

City of Raleigh's Bringing Neighbors Home

Pilot Program and Planning Initiative

Since 2020, unsheltered homelessness in Wake County has doubled. Faced with rising housing costs, many people are forced to live on the street or in camps in parks and other public and private properties. In response to this growing crisis, the City of Raleigh is launching an innovative pilot program to provide permanent housing to vulnerable community members living unsheltered.

Homelessness is a housing affordability issue:



In Raleigh, a full-time worker needs to earn **\$27/hour** (more than \$56K per year) to afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair market rent.



Between **40%-60%** of people experiencing homelessness are employed.



Every **\$100** increase in rent is associated with a **9%** increase in homelessness.

Homelessness Costs Taxpayers:

Managing homelessness costs more than providing housing. By investing in solutions rather than management tools, we can effectively end homelessness for individuals AND save taxpayers money.



Homelessness
(one person)

\$35-96k
per year



Financial
Assistance
(one household)

\$18-24k
per year

The Solution:

The groundbreaking pilot program will bring together three evidence-based strategies to address the root cause of homelessness—lack of affordable housing.



Direct Housing Assistance

Financial subsidy for individuals and families living unsheltered along with voluntary case management, help moving into permanent housing, and access to supportive services.



Homelessness Services Support

Enhanced support for the broader homelessness services system, including continued funding for homelessness prevention and diversion initiatives, and support for local nonprofits and community partners working to end homelessness.



Coordinated Community Response

Collaboration between the City, local agencies and stakeholders to develop a housing-focused communitywide unsheltered homelessness response strategy.

Research shows that permanent housing with voluntary supportive services, along with measures like rent assistance or cash transfers, effectively reduces homelessness and keeps people housed. Examples from cities like Houston, New Orleans, Chattanooga, and Dallas demonstrate successful housing initiatives and approaches that significantly decrease homelessness, while reducing costs.

Goals:

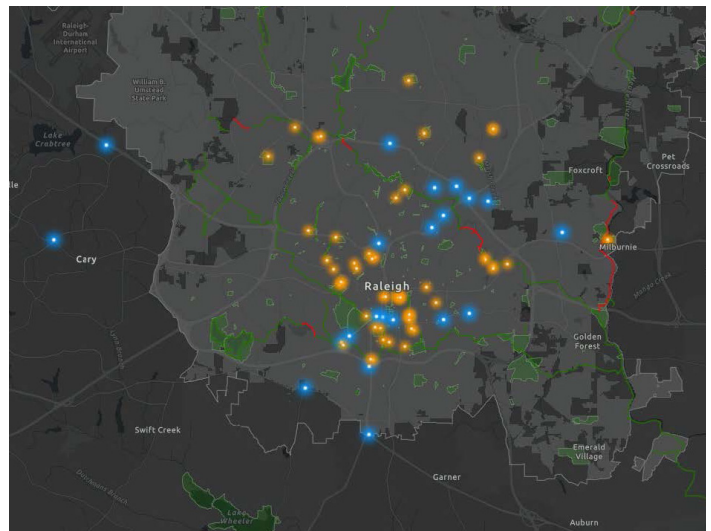
The Pilot will provide direct housing assistance along with any needed services to transition approximately **45 households** into permanent housing, fully decommissioning at least one camp, and provide proof of concept for future programs addressing unsheltered homelessness.

Support:

Reach out to homelessness@raleighnc.gov for more information and ways to support.

References:

National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Low Income Housing Coalition, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, United States Government Accountability Office, Houston, TX Encampment Response



This map shows the number of camps across the City. On any given night, hundreds of people are sleeping outdoors.