

Questions from 9/24 BOCC Public Policy Meeting

1. If we pursue these proposals, how much unmet need remains?

There are approximately 78,862 renter households in Mecklenburg County who are cost-burdened, meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on housing-related expenses and are at a higher risk of experiencing housing instability and homelessness.

In Mecklenburg County, there is a current shortage of 27,022 units that are affordable and available to households at or below 30% of Area Median Income.

As of June 30, 2019, there are 2,106 individuals who are actively experiencing homelessness.¹

2. What do we do to help the people who are turned away from the shelters each night?

Both The Men's Shelter and Salvation Army Center of Hope provide homeless diversion for anyone they can (i.e. identifying a family member the person can stay with, finding a boarding home or hotel room, paying a bill that is a barrier to housing, etc.).

3. What's the amount of inflow into homelessness we're dealing with? / What should we do about inflow?

Data from Coordinated Entry shows an average of about 430 households per month reaching out for housing assistance. This number isn't exact but does provide an indication of the scope of the problem.

Addressing inflow into homelessness requires strategies to prevent homelessness. These can range from affordable housing policy to diversion interventions at shelters. Mecklenburg County Community Support Services will release a new report on homeless prevention strategies in October to help guide community efforts to address inflow into homelessness.

4. What is the policy that prevents men from being in the household when a family receives a HUD voucher?

There is no official policy that prevents men from being in the household of a family receiving a voucher, but the joint-income of two-parent households can sometimes cause families to be over a program's income-eligibility limits.

¹ This number comes from Mecklenburg County's recently released 2019 State of Housing Instability & Homelessness report.

5. What are the numbers of staff at each partner agency that presented? What's the breakdown by race and gender?

The Men's Shelter/Urban Ministry Center has 138 total employees:

- Overall staff racial breakdown:
 - 65% of employees are African-American
 - 32% of employees are White
 - 1% of employees are Asian
 - 1% of employees are Latinx
 - 1% of employees are Native American
- Overall staff gender breakdowns:
 - 53% of employees are female
 - 47% of employees are male
- 22 employees are in leadership or management roles:
 - 6 are African-American, 15 are White and 1 is Native American
 - 13 are female and 9 are male

The Relatives has 29 total employees:

- Overall staff racial breakdown:
 - 55% of employees are African-American
 - 38% of employees are White
 - 7% of employees are Latinx
- Overall staff gender breakdown:
 - 66% of employees are female
 - 34% of employees are male
- 7 employees are in leadership or management roles:
 - 2 are African-American and 5 are White
 - 5 are female and 2 are male

Salvation Army Center of Hope has 53 employees in their shelter and housing programs:

- Overall staff racial breakdown:
 - 81% of employees are African-American
 - 15% of employees are White
 - 2% of employees are Latinx
 - 2% of employees are Asian
- Overall staff gender breakdown:
 - 91% are female
 - 9% are male
- 6 employees are in leadership or management roles:

- 3 are African-American and 3 are White
- 5 are female and 1 is male

6. Has Timeout Youth been included? If not, how could they be involved?

Although Timeout Youth did not submit an official proposal, they do have partnerships with the organizations that presented the MeckHOME proposal.

Timeout Youth shares a caseworker with The Men's Shelter (who handles referrals to the agency), and the organization is creating a formal partnership with The Relatives. Timeout Youth reports that all their near-term rental subsidy needs can be met through their collaborations with The Men's Shelter and The Relatives.

7. How could the faith community become involved?

We'll work with Public Information to develop a strategy to engage the faith community.

8. What are the numbers served and the funding request for the CSS Domestic Violence (DV) program?

We are considering issuing a Request for Proposals to see if a partner agency could administer the subsidy which would allow us to focus on our strength of providing supportive services.

9. What is the total shelter capacity of the agencies that presented?

The three agencies that presented which operate shelters in the community are The Men's Shelter/Urban Ministry Center, The Relatives and Salvation Army Center of Hope.

Together they have shelter capacity for 819 individuals.

The specific capacity for each of the three agencies is below:

The Men's Shelter/Urban Ministry Center has nightly capacity for 430 individuals.

The Relatives has nightly capacity for 9 individuals (ages 7 to 17).²

Salvation Army Center of Hope has nightly capacity for 380 individuals.

² The Relatives has a considerably lower shelter capacity because unaccompanied youth (ages 7-17) make up a small population of the people experiencing homelessness in our community on any given night.

10. What is the number of households being served by the agencies before new programs are added?

The total number of households served by these agencies before new programs are added is approximately 699 (1,170 individuals).

The specific numbers for each agency are below:

A Way Home

- 123 households (393 individuals total) by end of FY20

Men's Shelter/Urban Ministry Center

- 433 households (433 individuals)

The Relatives

- 19 households (32 individuals total)

Salvation Army Center of Hope

- 124 households (312 individuals total)

If the proposals are funded, the number of households served would increase by over 1,000, nearly doubling the programs' current capacity.

11. How should we prioritize chronic homelessness vs. situational?

Chronic homelessness and situational homelessness are both important priorities for the County because the challenges associated with each are linked.

The County has helped address chronic homelessness by funding supportive services for Permanent Supportive Housing programs and shorter-term homelessness through its funding of supportive services for Rapid Rehousing programs. The County also provides diversion funding to the Shelters to help prevent people from entering homelessness.

Based on a review of the types of housing subsidy in our community, the greatest need was for Rapid Rehousing which is why this was prioritized in the proposals.