



MECKLENBURG COUNTY Community Support Services

September 28, 2015

Enclosed is a copy of the report, “**Characteristics of Charlotte Housing Authority’s Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List**” for 2015. This report is one in a series of reports designed to better equip our community to make data-driven decisions around housing instability and homelessness. The series includes the Point-In-Time Count Report released in May and forthcoming reports on veteran homelessness and annual counts of homelessness in Mecklenburg County.

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte’s Urban Institute prepared the report with input from the Charlotte Housing Authority. 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. Mecklenburg County Community Support Services provided funding for the report.

The goal of this report is to describe the population of applicants on the Charlotte Housing Authority’s Housing Choice Voucher waiting list. The Housing Choice Voucher Program is a federally funded rental assistance program that subsidizes rents for low-income households renting in the private market. The waiting list was opened for five days in September 2014.

Some findings include:

- As of January 2015, there were 31,723 applicants on the Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List. Two hundred to 240 vouchers become available to new households each year.
- From 2009 to 2013, the population living below poverty in Mecklenburg County increased by 17 percent while the number of available vouchers increased by 15 percent.
- The majority of the applicants (60%) live in households with 2 to 4 people compared to the average household size in Mecklenburg County of 2.54 people.

Research supports the effectiveness of housing vouchers in reducing housing instability, homelessness and overcrowding. The findings from this report which highlight the overwhelming need for affordable housing require further community conversation on resource allocation and economic mobility.

We look forward to this continued conversation.

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