



North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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NC Balance of State CoC Funding and Performance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes 04.28.22

Members Present: Melissa McKeown, Bonnie Harper, Tonya Freeman, Melissa Hewitt

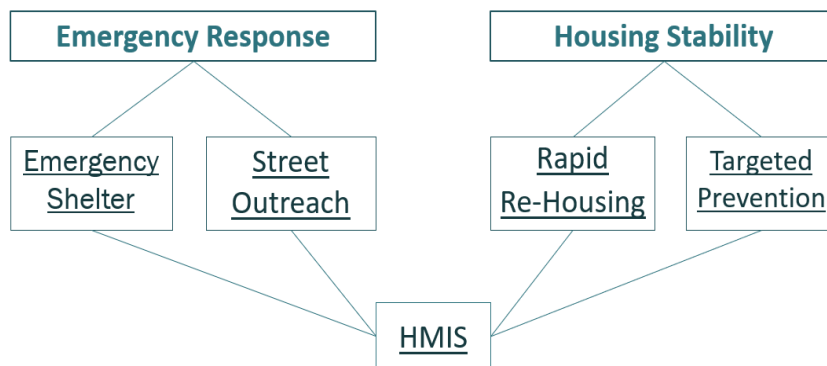
NCCEH Staff Present: Brian Alexander, Andrea Carey, Allie Card, Laurel McNamee

Minutes:

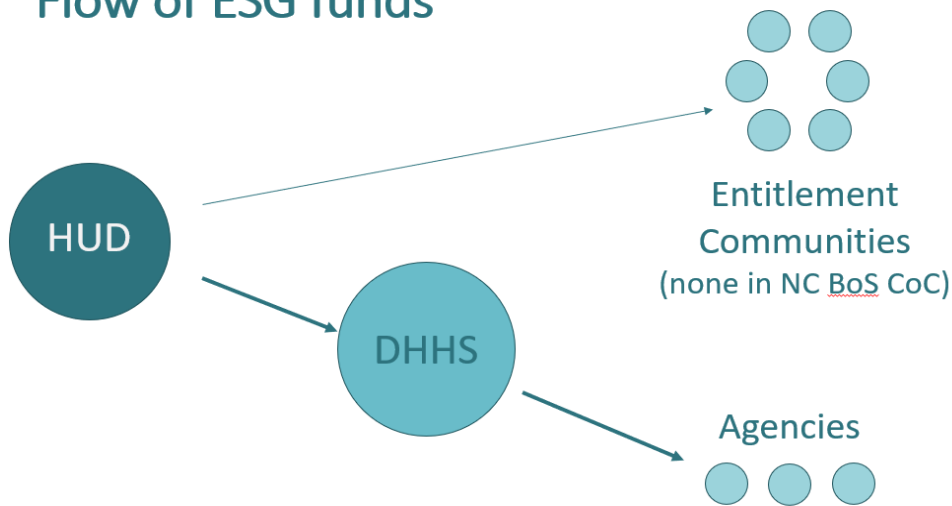
- Brian welcomed members of the subcommittee and highlighted the meeting agenda.
- Brian gave an update on HMIS recruitment activities
 - The CoC received reports from four regions by April 15th.
 - Region 1
 - 3 agencies contacted and awaiting response
 - Salvation Army; Hurlburt-Johnson Friendship House, and My Sister's Place
 - Reminder for primary contacts that we should not be outreaching Victim Service Providers as they are prohibited from using HMIS.
 - Region 3
 - New Hope Homeless & Poverty Ministry and His Glory Search and Recue are ready to join!
 - Safe Harbor is not interested in joining.
 - Bonnie mentioned that she had another conversation with them yesterday and she thinks she's convinced them to join. She will follow-up with them and connect them to the Data Center.
 - Region 4
 - Mt. Airy Men's Shelter is ready to join!
 - Hope Recovery Home has been contacted and awaiting response.
 - This project is not on the 2021 and the name could indicate that it's a substance abuse project rather than homeless dedicated. Bonnie will follow-up to ask questions and provide guidance.
 - Region 7
 - All 2021 HIC projects have been contacted. Two agencies are interested in joining but want more information: Family Promise of Moore County and Anson County Homes of Hope.
 - Melissa McKeown said she has also been talking with Lydia's Place and they have interest in joining.

- Brian discussed next steps:
 - The Data Center will contact agencies that are ready to join to help them get set up and agencies with additional questions.
 - For regions that reported, primary FPS contacts will:
 - Send a big thank you for reporting this month's activities and give them an update on next steps
 - Follow-up on VSP and non-HIC project issues
 - For regions that didn't report, primary FPS contacts will:
 - Ask for a progress update
 - Remind RLAs to report each month by the 15th.
- Laurel provided an overview of the FY22 ESG Funding Priorities process
 - ESG: Emergency Solutions Grant Purpose:
 - Provide assistance to rapidly rehouse persons currently experiencing homelessness
 - Assist in meeting the costs of operating emergency shelters
 - Decrease homelessness through the provision of preventive programs and activities
 - HUD sets priorities for the ESG program
 - Broaden existing emergency shelter and homelessness prevention activities
 - Emphasize rapid rehousing
 - Help people quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness
 - For every activity type, ESG funding should be assisting people to access or maintain permanent housing.
 - Laurel visually described eligible components and the flow of ESG funds to funded agencies

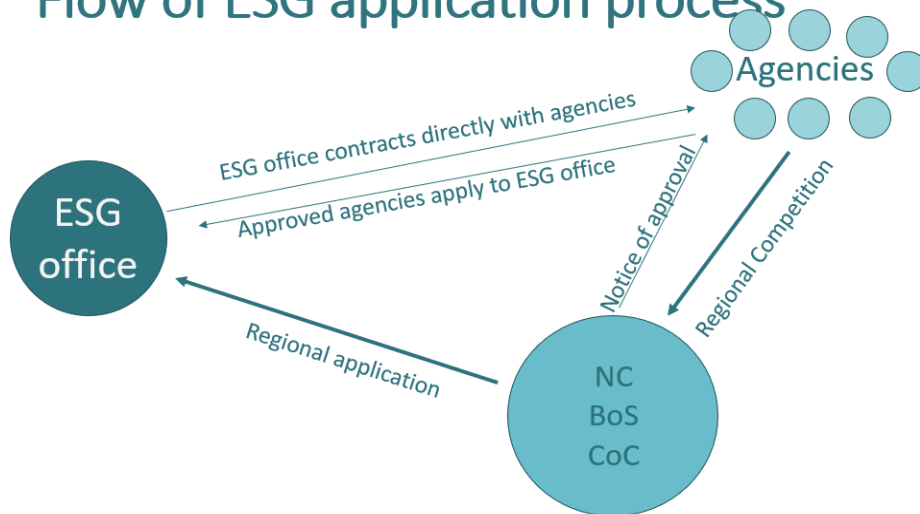
5 eligible components under ESG



Flow of ESG funds



Flow of ESG application process



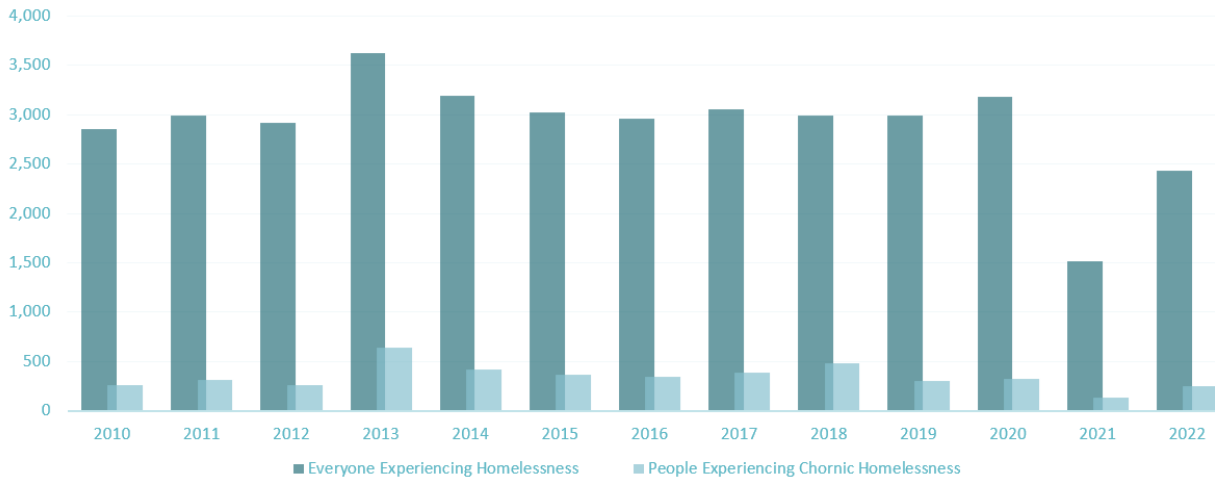
- The NC Balance of State last established priorities for ESG funding in 2019.
 - The process, at that time, was focused on each Regional Committee facilitating a local competition and submitting 13 Regional Applications to the ESG Office.
 - The process has now been centralized, and program applications are reviewed by NCCEH staff and the Project Review Committee.
 - The existing funding priorities need to be updated to reflect not only current procedures but offers a chance to reflect the updated priorities of the CoC.

- Laurel suggested the proposed timeline and process to FPS members
 - NCCEH staff are drafting 2022 ESG Funding Priorities for review by the FPS.
 - Because significant changes are needed, staff need member input early in the process to ensure the forthcoming document accurately reflects the CoC's priorities.
 - With today's feedback, NCCEH will complete the draft and present it for feedback and recommendation at the May FPS meeting.
 - The Steering Committee will consider approval at its June meeting.
- Laurel presented a series of proposed changes to the existing ESG Funding Priorities document for FPS members to consider:
 - Propose changing the target audience of the document away from Regional Committees to the Project Review and Steering Committees to reflect current ESG competition process
 - Previous funding priorities intended to guide Regional Committees in making decisions for program applicants in their region.
 - Current processes rely on funding decisions made by the NC BoS CoC Project Review Committee.
 - Updating funding priorities as a guide for the Project Review Committee also presents an opportunity to codify decision-making criteria that CoC has made precedent.
 - Propose that draft 2022 ESG Funding Priorities move participation in coordinated entry and compliance with CoC written standards to a matter of eligibility for programs to apply.
 - Providing a clear and coordinated path for people to gain services, which operate few barriers, has always been a goal of the CoC.
 - In 2019, the CE system had not yet established full coverage across the CoC.
 - In 2019, written standards had recently strengthened the CoC's stance on low-barrier, Housing First practices. Many providers were not yet in full compliance.
 - Coordinated entry is now available in all 79 counties, and the written standards remain consistent.
 - Propose adding "regular CAPER review" to funding priorities to encourage agencies to regularly review data and open the door for a CAPER review to be included in competition evaluation.
 - Utilization of HMIS, or a comparable database, is already required for agencies receiving ESG funding.
 - Applications for HMIS funding through ESG are infrequent.
 - Application review process already requires submission of CAPER but not any performance benchmarks within that report.
 - Propose adding a chart of county coverage by activity type to the ESG Funding Priorities to identify gaps in coverage.
 - Providing service coverage across all counties in the CoC is already a priority for the CoC.

- There is not currently a requirement for agencies to provide coverage to their entire region to apply for ESG funding for any given project type.
 - Propose establishing equity as a priority for ESG to help establish equity as a priority at the agency level.
 - Across the CoC, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) experience homelessness at disproportionate rates across the homeless system.
 - Black residents in the NC BoS CoC 79-county area are approximately 20% of the population.
 - Black people make up 40% of those experiencing homelessness in the NC BoS CoC.
 - In 2020, the CoC established RE as a priority and committed to impacting these racial disparities.
 - A RE section has already been added to the CoC funding competition scorecard.
- Laurel asked for feedback to the proposals:
 - Bonnie asked how many agencies could be impacted by making low-barrier an eligibility requirement.
 - Laurel said that it affects very few of currently funded agencies because they have done a good job over the last few years to lower barriers. The agencies left with barriers have few barriers and staff have been providing technical assistance to help them get into compliance. It's appropriate for the CoC to make low barrier services an eligibility requirement for new applicants so that they are in compliance from the beginning and don't have to immediately start working to lower barriers.
 - Melissa McKeown supported the proposals but offered feedback.
 - For RE, it would be good to know the benchmarks agencies should achieve.
 - For coverage, some agencies do not have the capacity to cover entire regions and don't want to lose the existing capacity.
 - Brian clarified that the proposal doesn't suggest that we force agencies to cover entire regions to be funded. Instead, the coverage chart can help the Project Review Committee to understand service gaps and attempt to fund projects that fill those gaps.
 - Melissa suggested including not only ESG funded projects but also CoC-funded projects in the gaps chart.
 - Tonya also supported the proposals but offered feedback.
 - She asked what would happen if another project not fully participating in the region applies for funding and may not be able to cover the counties that have less services.

- Staff responded that this is where the region would provide information during the Regional Committee recommendations process. Laurel stated that the Regional Committee input process will be revamped this year so that regions can provide more information.
- She asked if all regions would be all be held to the same RE standards. She’s concerned that some regions have lower percentages of BIPOC than the CoC average.
 - Laurel clarified that the RE evaluation is to help projects begin evaluating their services to ensure that everyone has equal access to services and that the benchmarks have not been set yet.
- Andrea provided a preliminary look at the 2022 Point-In-Time data.
 - The data presented shows the total number of people counted experiencing homelessness on January 26, 2022.
 - Point-In-Time data per region will be shared at next month’s Steering Committee meeting.
 - All PIT and HIC data will be posted at: ncceh.org/datacenter/pitdata.
 - Specific requests for data should go to the NCCEH Data Center at hmis@ncceh.org.
 - Andrea showed PIT data trends for total people experiencing homelessness since 2010.

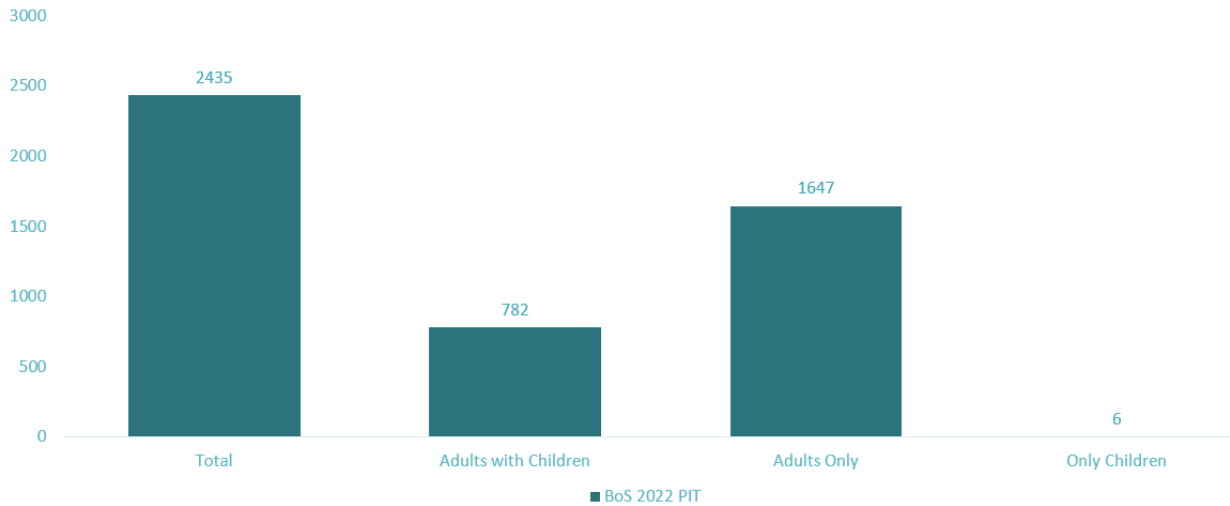
People Counted in PIT, 2010-2022



*Unsheltered data was not collected in 2021 due to the pandemic

- Andrea showed the 2022 PIT Count broken down by household type.

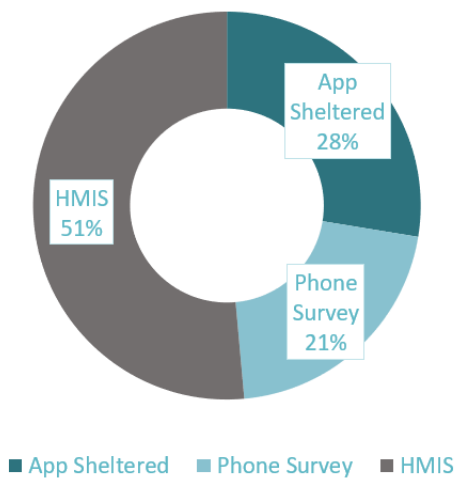
2022 Point-in-Time Count



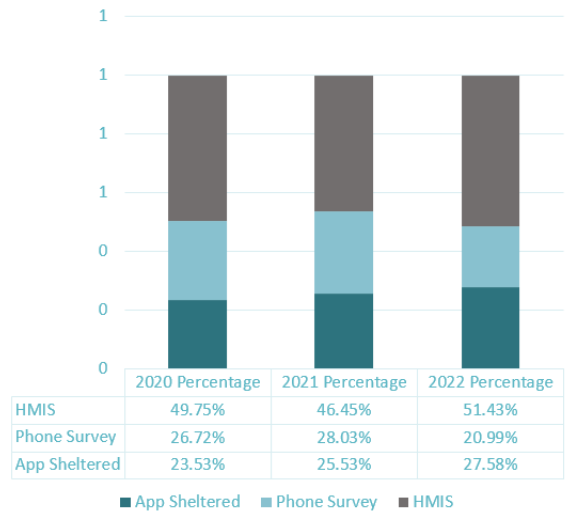
- Andrea showed how people were counted in this year's PIT count. The good news is that we have increased participation through HMIS and the App in 2022 than prior years.

How were people counted?

People Experiencing Sheltered Homelessness



Methodology



- Next meeting: Thursday, May 26 at 11 AM