

# HOW TO BE ADDED

## CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS ECOSYSTEM

### ABOUT THE ECOSYSTEM

Mecklenburg County Community Support Services (CSS) in partnership with UNC Charlotte Urban Institute (UI), produced the Housing & Homelessness Ecosystem of community organizations as a first step in what is envisioned as creating a culture of continuous improvement. An Ecosystem describes a group of interconnected elements both individually and by their interrelationships in a defined area. The typical ecosystem is a feedback loop, wherein dependencies and other conditions stressing one group can stretch an entire system to the breaking point. Observing, defining, and quantifying the discrete elements; cataloging their interconnectedness; and standardizing the tools for studying and evaluating the system is the only way to ensure the system is fully maximized for efficiency and effectiveness. The Housing & Homelessness Ecosystem provides standardized definitions; identifies roles and responsibilities across the continuum; quantifies housing capacities; and outlines funding sources.

### BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Participation in the Ecosystem Project is voluntary. The Ecosystem includes housing and homelessness organizations in Charlotte-Mecklenburg; **and** which meet one of the following criteria below:



#### Temporary Housing Assistance

Housing assistance, including prevention and diversion to help households experiencing homelessness or housing instability access immediate shelter and/or temporary housing.



#### Permanent Housing Assistance

Housing assistance (financial assistance and/or a physical housing unit) to help households experiencing homelessness or housing instability access or sustain permanent housing.

Since the threshold for eligibility in the Ecosystem is the provision of housing assistance, organizations that provide supportive services only (including street outreach) are not included. The definition of homelessness and housing instability used in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing & Homelessness Ecosystem is not limited to any specific source, including the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Education.

### HOW TO BE ADDED

All interested organizations who meet the basic requirements can submit a request to the contact information listed below. Upon review and verification of the organization's information, the new organization will be added to the Ecosystem.

**Contact:** Courtney Morton | [Courtney.Morton@mecknc.gov](mailto:Courtney.Morton@mecknc.gov)



Produced by Mecklenburg County Community Support Services