversation. The only thing on this road, is the project that will be happening is 30 beds out of 70 beds. They are building an extension. Advantage is just having an extension. The email is so out of context. I don't know if there's anything to it. We do have to find existing properties. There are people spreading rumors. |
| Forum | general | | There has been nothing public and behind closed doors. We want to know these places. |
| Forum | general | | There will be a public work session and agenda setting session. There will be a voting session. |
| Forum | general | | I run ambulances. I came to back to Athens after moving away a while. We are bringing refugees in 6 weeks. And I am looking at neighborhoods. The resources for the counties are not ready. They will not print things that they disagree with. I have come here and I will warn you that these people are coming. I will drop them off at Pulaski St |
| Forum | general | | THIS IS REALLY BASIC. What criteria that we need to meet to get all this funding? The reason why we are having 6000 refugees? How much was ARPA funding? |
| Forum | general | | Are we a sanctuary city? |

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| Survey | general | | <p>I was homeless in Athens and I got out of it. I have concerns about the Homelessness Strategic Plan. It does not adequately address aggressive panhandling, public drug use, defecation, disturbing mental health behaviors, and people sleeping on streets. I do not feel safe in public areas due to this.</p> <p>The plan focuses too much on shelters without requiring people to access resources and services and give back via community service.</p> <p>Revisions needed: Connect unsheltered to treatment and transitional programs first Increase enforcement of public safety laws Expand mental health and substance abuse treatment Require community service for violations</p> <p>Simply expanding shelters is not enough. Please address these immediate community concerns before finalizing the plan. Note: Many responses had to be abbreviated due to your 1000 character limit, which restricts meaningful public input</p> |
| Survey | general | | <p>Stop enabling people Stop allowing aggressive and dangerous panhandlers to harass the tax paying citizens of Athens Clarke County!</p> |
| Survey | general | | <p>This is a complex issue. Allegedly, surrounding counties and cities relocate homeless here due to Athens Kind reputation. That needs to stop! If we are going to spend all this money, fine, but invest in people not the mechanism. Step 1. Clean them up. Anyone with a drug or alcohol problem should go to rehab and get clean and sober. Without that the rest is useless. 2. Once that is done, Why are we not helping people get an education? Athens Tech is a great affordable school. 3. Build housing! Increase zoning and build housing specifically for the homeless! 4. Why not ask citizens to house those, not abusing and safe, to take someone in? In return, greatly reduced property taxes. It cost you \$4000 to house someone vs. cost of building a new house. 5. Employers who hire homeless get a tax break as well. 6. A joint agreement with all counties that they do not send their homeless here. Really tired pf paying for Fulton County issues!</p> |
| Survey | general | | <p>ACCGOV isn't responsible for broadly addressing homelessness. This isn't because the idea isn't noble. It's because ACCGOV foremost should represent the interests of tax payers and citizens. The problem extends far beyond the capabilities of ACCGOV. Focusing on affordable housing would be a more realistic goal and would more directly serve ACCGOV stakeholders and citizens. Even that is a massive challenge. But at least it would help current citizens from being displaced. Similarly, intervention programs focused on the currently housed but at risk would have meaningful impact for citizens. Anything beyond such scope would</p> |

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| | | | be misuse of taxpayer resources and almost certainly increase homelessness. Will there at least be hard constraints placed on future spending if indeed the results are counter productive? At what point would ACCGOV acknowledge efforts are worsening the issue? If never, it's a fool's errand and grossly irresponsible. Compassion without understanding is often cruel.... |
| Survey | general | | I'M WILLING TO STAND BY ATHENS CLARKE COUNTY AND WILL PROVIDE AND COMPLY TO ALL QUESTIONS AND REMARKS THANKS AND PLEASE HELP MY FELLOW HOMELESS PEOPLE |
| Survey | general | | Robust and transparent Case Management partnered with Police Department |
| Survey | general | | Stop wasting tax payer money on the homeless |
| Survey | general | | Sounds like a waste of money. |
| Survey | general | | <p>The above question should even be asked. The county needs to stand up for itself and start calling out other communities for dropping people of.</p> <p>ACCgov should stop thinking Advantage is the fix all. Advantage only services 25% of the mental health and homeless population 1 in 4 and it goes to 1-5 from time to time. They refuse to outreach to anyone not connected to services with them. And the minute they can discharge them as a client for liability reasons they cut them. And they don't have to answer to anyone in the county about it and hide behind hippa.</p> <p>The mayor and commission have made it to inviting for homeless to be in Athens. They are the reason for the homeless problem. We will continue to have drop-offs from other communities they way things are being ran.</p> |
| Survey | general | | none of this |
| Survey | general | | DISLIKE this format of rank order and, unless randomized, favors the structure/order presented. Do better! Also, too many options for a rank preference - 5 or fewer!!! You should balance this with which would you NOT recommend!! The automatic forced selection should INVALIDATE this format and SHOULD NOT be used again. Note this for the grant folder as it AUTOMATICALLY selects a ranking after your first selection - this should NOT be used for any FEDERAL REPORTING. |
| Survey | general | | We should not provide free hand outs without requiring personal responsibility. We should not allow further dependence and enabling. Increase resources and you increase the influx of homeless people form all around. |
| Survey | general | | Athens has always been known as a college town. We are rapidly becoming known as a "Service Hub." Providing more services has only shown to increase our homeless problem. Our response has been to provide more services, which leads to more |

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| | | | homelessness, and the cycle repeats. As we have become a service hub the homeless flock to Athens and Athenian citizens have to deal with all the problems they bring with them. Why will this time be any different? Where have these strategies worked? What incentive does anyone being paid have to actually solve the problem and put themselves out of a job? How many homeless people would have to be helped for this to be considered a successful program? At a price tag of \$4.6 million we could write 46 people a \$100,000 check. We should use this money to hire more law enforcement to protect the people of Athens that are making this town work instead of attracting more people in need and putting more strain on our community. |
| Survey | general | | ACC has put a lot of great work into obtaining this funding and creating a plan. ACC also shoulders the bulk of the homelessness burden for our region. It has been sickening to hear about law enforcement (and other entities) from surrounding counties actually driving & dumping homeless individuals into ACC. To what extent will we be seeking funding from any who do this? |
| Survey | general | | Yes, none of the above. Fund Advantage mental health treatment housing - the \$5 million is needed to complete the facility not in phases! Then the state needs to use it as a pilot (metrics and outcomes) to DECENTRALIZE similar facilities at CSBs in many many other counties. If you want to spend a few bucks, open some shelters in neighboring counties. But that does not further your agenda does it? |
| Survey | general | | This is a joke. Homelessness has always existed and it will continue to exist. You can't change someone's desire to work, quit drugs, quit drinking, etc. They chose the life they lead either directly or indirectly. Not my problem to fix. Show one person who has actually been helped by this and I mean they now have a job and are independent of financial assistance or housing assistance. |
| Survey | general | | City codes pertaining to vagrancy must be examined also. Individuals with no visible means of support who are left wandering about are a danger to the community and present an unsightly and unhealthy view of the community. If we closely examine the issue of vagrancy (homeless) we will find that the vast majority of these individuals suffer from drug-related issues or severe mental health issues. Vagrancy should not be tolerated. |
| Survey | general | | As long as you locate any new shelter in 5 points! |
| Survey | general | | Most of the issues that lead to homelessness are not being addressed: over-policing, no public spaces, lack of mental health accessibility. |
| Survey | general | | Where is mental health and enforcement of laws - such as blocking sidewalks leaving piles of litter? |

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| Survey | general | | Overall, the plan seems like a good first step. It needs more refinement and input from lived experience of the homeless. |
| Survey | general | | Our city council created this homeless problem by establishing facilities and programs which tempt other counties to ship in their homeless. We are now paying for other counties homeless. This new program appears that it will do more of the same: create more government jobs and funds to facilitate the growth of the homeless problem in our city. We have never had this problem before our current city council. This plan is a disaster and will only exacerbate the problem. In 34 years as an Athens citizen, I've never seen so many homeless. Get these people working again and lock up the drug users and offenders. It's embarrassing to see people smoking crack in front of the arches with impunity. |
| Survey | general | | This is with out a doubt one of the more ignorant things Athens has wasted money on. How awful is it that our best solutions is to spend Millions of dollars of tax payer money on a Hooverville! Sounds like the only people that will be lifted out of poverty are the people running the Graft. |
| Survey | general | | The bottom line is that ACC has been soft on Homelessness and it is a known fact that our city is "welcoming" to the homeless. This is the reason we have seen a surge in the homeless problems. Trespassing on private property , this has happened at our ACC business, damaging property, sleeping on sidewalks, walking into traffic high on drugs, sleeping on the sides of roads....it is out of control! I read that in 2006 Gwinnett County made it illegal for panhandlers to be on public land and they outlawed "urban camping" . This is something that ACC could also put into place for our City that would immediately start to make the homeless move along. Why are spending money on people that are vagrants using our city as a layover on their vagabond lifestyle as we foot the bill?! Our city is dirty, it is not safe, education is lacking, poverty does not change, we have constant shootings and a city wide drug problem. I do not approve of wasting \$5 million on this project. |
| Survey | general | | My answer is going to be the same for all of these sections. All of these programs are doing nothing but incentivizing homeless to come to Athens. My wife has been harassed and followed by homeless chasing her into her gym in the morning. A homeless man waving a knife approached me last weekend. Over Christmas a homeless set up his tent on the back portion of my neighbors fence. Spending this money will do nothing but have more homeless move into the area and continue to exasperate the problem. |
| Survey | general | | It is easy past time to fix the homeless issue in athens. Treatment facilities for mentally ill homeless folks is high impact. Many of the homeless have no access to medication, or someone that will |

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| | | | administer the medication regularly. Put the money toward treatment of mental illness. |
| Survey | general | | Please consider funding for the Barber St encampment (or a new encampment altogether). This space provides a much-needed transition point for those experiencing homelessness. While Barber St. was mis-managed, I know there are many people dedicated to seeing a successful encampment and it will require the buy-in, support, and assistance of the ACC government to be successful. |
| Survey | general | | This is a sham just to line politicians pockets. This money will not be utilized correctly, and will help nothing. It's disgusting. Watch and see. These comments that I've made will prove true. Nothing will change. It will only get worse and the money will be gone! |
| Survey | general | | Waste of time and money |
| Survey | general | | I appreciate our community making these attempts and want them to help individuals in need. |
| Survey | general | | As a resident of Athens Clarke county I vote No to this plan |
| Survey | general | | <p>This is not a plan. There are no details, steps or vision proposed. This is just a hope and a dream at this stage. There needs to be an EXACT plan before any more money is spent.</p> <p>More police presence in homeless congregation areas and better response to “non-emergency” calls on threats, petty theft, loitering and more would go a long way in helping right this instant with very little economic impact or strain. Rehabilitation programs via sober houses would be a better starting place for this plan than any of the proposed items based on my experiences helping the homeless through various other cities and organizations. The CAUSE of homelessness, whether that be addiction, mental health or employment, must be addressed before any results will be seen.</p> |
| Survey | general | | My question is: Why does Athens have an exorbitant number of homeless people compared to its surrounding counties? My perception is the Athens government gives them every reason to settle here, but there is ZERO ACCOUNTABILITY for their lifestyle choices which include drug addiction, crime, trespassing, littering, loitering—not to mention a general lack of motivation to help themselves. What does Athens offer to entice neighboring counties to dump their homeless here? What are the reasons someone chooses to remain homeless? Why doesn't Greenville, SC or Japan have a homeless problem? Why don't Watkinsville, Monroe, Royston, Hartwell, Commerce, Jefferson have homeless problems? Why don't we see the homeless sleeping on the steps of the buildings at The University of Georgia but they camp out at the public library. I support those who want to help themselves. I do not support offering a meal ticket to every Tom, Dick, and Harry who wants a hand out just for the sake of one |

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| Survey | general | | Trying to stop “people who don’t belong here” from accessing homeless services is a waste of time and money. People move here from out of town every day for the opportunities and resources in Athens, some of those people are going to be homeless. Having that same dumb conversation over and over again is just burying your head in the sand while things continue to get worse. Spending my tax dollars on housing people will make me feel much more safe than continuing to increase the public safety budget by \$5 million every year. |
| Survey | general | | We must find a way to decrease the flood of people arriving in Clarke County looking for services from our county budget. Taxpayers cannot solve this problem when other counties are not doing their part. Mental health support and group homes with required stays are needed. |
| Survey | general | | This looks like a comprehensive plan. I listened to the video summary, as it fits my time schedule, thank you for providing this overview. One comment I have is that the \$200K allocated to Strategy #7 Diversion and Rapid Exit "to support intensive case management techniques" may not be adequate in comparison to the need; current homelessness leaders can provide their view based on their knowledge. Thank you all for your good work in our community. |
| Survey | general | | Where is the additional funding for ACCPD, who handle a large number of homeless calls which include barrings, thefts, and shoplifting calls involving homeless individuals? Additionally, this will draw more homeless to ACC, taxing overburdened agencies including local hospitals, jails, homeless shelters, and non-profits. Will these other agencies/groups be compensated for their homeless assistance or will those costs be passed along to the taxpayers and citizens of ACC? |
| Survey | general | | no |
| Survey | general | | This plan is not strategic. Six goals are listed. The action these goals use are: increase, improve, increase, expand, strengthen, and reduce. There is no explanation of any starting point or endpoint for any of these goals. The metrics suggested relate to counting the people who are in the process(which may be useful) but not to any defined success criteria. This plan should not be approved. |
| Survey | general | | I also believe that existing, empty buildings could be considered for Single Room Occupancy units. EG: an old motel could be converted to single units fairly easily, with a microwave and small refrigerator. As we know, some homeless won't stay in shelters, cannot tolerate (at times due to mental illness) living alongside |

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| | | | others. A small room with bath could comfortably meet their needs while getting them off the streets. |
| Survey | general | | I am very supportive of the plan. If commissioners are serious and have the desire to reduce homelessness they should adopt this plan! |
| Survey | general | | <p>While the goals and strategies of this plan are fine, I do wonder if they address the underlying issue: lack of affordable housing. Affordable housing must be built. And it must be built by public funds. It must be rent controlled according to percentage of income. I wonder if we couldn't learn from this: https://www.houseourneighbors.org/learn-more</p> <p>It seems to me that if we don't address the underlying issue of providing affordable housing we are spinning our wheels and miring ourselves deeper and deeper into more and more homelessness. The profit focused real estate market will never provide affordable housing. I hate to see tax payer dollars go to private real estate developers to shore up their profits when we could be pursuing a long term goal of "social housing" that could pay for itself over time and be stable for our residents.</p> <p>Thanks for all the work being done on this issue and for this opportunity to provide input. (name and email address redacted).</p> |
| Survey | general | | <p>Support for full-time caregivers who have no time to work. Childcare costs more than many people can earn. It is better for most children to be cared for by their parents than by a revolving-door of daycares and babysitters.</p> |
| Survey | general | | <p>As most government programs this appears well organized and funded, at least for now. A large part of homelessness is the lack of jobs paying a decent wage to make shelter affordable. We moved here 18 years ago and the poverty rate has changed very little, as well as salaries. We need better job creation and wage incentives so people can afford to rent or own their home. The recent increase in rents and home prices have far exceeded the wage gains experienced over the last two years. You also have many private agencies working to help with homelessness in Athens. Family Promise is one that has a high success rate. Helping to expand on that would be valuable. I volunteered for Our Daily Bread for many years, they also provide a great service for the homeless in Athens. The other part of homelessness is mental health. I have seen many that will not benefit from anything you do here, but still need help. Better access to mental health services is an important need in Athens.</p> |
| Survey | general | | <p>I sat in on a forum and was appalled at the lack of planning in the "plan." These sections may as well say "enter money for staffing here." There is no clearly identified source of homelessness. There is no plan to eradicate homelessness. The goal - as presented to a room - is to get more funding for the problem. You all are willing to put our community at risk of more exposure to spend</p> |

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| | | | government funds. I'm diligently working to get people against this plan. You all NEED to listen to the voices of our community instead of pushing your own self-serving agendas. |
| Survey | general | | All sound like great ideas. My only question is how will it be funded once the federal money runs out? |
| Survey | general | | Participants needs to agree to drug testing. They have to know homelessness is not what they want.... |
| Survey | general | | This is an ambitious plan. If all they players are committed and ACC shows it's residents that they are backing this with strong support, it will work. It will take some time. It would be good for ACC to get a bit more hands on with these camps while the plan is getting started. It would help show that work is being done to move forward. There is a strong feeling right now that ACC has thrown the neighborhood quality of life under the bus on this issue. Show us that your care what's happening until we can get the program functioning. |
| Survey | general | | This Survey makes zero sense to me and I do not approve the homeless plan. This spending plan will not solve any problems. |
| Survey | general | | I didn't comment that much on the specific parts of it, but I think it's a thoughtful plan that we should execute. The amount of hardheartedness on homelessness is horrifying. Please, let's do this and make a difference in the lives of our friends, neighbors, and fellow humans. |
| Survey | general | | Not until treatment of the root cause of mental illness and addiction is established will any homeless program find success. I have much experience with homeless people, even homeless people who have jobs. The #1 root cause is mental illness leading to addiction. Without proper services for this, there will always be a revolving door of the same homeless population. People with mental illness are not capable of holding a job or a home for a consistent length of time. |
| Survey | general | | I am glad you are working on a plan to address the situation. |
| Survey | general | | None of it will matter if the price of rent continues to skyrocket because of how attractive it is for investors to purchase homes as short term rentals or if corporations continue to remove starter homes from market inventory. |
| Survey | general | | I do not have a problem with helping the homeless in the community. Unfortunately this program will draw people throughout the country seeking a free place to stay. We have already gotten people from throughout the country coming for the county sponsored tent city. What is the plan to prevent the resources, taken from tax paying residents of this county, being used to house people solely taking advantage of the system? If a strategy has not been decided on this there needs to be one. I personally think the exorbitant amount of money you are spending on this is ridiculous. A program should be in place to |

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| | | | <p>help the homeless that are willing to change and put in the effort. Maybe spend money on outreach and education of the homeless on this plan and transportation for them to get to a center to help educate them. It needs to be their decision as they will be doing the work. You cannot force someone out of homelessness that does not want it.</p> |
| Survey | general | | <p>Yes. I attended the community meeting at the ACC Library. My additional input having experience with both schizophrenia and drug abuse, is to put the bulk of the money into medical and psychological care for the homeless. Tie all housing into staying on meds for psychological issues and staying clean w drugs/alcohol. One can not help a schizophrenic I believe w/o them staying on their medication and no one wants to live near them nor do they want to live w others w/o medication. Same w addicts. It is ridiculous that our nation does not provide and prioritize medical care for all.</p> <p>I am not willing to support this plan as currently written.</p> |
| Survey | general | | <p>I agree with the proposal in its entirety. I think it represents a comprehensive plan to attempt to address the homeless problem in Athens. As you know, homelessness is a complex problem with many causes, and must be addressed on many fronts.</p> <p>The many critics of this proposal that I have heard have offered only criticism, and no alternatives. As much as we may wish the homelessness problem to disappear, it will not on its own.</p> <p>I hope the commission will follow a path of compassion, determination and hope and approve this proposal.</p> |
| Survey | general | | <p>This is an immediate need for the betterment of all ACC citizens. Pass this plan.</p> |
| Survey | general | | <p>You are appreciated -- from a former homelessness street organizer.</p> |
| Survey | general | | <p>I wish I could thinl this would work but I think you're wasting taxpayer funds.</p> |
| Survey | general | | <p>Since a great number of the homeless have mental issues which can not be solved and there are no shelters that strictly house psychiatric patients.....WHAT happened to the funding that was set aside when the places like Milledgeville State hospital was closed which was to be used to set up group homes???? Why aren't the regional community service boards that receive state funding helping solve this issue?</p> <p>I have seen many of the homeless in the front of the Baxter St. library toking on marijuana joints, playing cards, just having a good old time. Why does anyone think that they want to work? Especially if they are assured a place to sleep, eat, watch cable TV, have internet, play pool, take showers, etc.....why work??? And they do not have any respect for anyone or anything. There are</p> |

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| | | | trash cans at all the bus stops and yet there is trash everywhere!! Don't see homeless in any of the small towns near here...they don't take care of them, just bring them here! |
| Survey | general | | It was well researched, with more input from the business community than I have seen on any issue in some time. The community is ready to try something different, and this is the opportunity. |
| Survey | general | | This approach to address homelessness and housing insecurity is exemplary. By ensuring collaboration with a diverse group of stakeholders, especially those who've experienced homelessness firsthand, ACCGov has set a commendable precedent. The allocation of ARPA funds showcases their proactive dedication to the well-being of the community. The ten strategies are thoughtfully designed, highlighting the depth of research and understanding behind this initiative. Engaging landlords, focusing on employment partnerships, and considering the unique needs of diverse populations stand out as especially impactful. Moreover, a forward-thinking approach in not just addressing but aiming to prevent homelessness is praiseworthy. By ensuring that the transition of residents from encampments is humane, they're taking steps to uphold the dignity of every community member. This strategic plan is an excellent model and serves as a testament to our commitment to creating a better future for all residents. |
| Survey | general | | <p>Firstly, I'd like to commend your unwavering commitment to the betterment of our community. It is evident that the foundation of a thriving society lies in ensuring every individual's basic rights, and housing is paramount among them. Addressing homelessness is not just about shelters but ensuring that every resident has access to affordable, environmentally sustainable housing, be it in urban or rural areas.</p> <p>Furthermore, it's imperative to safeguard residents from the traumatic experiences of evictions, foreclosures, or utility cut-offs. By introducing policies that allow for payment rescheduling, we can ensure a balanced approach that benefits both landlords and families, preventing undue distress.</p> <p>In essence, as we move forward, let's prioritize establishing a holistic ecosystem that ensures every individual has a roof over their head and the means to sustain it. Together, we can make Athens-Clarke County a beacon of hope and resilience for all.</p> |
| Survey | general | | Please make trans people, specifically trans women and especially trans women of color a priority. |
| Survey | general | | All I see is one proposed element after another requiring funding, which means higher taxes. Enough is enough. Athens is in a spending frenzy and it needs to stop. We marketed ourselves as a sanctuary style city and so we have seen an influx of homelessness |

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| | | | at the expense of downtown businesses, public safety and city cleanliness. Athens already has a multitude of churches and outreach programs. Adding more is not going to “fix” the problem. Of all the things I’m seeing suggested there is no mention of continuing education or GED programs to help people better their life situation. “Giving” people hand-outs, rather than hand-ups is not the solution. |
| Survey | general | | I'm pretty shocked by the omission of addressing drugs and addiction. The steep rise in Fentanyl and other opiates will only worsen, so there's no way to effectively address homelessness without addressing this problem. There must be a way to separate those struggling with addiction (and get them into programs, which I know are expensive - that's why it MUST be part of this strategic plan!), non-drug-related mental health and those who are "just" economically disadvantaged/down on their luck. |
| Survey | general | | Great start! |
| Survey | general | | The strategic plan is a substantial initial engagement to help our homeless citizens. I thank those who initiated and prepared the plan and urge the Council to approve its execution. It is an endeavor for which the Athens community will be proud. |
| Survey | general | | <p>This is vague enough to be meaningless, of course.</p> <p>Maybe Athens needs new leadership? Or at least actual rule of common law, where people could actually live good lives in peace without being lied to and exploited every day.</p> <p>You give "corporations" all the land and special treatment, just allow affordable housing to be built. Let the community thrive and stop selling it out.</p> <p>Enforce the laws that actually protect people and defund and fire the criminals who exploit people instead.</p> |
| Survey | general | | No |
| Survey | general | | Thank you so much for doing something to help, any effort is appreciated. I can see more and more people begging at street corners so I know the situation is getting worse. With "Bidenomics" it's only getting worse as inflation rises and thousands of homeless immigrants flood through our borders unchecked. Please stop the bus transfers of immigrants into Athens! Please stop giving handouts to the homeless. I support your efforts to find them jobs, help get them into housing that THEY can afford themselves. They need a hand UP not a hand OUT! |
| Survey | general | | I think this is an excellent roadmap that Athens (providers, hospitals, business community, government) can use to work together to house the homeless population. |

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| Survey | general | | I agree that some homeless people need help and could turn their lives around. A lot of them don't care too. that is a lot of money to spend on someone that doesn't care. What about spending it on your employees? Maybe CHEAPER health care or better retirement. Make people want to WORK in Athens. Not make people want to take advantage of us. That is exactly what is happening. I am embarrassed to say I live here. |
| Survey | general | | As a long time resident of ACC (52 yrs.), I am required to abide by the laws, ordinances and rules set forth by the ACC government. That same standard is not required of the homeless population. Instead of spending even more money, why not start with enforcing the laws equally? I would be arrested for openly purchasing drugs, assaulting someone, public intoxication, public urination and defecation. If my yard had trash and garbage in it I would be cited. In all of these examples, the homeless are not held to account. ACC government even says I cannot park on the grass in my yard, but the homeless can put their tents and belongings any place they choose. All laws should be applied EQUALLY. We do not need even more money thrown at the situation. Just enforce the laws on the books now. We are all told that the we should lower the barriers for the homeless and meet them where they are. NO! Having the homeless dictate what they will and won't do is not acceptable. |
| Survey | general | | The homelessness has double in the county and I have heard that they are bussed in from Atlanta. They are on street corners and it does not look good for the community. It is sad to see them with shopping carts filled with their belongings. A lot of them have addiction problems and mental issues. That should be addressed. Make Athens beautiful again. Clean up the streets |
| Survey | general | | Do it! |
| Survey | general | | <p>The plan must address major causes of homelessness and a system of triage to classify and manage each.</p> <p>Sleeping outside in the dark in a the city on land you don't own? You have to take a drug test.</p> <p>You're on drugs? You have to sober up in 2-night facility and get a mental health evaluation and counseling regiment/partner as term of release.</p> <p>Not on drugs? You stay in a different 2-night facility and then get a mental health evaluation.</p> <p>Mental health issues? You need to go to mental health clinic and set up medication/counseling regiment as term of release. Released to micro-housing stay or clinic residence (see above).</p> |

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| | | | No mental health issues? Offered immediate micro-housing stay and connected to affordable housing and employment resources/6-month counselor. |
| Survey | general | | Will anyone really even read our comments??? As someone who has served several homeless and underserved ministries in this city over the last 15 years and had conversations with some of our homeless on the streets, I feel very frustrated and unheard. |

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