

Wake County Strategic Plan: **Safer Community Together Initiatives**

May 5, 2025

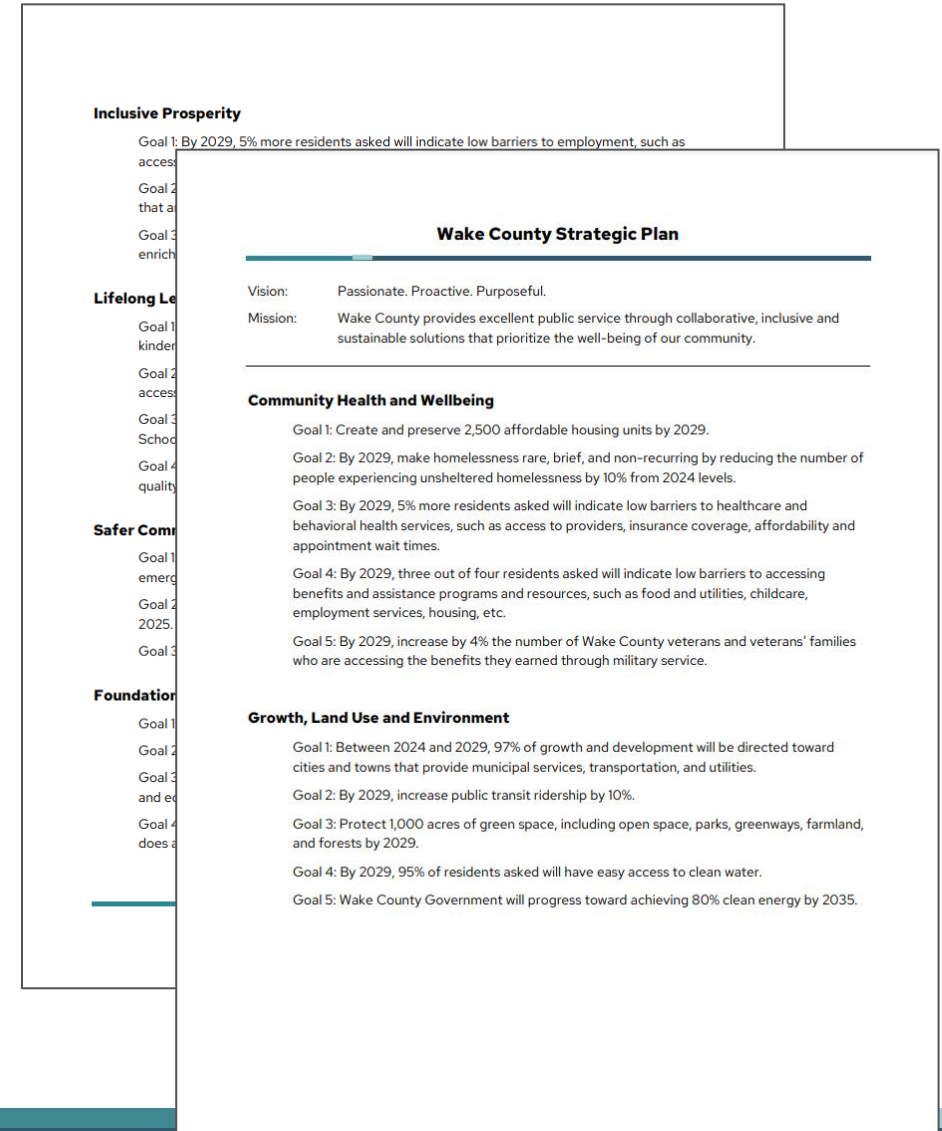
Jason Horton, Strategic Initiatives Director



Wake County Strategic Plan

Adopted April 15, 2024

- County's first organization-wide strategic plan.
- 24 goals in six focus areas.
- See wake.gov/strategic-plan for additional information.



Focus Area

Community Health and Wellbeing

Goal

Create and preserve 2,500 affordable housing units by 2029.

Strategic Initiative

Collaborate with municipalities to promote best practices in affordable housing policies, including zoning and incentive structures, that expand housing supply.

3 - 5 Years

1 - 3 Years



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- Goal 1: By 2029, 80% of all County public safety calls will receive an **appropriate and timely emergency response**.
- Goal 2: Develop baseline metrics for referrals **to recovery support networks and services** by 2025.
- Goal 3: By 2029, reduce the Wake County **violent crime** rate per 100,000 people by 5%.

*"Strategic planning is a process,
not a product."*

– Funding for Good



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Strategic Plan Focus Team

- Jose Cabanas, *County Manager's Office*
- Jason Compton, *Wake County Sheriff's Office*
- Lucas Cunningham, *Bureau of Forensic Services*
- Ryan Davidson, *General Services Admin*
- Scott Earp, *Wake County Sheriff's Office*
- Denise Foreman, *Behavioral Health*
- Jonathan Glenn, *County Manager's Office*
- Marco Marcotte, *ODEI*
- Jenelle Mayer, *Health & Human Services*
- Kiernan McGorty, *Budget & Management Services*
- Darshan Patel, *Fire Services & Emergency Management*
- Nicole Singletary, *Health & Human Services*
- Jon Studnek, *EMS*
- Malinda Todd, *CAWD*
- Joe Vindigni, *Fire Services & Emergency Management*

Considerations

- The strategic plan is a **living document**, allowing us to add or remove initiatives as needed to keep it current.
 - For example:
 - New data or trends
 - Emerging opportunities
 - Adjust to changes in legislation and regulations
- For the initiatives, do staff need to address gaps or omissions to achieve the goal?



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- Goal 1: By 2029, 80% of all County public safety calls will receive an **appropriate and timely emergency response**.
 - Explore **alternative response models to address non-emergency situations**, such as mental health crises, homelessness, and community disputes, and assess future public safety staffing needs.
 - Develop and implement a public education campaign to define **appropriate responses and guide residents on when to call 911** versus utilizing other non-emergency resources.
 - Complete the implementation and evaluate the **Multidisciplinary Operation Center's (MDOC)** effectiveness to enhance resource integration, improve communication, and support a coordinated response to public safety emergencies.
 - Assess and implement strategies to address the **challenges associated with a fragmented 911 system**.



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- Goal 2: Develop baseline metrics for referrals **to recovery support networks and services** by 2025.
 - Identify, define, and **prioritize crises impacting the community** that require a public safety response.
 - Identify and assess the **current public safety referral requirements**.
 - Complete a **comprehensive assessment of community-based organizations** to evaluate their service capacity and enhance County participation in existing referral networks that connect County residents with community-based support and recovery resources.



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- Goal 3: By 2029, reduce the Wake County **violent crime** rate per 100,000 people by 5%.
 - **Improve information data sharing** among public safety agencies and community organizations to enhance communication and coordination of violence prevention and response efforts.
 - Support the establishment of **SafeWake** by collaborating with community leaders and stakeholders to prioritize the forms of violence to be addressed.
 - Collaborate with community organizations, justice partners, and other public safety agencies to **enhance diversion programs and implement collaborative, evidence-based reentry programs** and services that reduce recidivism.

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- Goal 3: By 2029, reduce the Wake County **violent crime** rate per 100,000 people by 5%.
 - Evaluate and implement **forensic services improvements** to expedite evidence processing, support criminal investigations, and strengthen prosecution efforts.
 - Improve **behavioral health service navigation** with a focus on individuals at risk of contributing to violent crime.
 - Strengthen **services for transition-aged youth** (14-26) at risk of contributing to violent crime by improving service coordination among community nonprofits and supporting collaborative partnerships.



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