



North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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NC Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Emergency Meeting: ESG-CV Decisions Minutes

June 24, 2020

Regional Leads Present: Destri Leger, Kristen Martin, Gail Henson, Teena Willis, Natasha Elliott, Marie Watson, LaTasha McNair, Michele Welsh, Jim Cox, Lenize Patton, Emily Locklear, Angela Harper King

At-Large Members Present: Eric Edwards, Lisa Philips, Parker Smith, Ellen Blackman

SC Members Absent: Melissa McKeown, Michael Dineen, Deena Fulton, James Mercer, Todd Rosendahl, Brooks Ann McKinney

Interested Parties Present: Emily Lowery, Lakitra Claude, Shelley Hudson, Thea Craft, Cindy Williams, Derek Lancour, Lorelei Watts, Manuel Hyman, Jeffrey Rawlings, Kathy Bragg, Nicole Dewitt, Alison Azbell, April Lawson, Leone Lettsome, Robin Merrrell, Kelly Hutchinson, Teresa Robinson, Joshua Andrews, Kimberly Hemphill, Leonard Tillery, Winona Coveney, Rebecca C. Snyder, Alyce Knaflich, Renee Urban, Sarah Lancaster, Chris Battle, Amy Steele, Arwen March, Candice Rountree, Lisa Worth

NCCEH Staff Present: Denise Neunaber, Brian Alexander, Jenn Von Egidy, Debra Susie, Kevin McNamee, Ehren Dohler, Ashley VonHatten

Overview of Emergency Solutions Grant-Coronavirus (ESG-CV) Funding

Brian Alexander walked through the ESG-CV Request for Application (RFA) released by NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on Monday, June 22 Details and application materials are outlined [here](#).

The \$18 million allocated for North Carolina is the first installment from the CARES Act and must be spent by Sept 30, 2022. Applications are due July 17th at 5:00 p.m. A second ESG-CV allocation with a future RFA must be spent by Sept 30, 2022. The RFA for the regular annual allocation for FY2021 (January to December 2021) has yet to be released.

Planning for ESG-CV Funding

The typical NC BoS CoC funding process will not work within such a tight timeline. Some key decisions in the planning for this funding are needed from the Steering Committee. The funding

is broken into two categories: Crisis Response (street outreach, emergency shelter) and Housing Stabilization (rapid rehousing, homelessness prevention). There are typical eligibility requirements for coordinated entry, HMIS, and written standards.

NC BoS will add time frames in the budget to assist:

- Agencies plan for an extended time period
- Agencies request funding for a shorter time period, if future planning is difficult
- CoC to make funding decisions for current RFA and future funding

Decision Point #1: Back@Home

Each NC CoC must choose whether to participate in Back@Home. Back@Home is a statewide rehousing program offering both Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention services that:

- Provides CoC-wide rehousing financial supports and services
- Provides technical assistance and coaching
- Connects to centralized housing inspections, documentation assistance, and debarment checks
- Enhances current CE efforts with centralized referrals through NC 2-1-1
- Evaluates the success of the program and provides quick program adjustments to ensure success

After answering a few questions for clarification, Teena Willis made a motion that the NC BoS CoC will participate in Back@Home. After a second from Eric Edwards, the Steering Committee voted to approve this position unanimously.

Decision Point #2: Allocation of Funding

NC DHHS requires that CoCs implement a 60/40 funding split with a minimum 60% for Housing Stabilization and maximum 40% for Crisis Response and HMIS.

Three viable options:

1. Stay with the 60/40 split but at the CoC level
2. Stay with state plan with 60/40 split at the LPA level
3. Adjust above 40% for Crisis Response to meet emerging needs (requires justification letter to NC DHHS and its approval)

A decision will be made at the next regular Steering Committee meeting on July 7th, 2020. At this time, based on the CoC's projected timeline, project applications will be available to review the amount of money for which agencies have applied. Staff will present this data to inform which option makes the most sense.

Decision Point #3: Regional Application

Regional Applications are required from CoCs/LPAs in the competition. The ESG office has given approval for the NC BoS CoC to submit one Regional Application for the CoC with individual regional application and budget information.



Two Options:

1. One Regional Application completed by CoC staff for entire CoC with regional application and budget pieces. Applications submitted by CoC staff.
2. Regional Application questions completed by CoC with the LPA completing application and budget information. Applications submitted by LPAs.

Gail Henson moved that the NC BoS CoC generate one Regional Application and budget sections to be completed by NC BoS CoC staff. After a second from Teena Willis, the motion was approved unanimously.

Decision Point #4: Review and Selection Process

Since the NC BoS CoC cannot follow its traditional and lengthier protocol of running local competitive processes with CoC oversight, staff proposed the following two options.

Options:

1. CoC staff review Crisis Response applications and make final funding selections based on published set of criteria.
2. CoC staff work with a Project Review Committee to review Crisis Response application and make funding selections based on published set of criteria.

This generated lengthy discussion regarding how each region under option #1 would know which organizations were applying for what amounts of funding and work in their respective regions.

Teena Willis motioned to opt for #1 with the added recommendation to include a letter of support from the region to be reviewed by the Steering Committee on July 13th. Destri Leger seconded the motion. In further discussion, staff asked if the motion could be changed to allow applicants from regions which were unable to get a letter of support from their Regional Committee. Teena and Destri agreed with this friendly amendment. Staff will develop options for the regional letter of support to ensure that agencies have clear path for getting appropriate support.

Concerns were also raised from those serving on Regional Committees and planning to apply for ESG-CV funding relative to a possible conflict of interest. Kristen Martin, Emily Locklear, and Destri Leger said they would have to abstain from regional decisions around these letters of support since they all plan to apply for funding.

The motion passed unanimously with a commitment by staff to work through these concerns towards a satisfactory resolution.

Next Steps



- Finalize and release instructions for Project Applications, Regional Applications, and Back@Home Applications
- All materials will be posted at: www.ncceh.org/bos/esgcv
- Regional Leads distribute ESG-CV funding opportunity information widely
- Finalize Crisis Response Review Checklist that will guide selection of projects to be submitted to NC DHHS
 - Threshold criteria
 - CoC priorities
 - Project effectiveness
- Complete and submit Regional Application to NC DHHS

Next Steps for Project Application Selection

- Crisis Response
 - Submit to NCCEH for review and selection
 - After selection, submit to NC DHHS for review and approval
- Back@Home Housing Stability
 - Request Letter of Support from NC BoS CoC
 - Steering Committee approves support on 7/7
 - Submit to NC DHHS for review and approval

Proposed Funding Process Timeline

The meeting adjourned after this timeline was offered for consideration.

ACTIVITY	DUE DATE
RFA released	June 22
NC ESG Office RFA webinar - Register here: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/329923165269511184	June 25 at 12:30 PM
Instructions released	June 24 - 26
Back@Home Letter of Support due to NCCEH	July 3 at 6 PM
Crisis Response Project Apps due to NCCEH	July 6 at 6 PM
Back@Home Letter of Support Approval	July 7 (Steering Committee meeting)
Letter of Justification Due to NC DHHS (if needed)	July 7 at 6 PM
Crisis Response Project Apps Review/Selection	July 7 - 10
Crisis Response Selection Notification	July 13
Application Finalization	July 13 - 16
All applications (regional and project) due to NC DHHS	July 17

