2018 STATE OF HOUSING INSTABILITY & HOMELESSNESS
CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG

TOOLKIT FOR ACTION

This toolkit is designed to help you take the information from the report, 2018 State of Housing Instability & Homelessness in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, and convert it into action.

The report serves as an annual update on housing instability and homelessness data in the community. For the first time, Point-in-Time Count information is combined with data from other homeless system measures and housing instability metrics to provide a full picture of housing needs in our community.

The report is part of a local series about housing instability and homelessness funded by Mecklenburg County Community Support Services. The report series is authored by the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg has made some, *but not enough,* progress in the work to end and prevent homelessness and increase affordable housing.

The number of rental households in Mecklenburg who are cost-burdened, spending more than 30% of their income on housing-related expenses increased from 66,790 in 2010 to 75,930 in 2016. Cost-burdened households can be at higher risk of losing their housing.

While there have been fewer evictions granted, the number of eviction filings increased between FY16 and FY18, which can result in the loss of current housing and the creation of additional barriers to securing future housing.

More students (4,598) in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools were identified as eligible for McKinney-Vento services in the 2017/2018 school year, an increase of 10% from the 2016/2017 school year.

There has been an increase in permanent housing beds for people who are formerly homeless between 2010 and 2016; however, from FY16 to FY17, the number of beds decreased and the need for permanent supportive housing continues to outpace the supply (page 13).

The Housing Trust Fund (HTF) has supported 6,572 affordable rental developments since 2002 but the need for more affordable housing outweighs the amount of development HTF dollars can support.

LEARN THE FACTS, GET INVOLVED, CHANGE THE SYSTEM

Call for system-level solutions

We need to link strategy, funding and programs across the continuum from housing instability to homelessness to effectively and comprehensively tackle complex, cross-cutting issues that impact housing. We must also leverage existing systems and resources in the community to provide housing, legal, financial and supportive services to help households maintain housing and provide a pathway to economic opportunity.

What is needed

- Develop cross-sector partnerships and collaborations that maximize existing expertise and resources that lead to housing sustainability.

- Develop a community-wide strategy that effectively aligns community resources and utilizes the strengths of public and private stakeholders.

Unlock new opportunities and resources that have strong outcomes high return on investment

The loss of housing negatively impacts households even if they do not become homeless in a shelter on the streets. The cost to provide shelter and to re-house a family once homeless is expensive. Targeting resources upstream for prevention activities can help stabilize families in existing housing while spending less resources.

What is needed

- Increase access to flexible funding sources for prevention assistance in community.

- Link prevention assistance to other supportive services and financial resources to provide pathways to housing stability.

What you can do now

1. Support new and existing housing strategies that collaborate cross-sector, leverage community resources, target prevention assistance and promote long-term housing stability.

2. Ask to meet with leaders in your neighborhood, faith community, place of employment, local elected officials and share this information.