

Hospice Home Care Methodology Recommendations (Long-term and Behavioral Health Committee-Approved)

The NC State Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) convened four Hospice Home Care (HOS) Methodology Workgroup meetings on December 9, 2025; January 13, 2026; February 10, 2026; and March 10, 2026 to evaluate, and, if necessary, make recommendations regarding the appropriateness of the current HOS need methodology used in the State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP). The Workgroup- comprised of 13 hospice provider-stakeholders- was charged with reviewing the past 10 years of HOS office petitions; gathering stakeholder input to understand the impact of the current methodology and to identify issues of concern; and reviewing the methodology calculations to determine whether changes were warranted.

Based on its expertise and analysis of available data, the HOS Workgroup developed several recommendations. The Long-term and Behavioral Health (LTBH) Committee approved the following:

Recommendation 1: Use county mortality (death) rates for the most recent three years as the basis for hospice patient need projections instead of five years. However, to exclude years containing COVID deaths, the 2027 and 2028 SMFPs will use “rolling” death rates – that is 2018, 2019, and 2024 death rates for the 2027 SMFP, and 2019, 2024 and 2025 death rates for the 2028 SMFP.

Recommendation 2: Include all active-duty military individuals in total population counts of all service areas.

Recommendation 3: Adjust an assumption of the HOS office need methodology as such: *A need for an additional hospice home care office exists if the service area’s deficit is 150 patients or more and the number of licensed home care offices located in the service area is three or fewer per 75,000 population.*

Recommendation 4: Implement a moratorium within the service area following the placement of a need determination in the SMFP for the service area. The moratorium shall remain in place for the service area for two SMFP cycles after the relevant Certificate of Need (CON) is issued.

Recommendation 5: Revisit the HOS need determination methodology three years after the implementation of recommendations to assess their impact.

At its June 3, 2026 meeting, the SHCC will receive the final report and these recommendations from the LTBH Committee. The SHCC’s decisions will be reflected in the Proposed 2027 SMFP.