

COVID-19 AND HOMELESSNESS UPDATE

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AGENDA

1. Homelessness Data and Services Prior to COVID-19
2. Efforts During COVID-19
3. Summary

HOMELESSNESS DATA AND SERVICES PRIOR TO COVID-19

SCOPE OF PROBLEM

One Number:
3,683

(as of March 31, 2020)

- Total estimated number of single adults, youth, veterans, chronically homeless and families with children experiencing homelessness in the community.
- This includes households who are unsheltered, in emergency shelter or transitional housing.

COUNTY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Coordinated Entry/211

Process to divert people from homelessness or connect them with shelter or housing. 5,156 In-person Coordinated Assessments completed during 2019 (average of 430 per month).

Shelter Plus Care

\$2.3 million federally funded permanent housing program. Links chronically homeless with housing and supportive services. Serves 240 households.

Supportive Housing Case-Management

10 County social workers and 2 clinical supervisors to staff two permanent supportive housing programs operated by the Urban Ministry Center. Programs serve approximately 200 individuals total.

Housing Assistance for Re-Entry

Program provides housing for people returning to our community after a period of incarceration. Served 91 individuals so far during FY20 with a budget of approximately \$160,000 dollars.

Continuum of Care Governance Committee

\$4 million dollars from HUD for housing subsidy and supportive services allocated by County to non-profit agencies through a competitive application process.

FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY



Agency Services Funded

Homeless Diversion Services

Operational Funding for Shelters

Supportive Services

Housing Placement

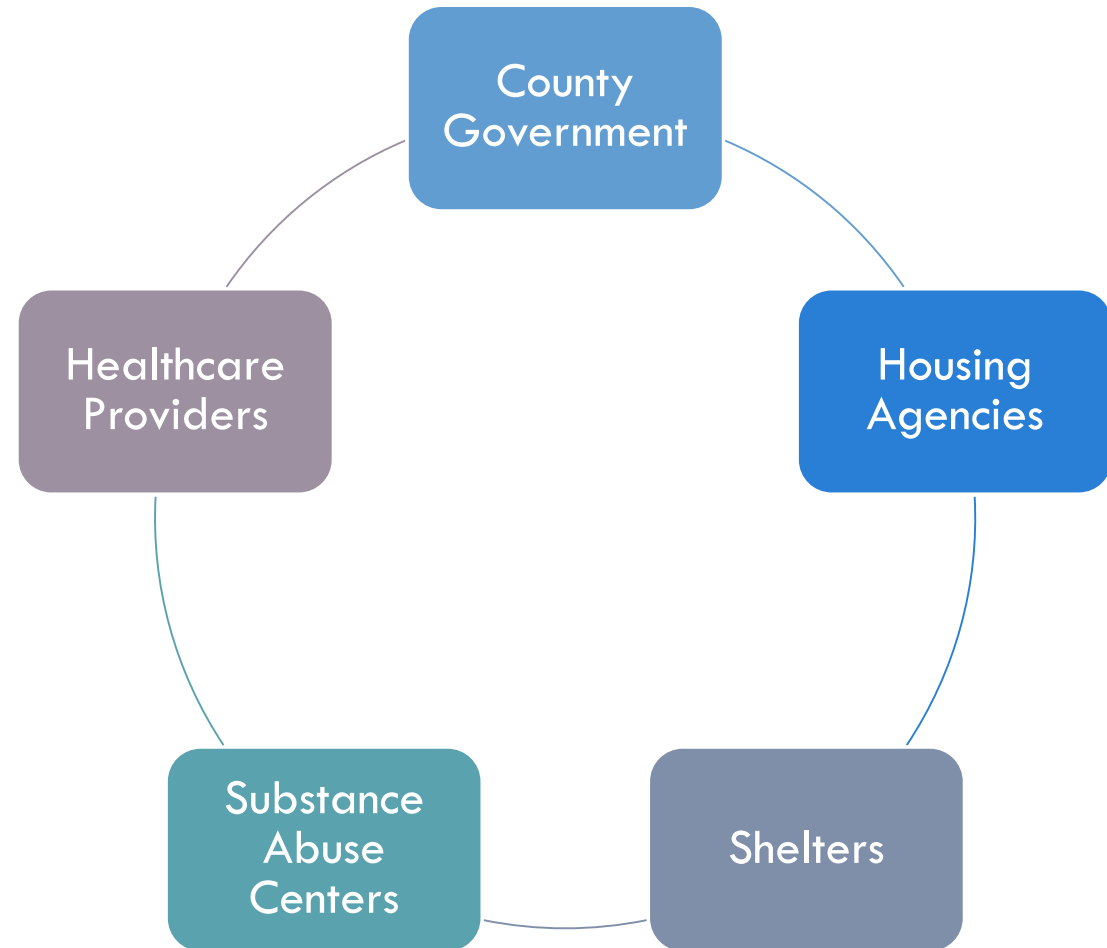
Rental Subsidies



EFFORTS DURING COVID-19

INITIAL RESPONSE

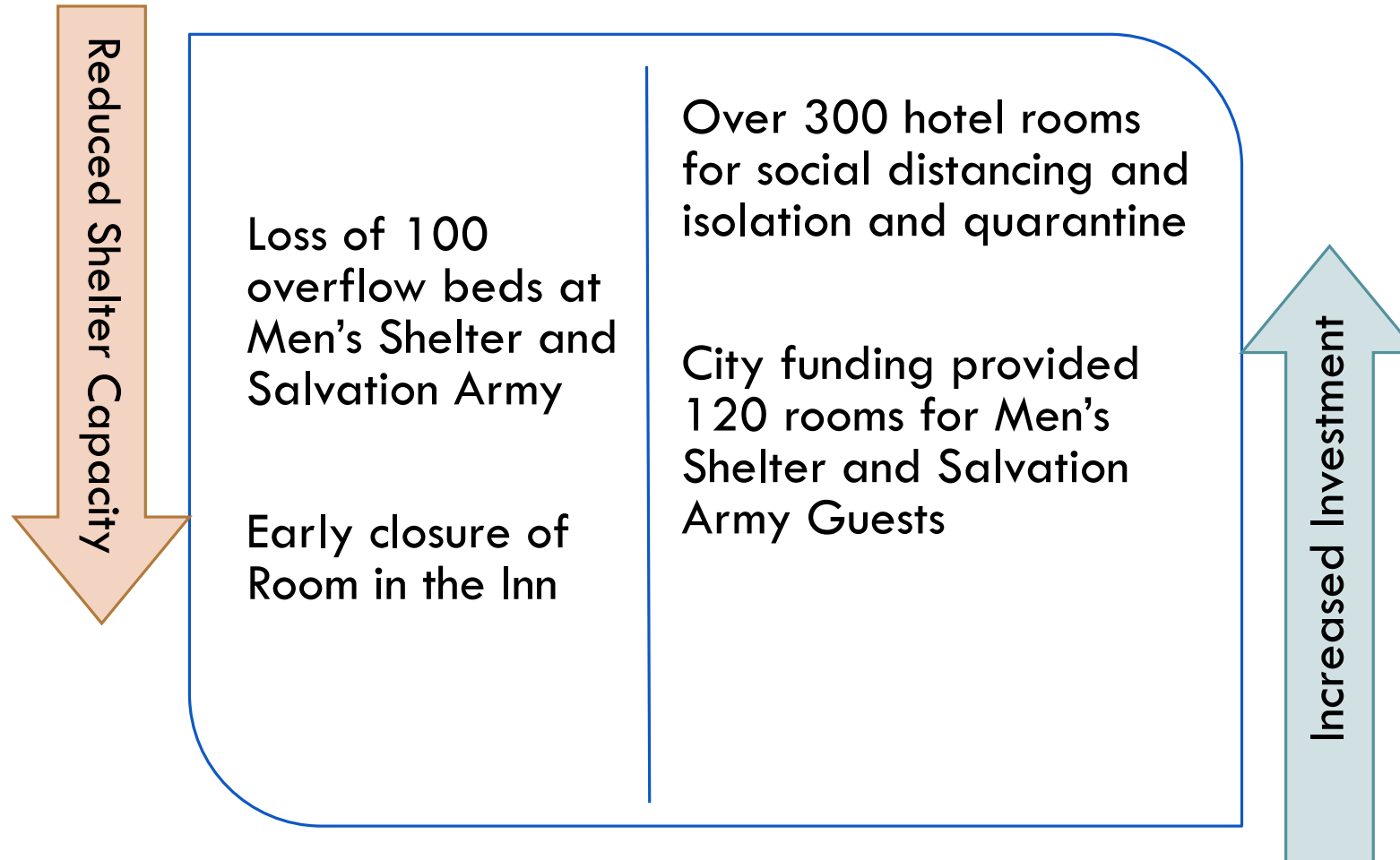
As the COVID-19 crisis unfolded in our community, Mecklenburg County began coordinating a weekly call with community providers who serve people experiencing homelessness to ensure the most comprehensive response possible.



COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND

- Partnership between the County, the Foundation for the Carolinas, United Way, the City of Charlotte, churches, businesses and individual donors.
- The County contributed \$1.3 million, much going to homelessness and housing-related services.
- Funding provides additional support to Ada Jenkins Center, Charlotte Family Housing, Loaves and Fishes, Men's Shelter and Urban Ministry Center, Safe Alliance, Salvation Army and Supportive Housing Communities.

INITIAL SHELTERING EFFORTS



HOTEL EVICTION PREVENTION



The NC Chief Justice Cheri Beasley issued order delaying civil court, including evictions.



The NC Attorney General's Office issued a letter to almost 100 hotels in Charlotte to halt evictions.



The County's partnership with Legal Aid continues to be a resource to help people avoid eviction.

PARTNERSHIP WITH HOSPITALS

- Partnering with hospital systems to offer further assistance and protective measures for people experiencing homelessness.
- The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Operations Center has representatives from Atrium and Novant. They are working to refine the testing process for people experiencing homelessness.
- Novant is obtaining a large inventory of facemasks and will work with shelter partners to share these with sheltered and unsheltered residents.

The logo for Novant Health, featuring a large white letter 'N' on a purple background. To the right of the 'N' are two small white squares stacked vertically, followed by the words 'NOVANT' and 'HEALTH' in white, uppercase letters.

N ■ ■ NOVANT™
HEALTH

The logo for Atrium Health, featuring the stylized leaf icon on the left and the words 'Atrium Health' in white, lowercase letters on a teal background.

Atrium Health

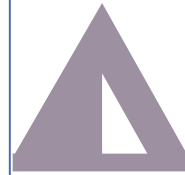
TRANSPORTATION FOR COVID-19 TESTING

- The County has been requested to provide transportation for testing to people experiencing homelessness, and other vulnerable residents, who are symptomatic for COVID-19.
- The County is working with local transportation vendors to provide this service.

UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS — CDC GUIDELINES



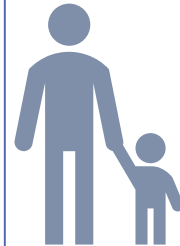
Avoid clearing encampments because of increased potential for COVID-19 spread.



People in encampments encouraged to set up their tents/sleeping quarters with at least 12x12 feet of distance between each individual.



Provide access to portable latrines with handwashing facilities for encampments of more than 10 people.



Plan for where individuals and families with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 can stay safely, including places where people can be isolated.

UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS — MEETINGS WITH ADVOCATES

The County continues to engage various advocacy groups and respond to concerns regarding the unsheltered populations.



UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS — ENCAMPMENTS AND HYGIENE FACILITIES



Law enforcement will not seek to break up or disturb existing tent encampments, unless requested by private property owners.



Effort to deploy Porta-Johns and handwashing stations downtown and near encampments across the community.

- Park and Rec deployed Porta-Johns at 17 parks
- 6 Porta-Johns and handwashing stations are currently deployed Uptown
- Adding another 12 in other areas of need
- Urban Ministry Center has agreed to operate

UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS — PROPOSED COUNTY MODEL FOR SHELTER EXPANSION

- Provide an additional hotel that is currently under contract by the County to the Men's Shelter and Salvation Army.
- Allows current shelter guests to move into these rooms, creating additional capacity to serve the unsheltered population at the shelters.



SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS

- Convened homeless service providers for comprehensive response.
- Partnered in establishing COVID-19 Response Fund.
- Developing plan to provide transportation to testing sites with transportation vendors.
- Increasing available hygiene facilities for unsheltered population.
- Connecting people at risk of hotel evictions to funding and community resources.
- Operating approximately 300 hotel rooms for social distancing and I&Q.
- Propose increasing shelter capacity with additional hotel for Men's Shelter and Salvation Army guests.