Mecklenburg County

Health and Human Services

Anthony Trotman

Assistant County Manager /

Consolidated Human Services Agency Director

January 7, 2016

Anthony Trotman

Trotman oversees the County's health and human services agency that includes social services, public health, child support enforcement and the community support services departments. This includes management of approximately 2,000 employees and an annual budget of $270 million.

Former Director of the Department of Job and Family Services for Franklin County, Ohio (Columbus).

- Board Member, Community Building Initiative, Charlotte
- Vice-Chair, National Association of Counties, Medicaid and Indigent Care Committee
- Read Charlotte (3rd Grade Reading Initiative)

Served on:

- Governor Kasich's Workgroup to Reduce Reliance on Public Assistance
- United Way of Central OH Taskforce to Reduce Poverty (Thrive)
- Future Ready Columbus Partnership for Education
- Infant Mortality Taskforce

Agenda

- Mecklenburg County Health and Human Services Departments
  - Introduction to the Departments
  - Funding and what it accomplishes
- Benefits – The safety net
  - Benefits in Mecklenburg
- Gaps and the Benefits Cliff
- Policy
  - Innovations / Strategies

Mecklenburg County Consolidated Health and Human Services (HHS)

Mecklenburg Consolidated HHS Departments

- Five Departments
- Provide a wide range of services
  - Range from mandated to local option
  - Administration of programs to direct services
- Funded by a combination of federal, state, local and other revenue

- Behavioral Health
- Child Support Enforcement
- Community Support Services
- Health Department
- Social Services

Mecklenburg HHS Departments

Behavioral Health

- Includes Mental Heath, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services
- Administered with exclusively county funds: Total budget in 2016: $8.9M
- Provide guidance and expertise to the County on behavioral healthcare issues
- County Policy-driven within State/Federal Guidelines
- Smallest HHS department

Mecklenburg HHS Departments

Child Support Enforcement

- Provides a range of services related to child support, including:
  - Paternity Establishment
  - Support Order Establishment
  - Collection of Financial Support
- Administered with a mix of Federal, State and County funds
- Total budget in 2016: $9M
- Federal and State policy-driven

Mecklenburg HHS Departments

Community Support Services

- Focuses on three areas:
  - Domestic Violence
  - Homeless Services
  - Veterans Services
- Administered with a mix of County, grant funding and fees
- Total 2016 budget: $11.4M
- County policy-driven within State and Federal guidelines

Mecklenburg HHS Departments

Health Department

- Provides a large number of public services, such as:
  - Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
  - Health clinics
  - School nurses
  - Immunizations
  - HIV/STD services
  - Women's Health Clinic
  - Smart *Start – Health Families Mecklenburg*
  - Environmental Health
- Total 2016 budget: $53M
- Federal/State and County policy-driven

Mecklenburg HHS Departments

Department of Social Services (DSS)

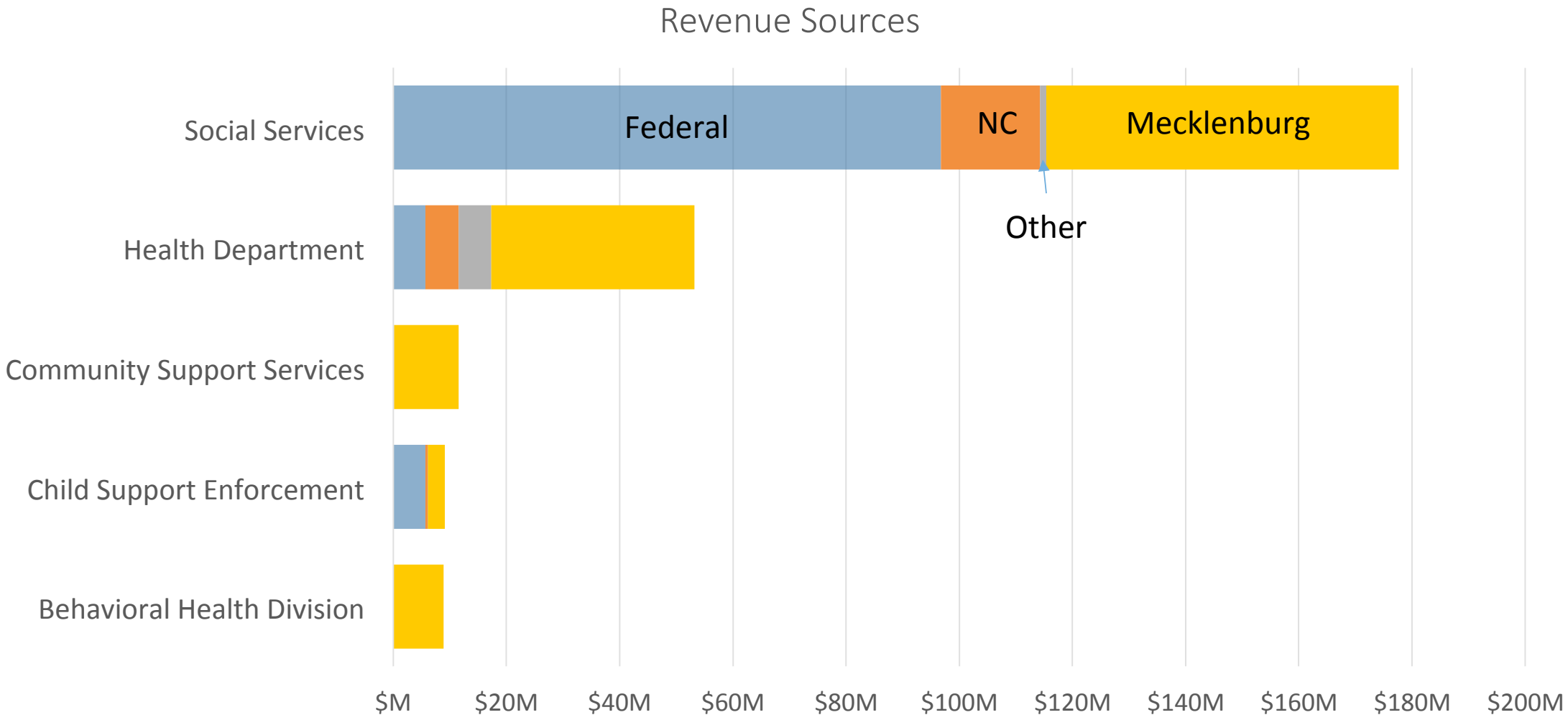
- The largest HHS department
- Economic Services (public assistance):
  - Food and nutrition – SNAP
  - Work First Family Assistance or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
  - Medicaid for adults, families and children
- Health-related transportation services
  - Medicaid transportation
  - Elderly disabled transportation assistance

Mecklenburg HHS Departments

Department of Social Services (DSS)

- Adult Protective Services:
  - Social Work Services
  - Adult nutrition (Senior Citizens Nutrition Program)
  - In-Home Aide
  - Adult Day Care
- Youth and Family Services
  - Foster Care and Adoption
  - Child Protective Services
- Total 2016 budget: $175M
- Federal/State and County policy driven

Sources of HHS Department Funding



Source: Amended 2015 Mecklenburg County Budget

Benefits

The safety net

26,446

Families in Poverty in Mecklenburg

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 Community Survey 1-year estimates

48,247 children in poverty
(20 % of all children)

Of $1M Mecklenburg County residents

25%

receive a social service.

As of March, 2015
Source: Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services

50%

Of Mecklenburg residents who receive a social service are children.

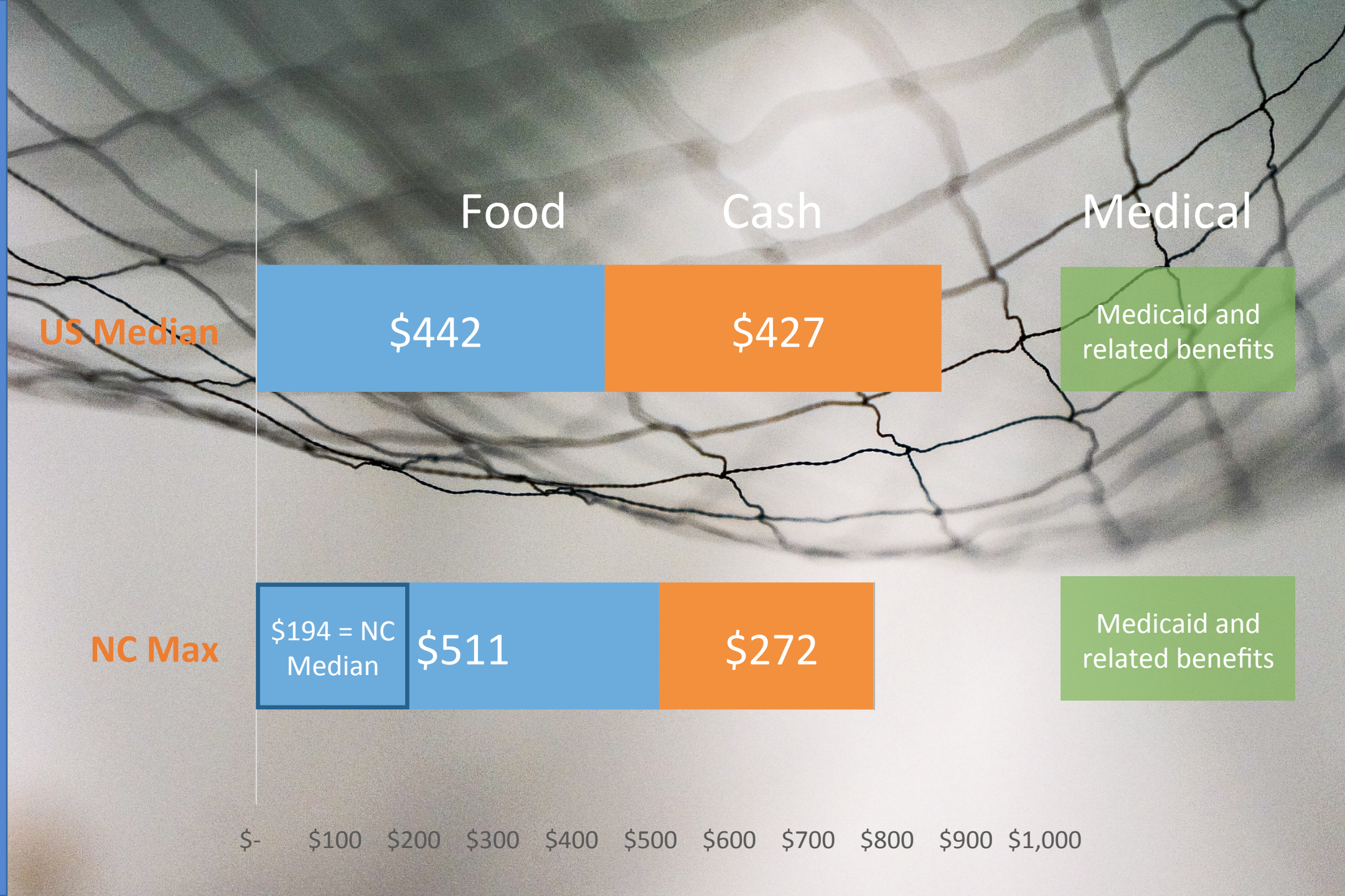
As of March, 2015
Source: Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services

Benefits Reality

NC median monthly food benefit in 2015 was $194 (for all household sizes)

US: Family of three Median Based on 2012 study

Source: Congressional Research Service



Benefits
Recipients

Number Mecklenburg Customers Served by Benefit Category 2015

Many recipients receive multiple benefits

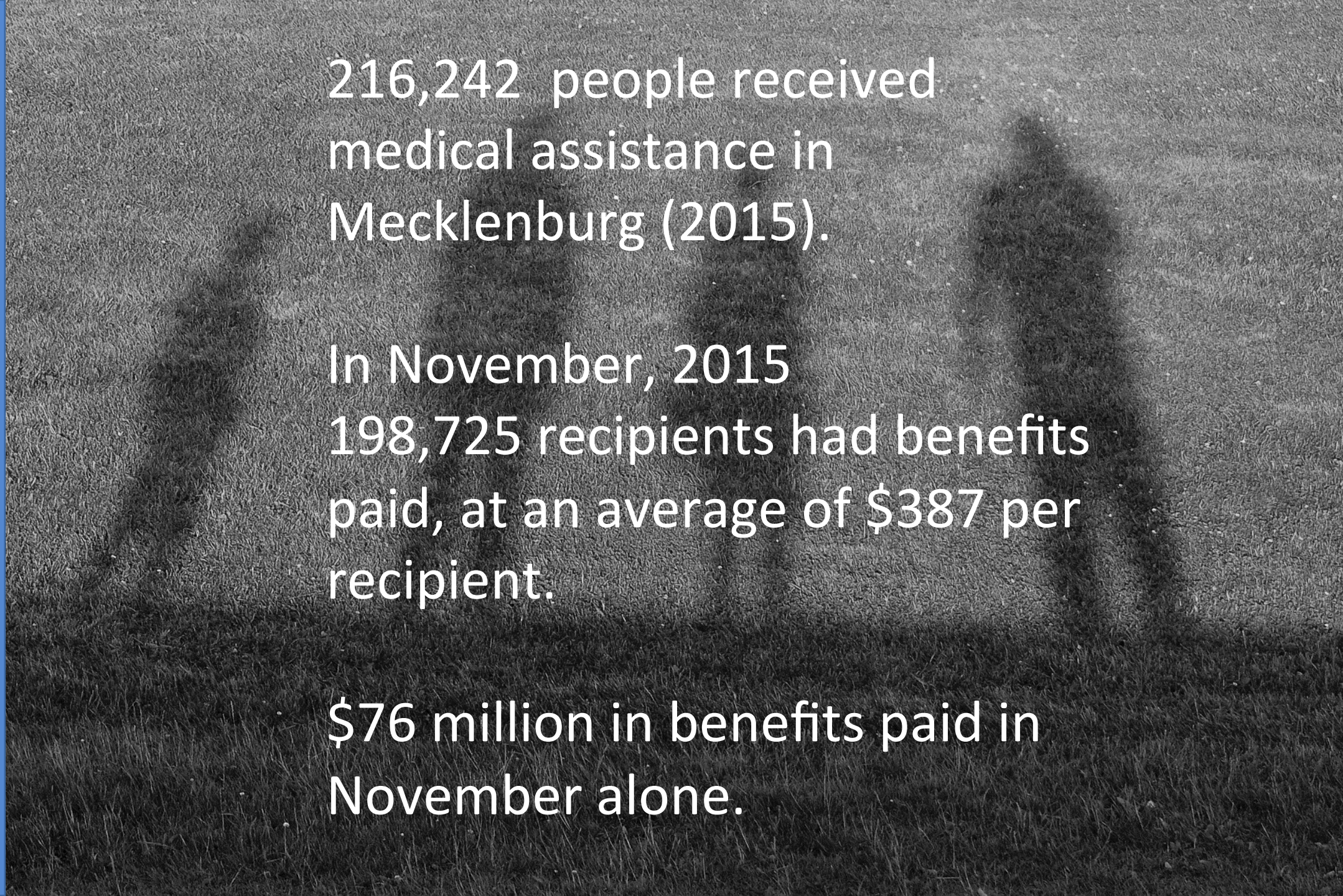
Source:
Mecklenburg County DSS
*Cone Health Foundation

Medical Assistance

Is received by

22%

Of Mecklenburg residents



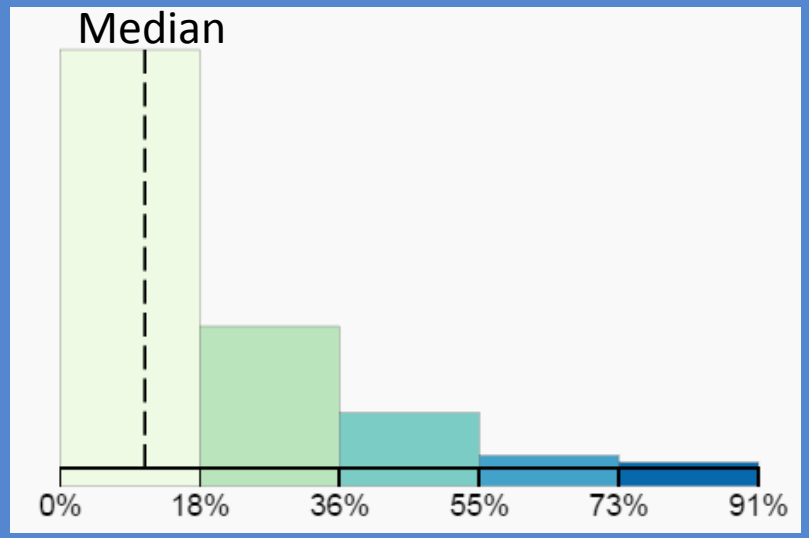
216,242 people received medical assistance in Mecklenburg (2015).

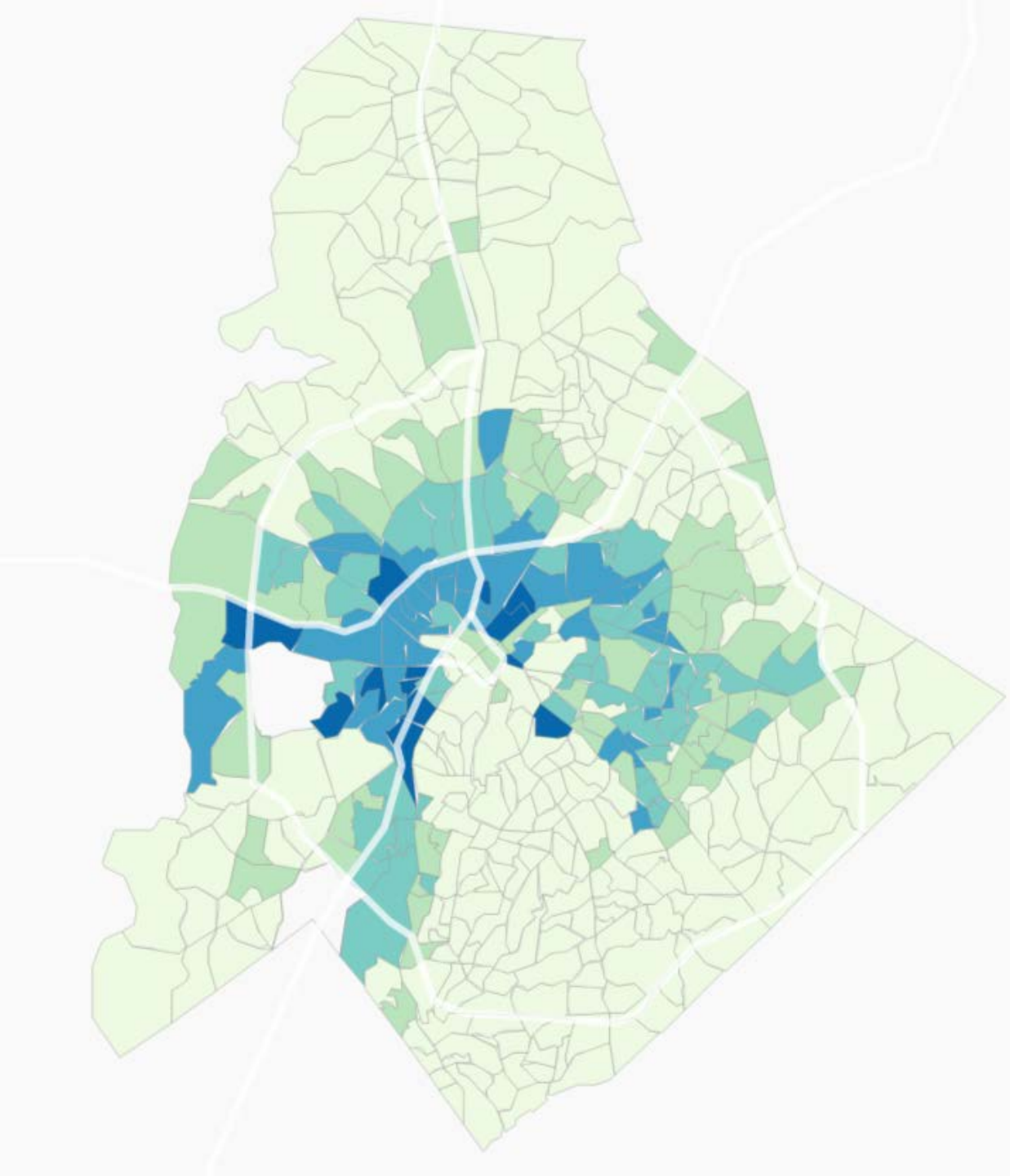
In November, 2015 198,725 recipients had benefits paid, at an average of $387 per recipient.

$76 million in benefits paid in November alone.

Food and Nutrition Services

The “crescent” is where food assistance is needed in the County





46%

Of people in Mecklenburg receiving food assistance are working.

As of March, 2015
Source: Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services

31%

Of people in Mecklenburg receiving food assistance receive disability payments.

As of March, 2015
Source: Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services

16%

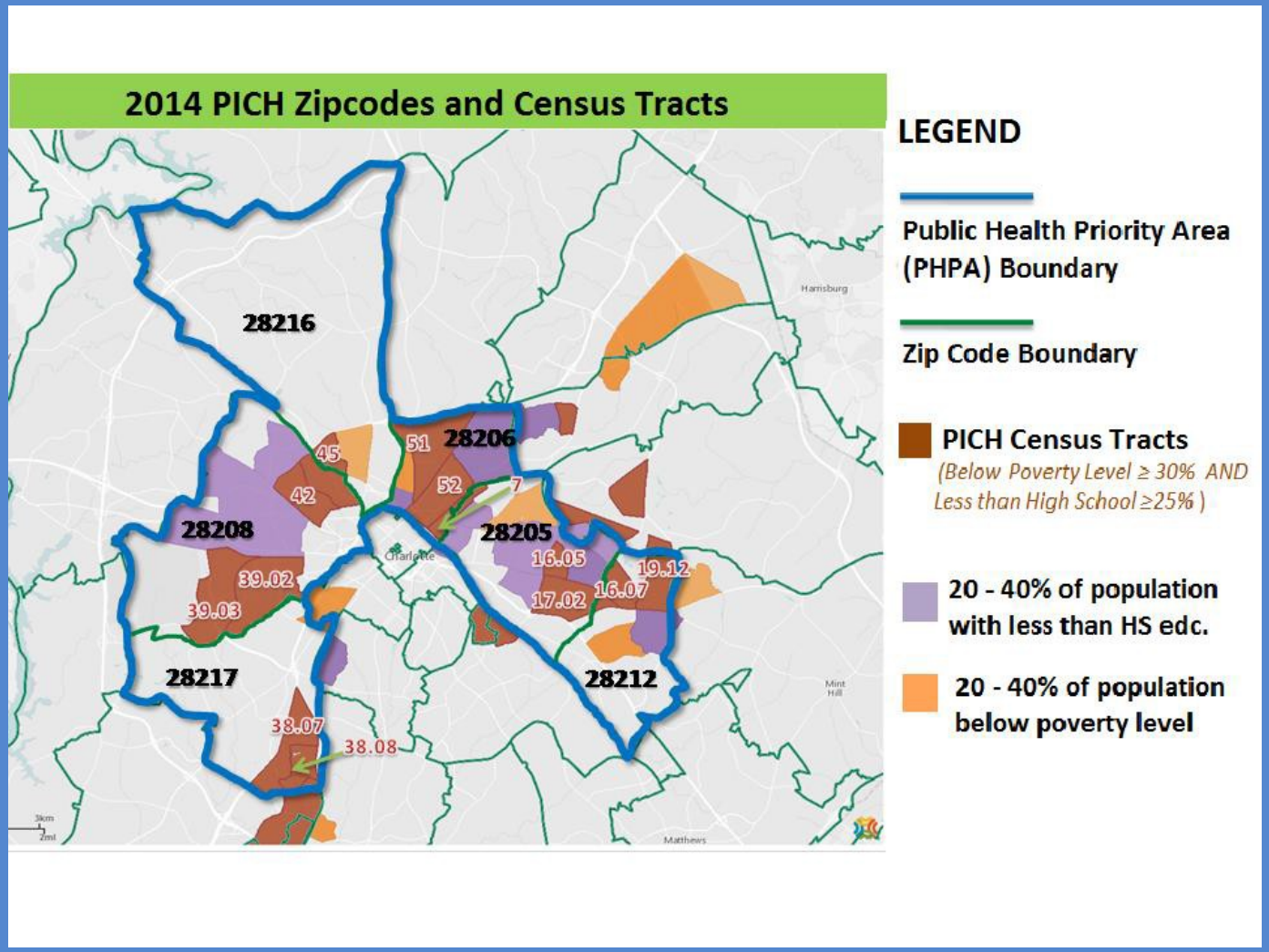
Of people in Mecklenburg receiving food assistance are 60 years old or older.

As of March, 2015
Source: Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services

Public Health Priority Areas

Areas of greatest public health need follow crescent geography.

	Public Health Priority Area	Mecklenburg
2013 Population	210,355	990,977
2012 Death Rates for Select Conditions (per 100,000)		
Lung Cancer	39.5	28.8
Heart Disease	126.5	107.5
Stroke	37.5	27.1
Diabetes	20.0	12.7
COPD	26.6	26.3



Gaps and the Benefits Cliff

Benefits

Not County Administered

Some other, important parts of the safety net that are not part of Mecklenburg County HHS

- 31,723 on the waiting list for Housing Choice Vouchers as of January, 2015.
- 18 months is the waiting time for a hearing on Social Security Disability in Charlotte.
- CMS students dependent on school-meals must make other arrangements in the summer.

3,289 Children

Are on a waiting list in Mecklenburg County for a child care voucher

As of June, 2015 Source: Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services

In Mecklenburg, approximately 7,300 received child care benefits.

The “Benefits Cliff”

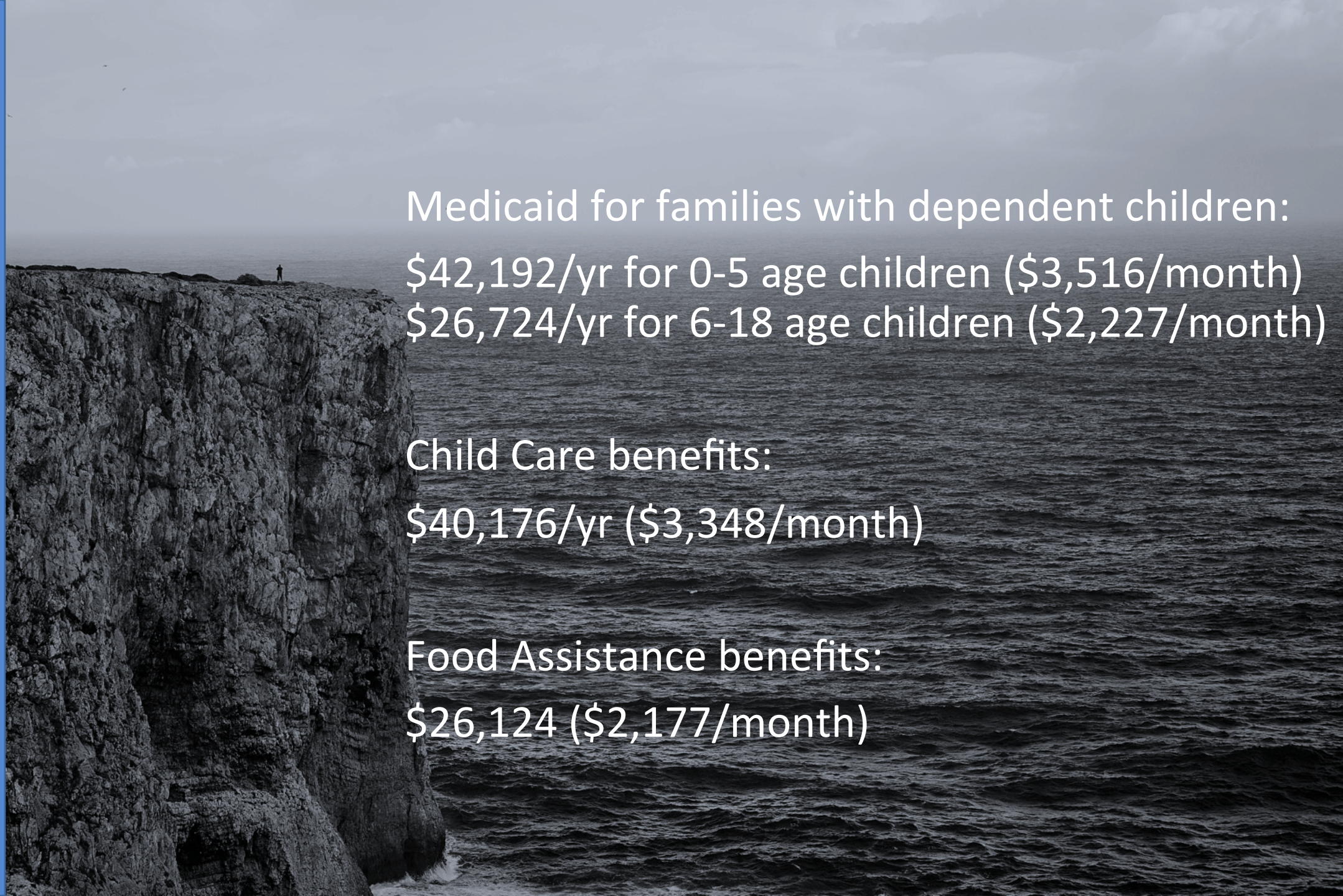
“Child care now costs more than rent and in-state college tuition in most states, leading to women dropping out of the workforce for the first time in years; millennials have put off having kids; parents are declining promotions or taking lower-paying jobs so they don’t lose the childcare assistance they need to earn a living and make sure their children receive quality care.”

Vivian Labaton
Co-Executive Director
Make It Work
Quoted in *New Republic* Magazine
December 15, 2015

Benefits Cliff

Income limits for a family of three

Source: North Carolina Department of Health and Social Services



Medicaid for families with dependent children:

$42,192/yr for 0-5 age children ($3,516/month)
$26,724/yr for 6-18 age children ($2,227/month)

Child Care benefits:

$40,176/yr ($3,348/month)

Food Assistance benefits:

$26,124 ($2,177/month)

Benefits Cliff

Scenario for Mecklenburg County

*Average annual fee for licensed child care centers in Mecklenburg Source: Child Care Resources, Inc.2015

Scenario:

-Salary: $40,000/year
-Two children (age 2 and 3) in daycare with child care benefits

Offered a $2,000/year raise.

Benefit loss: 2 x 10,348* =$20,696

Approximate loss: $20,696 – $2,000= $18,696

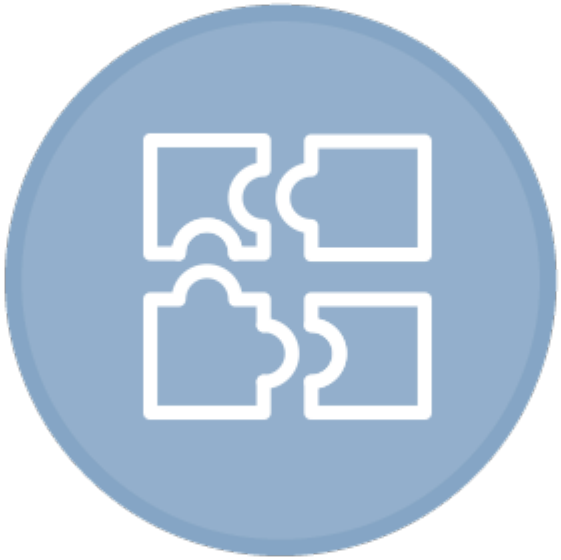
Policy

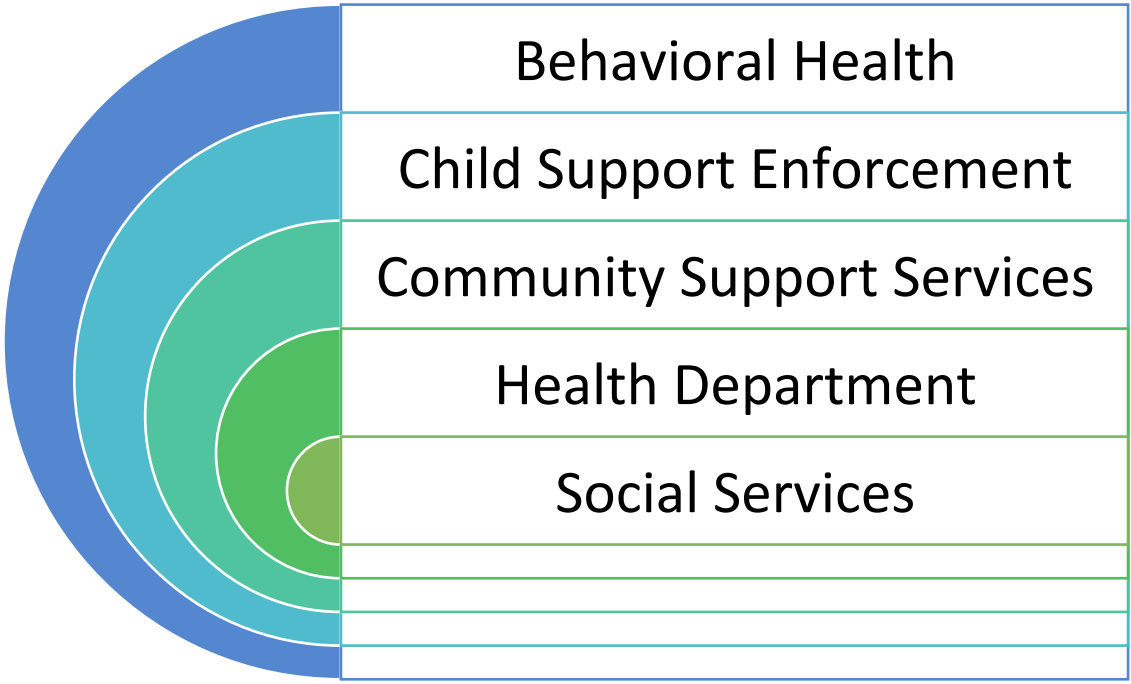
Children

Services often exist for adults, but do not have accountability to children

Mecklenburg County Strategies

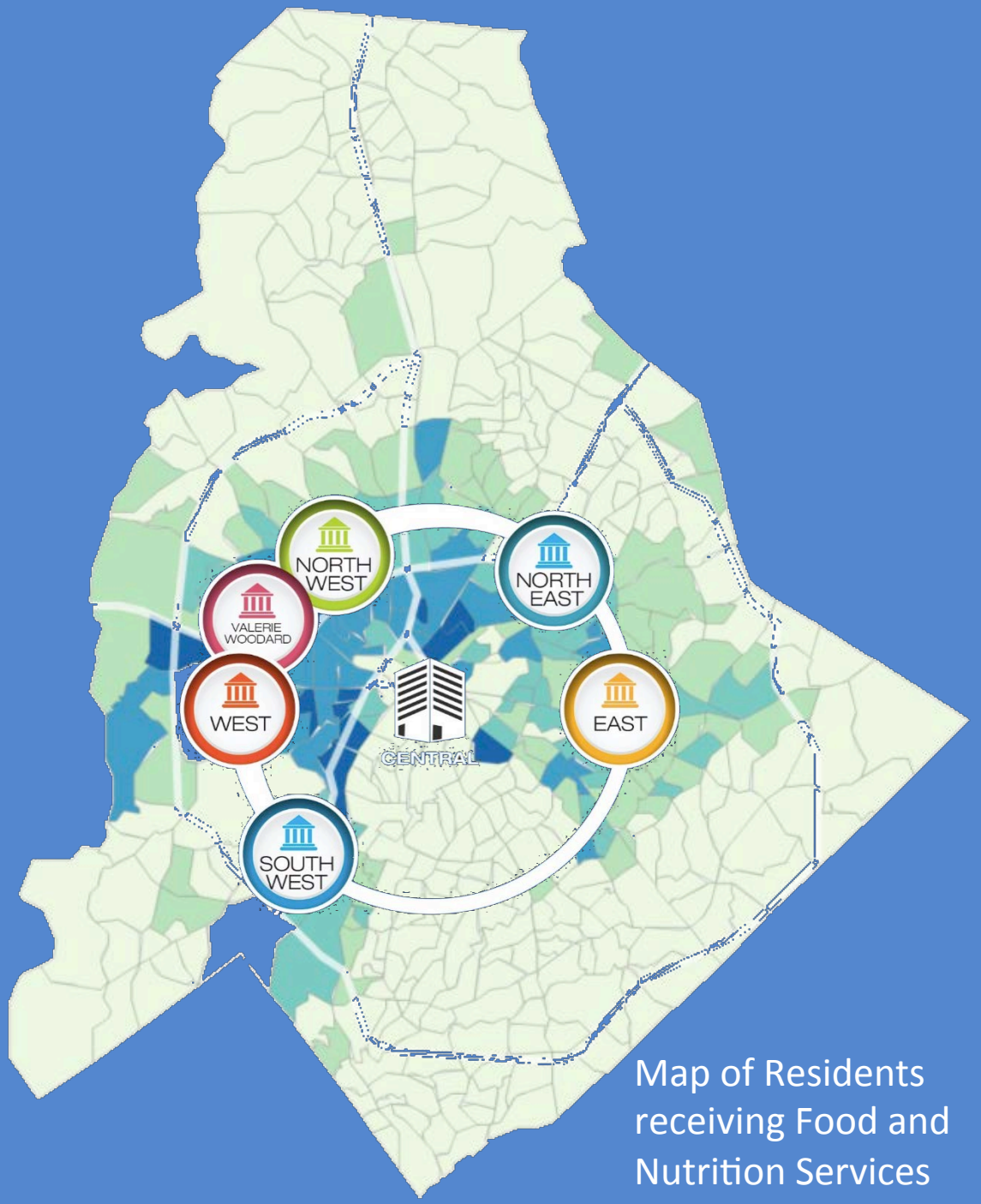
Mecklenburg HHS Departments
A consolidated approach





- Work to coordinate among these departments for the benefit of the community
- Integrated Case Management

BRINGING MECKLENBURG COUNTY TO YOU



Map of Residents receiving Food and Nutrition Services

Concept

Creates a system of "Community Resource Centers" that provide a continuum of County services at a single location

Summary – Observations and Recommendations

- **Consolidated Health and Human Services Programs**
- **The Benefits Cliff**
- **Family vs. Individual Accountability**
- **Align early childhood education strategies with other states**
- **Implementation of the County Manger's vision for program integration and service delivery**

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