

Triad works on 10-year plan to end homelessness

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As the Triad prepares to enter the second half of its 10-year plan to end homelessness, leaders are receiving an update on the problem and the progress towards ending it in the community.

The slumping economy is giving them new challenges and a new population to serve. Officials say 10-year plans to end homelessness across the country took a hit with the downturn in the economy.

"Since 2008 and the foreclosure crisis, that has happened. There's been a different face to homelessness. Families are an increasing number. According to Guilford County Schools there are 1700 homeless youth in Guilford County," said Partners Ending Homelessness executive director, Darryl Kosciak.

However the changes do not stop there, according to Kosciak, The Housing and Urban Development for the federal government changed the definition of homelessness, which can alter the progress of the plan.

Yet even with the challenges, officials say Guilford County is on the right track. The county came in fourth in the state last year for making the most progress to end homelessness.

"Guilford has done a good job if staying on point and continuing to try and implement their plan despite the fact that the economy took a shift that they weren't planning on when they started the project," said Department of Health and Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services Martha Are.

Partners Ending Homelessness will hold their annual homeless person count on Jan. 25. They use those numbers to determine how successful their efforts are.