

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

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Accepts and appropriates \$150,000 from the NC Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG) for the purposes of administering the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).**
- 2. Accepts and appropriates \$153,100 from the US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the purposes of administering the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).**
- 3. Accepts and appropriates \$168,066 from the US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the purposes of developing and implementing Coordinated Entry system and processes.**

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 is responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of the HMIS to record, track, and report results of homeless services programs and as a system, in addition to facilitating client care coordination and record keeping for case management. Wake County is also responsible for developing and implementing policies and procedures for Coordinated Entry operations.

Strategic Plan: This action supports the 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 \$471,166 into the Grants and Donations fund. The funds will be budgeted in the newly established Wake County CoC Lead Agency Department. The CoC grants include a 25% match requirement and the ESG grant requires a \$50,000 match. Sufficient local funding for the match requirements is included in the CoC Lead Agency Department base budget.

Additional Information:

The Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG) is authorized by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987, Title IV, as amended (U.S. Code: 42 USC 11371 et seq.) Regulations: Code of Federal Regulations at 24 CFR Part 576. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) makes grants to States and units of general local government for eligible program activities. The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) administer the North Carolina State ESG program. ESG provides funding to qualified local governments and non-profit organizations to:

- Improve the number and quality of emergency shelters.
- Provide essential services to shelter residents.
- Re-house homeless individuals and families.
- Prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless.

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a web-based system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to individuals and families at risk of and experiencing homelessness at a program and system level. The CoC is responsible for selecting and implementing an HMIS software solution that complies with HUD's data collection, management, and reporting standards.

Coordinated Entry (CE) is the process that standardizes the way individuals and families at risk of or experiencing homelessness access, are assessed for, and referred to housing and services. HUD requires CoC to establish policies and procedures to ensure a fair and efficient system for connecting people experiencing homelessness with resources.

Attachments:

1. Budget Memo – FY 2025 Grants and Donations Fund