Wake County CoC Membership Meeting

Scan to sign-in!!

Monday, October 26th

2 – 3:30 PM

In person: RHA Community Room

971 Harp St

AGENDA

- System & Lead Agency Updates
- Governance Updates
- Early Childhood Homelessness

WAKE COUNTY
Continuum of Care - NC 507

System & Lead Agency Updates

CoC Funding Updates

- Award announcements expected by end of year.
- Planning for significant priority and program shifts.
- Building regional coordination.

	Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)	HUD Continuum of Care Program	NC Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
Application Amount	$6,989,569	$7,378,974	$392,309
Period of Performance	2-year grant term (2027-2029)	12-month term Start dates vary, all end 2028	Calendar Year 2027
Overview	If awarded, would be new funds to address youth homelessness in the Triangle.	Renewal, new and reallocated funding for 16 services/housing projects.	Emergency services and housing stability funds for 9 projects.

HMIS Updates

New UI is live for all users as of 10/1

- BitFocus continues to roll out changes
  - *Larger client profile pictures are coming!*
- Please contact us (HMIS@Wake.gov) if you encounter any issues

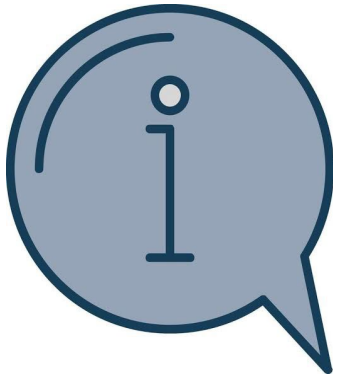
Night-by-Night Workflow for Drop-In shelter/White Flag

- New, easy workflow allows for daily check-in without full daily enrollment
- Can utilize scanners and "light touch" licenses without full HMIS access
- All drop-in shelters will be operational in November, White Flag training to come

HMIS Privacy & Security

- CoC board approved changes to the Privacy and Security model to bring in-line with current software
- New client Release of Information (ROI) and other agreements have been sent to county legal for review
- Shorter, easier to understand ROI and sharing plan
- New processes will allow much faster onboarding of new partners

Coordinated Entry Updates





- **Information Line**
  - Pilot with White Flag Season
- **Onboarding Housing Diversion Specialists**

White Flag

- CoC Lead Agency is responsible for activating alerts and coordinating partners based on the season response plan.
  - Twice weekly calls for activation based on 4-5 day forecast.
  - No single “White Flag Operator”. Multiple shelter providers and locations.

- **Alert activation threshold** is 35 degrees or lower with windchill during Cold Weather Season November 1st – March 31st.
- Website: https://wakenc507.org/whiteflag/

- **Final response plan and shelter locations will be published by 10/29.**

Save the Date(s)

- **Annual Homeless Memorial** - Monday, December 21st.

- **Point in Time Count** - Monday, January 25th.
  - CoC is scheduling meetings with all outreach teams/team leads for PIT and HMIS planning items. Lookout for invites!

Governance Updates

Board Nominations

- Application form is open until next Monday, November 2nd! https://wakenc507.org/governing-board/
- There are 15 new, vacant, or expiring seats in need of nominations/applications for the 2027-2029 term.
- The CoC Nominations Committee is responsible for reviewing, interviewing and recommending Board slate to the CoC Membership.

	Seat	Notes
1	*City of Raleigh – ESG Entitlement**	**permanent seats, typically delegated by agencies*
2	*Raleigh Housing Authority**	
3	Lived Experience (Current or formerly homeless)	
4	Population-specific lived experience	
5	Business sector representative	
6	Emergency Shelter	
7	Prevention, street outreach, or diversion	
8	Faith-based	
9	Workforce development	
10	Landlord/Affordable Housing Developer	
11	Legal expertise or systemic advocacy	
12	Law enforcement	
13	Wake County Public Schools/Higher Education	
14	Rapid rehousing/permanent/other supportive housing providers	Seats added in 2026 Charter updates
15	Local court system managing Assisted Outpatient Treatment, specialty courts (e.g., Mental Health, Drug, Care Courts)	

Annual Membership Review

- Annual confirmation of Member Organizations and Individuals will kick off after Board Nominations period closes.
  - Confirm official voters, contact information

- Once full Membership is confirmed, confirm Committee Membership
  - Update invites for new year
  - Interests in Committee Chair role

Committee Work Plans

- Draft Work Plans are due to the CoC Governing Board by December 31st of each year.

- CoC team will distribute 2026 work plans by email to promote feedback and edits before developing 2027 work plans in November and December Committee meetings.
  - ALL CoC Members and service providers may submit feedback, priorities for specific work plans/issue areas!

- Work Plans will be finalized in January/February to account for shifts in Committee Membership.

Early Childhood Homelessness

Hidden Homeless:

An Estimate of Young Children Experiencing Homelessness in North Carolina
School Year 2024-25

Rosalind Kotz, Ph.D.

Community Research Consultant

kotzr1@gmail.com

Effects of Homelessness on Young Children

Attachment Issues - *Frequent moves and chaotic environments can disrupt essential parent-child bonding*

Developmental Delays - *low-birth-weight, malnutrition and developmental delays.*

Trauma Exposure - *Increased risk of witnessing violence and experiencing severe stress, impacting mental health*

Lack Access to Health Care – *including well child visits and immunizations*

Educational Impact - *Children often enter school behind their peers, have lower academic performance and lower graduation rates*

Long-term Effects - *These early gaps often persist*

Two Federal Definitions of Homelessness

Housing & Urban Development (HUD Homeless Services)

*Literally homeless (places not meant for human habitation such as cars streets, campgrounds, parks, abandoned buildings

*Shelters and transitional housing

*Imminent risk of homelessness (14-day eviction notice)

*Fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence.

McKinney-Vento (Child Care, PK, Head Start, Home Visiting)

*Shared housing/doubled up due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.

*Shelters and transitional housing.

*Hotels or motels due to a lack of alternative, adequate housing.

*Staying in temporary trailers and campgrounds due to inadequate alternative housing.

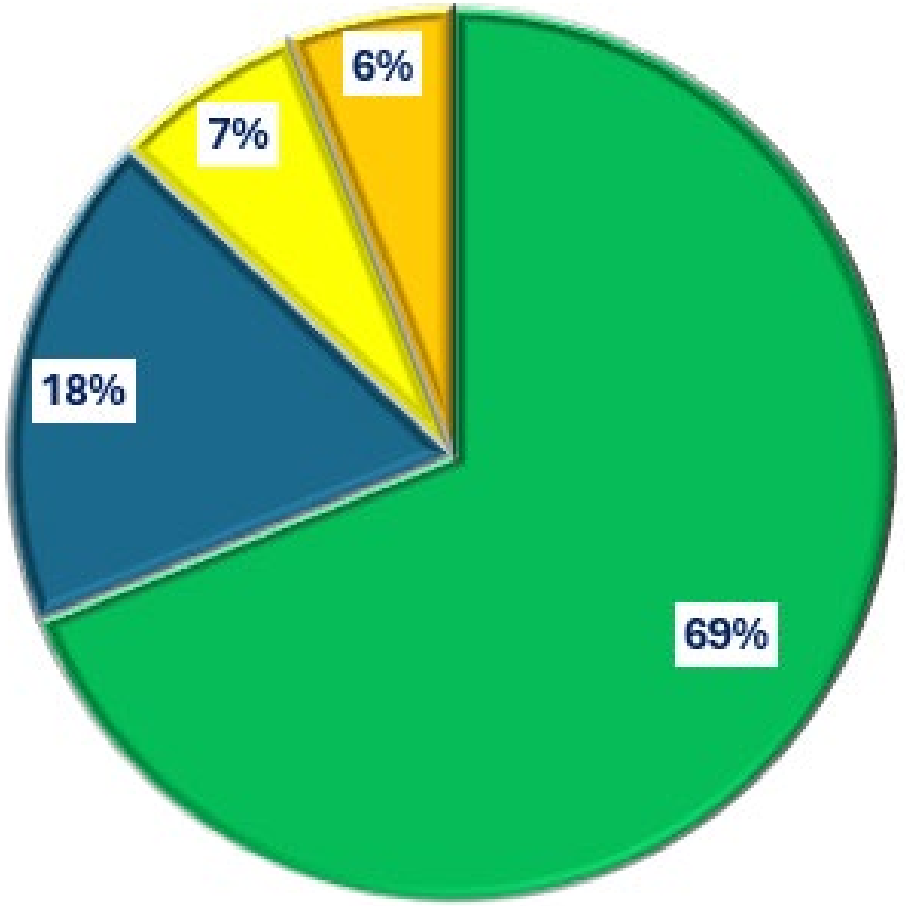
*Unsheltered including staying in substandard housing, cars, parks, abandoned buildings, or other places not meant for humans to live.

Nighttime Residence

87% of children not likely to be identified in the HUD Point-in-Time Study

- Green: 69% of families share housing/double-up with other households due to economic hardship.
- Blue: 18% are living in motels and hotels.
- Yellow: 7% report living in shelters and transitional housing.
- Orange: 6% percent are estimated to be unsheltered.

Source: NC DPI, Office of Homeless Education K-12



ESTIMATE

The actual number of children experiencing homelessness is unknown

The data in this report is an ESTIMATE based on a methodology

It is not a count of young children experiencing homelessness

It is not a count of children receiving services

Methodology

University of Michigan/SchoolHouse Connection Methodology

Children experiencing homelessness in 1st grade public schools by county (DPI, Office of Homeless Education)

Children in 1st grade public schools by county (DPI enrollment)

Calculate the % homeless =

homeless/total # children by county

Apply the percent to children aged

<1, 1, 2, 3, and 4 (Office of the State Demographer)

Alternatives and Limitation of Selected Methodology

Alternatives considered

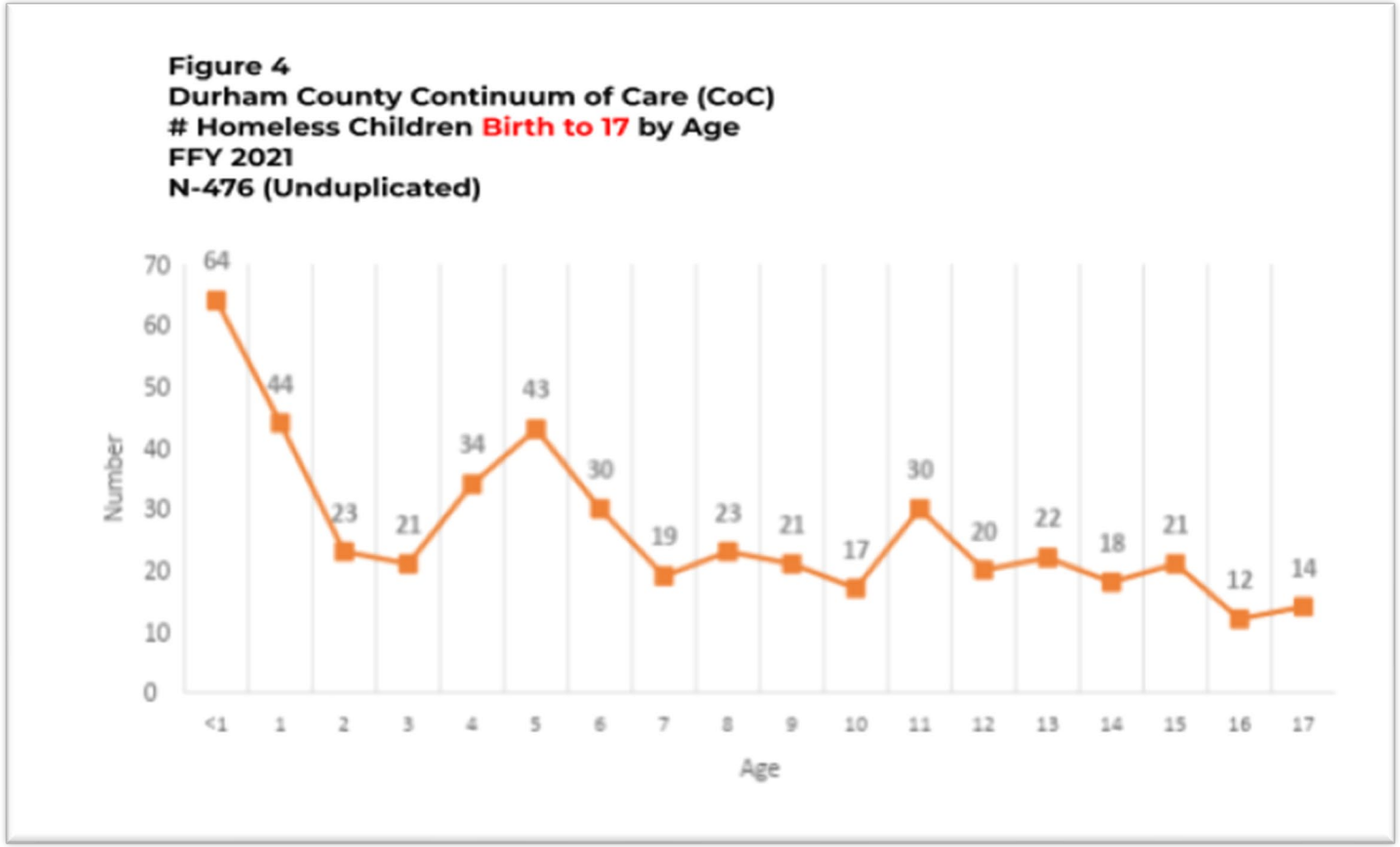
HUD Point-in-Time (PIT) and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

NC DPI Office of Homeless Education Sibling Data

Drawback to UM/SHC is that the same percent is applied to children aged <1, 1, 2, 3, and 4 which likely leads to an undercount of infants and toddlers

Durham County Continuum of Care (CoC) 2021, over one year, by age birth to 17

(Source: Kotz, Rosalind (2021), ***Homelessness among infants, toddlers, and pre-school age children***



*This report uses the Zero to Three organization definition of infant and toddler as beginning at birth ending at 36 mos. https://www.zerotothree.org

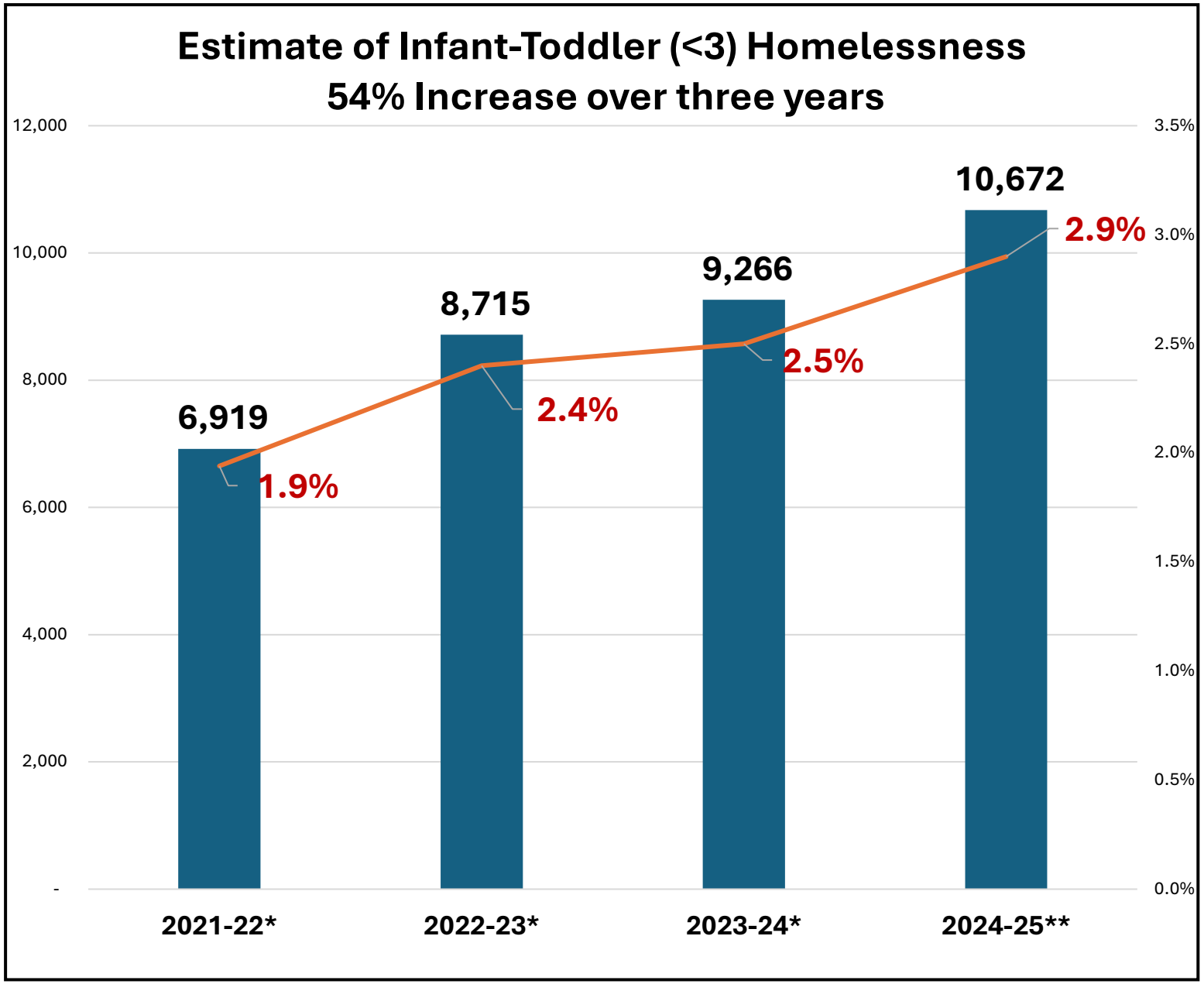
Estimate of homelessness age birth to four in North Carolina 2024-25

	Age Group	#/%
Infant & Toddler *	Age birth-2 (inclusive of 2's)	10,672
Pre-School (not in K)	Age 3-4 (inclusive of 4's)	7,082
Age Birth-4 (not in K)	Age birth-4 (inclusive of 4's)	17,754
Age Birth-4 (inclusive of 4's)	Percent homeless age birth-4 (inclusive of 4's)	2.9%

Infant and Toddler Homelessness in NC increased by 54% over three years

Source:
*SchoolHouse Connection
**Rosalind Kotz, Community Research Consultant

This report uses the Zero to Three organization definition of infant and toddler as beginning at birth ending at 36 mos. https://www.zerotothree.org



Urban, Suburban and Rural Counties

Evenly split between urban and suburban/rural counties.

- Five large population urban counties (48%)
- 95 Suburban and Rural counties (52%)

	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Mecklenburg	1,860	1,246	3,106	4.2%
Wake	1,465	981	2,447	3.7%
Guilford	652	435	1,087	3.7%
Durham	548	371	919	4.5%
Buncombe	544	363	907	7.5%
Top 5 counties	**5,070**	**3,396**	**8,466**	**4.2%**
95 suburban/rural counties	5,602	3,686	9,288	2.3%
North Carolina	10,672	7,082	17,754	2.9%

Wide variation between counties

Counties with >5%

Counties range from a low of .2% to a high of 10.3% with the state average at 2.9%

County (sorted by %)	Infants and Toddlers Birth-2	Pre-school age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4 (including 4's)	% Percent Homeless
Rutherford	206	129	335	10.3%
Montgomery	77	48	125	9.4%
Avery	39	25	64	9.2%
Ashe	55	38	93	8.9%
McDowell	101	66	168	8.4%
Perquimans	26	18	45	7.9%
Buncombe	544	363	907	7.5%
Yancey	38	25	63	7.0%
Wilkes	131	83	214	6.2%
Halifax	86	60	147	5.8%
Haywood	94	61	155	5.8%
Warren	28	19	47	5.5%
Greene	32	20	52	5.1%
North Carolina	10,672	7,082	17,754	2.9%

Appendix A

County Estimates

APPENDIX A

Estimate of Children Experiencing Homelessness in North Carolina School Year 2024-25

Counties - Alphabetical

Note: This is an estimate of need, it is not a count, and it is not the number of children being served.
*Counties with an * indicate the estimate has been withheld to assure confidentiality.*

County	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Alamance	153	102	255	2.6%
Alexander	12	*	21	1.2%
Alleghany	11	*	19	3.5%
Anson	14	*	23	1.8%
Ashe	55	38	93	8.9%
Avery	39	25	64	9.2%
Beaufort	16	11	27	1.3%
Bertie	*	*	14	1.8%
Bladen	33	21	54	3.1%
Brunswick	45	29	74	1.3%
Buncombe	544	363	907	7.5%

Appendix B

Service Delivery Areas
Data Tables

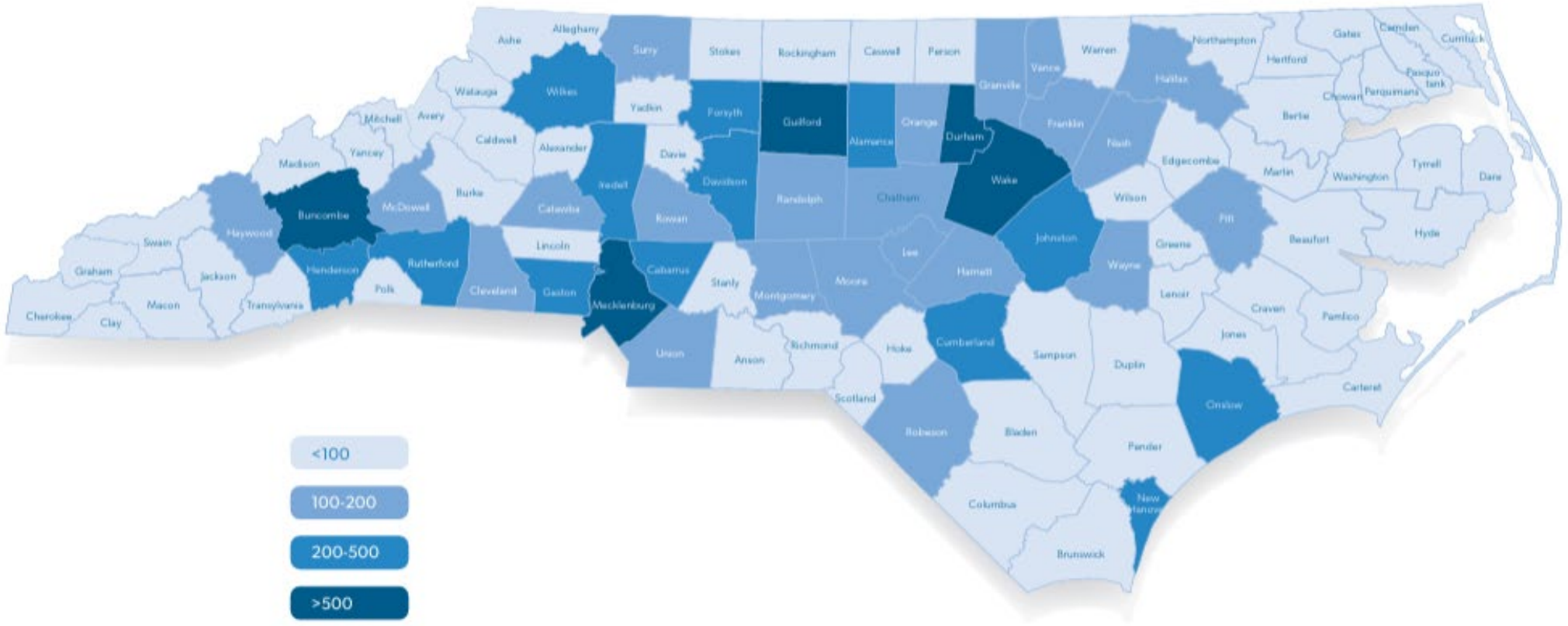
Smart Start Local Partnerships

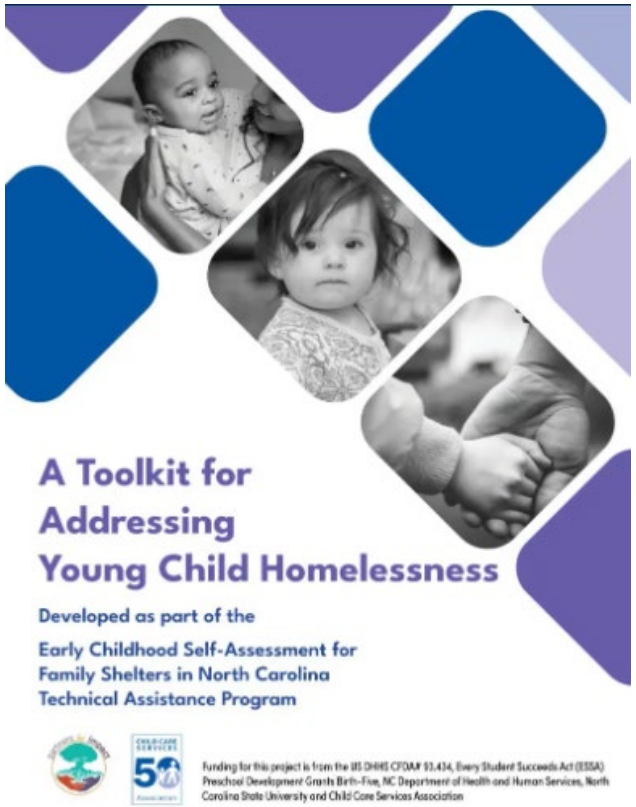
Head Start/Early Head Start

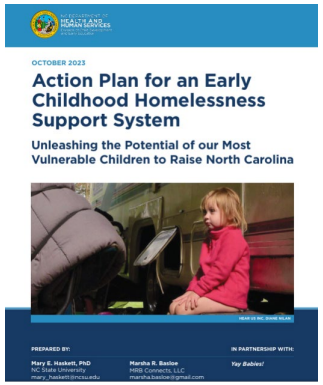
Home Visiting

Continuums of Care (CoC's)

Estimated Number of Children Experiencing Homelessness in North Carolina Counties, 2024-25







Taking Action – North Carolina

NC Action Plan for an Early Childhood Homelessness Support System

Early Childhood Self-Assessment Tool for Family Shelters

Self-Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness

The Learning Module (course for implementing the Self-Assessment tool for providers)

A Toolkit for Addressing Young Child Homelessness, Partners for Impact

All documents can be found on Early Years website https://www.earlyyearsnc.org/program/early-childhood-homelessness

Rosalind Kotz, Ph.D., ***Hidden Homeless: An Estimate of Young Children Experiencing Homelessness in North Carolina*** has released an estimate of infants and toddlers (birth to 2) and preschool age children (3-4) using an estimation model based on the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness which captures families living "doubled-up" and motels. To be useful to providers and advocates at the local level, the report includes counties and several service delivery areas including Head Start, Home Visiting, and Continuums of Care.

The report can be accessed at https://www.earlyyearsnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Estimate_of_Young_Children_Experiencing_Homelessness_in_North_Carolina_2024-25_final.pdf

Young Child Homelessness Outreach Project

Early Years
A Comprehensive Approach to Enhancing Early Care and Education

YOU'RE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE ENHANCED CHILD CARE REFERRAL SUPPORT!



You may be eligible if you live in Wake County and have lost your housing, are at risk of losing your housing, or are temporarily staying with someone due to financial hardship or living in a hotel/motel.

WE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER YOU ENHANCED REFERRAL SERVICES AT NO COST, WHICH MAY INCLUDE:

- **Information** about child care financial assistance options
- **Confirmed vacancies** at local child care programs
- **Guided child care site visits with** transportation assistance for eligible families
- **Ongoing support and follow-up** until your child is successfully enrolled

*Some families may be eligible for enrollment fee assistance.

Access Project Flyers HERE

partners for impact

Funded by the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education

Adjourn

Scan to sign-in!!

Next CoC Membership Meeting:
- Monday, November 16, 2026, from 2 - 3:30 PM
- Raleigh Housing Authority Community Room – 971 Harp St

Tentative Agenda
- Board Nominations – Vote
- White Flag
- Wake at Home

HEADS UP: November Membership meeting will be moved from the 23rd to the 16th to accommodate the Governance Board Slate vote and Thanksgiving holiday.

CoC Coordination or for more info: Info@wakenc507.org