



North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

bos@ncceh.org

919.755.4393

www.ncceh.org/BoS

NC Balance of State CoC Funding and Performance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes 5.25.23

Members Present: Amy Modlin, Bonnie Harper, Gretta Worley, Lynne James, Melanie York, Melissa Hewitt, Melissa McKeown, Natasha Elliott, Sarah Lancaster, Talaika Williams

NCCEH Staff Present: Adrianna Coffee, Andrea Carey, Brian Alexander, Jenny Simmons, Laurel McNamee

Minutes:

- **Welcome**

- Brian welcomed members of the subcommittee and highlighted the meeting agenda to focus on CY24 ESG Program Funding Priorities.

- **ESG Program Overview**

- The purpose of the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program funding is to:
 - Provide assistance to rapidly rehouse persons who are currently experiencing homelessness
 - Assist in meeting the costs of operating emergency shelters
 - Decrease homelessness inflow through the provision of preventive programs and activities.
- HUD sets specific priorities for the use of ESG Program funding:
 - Broaden existing emergency shelter & homelessness prevention activities
 - Emphasize rapid rehousing
 - Help people quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis &/or homelessness
- The Emergency Solutions Grant Program funds five different activities broken into two components: Emergency Response (programs working with people while literally homeless) and Housing Stabilization (programs helping people to access permanent housing). The Emergency Response activities are Street Outreach and Emergency Shelter. The Housing Stabilization activities are Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention. The fifth activity is the Homeless Management Information System or HMIS which supports the other four activities. HMIS activities are inclusive of funding for using a Comparable Database used for Victim Service Providers who are prohibited from using a traditional HMIS.

- **ESG Program Funding Priorities**

- Laurel McNamee gave an overview of the current funding priorities. The funding priorities document sets the following goals:
 - Help the CoC target ESG Program funding to specific local needs: these priorities provide guidance to help make decisions about how to use ESG funding to improve the homeless and housing system, rather than simply continuing ESG funding for previous grantees.

- Coordinate goals and ESG Program funding across the whole CoC: these funding priorities aim to coordinate ESG funding to move the whole CoC toward common goals.
 - Improve ESG-funded programs: these priorities aim to ensure publicly funded agencies implement best practices by lowering barriers to entry, incorporating Housing First approaches, and following the CoC's Written Standards. These priorities help grantees and communities take steps toward expanding access to emergency shelter and permanent housing.
 - Improve racial equity and decrease disparities in outcomes throughout the CoC.
 - Establish precedent to make funding decisions consistently and fairly across the CoC.
 - Laurel McNamee presented potential updates to the priorities previously established for the CY2023 ESG Program competition.
 - The funding priorities draft is largely unchanged since 2022.
 - Minor edits are recommended to reflect current coverage and one addition to the equity section.
 - The Lived Expertise Advisory Council (LEAC) has drafted new questions for the ESG competition scorecard, focusing on the inclusion of persons with lived experience of homelessness.
 - The proposed addition to the Equity Section will prioritize agencies that hire and seek feedback from persons with lived experience.
 - The subcommittee discussed whether the draft funding priorities accurately reflect the current priorities of the NC BoS CoC, and discussed if anything was missing from the document.
 - Gretta Worley made a motion to approve the CY2024 ESG Program Funding Priorities document. Lynne James seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- **Next Steps**
 - Staff will update the draft document based on today's feedback. If needed, staff will send out to FPS members for an electronic vote. Once finalized & approved, staff will post the document on the Steering Committee page for review.
 - Staff will present the FPS recommendation at the June 6th Steering Committee meeting.
 - After approval, staff will post to the ESG Program competition page on the website.
 - Staff will notify CoC stakeholders & send a link to the final CY2024 ESG Program Funding Priorities.
- **Next meeting:** June 22, 2023 11 AM

