



Leigh Hackney, Programs Administrator

Homeward Bound WNC

a nonprofit organization ending homelessness in Asheville and Buncombe County, North Carolina

- We practice the Housing First model to end homelessness
- We believe everyone has a human right to live inside.
- We move people out of homelessness and into homes as quickly as possible. Then we wrap around the services they need to stay there.
- We serve individuals and families regardless of illness, disability, addictions, behaviors, gender, religion, or any other characteristic.
- A focus on helping individuals and families access and sustain permanent rental housing as quickly as possible
- A variety of services delivered to promote housing stability and individual well-being on an as-needed and entirely voluntary basis



Homeward Bound WNC runs two programs to offer housing to individuals and families currently living in shelters, their cars, or on the streets.

- Permanent Supportive Housing
 - Rapid Re-Housing

Homeward Bound also runs a homelessness prevention program designed to help individuals and families stay in their rental units when they have no other housing options.

Permanent Supportive Housing

- Permanent Supportive Housing provides long-term rental assistance and case management services to the most vulnerable individuals experiencing chronic homelessness and referred through the Coordinated Entry System.
- The criteria for chronic homelessness are,
 - Have been on the streets or in shelter for at least 12 months
 - **OR** Have experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness in the past three years, which add to 12 months
 - **AND** have a disability

Get connected,

- The first step to referral is visiting our AHOPE day shelter, located at 19 N Ann St.
- AHOPE is an crucial need in our community to meet emergency assistance needs of those experiencing homelessness, providing bathrooms, showers, mail, and storage, but also it is a powerful outreach and engagement tool in our community. AHOPE serves as a hub of information and connection to other community resources.
- We also have outreach services through the City and Library to connect with those not visiting AHOPE and a Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) outreach team serving those experiencing homelessness with sever and persistent mental illness

Rapid Re-Housing

- Rapid Re-Housing provides short- to medium-term rental assistance and case management services to individuals experiencing chronic homelessness referred through the Coordinated Entry System.
- At this time our only Rapid Rehousing program is with our Supportive Services for Veteran Families program.
- All referrals come through the weekly Veteran's Coordinated Assessment Meeting, happening virtually during Covid-19.
- The program's temporary financial assistance pays rent and utility arrears, short-term rental and/or utility assistance.

Get connected,

- A veteran in Buncombe County can connect with services through AHOPE, the local Veterans Administration or Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministries
- The SSVF program has an outreach specialist, who identifies veterans experiencing homelessness in the community and connects them with services, including housing referrals. Please see our brochure

Homelessness Prevention

- Homeward Bound has prevention services through the veterans program and also with the Emergency Solutions Grant, to serve the very low income in our community
- In some situations, our prevention program can offer the following:
 - Rental Assistance
 - Utility Assistance
 - Assistance with past due rental bills
- In addition to financial assistance participants receive case management to assist them in gaining housing stability with customized goal planning and support

Get connected,

- Clients are connected through community referral. Please see our brochure
- Before you make a referral, please review the requirements

Covid-19 response

- Homeward Bound is currently continuing all housing programs. Our staff have been working remotely and taking care to observe all safety precautions, but we remain in full support to our community.
- AHOPE is open Monday-Friday 8am-12pm, Bathrooms, showers, mail, and storage remain available during the hours they are open. There is also a handwashing station located on the property for after hours use.
- Staff are working remotely and all offices are closed. However, staff continue to serve clients observing all CDC and agency safety precautions.
- The SSVF program is housing all unsheltered veterans at the Super 8 motel and providing case management, food boxes and other supportive services. If you know of a veteran in need of shelter, please connect them with our SSVF outreach specialist.

Covid-19 response

In addition,

- Homeward Bound is currently under contract with the city to house 60 unsheltered men and women in hotel rooms at Red Roof Inn in west Asheville as part of the continuing community response to COVID-19.
- Through this partnership, we provide daily oversight - case management, meals and other supportive services
- The CoA funds the project utilizing grant funding from FEMA designated for non-congregate shelter.
- We previously had housed unsheltered individuals at the Harrah's Cherokee Center, but as of Monday, May 11th, we moved all of our existing shelter clients to the hotel location
- Rooms are filled with our communities most vulnerable individuals, who remain unsheltered
- We prioritize those who are over 65 and/or suffering from at least one chronic health condition as identified by the CDC.
- Dale Fell is the on-site healthcare partner and conducts intakes at the motel on Wednesday and Thursday of this week.
- 12 Baskets is the food provider with the help of Food Connection, YMCA and a couple others.