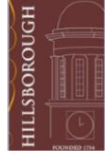




Orange County, North Carolina HOME Consortium



2020 – 2025 Consolidated Plan Summary

Background

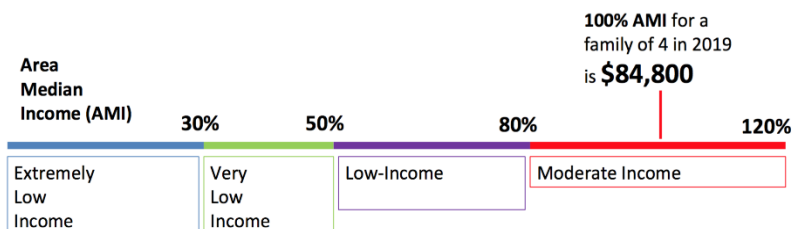
The Orange County HOME Consortium (or, the Local Government Affordable Housing Collaborative) receives federal funds for affordable housing through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). The Consortium has four members: Orange County (the lead entity) and the Towns of Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and Hillsborough. Chapel Hill also receives federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Like HOME, CDBG funds can be used for affordable housing, and also broader community development activities.

The Consolidated Plan lays out how the Consortium and Chapel Hill will use HOME and CDBG funds over the next five years. The Plan is required to include three main components: Needs Assessment, Market Analysis, and Strategic Plan.

Summaries of each component are on the back of this page. See the infographics below from the North Carolina Housing Coalition for more context on the term “affordable housing.”

What is Affordable Housing?

Rent/Mortgage + Utilities < 30% of income



1,082 families in Orange County faced an eviction filing this year...

11.6% of all cost-burdened renters.



To afford a modest two-bedroom apartment at:
\$990/month

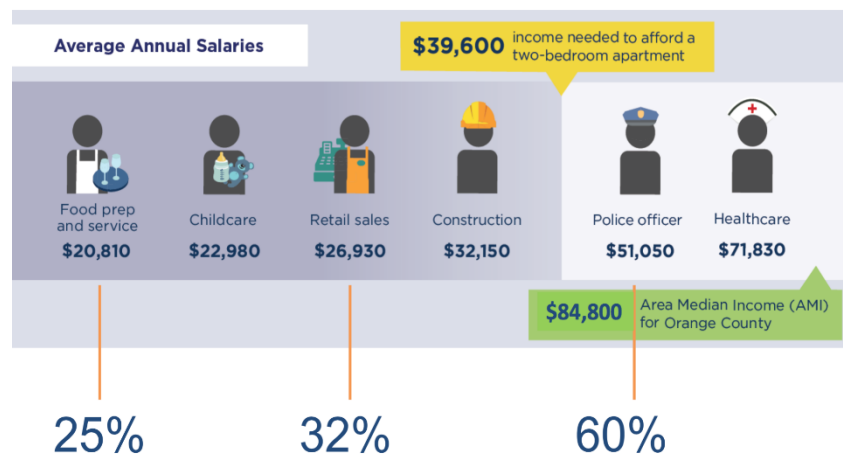


A family needs to earn:
\$39,600/year



But the average renter can only afford a rent of:
\$711/month

Average Orange County Salaries



Needs Assessment

Cost burden is the most common housing problem

- 21% of homeowners and 43% of renters pay more than 30% of their income for housing
- 40% of households with cost burden are elderly
- 69% of households earning below 30% AMI are cost burdened
- Within certain income groups, Hispanic and Asian households are disproportionately cost burdened, and black households are more likely to be cost-burdened than any other racial/ethnic group

Homelessness in Orange County remains stubbornly high

- Black households are disproportionately likely to experience homelessness (they make up 11.6% of the population as a whole and 54% of people experiencing homelessness)
- The following homeless system gaps exist: (1) a best practice, fully funded rapid re-housing program; (2) income-based rental housing; (3) drop-in day center with integrated services; (4) street outreach program; (5) 24-hour bathrooms; (6) coordinated entry staff; (7) medical respite beds; (8) memorial service funding; and (9) youth host homes

Orange County has many people with unique housing needs, such as the elderly and people with disabilities

- Quality of life for these groups is harmed by a lack of quality, affordable housing near transit options
- There is a need for ADA accessibility in public facilities and infrastructure

Market Analysis

The housing market in Orange County is high-cost

- A substantial proportion of housing stock was built since 2000
- Housing costs have increased 15% since the previous Consolidated Plan
- Only 5% of units are affordable to households at 30% AMI

There are some, but not enough, subsidized units

- Public Housing: 336 units in Chapel Hill and Carrboro, targeted to households earning below 50% AMI
- Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8): 623 vouchers issued by the Orange County Housing Authority, targeting households earning below 50% AMI
- Low-Income Housing Tax Credits: 11 properties in the county with 680 units; two properties (200 total units) are reserved for elderly/disabled households
- HOME: 23 developments in Orange County constructed with HOME funding
- Community Home Trust: 318 permanently affordable homes, targeted to households below 80% AMI
- Inter-Faith Council for Social Services: 52-bed facility for men experiencing homelessness

Orange County's economic base lies in healthcare, education, and professional services, in addition to retail and service sectors that accommodate them

- As such, the county's workforce has high educational attainment and low unemployment
- The greatest shortages of jobs are in lower-paying sectors that rely on less-trained workers
- These workers are likely unable to afford the high cost of housing in Orange County

Strategic Plan

Based on the Needs Assessment, Market Analysis, and community and stakeholder input, the Strategic Plan establishes the following priorities:

- Housing for People Experiencing Homelessness
- Housing for Low- and Moderate-Income Households
- Integrated Housing for People with Service Needs
- Community Development and Services **(CDBG only)**

Activities to address these priority needs will be: rental construction, rental assistance, housing rehabilitation/preservation, home ownership construction, and home buyer assistance. With CDBG funds, additional activities may be pursued: supportive and youth services, code enforcement and neighborhood revitalization, and infrastructure.