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Research News

[Understanding corporate landlords: Where are they in Mecklenburg County?](#)



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Over the past year, we've gone deep into the world of corporate landlords and their growing footprint in Mecklenburg County. And we now have a new method to track these elusive entities, uncovering approximately 145 corporate investors who own at least 15 single-family homes each.

The big picture: It turns out these investors control nearly 7.5% of all single-family homes in the county, far more than you might expect. But this is just the beginning. In the third and final installment of the "Understanding corporate landlords" series, we answer the following questions:

- How has corporate ownership changed over time?
- Where are these homes located, and are they concentrated in certain neighborhoods?
- And most importantly, what's their role in the bigger picture of housing affordability and access?

Read on to learn more about the changing landscape of corporate home ownership. [\[DISCOVER WHERE THE CORPRATE LANDLORDS ARE\]](#)

Evaluation Survey



CLTure Kids

What if every child born in Charlotte could go on a five-year journey with the arts, starting from birth?

CLTure Kids would provide all children aged 0 to 5 years with age-appropriate arts experiences and activities to promote early-childhood creativity and development.

TAKE THE SURVEY!

The graphic features a vibrant background with green, orange, and red shapes. On the left, there is a photo of three children in elaborate costumes. The text is arranged in a clear, readable layout with a call-to-action button.

Calling all parents, guardians and caregivers!

What if you had the chance to impact your child's life through free art?

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Urban Institute is evaluating the potential of a free program - **CLTure Kids**. The program would connect families with local arts experiences and activities to promote early-childhood engagement with the arts, healthy child development, academic readiness, and foster connection among children in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community up to age five.

Please take [this quick survey](#) to help us gauge community interest!

Take the survey

Partner News

Each month, the Charlotte Urban Institute is proud to share insights from community partners who are aligned with our mission to provide a better quality of life for everyone in the Charlotte region.

Frameworks for measuring outcomes from cradle to career



Understanding the ways in which young people are progressing from early education through their career, and the challenges and positive outcomes look like, are top of mind for many educators, school districts, colleges and

this progression, can be difficult to measure because it occurs over 20 years and there are many things to consider. Below, we highlight three frameworks to help us understand this journey between early education and successful careers.

- [STEP Forward with Data Framework by Child Trends](#) was particularly developed for preschool system leaders to inform the ways they could make actionable changes to improve quality and access to preschool experiences. The Framework organizes 20 essential questions into six preschool steps ([click here for an overview](#)).
- [Education to Workforce Indicator Framework by Mathematica](#) offers guidance for using data to promote positive outcomes and economic security for all. This framework provides a list of 20 essential questions to explore, as well as recommended indicators and metrics to answer the essential questions.
- [The Education-to-Workforce Framework Data Tool by the DC-based Urban Institute](#) is a tool to easily track the outcomes and conditions that are most critical to students' success. This tool compiles all available national data to compare indicators of success across geographies, over time, and much more.

[The rising challenge of student homelessness](#)

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By **Mary Ann Priester**

During the 2024-2025 school year, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) identified a total of 5,680 students experiencing homelessness, an 18% increase from the 4,815 students identified during the 2023–2024 school year.

This increase isn't just a statistic; it reflects the rising housing instability impacting families with minor children across our community.

Here, we take a closer look at the scope of student homelessness, its impacts, and the supports available through the McKinney-Vento Act. [[READ MORE ABOUT STUDENT HOMELESSNESS](#)]

Data Trust Digest

[Participatory data governance: How do we know whether a use of data is a good idea?](#)

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By **Sydney Idzikowski**

In this month's Data Trust Digest, we explore participatory governance: what it means, why it is important, and what it looks like at the Data Trust.

Participatory governance - intentional involvement of people with diverse experiences, expertise, and skill who have shared decision-making about how data are used - is at the heart of the Data Trust. We rely on partners from across the region for just about every piece of our operations, from data sharing to using data for actionable insights. One of the main ways we do this is through committees that are made up of nonprofit, government, and business leaders, representatives of agencies who share data, and people who are represented and overrepresented in the data. [[LEARN MORE ABOUT PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE](#)]



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[DreamKey Partners](#)

is a new data partner with the Data Trust. More details about data coming soon!

[INDEX IS NOW](#)

available on the Quality of Life Explorer. [See where it's hottest](#) in our community.

[The Ada Bennett](#)

[Center](#) is a new data partner with the Data Trust. More details about data coming soon!

Read more from the Charlotte Urban Institute

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September 25, 2025*

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