

# Welcome

Michael Bryant, County Manager Mecklenburg County Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025



# Remarks

Chair Mark Jerrell, District 4
Mecklenburg County
Board of County Commissioners
Fall Retreat
October 27-28, 2025



# Icebreaker

Rebecca Herbert, Public Information Manager Public Information Department Mecklenburg County Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025

# **Morning Exercise**

Retreat Day 1





# Relationships

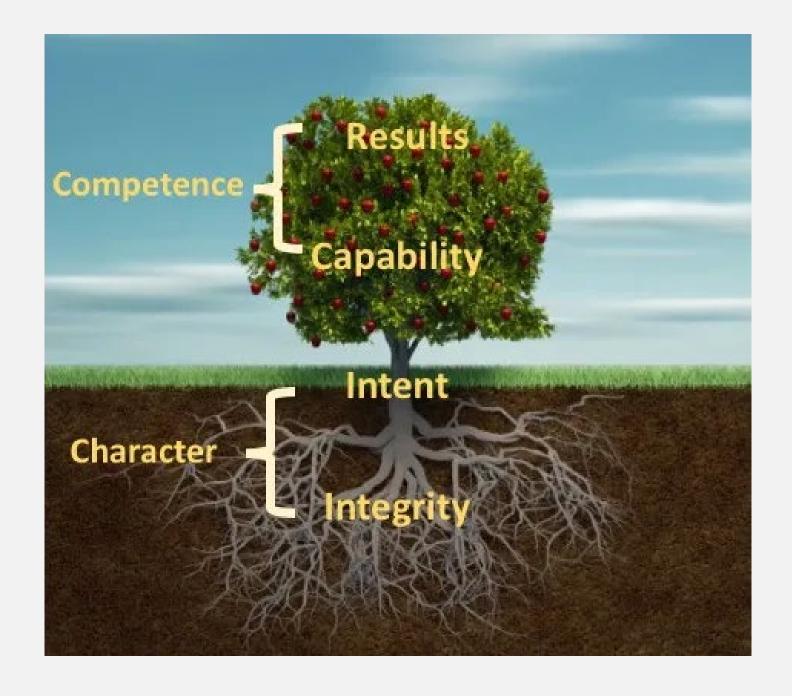
Trust

Inspire

### Results

Effective 2-Days

Protect & Improve Quality of Life Trust



Inclusion

Inspire

Creativity

Collaboration

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- > 4-stations in the room.
- > Each station has yellow, blue, and green questions.
  - Yellow = Light and casual questions.
  - Blue = Trust-based questions. Exploring the behaviors and values of smart trust leaders
  - Green = Inspiration-based questions. Exploring the behaviors and values of inspirational leaders.
- > This exercise includes 3 rounds. Each round will take about 5-minutes.
- > In each round, take a questions from one of the bowls.
  - Partner up with a person you don't know or don't know well.
  - Introduce yourself.
  - Read your question, answer your question, then invite your partner to answer your question.
  - Next, your partner will read their question, answer their question, then invite you to answer the question.
  - When complete, put your questions back into the container.
- > 2nd round...find a new partner and get a new question. Repeat the steps above.
- > 3<sup>rd</sup> round...find a new partner and get a new question. Repeat the steps above.



Please keep what you've learned in mind as you continue your work. Thank you!

# THANK YOU





# Fall Board Retreat Cabinet Agenda Overview

LaShaun Carter, Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer Office of Equity and Inclusion Mecklenburg County Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025





#### **Purpose**

Is to present on topics aligned with Board Priorities



### Clarify

Commissioner's connection to the topic



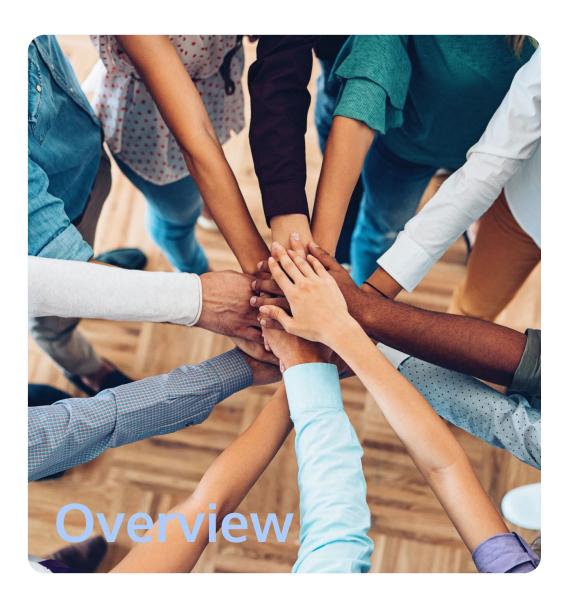
#### **Importance**

Of context any relevant data, and engage in feedback and discussion



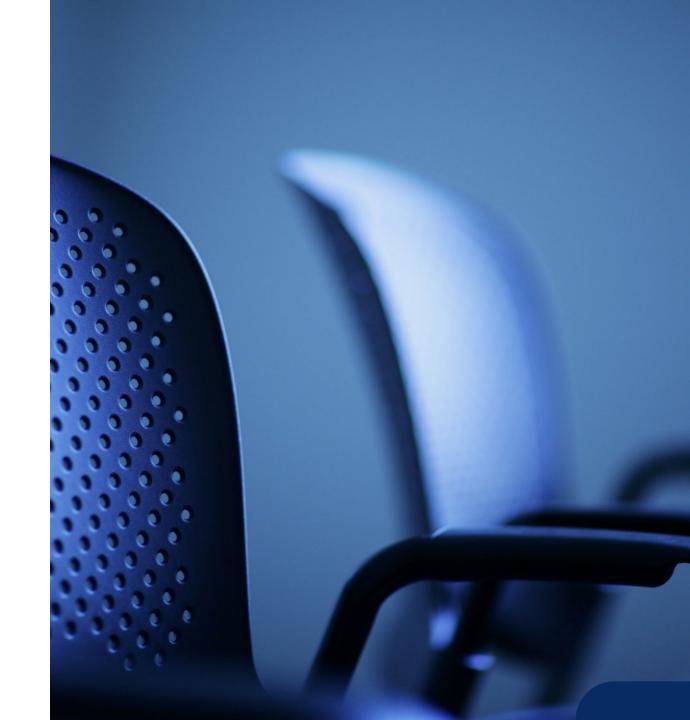
### Alignment

With department subject matter experts and the practical application of services



# **Goals for Board Presentations**

- Share Meaning & Motivation –
   Your Why / Public Service Passion
- Showcase Skills & Expertise
- Educate & Inform on an Interest Area
- Engage & Inspire Colleagues
- Unlock Pathways for Impact & Department Connections





# Additional Role of Commissioners

- Providing warm feedback: strengths & clarity
- Providing cool feedback: gaps phrased as curiosity
- Asking clarifying questions
- Being respectful, constructive, & concise



# **OUR SHARED ENVIRONMENT**

# **Working Agreements**

**01** Hard things, in soft ways

Offer what you can, ask for what you need

**02** Take space, make space

**06** All we need is one mic...

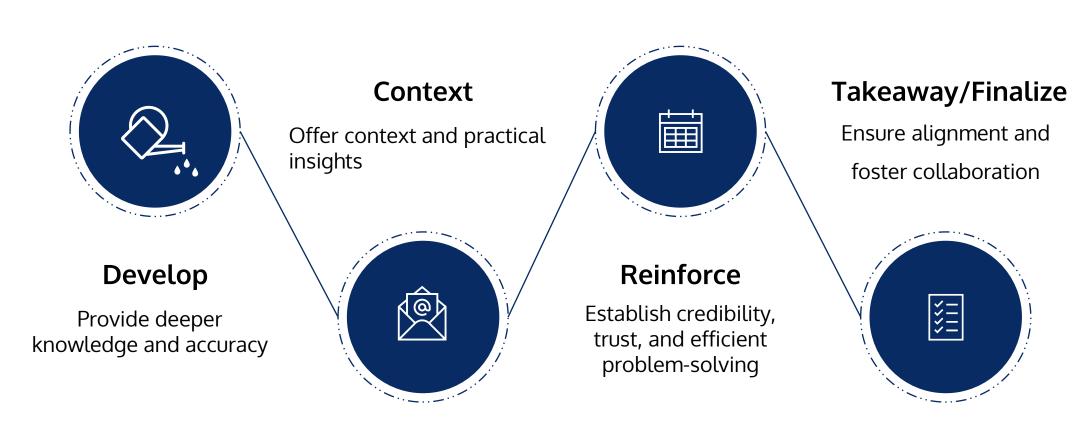
03 What is learned here, leaves

**07** Expect and accept non-closure

**04** This is a brave space

OS Strong opinions, loosely held

# Subject Matter Experts - Roles & Responsibilities





# **Timing and Discussion**

Presentations: Up to 20 minutes

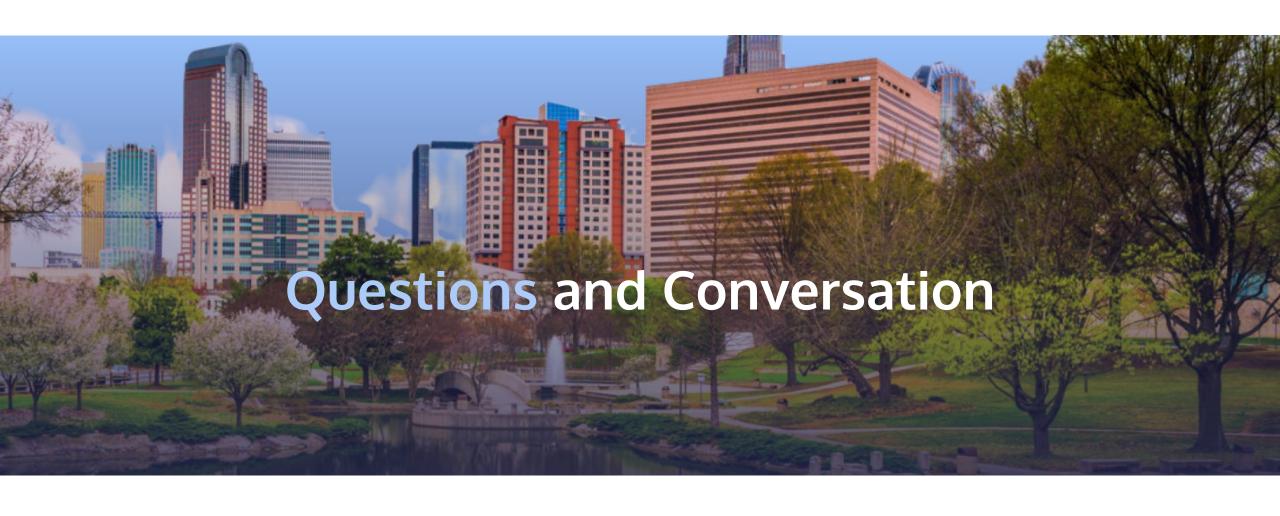
Engaging 2-way discussion and Q & A

**Closing Statement or Call to Action** 

# In your Binder

- Agenda
- Presentations
- Handouts







# Affordable Housing: A Strategic Priority for Mecklenburg County

Chair Mark Jerrell, District 4
Mecklenburg County
Board of County Commissioners
Fall Retreat
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### FY25-FY26 BOCC Priorities

- Economic Development
- Education
- Environmental Stewardship
- Health Equity & Wellness
- Services for Seniors
- Workforce Development
- Reducing Racial Disparities

# Mecklenburg County Snapshot

- Population (2024 est.): ~1.2M | +157 new residents per day
- Projected 2050 Population: ~1.7M
- Median Household Income: ~\$81,000
- Median Rent: ~\$1,550/month
- Homeownership Rate: ~58%

 Too many people cannot afford to live here—it is a threat to the future of our community.

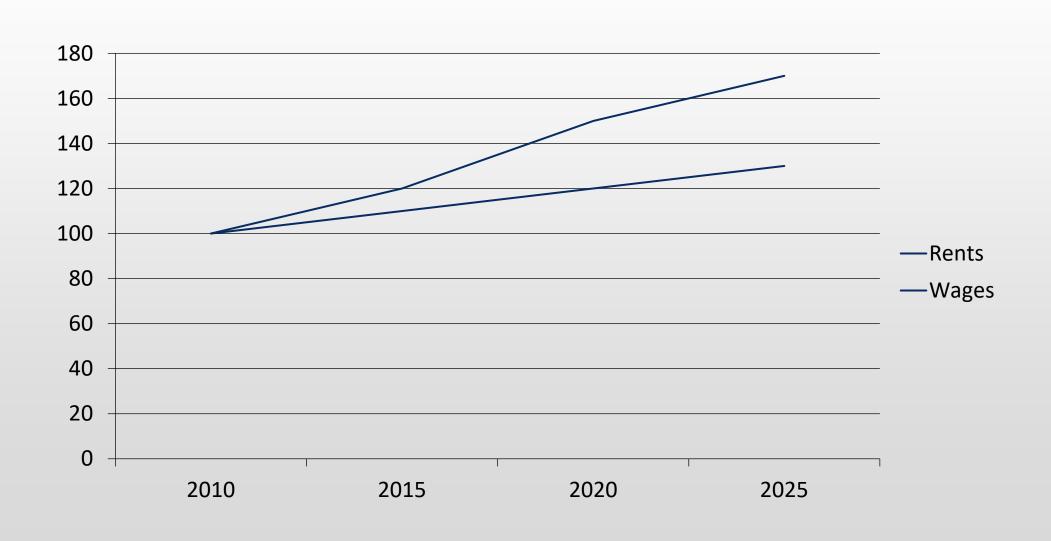
### Questions to Consider

- What does it mean to invest in mental health when someone is sleeping in their car?
- How can we talk about workforce development when our workforce can't afford to live here?
- If we build parks and schools but families can't afford to stay, who are we really building for?
- Is it truly economic development if we're displacing the very workers who make our economy run?
- What happens to racial equity when housing costs force families out of opportunity zones?

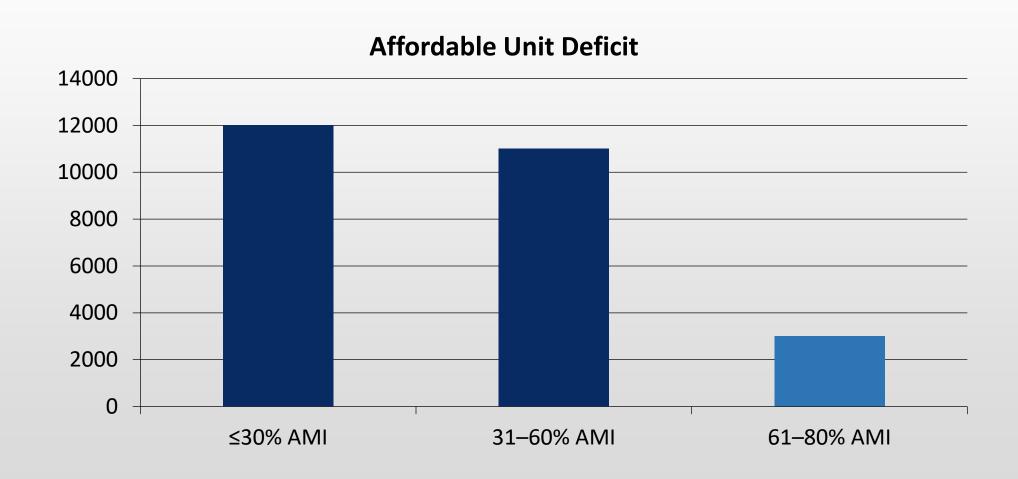
# Definition of Affordable Housing / Housing Insecurity

- Affordable housing means housing that costs no more than 30% of a household's gross income.
- Housing insecurity includes high housing costs, poor quality, unstable neighborhoods, overcrowding, or homelessness.

# Affordability Trend: Rents vs. Wages (2010–2025)



# Housing Shortage (≤60% AMI)



## AMI Income Parameters (2024)

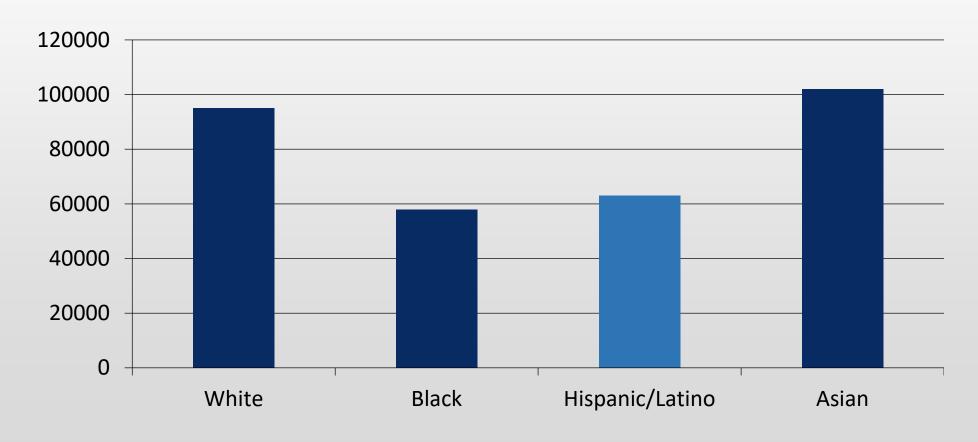
- 100% AMI (Family of 4): \$101,200
- 80% AMI: \$80,960
- 60% AMI: \$60,720
- **30%** AMI: \$30,360

# Cost of Housing in Mecklenburg County

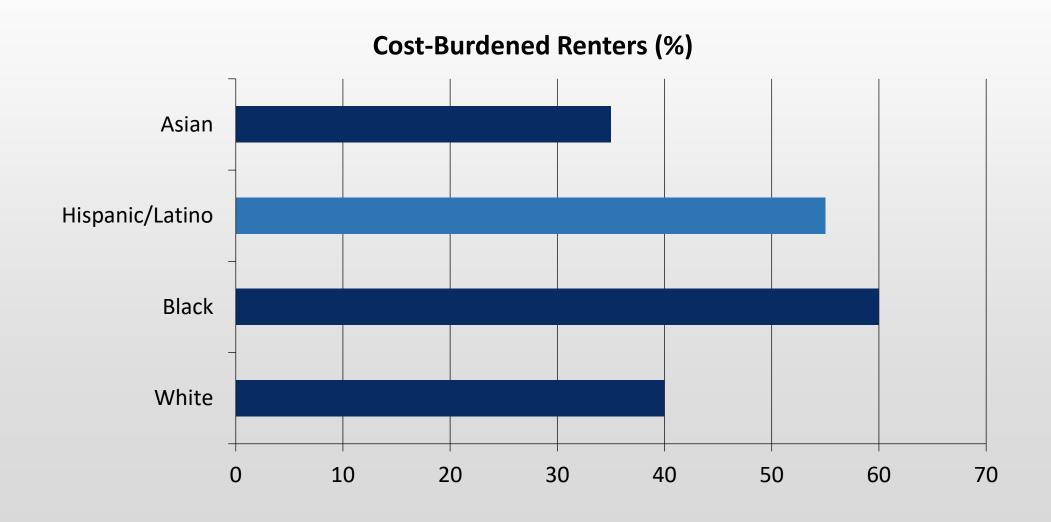
Apartment Size	Avg Monthly Rent	Yearly Income to Afford
1 Bedroom	\$1,450	\$58,000
2 Bedroom	\$1 <b>,</b> 750	\$70,000
3 Bedroom	\$2,250	\$90,000

# Median Household Income by Race (2024)

### **Median Income (\$)**



### Racial Breakdown of Rent Burden



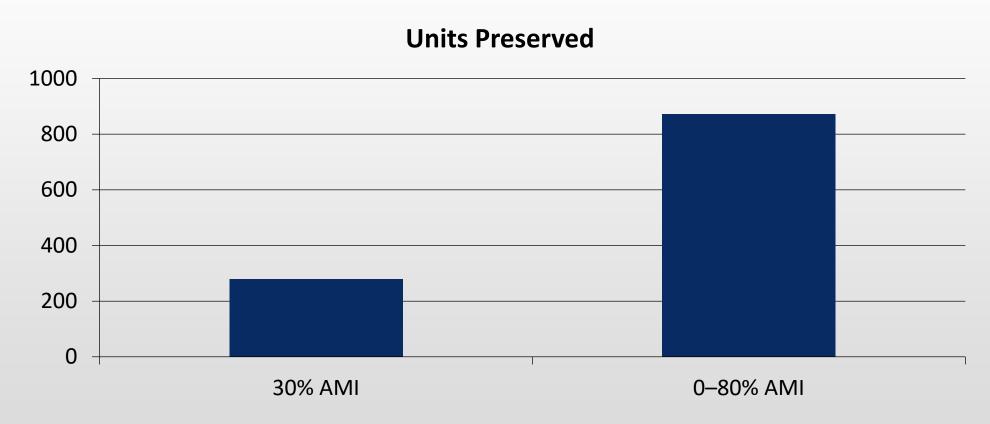
## Housing as a Social Determinant of Health

- Jobs: Housing stability improves job retention.
- Healthcare: Safe, stable housing lowers chronic disease burden.
- Transportation: Reduces commute time and cost.
- Education: Improves attendance and performance.
- Equity: Reduces disparities in opportunity.

## Non-Statutory but Essential Investments

- Mandated: DSS, Courts, Public Health, Jails, Elections
- Non-Mandated: Parks, Libraries, Meck Pre-K,
   Affordable Housing
- Affordable housing is not mandated—but it is essential.

# Current County Efforts & Impact



More than 2,700 residents have stable homes today because of County-led NOAH preservation efforts.

## Policy Prescriptions & Path Forward

- Land Banking & Strategic Acquisition
- Inclusionary Zoning Advocacy
- Public, Private & Nonprofit Partnerships
- HOMES Program Expansion
- NOAH Preservation
- CMS Site Repurposing for Housing
- Countywide Affordable Housing Fund

### Call to Action

- •If not us—who? If not now—when?
- Affordable housing is the foundation of equity, health, and economic vitality.



# Thank You

Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025



Open Discussion



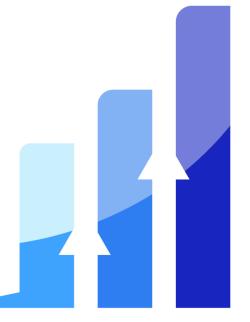
# Workforce Development

Vice-Chair Leigh Altman, At-Large Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025



# Performance Management Frameworks: Community & Corporate

Michael Griswold, Director Office of Strategy and Innovation Mecklenburg County Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025



# MANAGING FOR RESULTS

**EVALUATING TODAY. STRENGTHENING TOMORROW.** 

Michael Griswold, MPA
Director, Office of Strategy & Innovation
October 27, 2025



### Managing For Results

- Mecklenburg County has a long history leveraging the Managing for Results framework.
- The County is recommitting to performance management and the balanced scorecard including a visual refresh of our Managing For Results brand.

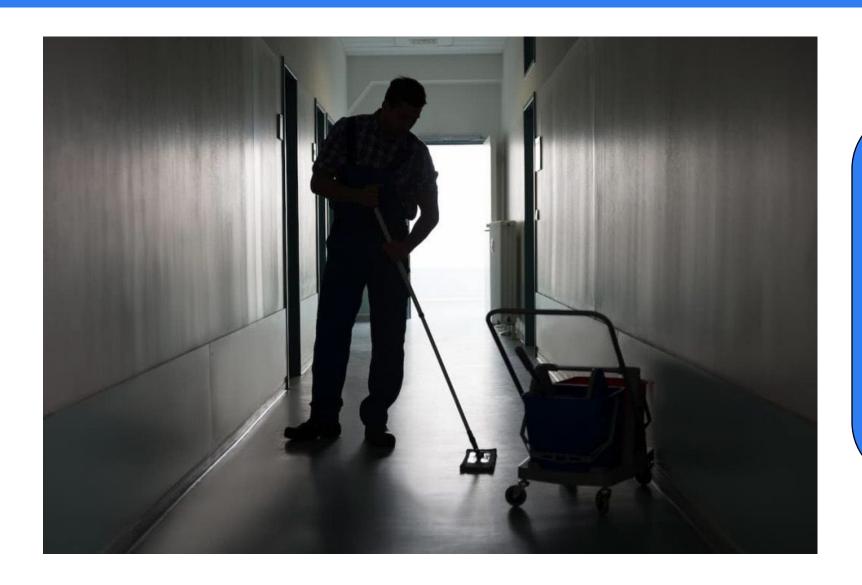
2002 Branding

MANAGING FOR RESULTS



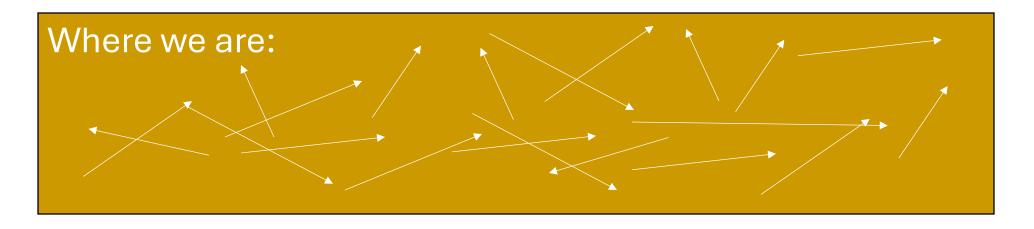
**2025 Branding** 

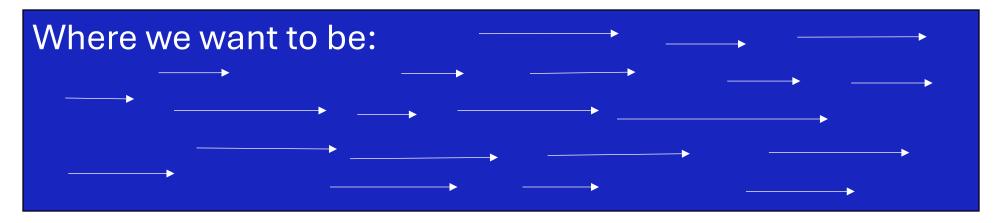
### Start With Why...



Make Strategy
Everyone's
Job

### Aligning the Organization





### Alignment to County Mission and Vision

### **BOCC Community Vision:**

Mecklenburg County will be a community of pride and choice for people to LIVE, LEARN, WORK and RECREATE.

### **Mecklenburg Vision:**

Mecklenburg County will be the best local government service provider.

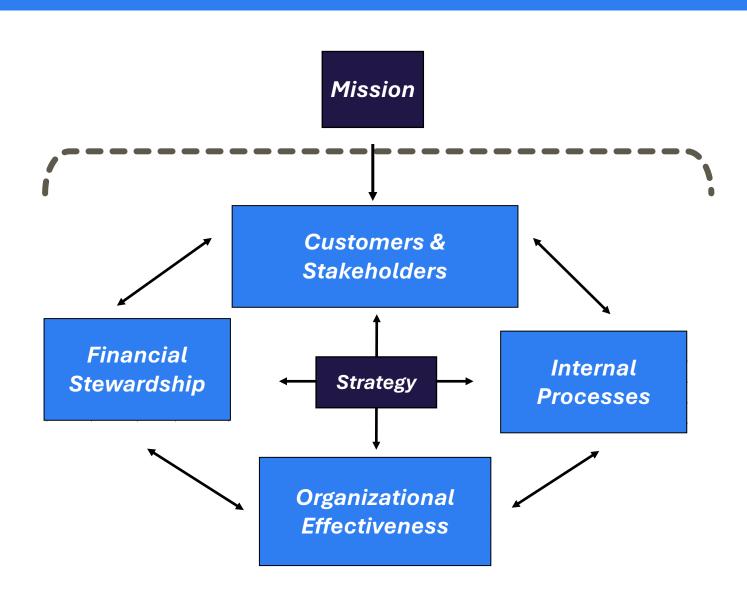
### **Mecklenburg Mission:**

To serve Mecklenburg County residents by helping them improve their lives and community.

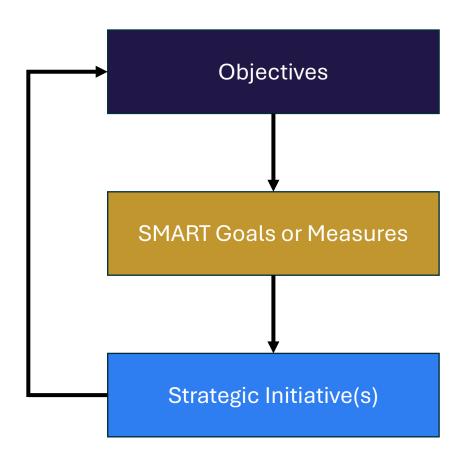
The Balanced Scorecard translates these aspirations into measurable objectives

### What is the Balanced Scorecard?

- The Balanced Scorecard is a management system that enables organizations to clarify their vision and strategy and translate them into action
- Provides an organization with feedback of both the internal processes and external outcomes, which allows for continuous improvement of strategic performance and results
- The Balanced Scorecard blends both operational and strategic views of the organization.



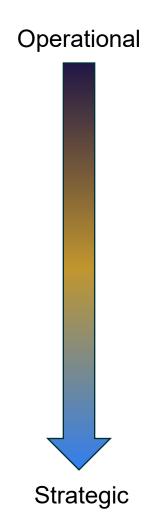
### Elements of the Balanced Scorecard



Objectives are "Why" the County exists aka "What are we trying to accomplish?"

SMART Goals are the indicator(s) of success for each Objective aka the "Desired Result"

Strategic Initiative(s) are the "how" we plan to accomplish our desired results aka "What we need to do to achieve the Desired Results."



### Why Readopt the Balanced Scorecard?



### **Previous Approach**

- Fragmented efforts Strategic Business Plans operated in silos with limited connection to Countywide priorities.
- Scope creep Focus drifted from core operations toward funding new initiatives, impacting organizational capacity.
- Weak linkages Strategy, budget and performance were not consistently aligned or reinforcing one another.
- **Limited storytelling** Data existed but didn't clearly communicate progress or community impact, focusing more on outputs than outcomes.



- A unified framework Connects every department's core functions to the County's strategic vision and Board priorities.
- Simplified and sharpened focus Moves from volume to value with fewer, more meaningful measures centered on core operations.
- Stronger alignment Connects strategy, performance, and budget, enabling more integrated planning and resource allocation.
- Builds a culture of learning and improvement –
   Encourages cross-departmental collaboration,
   continuous learning, and outcome-based story-telling.

### Four Scorecard Perspectives

Customer & Stakeholder Outcomes

Meet the needs and expectations of residents, businesses, partners, and other stakeholders.

Financial Stewardship

Use public resources responsibly, transparently, and strategically to maximize value for residents.

Internal Processes

Work effectively and efficiently resulting in high performance and responsive government.

Organizational Effectiveness

Build and sustain the talent, culture, infrastructure, and technology needed to deliver high-quality services.

### Focus Areas

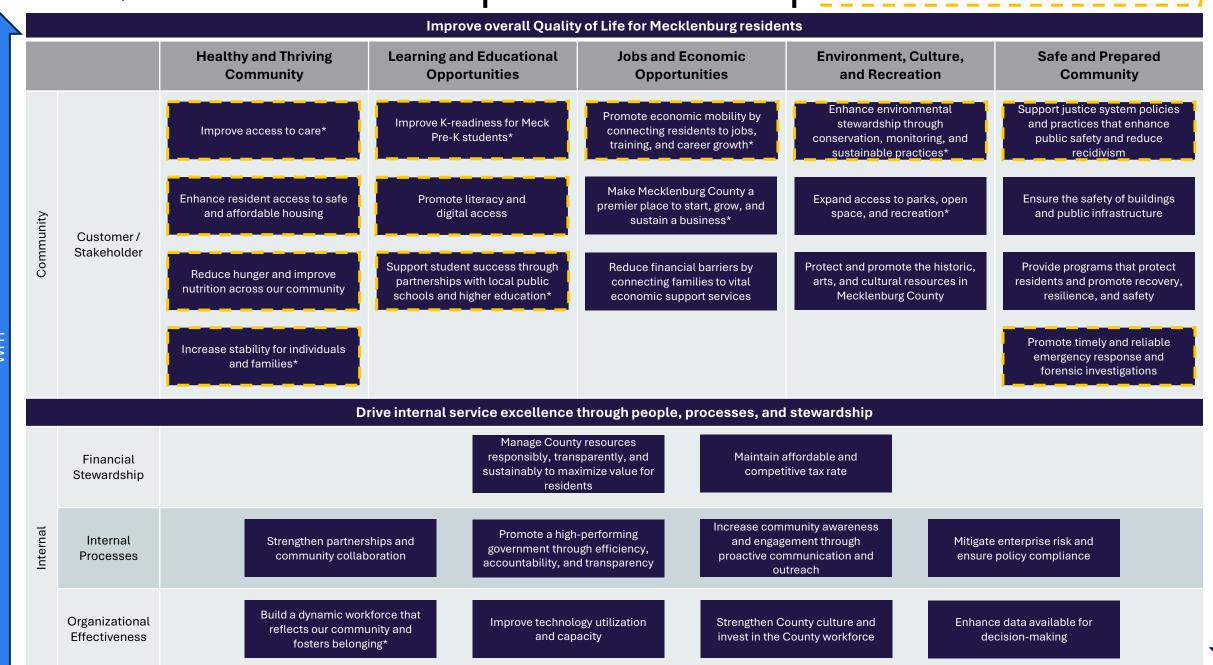
# Mecklenburg County will be a community of pride and choice for people to

# LIVE, LEARN, WORK and RECREATE

LIVE		LEARN	WORK	RECREATE
Health	Safety	Education	Jobs	Environment and Recreation
Healthy and Thriving Community	Safe and Prepared Community	Learning and Educational Opportunities	Jobs and Economic Opportunities	Environment, Culture, and Recreation
This focus area promotes a high quality of life through healthy, safe, and affordable living conditions for all residents.	This focus area centers on protecting residents and promoting trust through effective public safety and emergency preparedness.	This focus area supports lifelong learning and educational advancement to empower residents and prepare a skilled future workforce.	This focus area promotes economic opportunity and workforce development for residents and businesses.	This focus area promotes wellness, connection, and enjoyment through accessible environmental, recreational, and cultural opportunities.

### Level-set for Today

- Today's goals are:
  - To review the Strategic Objectives in the draft scorecard to get feedback on:
    - What is included
    - What is missing
    - What may need revision
  - Review an example of how the scorecard works
- Out of scope for today:
  - A full review of the details of every Strategic Objective this will come after County staff receive feedback from the Board today



### Example Strategic Objective Alignments: Healthy and Thriving Community

### Improve access to care

- Access to Primary and Behavioral Care
- Vaccinations/Immunizations
- Dental
- HIV / STD Prevention and Care

**BOCC Priority** 

# Reduce hunger and improve nutrition across our community

Food Security Programs

# Enhance resident access to safe and affordable housing

- Critical Home Repair (Includes Seniors)
- Housing and Homelessness Programs
- Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH)

**BOCC Priority** 

### Increase stability for individuals and families

- Child Welfare Programs
- Services for Adults / Services for Seniors

**BOCC Priority** 

### Example Strategic Objective Alignments: Organizational Effectiveness

# Build a dynamic workforce that reflects our community and fosters belonging

- Equity and Inclusion (Enterprise)
- Internal Department Equity Action Teams (DEATs)
- Internal Department Initiatives

**BOCC Priority** 

# Improve technology utilization and capacity

- IT-led strategic organizational improvements
- Internal Department Initiatives

# Strengthen County culture and invest in the County workforce

- County Manager's Organizational Reset
- Succession Planning
- Retention, Turnover, Vacancy Rates
- Employee Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities
- Internal Department Initiatives

### Enhance data available for decision-making

- Balanced Scorecard and Performance Management Framework
- Budget and Performance Alignment
- Geospatial data from GIS
- IT-led strategic organizational improvements
- Internal Department Initiatives

### Example Strategic Objective Detail

Scorecard Alignment	Internal Processes	Board Priority Alignment	N/A			
Objective	Promote a high-performing government through efficiency, accountability, and transparency					

SMART Goal(s)	Target	Recent Results	Strategic Initiatives
(Example)	(Example)	(Example)	(Example)
Achieve 90% or greater customer satisfaction with call center service by FY2028	90%	FY23: X% FY24: Y% FY25: Z%	<ul> <li>Enhance training of call center staff to increase first call resolution rate</li> <li>Reduce the dropped call rate by investing in updated technology</li> </ul>

### An Example of the Balanced Scorecard in Action

### **Every day we strive to:**

Customer & Stakeholder Outcomes

Meet the needs and expectations of residents, businesses, partners, and other stakeholders.

Financial Stewardship

Use public resources responsibly, transparently, and strategically to maximize value for residents.

Internal Processes

Work effectively and efficiently resulting in high performance and responsive government.

Organizational Effectiveness

Build and sustain the talent, culture, infrastructure, and technology needed to deliver high-quality services.

### **Not Achieving Stakeholder Outcomes**

Increased flooding in recent years has surfaced a need for additional flood management and prevention support.

# Address Problem Through Strategic Initiative

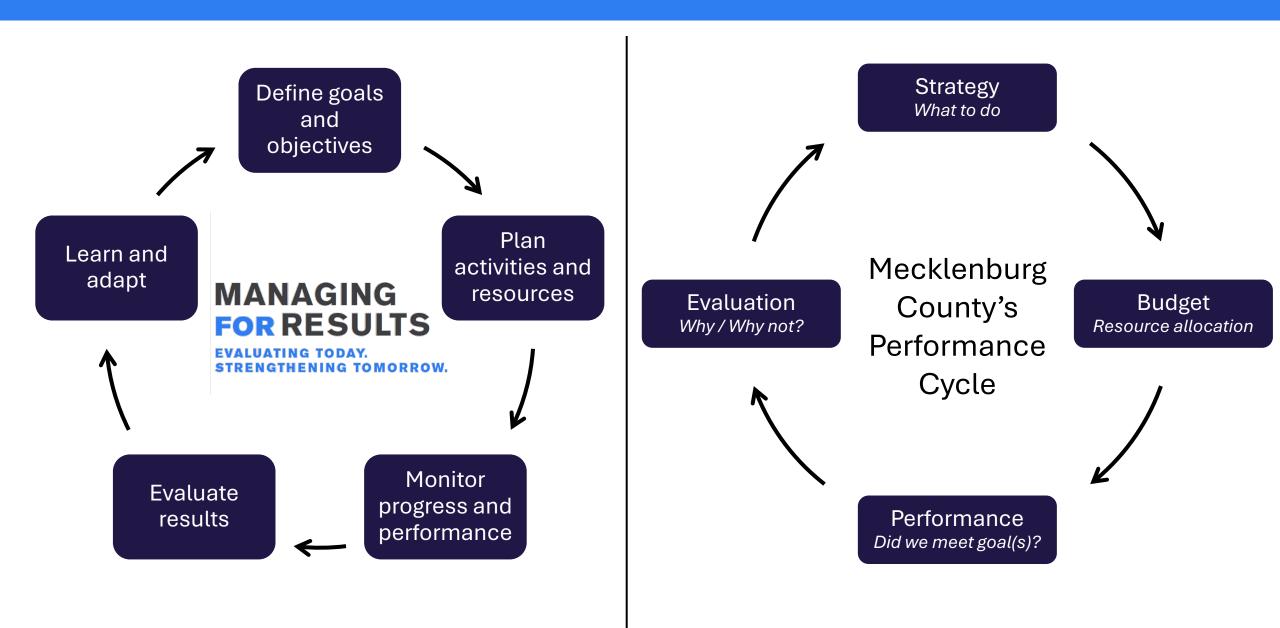
Drive investments towards reducing flood risk by 193,500 points (mitigating over 300 structures) over 15-years as identified in the Environmental Leadership Action Plan (ELAP).

### Managing for Results (MFR) and the Balanced Scorecard



- The Balanced Scorecard defines our strategic direction by establishing the Objectives, SMART Goal(s), and Strategic Initiatives that represent County and community priorities.
- MFR provides the management system that ensures strategies translate into measurable, sustainable results.
- MFR connects strategy to action.
- MFR aligns budgets and resource allocation to strategic priorities. The County can't budget strategically unless we're managing for results.
- MFR drives continuous improvement. It is not about collecting data – it is about <u>using</u> data to get better.
- MFR strengthens transparency and public trust by allowing the County to show not just say that we're achieving results for the community.

### Managing for Results (MFR) Framework



### Next Steps to Finalize the Scorecard

- Receive BOCC feedback on structure and content
- Incorporate BOCC feedback and build SMART Goals and Strategic Initiatives for all Objectives
- Incorporate community feedback from Quality of Life Collaborative convening, as appropriate
- Finalize Enterprise Objectives, SMART Goal(s), and Strategic Initiatives for possible presentation at January's BOCC retreat

### **Once approved:**

- Define and implement Focus Area Collaboration Teams (FACTs) to monitor and report on progress for each Focus Area
- Define and implement updated reporting processes for Executive Team and Board
- Partner with Departments to develop Department-level scorecards
- Partner with Human Resources to cascade goals and alignment to employees

# Quality of Life Collaborative: Building Partnerships to Improve Quality of Life

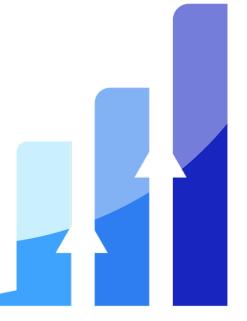
### **Event Details**

- **Date(s):** November 20-21, 2025
- Audience: Public, private, nonprofit, and community leaders
- **Duration:** Two (2) days in-person
- Location: Central Piedmont Community College's Parr Center

### <u>Purpose</u>

- Position Charlotte-Mecklenburg as a premier place to live by aligning cross-sector efforts around shared quality of life goals.
- Strengthen cross-sector collaboration and collective impact through unified priorities, coordinated strategies, and shared measures that track progress.





# MANAGING FOR RESULTS

EVALUATING TODAY.
STRENGTHENING TOMORROW.

Michael Griswold, MPA
Director, Office of Strategy & Innovation
October 27, 2025





# LUNCH

Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025



# Youth Crime in Mecklenburg County

Commissioner George Dunlap, District 3
Mecklenburg County
Board of County Commissioners
Fall Retreat
October 27-28, 2025



# Youth Crime in Mecklenburg County

2025 Fall Board of County Commissioners' Retreat

**Commissioner George Dunlap** 

## Overview

- Data and Trends
- Current Prevention Programming and Investments
- Recommendations to Reduce the Rates of Youth Crime



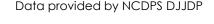
### **YASI** Data

- The YASI assesses the risks and needs of justice involved youth
- It measures the risk of recidivism of justice involved youth and is used by NC DJJDP for service planning
- In FY25, NC DJJDP administered the YASI on 507 Mecklenburg County youth

### FY25 Legal History

- Previous Delinquent Referrals
  - Meck: 64% State: 46%
- Juvenile with Felony Referral
  - Meck: 72% State: 35%
- Previous Weapons Offense
  - Meck: 45% State: 18%
- Referral for Person Crimes
  - o Meck: 66% State: 41%





### FY25 Legal History

Prior Detention Admissions

oMeck: 50% State: 20%

 Prior Youth Development Center Custody

oMeck: 4% State: 3%



# Mecklenburg Top 3 Offenses by Group, 2021 - 2023

### Non-Raise the Age Offenses

2021

Larceny of motor vehicle (f) (106)

Resisting public officer (104)

Simple assault (102)

2022

Simple assault (250)

Larceny of motor vehicle (f) (236)

Resisting public officer (102)

2023

Break or enter a motor vehicle (396)

**Larceny of motor vehicle (f) (259)** 

Simple assault (211)

### **Raise the Age Offenses**

2021

Break or enter a motor vehicle (130)

Possess handgun by minor (119)

Simple assault (104)

2022

Simple assault (156)

Possess handgun by minor (127)

Resisting public officer (104)

2023

Possess handgun by minor (112)

Simple assault (108)

Felony Possession of Stolen Vehicle (96)



### **FY25 Family History**

Kicked Out

o Meck: 9% State: 8%

Runaway

o Meck: 41% State: 21%

Family History of Substance Use & Mental Illness

Meck (SU): 11% State: 12%

Meck (MH): 11% State: 12%

Family Criminal History

Meck (Criminal): 28% State: 24%

Meck (Violent): 10% State: 6%





### **FY25 School History**

• Enrollment Status

Meck (Dropped Out): 6% State: 5%

Meck (Suspended): 2%State: 3%

Attendance in the Past Three Months

Meck (Attends Regularly): 41%
 State: 57%

Meck (5 or More Absences): 25%State: 19%

Academics

o Meck (C- or Lower): 16% State: 14%

o Meck (Failing Some): 14% State: 15%

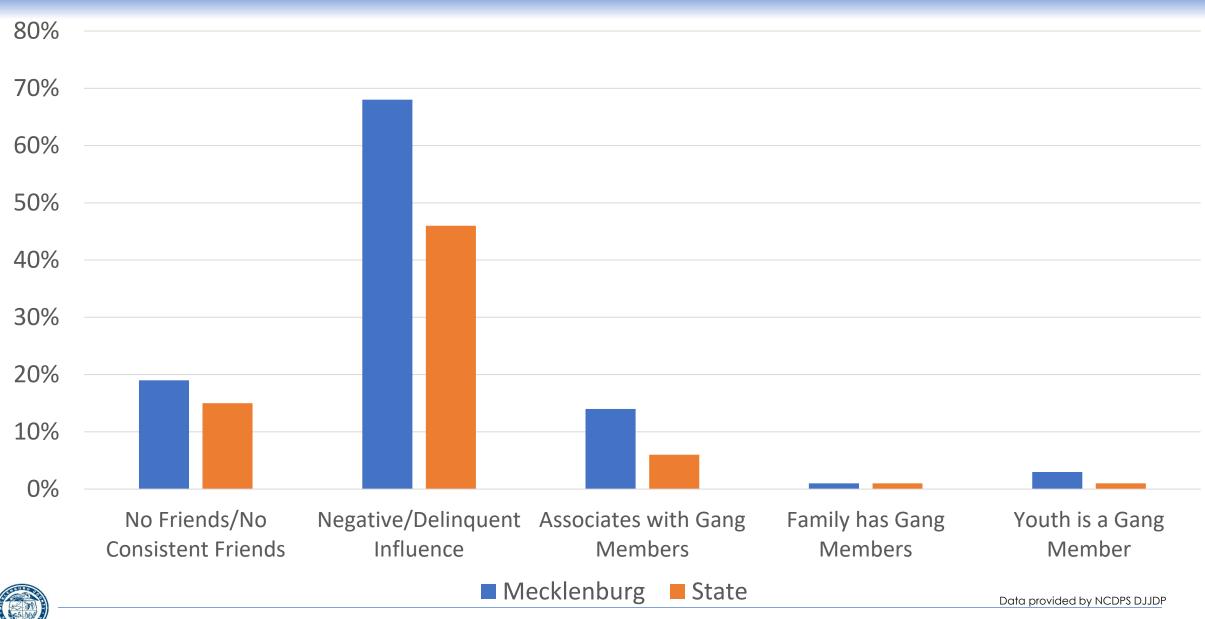
Meck (Failing Most): 16% State: 14%



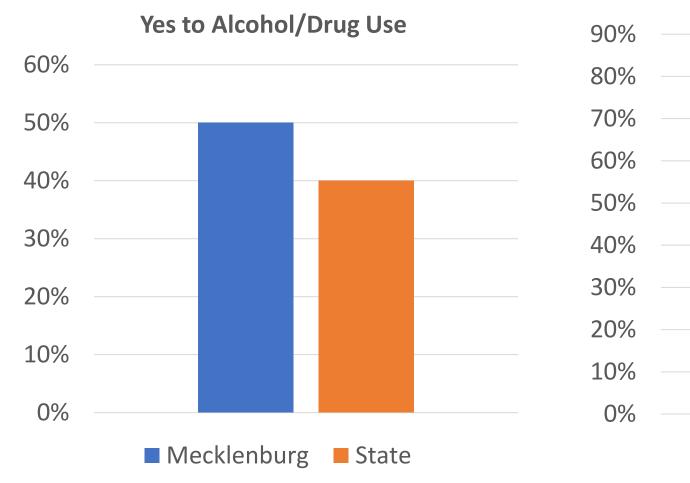


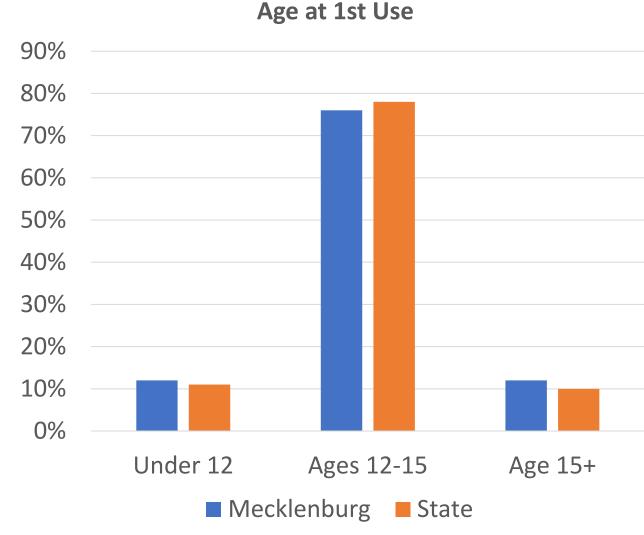


#### **Peers and Associates**



#### Profile of Justice Involved Youth in Mecklenburg County

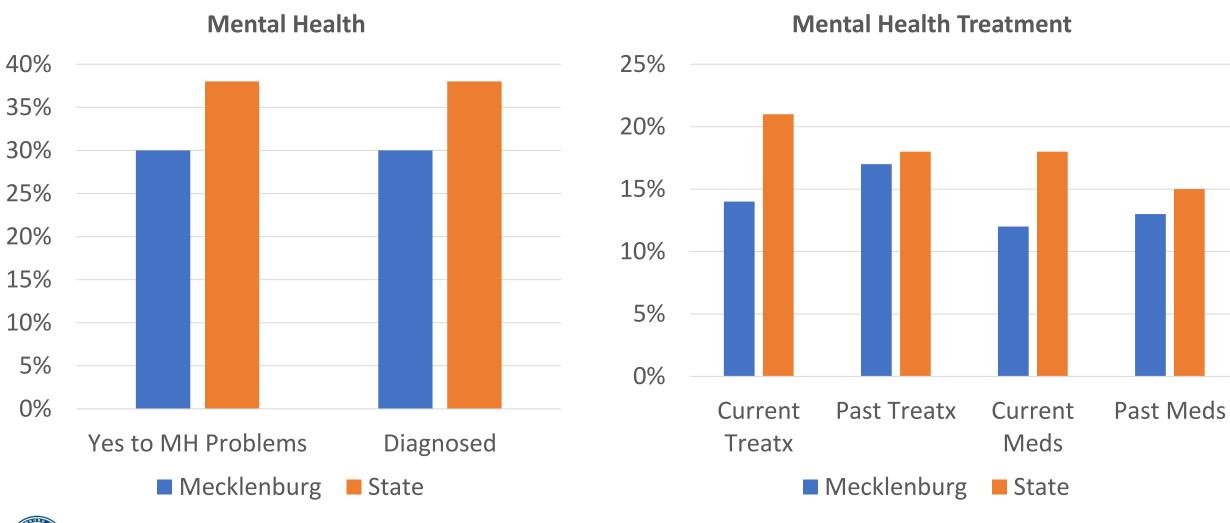






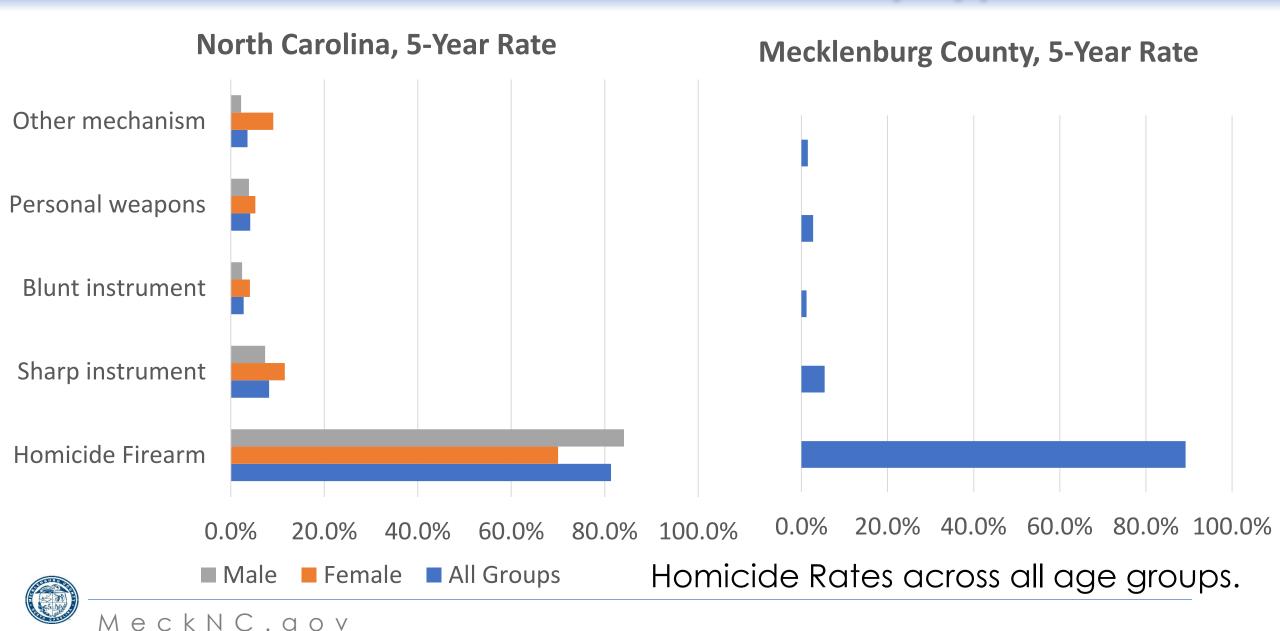
Data provided by NCDPS DJJDP

#### Profile of Justice Involved Youth in Mecklenburg County





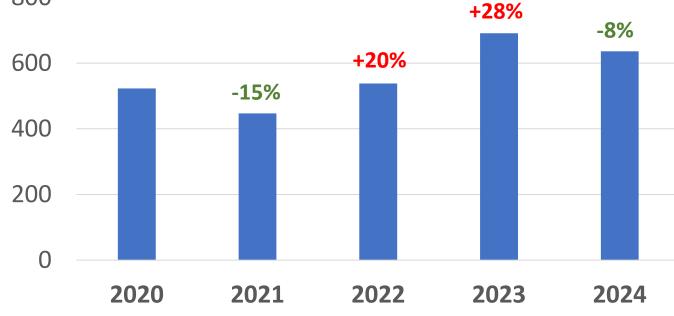
# Percent of Homicide Data by Type



## **Mecklenburg County Data**

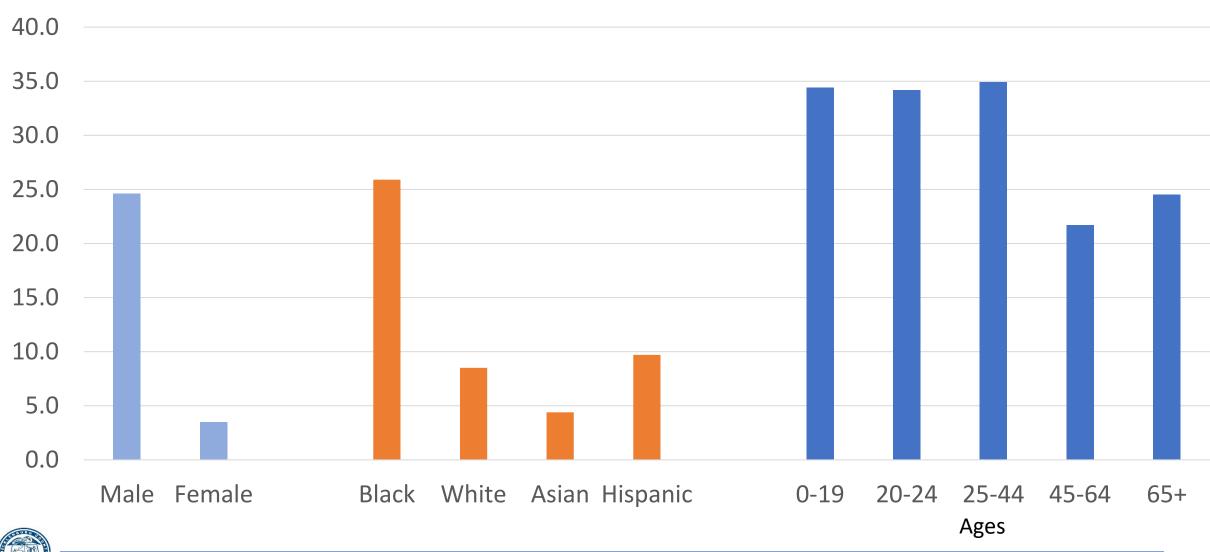
 In 2024, a total of 636 **Mecklenburg County** residents visited the emergency department due to firearm injury. **Emergency department** visits due to firearm injury decreased by 8% in the past year among **Mecklenburg County** residents







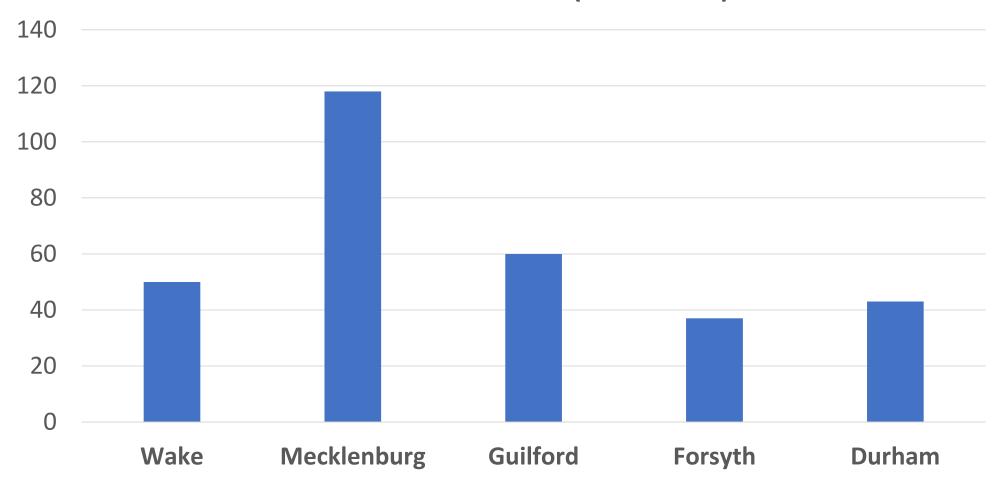
# **Violent Death Rate by Demographics** Mecklenburg County, 2014-2023





# Most Populous NC Counties

#### Youth Firearm Deaths (2019-2023)





# **Current Programs Overview**

#### County Initiatives

- Office of Violence Prevention
- ReCAST
- CJS Family and Youth Recovery Courts
  - Youth Advocate Program (YAP)
- o Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
- Criminal Justice Advisory Group
- oTeen Court

# **Current Programs**

- Violence Prevention Education & Awareness
- Mental Health Education, Awareness, & Supports
- Supports of Youth & Young Adults
- Data Stewardship for Violence Prevention
- Cross-Sector & Intergovernmental Collaboration







# **Current Programs & Services**

#### **Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)**

 Over \$2,000,000 awarded annually to community-based organizations that support justice involved and at-risk youth



# FY26 JCPC Funded Programs

Agency	Amount	Type of Service
JCPC Adminstration	\$15,499	N/A
CMPD - Youthful Diversion Program	\$240,000	Skill Building
Tresports - Positive Action Program	\$270,178	Skill Building
Team Up Connections	\$241,247	Mentoring
Achieving Success on Purpose - B.R.I.C.K	\$163,917	Substance Abuse Counseling
YDI - Family Life Skills Academy	\$77,960	Parent/Family Skill Building
YDI - Vocational and Career Developmment	\$164,950	Vocational Skills
Thompson - Juvenile Court Assessment Program	\$223,173	Assessment
TYM-SHIFTRestitution/Community Service	\$160,000	Restitution/Community Service
McLeod Center for Wellbeing-Substance Abuse Counseling	\$219,108	Substance Abuse Treatment
McCormick Cares IncMediation/Responsive Circles	\$75,421	Restorative Justice
Right Moves For Youth-Mentoring	\$88,540	Mentoring
Promise Youth Development, Inc-Promise Pathways Mentoring	\$111,720	Mentoring
Total	\$2,051,713	

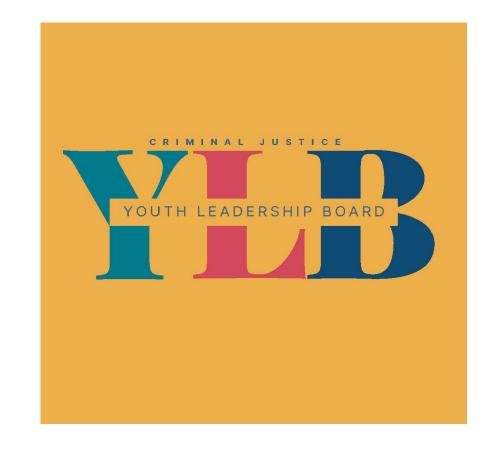


# Criminal Justice Advisory Group (CJAG)

 Community Engagement Task Group



Youth Leadership Board



# Current Programs Overview

#### City Initiatives:

- Alternatives to Violence
- City of Charlotte Youth Opportunities Programs
  - Youth Safety, Development & Career Experiences

#### Community Initiatives:

- Hospital Violence Intervention Program (HVIP)
- Handle With Care (in partnership with OVP)

#### Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools

- School Based Therapy
- Case Management and Services for youth at-risk.



# **Current Programs**

#### **Alternatives to Violence (ATV)**



Primary focus is mediating conflict



**Funding sources** 



Locations

Beatties Ford Rd Area (2021); West Boulevard/Remount Areas (2023); Nations Ford/Arrowood Areas (2023)



**Evaluation** 





#### Recommendations

#### From Youth and Young Adults

- Increased access to confidential mental health resources
- Safe spaces for youth to gather/play
   Involve youth in planning
- Conflict resolution training and resources
- More opportunities to help shape policies
- Bystander training and resources

#### **Recommendations**

#### Local

- Opportunities for Safe Space
- Mental Health Access
- Prevention Programming
- Expansion of Handle With Care

#### National and Evidence Based

- Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
  - Opportunities Program Pierce Co, WA
- Prevention Programming
- Centralized Referral Systems





# Youth Crime in Mecklenburg County

2025 Fall Board of County Commissioners' Retreat

**Commissioner George Dunlap** 



# The Paradox of Prosperity: Widening Economic Gaps

Commissioner Arthur Griffin, At-Large Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025

# Agenda

WHO WANTS A LIVING WAGE JOB?

**BARRIERS** 

LIVING WAGE ECOSYSTEM

# **Jobs in Charlotte**



Source: WSOC-TV, "Charlotte's appeal drives population growth, with 157 new residents daily," August 22, 2025

# Job Opportunities Business Investment Program (BIP) Grant Agreements

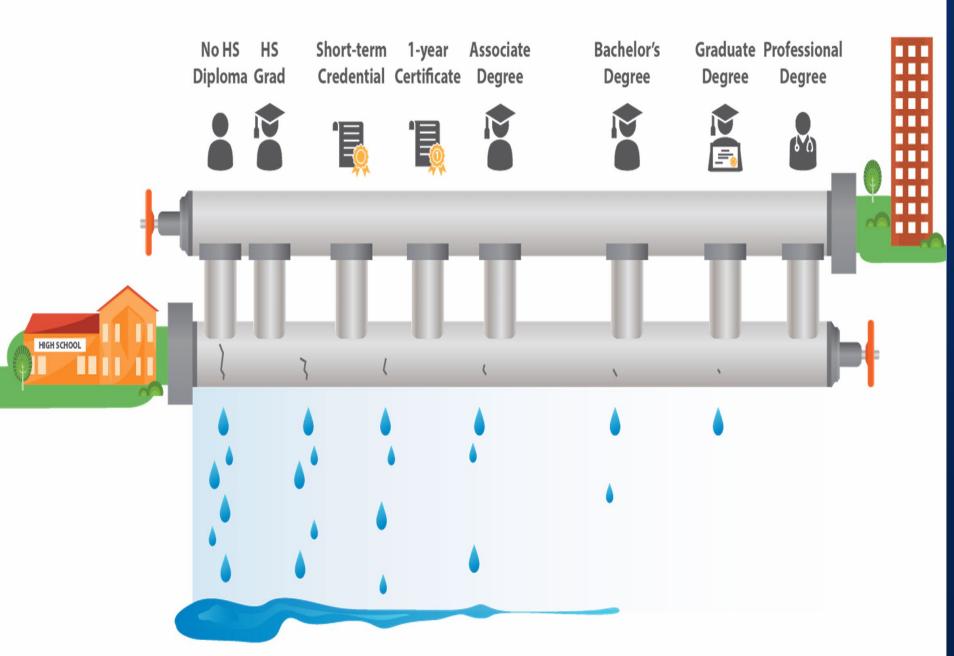
Date Approved	Company	New Jobs	Average Pay
Dec 6, 2022	Bosch Rexroth Corporation	92	\$67,016
Jan 18, 2023	Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC)	51	\$95,000
Feb 7, 2023	Albemarle Corporation	205	\$87,381
Jun 6, 2023	Reynolds Consumer Products, LLC	73	\$48,227
Jul 6, 2023	Atom Power	205	\$95,379
Aug 2, 2023	Alpitronic Americas, LLC	300	\$90,158
Sep 6, 2023	TTX	150	\$179,400
Apr 16, 2024	Siemens Energy	475	\$82,052
Mar 18, 2025	RXO Logistics	216	\$100,605
Mar 18, 2025	Groninger USA, LLC	60	\$76,037
Apr 1, 2025	DetraPel, Inc.	35	\$71,794
May 6, 2025	HSP US, LLC (Trench Group)	74	\$77,315
Sep 3, 2025	Citigroup Technology	510	\$133,441
Sep 3, 2025	AssetMark	252	\$110,518
Sep 3, 2025	Toromont AVL	326	\$76,052

# Serving as a Talent Connector



# Income Maintenance Program Recipients as of August 31, 2025

Program Demographics	Food & Nutrition Services (FNS)	Work First	Medicaid	Long Term Care	Energy (Crisis Intervention Program)
Race	%	%	%	%	%
Black / African American	66%	80%	55%	52%	85%
White / Caucasian	26%	16%	35%	42%	9%
Other or Multiple Races	5%	3%	6%	3%	3%
Unreported	3%	1%	5%	2%	3%
Gender	%	%	%	%	%
Female	57%	57%	55%	51%	63%
Male	43%	43%	45%	49%	37%
Ethnicity	%	%	%	%	%
Hispanic or Latino	19%	13%	22%	6%	9%
Not Hispanic or Latino	78%	85%	72%	87%	89%
Unreported	3%	1%	7%	7%	2%
Age	%	%	%	%	%
0-17 years	46%	76%	42%	9%	50%
18-24 years	8%	5%	14%	7%	7%
25-34 years	12%	10%	14%	11%	14%
35-44 years	11%	7%	10%	10%	14%
45-54 years	6%	1%	7%	7%	7%
55-64 years	7%	0%	6%	12%	4%
65 or older	9%	0%	6%	44%	3%
Grand Total	135,955	1,741	374,503	4,447	3,533



# The Education to Work Pipeline

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

# **ALICE Communities**

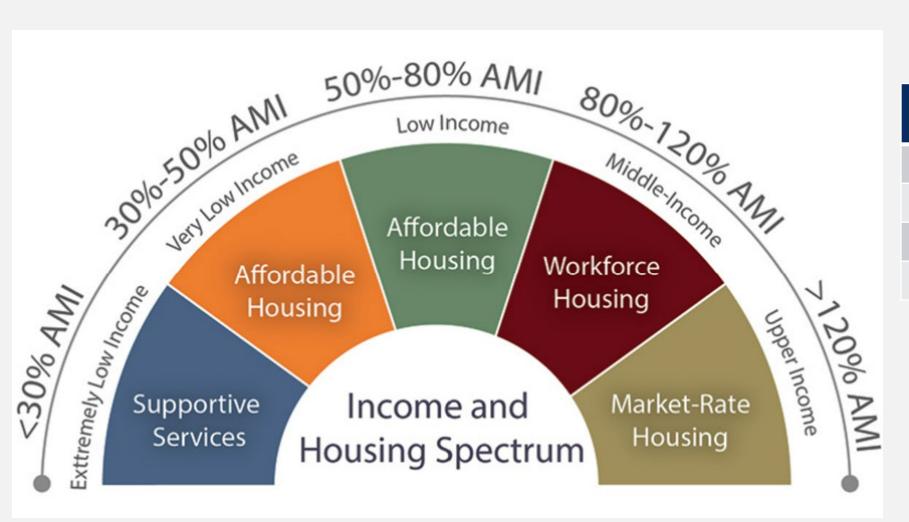
	Households		Percent	
	Black / Af-Amer	White	Black / Af-Amer	White
Totals	149,722	242,327	100%	100%
Less than \$10,000	12,971	7,577	8.7%	3.1%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	5,112	3,921	3.4%	1.6%
\$15,000 to \$19,999	4,005	3,784	2.7%	1.6%
\$20,000 to \$24,999	7,154	3,892	4.8%	1.6%
\$25,000 to \$29,999	2,737	4,637	1.8%	1.9%
\$30,000 to \$34,999	5,271	5,042	3.5%	2.1%
\$35,000 to \$39,999	4,471	6,182	3.0%	2.6%
\$40,000 to \$44,999	6,824	5,545	4.6%	2.3%
\$45,000 to \$49,999	6,981	5,078	4.7%	2.1%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	13,849	13,910	9.2%	5.7%
\$60,000 to \$74,999	13,948	18,606	9.3%	7.7%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	21,673	27,163	14.5%	11.2%
\$100,000 to \$124,999	15,068	24,893	10.1%	10.3%
\$125,000 to \$149,999	9,121	20,038	6.1%	8.3%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	10,896	29,509	7.3%	12.2%
\$200,000 or more	9,641	62,550	6.4%	25.8%
Median Income	\$66,915	\$114,400		

WHO IS ALICE? ASSET LIMITED ALICE has no safety net in times of crisis. INCOME CONSTRAINED ALICE's income falls short of essentials. EMPLOYED === ALICE is working, yet not earning enough.

Image Credit: United Way Southern Maine

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, extracted from data.census.gov **B19001:** Household Income, Census Bureau Table – **B19013:** Median Household Income, Census Bureau Table

#### Area Median Income (AMI) Thresholds



Income Limits, 4-Person Family	FY 2025
30%	\$33,650
50%	\$56,100
80%	\$89,750
Median Income	\$112,200

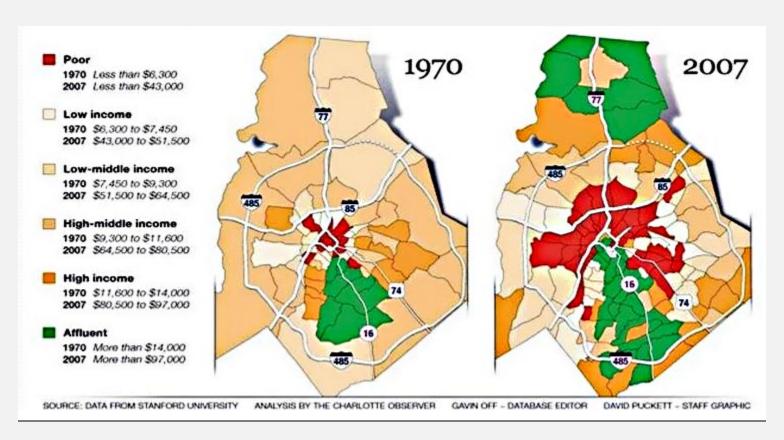
**Source:** Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia Metro Area, https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html

# **Workforce Development Profile**

Profile	Paycheck Jobs	Opportunity Jobs	Career Jobs
Job Seeker Type	Entry-level, short-term, temporary or transitional employment to cover basic expenses	Position to gain experience, develop skills and move towards stability and growth	Long-term professional journey built on personal interest, skillset and previous experience
Barriers to Employment	Housing instability, criminal justice involvement, mental health concerns, substance misuse, transportation and childcare	Lack of hard skills, childcare, transportation, Limited guidance or support for career navigation and advancement	Limited access to pay for higher education/credentials, lack of social capital. Limited resources to maintain household while pursuing extended education
Typical Roles	Retail, food service, warehouse, Janitorial and hospitality	CDL drivers, medical assistants, HVAC techs, phlebotomist, nursing assistant, office assistants and entry-level government	Nurses, IT professionals, electricians, managers, medical technicians and social workers
Education/Skills	Minimal or no formal training. Skills are learned on the job. Transferrable essential skills are needed	Short-term training less than one year or certification. Transferable essential skills are needed	Postsecondary education or significant experience is needed
<b>Support Needs</b>	Job readiness, essential skills, clothing, transportation and childcare	Training access, career coaching and wraparound supports	Advanced training, licensing, networking and mentorship

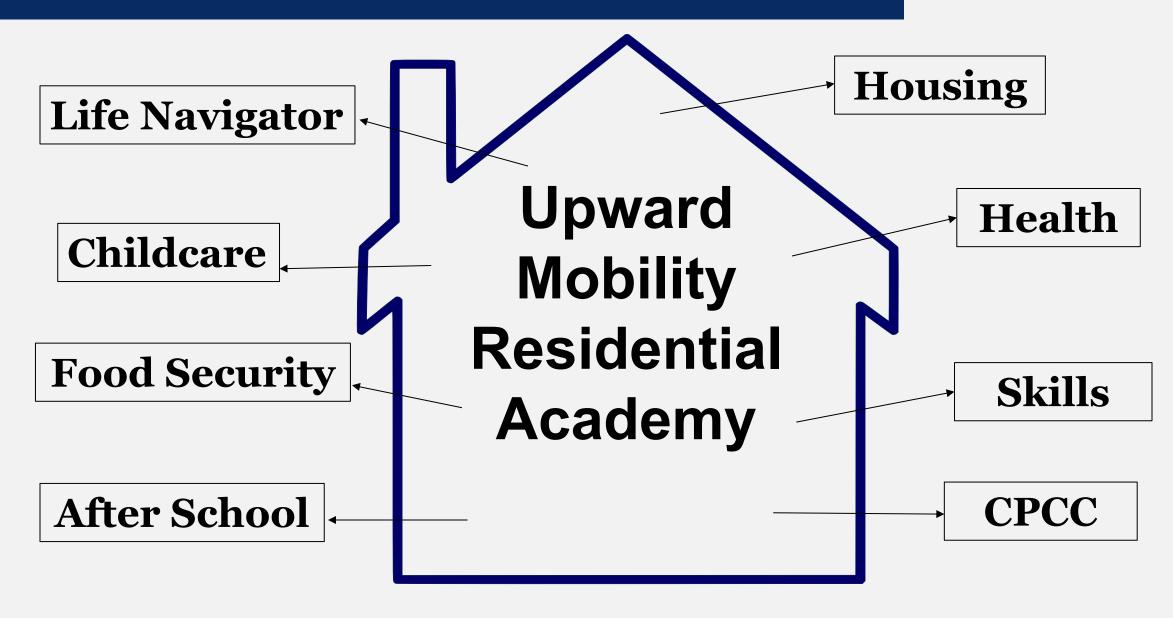
# Wedge and Crescent

Since 1970, some Mecklenburg County middle-class neighborhoods have transformed into poor or affluent neighborhoods. The proportion of families living in poor neighborhoods in the Charlotte area has increased 140%, while the proportion in affluent neighborhoods has increased 83%.



**Source:** CLT Public Relations, "Charlotte's Arc and Wedge," December 8, 2020, https://www.cltpr.com/articles/arc-wedge

# **Upward Mobility Conveyor**





# Open Discussion



# Thank You

Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025



# BREAK

Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025



# Critical Home Repair

Commissioner Vilma Leake, District 2 Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025



# Closing Remarks

Michael Bryant, County Manager Mecklenburg County Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025



# Welcome

Michael Bryant, County Manager Mecklenburg County Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025



# Icebreaker

Rebecca Herbert, Public Information Manager Public Information Department Mecklenburg County Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025

## Morning Exercise

Retreat Day 2





## Relationships

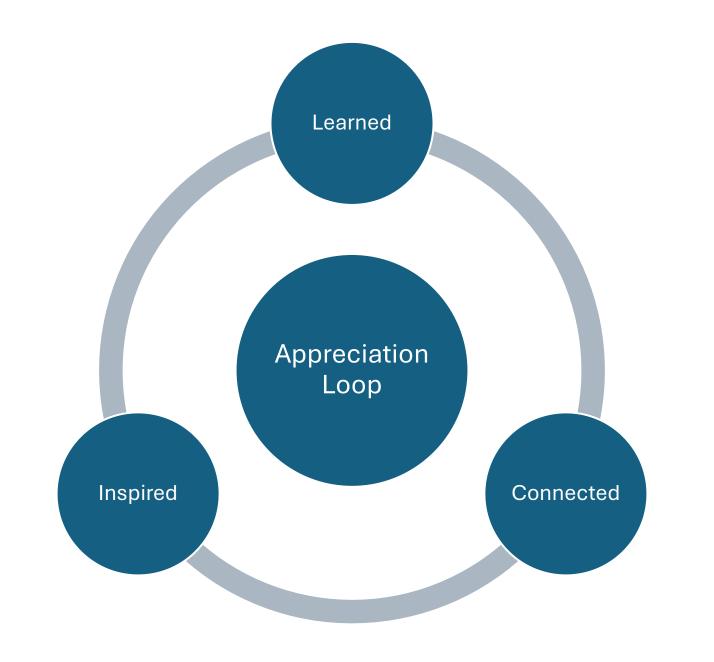
Trust

Inspire

### Results

Effective 2-Days

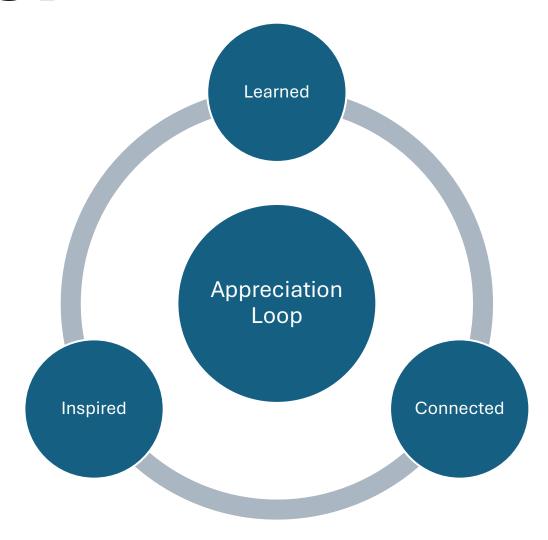
Protect & Improve Quality of Life

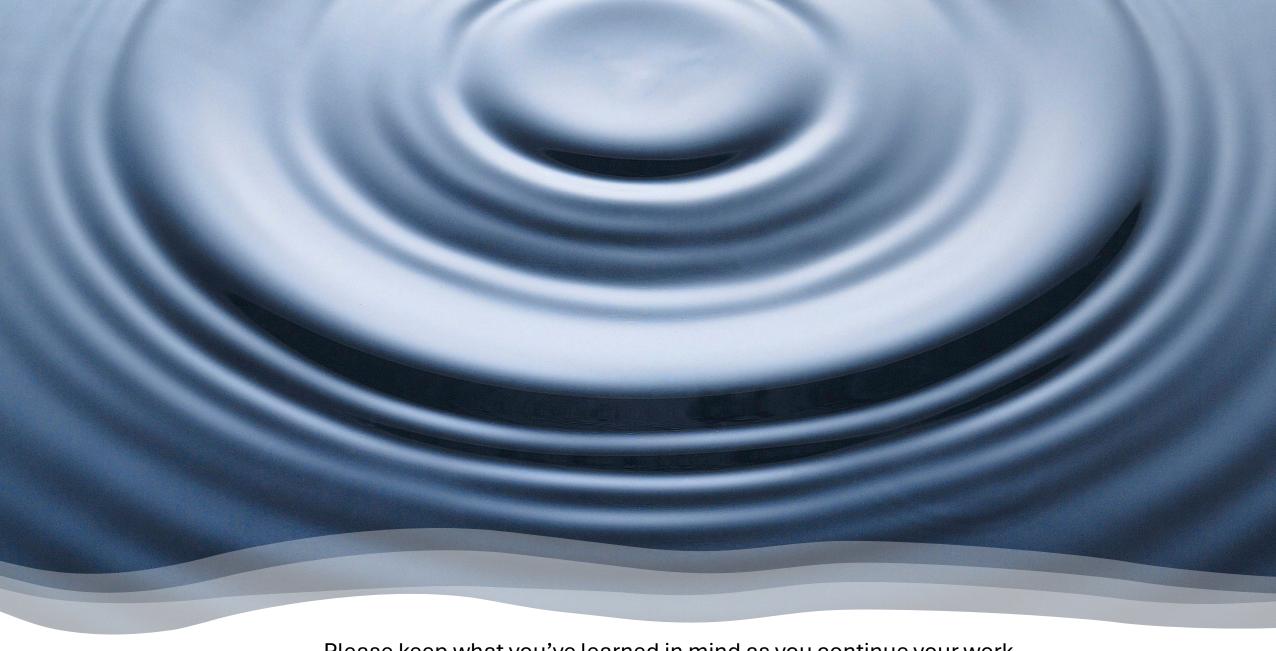


## **APPRECIATION LOOP**

#### **Instructions:**

- > 4 groups.
- ➤ Only the person with the "Talking stick" speaks.
- ➤ Share something that you appreciate about Day 1.
- > 1-2 minutes each.
- > Consider...
  - Something you learned
  - Someone you met
  - Something that inspired you
- > Mind the timer.





Please keep what you've learned in mind as you continue your work.
Thank you!

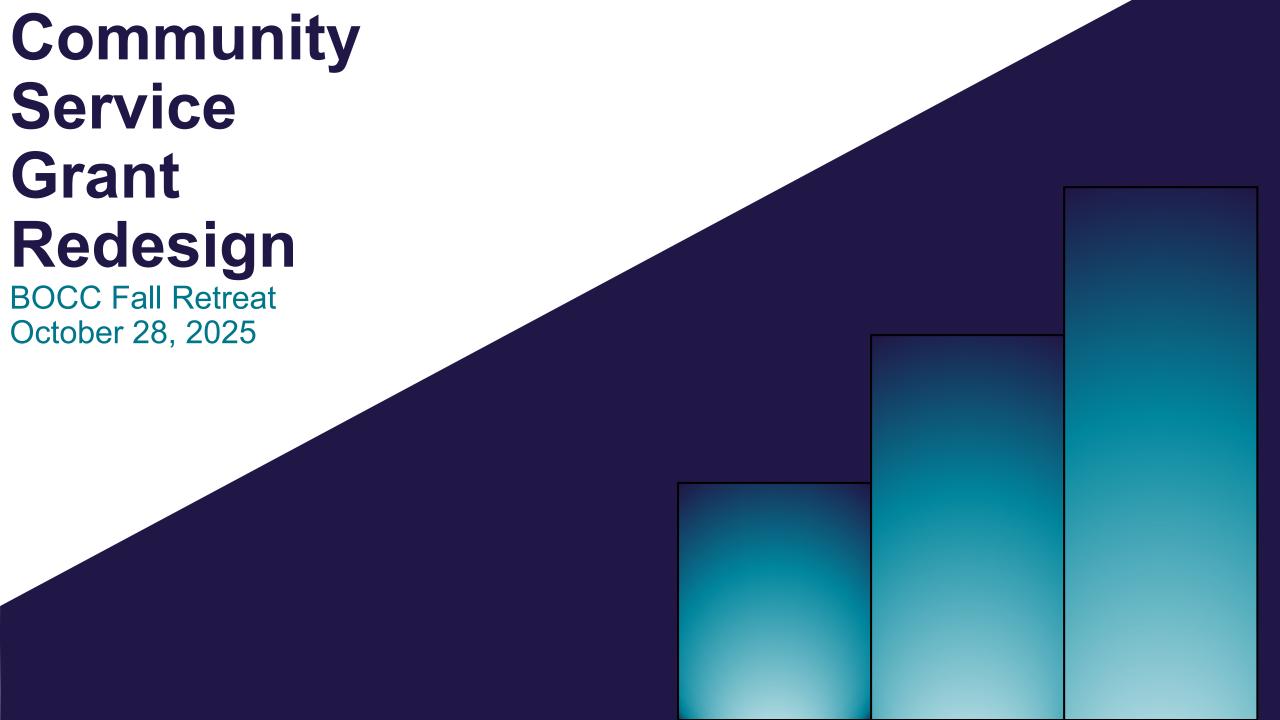
## THANK YOU





## Community Service Grant Redesign

Adrian Cox, Director
Office of Management and Budget
Mecklenburg County
Fall Retreat
October 27-28, 2025



### **Overview**

**CSG History** 

Challenges & Opportunities

Recommendations

Next Steps

- Prior to FY2006, nonprofits were funded throughout the budget as vendors
  - Outside Service Agencies | OSAs
- The following nonprofits were vendors within many categories that we would consider part of the Arts, Commissions, and other Partners today:

Advantage Carolina	Lake Norman and Wylie Marine Commissions
Arts and Science Council	Latin American Coalition
Carolina Regional Partnership	Legal Services of Southern Piedmont
Catawba Land Conservancy	Senior Centers
Charlotte Area Fund	Shelter for Battered Women
Community Building Initiative	Latta Place
Historic Charlotte	Salvation Army Women and Children's Shelter
House of Grace	United Way

#### FY2005

- During this fiscal year, the competitive grant framework was created
- Eligibility, application criteria, and requirements were established for nonprofits

#### **FY2006**

- Process began this year
- OSAs were removed from dept budgets and added to nondepartmental
- The Focus Area Leadership Team (FALT) was designated to evaluate **OSAs** based on performance/ desired results

#### **FY2010**

- Addition of Information Sessions and advertisements for the what we know as the

Community Service Grant (CSG) Program

- Review Panel of dept. subject matter experts





#### FY2012

- Strategy: align nonprofit funding investments with the County's "Critical Success Factors"

#### **FY2016**

- Increased audit requirements to include:
- performed by an independent CPA
- Generally Accepted Accounting Principals (GAAP)
- no overdue suspension or taxes

#### **FY2017**

- Sunset Evaluation
  Model led to the Sunset
  Policy (3-year limit on
  CSG funding)
  - Option to <u>apply</u> to become a vendor began
- 15 CSGs programs
   were sunset and
   became vendors within
   departments this year



#### FY2019

- Strategy: transitioned from alignment with "target areas" to "key themes" to drive decision-making



#### **FY2021**

Funding was budgeted for grassroots nonprofits, known as the

Unite Charlotte program



#### **FY2026**

- The CSG Program is paused due to availability of revenue
  - CSG Program funding removed (\$2M)
  - Unite Charlotte is also reduced by (\$1.4M) to \$1.8M

## **Programs That Were Formerly CSGs**

Former CSGs now Vendors	Funding*
MedAssist of Mecklenburg: Free Pharmacy Program	\$600,000
Communities In Schools: Building Student Success	450,000
Studio 345 – Arts Plus	430,000
Charlotte Community Health Clinic	425,000
Youth Advocate Program, Inc.: Mecklenburg County YAP	397,000
CW Williams: Improving Access to Healthcare	390,000
Camino Community Development Corporation, Inc.	360,000
Cook Community Clinic	325,000
Care Ring – Nurse Family Partnerships	250,000
Care Ring – Physician's Reach Out	250,000
Veterans Bridge Home	200,000
Mental Health America of Central Carolinas	165,000
YBLA - YLeader Program	150,000
Levine Senior Center	102,000
Shelter Health Services: Healthcare	69,000
Latin American Coalition: Economic Mobility Center	50,000
Urban League: Continuum of Opportunity	50,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters: School Based Mentoring	50,000
Time Out Youth	30,000
Ada Jenkins Families and Careers Development Center	25,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters: Mentoring 2.0	25,000
100 Black Men: Movement in Youth	20,000
Total	\$4,813,000

Added From FY2017-Present

\$4.4M Total Vendor Funding

20 Organizations

22 Unique Programs

Within CFAS, CSS, CJS, DCR, EDO, and HLT

<sup>\*</sup> Does not include one-time funding

## **Some Other Nonprofit Vendors**

- Although some vendors began partnerships with the County through the CSG Program, the nonprofits below (along with others) contracted directly with departments for a distinct program.
- Some of these programs operate a distinct program that fit as a departmental vendor and others may fit better as an annual grant recipient.
- While assessing former CSG/vendors, it may be beneficial to also look at fit of these vendors.

A Sample Other Nonprofit Vendors	Funding
Legal Aid	\$1,209,163
Cabarrus Rowan Community Health	912,500
Road to Hire	884,036
Urban League	564,000
The ROC Charlotte	400,000
She Built This City	363,656
The Relatives	225,000
Levine Senior Center	102,000
Total	\$4,660,355

## **Community Service Grants vs. Other Vendors**

#### **Grants**

- Provides funding to individual programs on a time-limited basis
- Grants are aimed to achieve specific outcomes defined by grant
- Funding is typically provided to new programs or expansions that a nonprofit is considering
- A competitive application process is used to award grants
- Grant applications are vetted by a panel of department experts
- Grants are paid as results are achieved

#### **Typical Vendor Agreements**

- Departments contract with vendors for various services that support their programs
- Vendors are selected by departments based on the ability to fulfill a specific need of their business operation in accordance with County procurement standards
- Payment to vendors may be based on a perunit basis or performance basis depending on the contract

Neither CSGs nor vendor agreements are intended to support the general operating of an organization.

## **Challenges & Opportunities**

- **No Funding:** The CSG program was paused for FY2026 due to a lack of funding and there is currently no funding identified for the program in FY2027
- Growing Cost: Over the years the CSG program has increased the ongoing cost to the budget as CSGs were often converted to vendors that do not compete annually for funding
- Lack of Clarity for Applicants: The previous CSG program did not provide potential applicates with clarity on the available funding, because funding for the program was unknown when application process began
- <u>Alignment to County Objectives</u>: Although grants have been tied to the County's strategies, there is opportunity to increase the focus on the specific outcomes that we need to address
- Ensure a Competitive Process: It is important to ensure that a wide rage of CSG can compete to achieve
  the best outcomes for residents
- Ensure Grantees Can be Success: A new CSG program must maintain controls to ensure that nonprofits are successful & use public dollars in a responsible manner

# CSG Program Recommendations

# Eliminate three-year sunset policy & require programs that were formerly CSGs to compete for funding

#### How it would work

- The CSG program would no longer have a 3-year limit with the option to apply to be a vendor after 3 years
- 20 CSGs that become vendors since FY2017, would need to compete annually through the CSG process to receive funding
- Nonprofits would be notified regarding the change as soon as it is approved, so they can prepare next grant cycle

#### **Benefits**

- Prevents the CSG program from ballooning the County operating budget
- Would establish a more competitive process for County funding to nonprofits

#### **Potential Drawbacks**

Existing vendors would need to adjust to a competitive process

## Fund the CSG program with fund balance based on a predetermined % of available balance

#### **How it would work**

- Calculate the available fund balance over the policy minimum after the close of the fiscal year
- Use a predetermined percentage of fund balance to provide the total funding for the CSG program along with caps and other safeguards

**Example: 5% of the fund balance over the minimum policy threshold (millions)** 

Year End→	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25*
Available FB	\$492.0	\$541.4	\$534.1	\$540.3	\$512.5	\$530.9
FB Over Minimum Threshold	\$106.4	\$132.2	\$106.5	\$90.0	\$53.7	\$65.5

Budget Year→	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27*
CSG Funding Example 5%	\$5.32	\$6.61	\$5.33	\$4.5	\$2.69	\$3.28

#### **Actual CSG funding (millions)**

	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
CSG Grants	\$1.85	\$1.83	\$2.15	\$2.13	0	TBD
Vendor/Former CSGs	\$5.13	\$4.28	\$5.32	\$5.8	\$4.5	TBD
Combined	\$5.98	\$6.11	\$7.47	\$7.93	\$4.5	TBD

All grants would be awarded as a onetime award with a one-time source

#### **Benefits**

- Reinvest a portion of fund balance back to the community
- Ongoing funds are used to support core County services
- Opens options to cycles outside of the fiscal year

#### **Potential Drawbacks**

- Continual use of one-time funds
- Would require discipline to the policy not to add in "one more grant"

<sup>\*</sup> Fund balance estimate following budget adoption

## Design the application to focus on pre-identified performance outcomes

#### How it would work

- OSI working with departments would develop a set of performance metrics that align to our Balance Scorecard
- Applicants would apply based on their programs ability to improve these metrics or some intermediate outcomes with a clear alignment

#### Example- Health & Thriving Community applicants might apply to:

- a) Improve hypertension outcome (% blood pressure < 140/90) for uninsured / underinsured residents
- b) Improve diabetes outcomes (% A1c ≤ 9) for uninsured / underinsured residents
- c) Increase uninsured / underinsured resident maintaining medication compliance
- d) Increase the percentage of HIV diagnosed patients returning for care

Other desired outcomes as determined by OSI & departments

Note: Currently all vendors that are former CSGs align to <u>Health & Thriving Community</u>, <u>Jobs & Economic Opportunities</u>, <u>Learning & Educational Opportunities</u>

#### Benefits

- Provides clear goals for applicants at the beginning of the process
- Allows the County to better fund solutions that align to the areas of greatest need
- Builds on the "paying for results" philosophy of the CSG program
- Integrates the CSG awards with the comprehensive plan of the County

#### **Potential Drawbacks**

Time required to identify outcomes and revise the application

### Establish application minimums & maximums

#### How it would work

- CSG grants would only be available between a set amount
  - \$55K and \$500K
- Ensure alternatives for smaller requests
  - The Unite Charlotte program, funded by the County, will award grants of \$35K and \$55K for smaller organizations
- The budget will also reestablish a small amount of contingency funding for the Board to invest in small one-time, innovative programs
  - \$125K up until 2020
  - Eliminated due to underutilization
- Minimum and maximums would be revisited in some years based on economic changes

#### **Benefits**

- Provides applicants with clear expectations on the scale of the programs funding by the county, often requested by potential applicants
- Minimums would establish a baseline for program impact, implementation, and ability to report on performance
- Maximums would help to ensure funding is available for multiple organizations

#### **Potential Drawbacks**

 Without alternatives for smaller organizations, minimums may unintentionally exclude programs

## Allocate total funding to CSG & award grants later in the year

#### How it would work

Funding the CSG program with a predetermined amount of fund balance allows the program operate on an implementation timeframe independent from the fiscal year

FY27 Allocation / CY27 Implementation	Start	Finish	Days
Allocate a total (based on FY2025 Fund Balance) for CSGs to be identified	7/1/2026		
2 Application Submission	7/15/2026	9/14/2026	61
3 Review & Prepare Recommendations	9/14/2026	12/14/2026	91
4 Update the BOCC & Finalize Contracts	12/14/2026	1/29/2027	46
5 Implementation	2/1/2027	1/31/2028	364

FY28 Allocation / CY28 Implementation	Start
Allocate CSG funding (based on FY2026 Fund Balance) for CSGs to be identified	7/1/2027

#### **Benefits**

- Similar to the ARPA process, it separates Board from having to pick CSG in the annual Budget process.
- Application submission and review can occur independent of other budget decisions
- Allows for more intentional focus on both investments in County departments and nonprofits
- Nonprofits can address opportunities that emerge from prior budget cycle
- Would allow grants to begin as soon as February 2027

#### **Potential Drawbacks**

 Unable to communicate specific grant awards at the same time the budget is presented

## Provide grants up-to a 2-year period

#### How it would work

- Extend the award period for CSGs to allow for a 2-year implementation period
- Allocated funding would be held as committed for both years when grants are awarded

#### Example

		Grant Implementation					
Grants Awarded Jan. 2027		Feb 2027 – Jan. 2028	Feb 2028 – Jan. 2029	Feb 2029 – Jan. 2030			
Grant 1	100,000	50,000	50,000				
Grant 2	200,000	100,000	100,000				
Grant 3	120,000	60,000	60,000				
Grant 4	75,000	50,000	25,000				

Total 495,000

		Grant Implementation					
Grants Aw	varded Jan. 2028	Feb 2027 – Jan. 2028	Feb 2028 – Jan. 2029	Feb 2029 – Jan. 2030			
Grant 5	500,000		250,000	250,000			
Grant 6	70,000		35,000	35,000			
Grant 7	400,000		200,000	200,000			
Grant 8	300,000		150,000	150,000			

Total 1,770,000

#### **Benefits**

- Provides additional time for grantees to achieve results
- A multi-year strategy is more feasible for many programs

#### **Potential Drawbacks**

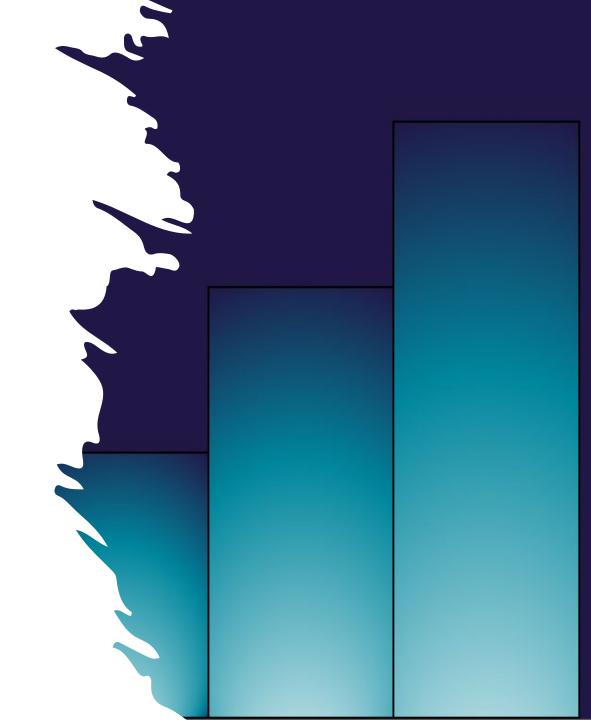
- Two-year grants will utilize a greater share of available funding
- Nonprofits are more likely to design programs with ongoing dependence on County funding
- More complicated grant review

## Summary

	Provide a funding source for CSGs	Prevent CSGs from ballooning the budget	Provide clarity to potential applicants	Improve alignment to County objectives	Ensure a competitive process	Ensure grantees can be successful
1. Eliminate the three-year sunset policy & require programs that were formerly CSGs to compete for funding		<b>√</b>			<b>√</b>	
2. Fund with fund balance based on a predetermined % of available balance	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>			
3. Design the application to focus on pre- identified performance outcomes			<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	
4. Establish application minimums & maximums			<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>
5. Allocate total funding to CSG then & award grants later in the year				<b>✓</b>		
6. Provide grants up to a 2-year period						✓

## **Next Steps**

- 1. Receive Board feedback today
- 2. OMB will draft a CSG program guidance document
- Once decisions are final, OMB will notify existing vendors & any interested nonprofits of the new program design & timeline
- Funding will be included in the FY2027
   Recommended Budget to support the CSG program
- 5. OSI will develop a list of community metrics to guide potential applicants
- Application & document submission portals will be updated
- 7. Begin accepting applications mid-July





## BREAK

Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025



# Mecklenburg County and Behavioral Health Services

Commissioner Laura Meier, District 5 Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025

## Mecklenburg County and Behavioral Health Services

Presenter: Commissioner Laura Meier

Staff Support: Cotrane Penn

## **Objectives**

- To gain an understanding of the history of behavioral health funding in North Carolina and Mecklenburg County
- To gain an understanding of the need of increased funding for behavioral health in Mecklenburg County

### **How We Got Here**

A Behavioral Health Funding and Services Timeline

## From County-Led to Managed Care-Led Behavioral Health

#### 1970s-2000

NC counties deliver behavioral health service and manage state and Medicaid funding.

2001-2014

2001- NC passes the MH Reform Act, aiming to reduce the number of entities managing state and Medicaid funds. Gradually, NC counties stop delivering services and administering state and Medicaid funds.

Mecklenburg continues service delivery and state/Medicaid funding administration. By 2007, Meck was the only county doing this.

2014

After a few years of controversy, County decides to work with Cardinal Innovations for the administration of Medicaid and state funding.

Mecklenburg County stops providing Medicaid/state-funded behavioral health services and no longer administers these funds for behavioral health.

#### 2014-2021

Cardinal Innovations administers Medicaid and state funding for behavioral health services in Mecklenburg County.

All County spending on behavioral health is using local funds or grants.

#### 2021

County shifts from Cardinal Innovations to Alliance Health Plan

#### 2021-Present

The state begins the move to "Managed Care", further broadening how Medicaid funds are administered.

5 insurance companies start administering Medicaid for most residents. Medicaid expansion takes place in NC.

Alliance continues administering Medicaid and state funding for the uninsured and those with the most severe behavioral health needs. They also administer federal block grant funding for mental health and substance abuse.

Mecklenburg County funding prioritizes safety net behavioral health services for the uninsured and underinsured, and services that are not insurance eligible.

## The Takeaway

- In the past 25 years, North Carolina's management of behavioral health services and funding for low income and uninsured residents has changed dramatically
- With it, the role that counties play has changed too.
- Currently, supporting residents' access BH services is technically a state and managed care organization responsibility only.

If that is the case, what is our County investment, and why?

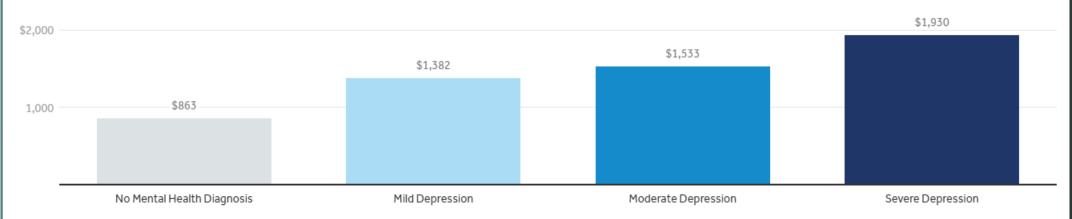
## **Access to Services in Mecklenburg County**

Residents' Insurance Status

### Residents with Private Insurance or Medicare

- In 2023, 75.7% (855,410) of County residents had private, Medicare, or military/VA insurance.
  - This is a 4-percentage point increase over 2015.

Annual out-of-pocket spending for privately-insured individuals treated for depression, by severity, 2021



Includes nonelderly adult enrollees with private insurance from large employers. Enrollees are categorized as mild, moderate, or severe based on the highest severity of depression for which they received treatment in 2021. Enrollees depressions with or without co-occurring anxiety diagnoses are included. Enrollees are included in the no mental health diagnosis group if they were not treated for any mental health diagnosis in 2021. Enrollees with mental health diagnoses other than GAD and depression are not represented in figure. Data does not include payments for services that enrollees do not claim under their employer coverage.

#### Residents with Medicaid Insurance

## Medicaid

347,152 residents enrolled

## Medicaid Expansion

84,832 residents
 enrolled when NC
 voted for expansion

No copays but low reimbursement rates make serving people with Medicaid less attractive for clinicians

• As of 10/1/25, the state cut reimbursement rates by 3-8% for many behavioral health services, placing greater strain on providers who accept Medicaid.

#### Residents with No Insurance

Over 130,000
residents in
Mecklenburg
County have no
health insurance.

- Limited access to care— can use Countyfunded services and if the BH needs get bad enough, then they could possibly access state funded services through Alliance.
- Undocumented persons cannot access care through Medicaid or state funding.

## The Takeaway

- As Medicaid cuts loom due to the passage of the latest federal budget, less of our residents will be enrolled in a health insurance plan, whether it is Medicaid or private insurance.
- The burden of treating the uninsured will fall on Mecklenburg County, including behavioral health access.

## How are we doing?

What the Behavioral Health Data Tells Us

#### LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

Identifying the leading causes of death in Mecklenburg County helps us understand the most significant health challenges facing our community. These causes highlight where prevention and early intervention can save lives and improve quality of life.

Data provided in this section underscores the latest updates on local leading causes of death including breakdowns by race and ethnicity, gender, and age.

Table 2. Top Ten Causes of Death Mecklenburg County, 2023

Rank	Cause	Total Deaths	% of Total Deaths
1	Cancer	1,371	19.03%
2	Heart Disease	1,269	17.61%
3	Unintentional Injuries	640	8.88%
4	Stroke	408	5.66%
5	Alzheimer's Disease	350	4.86%
6	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	227	3.15%
7	Diabetes	223	3.10%
8	Kidney Disease	147	2.04%
9	Suicide	126	1.75%
10	Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	125	1.73%
	Total Deaths 2023: All Causes	7,205	

Source: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services; Division of Public Health; State Center for Health Statistics, Mecklenburg County Vital Statistics

## Suicides

Rank	Infant (<1 year)	Ages 1-14 yrs	Ages 15-24 yrs	Ages 25 -44 yrs	Ages 45-64 yrs	Ages 65 yrs +
1	Conditions in the perinatal period	Unintentional Injuries	Unintentional Injuries	Unintentional Injuries	Cancer	Cancer
2	Congenital*	N/A	Homicide	Heart Disease	Heart Disease	Heart Disease

Suicide

Unintentional

Injuries

Alzheimer's

Disease

N/A

N/A

3

Table 5. Mecklenburg County, Cause of Death by Age, 2023

Source: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services; Division of Public Health; State Center for Health Statistics

Suicide

<sup>\*</sup>Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities

N/A: data is based on provisional estimates and is not available at the time of the report.

#### Youth Behavioral Health

#### YOUTH BEHAVIORS

The choices young people make today can shape their health into adulthood. The table below highlights key behaviors among Mecklenburg County youth that impact overall well being.

Table 8. Percentage of Charlotte-Mecklenburg High-School Age Teens Reporting Conditions

		2019			2021			2023*	
Psychological Health	Meck	NC	US	Meck	NC	US	Meck	NC	US
Teens ever attempted suicide or tried to kill themselves	12.0%	10.0%	9.0%	9.0%	10.0%	10.2%	*	*	
Teens who made a plan to commit suicide	17.0%	15.0%	16.0%	15.0%	18.0%	17.6%	*	*	•
Teens who felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities	37.0%	36.0%	37.0%	43.0%	43.0%	42.3%	*	*	•
Substance Abuse	Meck	NC	US	Meck	NC	US	Meck	NC	US
Had at least one alcoholic drink one or more days in the past 30 days	23.0%	24.0%	29.0%	17.0%	19.0%	22.7%	•	*	
Used marijuana one or more times in the past 30 days	24.0%	22.0%	22.0%	13.0%	16.0%	15.8%	(**)	*	0.00
Weight Management	Meck	NC	US	Meck	NC	US	Meck	NC	US
Physically active for a total of 60 minutes or more per day on 5 or more of the past 7 days	34.0%	38.0%	44.0%	33.0%	34.0%	15.8%	*	*	•
Violence	Meck	NC	US	Meck	NC	US	Meck	NC	US
Teens reported carrying a weapon to school in the past month	12.0%	16.0%	13.0%	N/A	N/A	3.1%		*	*
Teens reported being physically hurt by their partner	7.0%	7.0%	8.0%	9.0%	13.0%	8.5%	*	*	*

\*Date not available. 2023 YRBS data release has been delayed. Source: Charlotte-Mecklenburg YRBS, 2019 - 2023

#### Substance Abuse

 Overdose deaths among Black and Hispanic residents in Mecklenburg County have increased by 20% since 2019, compared to a 15% increase among White residents.

 Fentanyl contamination in cocaine and counterfeit pills is a major contributing factor to these disparities

## General Mental Health

#### Table 11. MECKtrics Population Health Indicators (continued)



Indicators	Goal	Status	Baseline	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Suicides Suicide Rate per 100,000	8.6	Worsening	9.6 (2018)	8.6	9.7	11.7	9.6	11.0	n/a
Youth Suicide Attempts Rate of Youth ED visits due to suicide attempts per 100,000	185	Worsening	102.4 (2018)	115.4	111.4	139.6	213.5	205.6	199.1
Opioid Overdose (Deaths) Opioid Overdose Deaths per 100,000	13.1	Worsening	15.5 (2018)	13.6	15.6	17.4	24.1	25.8	n/a
Mental Health ED Visits (Depression) Rate of ED visits due to Depression per 100,000	751.2	Worsening	1451.7 (2018)	1194.3	885.6	784	853.9	834.7	894.1
Mental Health Days Not Good % Adults reporting mental health not good for 8 or more days per month	14%	Worsening	15.7% (2018)	14.8%	17.6%	15.8%	19.4%	20.1%	21.2%

## The Takeaway

As the mental health of our residents is worsening, coupled with even more of our residents predicted to be uninsured, Mecklenburg County is facing tough funding decisions around behavioral health.

# How the County Supplements the Existing Service Array

Safety Net Services for At-Risk Residents

## County Funding for Behavioral Health

Department	Service Type	County	
		Funding	
Child, Family, and	Behavioral Health Contracts for Community-Based	\$13,415,574	
Adult Services	Services		
Child, Family, and	Mental Health America of Central Carolinas-	\$165,000	
Adult Services	Community Service Grant		
<b>Community Support</b>	Adult Substance Abuse Treatment Continuum-	\$2,628,459	
Services	Services for Shelter Residents		
<b>Criminal Justice</b>	Forensic Evaluations- Psychological assessments	\$1,481,893	
Services	for Justice-Involved Adults		
<b>Criminal Justice</b>	Drug Treatment Court	\$2,695,936	
Services			
Public Health	Child Development Community Policing- Services	\$2,914,617	
	for Children Impacted by or Witnessing Traumatic		
	Events		
	Total	\$23,301,479	

## County-Funded Program and Services FY2025

#### Vendor/Provider

00000

Alliance Center for

Education

Anuvia Prevention and

Recovery Center

ARJ (Acceptance,

Responsibility, Judgement)

Charlotte-Mecklenburg

Schools (CMS)

School-Based Mental

Health Program

Charlotte-Mecklenburg

Schools (CMS) Student

Assistance Program

Clinical & Contractual Services

**Community Support** 

Services

**Criminal Justice Services** 

Daymark Behavioral

Health Urgent Care

Family First Community

Services (FFCS)

**Forensic Evaluations** 

(multiple contractors)

Hinds' Feet Farm

Hope Haven

HopeWay foundation

INREACH

JCPC BH Contracts (not

listed)

Lifespan

McNiel Family Counseling

Mental Health America of

Central Carolinas

Pat's Place Child Advocacy

Center

Project 658 dba Hope

Community Clinic

Promise Resource Network

(PRN)

**Public Health** 

**SPARC** 

Stride Services

Supportive Housing

(Vendor name not

provided)

SYDKIMYL

Teen Health Connection

The Relatives

Thompson Child and

Family Focus

Time Out Youth

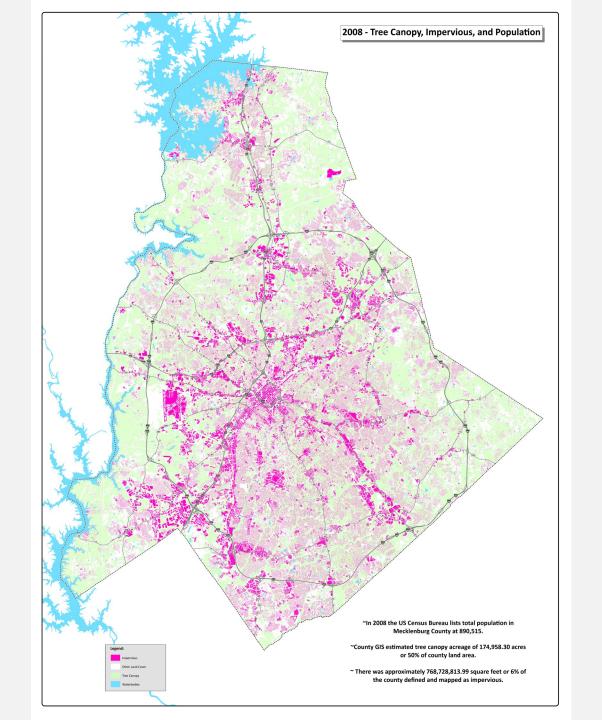
## The Big Takeaway

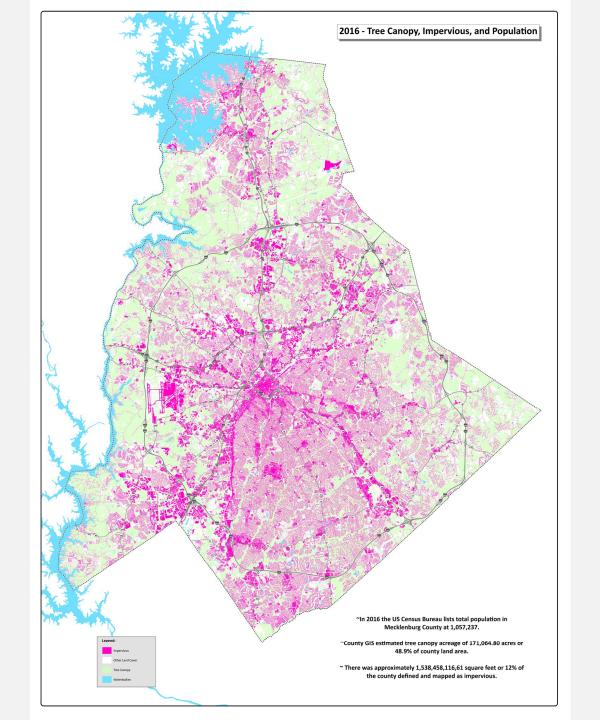
- It is imperative that the county continue to provide funding support for Behavioral Health Services, particularly for those who are uninsured and underinsured, allowing our most vulnerable residents access to critical prevention and intervention services.
- As we continue to support services for individuals, we in turn support their families, their neighbors and the community at large.

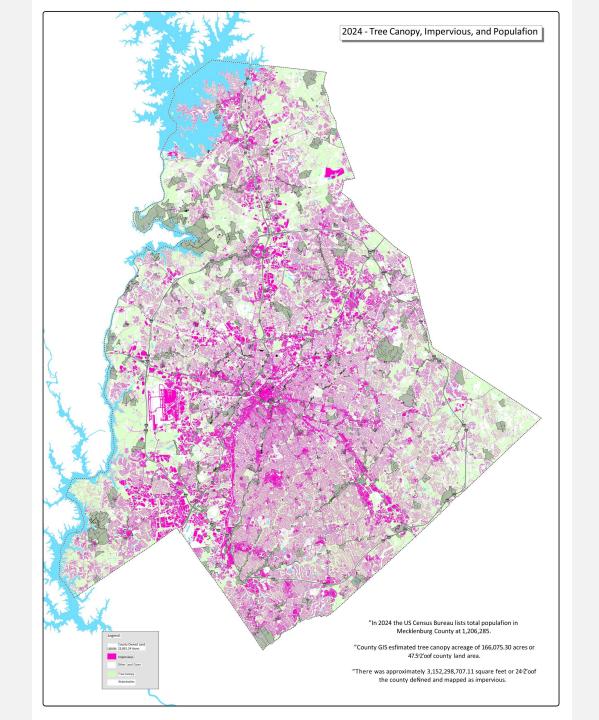


Natural Resources: The Priority of Land Acquisition with the Conservation & Preservation Framework

> Commissioner Elaine Powell, District 1 Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025







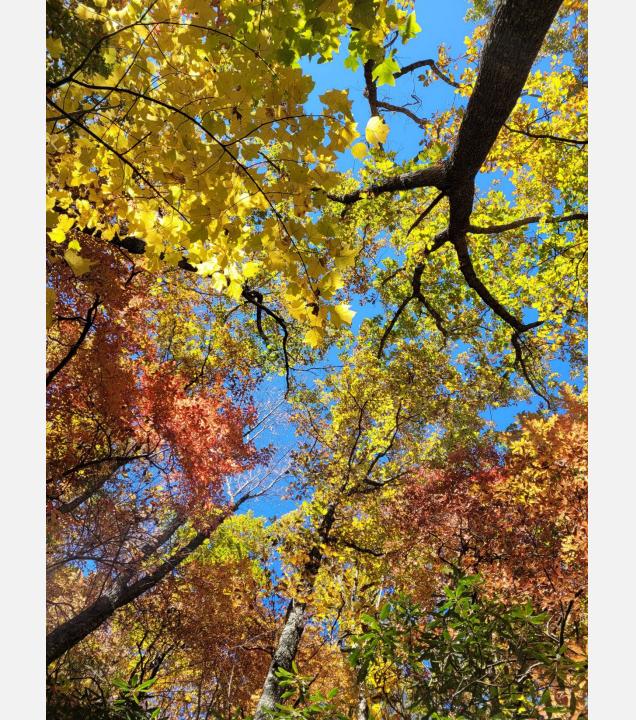


















Open Discussion



## Thank You

Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025



## LUNCH

Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025



# Child Fatality Review (CFR) and Child Abuse Prevention

Commissioner Susan Rodriguez-McDowell, District 6 Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025





## BOCC Fall Retreat Child Fatality Review (CFR) and Child Abuse Prevention

Commissioner Susan Rodriguez-McDowell October 27-28, 2025



## A Day in the Life – Safe Sleep Promotion

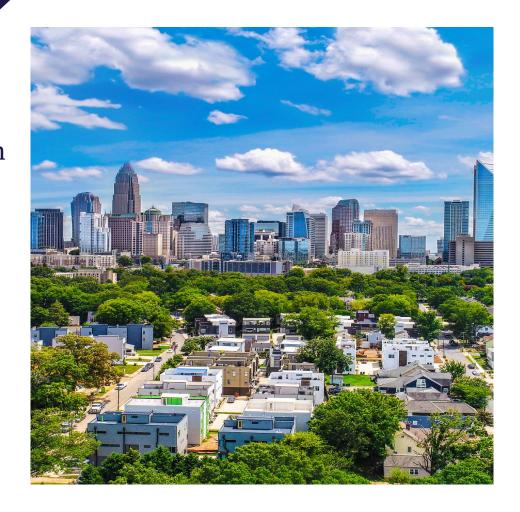




### What is Child Fatality Review?

A multidisciplinary team that assesses child death records age birth to 17 years old to:

- Encourage a community-wide approach to the prevention of child abuse/neglect
- Identify gaps/deficiencies across all public and private agencies who serve children and families
- Make recommendations for laws, rules, and policies to improve the health and safety of children
- Goal is to eliminate preventable deaths and reduce all child deaths





## Types of Cases Reviewed for CFR

#### Cases specified in G.S. 7B-1406.5(c) will be reviewed:

Deaths of resident children under 18 years whose death fall in the following categories:

- Undetermined cases
- Unintentional injury
- Violence
- Motor vehicle incidents
- Sudden unexpected infant deaths
- Suicide
- Deaths not expected in the next six months
- Deaths related to child maltreatment or child deaths involving a child or child's family who was reported to or known to child protective services





## Mecklenburg County Child Fatality Review System

#### **Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT)**

- Review all deaths age 0-18 years
- Identify systems gaps/deficiencies
- Provide recommendations for preventive actions
- Review selected cases of children being served by DSS
- Cases in which a child died because of suspected or confirmed abuse/neglect and received DSS services within 3 years of the fatality

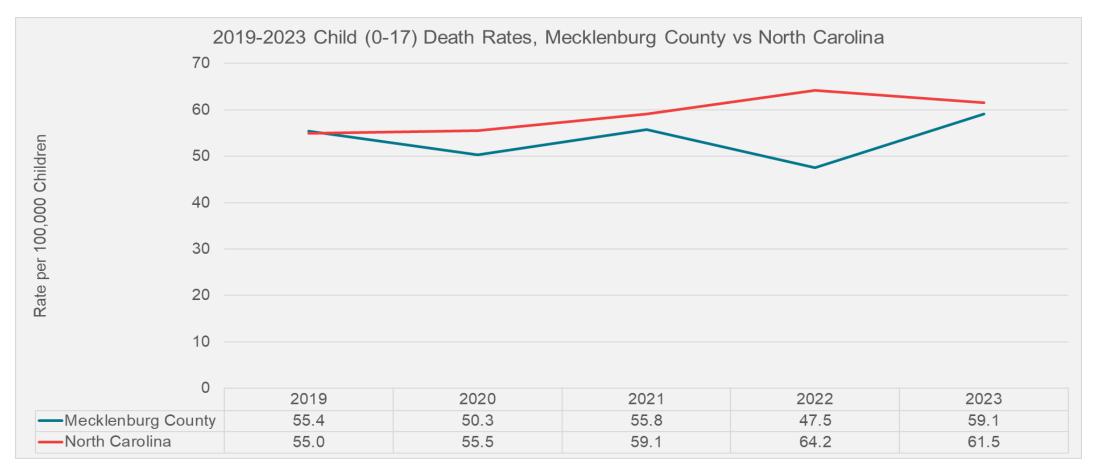
Proposed
Community
Action &
Advisory Team

**One Central Team** 





# Child (0-17) Death Rates, Mecklenburg County vs. North Carolina, 2019-2023





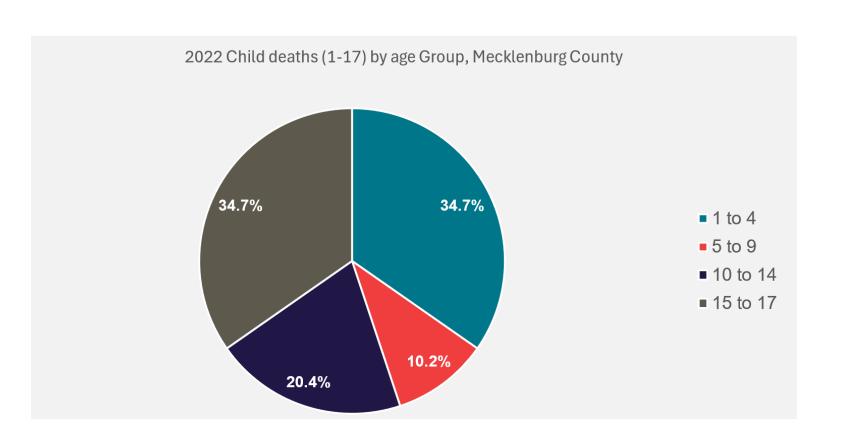
## All Child Deaths (0-17), Mecklenburg County, 2023

Cause of Death	Number of Deaths	% of Deaths
Perinatal Conditions	49	31.6%
Illnesses	33	21.3%
Birth Defects	21	13.5%
Suicide	10	6.5%
All Other Causes	10	6.5%
Motor Vehicle Injuries	9	5.8%
Homicide	8	5.2%
Other Unintentional Injuries	5	3.2%
Poisoning	4	2.6%
Suffocation/Choking/Strangulation	3	1.9%
Drowning	3	1.9%
Total	155	100.0%

- Leading causes of death for infants (less than 1 year) are due largely to natural causes; for ages 1-17 the causes are primarily injury-related.
- Perinatal conditions continue to be the largest category of deaths when looking at ages 0-17.



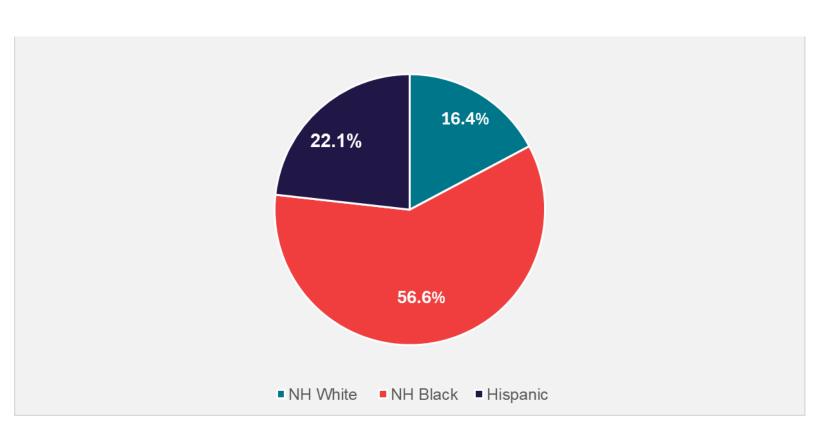
# 2022 Child Deaths (1-17), Mecklenburg County, by Age Group



- Youth aged 1 to 4 and 15 to 17 made up over two-thirds (69.4%) of child deaths.
- Among the leading causes of death in the 15-17 age group are assault (homicide), suicide, and other unintentional injuries.



# 2022 Child Deaths (0-17), Mecklenburg County, by Race & Ethnicity



• NH Black children made up over half (56.6%) of all child deaths in 2022 yet only made up 32.2% of the total population of children in Mecklenburg County.

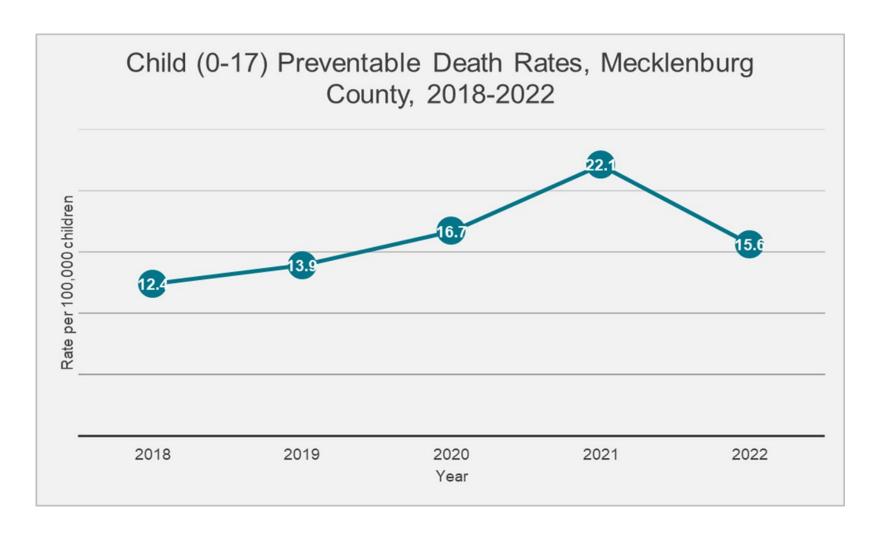


# Preventable Deaths

- Intentional Deaths
  - Consist of Homicide and Suicide
- Unintentional Deaths
  - Consist of motor vehicle injuries and all other unintentional injuries (accidents)
- Child Abuse
  - Direct result of violence against a child by a caregiver



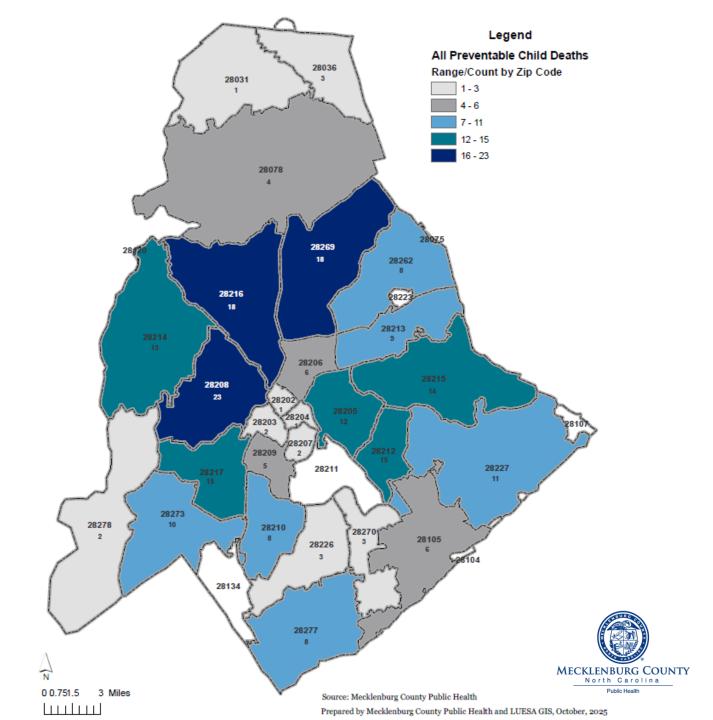
# 2018-2022 Mecklenburg County Preventable Child Death Rates



- 208 child deaths could have been prevented from 2018-2022.
- Preventable deaths made up nearly a third (32.8%) of all child deaths in 2022.
- Peaked in 2021 before decreasing in 2022



All Preventable Child Deaths, 0-17 Years Mecklenburg County, 2019-2023



#### Intensive Case Reviews – DSS Involved Fatalities

2022 9 cases

2 Fentanyl Toxicity 2 Gunshot Victims

**4 Unsafe Sleep** 

1 Brain Injury due to Near Drowning

2023 9 cases **2 Gunshot Victims** 

1 Motor Vehicle Collision

3 Homicides

1 Unsafe Sleep

1 Strangulation

1 Drowning

2024

3 cases

(last reviewed case: April 2024)

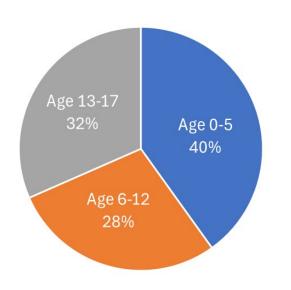
1 Homicide 1 Gunshot Victim

1 Motor Vehicle Collision



#### **Child Protective Services Data**

#### Children in Custody by Age



Age	#
Age 0-5	160
Age 6-12	113
Age 13-17	126
Total	399

#### Number of Children Age 0-5 Substantiated or In Need of Services - Fiscal Year 2025

Case Decision	
Child Protective Services Needed	
Services Provided, CPS No Longer Needed	
Neglect	107
Serious Neglect	5
Abuse	4
Dependency	2
Total	1057



# **Current Partnerships & Collaborations**

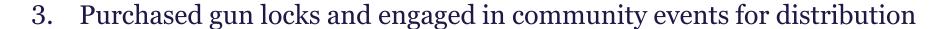
Representation of Groups and Agencies in the Community Action Team (previously CFPPT)				
Alliance Health	NC Courts	Project 658		
Atrium Health	Community Volunteers	Smart Start		
Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools	Juvenile Justice	Council for Children's Rights		
Mecklenburg County Public Health Department	Safe Alliance	Jewish Family Services		
Novant Health	Guardian Ad Litem	Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department		
Pats Place	YFS Director	Teen Health Connection		
Thompson Child and Family Focus	Youth and Family Services	Department of Social Services		
Meckelnburg County Clinical Director	Mental Health America of Central Carolinas	Children, Family and Adult Services		
Johnson C. Smith University	Care Ring	Community Support Services		
NC Department of Public Safety	Mecklenburg County Commissioner	University of NC Charlotte		



# **Current Partnerships & Collaborations**

#### **Community Action Team (Previously CFPPT) Recent Efforts:**

- 1. Child Abuse/Maltreatment Prevention Strategic Plan (paid collaboration with UNCC)
  - Working with both hospital systems to address the lack of effective protocols in their emergency rooms as it relates to potential cases of child abuse/neglect
- 2. Marketing and Distribution of safe sleep related materials
  - Purchased Pack 'n Plays that supported families in local shelters









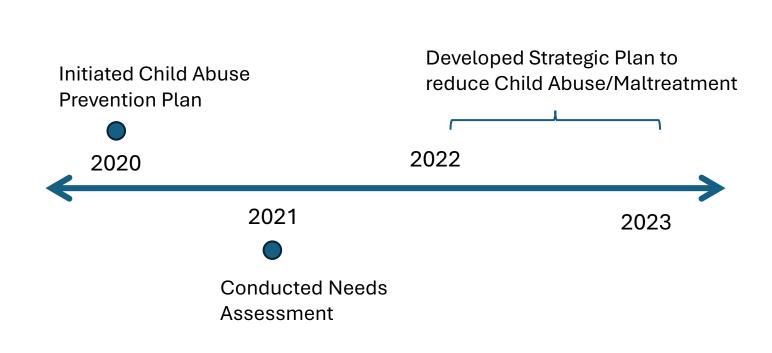
# Child Abuse/Maltreatment Prevention Strategic Plan

#### **Background:**

- Created in partnership with UNCC
- Community wide strategic plan to align efforts, secure funding, and develop programs for safer families and thriving children

#### **Priority Areas for Prevention**

- Positive Parenting
- Parental Mental Health
- Parental Substance Abuse
- Domestic Violence





# **Promoting Positive Parenting**

- Positive Parent Program (Triple P)
- Home Visiting Programs
  - Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)
  - Parents as Teachers (PAT)
  - A Guided Journey (AGJ)
- Improving Community Outcomes for Maternal & Child Health (ICO4MCH)
- Children Developmental Services Agency (CDSA)





## **Addressing Parental Mental Health**

- Resiliency in Communities After Stress and Trauma (ReCAST)
- Child Development Community Policing (CDCP)
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH)
- Kindermourn
- Care Ring
- Case Management for High-Risk Pregnancy (CMHRP)





#### **Parental Substance Abuse Prevention**

- Thompson Child and Family Focus
- Project 658
- Center for Prevention Services
- Anuvia Prevention
- Charlotte Community Health Clinic
- Amity Medical Group





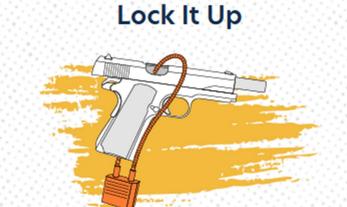
### **Domestic Violence Prevention**

- Adult Intimate Partner Violence Counseling and Clinical Services
- Child and Teen Intimate Partner Violence Counseling and Clinical Services
- Housing for Good (H4G)
- Supervised Visitation Safe Exchange Center (SVSE)
- New Options for Violent Actions (NOVA)

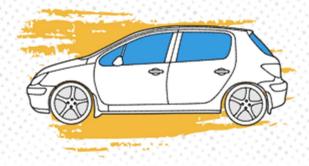




# A Day in the Life – Promoting Firearm Safety







**Keep Them Safe** 

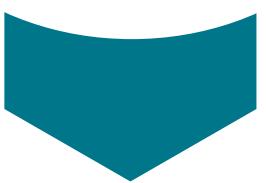




## **Next Steps**

- Disseminate and operationalize action items from the Child Abuse Prevention Plan
- Collect robust data across agencies for thorough and effect case reviews to identify key recommendations for prevention and interventions
- Collaborate with partnering agencies and organizations to maximize collective impact in priority areas to reduce child abuse/prevention and child fatalities









# Equitable Lens of Global Trade through the African-Caribbean Diaspora

Commissioner Yvette Townsend-Ingram, At-Large Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025

# Objectives

Present information to dispel myths about the image, civil development and profitability of countries on the continent of Africa.

Present data for support of a marketing and communication model for Mecklenburg County small minority-owned businesses that align s with the most prevalent and profitable services and commodities on the continent of Africa.

Form relationships with international trade organizations that will assist Mecklenburg County Small Businesses compete in the emerging African Global Trade Diaspora.

# Objectives Continued

Evaluate and reform data collection of Small Minority-Owned Businesses in Mecklenburg County.

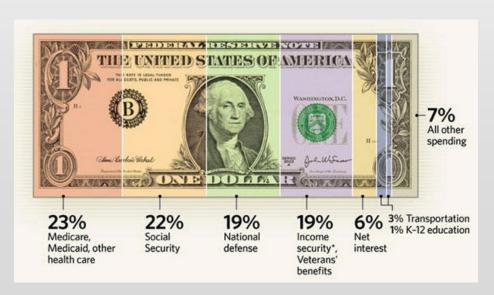
Align the county's priorities of workforce development and economic development with global trade opportunities.

Explore the creation of an ad-hoc committee for global trade and economic development for Small Minority-Owned businesses with a focus on the continent of Africa.

## Important Points or Data

# IMPORTANT FACT TO REMEMBER—TAXES ARE HOW WE PAY FOR SERVICES! TAXES ARE USED TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF INEQUALITY!

- Because of quality workforce and overall economy,
   North Carolina named as number one state to do business in 2025 for the third time.
- NC is number one state to do business in 2025 because
  - Tax rate for businesses is 2.25% as of 2025
  - ➤ Projected 0% tax rate for businesses in 2030
  - Lowest utility and water rates in the nation



## Important Points or Data

#### **Best Ranked/Tiered Counties in NC to do Business**

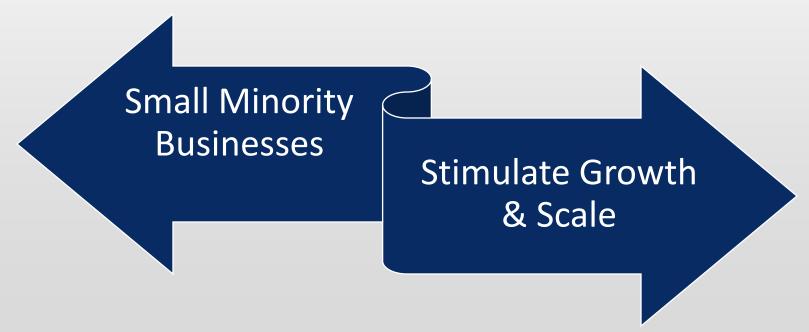
- ❖ Wake County has major corporate investors, and is where the capital city of NC, Raleigh is located. The Raleigh/Durham area, has the highest average household income which stimulates the overall economy.
- Chatham County is known as having the best "strategic growth for negotiation."
- ❖ Nash County is known as a tier one county for manufacturing, food production, and logistics, and also offering the best business incentives.
- ❖ Mecklenburg County is known as the second largest banking capital in the country and is where Charlotte, the 14 fastest growing city in the country. It is home to Charlotte-Douglass International Airport which is the largest driver of revenue.

These benefits are only enjoyed by large corporations, not small businesses.

IMPORTANT FACT TO REMEMBER—TAXES ARE HOW WE PAY FOR SERVICES! TAXES ARE USED TO MITIGATE INEQUALITY!

#### New Incentives for Small Business Growth

In this current economic environment that is unduly influenced by politics, it's easier for minority businesses to regress, lose sales, market share, or even go out of business. Global Trade opportunities can slow or reduce the impact of varying threats.



## Data – Why do we need Global Trade?

#### **JOB CREATION**

- ☐ In North Carolina, **1.3M jobs** were supported by trade, representing **20%** of all jobs in the state.<sup>1,2</sup>
- In 2023, 11K companies exported goods from North Carolina, of which 87% were small and medium-sized enterprises.
- ☐ In 2022, more than **300M people** were employed by affiliates of companies at least 50% foreign-owned.<sup>3,4</sup>

#### **EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

From 2023-2024, **24,468** international students were enrolled in North Carolina colleges and universities, contributing **\$914** million to the North Carolina economy. <sup>10</sup>

### Other Benefits of Global Trade on Small Businesses

**Expanded Customer Base** 

Increased Revenue & Growth

**Market Diversification** 

**Reduced Competition** 

**Access to International Government Procurement** 

**Trade Policy Advocacy** 

# Data – Why does NC need Global Trade?

#### **EXPORTS AND GROWTH**

#### WHO TRADES WITH NC?

North Carolina exported \$72 billion in goods and services to foreign markets in 2023. 1,5

- √ Canada (\$10.0 billion)
- √ China (\$7.2 billion)
- √ Mexico (\$6.8 billion)
- ✓ Ireland (\$4.1 billion)
- ✓ United Kingdom (\$3.7 billion)

Mecklenburg County currently has trade contracts 39 different countries, but only 2 South African countries.

Sappi Fine Paper North America	South Africa	Mecklenburg	49	Wholesale Trade
ouppi i me i uper i toran i meriod	00000700000	comeria an B		The state of the s
	6 11 46 1			
Safmarine Inc.	South Africa	Mecklenburg	49	Transportation and Warehousing

# What Does Diaspora Mean?

Diaspora = Disperse a group of people.

Diaspora = A movement of a people away from their ancestral territory.

Diaspora = A diaspora maintains emotional, cultural, or even political ties to the country of origin. This is often done through language, traditions, and active support for homeland affairs.

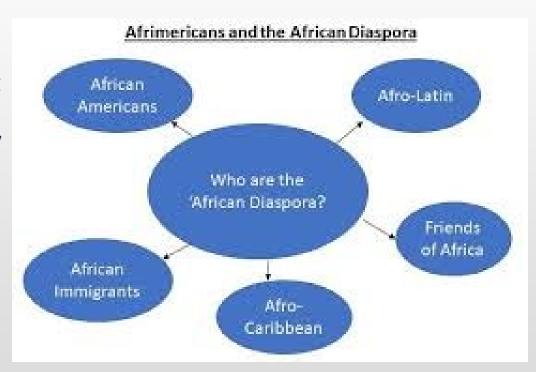


# African-Caribbean Diaspora

### **African-Caribbean Diaspora**

The worldwide dispersal of people of African descent, historically linked to forced migration from the transatlantic slave trade, but also including voluntary migrations. It is important because these communities have created a global network with shared heritage, contributing significantly to the cultural, economic, and political development of both their new

homelands and Africa through remittances, skill transfer, and advocacy



# Myths about African Countries & Trade

One of the systemic barriers to realizing the vast global trade opportunities of African Countries are myths that persist about the continent due to a lack of education on multiple levels of business.

- 1. Many don't understand that Africa itself is not a country, but a continent composed of 54 different countries.
- 2. All countries on the continent of Africa are impoverished, requires aid, and has no infrastructure to support varying business models.
- 3. Africa can only provide raw materials and cannot manufacture products or provide progressive services that involve technology.
- 4. US companies can't compete with cheaper Chinese and Indian goods.
- 5. Many are unaware of The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA): Since its enactment in 2000, the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) has been at the core of U.S. economic policy and commercial engagement with Africa. AGOA provides eligible sub-Saharan African countries with duty-free access to the U.S. market for over 1,800 products.



### Why Mecklenburg County should pursue African Trade

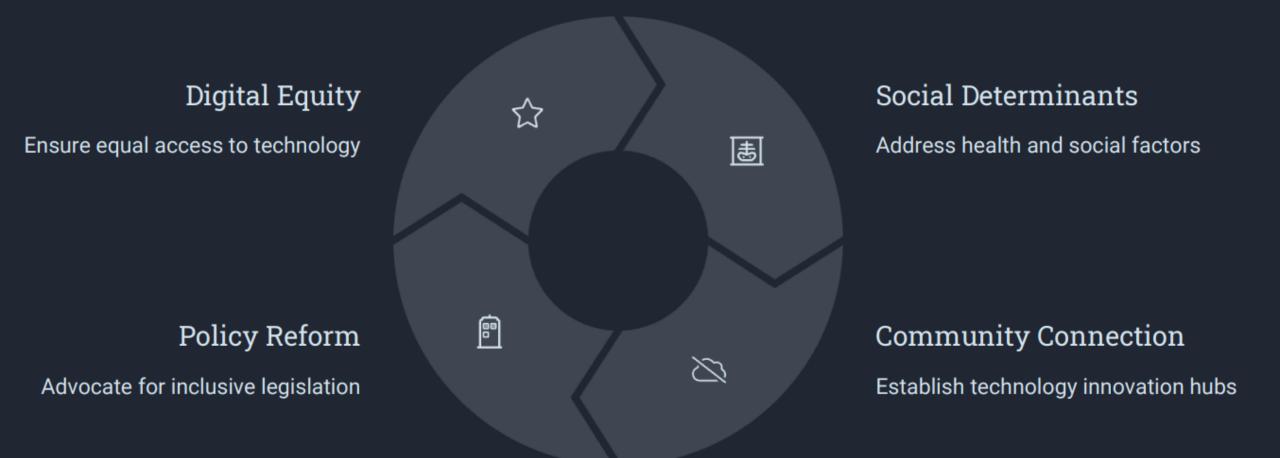
- ✓ North Carolina has seen an 850% increase in its African immigrant population from 20K residents in 2000 to 190K residents in 2023.
- ✓ There are over **1,200 African-owned businesses in North Carolina**, contributing to the state's economy.
- ✓ North Carolina hosts 25 African cultural festivals, 450 African cuisine restaurants, and has 3,200 African students in its universities, showcasing a strong cultural impact.
- ✓ The Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) has contributed to a 13% growth in trade volume between Africa and the U.S. from 2020 to 2023, particularly in agriculture, textiles, and energy sectors.
- ✓ The future of U.S.-Africa trade relations will focus on sectors like **technology**, **green energy**, **and materials**, presenting promising opportunities for both regions between 2024 and 2034.

# NC Cities with Highest African Immigrant Population

CITY	POPULATION
Charlotte	45 K
Raleigh	32 K
Durham	27 K
Greensboro	15 K
Winston Salem	12 K
Fayetteville	11 K

# Why Mecklenburg County should pursue African Trade

#### **A Platform for Navigating Systemic Barriers**



1. Establish County Ad Hoc Advisory Committee

2. Establish Civil Society
Organization (CSO)
Community

3. Launch Collaborative Innovation Initiatives with Call to Action

# Implementation Roadmap & Next Steps



### **Global Africa Summit 2025**

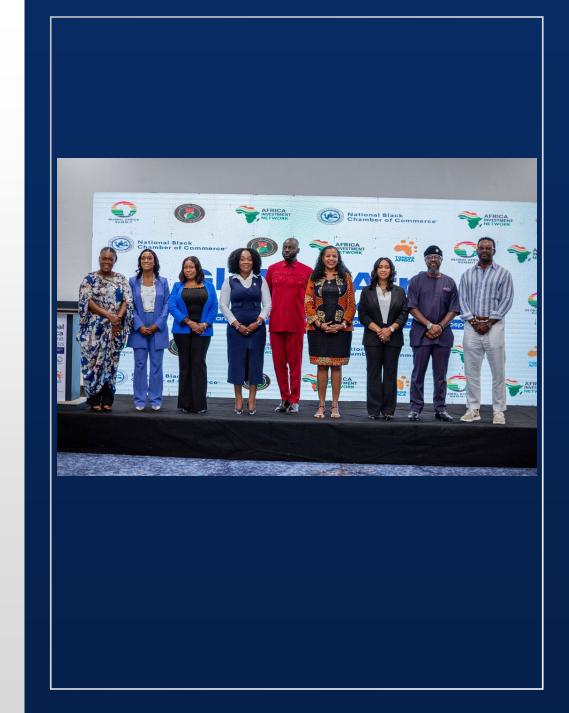
October 14-15, 2025

The summit took place just ahead of the IMF/World Bank fall meeting from Oct. 17-19, 2025.

GAS DC 2025, hosted at The Catholic University of America, is the premier trade and investment summit bridging Africa and its global diaspora. This transformational event unites investors, visionaries, policymakers, and changemakers to explore gamechanging opportunities in Agribusiness, Renewable Energy, Healthcare, Scientific Research, Innovation, Real Estate, Tourism, and Youth Entrepreneurship.

Through cutting-edge panels, exclusive networking experiences, and high-level investment matchmaking, attendees will connect with key decision-makers shaping the future of cross-continental collaboration.

Be part of a movement that empowers economic transformation and global partnerships. Don't miss your chance to lead, invest, and innovate at one of the most influential gatherings of the year.



# Pictures









#### **GAS – Global Africa Summit**

October 14-15, 2025

**Catholic University** 

Washington, DC







Open Discussion



# Thank You

Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025



# Closing Remarks

Michael Bryant, County Manager Mecklenburg County Fall Retreat October 27-28, 2025