

Wake County Continuum of Care

Preview of New Potential Roles

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Agenda

- **Review Continuum of Care Program and Wake County CoC**
- **Share County and Community's intention of stewardship**
- **Define three primary roles and associated responsibilities**
 - Lead Agency
 - HMIS Lead
 - Coordinated Entry entity
- **Identify next steps**

Overview of HUD Continuum of Care Program

- **CoC Program: Designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness**
 - Before the CoC Program's establishment in 1994, there was little coordination between community organizations receiving HUD funding
- **HUD funnels homeless response grant dollars through Continuum of Care organizations**
- **The Wake County CoC is responsible for carrying out duties defined by federal laws and regulations**
 - CoC Board designates member organizations to fulfill various roles, which are accompanied by HUD grants to cover cost

History of Wake County CoC – NC 507

- **Governed by Wake County NC – 507 Governance Charter**
- **Negotiations between Wake County and CoC ebbed and flowed over the last year**
- **Over the last year, Haven House, Urban Ministries, and Oak City Cares stepped up to fill the gaps in the community**
 - Fulfilled three primary roles as required by HUD
- **April 24, 2024: CoC Membership voted in favor of electing Wake County as Collaborative Applicant, HMIS Lead, and Coordinated Entry entity**
- **CoC Governing Body has notified HUD of intent to transfer grants to Wake County as Lead Agency**

County and community's intention

- **Goal of short-term stewardship (3-5 years) as outlined in Section II of the MOU**
 - Build administrative capacity, stabilize roles and responsibilities to ensure HUD compliance and improve community's homelessness response
- **Following successful stewardship, appropriate community-based organization(s) will be identified or developed to fulfill all the designated functions**
 - Decision to be agreed upon by Wake CoC Membership, Wake County, and the City of Raleigh

Role Overview: Collaborative Applicant

- **Responsibilities**
 - Submit annual HUD application(s) for competitive funding
 - Develop a fair, consistent, and transparent process for allocating funds to eligible recipients
 - Staff and execute a compliance monitoring process for the CoC
 - Provide adequate staff and administrative support to support the CoC Governing Board
 - Develop and implement a communications strategy for the Wake CoC, including a State of Homelessness address to membership
- **Outcome: collaborative, strategic, and compliant community use of federal grant dollars**
- **Current agency: Haven House**

Role Overview: HMIS Lead

- **Responsibilities**
 - Maintain real-time database of people experiencing homelessness in the entire Wake CoC geography
 - Approve and implement HMIS privacy, security, and data quality plans
 - Ensure Wake CoC grantee and sub-recipient participation in HMIS
- **Outcome: trustworthy, real-time data for use by member agencies to determine priority and measure progress**
 - Enables the exchange of current and detailed information about every person experiencing homelessness in a community
- **Current agency: Urban Ministries**
 - Contract with software company to maintain database

Role Overview: Coordinated Entry Entity

- **Responsibilities**

- Ensure ease of access to homeless services in Wake County
- Institute assessment and prioritization processes to determine appropriate response to each person's immediate needs
- Facilitate case conferencing to ensure appropriate interventions are identified
- Develop and implement Coordinated Entry policies and procedures, training participating access sites and providers

- **Outcome: communities prioritize people who are most in need of assistance, strategically allocate resources**

- **Current agency: Oak City Cares**

Next steps

- **Short-term: Commissioners review draft MOU, Governing Board applies to transfer HUD grants**
- **Intermediate term: County to prepare for likely new roles**
 - Staff to finalize budget, identify potential sources of funds for costs associated with new roles
 - Some of costs eventually to be reimbursed by HUD grants
 - Staff to finalize job description for Director-level leader
 - At regular meeting in August, staff will present MOU for consideration
 - Upon finalization, Board to consider budget revision to initiate launch
- **Long-term: new Director to hire for other key positions, build administrative capacity to fulfill duties of CoC roles**

Attachments

- **Draft MOU**
- **Support Letter from CoC**

Questions & Discussion



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