GUILFORD COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE

Working to End Homelessness in Guilford County

FY 2023-2024 ESG APPLICATION SCORECARDS
OVERVIEW AND INSTRUCTIONS

I. PURPOSE: This Emergency Solutions Grant New Project Applicant and Returning Project Applicant Evaluation Tools will be used by the NC-504 Guilford County Continuum of Care (CoC) System Performance and Evaluation Committee (SPEC) to score eligible applications for ESG project funding . The NC-504 CoC prioritizes projects that serve households with severe needs and vulnerabilities, including those experiencing chronic homelessness.

This evaluation tool has four objectives:

1. Fund organizations that have the capacity to run effective programs (can manage and administer the program, can operate on reimbursement basis, have experience serving this population or a similar one).

2. Fund projects that reflect the NC-504 CoC's and HUD's priorities: projects that meet community need and serve the most vulnerable individuals and families.

3. Incentivize agencies to be good partners (participating in community efforts to end homelessness, on HMIS, helping create infrastructure for their community's homeless service system to operate effectively throughout the year).

4. Ensure that funded projects are being good stewards of ESG funding and are performing to CoC standards, including all NC-504 Written Standards.

II. EVAULATION REQUIREMENTS: These evaluation tools also take into consideration requirements detailed in CFR § 576.400, including the applicant agency's demonstration of collaborating and coordinating with the community's system of services available to people experiencing homelessness.

III. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES: Only activities eligible and homeless populations defined under 24 CFR § 576 may be funded by Emergency Solutions Grant dollars. The NC-504 SPEC may ask applicant agencies to provide additional information to determine agency capacity to comply with all aspects of 24 CFR § 576 or other relevant federal, state, or local laws, regulations, or policies.

IV. SCORING

In this year's application the NC DHHS ESG staff have elected to use a separate project application template for NEW and RETURNING applicants. The CoC has chosen to follow the State's lead and also use similar but separate application review tools for NEW and RETURNING applicants.

Reviewers should note whether an applicant is NEW or RETURNING to ensure the correct evaluation tool is used. ESG explains the difference between NEW applicants and RETURNING APPLICANTS as follows:

- **NEW applicant: Seeking state ESG funding for the first time or after at least a one-year gap in receiving state ESG funding.** An agency is considered a new applicant if it has never received funding from State of North Carolina's ESG Office (NC ESG) or if it has received funding from NC ESG in the past but is not *currently* receiving NC ESG funds.

- **RETURNING applicant: Seeking continued state ESG funding after receiving state ESG funds in the most recent past year.** If the agency has at least one returning project that was funded in the most recent year, it is considered a RETURNING applicant. If the organization is also seeking funding for additional new project(s), it will be able to indicate that in the appropriate Project Application section.

Question requiring a narrative response or completion of charts or tables will have varying maximum point values available, depending on the weight associated with the particular question/section in the application. The reviewer's score on questions requiring narrative response should be based on these criteria, from highest to lowest point values:

5. Complete, insightful, and value-added response: The agency provided a complete response, including mastery of the topic, answered all component questions, and demonstrates innovative application of evidence-based practices and/or cutting-edge approaches that may set a standard for accepted best practices.

4. The agency provided a thorough response and answered all component questions. The response reflects a robust understanding of salient topics and extensive application of accepted evidence-based best practices.

3. The agency provided a thorough response and answered all component questions. The response reflects a general understanding of accepted evidence-based best practices.

2. The agency answered the question with adequate detail to compare the answer to other responses. The response answers some, but not all, of the component questions.

1. The agency failed to answer the basic component of question, the answer was confusing or misleading, or the information does not allow for a comparison to other responses.

For questions requiring the applicant agency to complete a table or chart, the reviewer should evaluate the accuracy and level of detail provided, using the same criteria detailed above to determine the number of points to be assigned.

For questions not requiring a narrative response, the reviewer should score as indicated and check "yes" or "no" to indicate that the required information is either present or not. Reviewer's score for each item

should be entered where indicated in the empty column in the column(s) adjacent to each question or set of questions.

Once the reviewer has completed the Organizational Review (pages 1-6), they should proceed to the specific project type(s) for which the applicant agency is requesting funding, and complete *only* the Project Activity/Program Evaluation Section for the specific Project Type for which the agency has applied:

- Street Outreach (New applicants – page 7; Returning – page 7)

- Emergency Shelter (New applicants – page 10; Returning – page 9)

- Rapid Rehousing (New applicants – page 13; Returning – page 11)

- Homelessness Prevention (New applicants – page 16; Returning – page 14)

- HMIS/Comparable Data System (New applicants – page 19; Returning – page 17)

IV. REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

- FY 20223-234 Emergency Solutions Grant Request for Applications – https://www.guilfordcountync.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/13974/638218333492600000

- NC DHHS Policy and Desk Guide Procedure 2023 – https://www.ncdhhs.gov/nc-emergency-solutions-grant

- 2022 ESG Overview Webinar

- HUD Exchange ESG Virtual Binder – https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/coc-esg-virtual-binders

- Code of Federal Regulations: 24 CFR 576 – https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/aging-and-adult-services/nc-emergency-solutions-grant/nc-emergency-solutions-grant-grantee-information