Homelessness in 2010

Public Forum
Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx
January 15, 2010

CITY OF CHARLOTTE

Homelessness… A Growing, Yet Hidden Problem in Mecklenburg County

- Approx. 8,000 homeless nightly

- Shelters overwhelmed

- Approx. 3,000 homeless children

- City's Role
  - Policy-Maker
  - Funder
  - Convener

- Charlotte-Mecklenburg's 10-Year Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness
  - Adopted by City Council November 12, 2007
  - Adopted by County April 17, 2007
  - Includes housing providers, City and County

- Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing
  - Federal Stimulus Funds

- Housing Trust Fund
  - Special Needs Housing

- Locational Policy

CITY OF CHARLOTTE

Implementation Goals:

- Housing
  - Provide homeless families and individuals safe permanent housing as soon as possible

- Outreach and Engagement
  - Link chronic homeless to housing, treatment and services though intensive outreach and engagement

- Prevention
  - Promote housing stability to prevent families and individuals most at-risk of becoming homeless

Status:

- Implementation structure not yet developed

- Projects realized, but not initiated, through plan
  - McCreesh Place
  - Emergency Winter Shelter
  - YWCA Families Together

- The Lee Institute is assisting with strategic implementation of the 10-Year Plan

  - Reviewing and assessing 10-Year Plan

  - Exploring concept for developing implementation structure

  - Examining impact of implementation on current housing initiatives

CITY OF CHARLOTTE

- Program serves households currently homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
    - Community-based support services;
    - Temporary financial assistance; and
    - Life skill training

- Intent is to serve persons who can remain housed after temporary assistance ends

- Services delivered through non-profit housing support agencies

$1.9m in stimulus funds

CITY OF CHARLOTTE

- **Affordable Housing**
  - City's role has historically not focused on homelessness
  - Target market has been housing affordable to those who make between 30-60% of the Area Median Income (AMI)

- **Special Needs Housing**
  - Housing to serve the disabled, homeless, elderly and HIV/AIDs populations earning 60% or less than the AMI

- **Section 8**
  - Administered through Charlotte Housing Authority
  - Federal vouchers distributed to tenants earning 30% or less of AMI to use for market-rate housing

CITY OF CHARLOTTE

- Established by Council in 2001 to provide gap financing for affordable housing
  - Seven-member oversight advisory board
  - Council requested priority be given to projects serving 30% or less of AMI

- Fund has received $67.3 million in funding since inception
  - Bonds issued through City's general fund

- Financed 4,067 affordable rental, special needs and ownership housing units
  - Completed to date: 2,851 new housing units

- Funds Committed/Spent - $64 million
  - Leveraged Development of $399 million (City leverage goal is 1:5)

- Policy establishes prohibited, permissible and priority areas for the development of new multi-family rental housing that receive public funds for households earning 60% or less of AMI

- Created to:
  - Avoid undue concentration of multi-family assisted housing;

  - Disperse geographically new multi-family housing developments;

  - Support the City's neighborhood revitalization efforts;

  - Promote diversity and vitality of neighborhoods; and

  - Support school development, transit corridor development and other public development initiatives

CITY OF CHARLOTTE

- **There is an unmet need**
  - Need to address need for approx. 17,000 affordable housing units by 2012

- **Issue requires collective support, comprehensive strategy and implementation plan**
  - Continue to convene the community
  - Implement 10-Year Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness

- **Policy and funding must reflect the need**
  - Locational Policy review
  - Funding for supportive services to improve the stability of residents in affordable housing must be aligned with capital investments