



# North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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## CY23 Emergency Solutions Grant Funding Priorities

### **Purpose**

The North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care (NC BoS CoC) has set funding priorities for the CY23 Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funding competition to help improve its homeless and housing service system and provide more robust supports to people experiencing homelessness. These funding priorities aim to:

- Help the NC BoS CoC target ESG funding to specific local needs. These priorities provide guidance to help make decisions about how to use ESG to improve the homeless and housing system, rather than simply continuing ESG funding for previous grantees.
- Coordinate goals and ESG funding across the whole CoC. These funding priorities aim to coordinate ESG funding to move the whole CoC toward common goals.
- Improve ESG-funded programs. These priorities aim to 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. These priorities help grantees and communities take steps toward expanding access to emergency and permanent housing.
- Improve racial equity and decrease disparities in outcomes throughout the CoC.
- Establish precedent to make funding decisions consistently and fairly across each region of the NC BoS CoC.

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### **NC Balance of State Continuum of Care's CY23 ESG 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 re-housing (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 re-housing assistance are available in every county. Homelessness prevention should be used solely for return 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.

**Only applicants with the financial capacity to administer public dollars should be funded.**

- 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.

**Coordination at the regional level ensures the best results for people experiencing homelessness.**

- 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 plan to regularly attend case conferencing meetings.

**Measuring and improving performance at the agency, regional, and CoC levels is a priority for the CoC. Timely, accurate data collection is imperative to this priority.**

- Utilization of HMIS or a comparable database is required for all ESG-funded agencies.
- Applying for funding to support agencies to achieve timely, high quality data entry should be encouraged.
- Performance should be regularly reported and monitored through CAPER data.

**The NC BoS CoC is committed to impacting outcome disparities seen across marginalized communities.**

- Agencies committed to advancing racial equity should be prioritized for funding.
- All agencies must be in full compliance with the NC BoS CoC Anti-Discrimination Policy to be eligible for ESG funding.

**The NC BoS CoC is committed to consistency and transparency in decisions regarding funding for the ESG program. The Project Review Committee and NCCEH staff use the following as established precedent 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 Review Tool performance criteria.
- 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 had been scored.

- 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 difficulty meeting written standards requirements.

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**Appendix 1: Grid of service coverage by county and project type**

This grid demonstrates which counties have service coverage using public funding through Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) or Continuum of Care (CoC) programs 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 or CoC funding do not appear on this grid.

**Regional Grid of County Coverage by Project Type.**

<b>Street Outreach Projects</b>			
<b>Region</b>	<b># of SO providers</b>	<b># of Counties covered with SO</b>	<b># of Counties without SO coverage</b>
<b>01</b>	1	7	1 (Madison)
<b>02</b>	1	4	0
<b>03</b>	1	4	1 (McDowell)
<b>04</b>	0	0	5
<b>05</b>	1	1	4 (Stanly, Cabarrus, Rowan, Davidson)
<b>06</b>	0	0	5
<b>07</b>	0	0	9
<b>08</b>	0	0	4
<b>09</b>	1	2	6
<b>10</b>	0	0	6
<b>11</b>	0	0	10

<b>12</b>	0	0	5
<b>13</b>	1	1	4 (Jones, Craven, Pamlico, Carteret)

<b>Emergency Shelter and DV Shelter Projects Receiving ESG Funding</b>			
<b>Region</b>	<b># of ES providers</b>	<b># of Counties covered by ES</b>	<b># of Counties without access to ES</b>
<b>01</b>	4	7	1 (Madison)
<b>02</b>	1	1	3
<b>03</b>	4	5	0
<b>04</b>	3	5	0
<b>05</b>	3	3	2 (Rowan, Cabarrus)
<b>06</b>	2	5	0
<b>07</b>	3	3	6 (Johnston, Hoke, Richmond, Anson, Montgomery, Randolph)
<b>08</b>	1	1	3 (Bladen, Columbus, Scotland)
<b>09</b>	2	8	0
<b>10</b>	1	2	4 (Wilson, Greene, Lenoir, Duplin)
<b>11</b>	1	10	0
<b>12</b>	2	3	2 (Bertie, Beaufort)
<b>13</b>	1	1	4 (Jones, Craven, Pamlico, Carteret)

<b>Rapid Rehousing Projects</b>			
<b>Region</b>	<b># of RRH providers</b>	<b># of Counties covered with RRH</b>	<b># of counties without RRH coverage</b>
<b>01</b>	1	7	1 (Madison)
<b>02</b>	1	4	0
<b>03</b>	2	5	0
<b>04</b>	1	5	0
<b>05</b>	2	5	0

06	1	5	0
07	1	9	0
08	1	4	0
09	1	8	0
10	2	5/6	1 (Duplin)
11	1	10	0
12	1	5	0
13	1	5	0

<b>Homelessness Prevention Projects</b>			
<b>Region</b>	<b># of HP providers</b>	<b># of counties covered with HP</b>	<b># of counties without HP coverage</b>
01	0	0	8
02	0	0	4
03	0	0	5
04	0	0	5
05	1	5	0
06	1	5	0
07	0	0	9
08	0	0	4
09	1	8	0
10	1	6	0
11	0	0	10
12	0	0	5
13	0	0	5