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To: jfeldman@ashevillenc.gov
Cc:
Subject: 4/13 Community Night Report - Helping End Homelessness

News, updates, and announcements from Code for Asheville

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**4/13 Community Night:
Helping End Homelessness**

We spent the latest Community Night exploring ways that Code for Asheville can help Buncombe County's efforts to end homelessness. In other news, DemocracyApps is taking on support of the new statewide reentry resources hub and Jim March reports on the UNITE WNC gathering.

Upcoming events

Monthly Community Meetup

Our next monthly community meetup will be at 5:30pm on May 11th at the Stephens Lee Recreation center. We'll have more details soon.
[RSVP on Meetup.](#)

Monthly Planning Meetup

Our next brigade planning meeting will be at 5:30pm on April 25th at the Battery Park Book Exchange. RSVP [here](#).

Report on our 4/13 Community Night

The goal for the evening was to learn about Asheville's efforts to end homelessness in our community and to identify ways that we might help. We were joined by Tracey Childers, Co-Chair of the Asheville Homeless Coalition and Christiana Glenn Tugman, Homeless Lead for the City of Asheville.

Better Communications Tools for the Homeless Coalition

The Asheville Homeless Coalition is a local network of agencies, non-profits, faith groups, and other community organizations that provide a safety net for homeless individuals and others in need of assistance.

Our job for the evening was to work with Tracey to find ways to increase collaboration and communication among agencies in in the Coalition and to improve the distribution of information to the public.

The plan we came up with is to build both public and internal collaboration and communication around Facebook, with a Facebook page for public announcements and promotion and a Facebook Group for internal sharing of updates and announcements. In addition, the Coalition will use a Google Sites website to store more permanent information in a more accessible and organized way.

Code for Asheville members are needed to help set things up and to assist in maintaining the Facebook page and group and the Google site. Check out the specific needs [here](#).

Supporting the Five Year Strategic Plan on Homelessness

Christiana has been working with the Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee to create a five-year strategic plan for addressing homelessness. The plan was recently approved by both the Asheville City Council and the Buncombe County Commission.

A large part of the plan is to become more data-driven, and to leverage digital tools to ensure that communication between agencies and to the public is as effective as possible.

Christiana identified a need for a platform to handle immediate communication between service providers, advocates, government agencies and the public while also allowing historical information to be captured and referenced later, including attaching and archiving notes, discussion threads or comments regarding specific cases. The security and privacy requirements are fairly stringent.

We are looking for help researching capabilities and pricing for potential solutions. If you can help, check out more detailed requirements [here](#).

News from @code4asheville

DemocracyApps Takes On Support of Statewide Reentry Site

Code for Asheville and Code for Greensboro are collaborating to develop a statewide version of the [Buncombe Reentry Resources Hub](#). As interest has grown, however, it has become obvious that the work of on-boarding new communities and ensuring accurate and high-quality information statewide is beyond the brigades' ability to support. So, while platform development will remain an open source [Code for NC project](#), the operations side has been taken on by [DemocracyApps](#). For more details, check out the

project page [here](#).

News from the network

Jim March Reports from UNITE WNC

I attended the [UNITE WNC Tech Sector Summit](#) on March 31st and April 1st at the U.S. Cellular Center in Asheville. I was pleasantly surprised by the number of attendees (some 60 folks) who knew about Code for Asheville. More importantly, I was encouraged by the significant number of attendees whose vision includes services and technology assistance for the underserved and displaced.

Organized by Meet-the-Geeks, I met many contacts for future discussions about potential Code for Asheville projects. Most interesting to me: working with the folks who help people find training and employment to get into the local technology sector.

I'll need help! Who wants in?

Louisville, KY Partners with Civic Hackers for a Smarter City

The City of Louisville [used Open Data Day](#) to continue building a relationship with its civic tech community in order to turn open data into useful data that connects citizens to their community.

Help wanted

We have a bunch of new opportunities coming out of the last Community Night and our recent planning conversations. They include:

- Help end homelessness by helping the Homeless Coalition and the Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee identify and set up better collaboration and communication tools.
- Improve the Code for Asheville website by bringing fresh eyes and ideas.
- Contribute to this semi-weekly newsletter by taking or sharing responsibility for one or more sections.
- Join Code for NC's effort to build a statewide reentry resources website along the lines of the [Buncombe County Reentry Resources Hub](#).

Get more details on our [Help Wanted page](#) and email us at code4asheville@gmail.com if you are interested.

Join the CfA Discussion on Slack

(It may take a moment for the form to load)





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