

Consumer Advisory Council

A Subcommittee of the NC BoS CoC Steering Committee

Overview:

The CoC seeks to improve its ability to make governance and funding decisions and provide technical assistance by explicitly incorporating the perspectives of people with lived experience of homelessness. To this end, CoC staff recommend the creation of a Consumer Advisory Council as a subcommittee of the NC BoS CoC Steering Committee, which will require changes to the NC Balance of State CoC Governance Charter

Purpose:

The purpose of the NC BoS CoC Consumer Advisory Council is to improve the provision of services to people experiencing homelessness, and the policies that govern these services, across the NC Balance of State CoC through insights and expertise that come from experiencing homelessness firsthand. Toward this purpose, the Consumer Advisory Council will review CoC policies for clarity and consistency and make recommendations to the NC BoS CoC Steering Committee, determine whether the CoC implements policies and best practices equitably and effectively, educate and engage people who have recently experienced homelessness in CoC governance, and seek opportunities to impact local, state, and federal legislation through the advocacy efforts of its members

Membership:

The Consumer Advisory Council will consist of people who currently experience or have previously experienced homelessness. There will be 10 formal positions with 1-year terms. Up to 4 positions on the CAC may be filled with current NC BoS CoC Steering Committee members who themselves have experienced homelessness. The CAC will be chaired by one or more members of the Steering Committee that have experienced homelessness. The CAC co-chairs will be responsible for filling the remaining seats.

Compensation:

Because of the unique value that people with lived experience bring to CoC governance, and the possible barriers to participation, the CAC will financially compensate members for their time. The CAC will offer compensation at \$15/hour for preparation and participation in CAC events and meetings, as well as trainings, speaking engagements, and other events on behalf of the Consumer Advisory Council. One hour of prep time is expected for each monthly meeting. Each member will be compensated at the specified rate for up to 5 hours per month of time spent in service to the CAC.—Financial compensation for CAC members will be provided by NCCEH.

Leadership and Support:

The Consumer Advisory Council will be chaired by one or more members of the NC BoS CoC Steering Committee that themselves has lived experience of homelessness. Chair positions will be held for a term of 1 year with the ability to renew at the end of the term. Coordination and support will be provided by CoC staff.

Meetings

The Consumer Advisory Council will initially meet monthly with the option of adjusting the meeting frequency as needed. The CAC will seek to be available for speaking engagements and other professional development and advocacy opportunities for its members. The chair(s) will attend Steering Committee meetings consistent with their obligations to that group and provide updates on the CAC as needed.

Timeline:

The Consumer Advisory Council is seeking the approval for formation from NC BoS CoC Steering Committee meeting on July 6, 2021. From there, the CAC will begin a recruitment process to fill open seats through the month of August. The CAC will plan to begin holding meetings in September 2021. Regular updates will be provided to the Steering Committee.