CY2027 Emergency Solutions Grant Program Funding Priorities

Purpose

The North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care (NC BoS CoC) has set funding priorities for the CY2027 Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program funding competition to help improve its homeless and housing service system and provide more robust support to people experiencing homelessness. These funding priorities aim to follow HUD's and the NC DHHS, Division of Aging and Adult Services, NC ESG Office's goals for the ESG Program and to:

- Coordinate ESG Program funding to move the whole CoC toward the goal of preventing and ending homelessness across participating regions of the NC BoS CoC by ensuring ESG Program-funded project types across the CoC are in line with the most current NC ESG Desk Guide and NC BoS CoC's Written Standards per project type.

- Establish precedents to make funding decisions consistently and fairly across each region of the NC BoS CoC.

- Improve performance of ESG Program-funded projects in partnership with the performance measures and goals of the NC ESG Office and as identified through the NC BoS CoC's performance measure benchmarks per project type.

- Ensure ESG Program funding is being used well by recommending projects with a record of spending their allotted funding and meeting performance measure benchmarks

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NC Balance of State Continuum of Care's CY2027 ESG Program Funding Priorities

Ensure people experiencing homelessness in the CoC have access to a continuum of ESG Program-funded homeless and housing services.

- The CoC should only recommend funding projects able to operate in full compliance with relevant NC ESG Desk Guide and NC BoS CoC Written Standards.
- The CoC should only recommend funding street outreach in counties that currently have people living unsheltered as evidenced by the most recent unsheltered portion of the Point-in-Time Count.
- The CoC should prioritize only recommending funding rapid rehousing (RRH) that covers every county in the region unless there is adequate coverage from another CoC Program-funded RRH project. Regions may achieve full geographic coverage by funding one or multiple projects.

- The CoC should recommend homelessness prevention projects as part of a full continuum of ESG Program-funded services. Homelessness prevention should be used solely for returns to homelessness.
- The CoC should promote service coverage to all 79 counties in the CoC geographic area. Agencies willing to cover gaps in coverage should be prioritized for funding. Appendix 1 highlights which counties lack services by project type.

Recommend funding only applicants with the financial capacity to administer public dollars.

- The CoC should only recommend funding agencies that have the capacity to operate a reimbursement-based grant and have the administrative infrastructure to spend their dollars in a timely manner throughout the year.

Ensure the best results for people experiencing homelessness through coordination at the regional level.

- Applicant agencies must regularly participate in their Regional Committee and attend at least 75% of Regional Committee meetings within the last 12 months from the start of the competition.
- Applicant agencies must demonstrate that they fully participate, or will fully participate, in the local coordinated entry system and should attend case conferencing meetings at least 85% of the time.

Prioritize timely, accurate data collection to measure and improve performance at the agency, regional, and CoC levels.

- Utilization of HMIS (or a comparable database for Victim Service Providers) is required for all ESG Program-funded agencies.
- Applying for funding to support agencies to achieve timely, high-quality data entry should be encouraged.
- Performance should be regularly monitored through APR and CAPER data and all HMIS reporting requirements from the NCCEH Data Center and the NC ESG Office should be met in a timely manner.
  - The 2026 Performance Measures & Benchmarks as set by the NC BoS CoC are as follows:

  - Street Outreach:
    - At least 40% of people served have at least one disabling condition.
    - At least 15% of people exited to permanent housing destinations.
    - 14% of people served exited to specific homeless, temporary destinations and some institutional settings.
    - At least 25% of households served are experiencing chronic homelessness.

  - Emergency Shelter:
    - 50% of people served have at least one disabling condition (VSPs *are excluded from this measure due to serving a different target population.)*

- 20% of households served are experiencing chronic homelessness (VSPs *are excluded from this measure due to serving a different target population.*)
- 5% of adults served increased their earned cash income.
- 35% of people served exited to permanent housing destinations.

  o Homelessness Prevention:
  - 40% of people served have at least one disabling condition.
  - 15% of adults served increased their earned cash income.
  - 80% of people served exited to permanent housing destinations.

  o Rapid Rehousing:
  - 45% of people served have at least one disabling condition.
  - 20% of adults increased their earned cash income.
  - 80% of people served exited to permanent housing destinations.
  - 12% or below of people served who exited to permanent housing returned to homelessness within 2 years.

Address client advocacy.

- Prioritize recommending funding agencies committed to hiring and obtaining feedback from persons with lived experience of homelessness (PLE)
- Incorporate and maintain the NC BoS CoC Client Bill of Rights to remain eligible for ESG Program funding

Make consistent and transparent decisions regarding funding for the ESG Program.

- **The Project Review Committee (PRC) and NCCEH staff use the following as established precedents when making funding recommendations:**
  o Any remaining funds in a regional allocation, after all project applications have been reviewed, will be allocated to other housing stabilization projects in the region, primarily to rapid rehousing financial assistance, and secondarily to homelessness prevention financial assistance, of projects that are at or above the median score in the competition in the region. If there is more than one RRH project at or above the median in the region, depending on the amount of remaining funds, the remaining funds will be allocated to the most effective RRH programs as determined by the ESG Program Scorecard project performance section score.
  o If there are no rapid rehousing project applicants in the region to consider for remaining funds, the CoC will reallocate remaining funds to RRH projects with the highest project performance scores in other regions, depending on the amount of funding available and applicant coverage area.

- Allocate funding to agencies that submitted project applications after the established deadline only if funding remains available in the region after all other project applications have been scored and funding allocated.
- With each project application, PRC members and NCCEH staff will review funding requests in the current application compared to the awarded funding from the previous year.
- Returning projects that score below the median score per project type will be recommended for no more than the funding awarded to them from the previous year.
- The CoC will default to funding returning applicants in good standing with the NC ESG Office and performing well. The CoC may fund other returning applicants with conditions.

Appendix 1: Grid of service coverage by county and ESG Program project type

This grid demonstrates which counties have service coverage using public funding through Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and highlights where regions may be experiencing a gap in coverage for a given project type. The CoC will prioritize expanding coverage to counties not currently being served.

Emergency shelter projects may include both general population shelters and domestic violence shelters. Shelters not funded by ESG Program funding do not appear on this grid.

Regional Grid of County Coverage by Project Type

ESG Program-Funded Street Outreach Projects			
Region	# of SO providers	# of Counties covered with ESG Program-funded SO	# of Counties without ESG Program-funded SO
01	1 (HERE in Jackson County)	1 (Jackson)	7 (Haywood, Swain, Macon, Cherokee, Graham, Clay, Madison)
02	0	0	4 (Henderson, Rutherford, Polk, Transylvania)
03	1 (Mission Ministries Alliance)	2 (Burke, McDowell)	3 (Catawba, Caldwell, Alexander)
04	1 (The Shepherd's House)	3 (Stokes, Surry, Yadkin)	2 (Iredell, Davie)
05	3 (Rowan Helping Ministries; Community Shelter of Union	3 (Rowan Helping Ministries serves Rowan; Community Shelter of Union County serves	2 (Cabarrus, Stanly)

	County; Davidson Medical Ministries)	Union; Davidson Medical Ministries serves Davidson)	
06	1 (Central Pines Regional Council)	1 (Chatham)	4 (Rockingham, Caswell, Person, Alamance)
07	0	0	9 (ALL of Region 7)
08	0	0	4 (ALL of Region 8)
09	0	0	8 (ALL of Region 9)
10	0	0	6 (ALL of Region 10)
11	0	0	10 (ALL of Region 11)
12	0	0	5 (ALL of Region 12)
13	1 (Williams Outreach & Consulting)	5 (Onslow, Carteret, Craven, Jones, and Pamlico)	0

ESG Program-Funded Emergency Shelter and DV Shelter Projects			
Region	# of ES providers	# of Counties covered by ESG Program-funded ES	# of Counties without ESG Program-funded non-DV ES
01	2 (HERE in Jackson County, REACH of Macon County)	2 (HERE in Jackson County serves Jackson County; REACH of Macon County is a VSP serving Macon County)	7 without ESG Program-funded non-DV shelter (Cherokee, Clay, Swain, Haywood, Madison, Graham, Macon)
02	1 (The Haven of Transylvania County)	4 (The Haven of Transylvania County serves Transylvania, Henderson, Polk, Rutherford)	0
03	2 (Mission Ministries Alliance, Dulatown Outreach Center)	5 (Mission Ministries Alliance serves McDowell, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Alexander; Dulatown Outreach Center serves Caldwell, Alexander, Catawba, Burke, McDowell)	0
04	3 (The Shepherd's House, Diakonos, The ARK)	5 (The Shepherd's House serves Surry, Stokes, Yadkin, Davie, Iredell; Diakonos serves Davie, Iredell, Surry, Stokes, Yadkin; The ARK serves Davie, Stokes, Surry, Yadkin, Iredell)	0
05	4 (Community Shelter of Union County, Family Crisis Council of Rowan, Homes of	3 (Community Shelter of Union County serves Union; Family Crisis Council of Rowan is a VSP serving Rowan County; Homes of Hope serves	2 without ESG Program-funded non-DV shelter (Cabarrus, Rowan)

	Hope, Davidson County First Hope Ministries)	Stanly; Davidson County First Hope Ministries serves Davidson County)	
06	1 (Allied Churches of Alamance County)	5 (Allied Churches of Alamance County serves Person, Rockingham, Alamance, Caswell, and Chatham)	0
07	3 (Friend to Friend, SAFE of Harnett County, HAVEN in Lee County)	9 (Friend to Friend is a VSP and serves Randolph, Montgomery, Anson, Richmond, Moore, Lee, Hoke, Harnett, Johnston; SAFE of Harnett County is a VSP and serves Harnett; HAVEN in Lee County is a VSP and serves Lee)	9 without ESG Program-funded non-DV shelter (ALL Region 7 counties)
08	1 (Southeastern Family Violence Center)	4 (Southeastern Family Violence Center is a VSP and serves Robeson, Scotland, Bladen, Columbus)	4 without ESG Program-funded non-DV shelter (Robeson, Scotland, Bladen, Columbus)
09	1 (Hand Up Ministries)	2 (Nash, Edgecombe)	6 without ESG Program-funded non-DV shelter (Granville, Vance, Franklin, Warren, Halifax, Northampton)
10	0	0	6 without ESG Program-funded non-DV shelter (Sampson, Wayne, Lenoir, Greene, Wilson)
11	2 (River City Community Development Corporation, Albemarle Hopeline)	10 (River City CDC serves: Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell; Albemarle Hopeline is a VSP and serves Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Gates, Pasquotank, and Perquimans)	0
12	0	0	10 (All Region 12 Counties)
13	1 (Onslow Community Outreach)	3 (Onslow, Jones, Carteret)	2 without ESG Program-funded non-DV shelter (Craven, Pamlico)

ESG Program-Funded Rapid Rehousing Projects			
Region	# of RRH providers	Counties Covered with ESG Program-funded RRH	Counties without ESG Program-funded RRH coverage
01	1 (HERE in Jackson County)	8 (Jackson, Haywood, Macon, Swain, Clay, Graham, Cherokee, Madison)	0
02	0 (The Haven of Transylvania County)	0	4 (Rutherford, Polk, Transylvania, and Henderson)
03	1 (Mission Ministries Alliance)	2 (Burke, McDowell)	3 (Alexander, Caldwell, Catawba)
04	1 (Diakonos)	5 (Davie, Iredell, Surry, Stokes, Yadkin)	0
05	1 (Community Shelter of Union County)	1 (Community Shelter of Union County serves Union	4 (Davidson, Rowan, Cabarrus, Stanly)
06	0	0	5 (Rockingham, Caswell, Person, Alamance, Chatham)
07	1 (Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action)	3 (Johnston, Lee, Harnett)	6 (Anson, Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Randolph)
08	1 (Southeastern Family Violence Center is a VSP but serves both DV and non-DV populations in their RRH program)	4 (Robeson, Scotland, Bladen, Columbus)	0
09	1 (Center for Homeownership and Economic Development)	8 (Edgecombe, Nash, Halifax, Warren, Vance, Granville, Franklin, Northampton)	0
10	2 (Hope Station, Greene Lamp)	6 (Hope Station serves Wilson; Greene Lamp serves Duplin, Greene, Lenoir, Sampson, Wayne	0
11	1 (Albemarle Hopeline – DV population RRH project)	10 (DV-RRH Project: Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Gates, Pasquotank, and Perquimans)	All Region 11 Counties without a non-DV RRH ESG-Program funded project.

12	2 (County of Pitt Planning Department; Greene Lamp)	4 (Pitt served by County of Pitt Planning Department; Greene Lamp serves Martin, Beaufort, Washington)	1 (Bertie)
13	1 (Onslow Community Outreach)	3 (Onslow, Jones, Carteret)	2 (Craven, Pamlico)

ESG Program-Funded Homelessness Prevention Projects			
Region	# of HP providers	Counties Covered with ESG Program-funded HP	Counties without ESG Program-funded HP
01	0	0	8
02	0	0	4
03	0	0	5
04	0	0	5
05	0	0	5
06	0	0	5
07	0	0	9
08	0	0	4
09	0	0	8
10	2 (Hope Station; Greene Lamp)	6 (Hope Station serves Wilson; Greene Lamp serves Duplin, Greene, Lenoir, Sampson, Wayne)	0
11	0	0	10
12	0	0	5
13	0	0	5