Right at Home Implementation

October 13, 2026



Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care Updates



CoC Updates

- FY2026 CoC Program Consolidated Application submitted: $2.6M
  - US Department of Housing and Urban Development policy shift from Housing First / permanent housing to Treatment First / transitional housing approach
  - New partners submitted projects: ABCCM, Eliada Homes, Haywood Street, Western Carolina Rescue Ministries
- Code Purple 26 - 27
  - Sites
    - ABCCM's Transformation Village (35)
    - Haywood Street Respite (10)
    - Homeward Bound operating at Salvation Army's Center of Hope (90)
    - Overflow sites under development (Safe Shelter)
  - Available when called beginning November 1
  - CoC Board evaluating funding needs and exploring opportunities for additional funds



CoC in Community

- Coordinated first Community Cleanup event along Tunnel Rd. in August
  - 46 volunteers collected 69 bags of trash
  - Participants included CoC members, service provider staff, Kenilworth neighbors, and people with lived experience of homelessness
  - Expect to continue cleanups quarterly across the community
- Small leadership group meeting regularly for solution development in Tunnel Rd. area
- Renewing Homelessness Learning Series
- Dedicating grant funds for strategic communications
- New website and public-facing data coming soon



Right at Home:
Homelessness Prevention Initiative



Background

Effective homelessness response is system work, with all components interrelated

- Prevention
- Diversion
- Street Outreach and Day Services
- Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing
- Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing

- Developing and overseeing the homelessness response system is the work of the CoC
- 2025 - 2028 Strategic Plan identified specific system gaps to address
    - **Prevention**, Diversion, Emergency Shelter, Rapid Rehousing



Homelessness Prevention

Prevention is stopping homelessness before it starts

- Targeted intervention for people most likely to enter homelessness
- Typically focused on keeping people on the verge of eviction in their current housing through financial assistance for arrears and short-term rent, along with supportive services



Right at Home

- National initiative to demonstrate efficacy of prevention
- Led by Destination: Home, with technical assistance from Homebase and research and evaluation from the University of Notre Dame's Lab for Economic Opportunities
- Builds on proven model in Santa Clara County, CA
  - 90% of households still housed after 2 years
  - Every $1 invested saved $2.47 in community costs
- Goal: prevent thousands of families from losing their homes while creating a clear, evidence-based blueprint for a national homelessness prevention strategy
- 3-year pilot in 10 communities, each serving 1,000 households



Pilot Communities



Selection criteria:

- Demonstrated need for homelessness prevention
- Committed public-sector leadership
- Data capacity to implement rigorous evaluation
- Strong local infrastructure, including a lead organization capable of coordinating service providers and managing funds

10 Essential Components

- Flexible cash assistance
- Fast to act
- “Whatever it takes” approach
- “No wrong door” to get help
- Supportive services to complement financial assistance
- Targeted prevention for those with the greatest need
- Commitment to tracking data in HMIS
- Participation in rigorous program evaluation
- Community-wide stakeholder engagement
- Contribution to collective learning
    - Failing forward
    - Field development



Process

- National team engaged us after Helene and conducted site visit in May 2025
- Planning Grant awarded summer 2025
    - Created Project Manager position in Homeless Strategy Division
- CoC appointed Homelessness Prevention Work Group to develop plan, which was approved by the CoC Board and then by Right at Home this summer
- CoC issued Request for Applications and Board approved recommended providers on September 10, 2026 for year one implementation
    - Agreements with CoC-approved providers slated for Council action 10/27

Implementation

- Network approach, with providers working as a cohort to build a homelessness prevention system with shared standards
  - ABCCM
  - Homeward Bound
  - Operation Gateway
  - Pisgah Legal Services
- Collaborating now on final buildout, with services available by January
  - Expecting to serve 250 households in year one
- As CoC Lead Agency, City’s role is project management
  - Administer funds
  - Liaise with national initiative and peer pilot communities
  - Report progress through the CoC for oversight



Suggested Motion

Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept funding from Destination: Home for the Right at Home initiative in the amount of $6,000,000 and approval of an associated budget amendment.

