GOAL
The goal of the Research Brief and Recommendations is to equip the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Continuum of Care (CoC) Board with data and research related to the access and prioritization of new and existing homelessness and housing resources in response to COVID-19. In addition, this information is intended to assist the CoC Board in the development of an overall framework to effectively address housing instability and homelessness during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONTEXT
During the April 24 Continuum of Care Board Meeting, board members discussed current and projected need in the community for housing assistance in response to COVID-19, including developing long-term strategies to address the underlying conditions of housing instability and homelessness. The Board resolved that the Coordinated Entry Oversight Committee, which is charged with oversight of access and prioritization to homeless and housing resources, is already positioned as an effective body to address the issues raised during the Board discussion.

As a follow up to the Board request and in partnership with the Coordinated Entry Oversight Committee, Courtney LaCaria and Mary Ann Priester will complete a white paper and present findings to the Coordinated Entry Oversight Committee on Tuesday, May 19. Pending approval of the CoC Board agenda and with input from the Coordinated Entry Oversight Committee, Courtney and Mary Ann will present a final draft of the white paper to the CoC Board during the May 2020 CoC Board Meeting.

PROPOSED OUTLINE
The National Alliance to End Homelessness recently published “A Framework for COVID-19 Homelessness Response: Responding to the Intersecting Crises of Homelessness and COVID-19.” The goal of this framework is to provide guidance on how communities can use current and new funding sources strategically across a range of key public health and economic recovery strategies; help communities meet public health goals; increase housing stability; and prevent future increases in homelessness that result from an economic downturn. Further, the framework proposes four phases: immediate actions (which should already be underway); short-term actions (which should be underway or should be begun now); medium-term actions (which should be underway or begun no later than in the next 30 days); and phase 4: longer-term actions (which should be begun no later than in the next 30 to 60 days). Courtney and Mary Ann plan to use the NAEH resource to frame the white paper and add additional research, case studies and local data in order to inform opportunities for an effective response in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.