



Non-Congregate Sheltering Program Overview

The North Carolina Non-Congregate Sheltering (NCS) program is a collaborative effort between the State of North Carolina, counties, and local partners to secure shelter and essential wrap-around services for individuals with no other safe place to quarantine, isolate, or social distance due to COVID-19. Although the State of North Carolina is providing financial resources to support NCS in the community, this program relies heavily on counties partners including County Emergency Management, Local Health Departments (LHD), County Departments of Social Services, and non-profit agencies to establish and operate NCS at a county level. This document is intended to give an overview of the program.

Program Overview

Shelter facilities help protect the public by preventing exposure to people who may have COVID-19. There are two types of non-congregate shelters to support residents who need to social distance or quarantine/isolate.

- **Social distancing sheltering** is for residents who are at high-risk for COVID-19 and need to undertake social distancing as a precautionary measure
- **Quarantine and Isolation sheltering** is for residents who need to quarantine or isolate either because they tested positive or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and cannot safely quarantine or isolate at where they live

To ensure the health and safety of the individuals staying at non-congregate shelters and to prevent COVID-19 spread, non-congregate shelter sites should provide comprehensive wrap-around services including:

- Laundry
- Meals
- Shelter for pets
- Transportation
- Cleaning/disinfecting
- Security
- Medical and behavioral healthcare
 - Please note mental health costs are not reimbursable through FEMA
- Case management
 - Case management is not reimbursable through FEMA, but local partners can consider pairing additional funds to provide services that connect individuals and families to stable housing and/or other services

Connecting Residents to a Non-Congregate Shelter

The State of North Carolina has received a waiver for reimbursement for Non-Congregate Sheltering from FEMA and must request an extension every thirty days, along with an updated directive from the state health director, to provide non-congregate sheltering to eligible residents.

Eligible individuals include those that meet the following categories:

- Test positive for COVID-19 and do not require hospitalization but need isolation, including those discharged from hospitals
- Have been exposed to COVID-19 and do not require hospitalization but should be quarantined
- Are first responders and healthcare workers who do not require hospitalization but need to avoid direct contact with their families due to exposure to COVID-19
- Are at high risk for COVID-19 and need to undertake social distancing as a precautionary measure, as determined by public health officials; for high-risk groups such as people over 65 or with certain underlying health

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conditions (respiratory, compromised immunities, chronic disease), this may include those whose living situation makes them unable to adhere to social distancing

If a resident meets one of the above categories, community partners can refer her to a county or regional access point. may be eligible for available non-congregate sheltering:

- Contact information is available online: [Access Points for Non-Congregate Shelter Across NC](#)
- The shelter can provide information about eligibility and location.
- Note: Non-congregate shelters are not available in every county. If a resident is not eligible for the site or there is no access point listed in their county, the resident should call their Local Health Department or [County Emergency Management](#) for further assistance.

Running a Non-Congregate Shelter

Setting up a Non-Congregate Shelter

Guidance for those partners interested in running a non-congregate shelter is available online: [Guidance for Establishing and Operating a Non-Congregate Shelter](#)

Partnerships

- We highly encourage local efforts to coordinate closely with other partners, including:
 - Cities
 - Housing and public health agencies
 - Homeless shelters
 - Continuums of Care
 - Nonprofit organizations and others with experience servicing this population
 - Other county and tribal departments
 - Health care departments and providers, inclusive of telehealth options
 - Mental health providers and LME-MCOs
- The hospitality industry and other private-sector partners will be critical in facilitating the non-congregate sheltering program
 - Businesses such as hotels, motels, colleges, universities, and other large-scale facilities that may be able to serve as non-congregate facilities can email BEOC@ncdps.gov

Reimbursement for Providing Sheltering

Eligible sheltering operations and wrap-around services are reimbursable under FEMA's Public Assistance program at a 75% federal and 25% non-federal cost share, with the State of North Carolina covering the non-federal cost-share.

FEMA Reimbursement

- Those that may be eligible for reimbursement are:
 - Indian Tribal and local governments
 - Private Nonprofits
 - COC (Continuum of Care)
 - Homeless shelters
- To apply for reimbursement, applicants must:
 - [Register in the FEMA Grants Portal](#)
 - Submit a [Request for Public Assistance \(RPA\)](#)
 - [Submit a Project Application](#)
- Additional guidance on reimbursement and eligible sub-applicants is available online [here](#)

Option for Expedited Reimbursement

Expedited reimbursement is available through North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM)

- Allows counties or other eligible organizations to receive reimbursement from the State of North Carolina after submitting supporting documentation and invoices to NCEM
- Counties that request this option will remain responsible for setting up and managing their program locally,
 - Coordinating comprehensive wrap-around services

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- Weekly reporting
- Verifying program costs
- A [Memorandum of Agreement](#) will need to be signed with NCEM before the reimbursement can be provided
- [Guidance for expedited reimbursement](#) and [FAQs](#) can be found online

Reporting

- All counties or organizations operating a non-congregate shelter must complete a report for each operational site every Friday by close of business
- The report is available online [here](#)

Additional information, including links to other resources, can be found online here: [NC DHHS Non-Congregate Sheltering](#)