



2026

# People's Budget COALITION



City of Charlotte Municipal Budget

Prepared by  
People's Budget Coalition



## **Who We Are**

The People's Budget is a coalition of local advocacy groups, service providers, faith leaders, community organizations, and concerned citizens working toward a people-first, community-up vision for Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. We believe in care, dignity, and justice, and seek a budget that provides for everyone while centering those too often left behind or out. We believe that advocating as a collective voice will help set the agenda for local government to better meet the needs of the community and deliver better outcomes for everyone.

## **Our Concerns**

Our core demands are grounded in the following principles:

### **1. A community for everyone**

We believe that everyone should be able to live with stability and dignity in our community. All Charlotteans should have access to housing, livelihood, and resources to thrive. We reject the notion that only the wealthy and developers can thrive here.

### **2. Resources, not criminalization**

Neither punishment nor neglect is an appropriate response to people's needs. We reject using the criminal legal system as a solution to social and systemic ills. We believe that our collective local social safety net must be strengthened.

### **3. We can do hard things**

We believe that an expansive vision and willingness to do bold things is necessary to address the root causes of our city's problems.

## **Recommendations**

Recommendations are categorized under Charlotte City Council's Strategic Priorities (Great Neighborhoods, Well Managed Government, and Faith Communities). All organizational requests have been submitted through the City of Charlotte's Financial Partner, RFP, or Matching Grant application process and are strictly for program support. Policy proposals are left to the City of Charlotte to adopt and identify the funding source.

## Engagement & The Environment

### 1. City of Charlotte: Assistance Landlords Willing to Add Air Conditioning.

(Recommended by OneMeck, Action NC, The Redress Movement)

- **\$2,000,000** related to the proposed new code requirement for A/C. This will fund a pilot program for the City to buy 400 energy-efficient units for rental apartments that currently have no A/C (max payment of \$5,000/unit for up to 10 units per owner).

### 2. Sol Nation

- **\$200,000** for a Community Engagement Survey on Climate and Environment. The Corridors of Opportunity are not just for economic opportunity but climate and environment as well. These corridors are the most impacted by climate, and it will serve our Charlotte community well to begin mitigation and adaptation efforts. The surveys will identify the issues and solutions that communities see to their climate and environmental issues.

## Great Neighborhoods

### 1. City of Charlotte: Assistance for Displaced Tenants

(Recommended by OneMeck, Action NC, The Redress Movement)

- **\$1,100,000** for a pilot program to cover families earning less than 30% of AMI who are forced to leave their current residence due to unremediated housing code violations or need to relocate while remediation is occurring. These families are not covered by the current Community Link program, which is restricted to 30-80% AMI families. The funding would cover families who apply for relocation assistance who are not currently eligible (estimated at 50 families/year, with \$10,000/family in assistance and administrative cost). The funding would provide a one-year rent subsidy of \$800/month for 50 families, plus administrative costs because it takes an extended period for these families to find alternative apartments within their means. Also covered would be a full-time administrator for the program (currently part-time) and reimbursement of application fees for qualified families.

### 2. Heal Charlotte

- **\$114,000** to reserve 10 rooms for 12 months to be used by the city to temporarily house residents displaced in a mass displacement.
- **\$70,000** for program support (case management, rapid rehousing services & neighborhood revitalization).

### 3. Crisis Assistance Ministries

- **\$180,000** for utility assistance.
- **\$645,000** for rental assistance.

#### 4. Roof Above

- **\$250,000** for the Days Services Center (DSC). DSC is open 365 days/year and serves people who are unsheltered by providing hot meals, showers, laundry, mail services, an on-site nurse, and housing navigation to connect with housing solutions. Special COVID funds through the City have supported Roof Above during FY24.

#### 5. Block Love

- **\$100,000** for continued support for their outreach program that provides food, clothing, sleeping bags, toiletries, etc., throughout Charlotte, as well as connecting residents in need to community services.

#### 6. Freedom Fighting Ministries

- **\$1,000,000** in housing placement and support for 40 McKinney-Vento families who are experiencing homelessness. This housing support provides housing, case management, and workforce development for two years. This request is a continuation of the housing support grant that was awarded to FFM from the city ARPA funds.
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### Well Managed Government

#### UE 150 City Workers Union

- Raise the minimum wage to **\$26** an hour (Requested **\$25** an hour last year but only received a raise to **\$23** an hour).
- **10%** across-the-board raise.
- **4%** increase in 401K Contribution.
- Raise the housing down payment assistance program purchase limit from **\$310,000** to **\$410,000** due to rising housing prices in Charlotte and surrounding areas.

### Safe Communities

#### City of Charlotte: Creation of Youth Violence Prevention Centers (YVPCs)

- Partner with Mecklenburg County Public Health Office of Violence Prevention to establish YVPC which is an evidence based youth lead initiative to combat violence. (Recommended by Action NC)

## **Program Support for Local Organizations**

### **1. Save Our Children Movement**

- **\$125,000** for year-round after-school programming, summer school programming, and mentorship programming.

### **2. Alternatives to Violence**

- **\$500,000** for the Beatties Ford Rd project. (The other two projects are funded through 2026.)

### **3. Hearts of the Invisible**

- **\$150,000** to continue support for 2 social workers conducting outreach to homeless residents in uptown Charlotte.

### **4. Archdale Senior Organization**

- **\$25,000** to organize their resident council.

### **5. Fifth Element CMPD Community Services Bureau Program**

- **\$10,000** to meet youth where they are, mentor, and provide a support system for them to become self-sufficient and productive members of society. Each participant will have access to a network of resources, including mentors, life and occupational skills training, career coaching, and cultural enrichment activities.

