

North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness

securing resources

encouraging public dialogue

advocating for public policy change

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4.25.12

NCCEH Update

Dear friends,

While working with communities to retool our crisis response system, I've heard "change is hard" more times than I can count. Usually it is said by someone who is aggressively seeking change, not by someone who doesn't want to change, as you might have first guessed. As we are currently faced with a great deal of change, it's important to acknowledge that we are doing something that is hard, but we're not changing for change's sake. We're changing because we know the change is needed in order to end homelessness.

What seems to be hard about change is not adding new pieces to our system; we've embraced those. The hard part is giving up something we've done before. It's the loss that comes with change. In moving to a new system, we will lose parts of our old system.

We have to make some tough decisions about funding, and those start with ESG and CoC funds. We have to be willing to improve performance of existing programs, change some of our program design, and reinvest in new programs in order for our system and agencies to perform at the highest level possible and to return individuals and families to stable housing as quickly as possible. Reinvesting means cutting funds for current activities. There will not be enough money to build a new system while continuing to invest the same amount in the old system. I believe we must be as aggressive with change as we can while still making sure that our current infrastructure does not collapse while we're building new programs.

When I start to feel myself being resistant to change and weary of the work that it is taking to shift our system, I can't help but think of the individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Then, all of my reasons for resisting change, resisting shifting resources, and resisting cutting funding for a program seem selfish. When I look at program performance, data, research, and experience from the field, everything tells me these individuals and families would be better served by a system centered on housing stability and a housing first approach.

I cannot imagine how I would explain to an individual or family experiencing homelessness - someone who has lost so much and faces insecurity and uncertainty every day - that we, the system, just weren't ready to change.

We cannot get stuck on what we stand to lose; we have to focus on what we stand to gain.

I hope you'll be a part of the change with us. Regardless of whether the change is being enforced by new rules or by us working hard to create it, all of the change that we are facing will get us closer to ending homelessness if we embrace it.



Denise Neunaber
NCCEH Executive Director

Tuesdays @ Two: Rethinking Shelter

The HEARTH Act brings many changes to the Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG) and presents shelters with new priorities and program measures, including an emphasis on rapid re-housing and shortened length of stay for shelter clients. Shelters are finding success in retooling staff through integrating rapid re-housing program design.

[Join NCCEH for a Tuesdays @ Two call](#) with Carson Dean, Executive Director of the Men's Shelter of Charlotte. Carson will discuss how the shelter has integrated rapid re-housing and diversion efforts into their work and the amazing, and sometimes surprising, results. Carson will also answer questions from participants.

The call is free for NCCEH members and \$15 for non-members. Not a member? [Join today!](#)

Proposed Changes to State ESG Program

NC Emergency Solutions Grants Program

The State ESG Office has published two draft amendments that outline their intentions for awarding ESG funding.

Substantial Amendment for FY11b ESG funds

This document addresses the second allocation of FY2011 funding (2011B). This funding must be used for rapid re-housing, prevention, or HMIS.

Substantial Amendment for FY12 ESG Funds

This documents addresses the FY2012 funding. This funding can be used for historic ESG activities (shelters & currently funded transitional housing), rapid re-housing, or HMIS.

Official written comments on the amendments may be submitted:

- via email to: ipayne@nccommerce.com,
- via fax to: [\(919\) 571-4951](tel:(919)571-4951),
- or via mail to:
Iris Payne
Attn: Public Comment
Community Investment and Assistance
4313 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4313

All comments must be sent no later than May 4, 2012 for the 2011 document and no later than May 21, 2012 for the 2012 document.

Informal comments may be submitted to:

michael.leach@dhhs.nc.gov and martha.are@dhhs.nc.gov

A Public Hearing regarding these two substantial amendments will be held on April 30, 2012 in Raleigh. Details are available on the [NCCEH website calendar](#).

Recent Blog Postings

Stay informed about the most vital news and issues by reading our blog at <http://blog.ncceh.org>.

Reflections from the Housing First Conference

Denise and Emily had the opportunity to attend the first-ever Housing First Conference in New Orleans, LA, on March 21-23, 2012. The conference, co-sponsored by Housing First pioneers Pathways and DESC, was attended by over 600 Housing First providers, policy makers, and advocates, and marked the transition of Housing First programs from the fringes to the mainstream. [Read more...](#)

Steps Toward Systems Change

This week the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) released new resources to help communities retool crisis response systems. As outlined in their *Opening Doors* plan, the goal of this systems change is

to transform homeless services into a true crisis response system... [Read more...](#)

New Web Resources

New ESG Resource Webpage

We've created a [new webpage](#) for information about the Emergency Solutions Grants program, including important dates and state & national resources.

2011 Continuum of Care New Project Awards

On March 13, HUD announced [new project funding awards](#) from the 2011 CoC application.

Coordinated Assessment Toolkit

The National Alliance to End Homelessness has created [this toolkit](#) to help communities design and implement coordinated assessment/intake systems.

Prevention and Shelter Diversion Toolkit

This companion to the Coordinated Assessment Toolkit provides specific guidance on [shelter diversion and homelessness prevention](#) programs.

Remember to check our [Learning Library](#) for regularly updated articles, research, and reports!

Upcoming Events

Emergency Solutions Grant Program Public Hearing [view event](#)

Monday, April 30, 9:00 am
Raleigh, NC

Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Meeting [view event](#)

Tuesday, May 1, 10:30 am
via conference call

Tuesdays @ Two: Rethinking Shelter [view event](#)

Tuesday, May 1, 2:00 pm
via conference call

SOAR Caseworker Training [view event](#)

Wednesday and Thursday, May 30 and 31

Mount Olive, NC

***There are many more events listed on our webpage.
[View our calendar](#) to learn more!***

NCCEH Job Board

NC Field Director [view job](#)

America Votes

Facility Utilities Staff [view job](#)

Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry

Communications Associate [view job](#)

National Alliance to End Homelessness

Director of Development and Communications
[view job](#)

National Alliance to End Homelessness

Prevention & Outreach Specialist [view job](#)

Men's Shelter of Charlotte

[View our full job board.](#) Have a job opening you'd like us to post? [Email us the listing!](#) Be sure to include contact information for how to apply.

NCCEH Membership

Thank you to all of our members for your support! Membership Dues allow us to advocate at the federal and state levels for an end to homelessness in North Carolina.

New and Renewed NCCEH Members

Cathy Alieksaites
Megan Coffey
David Holston
Diedtress Jackson
Patrice Nelson
Lori Watts

Good Shepherd Center
Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness
Partners Ending Homelessness

Rockingham County Help for the Homeless
Sarver Housing Group

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