



## Austin Coming Together

### ACT OVERVIEW

Austin Coming Together (ACT) provides backbone support for a network of more than 50 non-profit, faith-based, public, and private entities committed to improving the quality of life in the Austin community. Since 2010, we have helped our members take a strategic and collaborative approach to achieving outcomes together.

### VISION

We will create a thriving Austin community.

### CORE VALUES

Unity, Commitment, Transparency, Collaboration, Action

### MISSION

To increase the collective impact of our member organizations on improving education and economic development outcomes in the Austin community.

### STRATEGY

Thrive 2025

### THRIVE 2025

There are hundreds of organizations, institutions, and community leaders that passionately serve Austin's children and families and are deeply committed to addressing the challenges we face in Austin. We believe they are worth investing in.

Unfortunately, due to the size, complexity, and need for resources in Austin, efforts by these leaders and organizations are often uncoordinated, disjointed, and small in scale.

In 2016, ACT developed *Thrive 2025*, a strategy that focuses the efforts and resources of our member organizations on improving 4 critical community well-being indicators by the year 2025:

1. Increase the percentage of 3rd grade students exceeding state reading & math standards in Austin.
2. Increase the number of families living above the federal poverty line in Austin.
3. Decrease the rate of violent crime in Austin.
4. Stabilize the median residential property value in Austin.

In order to make an impact on these indicators, the *Thrive 2025* strategy will catalyze the collective impact of our members and other important stakeholders through 3 strategic imperatives:

1. Continuous improvement of human services.
2. Attract public and private investment through community organizing & planning.
3. Build capacity for policy change.

## ACT INITIATIVES

ACT creates opportunities for our diverse network of member organizations to 1) undertake the activities that they are best at and 2) coordinate their actions with other members. We do this by building strong relationships with the leadership and staff of our member organizations, and by mobilizing our members to take collaborative action.

Our members are engaged in taking collaborative action through the following initiatives:

### AUSTIN COMMUNITY HUB AND NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

**Description:** We have combined multiple ACT initiatives to improve service delivery through one coordinated initiative: the Austin Community Hub and Neighborhood Network. The new community hub at 5049 W. Harrison is a space for ACT members to connect with each other and community residents in need of support.

**Current Highlights:**

- ACT has developed a referral network with our service providing members. ACT members are able to make referrals to each other and track the status of those referrals.
- The Hub regularly hosts workshops, ACT Member facilitated sessions, and Restorative Justice circles to create opportunities for Austin residents to engage with our team and learn about the ACT Member network.

### QUALITY OF LIFE PLAN

**Description:** The Austin community has developed a five-year Quality of Life Plan (QLP) with engaged residents, community leaders and businesses committed to a neighborhood renaissance and improving the quality of life in Austin. Austin Coming Together (ACT) led the development of the QLP in partnership with the economic development organization Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) over a period of 18 months.

**Current Highlights:**

- The QLP addresses seven issue areas: Community Narrative, Economic Development, Education, Housing, Public Safety, Youth Empowerment, and Civic Engagement.
- Seven task forces have been formed to implement the plan's twenty-seven strategies and ninety-four actions. Learn more at [austincomingtogether.org/QLP](http://austincomingtogether.org/QLP).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ALICIA PLOMIN-SPITLER AT 773-417-8606 OR [APSPITLER@AUSTINCOMINGTOGETHER.ORG](mailto:APSPITLER@AUSTINCOMINGTOGETHER.ORG)**



**Austin Coming Together**

5049 West Harrison Street

Chicago, Illinois 60644

773.417.8600

[www.austincomingtogether.org](http://www.austincomingtogether.org)