



North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

bos@ncceh.org

919.755.4393

www.ncceh.org/BoS

BoS Recommendations for Regional Committees

ESG Application

October 2015

BACKGROUND: The ESG application process takes place at the Regional Committee level, which means that Regional Committees are responsible for:

- Informing community partners about funding availability
- Designing a local process that is transparent and avoids conflict of interest
- Informing community partners about local process, including local project application deadlines
- Submitting all application materials to the State ESG Office by the application deadlines

The NC Balance of State CoC has recommendations for how Regional Committees can best complete the process and maximize funding such that we can end homelessness in our communities efficiently and effectively.

PROCESS: The NC BoS CoC recommends that Regional Committees ensure a number of aspects of the ESG application process:

- Transparency: all relevant parties have all application information
 - Make application materials available to everyone in your community who could be interested in applying for funding
 - Share the dates for webinar training from the State ESG Office
 - For 2015, these are Thurs., Oct. 8, and Thurs., Oct. 20, 10:00 a.m. - noon
 - Publicize your local process, including due dates, for submitting, reviewing and approving application materials
- Avoid conflict of interest in decision-making
 - No agency applying for funding takes part in funding decisions
- Submission of application: Regional Committees must complete and submit all materials to the State ESG Office by the deadline, as outlined in the ESG Information Packet, including:
 - Regional ESG application
 - Regional funding recommendations (budget) – more on this below
 - Project Applications and budgets (completed by project applicants)
 - All attachments (Attachments A-E provided by BoS: ncceh.org/bos/esg) organized in Tabs

FUNDING: The NC BoS CoC encourages Regional Committees to maximize the amount of funding for your community and to strategically decide on the types of programs you recommend for funding.

- General
 - Each Regional Committee should determine local priority for ESG funds in order to best meet the NC BoS CoC's vision¹ to ensure that individuals and families who become homeless return to permanent housing within 30 days.
 - Communities should look at local need to determine funding needs, including:
 - Point-in-Time Count data
 - Coordinated assessment outcome data
 - The NC BoS CoC highly encourages Regional Committees to apply for 100% of funds available for your community
 - Some communities have left funds available for their community on the table
 - Funds eligible for the NC BoS CoC that are not awarded to agencies within the NC BoS CoC can be redistributed to other CoCs in North Carolina with higher capacity to spend funds/align with HUD and State ESG Office priorities
- Rapid Re-Housing
 - The NC BoS CoC recommends that Regional Committees use the most amount of money possible for rapid re-housing programs
 - Rapid re-housing has been shown to be very successful at placing households into permanent housing and keeping these people housed for the long term
 - General info about ramping up rapid re-housing from the National Alliance to End Homelessness:
<http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/ramping-up-rapid-re-housing-the-emergency-solutions-grant-program>
 - The State ESG Office caps emergency response funds at 60% of the region's allocation; however, funds are not required to be spent on emergency response activities. Regional Committees can use up to 100% of available funds for housing stabilization activities. Regional Committees should thoughtfully determine the amount spent on emergency response and housing stabilization.
 - If Regional Committees use at least 60% of local funding for housing stabilization and score highly on the RFA, the State ESG Office can reward communities with reverted funds from this year's allocation.

¹ NC Balance of State Governance Charter, 2014: <http://www.ncceh.org/files/3443/download/>



- Prevention
 - The NC BoS CoC recommends that Regional Committees only fund prevention programs that are:
 - Focused on diversion
 - Diversion is one part of prevention, directed at people who are presenting for a shelter bed/emergency services
 - Tied in to coordinated assessment at the Regional Committee level
 - Regional Committees use the Emergency Response screening, one aspect of which can be to use financial resources to divert households who have a different, safe place to sleep
 - ESG prevention programs can be used to fund these types of programs (for eligible activities)
- HMIS
 - Currently, the NC BoS CoC covers the cost of HMIS license fees. Agencies can apply for funds to cover computers and staff time to enter data, as needed.

