



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Front Steps names Terra L. Harris as new Executive Director

Individuals experiencing homelessness in Austin, Texas gain a fierce advocate as Front Steps, the nonprofit operating the ARCH (Austin Resource Center for the Homeless), names Terra L. Harris as new Executive Director.

Front Steps is excited to announce that Terra L. Harris has accepted the role of Executive Director, effective February 1, 2021. Ms. Harris is originally from Maryland-Baltimore and a proud graduate of the Baltimore City School System. Most recently, Ms. Harris served as Executive Director for Girls Inc. of Delaware. She has successfully led several gender-responsive organizations on the east coast. Her early career experiences solidified her commitment to impactfully support communities both personally and professionally. Terra is fully committed to leading organizations where the mission is focused on serving and supporting under resourced and underserved communities.

“The board of Directors of Front Steps is confident in our decision to welcome Ms. Harris to the organization and to Austin, TX. We look forward to her joining our efforts as we continue to provide a pathway home for our neighbors experiencing homelessness,” said Dwayne Banks, Board Chair.

Ms. Harris holds an Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education; a Bachelor of Science in Sociology (minor in Gender Studies); and Master of Science in Criminal Justice (Courts and Law).

As Executive Director, Ms. Harris will be focused on creating an inclusive culture for staff and clients, building external relationships with community partners and funders, and guiding Front Steps towards fulfilling our mission and vision.

“The perils of the pandemic have personified a greater need for safe, stable, housing especially for under-resourced and underserved communities. I'm excited about the many tasks ahead including expanding on opportunities to achieve the mission of Front Steps,” said Ms. Harris.

Please join us in welcoming Terra L. Harris to Austin, TX and to the Front Steps organization.



Front Steps was incorporated in 1997 as a recommendation of the Community Action Network's 1996 Comprehensive Plan for Addressing Homelessness. Our philosophy has always been that all people deserve the dignity of a safe place to call home. Front Steps offers a continuum of services that helps people transition from homelessness into housing. We have, for two decades, been selected by the City of Austin to manage the downtown shelter, the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless. In addition to shelter services, Front Steps secures federal (HUD, Veterans Affairs, Department of Labor, AmeriCorps) and philanthropic funding for programming beyond shelter operations. We meet the needs of shelter and recently housed clients, volunteer hours, and strategic partnerships to meet essential needs. Our evidence-based programs have provided direct services to approximately 4,500 people experiencing homelessness AND placement of over 400 people into housing every year. [www.frontsteps.org](http://www.frontsteps.org)