

North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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NC Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2025

Regional Leads Present: Derek Lancour, Emily Lowery, Cory Bragg, Pamela Hinton, Erin Gaskin, Jai Baker, Tonya Gray Young, Dr. Dia Thomas, Ashley Kornegay, Lakitra Claude, Lynne F. James, Brian Fike

At-Large Members Present: Karen Carroll, Melissa Hewitt, Angela Harper King, Jackie Lucas, Daniel “Danny” Jordan, Erin Joy Crossfield, Brooks Ann McKinney, Makala Perez, Cassandra Rowe, Joseph Chilton, Tara Peele

SC Members Absent: Anita Lynch, Dasha Stutson

Interested Parties Present: Catonnia Pitt, Amy Modlin, Erin Gaskin, Monica Frizzell, Gretta Worley, Teena Willis, Shantisha Williams, Bonnie Harper, Priscilla Ward, Kecia Robinson, Charlene Elliot, Aubrie Capps, Latonya Smith, Kelley Hayward, Chris Parker, Robert Hudson, Chasity Houck, Lisa Worth, Talaika Williams, Kim Crawford, Kim Hemphill, Morganne Bert, Pamela Hinton, Catrina Martin, Kisha Darden, Stephanie Flowers, Kendra Martin, Donna Hodges, Kennedy Lane, Amber Brafford, Michele Welsh, Elizabeth Mattfeld,

NCCEH Staff Present: Natalie Rivera, Debra Susie, Dr. Latonya Agard, Teresa Robinson, Adriana Diaz, Alicia Harvey, Ashley VonHatten, Jenny Simmons, Dashia Shanks, Mira Sanderson

Approval of Consent Agenda

Without changes or objections, the consent agenda was approved by common consent. The consent agenda was sent out for review prior to the meeting and is posted at:

<https://ncceh.org/steering-committee/>

NCCEH Updates and Staffing Changes

HUD TA Support

The objective is to identify goals and strategies to strengthen the NC BoS CoC. The NCCEH workgroup includes Dr. Latonya Agard, Ashley VonHatten, Jenny Simmons, Natalie River, and Dashia Shanks. The HUD TAs are Heather Dillishaw and Shavona McCalep.

If you have any questions, feel free to email latonya.agard@ncceh.org.

NC SOAR Has a New State Team Lead

Natasha Posey has been SOAR trained since 2016 and was the SOAR Local Lead for Wake County. Natasha previously worked at Southlight Healthcare as a SOAR Specialist. Adriana Diaz' last day will be on Friday, May 16, 2025. Adriana shared her gratitude and love for the Steering Committee.

Advocacy

Housing Day

On April 9, 2025, more than 100 people gathered to meet with representatives, share their concerns, and advocate for housing justice in North Carolina. The event was sponsored by NC Housing Coalition, Habitat for Humanity, and NCCEH. The event also included a press conference to inform the public about the housing crisis in our state. Dr. Latonya Agard took the time to commemorate and express appreciation to those who were able to join.

House Bills 437, 640, and 781 (\$724)

NCCEH encourages BoS constituents to read and understand the implications of these bills moving through the NC General Assembly.

How to get involved? Speak at Committee Hearings, share information within your regions, host conversations in your community, and contact your representatives.

If you would like to be involved in our weekly strategy sessions, please contact debra@ncceh.org.

1. H437 – Establish Drug-Free Homeless Zones – The zones extend to properties that may not be owned or controlled by a service agency. They target individuals who may be struggling with substance addiction, and if these individuals are arrested—even while seeking help—they could face felony charges. Additionally, service providers could also be charged with a felony if they fail to comply with drug-free homeless zone regulations.
2. H640 – Public Assistance Verification Enhancements – To qualify for the work exemption for programs such as SNAP or Medicaid, individuals must provide certification of their homelessness via a certified letter. This letter must typically come from a shelter verifying that the individual has resided there for at least 30 days. Alternatively, if the individual has not stayed at the shelter for 30 days, the shelter may issue a letter stating that the person is on the waiting list for public housing.
3. H781 (\$724) -- Unauthorized Public Camping & Sleeping (Cicero bill) seeks to ban unauthorized camping or sleeping on public property in North Carolina, unless the area is specifically designated by a local government and certified by the Department of

Health and Human Services. The bill will be voted on today at 2 PM; feel free to tune in using this [link](#).

Significant Change Requests

Grantees must first have changes approved by the Steering Committee before moving forward with the requests to HUD.

Trillium Health Resources

3 CoC Program Permanent Supportive Housing Budget Amendment Requests

- Trillium Health Resources requests to amend the budgets of 3 of its CoC Program PSH grants. The requests require Steering Committee approval per the CoC's Significant Change Policy due to the amounts exceeding 10% of the budget line items. These requests are to move all Administrative funding to Rental Assistance in each of the 3 grants.

Significant Change Request

Eastpointe Shelter Plus Care Southeast

- Grant Term: 12/1/2024 – 11/30/2025
- Move \$6,427 from Administrative Costs to Rental Assistance.

	Original Budget	Budget Amendment
Administrative	\$6,427	\$0
Rental Assistance	\$77,700	\$84,127
TOTAL	\$84,127	\$84,127

Significant Change Request

Eastpointe Shelter Plus Care 3

- Grant Term: 11/1/2024 – 10/31/2025
- Move \$13,588 from Administrative Costs to Rental Assistance.

	Original Budget	Budget Amendment
Administrative Costs	\$13,588	\$0
Rental Assistance	\$234,072	\$247,660
TOTAL	\$247,660	\$247,660

Significant Change Request

Eastpointe Shelter Plus Care Combined

- Grant Term: 9/1/2024 – 8/31/2025
- Move \$8,687 from Administrative Costs to Rental Assistance.

	Original Budget	Budget Amendment
Administrative Costs	\$8,687	\$0
Rental Assistance	\$207,012	\$215,699
TOTAL	\$215,699	\$215,699

Lynne James made a motion to approve the request change. Dr. Dia Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the Trillium's significant change request was approved.

Back@Home – Balance of State Program – Grant Transfers from NCORR to NCDHHS

New FY2024 CoC Program Award:

- Project Name: HUD CoC FY2024 New PSH Project
 - Support 135 households

- Total Award: \$3,716,487
 - Supportive Services \$ 650,193.00
 - Admin \$371,648.70,
 - Rental Assistance \$2,694,645.30

FY2022 Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (SNOFO) Award

- Back@Home - Balance of State: 5 grants totaling \$21,884,985
 - Supportive Services Only (SSO): NC0490H4F032200 Supportive Services \$3,552,885 Admin \$355,286 – 1200 households
 - Unsheltered PSH: NC0491H4F032200 Rental Assistance \$1,977,948, Supportive Services \$1,202,532, Admin \$318,045 – 42 households
 - Unsheltered RRH: NC0492H4F032200 Rental Assistance \$5,060,088, Supportive Services \$1,700,952, Admin \$676,097 – 96 households
 - Rural PSH: NC0493R4F032200 Rental Assistance \$1,300,536, Supportive Services \$814,872, Admin \$211,539 – 30 households
 - Rural RRH: NC0494R4F032200 Rental Assistance \$3,215,124, Supportive Services \$1,070,517, Admin \$428,564 – 88 households

Angela Harper King, Jackie Lucas, and Brooks Ann McKinney abstained from voting. Tara Peele inquired about subrecipients abstaining from the vote, to which Jenny Simmons responded "no," and asked if anyone had additional input. Teena Willis clarified that employees must abstain, but subrecipients are not required to do so.

Dr. Dia Thomas motioned to approve. Lynne James seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously to transfer the Back@Home – Balance of State Program’s grant from NCORR to NCDHHS.

HMIS@NCCEH Advisory Board Nominations

The NC BoS CoC’s HMIS lead agency is NCCEH.

The governing body is the HMIS@NCCEH Advisory Board, consisting of representatives from the NC BoS, Durham, and Orange CoCs. The CoC’s oversight and [governance responsibilities](#) are carried out by the HMIS Advisory Board.

The NC BoS CoC opened nominations for a 2nd CoC-designated representative to the HMIS Advisory Board. This person will also represent the CoC on the HMIS Advisory Board’s Executive Committee. Nominations opened on April 1st and closed at the close of business on April 15th.

- The CoC received 4 nominations during the open nomination period. One declined the nomination, leaving 3 nominees for consideration.

HMIS Advisory Board & Executive Committee Nominees

Name	Agency	Current Position & NC BoS CoC Leadership	Description of Interest
Erin Gaskin	Partners Health Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serves as the Housing Specialist for Davidson County for Partners Health Management Region 5 Regional Lead Region 5 CE Lead NC BoS CoC Steering Committee member for Region 5 	I currently serve as the Coordinated Entry Lead for Region 5 and have a lot of experience with HMIS. As a frequent user and someone who recruits agencies to use HMIS and advise current users, I'd love to play a role in helping with any improvements.
Jessika Jones	Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministries (ABCCM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HOPE/PATH Data Entry Coordinator at ABCCM (Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry) 	As the data administrator for ABCCM-VSC PATH and HOPE programs, Jessika has a true passion for the continued impact HMIS has for the unsheltered and the collaborative efforts HMIS has for community providers.
Ashley Korengay	Greene Lamp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case Manager at Greene Lamp Community Action Regional Alternate for Region 10 NC BoS CoC Steering Committee alternate for Region 10 	Another voice in wanting to make a difference and help in any way possible to make better choices and changes.



Next Steps

- *Vote by email:* Steering Committee members via email – either Regional Lead or Regional Lead Alternate should respond to the email with a vote for 1 nominee.
- Email to be sent by Steering Committee members to NCCEH after today's meeting. All votes must be cast by 12 Noon on Friday, May 9th.

Erin Gaskin asked to clarify, "If the nominee is a Regional Lead, would their Regional Lead Alternate vote?" Jenny Simmons replied "yes" and vice versa.

Ashley Korengay inquired about her role as Regional Lead Alternate, given that her region's Regional Lead is currently on FMLA. Jenny responded that she would investigate the matter but believed a new Regional Lead or Alternate may need to be appointed.

FY2025 CoC Program Competition Updates

FY2025 CoC Program Project Webinars

The NC BoS CoC will host 2 CoC Program Project Webinars when more information about the FY2025 CoC Program Competition is received from HUD.

- FY2025 New Project Webinar & Intent to Apply Process Launch
 - Coming soon
- FY2025 Renewal Project Webinar
 - Coming soon

Funding and Performance Subcommittee Review of CoC Program Funding Priorities

Each year, the Funding and Performance Subcommittee reviews the CoC Program Funding Priorities document and recommends an updated document for Steering Committee approval. The FY2025 CoC Program Funding Priorities draft document was included in your agenda packet in advance of today's meeting for your review.

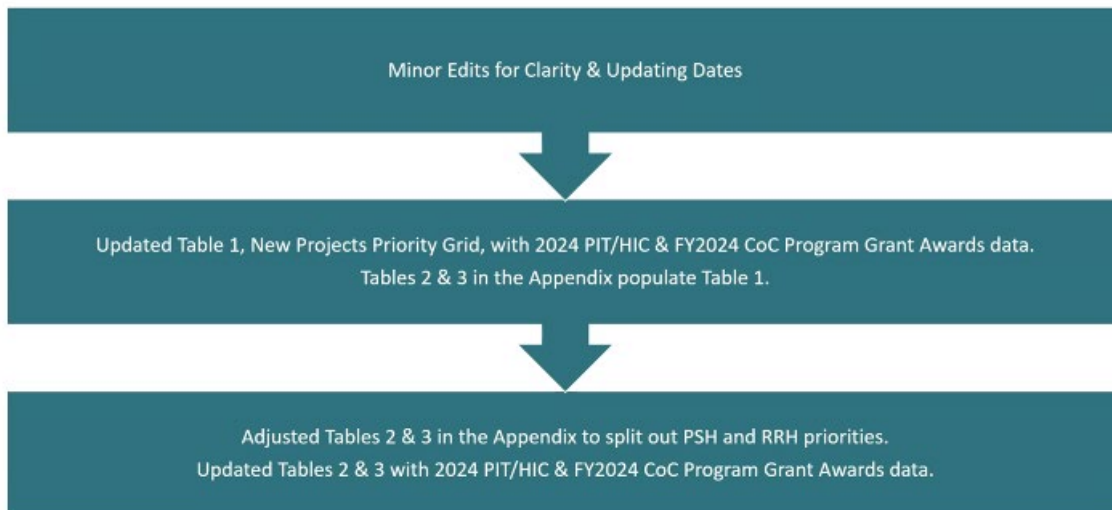
Overview of FY2025 CoC Program Funding Priorities

The FY2025 CoC Program Funding Priorities Committee set NC Balance of State CoC priorities for allocation of funds.

The CoC-wide priorities remain the same for the 2-year NOFO:

- Ensure essential infrastructure elements are in place, including HMIS & coordinated entry.
- Ensure adequate coverage of permanent housing across the CoC.
- Increase the availability of rapid rehousing.
- Ensure CoC Program funding is being used well, including potentially re-allocating some funding from projects that have patterns of low spending or poor performance.

Overview of Recommended Changes:



Jackie Lucas made a motion to approve the FY2025 CoC Program Funding Priorities as recommended by the Funding and Performance Subcommittee. Priscilla Ward seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RUSH (Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing) 2 Funding – Letter of Support Requirement

The NC ESG Office hosted a webinar on Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing 2 on Friday, May 2nd.

- Request for Applications to be published May 6th.
 - Funding is to address housing and service needs of people experiencing homelessness whose needs are exacerbated by disasters (Helene), and people who are at risk of longer-term homelessness as a result
 - Emergency Shelter
 - Rapid Rehousing or Homelessness Prevention
 - Street Outreach Services
 - HMIS
 - Administration Costs
 - Contact the NC ESG Office with questions: ncesg@dhhs.nc.gov

Applicant agencies must notify the NC BoS CoC that they plan to apply.

- The agency must request a letter of support from its CoC; that letter will be submitted directly to NC ESG Office.
- Use this [Smartsheet Link](#) to request a Letter of Support from the NC BoS CoC by 5 PM on Tuesday, May 27th.
 - Letter of support should include recommendations on funding amount, staff capacity to implement the project, coordination with the Region(s) and Coordinated Entry, and any general information that you feel would be helpful for the Steering Committee to know when reviewing the Letter of Support.
- Letters of Support will be reviewed and considered for approval at the June 3rd Steering Committee, which is also the date applications are due to the NC ESG Office.

CY2026 ESG Program Competition Updates

CY2026 ESG Annual Competition - NC BoS CoC

NCCEH staff will attend the webinar for CoCs hosted by the NC ESG Office on May 13th. NCCEH staff will build the competition & timeline for the NC BoS CoC after that webinar, to be launched after the release of the RFA by the NC ESG Office.

Information regarding the NC BoS CoC competition process will ***likely*** be shared during the June 3rd Steering Committee and via the NCCEH website and email after the committee meeting.

Information on the CoC's process will be posted on our [website](#) and will include:

- Application Forms & Deadlines

- Webinars for Regional Leads/Coordinated Entry Leads, Project Applicants, and Project Review Committee members
- Fair Share Amounts

Changes to the ESG Competition Process?

Considering the federal administration's new language in FY2024 CoC Program Grant Agreements, the *NC ESG Office believes the same new language will be in their contract with HUD for ESG funding.*

CY2026 ESG Program Funding Priorities – New This Year

- Project Applicants must have attended at least 75% of the region's meetings
- Project Applicants must have attended at least 85% of the region's CE meetings

Regional Leads/CE Leads

- Organize & review attendance records for this information for the competition

Dr. Dia Thomas had a question regarding the timeframe for attendance. Jenny clarified that it is June 2024 through May 2025.

Project Application Information

ESG Program Eligible Projects include:

- Street Outreach
- Emergency Shelter
- Rapid Rehousing
- Homelessness Prevention
- HMIS or Comparable Database for Victim Service Providers for any of the above projects
- <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/aging/nc-emergency-solutions-grant/nc-emergency-solutions-grant-grantee-information>

ESG 101 Webinar

The NC ESG Office at NC DHHS will hold an ESG 101 webinar on Tuesday, May 27th at 9:30 AM in preparation for the publication of the 2025-2026 ESG RFA.

- Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3881855935661160284>

Any agency interested in applying for ESG funding for CY2026 is encouraged to attend.

Total ESG and Fair Share Amounts Are Not Yet Available

- The amount for CY2026 is not known at this time.
- Last year's total amount for CY2025 was \$2,479,531
- We will release that information at the launch of the NC BoS CoC's competition process

Regional Committees

Spread the word and start now!!!

- Please share that the NC BoS CoC's FY2025 ESG Funding Priorities are available for review.
- Encourage any interested providers to email bos@ncceh.org and request to be added to our general email list if they are not already.
- Forward all ESG Program competition information to your networks, especially the application instructions!

Many of the providers in your region may not hear critical information about application deadlines and material if it does not come from you.

Be prepared to answer questions correctly or send inquiries to NC BoS CoC!

- Applicants may come to you before asking NCCEH staff.
- It is very important that you have the correct information.
- If you don't know, don't guess! Direct people to email bos@ncceh.org

Upcoming Meetings and Reminders

- Lived Expertise Advisory Council, *Friday, May 9, 12 P.M. – 1 P.M.*
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 579 903 9481
Passcode: qYqVY5
- Local Leadership Response Call, *Thursday, May 15, 10:45 A.M. – 12 P.M.*
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 832 5608 9711
- Coordinated Entry Council, *Monday, May 19, 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.*
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 897 8280 4661
Passcode: 490790
- Racial Equity Subcommittee, *Wednesday, May 21, 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.*
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 832 6483 8597
- Funding & Performance Subcommittee, *Thursday, May 22, 2 P.M. – 3 P.M.*
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 824 6553 8716
Passcode: 427473
- Veterans Subcommittee, *Monday, June 3, 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.*
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 816 4243 7801
Passcode: 756430

Next Steering Committee Meeting:

Tuesday, June 3rd at 10:30 A.M.