



MECKLENBURG COUNTY Community Support Services

August 23, 2018

Enclosed is a copy of the new annual data report on housing and homelessness report, **2018 Charlotte-Mecklenburg State of Housing Instability and Homelessness**. The report marks the first time Point-in-Time Count information has been combined with data from other homeless system measures and housing instability metrics to provide a full picture of housing needs in our community.

This report is part of the [Housing Instability & Homelessness Report Series](#), which is designed to better equip our community to make data-driven decisions around housing instability and homelessness.

[Mecklenburg County Community Support Services](#) provides funding for the report series. The [UNC Charlotte Urban Institute](#) prepared the report. The [Housing Advisory Board of Charlotte-Mecklenburg](#), a volunteer board appointed by the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners and the Charlotte City Council, initiated the report series in 2014.

This report describes housing status along a continuum that ranges from housing instability to homelessness to housing stability. Households and individuals can cycle in and out of homelessness and housing instability multiple times within a year and across their lifetime. The report highlights the fact that it is important to consider the full continuum of housing status to effectively end and prevent homelessness and reduce housing instability.

Some of the key findings of the report include:

- Point-in-Time Count survey respondents shared that their **biggest barriers to housing** were tied to **economic mobility**.
- The **average length of time** spent in emergency shelter **increased** (by an average of 6 days).
- The number of **evictions granted decreased** while the **number of eviction filings increased**.
- The number of **permanent housing beds decreased from FY16 to FY17** and the need for permanent housing beds continues to outpace the supply.

Just as the challenges that lead to increased homelessness and housing instability in Charlotte-Mecklenburg are linked, so are the solutions to ending and preventing homelessness and increasing access to affordable housing.

To effectively close the housing gap in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, it is important to consider the intersection of housing instability and homelessness. We must also continue to create cross sector partnerships that look beyond housing toward economic mobility, leverage and align existing resources, and try new and innovative approaches that tackle the problem as a system.

Stacy M. Lowry, MSW, LCSW

Director, Mecklenburg County Community Support Services