



# WNCAP

Western North Carolina AIDS Project

ALL SERVICES  
ARE FREE  
AND CONFIDENTIAL  
1-828-252-7489  
or 1-800-346-3731  
[www.wncap.org](http://www.wncap.org)



Emmy nominated Kat Williams

## Williams is Raise Your Hand Auction's Honorary Chair



Kat Williams is a longtime supporter of WNCAP and an advocate for those living with HIV/AIDS, as well as a strong supporter of our mission to prevent new cases of HIV throughout our region. Kat is best known for her beautiful voice and inspiring music – she uses that voice not only to entertain, but to help us build a better community. Tickets for WNCAP's annual Raise Your Hand Benefit Auction are available online at [www.wncapgala.org](http://www.wncapgala.org) or by calling **828-252-7489**. The event will be held on Saturday, September 26th at 6pm at the Asheville Event Centre.

## WNC's Housing Crisis Hits Home for People Living with HIV/AIDS

By Lacy Hoyle-WNCAP Medical Case Manager



In 2015, Buncombe County reported its first increase in the population of chronically homeless individuals since 2007. This crisis is compounded by a number of barriers to affordable housing. WNCAP clients, like so many others in our city, are directly impacted by the housing crisis in a number of ways, and yet our clients are uniquely vulnerable to the destabilization experienced by those affected by homelessness or inadequate housing because of their diagnosis and the distinctive needs of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Many of the individuals we serve rely heavily on public transportation to attend medical appointments and pick up medications. Many also use public transportation to get to their places of employment. Access to public transportation is vital for most WNCAP clients in Asheville to maintain continuity of medical care and increase likelihood of treatment adherence, and to improve their overall quality of life. Perhaps the most immediate way that our clients have been affected by the housing crisis, is reflected in the fact that it has become increasingly difficult, indeed almost impossible, to find housing in the city that is both affordable for clients (with or without housing assistance), and located within reasonable proximity to bus lines. The difficulty many WNCAP clients are experiencing in finding affordable rentals often leads to extended periods of homelessness or housing instability, which in turn makes it even more difficult for them to prioritize their healthcare.

The unique effect of the housing crisis on WNCAP clients is an issue not only for those individuals and their case managers, but for the community at large, since we know it is easier to spread HIV when infected persons are not compliant with a treatment regimen. Housing is just one part of the puzzle with regard to maintaining the health of our clients and our community, but it is such a crucial piece when it comes to increasing positive health outcomes for people living with HIV/AIDS. WNCAP clients desperately need access to affordable housing options in Asheville and the surrounding area in order to provide them with the stability and security needed to increase their chances of developing and maintaining healthy habits, and addressing ongoing healthcare needs.

## ACT NOW!



Health care advocates across the state are asking Governor McCrory to close the gap in Medicaid coverage. Right now, the only people that qualify for Medicaid are those who are poor AND disabled, elderly, blind, a child and some parents. This leaves out many of WNCAP's clients who thankfully are well enough to not qualify as disabled. Closing the coverage gap would ensure that these people could finally depend on health care coverage to access preventive care to keep them healthy and self-sufficient.

### CALL THE GOVERNOR

It's easy to call the Governor's office to voice your support. Simply dial 1-888-523-8974 and you will be given a brief suggestion of what to say and be connected.

## WNCAP Case Manager presents at Statewide HIV Training



Brodderick Roary, WNCAP's minority health educator and medical case manager for Cleveland County, was honored to be a presenter during the Black AIDS Institute's recent BTAN (Black Treatment Advocates Network) training in Charlotte in July. Roary presented on "The Stages of Care in the HIV Continuum." BTAN is the only collaboration of its kind that links Black Americans with HIV into care and treatment, strengthens local and national leadership, connects influential peers, raises HIV science and treatment literacy in Black communities and advocates for policy change and research priorities.