

# North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

bos@ncceh.org

919.755.4393

www.ncceh.org/BoS

## NC Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2024

**Regional Leads Present:** Emily Lowery, Amber Brafford, Pamela Hinton. Erin Gaskin, Tonya Gray, Shawanda Barnes, Crystal Gwendo, Kisha Darden, Lynne James, Brian Fike

**At-Large Members Present:** Angela Harper King, Kea Alexander, Danny Jordan, Erin Joy Crossfield, Brooks Ann McKinney, Cassandra Rowe, Joseph Chilton

**SC Members Absent:** Derek Lancour, Natasha Elliott, Emily Locklear, Karen Carroll, Melissa Hewitt

**Interested Parties Present:** Melissa McKeown, Michele Welsh, Sade Craine, Dewane Brown, Lakitra Claude, Kim Crawford, Ebony King, Jason Smith, Daisy Butzer, Tara Peele, Lola Rolley, Ashley Kornegay, Robert Hudson, Talaika Williams, Bre Griffin, Pamela Trafton, Amy Modlin, Shantisha Williams, Laurenn Singleton, Jackie Lucas, Tonya Rollins

**NCCEH Staff Present:** Brian Alexander, Laurel Benfield, Allie Card, Andrea Carey, Teresa Robinson, Jenny Simmons, Dashia Shanks, Debra Susie, Ashley VonHatten

### Funding Competition Updates

#### FY2024 CoC Program Competition Update

	Due Date
Post FY2024 CoC Application (tentative)	by October 24 <sup>th</sup>
Submit FY2024 CoC Application (tentative)	by October 28 <sup>th</sup>
Final Project Applications due to HUD	by October 30 <sup>th</sup> by 8 PM

#### CoC Builds Competition Update

HUD released a new funding opportunity for construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation in a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) called CoC Builds on July 19th.

Five agencies submitted Intent to Apply Forms for eligible projects by the September 27th deadline. Applications are due to NCCEH via a Smartsheet Form by October 10th by 5 PM:  
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/2b087649f5f4446d9f29b9bac2043543>.

Agencies will be responsible for all aspects of the application except final submission. NCCEH, as the Collaborative Applicant, will submit the final application through grants.gov by the November 21st deadline.

CoC Builds competition timeline:

Competition Activity	Deadline
Application Deadline	October 10 <sup>th</sup> at 5 PM
PRC Scoring	October 14-18
PRC Selection Meeting	October 30 <sup>th</sup> at 1 PM
Steering Committee Approval	November 5 <sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM
Applicant Notifications	By COB on November 5 <sup>th</sup>
Appeals Deadline	November 7 <sup>th</sup> at 12 PM
PRC Appeals Meeting (tentative)	November 8 <sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM
Steering Committee Appeals Meeting (tentative)	November 12 <sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM
Final Application Due to NCCEH	November 15 <sup>th</sup> at 5 PM
Submit Application in grants.gov	November 19 <sup>th</sup>

**CY2025 ESG Competitive Process Follow Up**

- Region 2
  - One RRH application for PRC to consider 10/7
  - Steering Committee review of PRC recommendation on 10/8 – via email
- Region 9
  - PRC to consider any Housing Stability Project Apps submitted by 10/1 at 12 PM on 10/7
  - Steering Committee review of PRC recommendation on 10/8 – via email
- Region 7
  - Review by PRC on 10/7 with Steering Committee review of PRC recommendation on 10/8 – via email

The appeals meeting will be on October 15th at 10:30 AM, if needed.

**Fair Housing Policy & Written Standards Update**

HUD requires all CoCs to affirmatively further Fair Housing in compliance with the U.S. Fair Housing Act & its implementing regulations:

- Promote Fair Housing choice
- Eliminate disparities in housing
- Foster inclusive communities

Under the FY24 CoC Program NOFO, HUD has highlighted new AFFH responsibilities for CoCs (specifically, CE systems) that we must address for the first time in the CoC Application.

To meet the requirements under the CoC NOFO, the CoC needs to approve a new Fair Housing Policy & update its written standards. The proposed Fair Housing Policy will:

- Provide an overview of the U.S. Fair Housing Act which prohibits discrimination against people in seven protected groups (race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including actual or perceived gender identity and sexual orientation), familial status, and disability)
- Define & outline affirmative marketing & outreach
- Record-keeping requirements
- Outline parameters for reasonable accommodation and reasonable modification requests
- Include steps housing providers, including CE staff, must take when participants face a potential Fair Housing violation
- Contain contact information for participating jurisdictions, legal services, & CoC staff to whom CoC stakeholders should refer or report
- Include sample notices, logs, and forms

Programmatic & CE staff will have new responsibilities under the CoC's Fair Housing Policy. Proposed written standards updates contain a new Fair Housing Policy section that outlines the system's responsibilities that include:

- Understand & implement the CoC's Fair Housing Policy
- Post the Fair Housing Public Notice
- Develop affirmatively marketing & outreach strategies to ensure that households are provided a range of housing choices in various geographic areas regardless of their protected groups
- Record strategies and actions taken to affirmatively market CE/housing programs using a sample log included in the Fair Housing Policy
- Assist households with reasonable accommodation & modification requests
- Refer households who face a Fair Housing violation to legal services
- Assist households who face a Fair Housing violation file a complaint with HUD
- Inform the state or local participating jurisdiction & the CoC that a housing complaint has been filed

*What does this mean for ES, TH, RRH, PSH, & CE staff practically?*

- Have working knowledge of the CoC's Fair Housing Policy
- For every household with which you interact:
  - Post the Fair Housing Notice in the places where you assess participants &/or provide a copy to people with whom you meet virtually or by phone
  - Answer any questions participants have & let them know what you are able to do if they have issues when seeking or moving into permanent housing

*What does this mean for CE Leads and housing staff practically?*

For households you may be navigating through the system or actively helping to locate & secure housing:

- Observe when working with property providers if Fair Housing violations occur that affect the ability of households to secure or maintain housing

- Provide as many options for housing as possible to meet the needs & desires of households without regard to location
- Record the outreach & engagement strategies you use to find housing on the sample log provided in the policy
- Assist households with reasonable accommodation &/or modification requests
- Assist households to make Fair Housing complaints, refer them to legal services when desired, & submit information to the CoC when complaints have been filed

Tonya Gray Young motioned to approve the new Fair Housing Policy & written standards updates. The motion was seconded by Crystal Gwendo. The motion was passed unanimously.

Staff will finalize the Fair Housing Policy & written standards updates per agreed upon feedback & post them on the BoS Overview Page of the website. Staff asked Steering Committee members to notify CoC stakeholders regarding these changes.

CoC staff will hold a Fair Housing Policy training on Tuesday, October 15th at 10 AM. Register here: <https://www.ncceh.org/events/1707/>

### Day 1 Families Fund RFP Update

Staff provided an overview of the Day 1 Families Fund (D1FF) Request for Proposals (RFP):

- Every NC BoS Regional Committee was eligible to apply
- 2 – 4 NC BoS CoC regions will be awarded
- Total of \$445,996.67 to subgrant
- 18-month grant cycle: January 2025 – June 2026

Six applications were received from Regions 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, & 13. The total amount requested was \$1,000,000. Each application was scored by 2 people. A request for additional information was sent on 9/23 & is due on 9/27. Award announcements will be made the week of 9/30.

Amber Brafford asked about areas affected by Hurricane Helene, highlighting Region 3 is applying but having access to internet and resources is limited.

Allie responded that extensions will be provided for regions affected by Helene.

Adjusted D1FF timeline:



### Anti-Discrimination Policy Updates Approval

The NC BoS CoC Anti-Discrimination Policy guides program implementation and is updated yearly.

Built to mirror HUD's Equal Access Rule, the Anti-Discrimination policy prohibits overt acts of discrimination that prevent people from accessing services. It is required for all agencies in the NC BoS CoC and a mandatory training is held annually.

The policy has strong protections for:

- LGB & Transgender people seeking services
- Families (Family Separation policy)
- People of all faiths (Faith-based services policy)
- People with grievances against their provider

Discrimination on the basis of race & ethnicity is prohibited, but protections don't go beyond overt acts of discrimination (which are hard to prove anyway).

Staff reviewed the new process for reviewing the policy:

- NCCEH staff distributed a survey to the CoC seeking review & feedback.
- Survey was live from 09/03/24 – 09/13/24.
- Two responses were received.
- No major or structural changes were proposed.

Edits were made to wording for transparency, accuracy, & consistency. Minor language changes include correcting typos and word changes for consistency between paragraphs.

The draft policy with proposed edits is available on the NCCEH website at <https://www.ncceh.org/bos/steeringcommittee/>. Staff highlighted that the Anti-Discrimination Policy training is separate from the Fair Housing Policy training.

Lynne James motioned to approve the edits to the NC BoS CoC Anti-Discrimination Policy. Angela Harper King seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

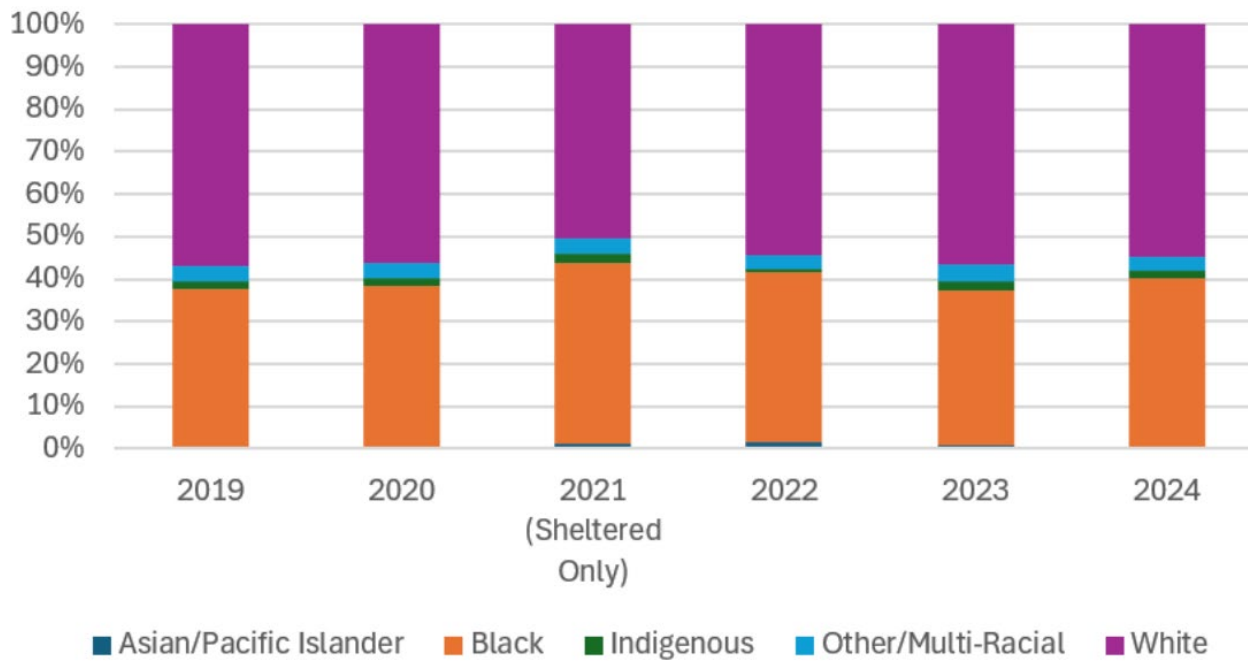
### **2024 Racial Equity Analysis**

Staff presented the 2024 Racial Equity Analysis. The Point-in-Time and US Census results were used to determine who the CoC serves in comparison to people in NC.

The HUD CoC Assessment Tool provides information about racial distributions of people living in poverty and of people experiencing homelessness by race and ethnicity, county, and region. HUD definitions used in the tool:

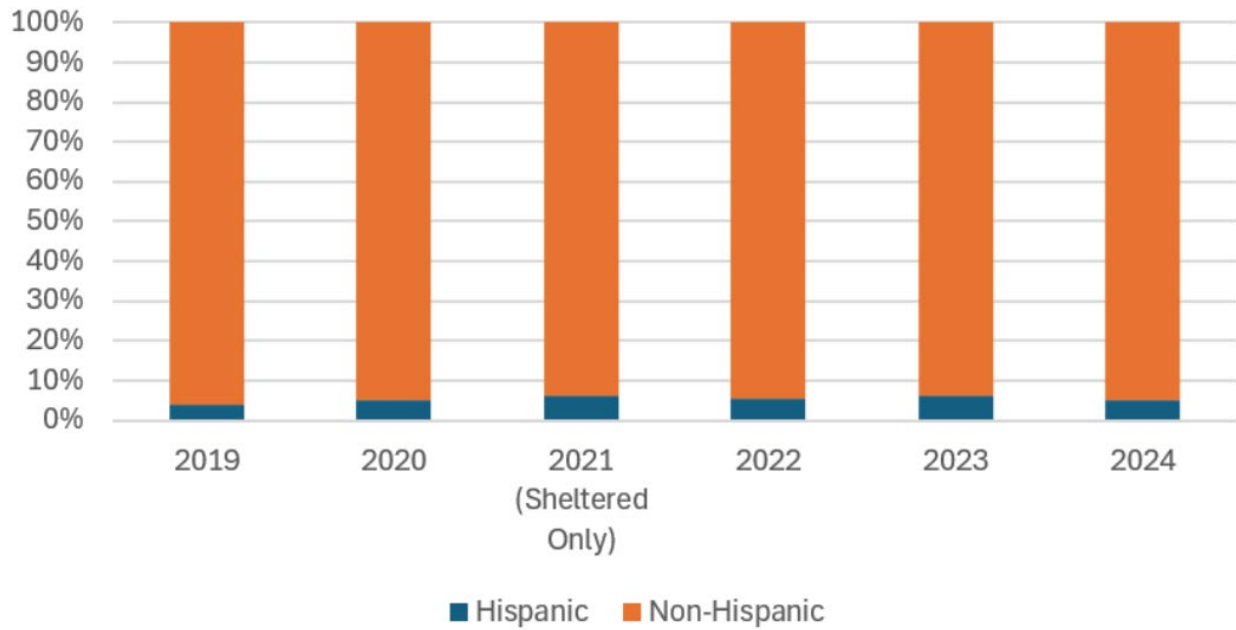
- Race and Ethnic Categories: White, Black, Native American/Alaskan, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Other/Multi-Racial, Hispanic/Latino

Point-in-Time: Race



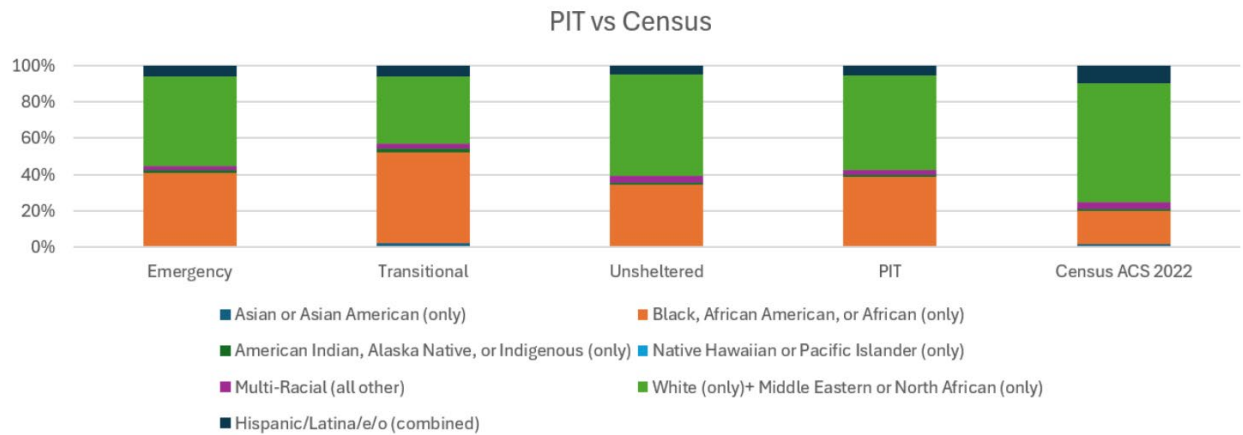
Year	Asian/Pacific Islander	Black	Indigenous	Other/Multi-Racial	White
2019	1%	37%	2%	4%	57%
2020	1%	38%	2%	4%	56%
2021 (Sheltered Only)	1%	43%	2%	4%	51%
2022	2%	40%	1%	3%	54%
2023	1%	36%	2%	4%	56%
2024	0%	40%	2%	3%	55%

### PIT Year to Year



Year	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
2019	4%	96%
2020	5%	95%
2021 (Sheltered Only)	6%	94%
2022	6%	94%
2023	6%	94%
2024	5%	95%

## Point-in-Time: Race and Ethnicity



	Asian or Asian American (only)	Black, African American, or African (only)	American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous (only)	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (only)	Multi-Racial (all other)	White (only)+ Middle Eastern or North African (only)	Hispanic/Latina/e/o (combined)
Emergency	0%	41%	1%	0%	2%	49%	6%
Transitional	2%	50%	2%	0%	3%	38%	6%
Unsheltered	0%	34%	1%	0%	3%	56%	5%
PIT	0%	38%	1%	0%	3%	52%	5%
Census ACS 2022	2%	18%	2%	0%	4%	66%	10%

Daisy Butzer asked if the Census data was from the state level. Andrea responded it was from the NC Balance of State CoC-level.

Annual HMIS data were used to determine who accesses temporary and permanent housing. HUD Stella P Results:

- Focuses on how households flow through the system highlighting exits, returns, and length of time homeless
  - Longitudinal System Analysis data 10/01/2022 – 09/30/2023 (HMIS)
  - The NC BoS CoC had 63% ES, 46% TH, 93% RRH, and 85% PSH bed coverage in HMIS. NC BoS CoC data submitted in 2023.

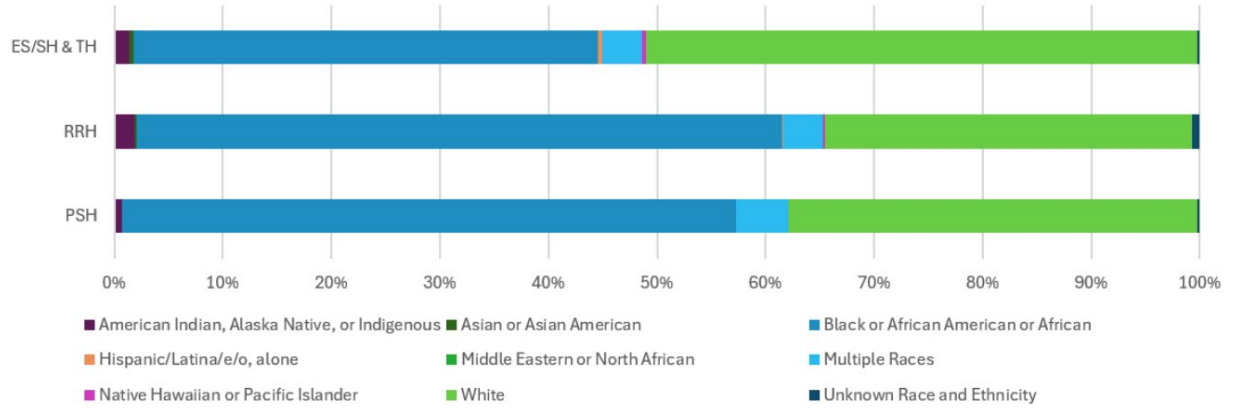
HUD Definitions Used in the Tool:

- Race Categories: White, Black or African American, Multiple Races, American Indian or Alaska Native or Indigenous, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Ethnicity Categories: Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) and Non-Hispanic/Non- Latin(a)(o)(x)

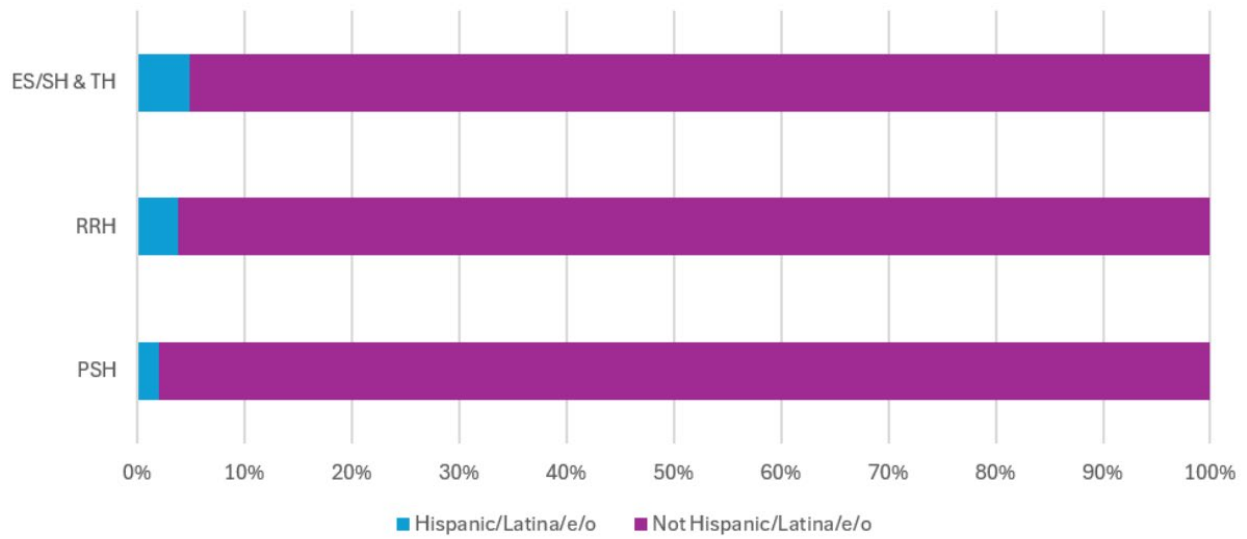


HUD Stella P results:

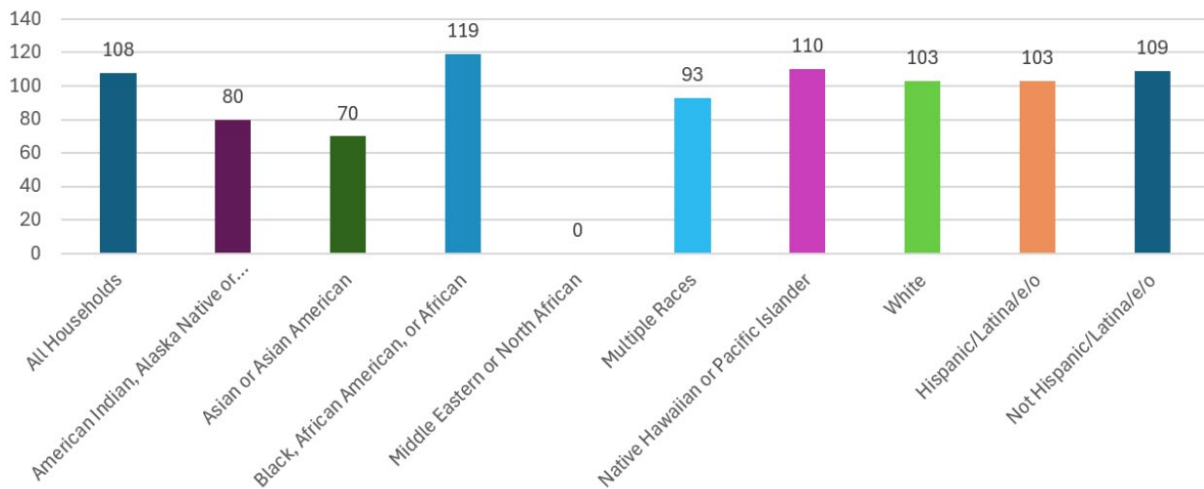
Race and Ethnicity by Project Type



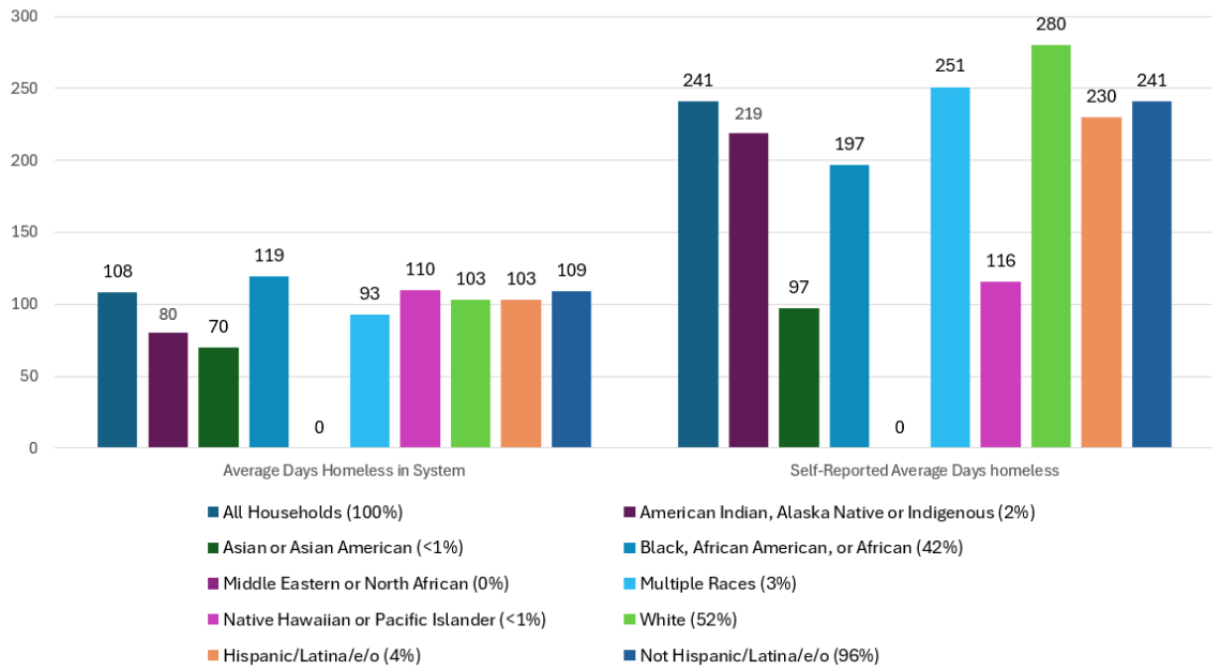
Ethnicity by Project Type



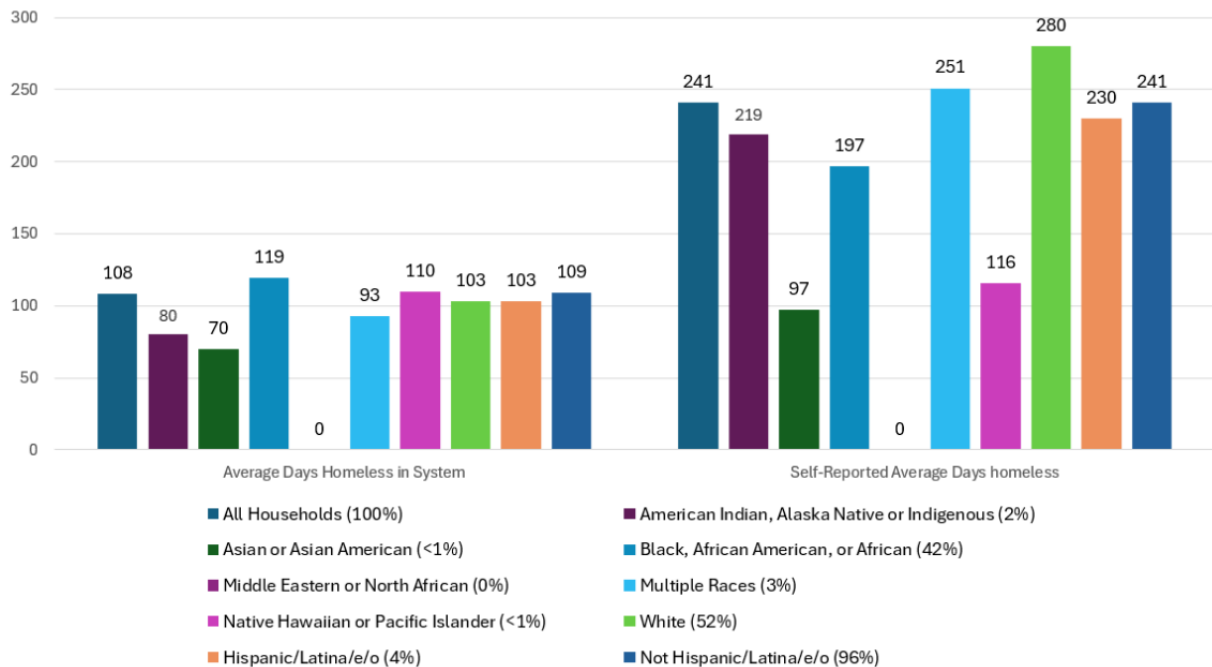
Average Days Homeless in System



Average Days Homeless



Average Days Homeless



Next steps: Strategies and activities

- Collaborative and Inclusive Dialogue and Action: The CoC will engage in intentional, potentially difficult conversations and dialogue, identifying areas of action and engaging people with lived experience and historically marginalized populations to lead and be part of governance, subcommittees, and workgroups.
  - Improve representation on Steering Committee, subcommittees, and workgroups

- Support the Racial Equity Subcommittee and the Lived Expertise Advisory Council (LEAC)
  - Continue to review policy changes and procedure changes
  - Leverage Anti-Discrimination Policy and written standards to facilitate these discussions.
  - Coordinate joint action between these two subcommittees
- Host dialogue calls on racial equity that engage CoC
- Foster partnerships for investment in projects serving and led by people of color
- Data Collection and Assessment: Data will be used by the Steering Committee, Racial Equity Subcommittee, Coordinated Entry Council, and Funding and Performance Subcommittee to build strategies to improve racial equity.
  - Continue to encourage and support better data quality
  - Include age, ethnicity, and gender in the analysis
  - Conduct qualitative research to enhance the current assessment to understand the experience of people accessing the system
    - Develop additional questions with support from the Equity Initiative’s Core Team have already brainstormed avenues:
      - Chronic homeless rates by race and ethnicity
      - Regional racial and ethnic disparities
      - Prevention/diversion project enrollment by race and ethnicity
  - Developed a more equitable Assessment and Prioritization Tool for Coordinated Entry led by the Core Team from HUD’s 2022 Equity Initiative
  - Report on system performance measures for the coordinated entry system by race and ethnicity
  - Study the demographics of agency staff providing services and compare to the people being served
  - Review the Equity Section in competition scorecards for effectiveness in funding competitions
- Training and Support: The CoC will engage professional staff to provide training and support to set a baseline understanding of racial disparities and equity for stakeholders. The CoC will incorporate learning opportunities for people with lived experience, agency staff, partners and collaborators, and CoC leadership throughout the year.
  - Deepen the racial equity questions and checks in funding process scorecards and program monitoring and oversight
  - Share resources on racial equity with CoC stakeholders and offer time to stakeholders for dialogue and questions, especially around analyzing their agency’s data
  - Direct providers to expert training sources for support developing more racially equitable practices within agencies and community systems like coordinated entry

Erin Joy Crossfield motioned to adopt the racial equity analysis for 2024. Kisha Darden seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **Regional Roles & Responsibilities**

### **Regional Committee Leadership:**

- Elected on an annual basis
- All roles except Unsheltered Access Coordinator (UAC) elected in December to serve the next calendar year.
- UAC elected in April to serve May through April.

The Regional Committee Leadership Role Responsibilities document can be found at

<https://www.ncceh.org/bos/regionalcommittee/>.

### **Regional Lead:**

- Serves as primary contact for NC Balance of State Continuum of Care (NC BoS CoC) staff for their Regional Committee
- Communicates information from the NC BoS CoC to the Regional Committee
- Attends monthly NC BoS CoC Steering Committee meetings & votes on behalf of the Regional Committee
- Participates in Steering Committee subcommittees & workgroups, as needed
- Facilitates the formation of the Regional Committee meeting agenda with the regional leadership team
- Facilitates discussion & approval of written annual outcomes & goals for the Regional Committee
- Facilitates planning activities as required by the NC BoS CoC

### **Webmaster:**

- Serves as primary contact for NC BoS CoC staff regarding Regional Committee agendas & minutes
- Submits all Regional Committee meeting agendas, minutes, & supporting materials to NCCHEH within 30 days of the meeting date
- Takes minutes at Regional Committee meetings [proposed task for Webmaster, but can be done by another committee member]
- Maintains & updates contact information for members of the Regional Committee & distributes materials via email as necessary (meeting reminders, agendas, minutes, NC BoS CoC notifications) [proposed task for Webmaster, but can be done by another committee member]

### **Coordinated Entry Lead:**

- Serves as primary CE system contact for NC BoS CoC staff for the Regional Committee
- Serves as a member of the Coordinated Entry Council (CEC) & attend monthly meetings

- Communicates information from CEC & other sources (training, HUD resources) to Regional Committee
- Facilitates regular case conferencing meetings where the community selects households experiencing homelessness for permanent housing resources
- Maintains the Regional Committee's by-name list in HMIS & provides information to regional partners during case conferencing
- Maintains regular contact with participating agencies to troubleshoot ongoing challenges
- Facilitates outreach & engagement efforts to agencies not participating in the Regional Committee's CE system
- Attends or participates in trainings/webinars as necessary
- Contracts with NCCEH for limited funding to implement this role

#### Project Review Committee Representative:

- Participates in evaluation & scoring of Emergency Solutions Grant Program applications & recommends final slate of applicants to the Steering Committee for approval  
\*Representatives cannot be staff from agencies with ESG Program funding or applying for ESG Program funding to participate.
- Participates in evaluation & scoring of CoC Program applications & recommend final ranked list of applicants to the CoC Steering Committee for approval  
\* Representatives cannot be staff from agency with CoC Program funding or applying for CoC Program funding to participate.
- Evaluates agency capacity & expertise to operate CoC projects during CoC Program grant transfers & recommends options to the CoC Steering Committee for approval

#### Scorecard Committee Representative:

- This is an appointed role, NOT AN ELECTED ROLE
- Participates in the review of New & Renewal Scorecards for the CoC Program to recommend to the CoC Steering Committee for approval  
\*Representatives from currently funded CoC Program agencies & those planning to apply for CoC Program funding are invited to participate.

#### Unsheltered Access Coordinator:

- May through April term
- Serves as primary contact for Regional Committee around unsheltered access coordination
- Coordinates with regional CE Leads to ensure people experiencing unsheltered homelessness access the local CE system
- Ensures data collection happens on all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness
- Engages providers/organizations/stakeholders to understand the local plan to engage people experiencing unsheltered homelessness & how to connect them to the CE system
- Provides additional training to providers/organizations/stakeholders as needed

## 2025 Regional Leadership:

- Make plans now to begin engaging folks regarding these roles & interest in filling them
- Hold elections in the last quarter for people to begin January 1, 2025
- Submit information regarding those elected & appointed to roles via a Smartsheet Form (to be sent out closer to election time)

## Upcoming meetings & reminders

- **Lived Expertise Advisory Council**, *Friday, October 11, 12 – 1 P.M.*  
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
Meeting ID: 579 903 9481  
Passcode: qYqVY5
- **Fair Housing Policy Training**, *Tuesday, October 15, 10 – 11 A.M.*  
Register here: <https://www.ncceh.org/events/1707/>
- **Racial Equity Subcommittee**, *Wednesday, October 16, 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.*  
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
Meeting ID: 832 6483 8597
- **Local Leadership Response Call**, *Wednesday, October 16, 1 – 2 pm*  
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
Meeting ID: 837 9246 1651
- **Funding & Performance Subcommittee**, *Thursday, October 17, 2 – 3 P.M.*  
[Join Google Meeting](#)  
Or dial: (US) +1 929-249-4814  
PIN: 256 826 060#
- **Coordinated Entry Council**, *Monday, October 21, 10 – 11:30 A.M.*  
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
Meeting ID: 848 4039 7905

## Next Steering Committee meetings:

**Tuesday, November 5 at 10:30 A.M.**