



Wake County CoC Membership Meeting

Monday, June 23

2:00 – 3:30 pm

Raleigh Housing Authority

Please Sign-in

AGENDA

- Governance Board Emergency Shelter Seat – Vote
- Committee Updates
- Lead Agency Updates
- Mainstream Benefits Training
- Application of Mainstream Benefits to Homelessness Services



Governance Board Emergency Shelter Seat for Membership Vote

Emergency Shelter Seat for Membership Vote

The CoC Nominations Committee has reviewed applications and confirmed recommendation for the following Emergency Shelter Seat on the CoC Board:

- Amanda Blue, *Director of Programs* – Healing Transitions

Motion –

- [NAME] motions for the Wake CoC Membership to approve the Nominations Committee's recommendation for the Governance Board Emergency Shelter Seat.
- Seconded by [NAME]

Voting: FAQs

1. **What happens next?** Individual members and organizational members' Primary Voter will receive an email from Erin Flynn (erin.flynn@wake.gov) with the motion to be voted on, a voting form and instructions. Organizations' Alternate Voters will be contacted 3 days before voting ends if the Primary Voter has not yet cast a vote.
2. **How long will I have to vote?** 7 business days
3. **How do I know if I'm a member?** If you are unsure, you can reach out to Erin Flynn at erin.flynn@wake.gov to confirm your membership status.
4. **How many votes does an organizational member get?** Each organizational member gets one vote. When your organization applied for membership, you designated one person as the primary voter and one as the alternate. The primary voter is the one who should be voting for your organization, unless they are unavailable, in which case the alternate voter will cast a vote on behalf of their organization.
5. **How do I know if my organization has already voted?** You can reach out to Erin Flynn at erin.flynn@wake.gov to determine if your organization has already voted. If multiple people from an organizational member vote, only the vote casted by the organization's primary voter (or designated alternate voter) – as noted in their membership application – will be counted.
6. **What if I didn't get a ballot?** Then you are very likely not a current member of the Wake CoC. If you think there has been an error or have questions, please reach out to Erin Flynn at erin.flynn@wake.gov.

If your organization has had turnover in staffing over the last year and your organization's Primary and/or Alternate voter has changed, please contact Erin Flynn at erin.flynn@wake.gov ASAP!

Committee Updates

Youth Advisory Board (YAB)

Purpose –

- The purpose of the Youth Action Board is to learn from youth with lived experience to improve our system to better serve 18–24-year-olds who experience homelessness and prevent 18–24-year-olds from becoming homeless. Committee Members are young adults, at least two thirds of whom are ages 24 and younger and have experienced homelessness. The committee is supported by staff from youth serving organizations. All committee members are encouraged to become members of the CoC and to vote on policy decisions of the CoC. Support staff will place particular emphasis on voting on policies that relate to preventing and ending youth homelessness.

Lived Experience Committee (LEC)

Mission –

- The mission of the Committee for People with Lived Experiences is to amplify the voices of individuals whose firsthand perspectives and journeys provide invaluable insights into challenges, successes, and opportunities for transformation.

Core Objectives –

- Representation and advocacy
- Collaborative solutions between stakeholders and individuals with lived experience
- Education and awareness for the broader community
- Leverage and utilize insights of individuals with lived experience

Street Outreach Committee (SOC)

Update –

- Street Outreach Workgroup → Street Outreach Committee

Approved Annual Workplan –

- Goal 1: Establish an inventory of Street Outreach resources in Wake CoC.
- Goal 2: Improve mapping and real time estimates of unsheltered homelessness in Wake CoC.
- Goal 3: Plan, coordinate, and oversee the Wake CoC's annual Point-in-Time Count in compliance with [24 CFR 578.7\(c\)\(2\)](#).

Lead Agency Updates

FY26 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

See the FY26 ESG webpage on the Wake CoC website for more information

ESG Funding Breakdown	Total
Emergency Response Services (<60%) - SO, ES	\$260,209.80
Housing Stability (>40%) - RRH, HMIS, Prev	\$173,473.20
NC 507 Fair Share Total	\$433,683.00

FY26 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

See the FY26 ESG webpage on the Wake CoC website for more information

Passed –

- ESG Letters of Interest were collected
- RFA Instructional Trainings were held by the NC ESG Office
- Notifications of the Wake CoC ESG Local Competition were posted/sent on June 18, 2025

Upcoming –

- Project Applications are due by email (PDF, Zip File) to funding@wakenc507.org
 - Due: **Friday, July 18, 2025, at 5 PM**
 - ESG Local Competition TA Office Hours every Monday from 11 AM-12 PM until July 14, 2025 – *Teams meeting link is located on Wake CoC's FY26 ESG webpage!*
- FRC review period starts Monday, July 21, 2025
- Wake CoC Regional Application is due Monday, August 25, 2025

Wake CoC Open Positions

The Wake CoC Lead Agency is hiring the following positions—

- [Coordinated Entry \(CE\) Administrative Coordinator](#)
- [Coordinated Entry Manager](#)
- [Homeless Management Information System \(HMIS\) Data Analyst](#)
- [Homeless Management Information System \(HMIS\) IT Specialist](#)
- [Homeless Management Information System \(HMIS\) Systems Supervisor](#)

Postings close TOMORROW, June 24, 2025, at 7 PM

Mainstream Benefits

Yolanda Thacker
Director
Wake County Economic Services

Sheila Donaldson
Director
Wake County Child Welfare

Medicaid

- Medicaid is a **medical assistance program** that serves children, adults and families
- Medicaid will pay medical bills for people who meet certain eligibility requirements such as income, age, or disability.
- Covered services include hospitalizations, physician services, medications and different levels of care in nursing and residential facilities



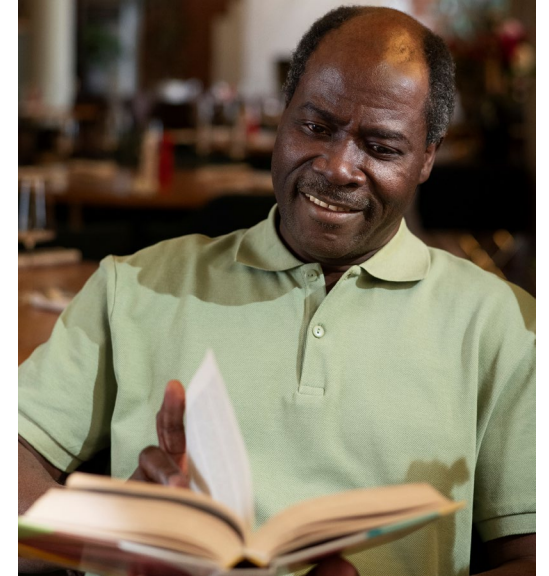
FNS/Food Stamps

- The purpose of the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) program is to **combat hunger, improve overall health and help address food instability**
- FNS administers what is referred to as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or Food Stamps, helping low-income households with monthly food expenses
- FNS helps eligible households buy the food they need for a nutritionally adequate diet



Senior & Adult Services

- Our goal is to **maximize self-sufficiency, safety, health and independence**, for seniors and adults to remain in their community
- Our programs include:
 - **Adult Protective Services** for elderly and disabled adults
 - **Guardianship Services**, advocacy and decision-making for adults deemed incompetent by the Clerk of Courts
 - **Adult & Community Services** to monitor adult care facilities
 - **Special Assistance In-Home Program** for case management and funding for unmet health and safety needs for eligible adults



Work First/TANF

- The Work First program provides a wide range of supportive services to aid families in reaching **self-sufficiency**
- Work First is an employment program that helps families that are in a temporary financial crisis
- TANF stands for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and is a federal program that provides temporary financial assistance to families with children who have limited or no income



Energy Assistance

- Help with **heating, cooling and water bills**
- Extreme temperatures during the winter and summer months can cause energy costs to increase, which may impact a family's budget
- Increased water bills can also cause strain on family finances
- There are Wake County programs that can offer assistance to help eligible families manage these essential expenses



Child Care Subsidy

- The Wake County Child Care Subsidy Program provides financial **assistance for parents and their childcare needs**
- The child care subsidy for each family is based on an assessment of need, income and family size
- Every year Wake County receives state and federal funds to be used for subsidized child care services
- We also provide information about choosing and using quality child care



Child Support Services

- Wake County is committed to supporting families through the **consistent collection of child support**, while helping address the challenges parents face providing support to their children
- Helping families and children with:
 - **Non-Custodial Parent Location**
 - **Establishing Paternity (Legal Fatherhood)**
 - **Establishing Medical & Cash Support Obligations**
 - **Collection & Distribution of Support**
 - **Monitoring, Enforcement & Modification Orders of Support**



Prevention & Parent Education

- **We take a proactive approach to family engagement**, focusing on strengthening families before child welfare intervention becomes necessary
- Wake County offers family support services, including:
 - **Parenting Education**
 - **Father Engagement**
 - **Kinship and Foster Care Support**
 - **Public Health Prevention**
 - **DJJ Partnership**



Child Protective Services (CPS)

- CPS plays a critical role in ensuring the **safety and well-being** of children in Wake County who may be experiencing abuse or neglect
- Responsibilities include:
 - **Investigating Reports** of abuse or neglect to determine if intervention is needed
 - **Ensuring Child Safety** if a child is found to be in immediate danger, which may include removal from their home to place them in foster care or with a relative
 - **Legal Intervention** if, in severe cases we must seek legal protection for the child or petition the court to terminate parental rights



In-Home Services

- Our goal is to reunify families, whenever possible
- **In-home services** provided to families reported to child protective services (CPS) to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to help prevent unnecessary separations
- These services are provided to families who have been reported to CPS (CPS) for possible abuse or neglect but are assessed as being able to benefit from interventions delivered in their home environment



Foster Care

Traditional
Foster
Homes

Relative or
Kinship Care

Therapeutic
Foster Care

Emergency
Placements

Group
Homes

Independent
Living
Programs

Respite Care

****We need more foster parents! Please let us know if you are interested!***

Adoption & Post-Adoption

- Adoptions take place when children **cannot safely remain with their biological families** and they are placed with permanent families that can support their emotional, physical and developmental needs
- In FY 2024 we completed **61 Adoptions in Wake County**
- Post-adoption benefits provided include:
 - **Individual Consultations**
 - **Family Events**
 - **Support Groups**
 - **Parent Resources**



Thank you!
Q&A

Mainstream Benefits Application to Homelessness Services

The Benefits of SOAR

- Applying for disability benefits is a lengthy process with lots of paperwork. The disability program is handled by 2 separate government agencies who gather your medical and financial details to determine if you meet **SSA's own definition of 'disabled.'**
- Most disability claims can take anywhere from 6 months to 3 years to complete with multiple tries. Can you imagine how much more difficult this process is for those experiencing homelessness?
- A **certified SOAR Specialist** is trained to manage this daunting process as your representative and shortens this process for you.
- SSA has such **strict medical criteria to qualify** for disability that only about 31% of all cases nationwide are approved **without** SOAR.
- However, using the SOAR method, the average approval rate is **75%** and decisions only **take about 5 months using a SOAR rep in NC.** My personal average is 2.5 months 😊 -Kenyetta

The SOAR Rep



The file (it's huge): 1 application = **5 packets**
not a 1-time individual document, representative signs a required form to access to their claim

Total of 55 pages consisting of 115+ questions
most answers can be found in medical records

Plus **Medical Records** plus **Summary Report** plus a few extra **Random forms**, this is prepared **BEFORE** applying

Disability **Application** = **a Process**, an ongoing investigation, decisions are based on medical records

Before Sending Referrals for SOAR

- ☐ Make sure they are **NOT** already in the middle of an active claim with Social Security Administration
- ☐ Make sure they are **NOT** already receiving a Disability or SSI check
- ☐ Make sure they are currently under the care of a **medical specialist** (ex: neurologist or cardiologist, etc.)
- ☐ Diagnosis **≠** Disabled
- ☐ Oak City Cares accepts walk-in's for a potential applicant to have a **PreScreen** Interview for SOAR Program enrollment M-F 9:00-5:00



What are all these acronyms?

SSA Social Security Administration

SSA is the government agency that issues the SSI/SSDI monthly checks and decides who is eligible for disability benefits using their own criteria

SSDI Social Security Disability Insurance

SSDI is the money paid into the system over several years that was withheld like taxes from your paychecks, must be disabled to receive, it will come in a monthly check; **if you've never worked - NOT eligible**

SSI Supplemental Security Income

SSI is similar to SSDI but this money is only for the disabled poor who haven't worked much over the years, it will come in a monthly check (set rate of \$967 max as of 2025)

SOAR SSI/SSDI Outreach Access Recovery

SOAR is a best-practices method of applying for SSI and/or SSDI benefits in such a way that boosts a homeless applicant's chances of approval and in a shorter amount of time. It's a national program in which a certified representative is trained to submit very detailed applications to SSA acting as your case manager from start to finish.

The Magic Formula

SSA's Definition of Disabled

Inability to work for 1 year or more due to extreme decline in health or
due to a diagnosis that will result in death

Magic Formula

Compliance with Doctor's Long Term Treatment Plan
+
Permanent Condition
+
Clean from Substances
+
Frequent crises still occur or Major Surgery
=
Likely Approval/Disabled

Adjourn



Next Meeting:

- **Date:** Monday, July 28 at 2:00pm
- **Location:** Raleigh Housing Authority – Community Room
 - 971 Harp Street, Raleigh, NC 27601 (Across from 900 Haynes Street entrance)
- **Tentative Agenda:**
 - Workforce Development Training

If you have not done so already, please sign-in!

CoC Coordination or for more info: Info@wakenc507.org