NC Public Benefits Collective

Collaboration Committee Overview

Monday, July 27, 2026

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THE BASICS

What is the NC Public Benefits Collective?

The NC Public Benefits Collective (the Collective) is a statewide, collaborative effort that aligns and amplifies the work already happening across North Carolina to help people access public benefit programs.

It strengthens information-sharing among community-based organizations, advocates, and public partners so members can identify barriers to public benefits access, share solutions, and coordinate strategies for systems change and policy advocacy.

WHY NOW

A moment that calls for coordination

Today's session focuses on the Collaboration Committee, the body that will shape the Collective's structure, Circles, and coordination going forward. A separate statewide launch event will follow.

1

Shared, correct information

Benefit rules are changing quickly. Organizations across NC need a shared, accurate understanding of those changes they can share with the communities they serve.

2

Aligned advocacy

Many organizations already engage the general assembly and state agencies on public benefits. Working from a shared table strengthens that advocacy instead of splintering it.

3

Not a new initiative

This isn't meant to replace or duplicate anyone's work. It's meant to help share, coordinate, and enhance the work already happening.

HOW IT'S ORGANIZED

Structure

1 Collaboration Committee
Steering committee

Cross-cutting leadership and coordination, drawn from the Circles, core support, community strategy team, program participants, and key partners.

2 Topic Circles
Where the work happens

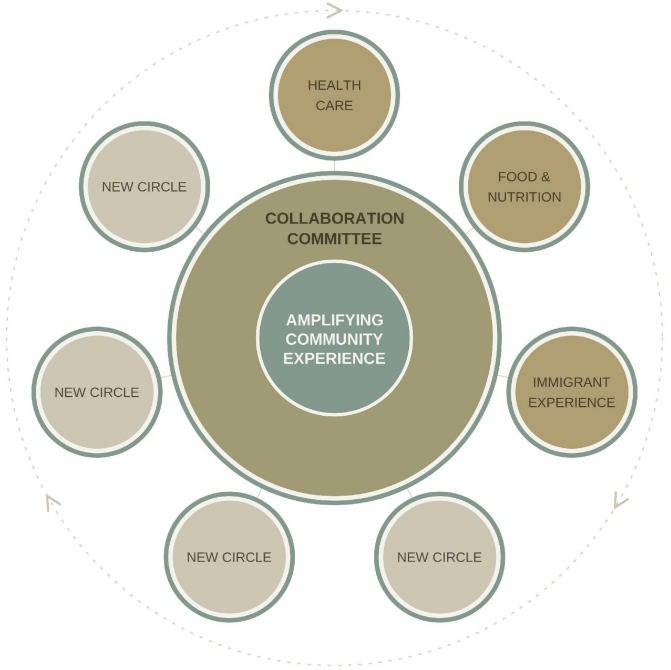
Organized around substantive benefit areas. Circles exchange information and align advocacy, with an immediate focus on maximizing access to existing benefits.

3 Community Strategy Team
On-the-ground presence

WNC & ENC Community Engagement Leads work with organizations and community partners to ensure authentic engagement and build direct feedback loops.

4 Core Support
Administrative backbone

Care Share Health Alliance serves as the core administrative and technical support for the Collective.



Proposed Structure for the NC Public Benefits Collective

PURPOSE

What is the Collective's role?

1 Convene & coordinate

Brings together organizations, networks, and advocates working toward more equitable public benefits access across NC.

2 Build connective infrastructure

Strengthens alignment and coordination across local, regional, rural, and urban divides.

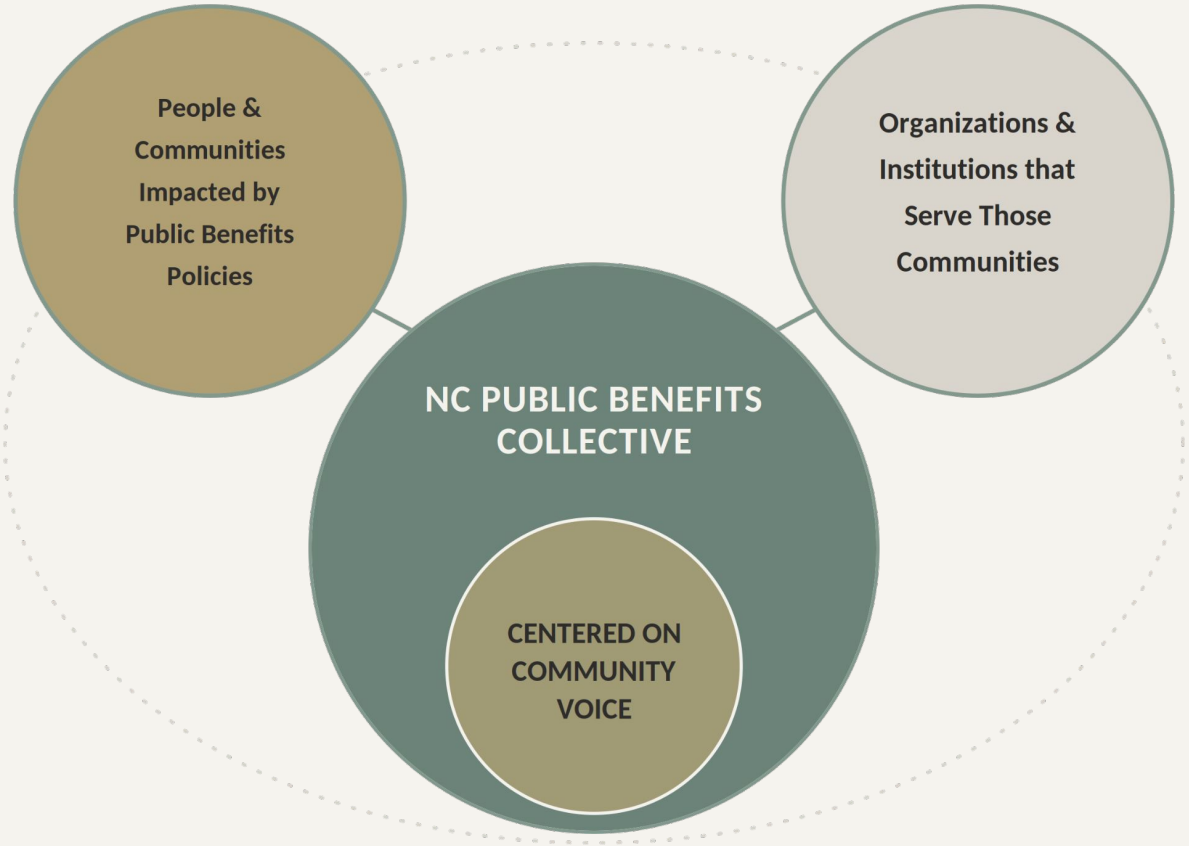
3 Hold the field accountable

Keeps the work accountable to the communities that have been most harmed by the system's failures.

4 Advance a united narrative

Reframes public benefits not as charity, but as essential investments in health, economic opportunity, and community wellbeing.

Rooted in Community



SETTING EXPECTATIONS

What the Collective is — and isn't

The Collective IS

- A resource space to bring questions, concerns or identify gaps in the work streams that are happening in real time and get linked with answers and tools as needed or available.
- Sharing space for awareness, alignment, capacity, and power-building for strong knowledge/information sharing between communities, organizations, advocacy campaigns, NCDHHS, DSS, and other key partners.
- A way to connect and coordinate the work NC groups are already doing, so efforts build on each other instead of running in parallel.
- A vehicle for strategic and timely communications between organizations, institutions, and communities. A space to build a shared narrative for power and purpose.

The Collective is NOT

- Not a funder. The Collective doesn't make grants to members.
- Not a direct service provider. The Collective convenes and supports organizations that deliver services; it doesn't deliver services itself.
- Not a replacement for anyone's work. It's not here to duplicate or take over what organizations are already doing, just to help them coordinate and go further together.
- A convenor of MORE standing meetings - however there might be a few if partners determine a need.

WHERE WE ARE

From early convening to statewide infrastructure

Fall 2025

Initial Convening

Nonprofit and philanthropic leaders convene to explore a Public Benefits Hub for NC.

Jan–Jun 2026

Ad-Hoc Steering Committee

Naming, vision and values, community survey, partner socialization, structural design, funding cultivation.

Late 2026

Launch & Build

Collaboration Committee recruitment and launch, Hire/Onboard Director, Circles launching, communications live.

Early 2027

Expansion & Voice

Additional Circles launch, WNC/ENC Engagement Leads secured, feedback loops established, State of Public Benefits Report.

We need your help to shape this initiative moving forward!

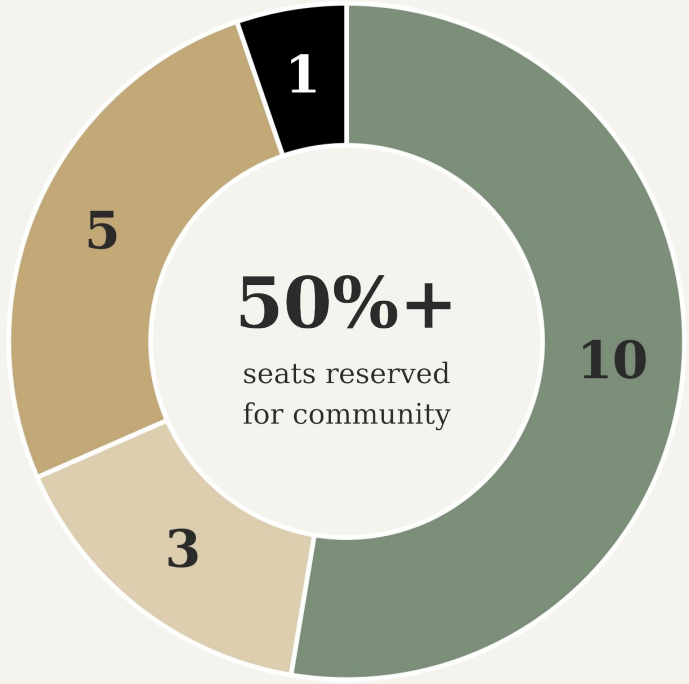
Organizations interested in engaging in the Collective

The following organizations responded to the NC Public Benefits Collective survey and helped shape this effort:

- American Heart Association
- AMEXCAN
- Babies Need Bottoms Diaper Bank
- Blood Cancer United
- Care Share Health Alliance
- Cape Fear HealthNet
- Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy
- Code the Dream
- Community Food Strategies
- Community Health Network of Western North Carolina
- Dogwood Health Trust
- Down Home NC
- Duke University Health System
- Elizabeth City State University
- FIEL-NC
- Grupo Poder y Esperanza
- Hispanic Federation
- JB and MK Pritzker Family Foundation
- KBR Charitable Trust
- KBR Medicaid Feedback Loop
- Legal Aid of North Carolina
- MDC
- Meals4Families
- myFutureNC
- National Health Law Program
- NC Alliance for Health
- NC Budget & Tax Center
- NC Community Health Center Association
- NC Justice Center
- NC Navigator Consortium
- NC Rural Center
- NCDHHS / Division of Health Benefits (NC Medicaid)
- NCHF/NCHA
- North Carolina A&T State University
- North Carolina Community Health Worker Association
- Office of Governor Josh Stein
- Old North State Medical Society
- Pisgah Legal Services
- Refugee Community Partnership
- Share Our Strength / No Kid Hungry Campaign
- The Center for Black Health & Equity
- The Leon Levine Foundation
- UNC
- Wake Forest School of Medicine
- Western NC Early Childhood Coalition
- WNC From the Ground Up
- YMCA of WNC

GOVERNANCE

Collaboration Committee: who's at the table



Community Representatives — 10 seats

6 Regional Leads (one per NC Medicaid region) plus 4 strategy-at-large seats for cross-regional perspectives.

Capacity & Liaison Seats — 5 seats

Subject-matter experts in data, policy, technology, NCDHHS, and philanthropy.

Circle Representatives — 1 per active Circle

Designated by each Circle, not through the nomination process.

Care Share Health Alliance Staff

The anchor organization; houses the Director and Communications Lead - 1 seat for a CSHA staff member. Director will facilitate the Collaboration Committee.

GOVERNANCE

Collaboration Committee - Commitment Expectations

Monthly

meetings

Potential biweekly at launch; 90% attendance expected.

~30 hrs

per year

Virtual meetings plus an annual 1–2 day in-person convening.

$5,000

*annual stipend**

For community reps and capacity and liaison seats; payable to individual or organization.

**Pending funding to support Collaboration Committee members. No fixed term limits — an annual 360 review checks whether continued participation still makes sense for everyone.*

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Many ways to engage…

1

Self-nominate for the Collaboration Committee

This is the body that will flesh out the Collective's structure, work, and coordination, including its Circles. If you or your organization fits a Community, Regional Lead, or Capacity/Liaison seat, this is your seat at the table.

Interest form due August 10, 2026

2

Join a Circle

Bring your expertise to a shared-priority issue area: SNAP, health care, immigrant access, and more.

3

Join the listserv

Stay in the loop on shared communications, policy updates, and ways to plug in as the Collective grows.

BenefitsCollective@caresharehealth.org
www.caresharehealth.org/collective

NC Public Benefits
COLLECTIVE

Thank you!
Questions? Comments?

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