



North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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NC Balance of State CoC Funding and Performance Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

06.06.2019

Subcommittee members in attendance: Cindy Hathcock, Joel Rice, Talaika Williams

NCCEH staff attending: Ehren Dohler, Bagé Shade

Minutes:

Subcommittee reviewed each part of the ESG Funding Priorities to provide feedback and suggestions on updates needed for 2019. Notes from the discussion are recorded below, and the updated ESG Funding Priorities for 2019 are in the process of being updated per these suggestions.

In review of the ESG Funding Priorities, the following comments were made by committee members and NCCEH staff in reference to the listed section below:

- ***LPAs should only fund homelessness prevention programs if low-barrier emergency shelter and rapid re-housing are available in every county.***
 - Joel recommended providing clarification on definition of prevention to provide to those in the region so they can understand how to implement those dollars appropriately and effectively. Mentioned that he can see how it can be helpful to have prevention in regions without shelters.
 - Talaika stated if we can explain it well to the community, it could be helpful for communities without shelter. We must be mindful in ensuring that the funds are spent appropriately.
 - Ehren mentioned the concern that the population may not always specifically available to justify serving prevention households. Providing the definition could help with this clarification.
 - Joel/Ehren/Cindy/Bagé had discussion on hotel vouchers and the availability to use ESG funds under shelter funding to operate a hotel voucher program since ESG Shelter funds can be used to pay for a hotel/motel stay.
- ***LPAs should work with potential new applicants to understand ESG requirements and best practices, including those found in the NC BoS CoC Written Standards.***
 - Joel mentioned reluctance for smaller agencies to apply with little capacity and expressed hope for the 2019 ESG process is less cumbersome to be able to attract new agencies who are coming to the table. Joel also expressed concern about using the word, “should” as heavily as is used in the document.
 - Suggestions on using “should:”
 - Bagé and Talaika recommended removing the words, “Shelters should.”

- Ehren suggested making it people focused; for example, “people should not be required to go through huge amount of steps...”
- Group decided to instead word the priorities so that it would show what we want clients to experience rather than what shelters and programs should do.
- Cindy stated she gets a lot of push back because her committee want to require background checks. She says they “shut down” when she mentions offering low-barrier services but also says they’re trying to figure out how to get to the point of offering low-barrier shelter services but still maintain their own set of requirements.
- Ehren suggested we could add additional guidance on steps to getting to the point of low-barrier.
- Cindy mentioned that agencies and communities express that it’s important help people who are experiencing homelessness but you have to also admit that the same folks you feel are important to help are also using drugs and have barriers—so how do we serve them?

Next Steps:

NCCEH staff will update priorities based on suggestions from today’s meeting, send out the updated draft via e-mail BEFORE the next FPS meeting so that during that meeting, the subcommittee can amend or vote to send it to the steering committee for approval.

Next meeting: June 27, 2019 11 AM

