

North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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NC Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2026

Regional Leads Present: Derek Lancour, Emily Lowery, Chasity Houck, Laurenn Singleton Pendergraft, Erin Gaskin, Jai Baker, Tonya Gray Young, Priscilla Ward, Anita Lynch, Angela Bates, Lakitra "Kit" Claude, Lynne F. James, Brian Fike

At-Large Members Present: Melissa Hewitt, Angela Harper King, Jackie Lucas, Daniel "Danny" Jordan, Erin Joy Crossfield, Brooks Ann McKinney, Cassandra Rowe, Rebecca Laton, Tara Peele

SC Members Absent: Karen Carroll, Kennett Meglar, Makala Perez, Joseph Chilton

Interested Parties Present: Sharon Robbs, Charletta Carr, Latoya Smith, Jessica Joyner, Aireonna McEntire, Amy Modlin, Jana Elliot, Alyce Knaflich, Monica Frizzell, Cynthia Cogswell, Allison Dahle, Daisy Butzer, Anita Foxx, Kelley Hayward, Aubrie Capps, Robert Hudson, Lynnae Trujillo, Charlene Elliott, Kisha Darden, Heather Dillashaw, Angela Wallace, Bre Griffin, Carolyn Proctor, Chris Parker, Christopher Simpson, Evelyn Campbell, Karen Chandler, Kecia Robinson, Kim Hemphill, Kim Crawford, Kristin Dunn, Michelle Wood, Patrika Lathan, Ruby Bryant, Sade Craine, Sarah Lancaster, Sharon Robbs, Shavona McCalep, Susana Rodriguez, Talaika Williams, Teena Willis

NCCEH Staff Present: Dr. Latonya Agard, Alicia Harvey, Andrea Carey, Joanne Cain, Ashley Von Hatten, Natalie Rivera, Liz Carbone, Alicia Price-Blanks, Dashia Shanks, Raven Hallow, 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/>

HUD TA and NCCEH Updates

Heather Dillashaw and Shavona McCalep shared that all but two regions have approved the draft Governance Charter, and that NCCEH is currently awaiting votes or confirmation from the

remaining two regions. Heather noted that implementation could begin as early as next month.

Advocacy Updates: Planning for 2026

Engagement Survey



Responses due January 16

January Local Leadership Call

January Local Leadership Call

Innovative Local Government Funding Approaches for Housing and Homeless Services

Wednesday, January 16 1-3 PM via Zoom

Join us to discover creative solutions that cities, counties, and towns across North Carolina are using to increase local funding opportunities for affordable housing and homeless services. Hear implementation strategies and lessons learned with an opportunity for Q&A. With housing and homelessness advocates, local officials, government employees, services providers, housing developers, ministers of faith, and advocates to attend!

Kindly register
to register!

NC COALITION to end
HOMELESSNESS

Housing Day 2026

SAVE DATE

NC HOUSING DAY
APRIL 28-29, 2026



For more information: liz.carbone@ncceh.org



Advocacy Updates: Monthly Trainings

Monthly on the 4th Thursday from 2 -3 PM, beginning January 22

Topics Include:

- CoC 101
- Grant Opportunities for 2026
- Fair Housing for Shelter Providers
- Fy27: Budgeting in Uncertain Times
- Program Evaluation Toolkit
- Using Data for Storytelling

Please reach out to Liz if you have any specialties or ideas you'd like to share.

Slate of 2026 Steering Committee At-Large Members

| North Carolina Residents with Lived Experience | Public Sector/Government | Partners with Statewide Focus |
|--|---|--|
| Karen Carroll, LEAC Co-Chair | NC DHHS: Angela Harper King, Division of MH/DD/SU Services | Blue Ridge Community Health: <u>Kenett Melgar</u> , Vulnerable Populations |
| Melissa Hewitt, LEAC Co-Chair | NCHFA: Erin Joy Crossfield, Senior Policy & Research Analyst | Legal Aid of NC: Joseph Chilton, Smoky Mountain Offices |
| | NC DHHS: Jackie Lucas, <u>Back@Home</u> | NCCADV: Cassandra Rowe, Director of Health and Housing |
| | NCDPI: Danny Jordan, EHCY Program Administrator | Housing Collaborative: Tara Peele, CEO |
| | NC DHHS: Brooks Ann McKinney, Division of Health Benefits | NCGA: Alison Dahle, Representative District 11 |
| | City of Jacksonville: Cynthia Figueroa, Victim Advocate Officer | |
| | Morehead City: September Tuttle, Deputy Chief of Police | |



September Tuttle, who is from Winston-Salem and currently living in Morehead City, shared that she enjoys working collaboratively and is looking forward to working with the group this coming year.

Erin Joy Crossfield provided an overview of the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA), explaining how the agency uses bonds to finance housing development, including supportive housing. She also noted that another NCHFA staff member may serve as the representative, depending on scheduling.

Representative Dale expressed enthusiasm about being accepted to the committee and is eager to support funding efforts. She encouraged members to reach out with any questions or needs, emphasizing that it is always better to ask.

Brian Fike made a motion to accept the slate of At-Large Members for the Steering Committee. Lynne James seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the 2026 Slate of At-Large Members for the Steering Committee was approved.

Safe at Home Update

Safe at Home Rapid Rehousing

Safe at Home is a statewide CoC-funded Rapid Rehousing program that serves survivors of domestic violence meeting HUD's Category 4homeless definition. The North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCCADV) is the grant recipient, and NCCADV subgrants funding to 15-20 Victim Service Providers (VSPs) across the state.

The Safe at Home program is currently funded to serve up to 160 survivor households each year.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Partnership

In 2024, NCCEH, NCCADV, Housing Collaborative, and RedesignCollaborative partnered together to create a landlord engagement pilot program for Safe at Home. This partnership is funded by an award from Blue Cross Blue Shield to NCCEH.

The primary goal of this partnership is to support Safe at Home VSPs in moving survivor households into safe, affordable housing as quickly as possible.



Safe at Home VSP receives client through Coordinated Entry. Case Manager enrolls client in program and refers to Housing Collaborative for housing support.



Housing Collaborative works with their statewide network of landlords to help the survivor household move into safe housing as quickly as possible. HC Housing Placement Specialist supports unit identification, application materials, negotiating terms of lease, and HQS inspection. BCBS funding is used to support application fees, inspection costs, and provide up to \$1000 signing bonus.



Safe at Home VSP continues to work with client, providing case management and supportive services, and Housing Collaborative acts as the liaison for landlord engagement and support.



Recap of 2025

In 2025, our landlord engagement partners:

- Developed policies and procedures for the client referral workflow
- Created training materials to enroll 5 Safe at Home providers in the program
- Onboarded participating providers in the Housing Accelerator tool
- Conducted monthly check ins and leadership meetings
- Moved our first 9 households into the Housing Accelerator system

Moving into 2026

In Fall 2025, Blue Cross Blue Shield awarded NCCEH additional funding to carry the landlord engagement program through 2026. After an end-of-the-year evaluation of our pilot year, our leadership team has decided to ask for an extension of the 2025 operating year to spend a greater amount of funding and exhibit both need and positive results.

Over the next few months, we aim to:

- Enroll additional Safe at Home providers into the program
- Continue to refer survivor households to Housing Collaborative
- Evaluate and develop plans for reaching a greater number of referrals

For more information about Safe at Home...

For general questions about the landlord engagement pilot, you can reach out to Natalie Rivera, natalie.rivera@ncceh.org.

For program-specific information, please reach out to Cassandra Rowe, Director of Health and Housing at the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

crowe@nccadv.org

CoC Competition

FY2025 CoC Program Competition Updates

Since our December Steering Committee Meeting, there have been many changes to the FY2025 CoC Program Competition on the federal level. On December 1, 2025, plaintiffs filed the *National Alliance to End Homelessness, et al. vs. US Department of Housing Urban Development & Scott Turner* lawsuit in the US District Court of Rhode Island.

The complaint alleged HUD's rescission of the 2-year Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and their issuance of the FY2025 NOFO violates the Administistrate Procedure Act and US Constitution by acting contrary to statutory provisions governing the CoC Program, timing requirements, and limits on imposing retroactive conditions on federal funds.

December 8: HUD withdraws the FY2025 NOFO, removing it from the CoC Program Competition webpage and grants.gov, stating their intention of making appropriate revisions to account for new funding priorities. NCCEH decides to **pause** the NC BoS CoC local competition, stepping away from our previously determined timeline.

December 19: HUD releases a new FY2025 NOFO to replace the rescinded notice. The NOFO is posted on the CoC Program Competition webpage with the caveat that the NOFO will not be implemented or enforced pending further court action.

NCCEH keeps the local competition paused but encourages applicants to continue working on their application in ZoomGrants and compiling necessary materials.

December 23: Court orders HUD to pause recent actions related to CoC Program funding and stops them from moving forward with the FY2025 NOFO released on December 19. Court states HUD must return to the "status quo" that existed under the original 2-year NOFO, but does not

require HUD to award or obligate renewal funds yet. Court requires HUD to produce a plan and timeline by December 30.

December 30: HUD releases "[FY24-25 NOFO Implementation Plan](#)", providing a brief summary of their next steps in response to court orders.

FY24-25 NOFO Implementation Plan

- By January 6, 2026, HUD will reopen and post the FY24-25 CoC NOFO with an extended deadline to allow for **all eligible renewals and reallocations**.
- HUD will accept eligible renewal project applications, YHDP renewal and replacement applications, and CoC reallocations to create new projects as described in the FY24-25 CoC NOFO. By approximately **February 19, 2026**, HUD will close the application window.
- HUD will require CoCs to submit FY25 Priority Listings as applicable.
- HUD will require certification of consistency with consolidated plan for projects that did not submit certification in FY24.
- HUD anticipates completing its required review by **May 1, 2026**, after all applications are received.
- HUD will review all submitted renewal applications based on the Project Renewal Threshold criteria described in the new NOFO.
- HUD will review all submitted renewal and reallocation applications on the basis of the risk review set forth in the new NOFO.
- HUD will review all submitted renewal and reallocation applications on the basis of the risk review set forth in the NOFO.
- HUD anticipates announcing awards in May 2026, provided that there are no government shutdowns, other significant disruptions to the NOFO process, or other factors beyond HUD's control.

NC BoS CoC Next Steps

With HUD stating that more information will be available from them by January 6, NCCEH anticipates restructuring our local competition as needed (if needed) within the next few days and reopening our competition process. We will also update the information/timeline on NCCEH's website and ZoomGrants.

All information and announcements will be shared over email as soon as possible. Please reach out to bos@ncceh.org if you have not been receiving information regarding the FY2025 CoC Program Competition but would like to be included in emails moving forward.

Joanne noted that HUD recently released its quarterly spending report and reminded all recipients to access eLOCCS at least once per quarter.

2026 PIT/HIC

Point in Time and Housing Inventory Counts

One Night Counts each year on the last Wednesday of January

- Decided by each CoC

Important community data for funding, stakeholders, and governance

- Deep data: covers HMIS and non-HMIS projects
- Consistent data: completed every year
- Consequential data: used by HUD, ESG Office, and others to determine funding for regions

Who and What do we Count?

One Night Counts each year the last 10 days of January:



Unsheltered People



Sheltered People in Emergency Shelter (ES) or Transitional Housing (TH) Beds

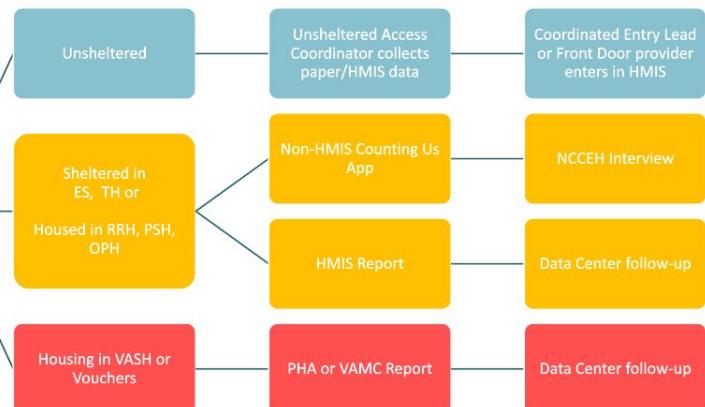


Permanently Housed People in Rapid Re-Housing (RRH), Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), or dedicated Other Permanent Housing (OPH) Beds/Vouchers

- Only Moved-In people

NC BoS CoC Makes Sure Everyone Counts!

Four Methods



NC Balance of State CoC's PIT and HIC Timeline



Next Steps

| Type of Count | Contact |
|--|--|
| Unsheltered Count | Unsheltered Access Coordinators and CE Leads |
| Non-HMIS Sheltered/Permanent Housing Count | Your NCCEH PIT/HIC contact • Not sure who? Email BoS@ncceh.org |
| HMIS Sheltered/Permanent Housing Count | Data Center HelpDesk (hmis@ncceh.org) |
| OPH Count for PHAs | Alicia PB from BoS team is the EHV, HCV, and SV contact |

[Check out the NCCEH website PIT/HIC Page for Trainings, Materials, and descriptions of each type of count!](#)



Non-HMIS ES, TH, RRH, or PSH PIT/HIC Trainings can be found here: <https://ncceh.org/events-trainings/>

- PIT Training: January 8, 2026, at 10 AM, please register on our website!
- Special Population PIT Training: January 22, 2026, at 10 AM, please register on our website!

Upcoming Meetings and Reminders

- Lived Expertise Advisory Council, *Friday, January 9, 12 P.M. – 1 P.M.*
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 579 903 9481
Passcode: qYqVY5
- Client Advocacy Collaborative, *Wednesday, January 21, 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.*
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

- Funding and Performance Subcommittee, *Thursday, January 22, 2:00 – 3:00 P.M.*
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
- Coordinated Entry Council, *Monday, January 26, 10:00 – 11:30 A.M.*
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 897 8280 4661
- Veterans Subcommittee, *Monday, February 2, 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.*
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 837 9246 1651

Next Steering Committee Meeting:

Tuesday, February 3, at 10:30 A.M.