

# CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG ECOSYSTEM

## PUBLIC POLICY WORKSHOP – MARCH 26, 2019

This document provides a high-level overview of the housing and homelessness ecosystem in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. It is divided into categories to help organize the agencies and their work. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list; the goal is to describe how the system is organized. Community Support Services will release a complete community ecosystem in FY2019, which will be available electronically through the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing & Homelessness Dashboard.

### PREVENTION

Housing relocation/stabilization services and short-and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to prevent the individual or family from moving to an emergency shelter, a place not meant for human habitation, or another situation meeting the definition of homeless. Examples of prevention activities include: rental assistance, rental arrears, rental application fees, security and utility deposits, utility payments, last month's rent, moving costs, housing search and placement, housing stability case management, landlord-tenant mediation, tenant legal services, and credit repair. The source of funding for prevention impacts the suite of services provided as well as the eligibility criteria.

Local Examples	
Community Link	Crisis Assistance Ministry

### DIVERSION

A strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing. Effective diversion frees up emergency shelter beds so that others who need the beds can access them. Individual shelters are then able to target resources more effectively, and the overall emergency shelter system has a cost-effective method to increase emergency shelter capacity. Diversion can be applied prior to entering emergency shelter or as late as thirty days after an individual or family has entered. Community Support Services provides funding for diversion services at the Salvation Army Center of Hope and Men's Shelter of Charlotte.

Local Examples	
Salvation Army Center of Hope	Men's Shelter of Charlotte
Safe Alliance	Room In the Inn

## STREET OUTREACH

Street Outreach is a strategy defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and includes services related to reaching out to unsheltered homeless individuals and families, connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services, and providing them with urgent, non-facility-based care. Unsheltered homelessness is a type of homelessness defined as having a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. It includes the street, parks, camps, vehicles, storage units, and bridge underpasses.

### Local Examples

Urban Ministry Center	Supportive Housing Communities (PATH)
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## TEMPORARY HOUSING

Temporary housing includes emergency shelter and transitional housing. All individuals and families staying in temporary housing are considered homeless and are included within the sheltered count of the Point-in-Time Count and Housing Inventory Count.

### EMERGENCY SHELTER

A facility with the primary purpose of providing temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness. It can include facility-based beds and vouchers for beds located in hotels/motels made available by a homeless assistance project.

### Local Examples

Men's Shelter of Charlotte	Salvation Army Center of Hope
Safe Alliance	Room In the Inn (Seasonal)
Samaritan House	The Relatives

### TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

An intervention designed to provide temporary housing and appropriate supportive services to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing within a reasonable amount of time (usually 24 months).

### Local Examples

Charlotte Family Housing	Family Forum
My Sister's House	Florence Crittenton
HomeCare of the Carolinas	Hope House Foundation
Safe Alliance	Sunshine Village
Time Out Youth	Urban Ministry Center - SABER

## PERMANENT HOUSING SUBSIDIES

This includes a range of permanent housing programs that provide a rental subsidy. Rental subsidies can vary widely in amount and duration; there are multiple funding sources, which include public and private at local, state and national levels.

### **RAPID RE-HOUSING**

An intervention providing short-term (up to 24 months) financial assistance and services to help those experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. The lease for the unit must be between the landlord and the program participant.

Local Examples	
ABCCM SSVF (Veterans)	Charlotte Family Housing
Community Link	Family Endeavors
Men's Shelter of Charlotte	Salvation Army Center of Hope
Supportive Housing Communities	The Relatives

### **OTHER PERMANENT HOUSING**

An intervention that provides medium-term (3-5 years) permanent housing not otherwise considered permanent supportive housing or rapid re-housing. It can incorporate supportive services or simply provide housing assistance.

Local Examples	
Charlotte Family Housing	Salvation Army Center of Hope
A Stable Home (A Child's Place)	Urban Ministry Center
Department of Social Services – Family Unification Program (FUP)	

### **PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

An intervention designed to provide housing and supportive services on a long-term basis. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Continuum of Care has adopted the Notice CPD-16-11, which prioritizes permanent supportive housing for people experiencing chronic homelessness.

Local Examples	
Carolinas Care Partnership	Community Support Services – Shelter Plus Care
Supportive Housing Communities	Urban Ministry Center

### **HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS (HCV)**

The HCV program is a federally funded rental assistance program that subsidizes rent for low-income households who rent units in the private market. The aim of the program is to assist low-income households, the elderly and the disabled in obtaining decent, safe and sanitary housing. HCVs are not limited to subsidized housing developments and can be used to rent any unit that meets HUD's minimum health and safety standards. The income of HCV applicants generally ranges from 0% to 50% of area median income.

### **VETERAN’S AFFAIRS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (VASH)**

A coordinated service administered by the Veteran’s Administration that brings together rental assistance, case management, and clinical services for veterans experiencing homelessness. Some of these beds are designated for permanent supportive housing.

## **PERMANENT RENTAL HOUSING WITHOUT SUBSIDIES**

This includes naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH) units in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. NOAH units are found in residential rental properties that are unsubsidized by any federal program and where rents are relatively low compared to the housing market. When rents are raised, low-income families lose access to this housing. The City of Charlotte’s “Housing Charlotte: A Framework for Building and Expanding Access to Opportunity through Housing Investments” states that “approximately 81,000 unsubsidized units are affordable to households earning 80 percent of area median income or below.” The report also states that “while most of these units serve households earning 60 percent of area median income or higher, [there is] a small share offer rents for extremely low-income households (1 percent) and very low-income households (30 percent).” The supply of NOAH units in the community is decreasing due to market and other pressures.

## **HOMEOWNERSHIP**

Many non-profits and agencies have homeownership as their end goal, which is considered a pathway to stable housing, asset development and breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

<b>Local Examples</b>	
Habitat for Humanity	City of Charlotte