



CATAWBA AREA COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

STRATEGIC PLAN

2025-2027

CONTACT INFORMATION

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VISION & MISSION

VISION

To make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

MISSION

To strengthen our homeless response system by fostering collaboration and delivering effective solutions that reduce the duration of time individuals and families experience homelessness in Chester, Lancaster, and York counties.

CATAWBA AREA COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

FOCUS AREAS



PROMOTE EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

We are dedicated to addressing systemic inequities that contribute to homelessness. By promoting equity and social justice, we aim to create inclusive policies and practices that ensure all individuals have equal access to housing and support services.



CULTIVATE RELATIONSHIPS

We prioritize building strong, collaborative relationships with community partners, local agencies, and stakeholders. By nurturing these connections, we can share resources, enhance service delivery, and foster a unified approach to addressing homelessness in our region.



OPTIMIZE COORDINATED ENTRY

We are focused on optimizing our coordinated entry system to strengthen collaboration between homeless agencies, service providers, and stakeholders. This unified approach enables quicker, more effective connections to housing and services, ensuring that individuals and families receive timely and equitable support.



STRENGTHEN OUR RESPONSE

We are committed to enhancing our local homeless response system to provide timely and effective support for those in need. By improving coordination among service providers, increasing access to resources, and implementing innovative solutions, we strive to reduce the duration of homelessness and help individuals and families achieve lasting stability.

FOCUS 1: PROMOTE EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

We are dedicated to addressing systemic inequities that contribute to homelessness. By promoting equity and social justice, we aim to create inclusive policies and practices that ensure all individuals have equal access to housing and support services.

| Innovate | Educate | Collaborate | Advocate |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Collect and analyze demographic data on homelessness to identify disparities and inform strategies.</p> <p>Present findings to stakeholders to raise awareness and foster discussions around equity and justice in housing.</p> | <p>Provide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training for staff, partners, and community members to build understanding and capacity.</p> <p>Educate stakeholders on systemic issues and their impact on homelessness through workshops, seminars, and resources.</p> <p>Promote cultural competence by offering training that enhances understanding of diverse communities and their unique needs.</p> | <p>Actively include individuals with lived experience of homelessness in decision-making processes to ensure their voices and perspectives shape our initiatives.</p> <p>Partner with community organizations that focus on racial equity to amplify our efforts and reach underserved populations.</p> <p>Collaborate with partners to identify and reduce barriers to housing for marginalized communities.</p> | <p>Work with local organizations to improve hiring practices that promote diversity and equity within our workforce and leadership.</p> <p>Support board development initiatives that prioritize diverse representation and perspectives.</p> <p>Review operational functions to ensure they align with principles of equity and inclusion.</p> <p>Advocate for systemic change to policies and practices that perpetuate inequities in housing access and service delivery.</p> |



FOCUS 2: CULTIVATE RELATIONSHIPS

We prioritize building strong, collaborative relationships with community partners, local agencies, and stakeholders. By nurturing these connections, we can share resources, enhance service delivery, and foster a unified approach to addressing homelessness in our region.

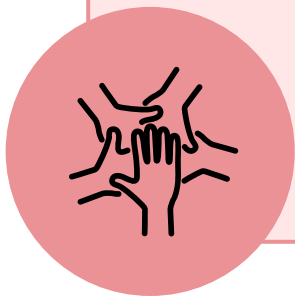
| Innovate | Educate | Collaborate | Advocate |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>Provide up-to-date, useful data to service providers, elected officials, and community members to inform decision-making.</p> <p>Expand our funding base and revenue streams to ensure long-term sustainability.</p> | <p>Offer practical trainings to coalition members that enhance their capacity to serve.</p> <p>Educate coalition members about available funding opportunities and how to apply for them.</p> <p>Facilitate the exchange of information to ensure all members stay informed and connected.</p> | <p>Build intentional partnerships in Chester and Lancaster counties to strengthen local efforts.</p> <p>Increase geographic diversity within our Board of Directors to ensure broad representation across our service area.</p> <p>Align our efforts with other community groups and coalitions to create a unified approach.</p> <p>Collaborate on funding applications when feasible to increase resources and impact.</p> | <p>Advocate for programs and policies that reduce the burden on service providers, enabling them to deliver more effective services.</p> <p>Educate funders on the critical gaps in nonprofit funding, especially regarding support for staffing and operational costs, to ensure sustainable program delivery.</p> |



FOCUS 3: OPTIMIZE COORDINATED ENTRY

We are focused on optimizing our coordinated entry system to strengthen collaboration between homeless agencies, service providers, and stakeholders. This unified approach enables quicker, more effective connections to housing and services, ensuring that individuals and families receive timely and equitable support.

| Innovate | Educate | Collaborate | Advocate |
|---|--|---|--|
| Identify and address service gaps within the coordinated entry process to ensure equitable access to housing resources for all individuals. | Provide training on coordinated entry processes, ensuring a consistent and transparent approach to addressing homelessness. | Strengthen partnerships between service providers, local agencies, and community organizations to ensure full participation in the coordinated entry system. | Promote policies that support a well-functioning coordinated entry system, ensuring it has the funding and resources needed to operate effectively. |
| Leverage data to evaluate the performance of coordinated entry and improve system efficiency and outcomes. | Educate frontline staff and community partners on how coordinated entry maximizes the effectiveness of housing interventions. | Include individuals with lived experience of homelessness in decision-making processes to ensure the coordinated entry system remains responsive and effective. | Advocate for coordinated entry policies that better serve vulnerable populations, such as youth, individuals living with disabilities, and older adults, to ensure they receive timely and targeted support. |
| | Distribute 'Get Help/Give Help' signs and CACH Pocket Guides to enhance awareness of local resources and streamline access to support for individuals in need. | | |



FOCUS 4: STRENGTHEN OUR RESPONSE

We are committed to enhancing our local homeless response system to provide timely and effective support for those in need. By improving coordination among service providers, increasing access to resources, and implementing innovative solutions, we strive to reduce the duration of homelessness and help individuals and families achieve lasting stability.

| Innovate | Educate | Collaborate | Advocate |
|--|---|--|--|
| Identify service gaps to ensure homelessness can be ended for all individuals, with tailored strategies for different needs. | Provide education on the Housing First model, emphasizing that housing is a fundamental right and the foundation for stability. | Involve persons with lived experience of homelessness in decision-making processes to ensure programs and policies reflect real-world needs. | Advocate for the creation and expansion of affordable housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing solutions. |
| Implement evidence-based programs that improve our overall homeless response system. | Ensure that homeless assistance programs are open, inclusive, and transparent, so that participants fully understand their options and pathways to housing. | Strengthen Coordinated Entry systems to streamline access to services and ensure equitable resource distribution. | Promote participant choice, ensuring that individuals have a voice in selecting the housing and services that best meet their needs. |
| Focus on improving overall system performance, particularly by reducing unsheltered homelessness. | | Hold regular Case Manager Meetings to promote collaboration, share best practices, and improve service coordination across homeless service providers. | |
| Implement a By-Name List to track data in real-time, provide tailored support, and measure long-term outcomes. | | | |

