

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Orange County has made great strides in filling gaps in the homeless service system over the past few years. Service providers have significantly expanded programs and services to address the needs of people at-risk of and experiencing homelessness, and community members and funders have stepped up to fund new programs and expansions to existing programs.

At the same time the demand for homelessness prevention, homeless services, and affordable housing solutions has increased significantly since 2020 in response to the Covid-19 global pandemic. There are currently twelve gaps to be filled to meet the current need and end homelessness in Orange County.

GAPS FILLED

Since the first Homeless System Gaps Analysis in 2017, three gaps have been filled and several others have had significant progress.

Gap	Progress since June 2019	Status	Notes	Needed to Fill
Housing Access Coordinator	Position moved from CEF to Orange County	FILLED	Funded via OC Partnership to End Homelessness budget	Continued program
Homelessness Diversion Funding	\$13,000 in diversion funding provided by Carolina Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI)	FILLED	Ongoing CHPI leadership development and funding continuing	Continued program
Street Outreach	Program started October 2020, 3 FTE (1 clinical coordinator + 2 peer support navigators) - ocpehnc.com/street-outreach	FILLED THROUGH JUNE 2022	Funded initially via Emergency Solutions Grant COVID funding (Oct 2020 – September 2021); Orange County providing continuation funding with American Rescue Plan (ARP) Need ongoing annual program funding July 2022 and beyond; Discussions to continue Summer 2021 to potentially establish inter-jurisdictional funding	\$237,015 additional annual funding for July 2022 and beyond

CURRENT GAPS

Orange County has made significant progress on filling some system gaps, there is also more work to be done. Here is the current status with some gaps added from previous editions of the Gaps Analysis.

Gap	Progress since June 2019	Status	Notes	Needed to Fill
Expanded Rapid Re-Housing	Best practice program started April 2020, now 2 FTE case managers	PARTIALLY FILLED	Best practice program funded via combination of Emergency Solutions Grant COVID (ESG-CV) funds, HOME funds for Tenant Based Rental Assistance, and County Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding; ESG-CV funding for case manager and financial assistance to end December 2021; Program now takes referrals via coordinated entry for long-term shelter stayers and other people on HOME Committee list; Need funding for 5 FTE case managers and financial assistance	\$1,413,633 additional annual funding
Coordinated Entry Staffing	Program moved to Orange County March 2020; expanded to full time hours (Monday-Friday, business hours) plus one day a week in-person as of June 2021 – ocpehnc.com/housing-help	PARTIALLY FILLED	Have ongoing funding for 2 FTE from Continuum of Care award; one-time 12 month funding for .5 FTE from ESG-CV; Have requested .5 FTE funding from ARP to make this 1 FTE; have funding for 4 temporary staff through June 2022	\$161,010 additional annual funding to add 2 FTE July 2022 and beyond
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	Community Link and IFC PSH Programs are full and not taking referrals	PARTIALLY FILLED	Need additional funding for program expansion, helpful to identify non-HUD source for services funding to serve as match for CoC-funded PSH	Budget TBD
Youth Host Homes Program	Program that served Durham revamped to adopt Rapid Re-housing model	UNFILLED	Need program expansion funding to cover youth in Orange County	Budget TBD

CURRENT GAPS, CONT.

Gap	Progress since June 2019	Status	Notes	Needed to Fill
Accessible, Housing-Focused Shelter	Noncongregate shelter program funded by FEMA May 2020 – June 2021	PARTIALLY FILLED	Changes to the Chapel Hill Good Neighbor Plan needed to allow IFC to implement best practice, low barrier approach and Emergency Shelter designation at IFC Community House IFC needs increased staffing to provide low barrier shelter	OCPEH to convene community conversation around current restrictions and need for shelter for everyone Ongoing government investment in IFC
Memorial Service Funding	CEF held vigil in December 2020 for people that passed the previous year; community member expressed interest in setting up GoFundMe to establish funding	TO FILL	Having funding available will decrease need for case managers to cobble together funding during stressful period; Also would provide needed closure for all community members	\$5000 annually
24 Hour Bathroom Access in Downtown	Need exacerbated with COVID, now returned to pre-COVID levels; Working group coordinated by the Town of Chapel Hill came up with pilot program	PARTIALLY FILLED - IFC Commons bathroom open	24-hour access and downtown location are key elements	Budget TBD

CURRENT GAPS, CONT.

Gap	Progress since June 2019	Status	Notes	Needed to Fill
Medical Respite Beds	<p>Beds with low level medical care available for people discharging from hospital without a place to live, 2-6 week stays previewed</p> <p>Proposal for apartment-based model; House in Carrboro ultimately not available</p>	UNFILLED	<p>Working now on nursing-home based model project proposal, this will free up beds at hospital; Tim Daaleman from UNC Healthcare working on proposal with UNCH partners – the plan is to start with 5 beds; Ensure model will meet community need, particularly being able to serve people with criminal justice involvement</p>	Budget TBD
Sustained funding for Landlord Incentive Program (LIP)	<p>Implemented LIP in April 2020 (current flyer) to increase units available for people exiting homelessness and people with Housing Choice Vouchers</p>	PARTIALLY FILLED	<p>Funding requested via County American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding, to be decided Fall 2021</p>	\$200,000 annually for 200 units

CURRENT GAPS, CONT.

Gap	Progress since June 2019	Status	Notes	Needed to Fill
Sober center	UNC Healthcare formed care coordination group in 2020; RISE Initiative (subcommittee of the Orange County Behavioral Health Task Force) discussing this need along with integrated service center, ongoing SOHRAD funding, and familiar faces work	UNFILLED	UNC Healthcare seeing about 15 encounters/5 people per week presenting at Emergency Department (ED) without medical conditions beyond alcohol use; Sober Center would provide detox/sobering space outside of ED; Case management with connections to SOHRAD HOME Committee needed	Budget TBD
Bridge Housing	Short-term hotel stays with case management	UNFILLED	Helpful for people exiting jail/prison and others not interested in congregate shelter; Orange County Local Reentry Council (LRC) seeing 65 people exiting jail or prison per year needed an average of 60 nights stay	\$214,500 for LRC needs; other community needs could increase costs
Housing Locator	1 FTE to provide client-level assistance with housing search for HCV holders and people exiting homelessness	UNFILLED	Housing Locator would complement and enhance the Housing Access Coordinator (HAC) work, allowing the HAC to concentrate on system-level unit recruitment; Orange County provided percentage of position funding via ARP, OCPEH convening conversation with Towns to determine next steps	\$67,000 annual funding

BACKGROUND

In 2016-2017 the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness (OCPEH) gathered a series of meetings with people with lived experience of homelessness, homeless service providers, community leaders, and state homeless experts to map the homeless service system in Orange County. This process created the Orange County [homeless system map](#) and the [homeless system gaps analysis](#). OCPEH staff work with community members to update the gaps analysis annually, the latest updated is previewed to be approved by the OCPEH Leadership Team in August 2021.