Intergovernmental and Interagency Task Force on Homelessness in Gaston County

January 11, 2022



February 2021 Resolution Establishing the Task Force

To address the concerns about homelessness in the County and produce a written report to include:

- An assessment of homelessness in Gaston County; and,
- A compilation of efforts, initiatives and services addressing homelessness in Gaston County at the current time, including quantitative and/or qualitative descriptions of their progress; and,
- A summary of best practices from other communities and organizations, including successful strategies and tactics for addressing homelessness in Gaston County; and,
- Recommendations for action steps (or reinforcement of action steps already laid out through current efforts) to reduce homelessness in Gaston County, including actual or potential responsible parties and milestones.

Task Force Members

- Tracy Philbeck (County Commissioner/Task Force Chair)
- Dwayne Burks (The Gateway Gaston)
- Debbie Clary (former member NC House of Representatives)
- Robin Conner (Gaston Community Action)
- Michael Coone (Gaston County/Dept. of Social Services)
- Rev. Dr. Rodney Freeman (Mt. Zion Restoration Church)
- Kathy Gauger (Catherine's House)
- Rev. Thomas Gillespie (Lowell City Council)
- James Inman (Bessemer City Manager)
- Heath Jenkins (Stanley Town Manager)
- Robert Kellogg (Gastonia City Council)
- Brittain Kenney (County Health Department)
- Derrick Mackey (Cherryville Planning Director)
- Suzanne Mauney-Smith (County Police)
- Rev. Tim McCarn (CORE Church)

- John Mills (Salvation Army)
- Tina Peterson (Gaston County Schools)
- David Pugh (Cramerton Town Manager)
- Sheila Purello (Catherine's House)
- Brian Reagan (Mt. Holly Police Department)
 - Linda Slade/Rita Davis (United Way)
- Maria Stroupe (Dallas Town Manager)
- Steffi Travis (Continuum of Care)
- Reid Washam (McAdenvillle Town Council)
- Tasha White (Hope Youth Network)
- Teena Willis (Partners)

Task Force Process

- Met for Eight Months (May –December 2021)
- Developed Outcomes and Deliverables for Each Meeting
- Invited Guest Speakers on the Homelessness Subject Matter
- Conducted a Poverty Simulation
- Developed Homelessness Findings for Report
- Based on the Findings, Developed Recommendations for Report
- Made Recommendation to Gaston County Board of Commission to Accept
 Written Report and Approve Actions to Address Immediate Needs

Select Findings: Service Areas



HOUSING (Address housing affordability and build more affordable housing)



PERSONAL NEEDS (Assist and expand existing initiatives and services, assist non-profits and faith community with transportation, hygiene, internet, food, and other personal needs, especially with emergency services for the unhoused)



EDUCATION, TRAINING, and EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (Build skill development and education)



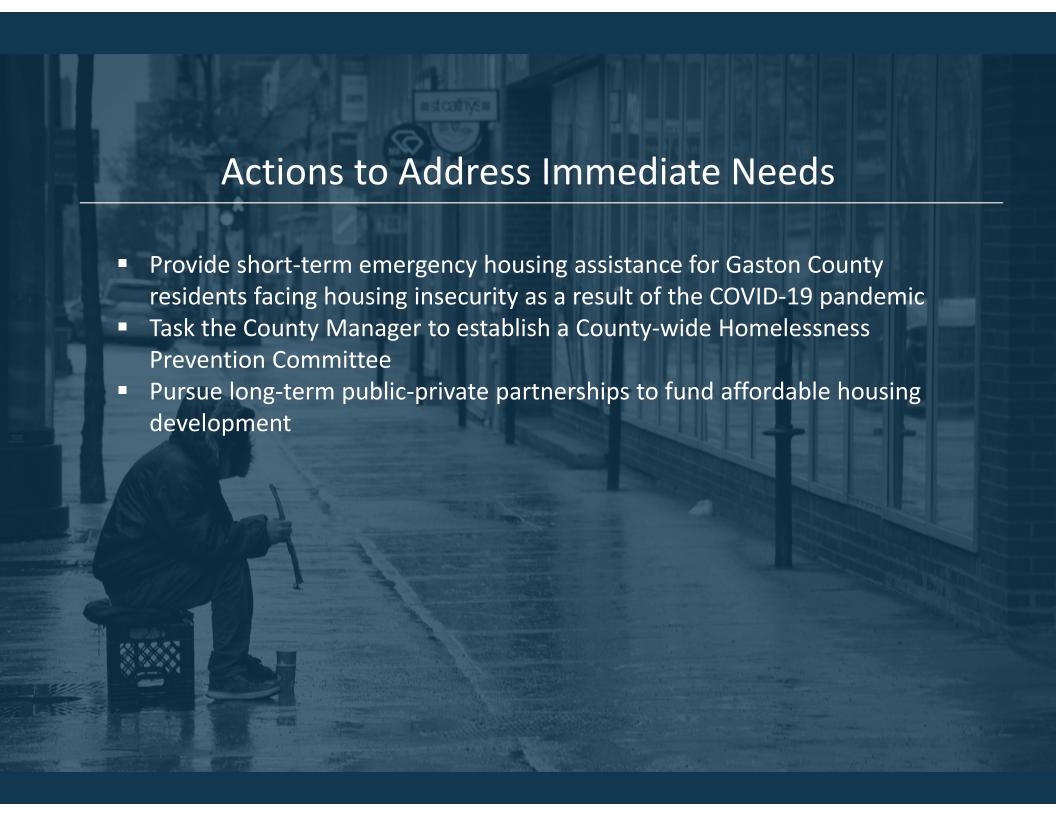
HEALTHCARE (Address the physical, mental, behavioral, and addiction of the unhoused)



COORDINATION (Improve/enhance coordination of homeless services with the homeless/unhoused)



DATA COLLECTION AND EVALUATION (Continue to collect and refine available data to support homelessness assistance efforts)





Questions?

