



North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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CY2025 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 CY2025 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:

- Coordinate ESG Program funding to move the whole CoC toward common goals including implementing Housing First, improving racial equity, and decreasing disparities in outcomes for marginalized populations throughout the CoC.
- Establish precedent to make funding decisions consistently and fairly across each region of the NC BoS CoC.
- Help the NC BoS CoC target ESG Program funding to meet specific local needs. These priorities provide guidance to help make decisions about how to use ESG Program funding to improve the homeless and housing system, helping grantees and communities take steps toward providing access to low-barrier emergency shelter and permanent housing using a Housing First approach, rather than simply continuing ESG Program funding for previous grantees.
- Improve performance of ESG Program-funded projects. These priorities will ensure publicly funded agencies implement best practices by lowering barriers to entry, incorporating Housing First approaches, and following the NC BoS CoC's Written Standards.

NC Balance of State Continuum of Care's CY2025 ESG Program Funding Priorities

Ensure people experiencing homelessness in the CoC have access to low-barrier, housing-focused shelter, rehousing assistance, and supportive services.

- The CoC should only fund projects able to operate in full compliance with relevant NC BoS CoC Written Standards.
- The CoC should fund street outreach in counties that currently have people living unsheltered.
- The CoC should fund rapid rehousing (RRH) that covers every county in the region. Regions may achieve full geographic coverage by funding one or multiple programs.
- The CoC should only fund homelessness prevention programs if accessible, low-barrier emergency shelter or street outreach and rapid rehousing assistance are available in every county. 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.

Fund only applicants with the financial capacity to administer public dollars.

- Agencies must 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 should regularly participate in their Regional Committee and attend at least 75% of Regional Committee meetings.
- 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 CAPER data and all HMIS reporting requirements from NCEH Data Center and the NC ESG Office should be met in a timely manner.
- 2024 Performance Measures & Benchmarks
 - Street Outreach:
 - 50% of people served have disabling conditions
 - 20% of people served exit to permanent housing destinations
 - 20% of people served exit to shelter
 - 30% of households served are experiencing chronic homelessness.
 - Emergency Shelter:
 - 50% of people served have disabling conditions
 - 10% of adults served increased their earned cash income
 - 35% of people served exit to permanent housing destinations
 - 25% of households served are experiencing chronic homelessness
 - Median length of project participation of leavers is 90 to 120 days
 - Homelessness Prevention:
 - 35% of people served have disabling conditions
 - 10% of adults served increased their earned cash income
 - 80% of people served exit to permanent housing destinations

- Rapid Rehousing:
 - 40% of people served have disabling conditions
 - 80% of people served exited to permanent housing destinations
 - 20% of adults increased their earned cash income
 - Below 20% of people served who exited to permanent housing returned to homelessness within 2 years
 - Median length of project participation of leavers is 180 to 270 days

Address disparities across marginalized communities.

- Prioritize funding to agencies committed to advancing racial equity.
- Prioritize funding to agencies committed to hiring and obtaining feedback from persons with lived experience of homelessness (PLE).
- Maintain full compliance with the NC BoS CoC Anti-Discrimination Policy to remain eligible for ESG Program funding.
- Incorporate 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:**
 - Any remaining funds in a regional allocation, after all project applications have been reviewed, will be allocated to rapid rehousing financial assistance. If there is more than one RRH project in the region, the remaining funds will be allocated to the most effective RRH programs as determined by the ESG Program Scorecard project performance section score.
 - 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.
 - The CoC will default to funding renewal applicants, placing conditions on those with poor performance.

Appendix 1: Grid of service coverage by county and ESG 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-funded SO	# of Counties without ESG-funded SO
01	1 (Blue Ridge Community Health Services, Inc.)	4 (Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain)	4 (Cherokee, Graham, Clay, Madison)
02	1 (Blue Ridge Community Health Services, Inc.)	4 (Henderson, Rutherford, Polk, Transylvania)	0
03	1 (Mission Ministries Alliance)	5 (Burke, McDowell, Catawba, Caldwell, Alexander)	0
04	1 (The Shepherd's House)	3 (Stokes, Surry, Yadkin)	2 (Iredell, Davie)
05	2 (Rowan Helping Ministries; Community Shelter of Union County)	2 (Rowan Helping Ministries serves Rowan; Community Shelter of Union County serves Union)	3 (Davidson, Cabarrus, Stanly)
06	1 (Central Pines Regional Council)	1 (Central Pines Regional Council serves Chatham County)	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	0	0	5 (ALL of Region 13)

ESG Program Funded Emergency Shelter and DV Shelter Projects			
Region	# of ES providers	# of Counties covered by ESG-funded ES	# of Counties without ESG 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)	6 without ESG-funded non-DV shelter (Cherokee, Clay, Swain, Haywood, Madison, Graham)
02	2 (The Haven of Transylvania County)	4 (The Haven of Transylvania County serves Transylvania, Rutherford, Henderson, Polk)	0
03	3 (Family Guidance Center, Mission Ministries Alliance, Dulatown Outreach Center, Inc.)	5 (Family Guidance Center is a VSP and serves Catawba County; Mission Ministries Alliance serves McDowell, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba; Dulatown Outreach Center serves Caldwell, Alexander, Catawba, Burke, McDowell)	0
04	3 (The Shepherd's House; Diakonos, Inc.; The ARK)	5 (The Shepherd's House serves Surry, Stokes, Yadkin, Davie, Iredell; Diakonos, Inc. serves David, Iredell, Surry, Stokes, Yadkin; The ARK serves Davie, Stokes, Surry, Yadkin, Iredell)	0
05	4 (Family Services of Davidson County; Community Shelter of Union County; Family Crisis Council of Rowan, Inc.; Homes of Hope)	3 (Family Services of Davidson County serves Davidson County; Community Shelter of Union County serves Union; Family Crisis Council of Rowan, Inc. serves Rowan; Homes of Hope serves Stanly)	1 without ESG-funded non-DV shelter (Cabarrus)
06	3 (Allied Churches of Alamance County; Family Abuse Services of Alamance County)	5 (Allied Churches of Alamance County serves Person, Rockingham, Alamance, Caswell, Chatham; Family Abuse Services of Alamance County is a VSP and serves	0

		primarily Alamance, but also surrounding counties)	
07	4 (Homes of Hope; Friend to Friend; SAFE of Harnett County, Inc.; HAVEN in Lee County, Inc.)	9 (Homes of Hope serves Montgomery and Anson; Friend to Friend serves Randolph, Montgomery, Anson, Richmond, Moore, Lee, Hoke, Harnett, Johnston; SAFE of Harnett County, Inc is a VSP and serves Harnett; HAVEN in Lee County, Inc. is a VSP and serves Lee)	0
08	1 (Southeastern Family Violence Center)	4 (Southeastern Family Violence Center is a VSP and serves Robeson, Scotland, Bladen, Columbus)	4 without ESG funded non-DV shelter (Robeson, Scotland, Bladen, Columbus)
09	1 (Hand up Ministries)	2 (Nash, Edgecombe)	6 without ESG-funded non-DV shelter (Granville, Vance, Franklin, Warren, Halifax, Northampton)
10	0	0	6 without ESG-funded non-DV shelter (Sampson, Wayne, Lenoir, Greene, Wilson)
11	1 (River City Community Development Corporation)	10 (Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell)	0
12	1 (Center for Family Violence Prevention)	3 (Center for Family Violence Prevention is a VSP and serves Pitt, Martin, Washington)	5 without ESG-funded non-DV shelter (Pitt, Martin, Washington, Bertie, Beaufort)
13	2 (Carteret County Domestic Violence Program, Inc.; Onslow Community Outreach)	3 (Carteret County Domestic Violence Program, Inc. is a VSP and serves Carteret; Onslow Community Outreach serves Onslow, Jones, Carteret)	2 without ESG-funded non-DV shelter (Craven, Pamlico)

ESG Program Funded Rapid Rehousing Projects			
Region	# of RRH providers	Counties Covered with ESG-funded RRH	Counties without ESG-funded RRH coverage
01	1 (HERE in Jackson County)	8 (Jackson, Haywood, Macon, Swain, Clay, Graham, Cherokee, Madison)	0
02	1 (Thrive)	4 (Henderson, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania)	0
03	1 (Mission Ministries Alliance)	2 (Burke, McDowell)	3 (Alexander, Caldwell, Catawba)
04	1 (Diakonos, Inc.)	5 (Diakonos, Inc. serves 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	1 (Central Piedmont Community Action, Inc.)	5 (Central Piedmont Community Action, Inc. serves Chatham, Rockingham, Caswell, Person, Alamance)	0
07	1 (Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc.)	9 (Johnston, Lee, Harnett, Anson, Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Randolph)	0
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 (The REACH Center)	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 (River City Community Development Corporation)	10 (Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell)	0
12	1 (County of Pitt Planning Department)	5 (Pitt, Martin, Beaufort, Washington, Bertie)	0
13	1 (Onslow Community Outreach)	5 (Onslow)	4 (Craven, Jones, Pamlico, Carteret)

ESG Program Funded Homelessness Prevention Projects			
Region	# of HP providers	Counties Covered with ESG-funded HP	Counties without ESG-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