



BOONE COUNTY
UPWARD MOBILITY

Housing Access and Support Alliance Minutes
April 1, 2026, 3:00pm – 4:30pm
Love Columbia (1209 E Walnut St, Columbia MO) and via [Zoom](#)

Meeting Objective: Select a landlord engagement tool and begin building the tool during the meeting

Attendees: Jessica McNear (Voluntary Action Center (VAC)), Julie Schupp (Citizen), Lori Acton (Love Columbia (LC)), Conner Gibson (LC), Carter Stephenson (Columbia/Boone County Public Health & Human Services (PHHS)), Becca Westhues (VAC), Tionna Lawson (VAC), Bayliee Kulesa (LC), Onni Flint (Central Missouri Community Action), Bronwyn Miller (Doorways), Brandon Shults (Burrell Behavioral Health), Tambra Redden (Salvation Army), Gina Jenkins (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Enola-Riann White (BCCSD)

1. Welcome
2. VAC Updates
 - a. Jessica McNear provided an overview of the Voluntary Action Center’s Opportunity Campus, which will include the Cindy Mustard Resource Center (VAC offices, clinic, and partner space) and the Hub (Waypoint Shelter, Turning Point, and Loves & Fishes). VAC offices have moved and services will resume April 6. The Hub is still under construction and will begin opening in phases in July. Waypoint will serve primarily single adults as a low-barrier, trauma-informed shelter, launching with about 150 beds and allowing extended stays for people actively working toward permanent housing, with a priority on those from Boone County. The campus will include integrated day and evening services, limited pet-friendly options, and programming connecting individuals to education, employment, recovery and community support.
3. Partner Updates
 - a. Lori Acton (LC) shared on April 18th 11:00 – 2:30 they will host Bridge to Adulthood for teens. The session will cover a variety of topics including renting and job searching to prepare teens as they step out on their own.
 - b. Onni Flint (CMCA) reminded the workgroup of the upcoming Community Conversation events in Columbia and Hallsville in April. Onni also clarified that more Housing Choice Vouchers (for counties except Boone) will not become available, but the wait list will open. Of the 131 vouchers given approximately 30 have found housing. She will provide an update when the wait list opens
 - c. Carter Stephenson (PHHS) provided an update that the release of the State of Homelessness report has been delayed but is coming soon.
4. Follow up from last meeting
 - a. The workgroup began discussion on a landlord engagement tool. During the March meeting the workgroup had decided the overall goal is to increase affordable housing stock that is available to people with higher barriers by recruiting more willing landlords, reducing evictions through landlord and tenant relationships and education, and decreasing stigma toward voucher programs and tenants with complex needs.
5. Landlord engagement
 - a. The group agreed the next step is to create a targeted landlord survey to identify landlords’ main barriers (credit, eviction history, assistance programs, inspection timelines, communication) asking them what it would take to rent to tenants with higher barriers or accept various housing assistance programs. The results will be used to guide development of landlord education, outreach, and advocacy.

**Upward Mobility is an initiative of the Boone County Community Services Department
and is funded in part by the Boone County Children’s Services Fund.**



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6. Next Steps

- a. Members are asked to draft a small set of survey questions and to review/update the shared document with new housing assistance programs.

7. Closing

- a. Enola closed the meeting thanking Jessica for the overview of the Opportunity Campus and reminding the workgroup of the All Workgroup Meeting on April 29 4:30pm at Boone County Community Services Department.

Next Workgroup Meeting: May 6, 2026, 3:00 pm – 4:30pm via Zoom or in-person at Love Columbia (1209 E Walnut St, Columbia, MO) and via Zoom