

**Item Title:** Appropriate Grant Funds for the Continuum of Care Program

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners accepts and appropriates \$157,500 from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the Grants and Donations Fund for the purposes of performing the Continuum of Care Collaborative Applicant duties.**

**Item Summary:**

**Purpose:** The Board of Commissioners is responsible for appropriating all revenues and expenditures for the County's operating budget, including mid-year changes.

**Background:** In FY 2025, the Wake County Board of Commissioners approved the execution of an MOU agreement with the Wake County Continuum of Care (Wake CoC) to designate Wake County as the single Lead Agency of the Wake CoC, to assume the roles of Collaborative Applicant, HMIS Lead, and Coordinated Entry Entity.

As such, Wake County as Collaborative Applicant is responsible for the coordination, collection, submission and monitoring of all CoC Program Funding Competition components, including project applications and CoC planning funds. This item appropriates grant funds annually awarded by HUD to each CoC's Lead Agency.

**Strategic Plan:** This action supports Community Health and Wellbeing Goal 2: By 2029, make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring by reducing the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness by 10% from 2024 levels.

**Fiscal Impact:** This item appropriates a total of \$157,500 into the Grants and Donations fund. The CoC grant includes a 25% match requirement. Sufficient local funding for the match requirement is included in the CoC Lead Agency Department budget in the FY2026 General Fund.

**Additional Information:**

The Wake County Continuum of Care (CoC) Lead Agency Department is responsible for the implementation of the CoC Program in the defined geographic area according to federal rules and regulations. The CoC process was developed by HUD in 1994 to coordinate the distribution of several competitive homeless assistance programs. CoCs were codified into law with the passing of the Hearth Act of 2009. They are implemented, however, through the CoC Interim Rule 24 CFR 578 B, in the Federal Register. The interim rule establishes necessary definitions, policies, and regulations of a CoC.

The CoC Program is designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness while providing access to funding, primarily for permanent housing solutions and planning funds. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides oversight and funding for the CoC Program across communities and funnels homeless response grant funding through CoC organizations.

The CoC also consists of a membership body of representatives and organizations including, nonprofit homeless providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, government, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service providers, mental health agencies, hospitals, universities, affordable housing developers, law enforcement, and homeless and formerly homeless persons. The CoC is governed through a Charter that establishes the CoC Governing Board and Committees to advance the shared vision that homelessness in Wake County be rare, brief, and non-recurring. As the CoC Lead Agency, Wake County is responsible for three key functions:

Collaborative Applicant (CA), responsible for the coordination, collection, submission and monitoring of all CoC Program Funding Competition components, including project applications and CoC planning funds.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead, responsible for the administration, management, and operation of the HMIS, including privacy, security, end user training and reporting requirements. The HMIS is the system designated by the CoC to comply with requirements in 24 CFR 578.3, a software that meets HUD defined Data Standards and reporting parameters.

Coordinated Entry (CE) Lead, responsible for Administration, management, and operation of the process to standardize access, assessment, prioritization and referral to housing and services in the CoC.

This item appropriates grant funds associated with Collaborative Applicant duties described above. Grant funds will support activities and personnel costs related to community wide planning and coordination, the Point-in-Time Count, as well as CoC grantee monitoring.

**Attachments:**

1. Budget Memo – FY 2026 Grants and Donations Fund