Status of Veteran Homeless in North Carolina

A PRESENTATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S WORKING GROUP ON VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Welcome

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NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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Laressa Witt, Program Manager, Family Endeavors

National and State Perspective on Veteran Homelessness

TERRY ALLEBAUGH

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND

NORTH CAROLINA COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

What Does Ending Homelessness Mean?

"Every community will have a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or if it can't be prevented, it is a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience."

From "Opening Doors: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness" adopted in 2010 to implement the passage of the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009

Achieving the Goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness

1. The community has identified all veterans experiencing homelessness.

2. The community provides shelter immediately to any veteran experiencing unsheltered homelessness who wants it

3. The community only provides service-intensive transitional housing in limited instances.

4.The community has capacity to assist veterans to swiftly move into permanent housing.

5. The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place should any veteran become homeless, or be at risk of homelessness in the future.

Mayors' Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, June 2014

Meeting the Benchmarks – June 21, 2016

Albany, NY
Connecticut
Cumberland County/Fayetteville, NC
Daytona Beach/Volusia County, FL
Des Moines, IA
Flagler County, FL
Houston, TX
La Cruces, NM
Lancaster City and County, PA
Las Vegas, NV
Lynn, MA
Mississippi Gulfport/Gulf Coast Regional CoC
Mobile, AL
Montgomery County, MD
New Orleans, LA
Philadelphia, PA
Reading/Berks County, PA
Rochester, NY
Rockford, IL
San Antonio, TX
Saratoga Springs, NY
Schenectady, NY
Syracuse, NY
Troy, NY
Virginia
Winston-Salem, NC

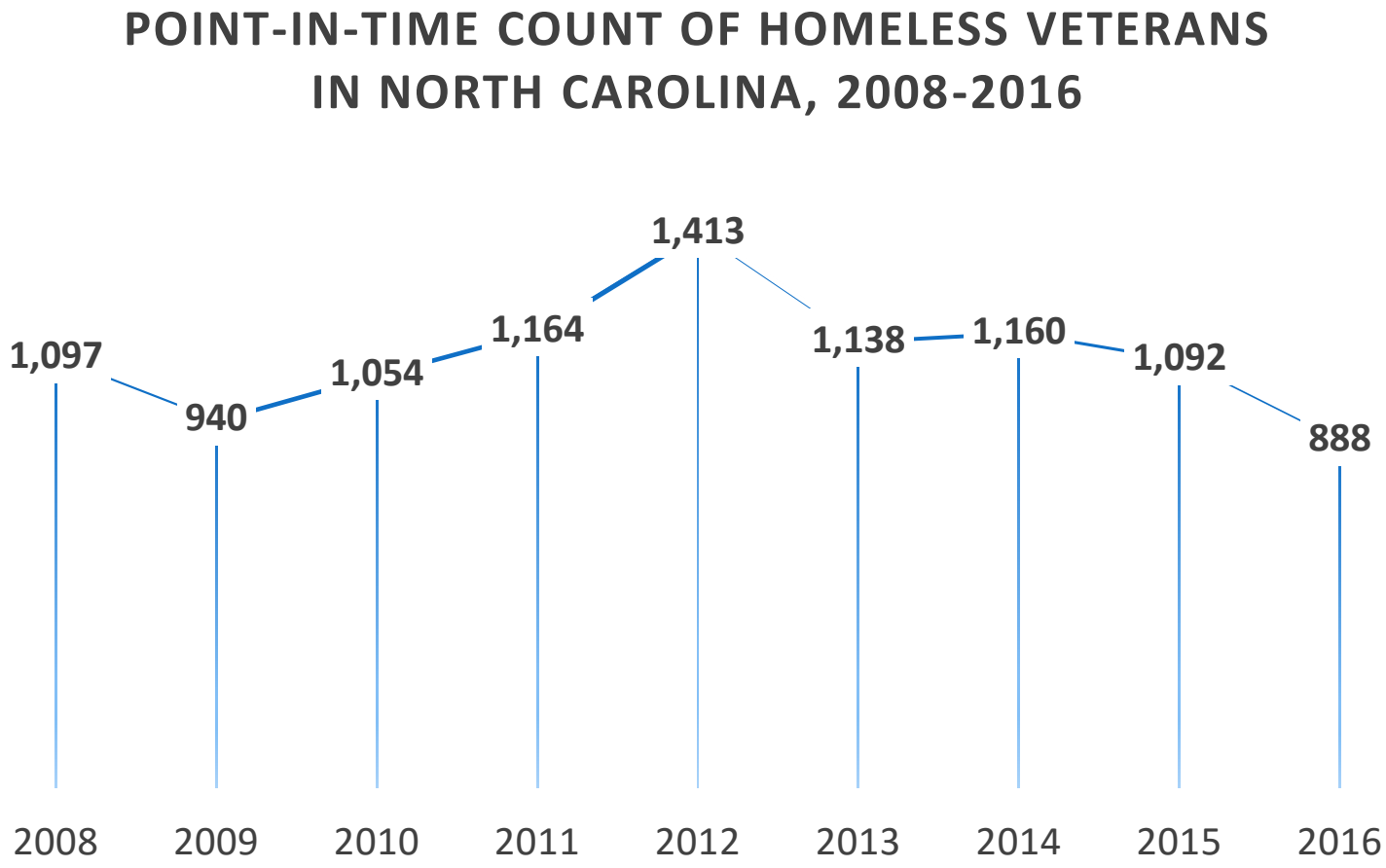
Homeless Veteran Population Trends

JENNIFER BIESS

NORTH CAROLINA COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

Understanding Veteran Homelessness Through Multiple Data Sources

The number of homeless veterans has decreased

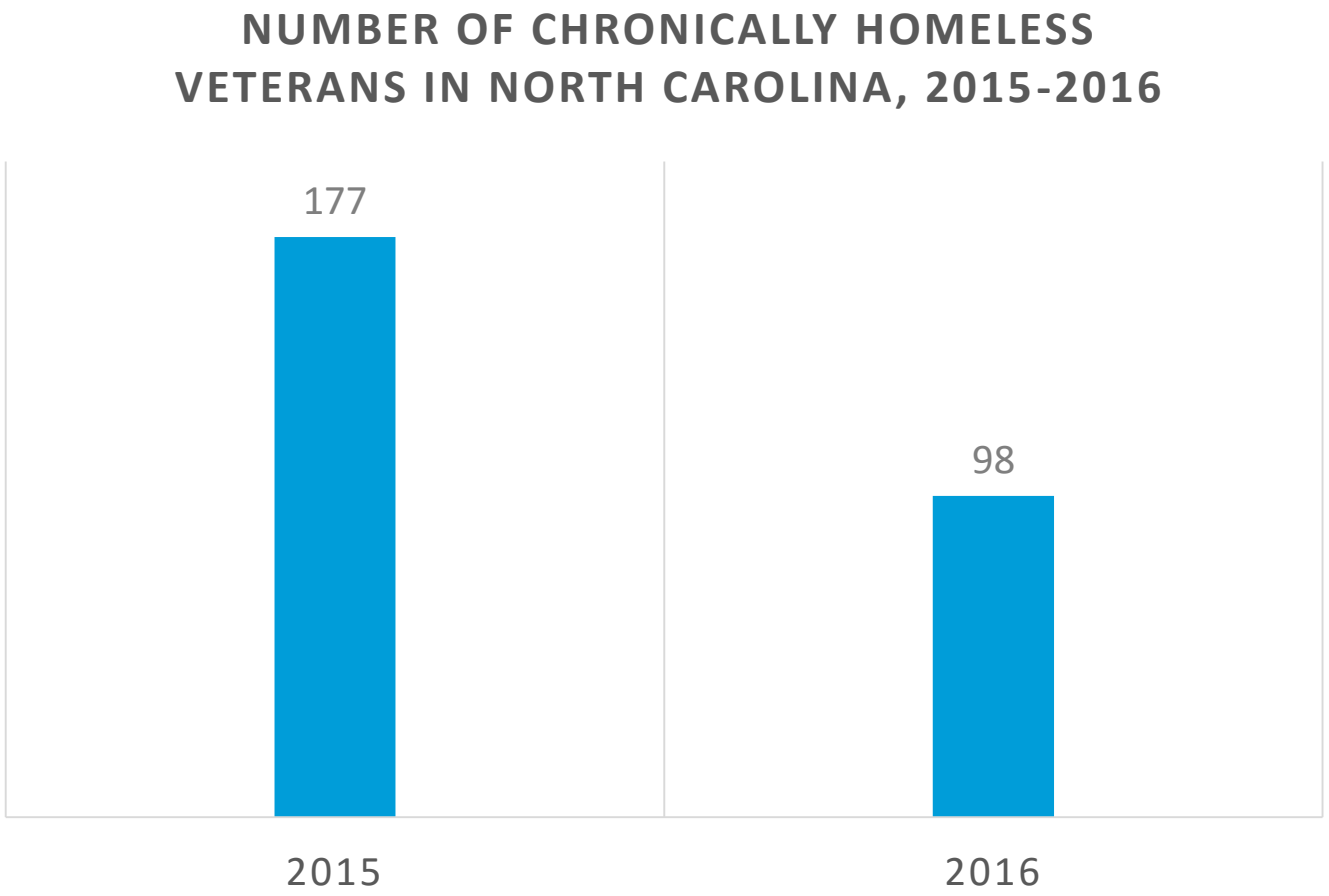


Number of chronically homeless veterans also decreased dramatically

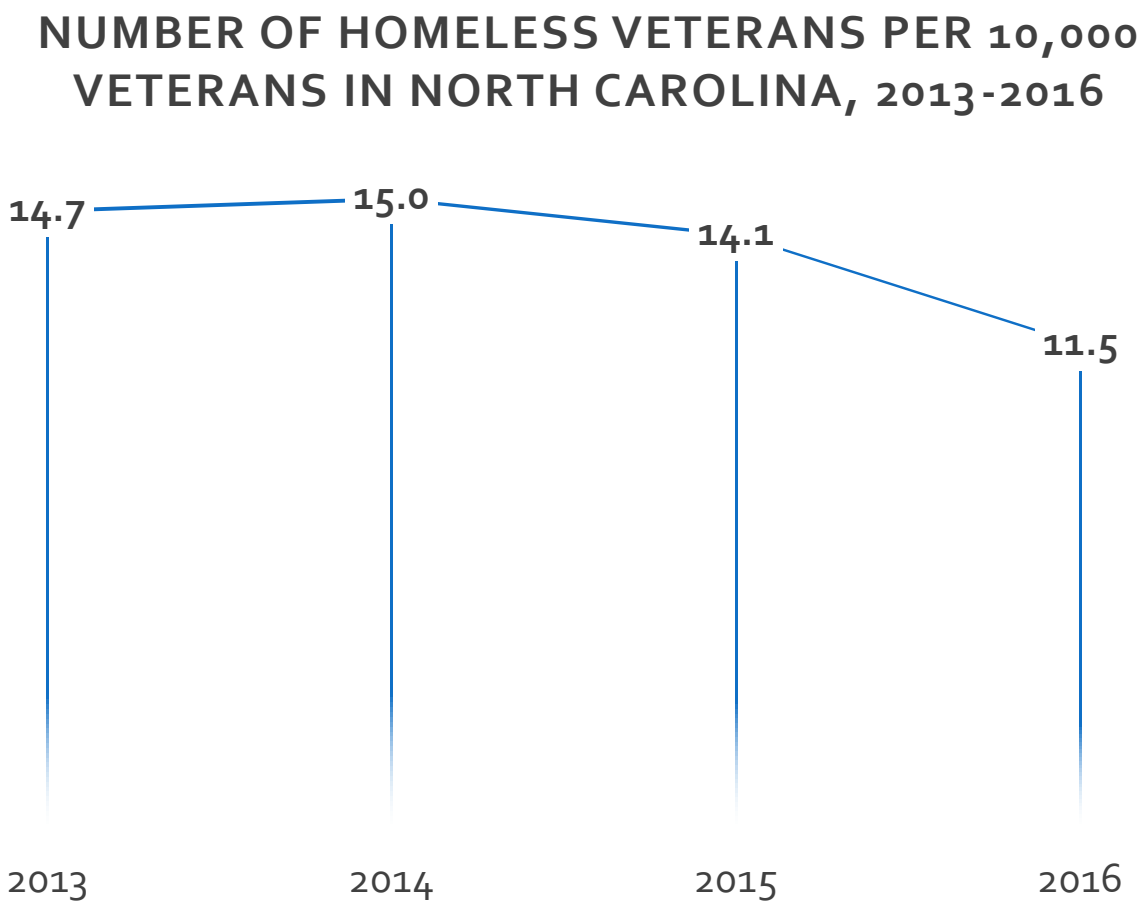
Chronically homeless veterans have been homeless for a long duration and have a disability

They are considered among the most vulnerable

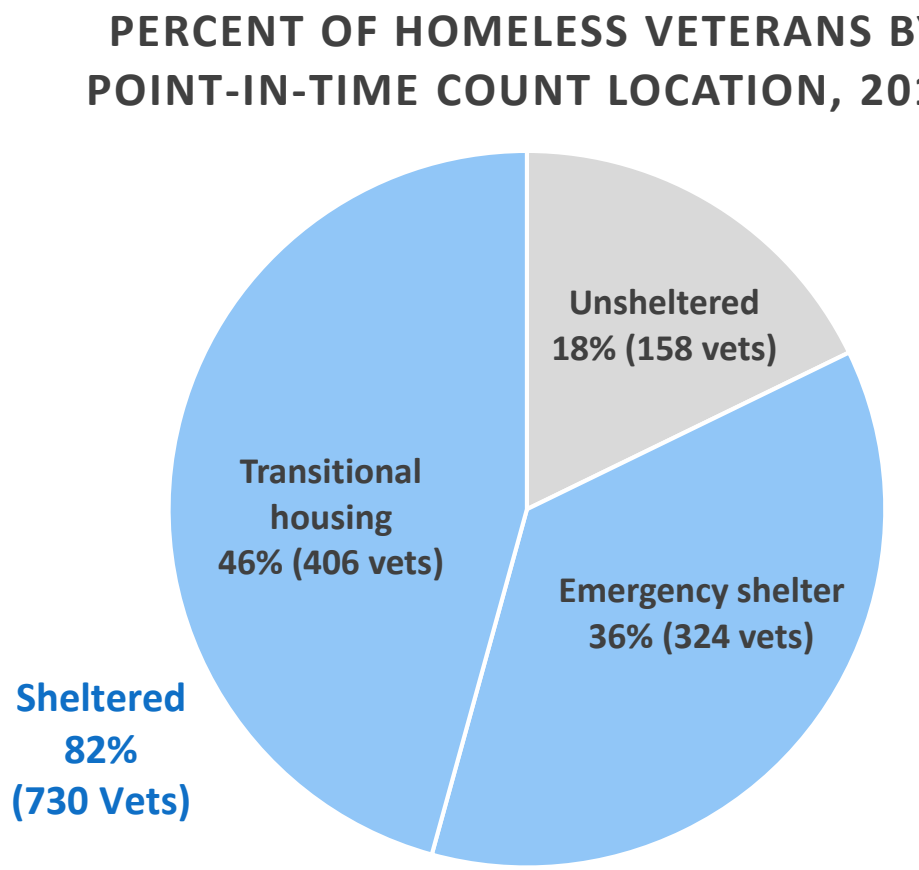
Size of the population **decreased by 45 percent** between the 2015 and 2016 PIT Counts.



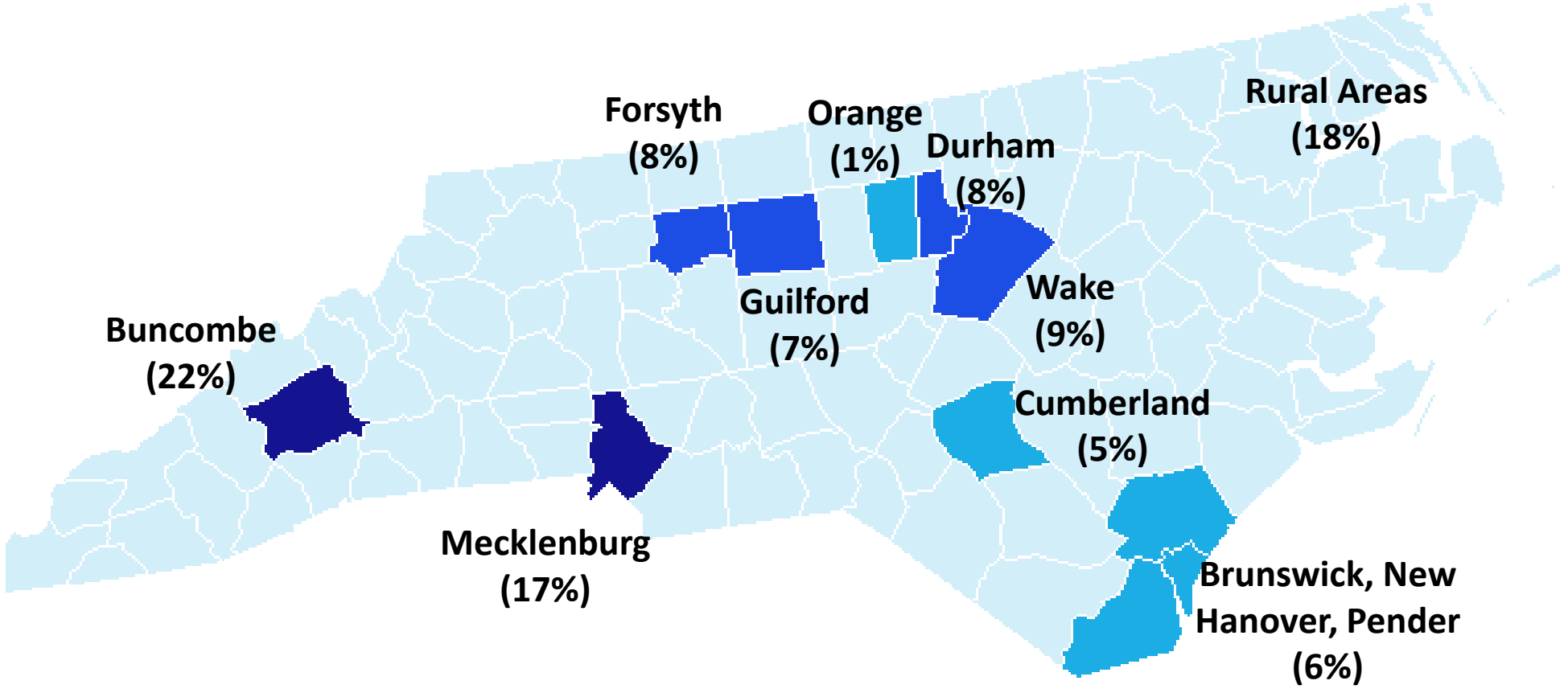
The rate of homelessness among veterans is also down



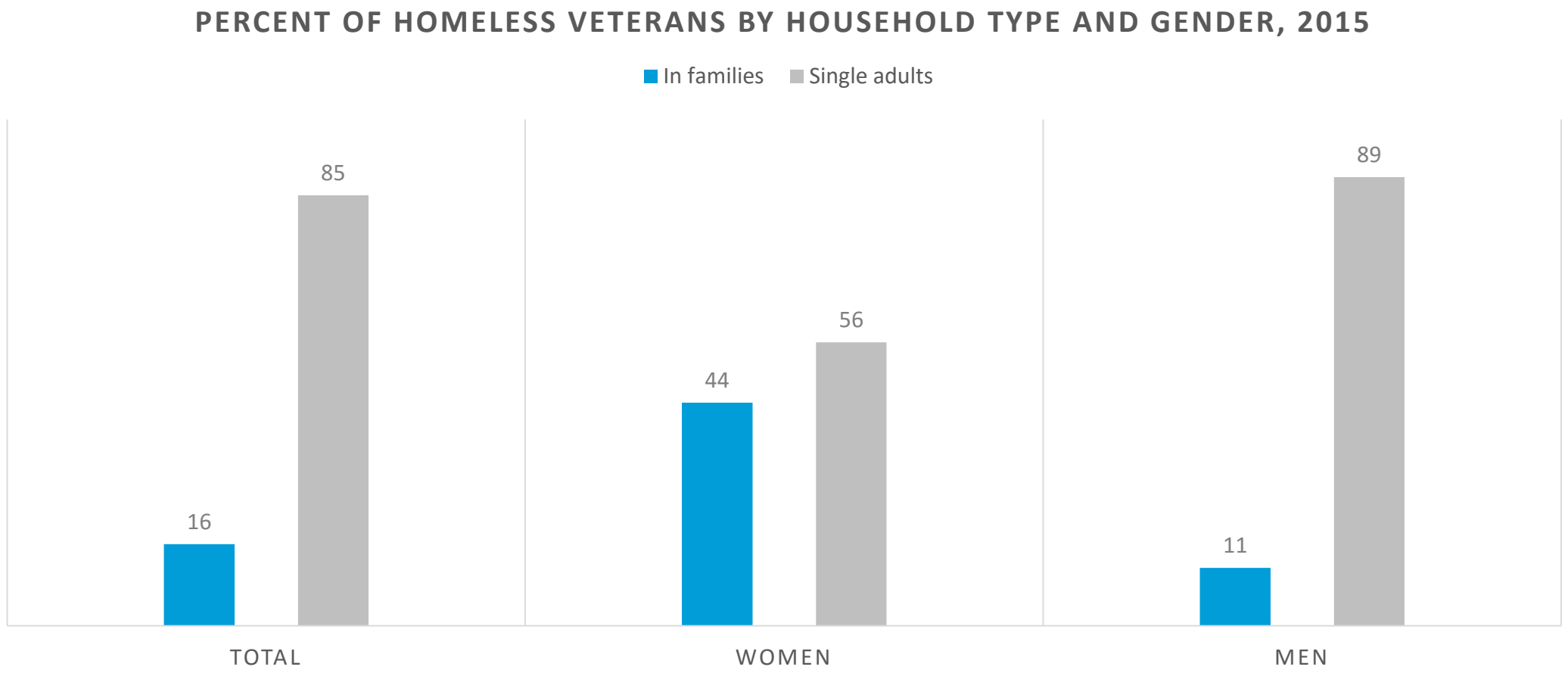
Most homeless veterans are sheltered, and many are in transitional housing



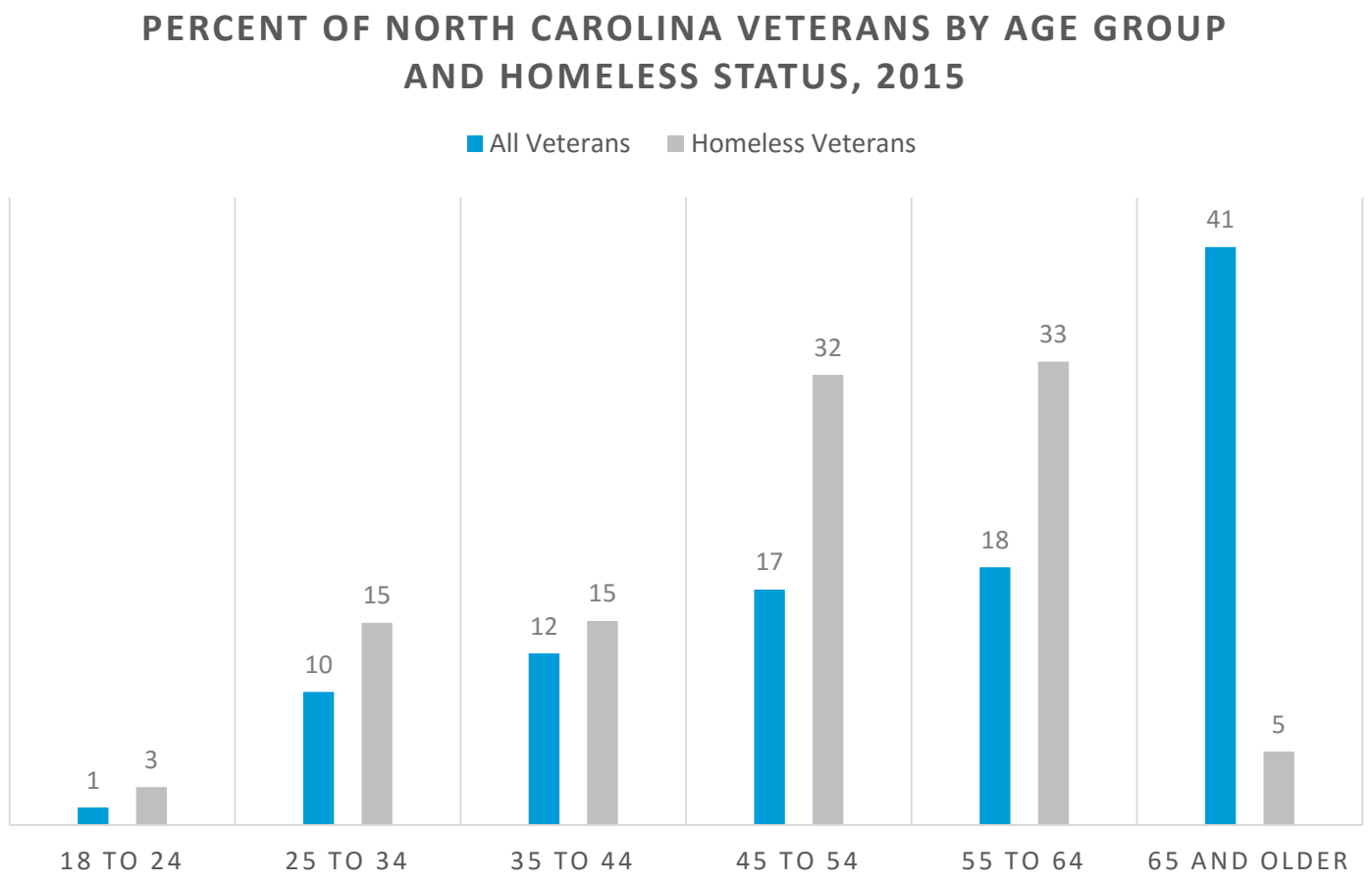
Most homeless veterans live in urban areas, but many live in rural counties



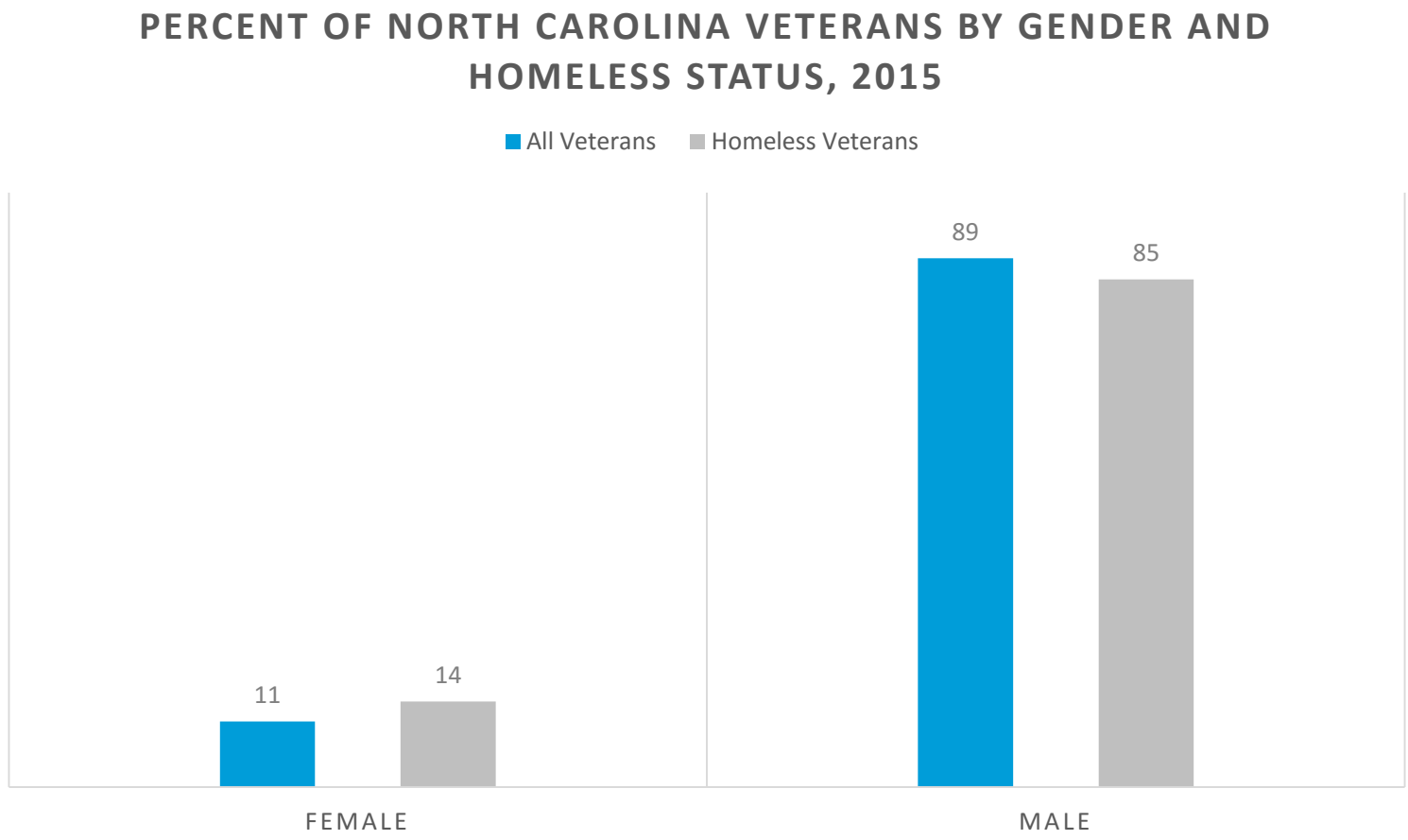
Most homeless veterans are single adults, but some, particularly women, are in families



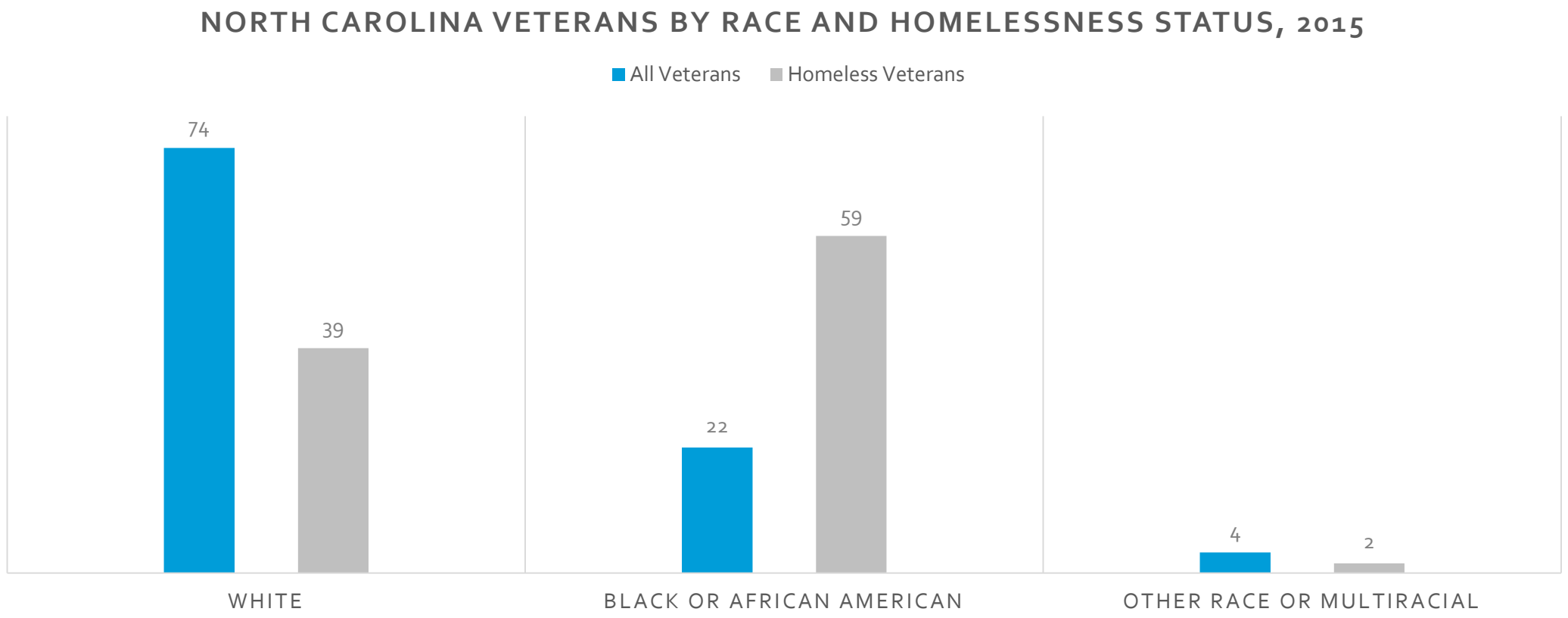
Homeless veterans are younger than veterans overall



Women are slightly overrepresented among homeless veterans



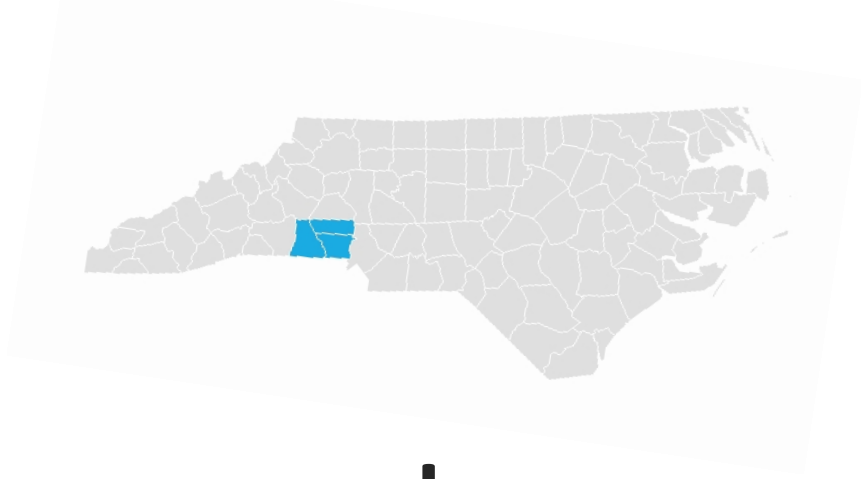
Homeless veterans are disproportionately African American



One Veteran’s Story

LARRY MOORE

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA



Gaston, Lincoln, and Cleveland Counties

IDENTIFYING HOMELESS VETERANS IN THE COMMUNITY THROUGH BY-NAME LISTS

BRANDEN LEWIS, COMMUNITY LINK

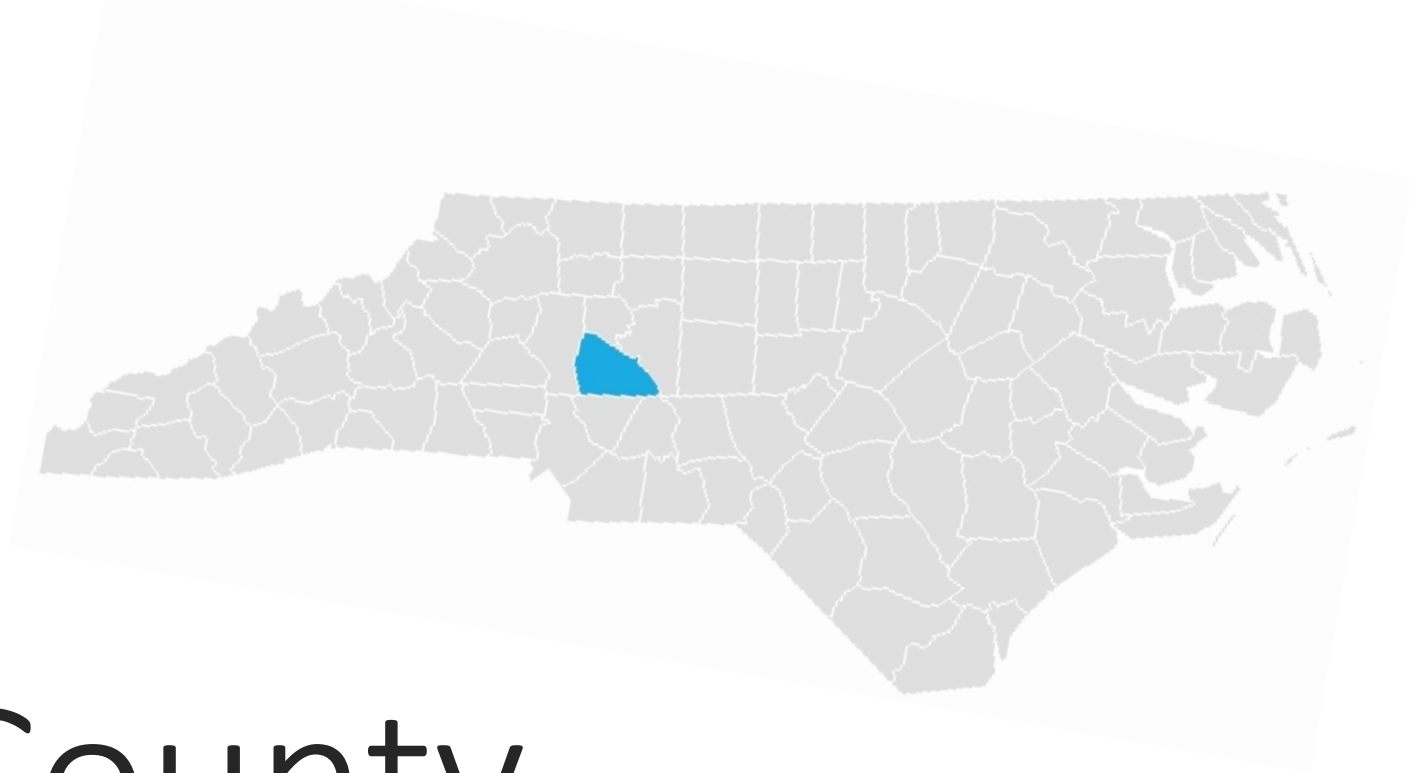
Achievements & Recommendations

Achievements:

- Development of a by-name list that allows providers to house Veterans within 30 days of identification
- Buy-in from local champions
- Looking forward to working more closely with CoC leadership

Recommendation:

- Increased support from local continuum of care



Rowan County

BUILDING COMMUNITY-WIDE COLLABORATION

NICOLE DEWITT, COMMUNITY LINK

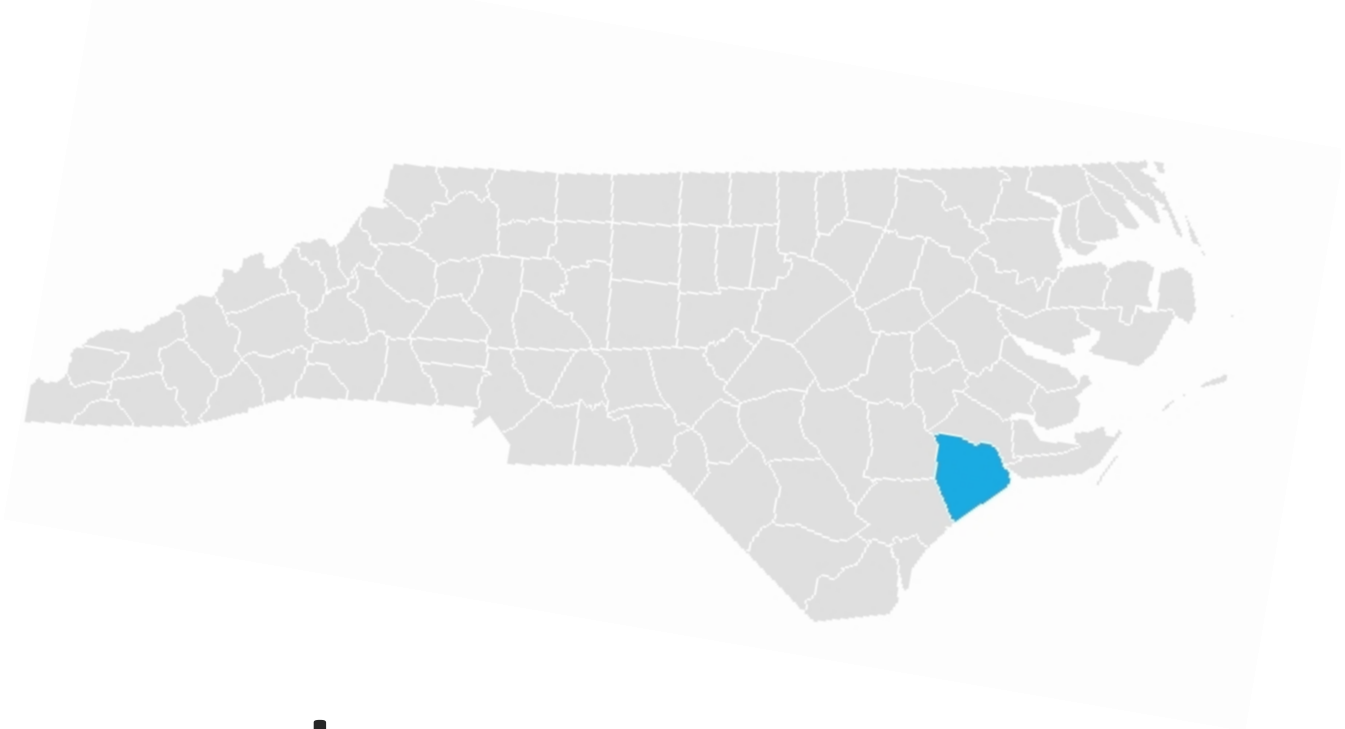
Achievements & Recommendations

Achievements:

- Established preference for homeless veterans for Salisbury Housing Authority
- Created a live housing listing shared across all providers
- Created widespread community collaboration
  - Team included homeless service providers, SSVF grantees, VA partners, workforce development staff, local public housing authorities, the local police force
  - Maintained momentum through culture of accountability
- Planning to expand the model to the rest of the Piedmont Region

Recommendation:

- Support for affordable housing (particularly 1-bedroom units) and landlord incentives



Onslow County

UNDERSTANDING THE LOCAL SERVICE SYSTEM

REGINALD ROY, NCWORKS CAREER CENTER-ONSLOW

Achievements & Recommendations

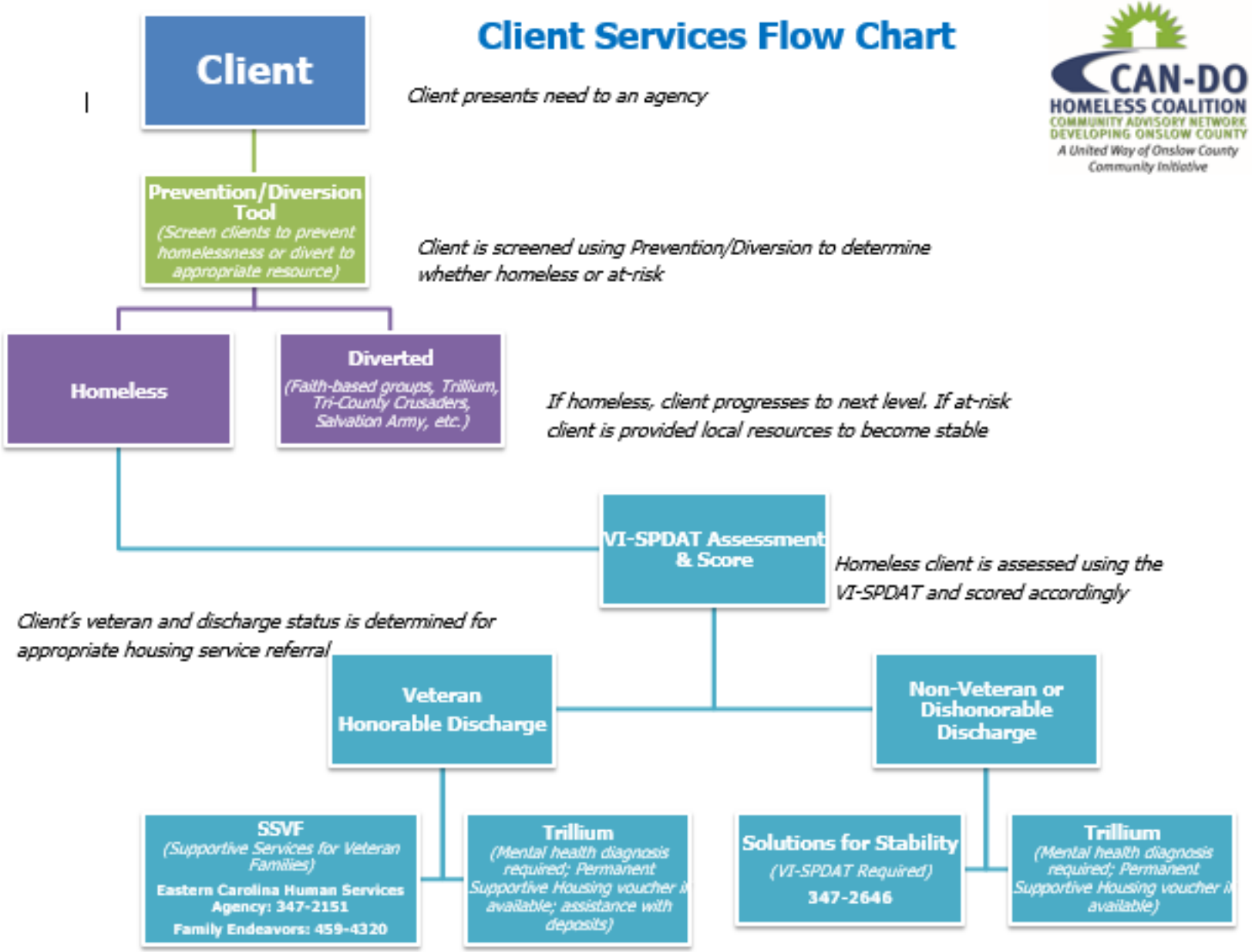
Achievements

- Surpassed housing placement goal: housed 14 veterans during 100-day challenge
- Developed a resource flow chart to build understanding of each provider's role and more efficiently direct veterans to appropriate services
- Establish coordinated entry and data-driven service provision using the VI-SDPAT

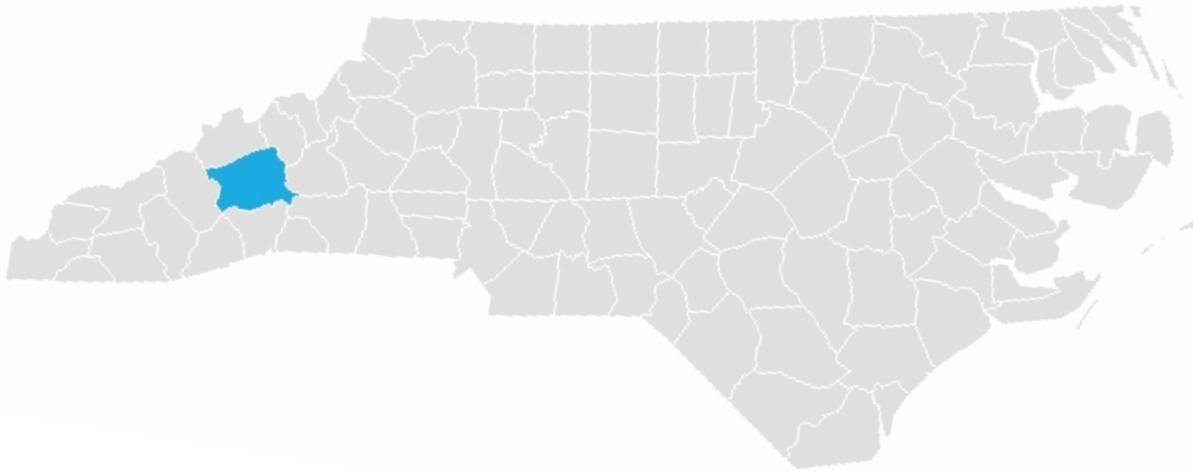
Recommendations:

- More housing vouchers and incentives for landlords to rent to homeless veterans
- Increased support for and oversight of mental health services through LME/MCOs

Client Services Flow Chart



CAN-DO HOMELESS COALITION
COMMUNITY ADVISORY NETWORK DEVELOPING ONSLOW COUNTY
A United Way of Onslow County Community Initiative



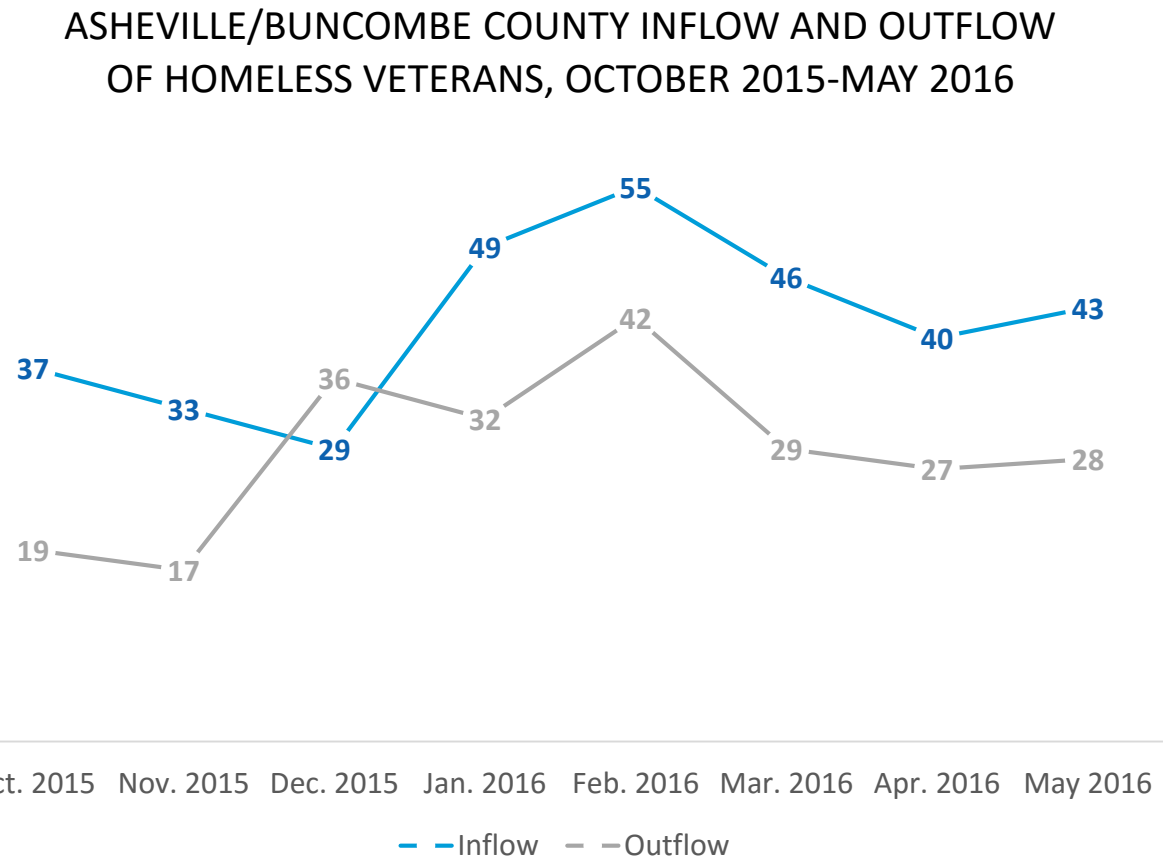
Asheville/ Buncombe County

SUPPORTING VETERANS' PREFERENCE

CHRISTIANA GLENN TUGMAN, CITY OF ASHEVILLE

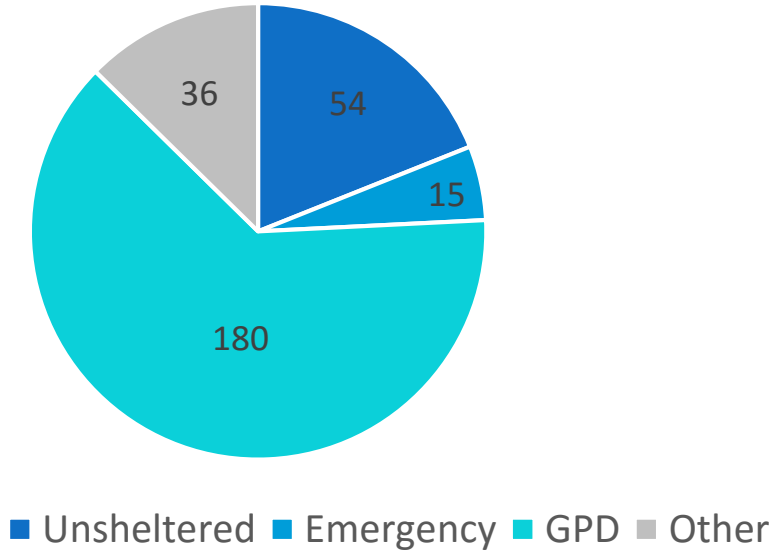
Achievements

- Adoption of the Veteran Housing Preference form
- Housing 122 homeless Veterans, despite overwhelming inflow and lowest rental availability (<1% vacancy) in NC and highest rents.

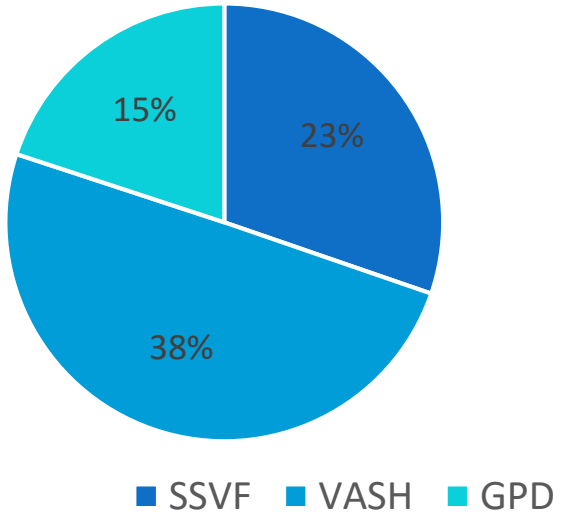


Asheville-Buncombe By-Name Snapshot

VETERANS REMAINING ON BY-NAME LIST: 285



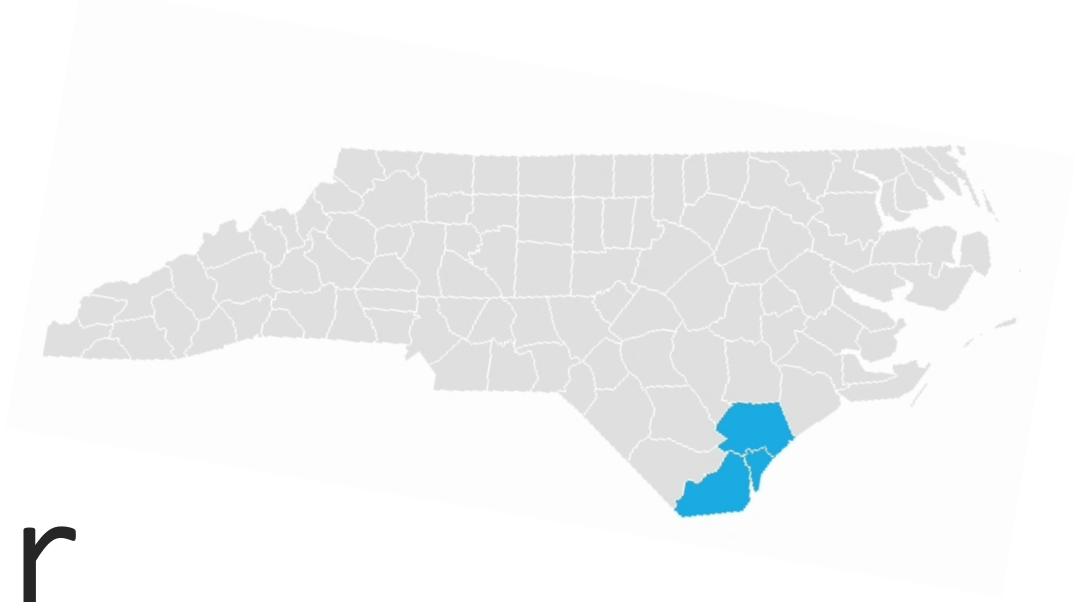
CHRONIC HOMELESS VETERANS AND PROGRAM ASSIGNMENTS



Recommendations

- Support Veterans' preference
- Assistance and leadership at state wide and Federal level to agencies across the US that cannot or do not offer support for Veteran's in their community of origin. Expansion of SSVF and increased VASH availability to serve Veteran's in their communities of choice.
- Clear, unified guidance from VA and HUD that assists local communities in addressing their specific barriers and informs system wide changes at the National level.

Brunswick, New Hanover, and Pender Counties



ACCESSING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

CECELIA PEERS, CAPE FEAR COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Achievements

- Building community awareness of the issue and understanding of available resources
- Creating a guide for landlords to understand the financial supports available
- Housing 22 veterans, despite significant affordable housing challenges (e.g., lack of HUD-VASH vouchers and expensive housing market) and recruiting 14 new landlords

Landlord Engagement Strategy

What We Hoped For:

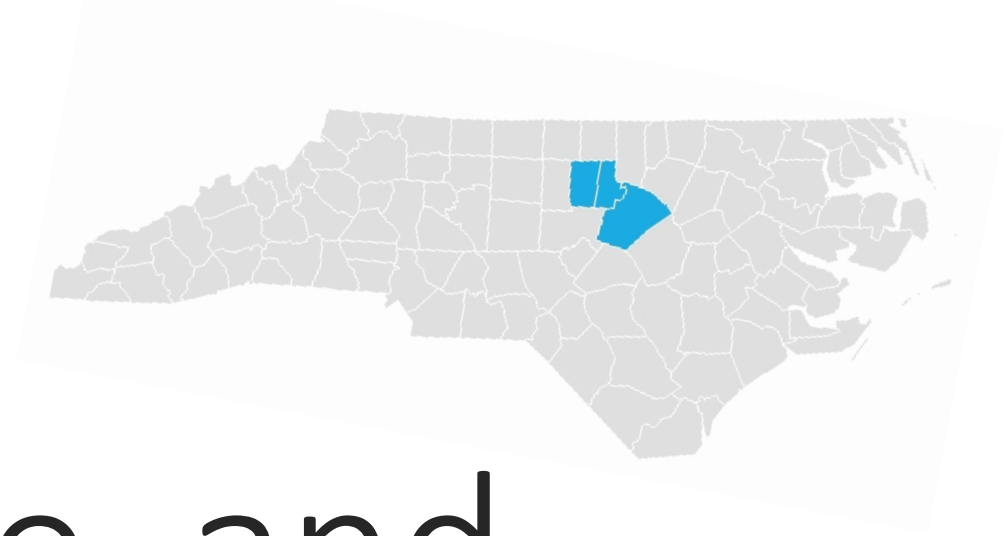
- Landlord Engagement Event would generate at least 5 of the 15 new landlords we had a goal of recruiting
- Word of funding availability would spread and generate interest in working with our SSVF, HUD-VASH and other RRH and PSH providers

What Actually Happened:

- 4 new landlords began working with the Pender Public Housing Authority subsequent to their prioritizing vouchers for Veterans and victims of domestic violence.
- 8 new landlords began working with our SSVF provider – this involved outreach to landlords who had affordable housing listing on local websites, media, and follow-up using the landlord guide that we created
- 2 new landlords began working with our HUD-VASH team as a result of referral through landlords with whom they had a good relationship

Recommendations

- Increase HUD-VASH resources and other long term housing subsidies
- Increase supply of affordable housing for veterans, and other supports for affordable housing (e.g., risk mitigation fund)
- Allow flexibility in the length of time assistance can be provided



Durham, Wake, and Orange Counties

ENDING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS

MATTHEW SCHNARS, CITY OF DURHAM

Achievements & Recommendations

Achievements

- Creating and maintaining a by-name list in each county
- Sharing best-practices regionally
- Ending chronic homelessness among veterans:
  - Durham has housed all chronic veterans and submitted to USICH for certification
  - Orange and Wake counties are refining to align with USICH benchmarks prior to submission

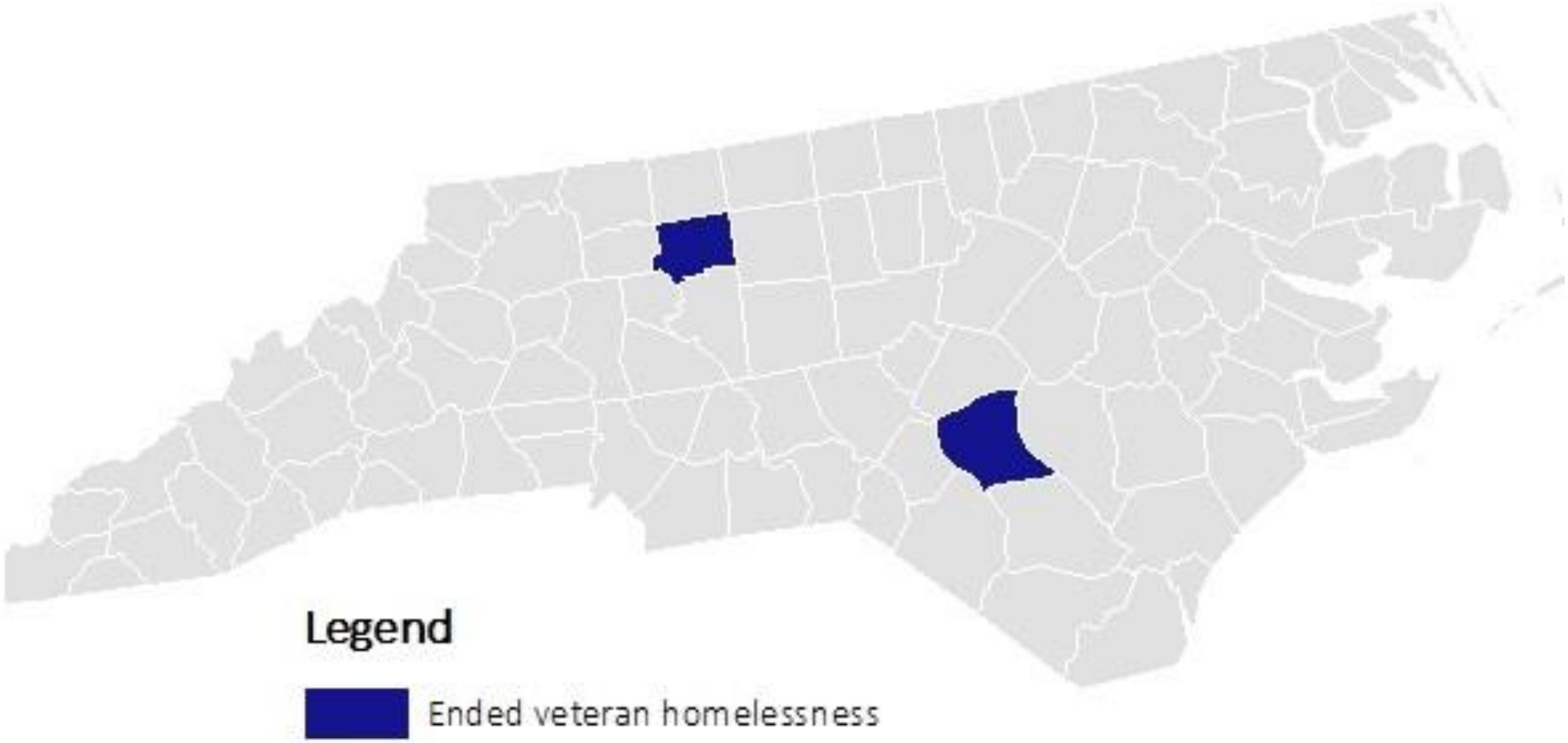
Recommendations:

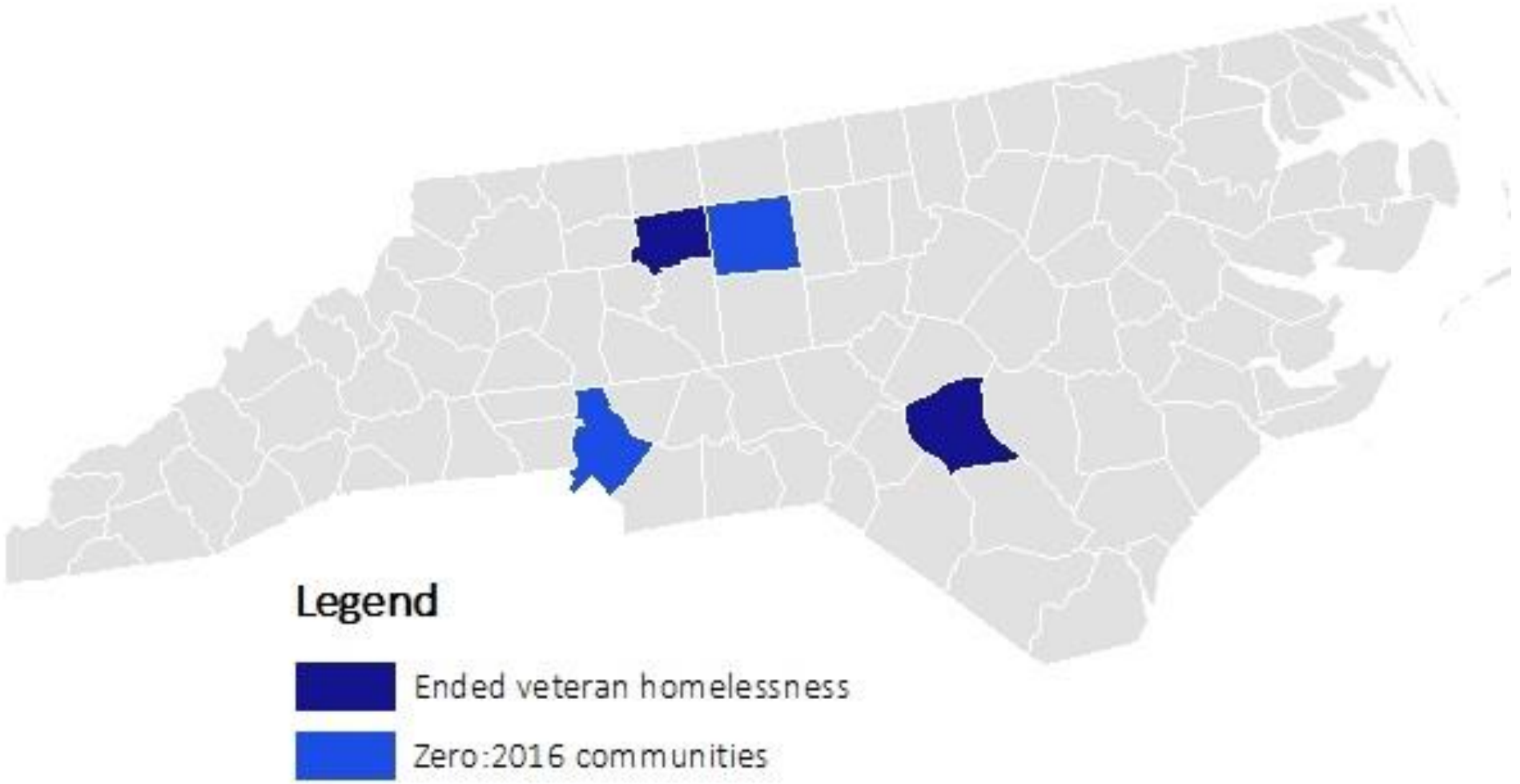
- Further clarity and support around cross-agency and regional data sharing from HUD and VA
- Affordable housing supports, including continued resources for SSVF, increased support for family bridge housing

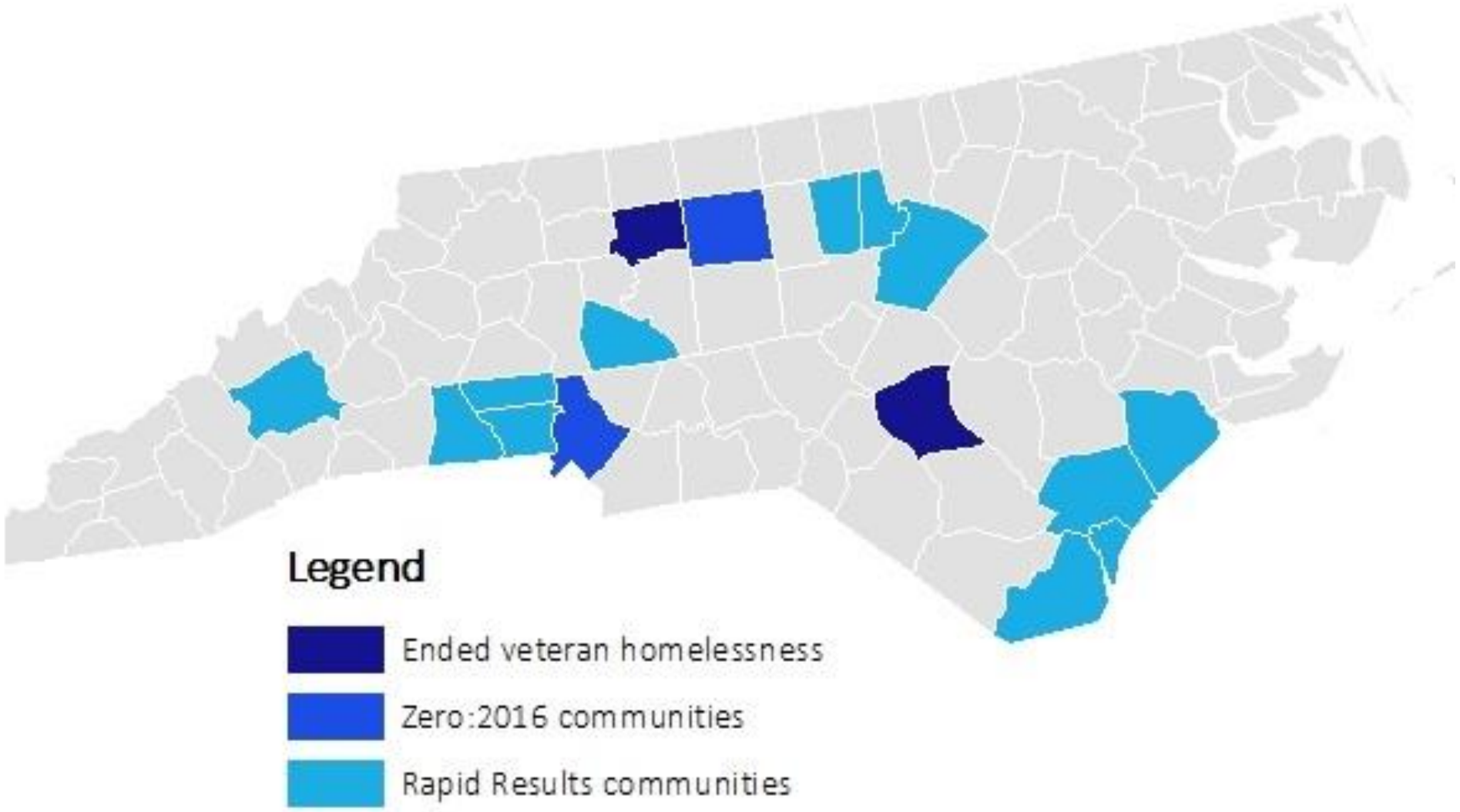
Ending Veteran Homelessness in NC

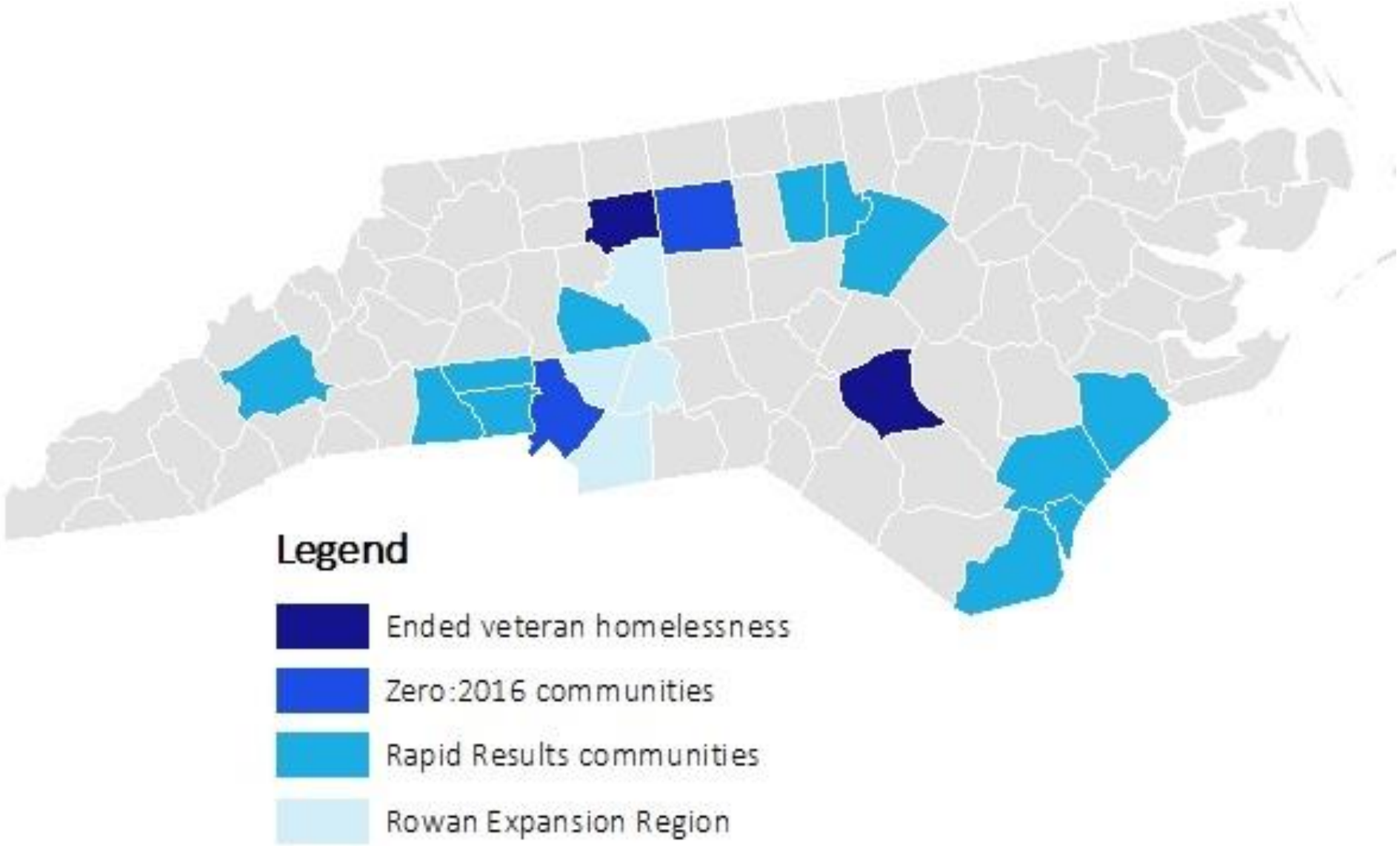
DENISE NEUNABER

NORTH CAROLINA COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS


Legend
Ended veteran homelessness


Legend
Ended veteran homelessness
Zero:2016 communities


Legend
Ended veteran homelessness
Zero:2016 communities
Rapid Results communities


Legend
Ended veteran homelessness
Zero:2016 communities
Rapid Results communities
Rowan Expansion Region

Recommendations for Policymakers

TERRY ALLEBAUGH

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND

NORTH CAROLINA COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

Rally Cry

GENERAL JAMES GORMAN

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY