

Rare & Brief

The Strategic Framework to Make Homelessness Rare and Brief · August 2026

THE OPENING WORD

“I had to pinch myself a couple of times.”

For Tony, 27, home had been a car — him, his dogs, and no air conditioning through a Durham summer. Then the May–June Housing Sprint team from Housing for New Hope and the Community Safety Department stayed in his corner, and 38 days after the paperwork began, he opened the door of an apartment he chose. “I had to pinch myself a couple of times,” he told us — read his story, in his own words, at the link above.

That is the pace we are working to hold for many more neighbors: we are now in our August–September sprint alongside Family Promise of the Triangle, Families Moving Forward, and Urban Ministries of Durham. This sprint is our most ambitious yet — we aim to house 63 people across 30 households in five weeks. Some fresh news: the Sprint's first move-in happens today!

THE BIG NUMBERS · THIS SPRINT

63

People we aim to house
this sprint

16

Adult households

14

Families with children

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Celebrations

- ◆ **Families Moving Forward.** This past quarter, FMF recorded their lowest length of stay and highest rate of moves to permanent housing in any quarter of the last five years. This is an incredible achievement — especially to see both in the same quarter. Congratulations to FMF!
- ◆ **Urban Ministries of Durham, Family Promise of the Triangle, and Families Moving Forward.** Housing stabilization case managers have been pushing hard,

working shoulder to shoulder to move neighbors toward a lease. Remarkable work from all of the case management partners!

- ◆ **Open Table Ministry.** A shout-out for their leadership in helping to craft this White Flag season — and for already coordinating with other agencies to move that process along.
- ◆ **HOM, Inc.** Staff from HOM met with numerous providers over the past month to introduce themselves and their role. They've also dived right into the Sprint as our fiscal administrator and will be disbursing checks!

WHAT WE LEARNED THIS MONTH

The clearest lesson of the sprint: the process can move as fast as providers are resourced to move it. A neighbor we had lost touch with for several weeks reconnected — and within three days we had renewed contact, shown units, and submitted applications. Speed is not a personality trait; it is what happens when the resources and processes are in place.

We are also learning to communicate in more varied ways. At the Executive Table's request, we built a visual showing how the Flexible Housing Assistance Fund will work in the system — we think it will be useful well beyond the Table, and you can find it here: [How the Flexible Housing Assistance Fund works](#). One naming note: the rental assistance behind our sprints — structured as rapid re-housing since the first sprint in February — now has a formal name: **Homeward Durham**. It's one of the programs the Flexible Housing Assistance Fund will support.

We also met with frontline staff, a partner's board of directors, coalitions focused on health and safety, and many other partners — each a space for connection, questions, creative thinking, and a deeper shared understanding of the Strategic Framework. We hope to do much more of this in the months ahead.

Finally, we are learning what regional collaboration can look like: we are working closely with our colleagues in Wake County and Raleigh, sharing insights and plans so that the work there can be enriched by regional approaches and knowledge.

FROM THE TABLES

Governance in motion

- ◆ **Executive Table.** The Table met twice this month, reviewing everything from Homeward Durham to the Flexible Housing Assistance Fund to how we partner with one another more effectively.
- ◆ **Champions Table.** Formation is underway, and the Table is on track to be stood up in Q2.
- ◆ **Lived Experience Table.** Formation is likewise underway, with the Table on track to be stood up in Q2.
- ◆ **CoC Governing Board.** The CoC interlocal agreement has now been approved by both the City and the County — keeping us on track to stand up the new Governing Board in the next one to two months.

LOOKING AHEAD · SEPTEMBER

Early September: the sprint window closes, and we report back on the results against the 63-person aim.

Early September: communications on the reformation of the CoC Governing Board, now that the interlocal agreement has been approved by both the City and the County.

Mid-September: we start standing up the process for Homeward Durham to be used in steady-state case conferencing, accessible outside of sprints.

Late September: we start standing up the process for the Flexible Housing Assistance Fund to bust barriers for other housing programs — rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, vouchers, and more.



By June 2031, Durham will make homelessness rare and brief.

HOPE Team · Durham Community Safety Department

City of Durham · Durham County

Questions or items for next month's update: hope@durhamnc.gov

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK · 2026–2031 · RARE & BRIEF