



North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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NC Balance of State CoC Funding and Performance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes 2.15.24

Members Present: Amy Modlin, Bonnie Harper, Melissa Hewitt, Melissa McKeown, Lynne James, Sarah Lancaster

NCCEH Staff Present: Brian Alexander, Jenny Simmons, Elliot Rhodes

Minutes:

Jenny welcomed members and walked through the meeting agenda.

Jenny provided an introduction to the FY2024 ESG Program.

- The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program's purpose is to:
 - Provide assistance to rapidly rehouse persons currently experiencing homelessness.
 - Assist in meeting the costs of operating emergency shelters.
 - Decrease homelessness inflow through the provision of preventative programs and activities.
- HUD sets specific priorities for the use of ESG Program funding:
 - Broaden the existing emergency shelter and homelessness prevention activities.
 - Emphasize rapid rehousing.
 - Help people quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness.
 - For every activity type, ESG Program funding should be assisting people to access and maintain permanent housing.
- ESG Program funding provides for 5 eligible components
 - Emergency shelter – Emergency Response
 - Street outreach – Emergency Response
 - Rapid rehousing – Housing Stability
 - Homelessness prevention – Housing Stability
 - HMIS/Comparable database – Supports other project types
- Jenny explained the flow of ESG Program funding to local agencies and how the local competition works within CoCs.

Jenny provided an overview of ESG Funding Priorities and how these work within the NC Balance of State CoC.

- The funding priorities document has a clearly stated purpose and sets the following goals:
 - Coordinate goals and ESG Program funding across the whole CoC: these funding priorities aim to coordinate ESG Program funding to move the whole CoC toward common goals including implementing Housing First, improving racial equity, and decreasing disparities in outcomes for marginalized populations throughout the CoC.

- Establish precedent to make funding decisions consistently and fairly across the CoC.
- Help the CoC target ESG Program funding to specific local needs: these priorities provide guidance to help make decisions about how to use ESG Program funding to improve the homeless and housing system, helping grantees and communities take steps toward providing access to low-barrier emergency shelter and PH using a Housing First approach, rather than simply continuing ESG Program funding for previous grantees.
- Improve performance of ESG Program-funded projects: 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.
- Jenny outlined the six funding priorities for the ESG Program.
 - Ensure people experiencing homelessness in the CoC have access to low-barrier, housing-focused shelter, rehousing assistance, and supportive services.
 - Fund only applicants with the financial capacity to administer public dollars.
 - Ensure the best results for people experiencing homelessness through coordination at the regional level.
 - Prioritize timely, accurate data collection to measure and improve performance at the agency, regional, and CoC levels.
 - Address disparities across marginalized communities.
 - Make consistent and transparent decisions regarding funding for the ESG Program.
 - Jenny asked members for feedback on the funding priorities. Members expressed support for the priorities.
- Jenny highlighted appendix 1 which includes tables that chart the number of ESG Program-funded providers in each region, by name, project type, and the number and name of counties within the region covered by that project type. The table helps identify regions with coverage needs and prioritizes applicants who can fill them.
 - Jenny asked members for feedback on the table in appendix 1. Members expressed the need for this table to ensure the Project Review Committee understands where to prioritize funding and for what project types.
- Jenny outlined proposed changes to the CY2024 ESG Funding Priorities document that staff included for CY2025.
 - Staff made edits for clarity throughout the draft document, highlighting changes in red and with strikethroughs.
 - Added performance measures set by the Funding and Performance Subcommittee for each project type.
 - Updated appendix 1 to chart ESG Program-funded projects per region – removed CoC Program-funded projects since all regions have SNOFO funding for RRH.
- Jenny highlighted some key questions for the FPS to consider?
 - Do the draft funding priorities accurately reflect the current priorities of the NC Balance of State CoC?
 - Is there anything missing that needs inclusion in the document?
 - What feedback do you have on the specific proposal?
 - Members provided feedback and asked relevant questions.
- Lynne motioned to approve the presented CY2025 ESG Funding Priorities document to recommend to the Steering Committee for approval. Melissa M seconded the motion. Members approved the recommendation unanimously.
- Jenny outlined the next steps in the process:
 - Staff will update the draft document based on today's feedback and recommendations and post to the website for Steering Committee member review.

- Staff will present the recommended document to Steering Committee members for approval at the March 5th meeting.
- After approval, staff will post the final CY2025 ESG Program Funding Priorities document to the ESG Competition webpage and notify CoC stakeholders.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21st at 2 PM. The meeting will focus on FY2024 CoC Funding Priorities.