



## MECKLENBURG COUNTY Community Support Services

March 2, 2017

Enclosed is a copy of the report **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Family Homelessness Snapshot**. 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.

The [Urban Institute](#) at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte 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 2015. [Mecklenburg County Community Support Services](#) provides funding for the report series.

Family homelessness is a complex problem that requires a strategic, community response. Between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015, almost 2,500 persons in families experienced homelessness in shelters and transitional housing in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. During the 2014 – 2015 school year, there were 4,388 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools students who were homeless or facing housing instability.

The **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Family Homelessness Snapshot** report describes the characteristics of family homelessness in Charlotte-Mecklenburg from 2014 to 2015 and explores the connection to educational services and outcomes for children experiencing homelessness. Informed by local interviews and research, the report also highlights the impact of homelessness on families, and includes research-informed interventions and strategies to address it.

The report underscores the need for more permanent housing options for families in our community and increased coordination across service sectors, including the educational system. It also calls for the use of multiple strategies and tools as part of an overall approach to ending and preventing homelessness.

Homelessness has lasting, negative impacts on adults and children including family separation, poor health outcomes and lower social-emotional and academic well-being. Children in families experiencing homelessness are more likely to be absent from school, perform below grade level in math and reading, and are less likely to graduate from high school. The needs of families experiencing homelessness go beyond just housing—it is vital we craft solutions that meet the current and future needs of families and children experiencing homelessness.

There are steps we can take as a community. In addition to the report, an [Educational Toolkit](#) is provided that takes the information in the report and translates it to actionable steps around education, advocacy and funding. Together, we can effectively end and prevent family homelessness in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

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