

**NACo Award Winners 2019
Presentation to the BOCC
Sept. 17, 2019**

1. **Dept. of Community Resources – [Community Resource Center \(CRC\)](#)** - The CRC at the Valerie C. Woodard Center provides integrated Health and Human Services (HHS) to residents through a coordinated delivery of HHS and other community-based programs. Customers of Child Support Enforcement, Food and Nutrition Services, Work First, Medicaid, Veteran Services, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Immunizations can receive services at one location via an integrated service delivery model. This the first of six planned CRCs strategically located throughout the County
2. **Finance/LUESA GIS - [Capital Improvement Plan Story Map for Transparency and Community Engagement](#)** - Mecklenburg County's FY2019-FY2023 Capital Improvement Projects is a \$1.57 billion plan with dozens of projects. GIS and Story Maps helps make these CIP projects understandable. By combining maps, charts, graphs, images and we links, users can browse through the projects to learn details and see where it's located.
3. **LUESA Storm Water Services – [Scoop the Poop](#)** – The primary cause of Mecklenburg County's surface water quality issues is elevated bacteria. To help eliminate one of the primary sources of this pollution, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services (CMSWS) launched a volunteer-based "Scoop the Poop" education campaign in 2018. Participants were encouraged to properly dispose of pet waste, especially in public places like parks and along greenways. SWS reported significant improvement in surface water quality by the end of the year.
4. **Park and Recreation--[Paralympic Youth Goalball](#)** - Created to give kids with visual impairments the chance to participate in team sports, the Paralympic Youth Goalball program increases gross motor skills, physical fitness, and social skills. Goalball is played with a ball that has bells inside and allows players to use their senses. Players listen for the bells and touch a string covered with tape to help them know where they are. The object of the game is to throw a ball into a net past the opposition's defense. The program fills a sport programming gap for kids ages 6-12 who are blind or visually impaired.
5. **Park and Recreation--[Vocational Skills Horticulture Program](#)**--Conducted by volunteers and staff of NC Cooperative Extension, Park and Recreation's Vocational Skills Horticulture Program works in partnership with the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office as a part of their Adult Programs for inmates. The program prepares participants for horticulture careers, teaching skills in greenhouse operations and the use of hardscape

products for landscapes and gardens. Participants receive classroom instruction and hands on experiences in the greenhouse, labs, and outdoor gardens, including raised plant beds.

6. **Park and Recreation – [Plant 4 Change](#)** - This program encourages Mecklenburg County residents to plant for the changes they want to see in themselves and their community. Teaching citizens to grow their own food increases their family's access to fresh vegetables, which combats childhood obesity and helps many who live in food deserts. Participants learned basic gardening skills with an emphasis on growing in small spaces and containers. Approximately 850 green bean seeds were distributed at community events, in recreation programs and at a Farmers market in 21 Mecklenburg County zip codes. Young and old participated, reaching many who previously did not garden or produce their own food.
7. **Public Health Department--[Edible Landscape Project](#)**--One priority area for Mecklenburg County Public Health is the disproportionate number of residents that do not have access to healthy foods. This creates a risk factor for chronic conditions like heart disease and diabetes. Chronic disease is a Top 4 County health priority as indicated in the latest Community Health Assessment (2018). Public Health is partnering with several community organizations to create gardens and orchards (edible landscapes) that produce food to be distributed to at-risk populations. The Edible Landscape Project is an example of how communities and food security stakeholders can address a public health priority. The effort is improving access to fresh produce for at-risk populations and demonstrating that edible landscapes can increase the availability of healthy foods.
8. **Public Health Department--[A Novel Model of collaboration to increase availability of pre-exposure prophylaxis \(PrEP\) to uninsured individuals](#)**--Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is highly effective at preventing HIV but under-utilized, particularly in minority populations in Mecklenburg County. Despite a strong patient assistance program, PrEP barriers include the cost of medical care and accessibility. Mecklenburg County Public Health and clinics that serve low- income clients developed an innovative pilot program to provide PrEP to uninsured, primarily minority individuals. The program is open to all uninsured high-risk Mecklenburg residents, with priority given to HIV negative, African-American men who self-report high-risk behavior and have sex with other men. Since the pilot program started in March of 2018, six medical clinics have provided PrEP to 108 clients: ninety-nine of whom are still on the PrEP pilot program. None of the clients who started the program has developed a new HIV infection on PrEP.