Housing Recovery Board

October 21, 2026



Background: Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care



Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care (CoC)

- Because many partners respond to homelessness without direct reporting relationships to each other, the Federal government has formalized local collaboration through the Continuum of Care framework
- CoCs are planning bodies developing and overseeing homeless services within a defined geography and include a Membership body of stakeholders, an elected Board, and a designated Lead Agency for neutral backbone support
    - Communities organized as a CoC are eligible to apply for CoC Program funding through HUD
- CoCs are self-governing collaboratives for existing efforts and create an organizing principle for community-level response to homelessness, including strategy development and resource direction



Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care (CoC)

- Asheville-Buncombe CoC established February 29, 2024
- Geography is Buncombe County
- Membership is open to anyone with an interest in understanding homelessness and taking action to address it - currently 672 members
- Membership elects a sector-based Board designed to align decision-makers across government, service providers, healthcare, business, faith community, public safety, and general community
    - Includes 2 dedicated seats for Subject Matter Experts with Lived Experience of Homelessness
- Board appoints members to Committees and Work Groups to do detailed planning and development work
- Board has designated the City of Asheville as the Lead Agency for backbone support

2025 - 2028 Strategic Plan Objectives

1. Decrease unsheltered homelessness
    a. Expand Emergency Shelter
2. Increase exits from homelessness to permanent housing
    a. Expand capacity of housing interventions
    b. Develop system-level housing navigation infrastructure
3. Coordinate and expand Homelessness Prevention, Diversion, and Rapid Rehousing
4. Build housing-focused system capacity

Helene Impact and Resources



Helene Impact

- Loss of life and property for people who were unsheltered
- Loss of key facility: ABCCM's Veterans Restoration Quarters
  - 200+ beds
  - Primary Code Purple shelter for men
- Loss of housing
  - Some people able to access FEMA resources
  - Many people ineligible for disaster resources (e.g. people with informal leases or nontraditional housing)
- High participation in disaster shelters
  - CoC coordinated partners to transition Gold's Gym from Red Cross to Rescue Mission for 2 months of continued operation



2025 Point-in-Time Count - Helene Impact

	2024 Count	2025 without FEMA's TSA	Change		FEMA's TSA	2025 Report to HUD
Emergency Shelter	270	270	0		1,548	1,818
Transitional Housing	250	157	-93		-	157
Unsheltered	219	328*	+109		-	328
Total	739	**755**	+16		-	2,303

*35% reported homelessness was a result of Tropical Storm Helene

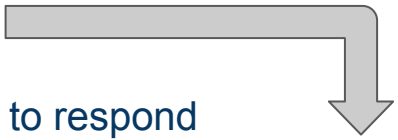
2026 Point-in-Time Count Results

	2024	2025	2026	% Change
Shelter	270	270	245	-9.3%
Transitional Housing	250	157	245	+56.1%
Unsheltered	219	328	334	+1.8%
Totals	**739**	**755**	**824**	**+9.1%**

2026 Unsheltered Supplemental Questions

Did you have housing in Buncombe County when Tropical Storm Helene occurred?

- Of respondent data
  - 110 (33%) said yes
  - 177 (53%) said no
  - 47 (14%) chose not to respond



If yes, did you lose your housing as a result of Helene?

- 87 respondents lost housing as a result of Helene
  - 47 reported damage
  - 12 reported lost income
  - 24 reported other reasons
  - 4 chose not to respond

If yes, have you had temporary housing since Helene?

- Of 87 respondents, 26 (31%) have had temporary housing
  - The majority have stayed with friends or family

Helene-specific Resources				
Source	***Pathway***	***Amount***	***Agency***	***Use***
CDBG-DDRF	City	$250,000	Safe Shelter	Winter Shelter 25-26
RUSH (HUD)	NCDHHS	$341,847	Vaya Health	Rapid Rehousing (Back@Home - Helene)
RUSH-2 (HUD)	NCDHHS	$327,022	Safe Shelter	Emergency Shelter
		$280,020	Salvation Army	Emergency Shelter
		$185,047	Helpmate	Emergency Shelter
		$30,200	Safe Shelter	Street Outreach
		$75,000	Helpmate	Homelessness Prevention
		$458,236	Homeward Bound	Homelessness Prevention
		$237,536	Homeward Bound	Rapid Rehousing
Total		**$2,184,908**		

Current Status



Key Capacity Changes

- New homelessness prevention resource: Right at Home
  - Services available by January
  - $6M over 3 years to serve at least 1,000 households
- New shelter expansion for people fleeing domestic violence: Helpmate
  - Ribbon cutting October 22
  - Doubling capacity
- ABCCM development
  - Replacing the Veterans Restoration Quarters
  - Ongoing campus development at Transformation Village
- Safe Shelter expansion



Key Capacity Changes

- Scale and complexity of need have both increased
- Critical need for operational funding for crisis services
  - Healthy Opportunities Pilot conclusion in 2025
  - Salvation Army pausing operations 11/1 due to funding
    - Loss of 65 beds for men, women, families, people with pets
  - Haywood Street Respite paused activation of 13 new beds
  - Code Purple: anticipating high demand, providers reporting costs exceed available resources
- Federal funding priorities have shifted from Housing First to Treatment First
  - FY2026 CoC Program application submitted September 30: $2.6M
  - Decreases Permanent Supportive Housing at Homeward Bound and Rapid Rehousing at Helpmate
    - Replaced with Transitional Housing applications



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