

### 2025 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing & Homelessness Strategy

A joint effort to address current and prevent future homelessness

Progress briefing

September 13, 2021

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# **Connect to Purpose**



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# Goal of joint 2025 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing & Homelessness Strategy effort



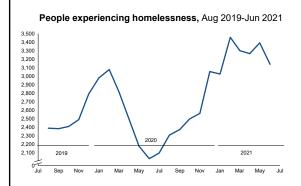
Launch a five-year strategic plan to help Charlotte-Mecklenburg become a national leader in addressing current and preventing future homelessness

Our strategic plan will offer aligned strategies, unified goals, and clear funding pathways



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3,137

People experiencing homelessness

+1,112
In last year

278

Average total days to access permanent housing

81k+

Renter households paying >30% of income for housing

- We need to knit together the different silos addressing this effort and all come together and align on a comprehensive plan with clear swim lanes
- Our community's ability to coordinate effort across the spectrum is impressive; where we need to develop is someone to push everyone collectively in a chosen direction
- The system seems to require destitution to receive help, if I could have had help with \$400 in rent, I wouldn't have cost the system \$40,000



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Source: mecklenburghousingdata.org, as of 6/30/21

# Guiding principles of this effort



# System-wide approach

Doing work that is transformational by addressing need at a systemic level across the continuum



# People-centered perspective

Elevating the voices and priorities of those with lived experience to guide our work and decision-making



# Community-wide benefit

Ensuring Charlotte-Mecklenburg is a community in which everyone can thrive and can access a home



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# 2025 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing & Homelessness Strategy workstreams

What How Strengthen **Optimize Grow** Strengthen prevention temporary permanent, cross-sector Unified policy advocacy system1 shelter / affordable supports Identified policy priorities for each workstream housing system housing Initiatives that address Interventions that target Initiatives to preserve, Initiatives to improve Coordinated funding alignment preventive support and help households diversion, emergency rehabilitate, develop, shelter, and transitional and access affordable services (e.g., mental maintain housing on a Coordinated goals across funding sources path toward economic housing housing1 health, wages mobility substance use services Short- and long-term rental subsidies Innovative data analytics healthcare) Systems & structures Data-informed decisions and interventions that address housing Peripheral supports Affordable and instability (e.g., childcare, transportation, homeownership<sup>1</sup> **Effective communications** education, workforce Multi-pronged education and engagement strategy development) Ongoing strategy support Dedicated strategy implementation management

Equity and parity considerations embedded as a foundational element across all efforts

 Initiative development part of Evaluate Upstream



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### We have sought to engage all possible stakeholders and are actively seeking out feedback to ensure we arrive at the best possible plan

>250

People engaged to date across workstreams and committees >115

Organizations represented in effort across teams, including >70 non-profit sector

>30 private sector

>15 public sector groups

Includina:

**>25** grassroots organizations and community advocates

>20 service providers

>5 faith-based organizations

>15 developers or landlords

>5 educational institutions

>30

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Additional organizations engaged to date through workstream surveys, focus groups, or interviews >200

Participants across 5 community focus groups and listening sessions

>10

Additional focus groups specifically with individuals who are currently homeless or who have lived experience of homelessness



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### **Cross-workstream themes of our strategy**

Core principles of our work that will manifest across the continuum



### **Equity**

- Employ solutions that rectify or address historical and existing inequities, focusing on individuals and communities with greater barriers
- Center racial justice and equity on all strategies



#### Access and inventory

- Increase access to and availability of housing, shelter, prevention resources, and support services to meet the need in our community
- Secure funding needed to meet critical gaps



### System navigation

- Coordinate and collaborate across agencies and sectors
- Improve information flow, data quality, and referral networks
- Invest in systems and structures that help connect individuals and families with needed supports



#### System change and sustainability

- Enact policy, structural, and process changes to create an environment that facilitates and sustains the changes necessary
- · Pilot new or innovative strategies, leveraging data
- Invest in the infrastructure and oversight needed to enable short-term and long-term impact



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#### Sample draft initiatives from the emerging strategy PRFI IMINARY Workstream **Draft initiative priorities** Evaluate ability of NC 2-1-1/Coordinated Entry to conduct person-centered prevention assistance intake Strengthen prevention and triage; Ensure adequate communication to community about entry point for prevention system system Significant investment in case management Optimize temporary shelter / housing system Increase incentives/policies encouraging landlords to accept individuals with a challenging background . Maximize the use of publicly owned land for the development of affordable housing Grow permanent, • Implement fee reimbursements, expedite inspections and plan review for affordable housing developments affordable housing Strengthen cross-sector Increase Life Navigators / a single point of contact for navigation across cross-sector supports supports Eliminate/reduce barriers to accessing child care subsidy · Focused advocacy efforts to address barriers to housing for justice involved adults Unified policy advocacy Support & publicize recommendations of the most recent impediments study prepared by City of Charlotte The Plan will clarify the magnitude of investments necessary achieve the goals and initiatives outlined Coordinated funding This "call to action" can then be evaluated by local elected officials to determine the public sector's potential alignment level of financial support, which will inform the campaign focused on private, philanthropic and faith support Develop a standardized cross-sector intake / data collection process across system and provide technical assistance via staff resources to ensure seamless implementation Innovative data analytics Leverage existing ISC infrastructure for research, data analysis to improve operations and track outcomes Support community engagement and adoption of CMHHS plan, ensuring there is effective connection, communications investment and advancement of this plan Ongoing strategy Public-private partnership model in which a nonprofit intermediary supports the city and county in implementation of the strategic plan

### Strategic Plan output

Community plan to be published in October

#### Next steps

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Work in progress across all stakeholders

- 1. Strategic plan published
- 2. Post-plan release community engagement
- 3. Implementation pathway outlined

### This plan is different

How we are seeking to ensure this effort is transformative

- Transparency with all stakeholders and open forums to solicit community feedback
- Inclusive process that facilitates stakeholder-driven adoption of strategic plan
- 3. Clear framing of how this initiative fits in the landscape of efforts in Charlotte-Mecklenburg





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