

Application Form

Profile

Edna "Josie"First Name

JMiddle Initial

AsencioLast Name

Home Address

Suite or Apt

City

CAState

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Email Address

District Locator Tool

Resident of Supervisorial District:

☒ District 3

Northern California
Conference of Seventh-day
AdventistsEmployer

PastorJob Title

Length of Employment

7 years

Do you work in Contra Costa County?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, in which District do you work?

District 3

How long have you lived or worked in Contra Costa County?

2 years 7 months

Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Board and Interest

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness: Submitted

Seat Name

Clergy

Have you ever attended a meeting of the advisory board for which you are applying?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, how many meetings have you attended?

3

Education

Select the option that applies to your high school education *

☒ High School Diploma

College/ University A

Name of College Attended

La Sierra University

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

BA/Religious Studies

Degree Awarded?

☒ Yes ☐ No

College/ University B

Name of College Attended

Andrews University

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

MDiv (Master of Divinity)

Degree Awarded?

☒ Yes ☐ No

College/ University C

Name of College Attended

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

DMin/Pastoral Care and Counseling

Degree Awarded?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Other Trainings & Occupational Licenses

Other Training A

5 Units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Other Training B

BLS Certification

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Occupational Licenses Completed:

Ordained Minister

Qualifications and Volunteer Experience

Please explain why you would like to serve on this particular board, committee, or commission.

I have the privilege of chairing the Seventh-day Adventist Taskforce on Homelessness. Together, our committee has begun to partner with Contra Costa County service providers in the effort to reach functional zero. The taskforce brings together ministers and members from our Adventist churches throughout the county, and one of our congregations in Pittsburg is already preparing to build affordable housing on its property. I would love the opportunity to connect and collaborate with the Council on Homelessness as we intentionally align with cities and counties to better serve our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Describe your qualifications for this appointment. (NOTE: you may also include a copy of your resume with this application)

As a minister, I have partnered with city and community leaders to serve our vulnerable and at-risk neighbors. In my previous congregations, I have organized dental and vision clinics, supported a police accountability committee, and represented the faith community on both a county mental health committee and a senior services committee. I am also a trained chaplain, ordained minister, grief counselor, and spiritual counselor. In addition, I have served on the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa, building relationships with clergy across traditions to address shared community needs. With more than 20 years of experience in public speaking, coaching, board leadership, and connecting congregations with community initiatives, I bring a healthy background in collaboration, advocacy, and service that I believe would contribute meaningfully to the mission of the Council on Homelessness.

Edna "Josie" J Asencio

Would you like to be considered for appointment to other advisory bodies for which you may be qualified?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Do you have any obligations that might affect your attendance at scheduled meetings?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please explain:

Are you currently or have you ever been appointed to a Contra Costa County advisory board?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you are currently serving:

If Yes, please also list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you have previously served:

List any volunteer or community experience, including any advisory boards on which you have served.

Contra Costa County: interfaith council Napa County: Mental Health Council, Senoir services committee, St. Helena Pastors, inter-faith council, distributed food during covid and household items to fire/evacuation victims, St. Helena Hospital volunteer chaplain and general volunteer Riverside County: Attended regular council meetings, organized weekend Health Clinic and mental health education workshops

Conflict of Interest and Certification

Do you have a familial or financial relationship with a member of the Board of Supervisors? (Please refer to the relationships listed under the "Important Information" section below or Resolution No. 2021/234)

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:

Do you have any financial relationships with the County such as grants, contracts, or other economic relationships?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I CERTIFY that the statements made by me in this application are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and are made in good faith. I acknowledge and undersand that all information in this application is publicly accessible. I understand that misstatements and/or omissions of material fact may cause forfeiture of my rights to serve on a board, committee, or commission in Contra Costa County.

☒ I Agree

Important Information

1. This application and any attachments you provide to it is a public document and is subject to the California Public Records Act (CA Government Code §6250-6270).
2. All members of appointed bodies are required to take the advisory body training provided by Contra Costa County.
3. Members of certain boards, commissions, and committees may be required to: (1) file a Statement of Economic Interest Form also known as a Form 700, and (2) complete the State Ethics Training Course as required by AB 1234.
4. Meetings may be held in various locations and some locations may not be accessible by public transportation.
5. Meeting dates and times are subject to change and may occur up to two (2) days per month.
6. Some boards, committees, or commissions may assign members to subcommittees or work groups which may require an additional commitment of time.
7. As indicated in Board Resolution 2021/234, a person will not be eligible for appointment if he/she is related to a Board of Supervisors' member in any of the following relationships:
 - (1) Mother, father, son, and daughter;
 - (2) Brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather, grandson, and granddaughter;
 - (3) Husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepson, and stepdaughter;
 - (4) Registered domestic partner, pursuant to California Family Code section 297;
 - (5) The relatives, as defined in 1 and 2 above, for a registered domestic partner;
 - (6) Any person with whom a Board Member shares a financial interest as defined in the Political Reform Act (Gov't Code §87103, Financial Interest), such as a business partner or business associate.

[View results](#)

Respondent

10

Anonymous

103:05

Time to complete

About the Supplemental Questions for the Council on Homelessness Membership Application

The following questions will be used by the Council on Homelessness' Nominating Panel to identify diverse applicants that can contribute unique expertise and perspectives to the Council. Answers to these questions will be evaluated in relation to the experience and qualifications desired for available member seats. Please carefully consider how your personal experiences, professional experiences, and values will contribute meaningfully to the Contra Costa County Continuum of Care efforts to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Please note, there are two required elements of the Council on Homelessness application, these "Supplemental Questions" and the County Application. You **must complete both** components of the application by **Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 5PM**. Instructions for completing the County Application will be sent to you after completing the "Supplemental Questions" below.

For more information, about applying to the Council on Homelessness, please review the Council on Homelessness Board Recruitment FAQ document.

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Supplemental Questions

1. Which vacant Council on Homelessness seat are you applying for? *

- ☐ **Behavioral Health Representative** – Must work in the behavioral health field in Contra Costa County (i.e., peer support, clinician, system-level behavioral health planner, etc.) with experience impacting behavioral health policy, decision-making, and/or funding.
- ☐ **City Government Seat** – Must be an employee of a city or town located in Contra Costa County. This seat is not open to representatives elected to positions in Contra Costa County
- ☐ **CoC/ESG Program Grantee** – Must work with an agency receiving Continuum of Care and/or Emergency Solutions Grant funding in Contra Costa, including agencies that are providing housing and/or services to survivors of domestic violence. Applicants must work with one of these agencies to be eligible: CCH: H3; Contra Costa Crisis Center; Contra Costa Housing Authority; GRIP; Hope Solutions; SAHA; SHELTER, Inc; STAND! For Families Free of Violence; Trinity Center
- ☐ **Community Member Seat** – Must live or work in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ **Federal Homeless and Housing Funding Administrator Representative** – Must work for an agency in Contra Costa County that administers federal funding for homelessness and/or housing programs.
- ☐ **Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD) Representative** – Must work for the Contra Costa Employment and Human Services Department.
- ☒ **Faith Community Representative** – Must have substantial experience as an employee, volunteer, or congregant of the County faith community.
- ☐ **Public Housing Authority** – Must be an employee of a Housing Authority in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ **Public Safety Representative** – Must have substantial experience in the public safety field in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ **Reentry Services Representative** – Must have substantial experience in the reentry field in Contra Costa County (i.e., services provider and/or correctional staff supporting individuals reentering the community after involvement with the criminal legal system).
- ☐ **Youth Representative** – Must be between the ages of 17 and 24 and have lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County

2. Please explain why you would like to serve on the Council on Homelessness and in the specific Council seat(s) you are applying for. (400 word maximum) *

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Northern California Territory is committed to supporting communities in reaching functional zero for homelessness. As part of this mission, we have recently launched a Homelessness Task Force focused on organizing and mobilizing SDA churches across Contra Costa County. Currently, we are working to connect with more experienced organizations already active in this space to collaborate and complement their efforts. One of our key initiatives is supporting a local church in Pittsburg as it embarks on a project to build homes for individuals experiencing homelessness. I have the privilege of serving as the chair of this committee and am deeply committed to both learning from others and contributing to this important work. Although I had to step back for a season due to surgery and health challenges, I am now excited and ready to re-engage fully with the task force and continue moving this mission forward.

3. **Please briefly describe any personal or professional skills, experiences, volunteer work, or connections (such as affiliations with organizations addressing homelessness) that you would bring to the Council on Homelessness and/or the specific seat you are applying for. For example, you can talk about things like your experience getting services in the county, comfort with public speaking, experience working with unhoused youth, community activism, relationships with organizations, etc. (400 word maximum)**

*

My parents both grew up in extreme poverty and experienced homelessness as youth, and my mother lived in a women's shelter for several months when my sister and I were very young. Their resilience shaped my perspective on service and compassion. As a member of the Hispanic community, I am bilingual, speaking both Spanish and English. While many people speak Spanish more fluently than I do, I have experience in public speaking in both languages, which has allowed me to connect with diverse audiences. During the pandemic, I became a foster parent while also serving on Napa County's mental health committee and supporting seniors so they could remain in their homes while receiving the care and community they needed. At the same time, I organized local denominational pastors in Napa County and non-denominational pastors in St. Helena to join countywide COVID-19 response efforts. I partnered with nonprofits to distribute food to families in need, and I led initiatives to provide fire victims and evacuees with immediate necessities such as toiletries and clothing, as well as furniture for those who lost their homes. For the past 20 years, I have served as a pastor. In that role, I have learned the importance of mediation, de-escalation, and compassion in conversations. These experiences have strengthened my commitment to building bridges, supporting vulnerable communities, and ensuring that those facing crisis receive practical resources, spiritual and emotional care.

4. **Please identify your personal connections with homelessness by selecting one of the options below:** *

- ☐ I am a person currently experiencing homelessness and living in a shelter or location not meant for human habitation (e.g., in a tent).
- ☐ I am a person who experienced homelessness within the past 7 years but is currently housed.
- ☐ I am a person who experienced homelessness more than 7 years ago but is currently housed.
- ☒ I am a family member of someone who has experienced homelessness
- ☐ I am none of the above but still invested in addressing homelessness in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ I would prefer not to respond

5. **Unhoused people in Contra Costa County come from many different backgrounds in terms of race, ethnicity, culture, ability, age, sexual and gender identity, and immigration status. Please list and explain 3 reasons why certain groups might have a harder time accessing services than others. (400 words maximum) ***

There are a couple of groups that face greater challenges in accessing services than others. The first is the African American community, and the second is the Hispanic and immigrant community. Both groups continue to encounter racial and systemic barriers that limit access to stable housing, employment, and supportive resources.

Historically, the United States has intentionally underserved African Americans. Even after the abolition of slavery, policies and practices promoted dehumanization and reinforced biases that contributed to disproportionately high incarceration rates, which still exists today. Having a criminal record makes it more difficult for individuals to secure housing, qualify for services, and obtain stable employment. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, African Americans made up just 13 percent of the U.S. population in 2020, yet they accounted for more than 40 percent of the homeless population. At that time, Nan Roman, then-president and CEO of the organization, explained, "This isn't the fault of the homelessness sector, and it is not the fault of people experiencing homelessness. It is the fault of systems that have failed our most vulnerable populations, and leaders who have failed to protect them" (ABC News, January 22, 2020).

The Hispanic and immigrant community also experiences significant barriers. One of the most common challenges is the language barrier. Many service providers may not be bilingual, which limits access for individuals and families who primarily speak Spanish. This gap often leaves people unable to fully understand their options, complete paperwork, or advocate for themselves.

In addition to language challenges, fear of immigration consequences is another major obstacle. Some members of the community worry that seeking help might lead to detention or deportation, even when services are legally available to them. This fear discourages families from pursuing housing assistance, health care, or other supportive resources that could prevent or end homelessness. Combined, these barriers contribute to lower levels of service utilization and greater vulnerability to housing instability within the Hispanic and immigrant population.

Both the African American and Hispanic/immigrant communities face systemic barriers that make accessing services more difficult. Historical injustices, racial biases, language barriers, and fears related to immigration status all contribute to higher rates of homelessness and housing instability. Addressing these challenges requires not only expanding access to resources but also confronting the structural inequities and systemic failures that have left these communities disproportionately vulnerable. I hope that our Adventist community can serve as a meaningful partner in supporting a system that is gravely underfunded, taking active steps toward equity and ensuring that more individuals have the opportunity to secure stable housing and support.

6. **Please share and explain two (2) ideas to help Contra Costa County better support people who are unhoused and people at risk of being unhoused. Your ideas can come from your own experience receiving services, your work, and/or what you've seen in the news. (400 word maximum) ***

1. Identifying and partnering with local faith communities in providing emotional/spiritual support.

2. Creating a way to connect with faith communities and organizations that provide services or are holding physical/emotional/spiritual health events and connecting them with the underserved population.

7. **How many Continuum of Care (CoC), Council on Homelessness (CoH), or Youth Advisory Council (YAC) meetings have you attended in the past? ***

☒ 3 or more meetings

☐ 1-2 meetings

☐ 0 meetings

8. The Council is committed to the Housing First approach, which means people can get into housing without needing to meet certain requirements like being sober, participating in a religious program, or having a job. In response, the Council has established this Guiding Principle: *Homelessness is first a housing issue, and necessary supports and services are critical to help people remain housed. Our system must be nimble and flexible enough to respond through the shared responsibility, accountability, and transparency of the community.*

Do you agree with the Housing First approach and Guiding Principle described above? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

9. Members of the Council are expected to attend standing monthly Council on Homelessness meetings which take place on the first Thursday of the month from 1 pm – 3pm in Martinez. Members are also expected to participate in at least one committee, which typically meet on a monthly basis.

Standing Committees (meet once a month or every other month)

- Equity Committee
- HMIS Policy Committee
- Oversight Committee
- PATH (Plan for Accelerating Transformative Housing) Committee

Ad Hoc Committees (meet on an as-needed basis for a limited time)

- Funding Committee
- Governance Committee
- Homelessness Awareness Month Committee
- Nominating Committee
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All Councilmembers are expected to attend meetings in person and can only attend virtually twice per calendar year under very narrow circumstances. Additionally, Councilmembers may miss up to two Council meetings per calendar year. Based on this information, please identify the level of commitment you can provide to the Council on Homelessness by selecting one of the options below: *

- ☒ I am available to attend the **standing monthly COH meeting** on the first Thursday of every month from 1pm to 3pm, and I am available to participate in at least one committee which would require attending a separate regular meeting.
- ☐ I am not available for the standing monthly COH meeting and/or I am not available to participate in at least one committee.

Demographic Information (Optional)

The Council aims to engage as broad a representation as possible of abilities, ages, sexual and gender identities, immigration statuses, and racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, and geographical representation within the County. Responses to the following questions are optional. The Nominating Panel will not review applicants' responses to the following questions.

10. **What are your pronouns (for example: she/him/they/ze, etc.)?**

██████████

11. **What is your gender identity (for example: female/male/transgender/non-binary/gender non-conforming, other)?**

██████████

12. **What is your sexual orientation (for example: bisexual/straight/gay/pansexual, other)?**

██████████

13. What best describes your age? (Check one)

Transition aged youth (18-24)

Adult (25-54)

Older Adult (55-61)

Senior (62+)

14. What best describes your race/ethnicity? (Pick as many as apply)

White

Hispanic/Latino(a)(o)(e)(x)

Black/African American/African

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

American Indian/Alaskan Native/Indigenous

Asian American/Asian

Multiple Races

Other

15. Which of the following geographic areas do you spend the most time in? *

- ☐ Far East Contra Costa County (for example: Discovery Bay, Bethel Island)
- ☒ East Contra Costa County (for example: Bay Point, Pittsburg, Antioch, Brentwood)
- ☐ Central Contra Costa County (for example: Martinez, Pleasant Hill, Concord, Walnut Creek)
- ☐ South Contra Costa County (for example: Alamo, Danville, San Ramon)
- ☐ West Contra Costa County (for example: El Cerrito, San Pablo, Richmond, Pinole, Hercules, Rodeo)
- ☐ I spend an equal amount of time in all five geographic areas listed above.

16. Is there any other information you would like to share, including anything that would help us understand how you would contribute to the diverse representation of people and experiences on the Council (for example: lived experience of homelessness, abilities, immigration status, ethnic background, or cultural background)?

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to apply.

Contact Information

17. Name *

Josie Asencio

18. Email *

[REDACTED]

19. Phone Number *

[REDACTED]

[View results](#)

Respondent

25

Anonymous

104:21

Time to complete

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2. Please explain why you would like to serve on the Council on Homelessness and in the specific Council seat(s) you are applying for. (400 word maximum) *

As a member and leader in the faith community, I have witnessed and participated in how faith-based organizations provide essential emergency resources and long-term support, which are vital for our well-being and thriving. Having experienced homelessness myself and emerged from encampments, I have undergone significant healing and transformation through my involvement with the faith community. I have been uplifted and have had the privilege of uplifting others in return. I continue to serve on the front lines of homelessness, and I believe that my experience will continue to serve the Council on Homelessness and our community as a whole.

3. Please briefly describe any personal or professional skills, experiences, volunteer work, or connections (such as affiliations with organizations addressing homelessness) that you would bring to the Council on Homelessness and/or the specific seat you are applying for. For example, you can talk about things like your experience getting services in the county, comfort with public speaking, experience working with unhoused youth, community activism, relationships with organizations, etc. (400 word maximum) *

I experienced the call to ministry while a member of the Bay Area Rescue Mission's year-long residential recovery program, where God delivered me from an extended season of homelessness, hopelessness, and drug addiction. Along this narrow road of recovery and redemption, God has integrated all the pieces of my past life before homelessness, taking the skills I developed as an engineer and leader in various successful startup companies in Silicon Valley and applying these skills to the service of God and His people - no experience in life has been wasted. It has been my privilege over these past years to minister and continually serve in this space in various capacities, all united through my life for God and His people. I have administered and managed the men's emergency shelter at the Bay Area Rescue Mission. I have managed program operations at BARM, overseeing both our community kitchen and our food pantry during a time when we distributed over 1.2 million meals to the community we serve. I actively and regularly minister as a pastor and friend in encampment outreach. The church I serve as senior pastor works closely and intensely with our community; most of the congregation is formerly homeless, with several members of my congregation residing at A&A Health Services in San Pablo (Adult residential services for those with dual diagnosis). My church founded a nonprofit that has operated a series of Sober Living Environments for the past 18 years; I managed one of these homes for three years. These SLE homes serve men escaping homelessness and drug addiction. I formerly served on the Board of Directors for Way2Love, Inc., a local nonprofit that has successfully abated the large Castro Encampment, providing housing and support for nearly the entire encampment. I have served on the Council on Homelessness as the Faith Community Representative for two consecutive terms, and I hope to continue this service. In my vocational work in the nonprofit space serving the unhoused, I have continually sought growth and development to professionalize the ministry work. I have completed my Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry & Leadership, Ministry Management Concentration, focusing on curriculum development, cultural humility, program modeling, fundraising, strategic planning, finance, grant writing, and leadership development. I am currently attending grad school and am two terms away from completing my MBA, the curriculum centered on leadership in Christ-centered nonprofits. In short, ministry work in this space is my passion and life's work. God has been so kind to me, and I seek to share that kindness with others.

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5. Unhoused people in Contra Costa County come from many different backgrounds in terms of race, ethnicity, culture, ability, age, sexual and gender identity, and immigration status. Please list and explain 3 reasons why certain groups might have a harder time accessing services than others. (400 words maximum) *

There are many different reasons why certain groups might have a harder time accessing services than others, but the following illustrate three of many reasons.

Language and Cultural Barriers: Many unhoused people come from immigrant and Spanish-speaking communities. Without clear and consistent translation or culturally specific outreach, these residents may not know what resources are available to them or how to navigate these resources. Furthermore, there are some strong cultural stigmas around homelessness and mental health, and this can discourage individuals from seeking the services they might need to thrive better.

Legal and Documentation Barriers: Some services require identification or proof of residency. Some federal housing assistance programs require applicants to be U.S. Citizens or have eligible immigration status. Fear of deportation or other legal repercussions may lead some to avoid housing resources altogether, even if they qualify.

System Navigation Barriers: For individuals facing trauma, mental illness, or limited literacy, the complicated nature of navigating system complexity for housing and services can be overwhelming. Without strong and consistent case management, many people will fall through the cracks and not obtain the housing or services available to them. I c

6. Please share and explain two (2) ideas to help Contra Costa County better support people who are unhoused and people at risk of being unhoused. Your ideas can come from your own experience receiving services, your work, and/or what you've seen in the news. (400 word maximum) *

One thing that I am greatly encouraged by within the faith community is the emergence of the YIGBY (Yes In God's Back Yard) Movement. This movement seeks to take advantage of new state laws and advocate for zoning changes that will allow church-owned land to be used for affordable housing projects. While there have been high-visibility projects in our CoC as of late (Hope Solution's Hope Village in Walnut Creek comes to mind), there are a lot of other initiatives that are happening in denominational discussions across the Bay Area that I have been privileged to participate in, including conversations around creative financing for these housing initiatives. I would love to bring more of this work to our CoC, as there is a great deal of potential to house people through this work.

Secondly, seek to intentionally increase the visibility of local church communities, which do significant outreach and support under the radar. Hundreds of small organizations provide support, resources, and housing for the unhoused, far greater than you can imagine.

7. How many Continuum of Care (CoC), Council on Homelessness (CoH), or Youth Advisory Council (YAC) meetings have you attended in the past? *

- ☒ 3 or more meetings
- ☐ 1-2 meetings
- ☐ 0 meetings

8. The Council is committed to the Housing First approach, which means people can get into housing without needing to meet certain requirements like being sober, participating in a religious program, or having a job. In response, the Council has established this Guiding Principle: *Homelessness is first a housing issue, and necessary supports and services are critical to help people remain housed. Our system must be nimble and flexible enough to respond through the shared responsibility, accountability, and transparency of the community.*

Do you agree with the Housing First approach and Guiding Principle described above? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

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12. What is your sexual orientation (for example: bisexual/straight/gay/pansexual, other)?

13. What best describes your age? (Check one)

☐ Transition aged youth (18-24)

☐ Adult (25-54)

☐ Older Adult (55-61_

☐ Senior (62+)

14. What best describes your race/ethnicity? (Pick as many as apply)

☐ White

☐ Hispanic/Latino(a)(o)(e)(x)

☐ Black/African American/African

☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

☐ American Indian/Alaskan Native/Indigenous

☐ Asian American/Asian

☐ Multiple Races

☐ Other

15. Which of the following geographic areas do you spend the most time in? *

- ☐ Far East Contra Costa County (for example: Discovery Bay, Bethel Island)
- ☐ East Contra Costa County (for example: Bay Point, Pittsburg, Antioch, Brentwood)
- ☐ Central Contra Costa County (for example: Martinez, Pleasant Hill, Concord, Walnut Creek)
- ☐ South Contra Costa County (for example: Alamo, Danville, San Ramon)
- ☒ West Contra Costa County (for example: El Cerrito, San Pablo, Richmond, Pinole, Hercules, Rodeo)
- ☐ I spend an equal amount of time in all five geographic areas listed above.

16. Is there any other information you would like to share, including anything that would help us understand how you would contribute to the diverse representation of people and experiences on the Council (for example: lived experience of homelessness, abilities, immigration status, ethnic background, or cultural background)?

I have a lived experience of homelessness

Contact Information

17. Name *

Wayne Earl

18. Email *

19. Phone Number *

Application Form

Profile

Wayne B Earl
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

[Redacted] Suite or Apt

[Redacted] CA [Redacted]
City State Postal Code

[Redacted]
Primary Phone

[Redacted]
Email Address

District Locator Tool

Resident of Supervisorial District:

☒ District 4
Rock Harbor Christian Fellowship / Bay Area Rescue Mission Senior Pastor / Manager of Special Projects
Employer Job Title

Length of Employment

7+ years

Do you work in Contra Costa County?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, in which District do you work?

1

How long have you lived or worked in Contra Costa County?

9 years

Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Board and Interest

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness: Submitted

Seat Name

Faith Community Representative

Have you ever attended a meeting of the advisory board for which you are applying?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, how many meetings have you attended?

many meetings

Education

Select the option that applies to your high school education *

☒ High School Diploma

College/ University A

Name of College Attended

CityVision University

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

BA: Christian Ministry and Leadership: Ministry Management Concentration

Degree Awarded?

☒ Yes ☐ No

College/ University B

Name of College Attended

CityVision University

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

MBA (in progress; completion early 2026)

Degree Awarded?

☐ Yes ☒ No

College/ University C

Name of College Attended

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Degree Awarded?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Other Trainings & Occupational Licenses**Other Training A**

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Other Training B

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Occupational Licenses Completed:

Certificate of Ordination

Qualifications and Volunteer Experience

Please explain why you would like to serve on this particular board, committee, or commission.

As a member and leader in the faith community, I have witnessed and participated in how faith-based organizations provide essential emergency resources and long-term support, which are vital for our well-being and thriving. Having experienced homelessness myself and emerged from encampments, I have undergone significant healing and transformation through my involvement with the faith community. I have been uplifted and have had the privilege of uplifting others in return. I continue to serve on the front lines of homelessness, and I believe that my experience will continue to serve the Council on Homelessness and our community as a whole.

Describe your qualifications for this appointment. (NOTE: you may also include a copy of your resume with this application)

I experienced the call to ministry while a member of the Bay Area Rescue Mission's year-long residential recovery program, where God delivered me from an extended season of homelessness, hopelessness, and drug addiction. Along this narrow road of recovery and redemption, God has integrated all the pieces of my past life before homelessness, taking the skills I developed as an engineer and leader in various successful startup companies in Silicon Valley and applying these skills to the service of God and His people - no experience in life has been wasted. It has been my privilege over these past years to minister and continually serve in this space in various capacities, all united through my life for God and His people. I have administered and managed the men's emergency shelter at the Bay Area Rescue Mission. I have managed program operations at BARM, overseeing both our community kitchen and our food pantry during a time when we distributed over 1.2 million meals to the community we serve. I actively and regularly minister as a pastor and friend in encampment outreach. The church I serve as senior pastor works closely and intensely with our community; most of the congregation is formerly homeless, with several members of my congregation residing at A&A Health Services in San Pablo (Adult residential services for those with dual diagnosis). My church founded a nonprofit that has operated a series of Sober Living Environments for the past 18 years; I managed one of these homes for three years. These SLE homes serve men escaping homelessness and drug addiction. I formerly served on the Board of Directors for Way2Love, Inc., a local nonprofit that has successfully abated the large Castro Encampment, providing housing and support for nearly the entire encampment. I have served on the Council on Homelessness as the Faith Community Representative for two consecutive terms, and I hope to continue this service. In my vocational work in the nonprofit space serving the unhoused, I have continually sought growth and development to professionalize the ministry work. I have completed my Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry & Leadership, Ministry Management Concentration, focusing on curriculum development, cultural humility, program modeling, fundraising, strategic planning, finance, grant writing, and leadership development. I am currently attending grad school and am two terms away from completing my MBA, the curriculum centered on leadership in Christ-centered nonprofits. In short, ministry work in this space is my passion and life's work. God has been so kind to me, and I seek to share that kindness with others.

[Upload a Resume](#)

Would you like to be considered for appointment to other advisory bodies for which you may be qualified?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Do you have any obligations that might affect your attendance at scheduled meetings?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please explain:

Are you currently or have you ever been appointed to a Contra Costa County advisory board?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you are currently serving:

Council on Homelessness

If Yes, please also list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you have previously served:

List any volunteer or community experience, including any advisory boards on which you have served.

I experienced the call to ministry while a member of the Bay Area Rescue Mission's year-long residential recovery program, where God delivered me from an extended season of homelessness, hopelessness, and drug addiction. Along this narrow road of recovery and redemption, God has integrated all the pieces of my past life before homelessness, taking the skills I developed as an engineer and leader in various successful startup companies in Silicon Valley and applying these skills to the service of God and His people - no experience in life has been wasted. It has been my privilege over these past years to minister and continually serve in this space in various capacities, all united through my life for God and His people. I have administered and managed the men's emergency shelter at the Bay Area Rescue Mission. I have managed program operations at BARM, overseeing both our community kitchen and our food pantry during a time when we distributed over 1.2 million meals to the community we serve. I actively and regularly minister as a pastor and friend in encampment outreach. The church I serve as senior pastor works closely and intensely with our community; most of the congregation is formerly homeless, with several members of my congregation residing at A&A Health Services in San Pablo (Adult residential services for those with dual diagnosis). My church founded a nonprofit that has operated a series of Sober Living Environments for the past 18 years; I managed one of these homes for three years. These SLE homes serve men escaping homelessness and drug addiction. I formerly served on the Board of Directors for Way2Love, Inc., a local nonprofit that has successfully abated the large Castro Encampment, providing housing and support for nearly the entire encampment. I have served on the Council on Homelessness as the Faith Community Representative for two consecutive terms, and I hope to continue this service. In my vocational work in the nonprofit space serving the unhoused, I have continually sought growth and development to professionalize the ministry work. I have completed my Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry & Leadership, Ministry Management Concentration, focusing on curriculum development, cultural humility, program modeling, fundraising, strategic planning, finance, grant writing, and leadership development. I am currently attending grad school and am two terms away from completing my MBA, the curriculum centered on leadership in Christ-centered nonprofits. In short, ministry work in this space is my passion and life's work. God has been so kind to me, and I seek to share that kindness with others.

Conflict of Interest and Certification

Do you have a familial or financial relationship with a member of the Board of Supervisors? (Please refer to the relationships listed under the "Important Information" section below or Resolution No. 2021/234)

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:

Do you have any financial relationships with the County such as grants, contracts, or other economic relationships?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I CERTIFY that the statements made by me in this application are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and are made in good faith. I acknowledge and undersand that all information in this application is publicly accessible. I understand that misstatements and/or omissions of material fact may cause forfeiture of my rights to serve on a board, committee, or commission in Contra Costa County.

☒ I Agree

Important Information

1. This application and any attachments you provide to it is a public document and is subject to the California Public Records Act (CA Government Code §6250-6270).
2. All members of appointed bodies are required to take the advisory body training provided by Contra Costa County.
3. Members of certain boards, commissions, and committees may be required to: (1) file a Statement of Economic Interest Form also known as a Form 700, and (2) complete the State Ethics Training Course as required by AB 1234.
4. Meetings may be held in various locations and some locations may not be accessible by public transportation.
5. Meeting dates and times are subject to change and may occur up to two (2) days per month.
6. Some boards, committees, or commissions may assign members to subcommittees or work groups which may require an additional commitment of time.
7. As indicated in Board Resolution 2021/234, a person will not be eligible for appointment if he/she is related to a Board of Supervisors' member in any of the following relationships:
 - (1) Mother, father, son, and daughter;
 - (2) Brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather, grandson, and granddaughter;
 - (3) Husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepson, and stepdaughter;
 - (4) Registered domestic partner, pursuant to California Family Code section 297;
 - (5) The relatives, as defined in 1 and 2 above, for a registered domestic partner;
 - (6) Any person with whom a Board Member shares a financial interest as defined in the Political Reform Act (Gov't Code §87103, Financial Interest), such as a business partner or business associate.

Application Form

Profile

Desiree

First Name

Middle Initial

Rushing

Last Name

Home Address

Suite or Apt

City

CA

State

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Email Address

District Locator Tool

Resident of Supervisorial District:

☒ District 3

Employer

Job Title

Length of Employment

Do you work in Contra Costa County?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, in which District do you work?

3

How long have you lived or worked in Contra Costa County?

15

Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Board and Interest

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness: Submitted

Seat Name

Behavioral Health Representative/Faith Community Representative

Have you ever attended a meeting of the advisory board for which you are applying?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, how many meetings have you attended?

>10

Education

Select the option that applies to your high school education *

☒ High School Diploma

College/ University A

Name of College Attended

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Degree Awarded?

☐ Yes ☐ No

College/ University B

Name of College Attended

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Degree Awarded?

☐ Yes ☐ No

College/ University C

Name of College Attended

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Degree Awarded?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Other Trainings & Occupational Licenses

Desiree Rushing

Other Training A

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Other Training B

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Occupational Licenses Completed:

Qualifications and Volunteer Experience

Please explain why you would like to serve on this particular board, committee, or commission.

Information on supplemental application

Describe your qualifications for this appointment. (NOTE: you may also include a copy of your resume with this application)

Information on supplemental application

Upload a Resume

Would you like to be considered for appointment to other advisory bodies for which you may be qualified?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Do you have any obligations that might affect your attendance at scheduled meetings?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please explain:

Are you currently or have you ever been appointed to a Contra Costa County advisory board?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you are currently serving:

If Yes, please also list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you have previously served:

List any volunteer or community experience, including any advisory boards on which you have served.

Conflict of Interest and Certification

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If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:

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If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I CERTIFY that the statements made by me in this application are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and are made in good faith. I acknowledge and undersand that all information in this application is publicly accessible. I understand that misstatements and/or omissions of material fact may cause forfeiture of my rights to serve on a board, committee, or commission in Contra Costa County.

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 - (2) Brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather, grandson, and granddaughter;
 - (3) Husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepson, and stepdaughter;
 - (4) Registered domestic partner, pursuant to California Family Code section 297;
 - (5) The relatives, as defined in 1 and 2 above, for a registered domestic partner;
 - (6) Any person with whom a Board Member shares a financial interest as defined in the Political Reform Act (Gov't Code §87103, Financial Interest), such as a business partner or business associate.

[View results](#)

Respondent

23

Anonymous

63:34

Time to complete

About the Supplemental Questions for the Council on Homelessness Membership Application

The following questions will be used by the Council on Homelessness' Nominating Panel to identify diverse applicants that can contribute unique expertise and perspectives to the Council. Answers to these questions will be evaluated in relation to the experience and qualifications desired for available member seats. Please carefully consider how your personal experiences, professional experiences, and values will contribute meaningfully to the Contra Costa County Continuum of Care efforts to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Please note, there are two required elements of the Council on Homelessness application, these "Supplemental Questions" and the County Application. You **must complete both** components of the application by **Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 5PM**. Instructions for completing the County Application will be sent to you after completing the "Supplemental Questions" below.

For more information, about applying to the Council on Homelessness, please review the Council on Homelessness Board Recruitment FAQ document.

If you need accommodations to complete the application, please contact Jaime Jenett, Staff to the Council, by emailing cchomelessscouncil@cchealth.org or calling or texting (925) 464-0152.

Supplemental Questions

1. Which vacant Council on Homelessness seat are you applying for? *

- ☐ **Behavioral Health Representative** – Must work in the behavioral health field in Contra Costa County (i.e., peer support, clinician, system-level behavioral health planner, etc.) with experience impacting behavioral health policy, decision-making, and/or funding.
- ☐ **City Government Seat** – Must be an employee of a city or town located in Contra Costa County. This seat is not open to representatives elected to positions in Contra Costa County
- ☐ **CoC/ESG Program Grantee** – Must work with an agency receiving Continuum of Care and/or Emergency Solutions Grant funding in Contra Costa, including agencies that are providing housing and/or services to survivors of domestic violence. Applicants must work with one of these agencies to be eligible: CCH: H3; Contra Costa Crisis Center; Contra Costa Housing Authority; GRIP; Hope Solutions; SAHA; SHELTER, Inc; STAND! For Families Free of Violence; Trinity Center
- ☐ **Community Member Seat** – Must live or work in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ **Federal Homeless and Housing Funding Administrator Representative** – Must work for an agency in Contra Costa County that administers federal funding for homelessness and/or housing programs.
- ☐ **Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD) Representative** – Must work for the Contra Costa Employment and Human Services Department.
- ☒ **Faith Community Representative** – Must have substantial experience as an employee, volunteer, or congregant of the County faith community.
- ☐ **Public Housing Authority** – Must be an employee of a Housing Authority in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ **Public Safety Representative** – Must have substantial experience in the public safety field in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ **Reentry Services Representative** – Must have substantial experience in the reentry field in Contra Costa County (i.e., services provider and/or correctional staff supporting individuals reentering the community after involvement with the criminal legal system).
- ☐ **Youth Representative** – Must be between the ages of 17 and 24 and have lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County

2. Please explain why you would like to serve on the Council on Homelessness and in the specific Council seat(s) you are applying for. (400 word maximum) *

I have a passion for the livelihood of all people. I'm a retired respiratory therapist of 34yrs. While working at Kaiser Antioch Hospital , I worked with Administration on protocols and policies that instructed staff on proper discharge and how to treat the unsheltered because they have different needs I have served and feed the unsheltered for over 10yrs. Im an Ordained Minister and first started feeding and supplying needs at various Churches. I then started supervising to leave no one behind program at Nami Contra Costa for the last six years. we feed over 250 unsheltered individuals a month along with supplying water and food for their animals.. We offer support and resources when possible and collaborate with C. O.R.E. We also refer out to homeless court. I know about 80% of the homeless population in East Contra Costa and they know me I have established a relationship and trust with them. I am a certified Medi-Cal peer specialist.. I'm applying for the health representative position and the Faith community Representative seat.

3. Please briefly describe any personal or professional skills, experiences, volunteer work, or connections (such as affiliations with organizations addressing homelessness) that you would bring to the Council on Homelessness and/or the specific seat you are applying for. For example, you can talk about things like your experience getting services in the county, comfort with public speaking, experience working with unhoused youth, community activism, relationships with organizations, etc. (400 word maximum) *

As a medical professional and a certified Medi-Cal peer specialist, I understand the walls, the unsheltered individuals experience because I do go out and interact with the unsheltered not only by feeding, but giving support I feel I am well equipped for either position I'm applying for the Behavioral Health Representative seat and also the Faith Representative seat. On second Sundays, I provide food and shelter and an opportunity outside for the unsheltered to have church along with their animals. I have found housing temporarily and permanently for many unsheltered individuals. I have worked on the memorial committee with many organizations for the unsheltered I work with sororities and other agencies that give me clothing supplies, etc., to distribute to the unsheltered..

4. Please identify your personal connections with homelessness by selecting one of the options below: *

- ☐ I am a person currently experiencing homelessness and living in a shelter or location not meant for human habitation (e.g., in a tent).
- ☐ I am a person who experienced homelessness within the past 7 years but is currently housed.
- ☐ I am a person who experienced homelessness more than 7 years ago but is currently housed.
- ☒ I am a family member of someone who has experienced homelessness
- ☐ I am none of the above but still invested in addressing homelessness in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ I would prefer not to respond

5. Unhoused people in Contra Costa County come from many different backgrounds in terms of race, ethnicity, culture, ability, age, sexual and gender identity, and immigration status. Please list and explain 3 reasons why certain groups might have a harder time accessing services than others. (400 words maximum) *

I believe people of color and younger individuals have a hard time trusting and accessing services. I also believe people that deal with mental health issues. Also have a hard time accessing services. People of color have trust issues because of things they've heard or experienced in the past younger people don't have the experience and with all to start to navigate the steps to get help that they need mentally challenged individuals. Don't understand at times what they need to do to get the proper help. Men and women that are couple with children are without children. Don't want to separate when they have to go to two different places for shelter.

6. Please share and explain two (2) ideas to help Contra Costa County better support people who are unhoused and people at risk of being unhoused. Your ideas can come from your own experience receiving services, your work, and/or what you've seen in the news. (400 word maximum) *

In my experience with encountering and dealing with people who are un sheltered or at risk of being un sheltered. We have to instill trust the compassion and care for the people on sheltered must be genuine when they continually see you. A bond is built. There is no judgment no criticism.. I have spoken and supported unsheltered individuals in the mist of them still using their drugs right in front of me..

7. How many Continuum of Care (CoC), Council on Homelessness (CoH), or Youth Advisory Council (YAC) meetings have you attended in the past? *

- ☒ 3 or more meetings
- ☐ 1-2 meetings
- ☐ 0 meetings

8. The Council is committed to the Housing First approach, which means people can get into housing without needing to meet certain requirements like being sober, participating in a religious program, or having a job. In response, the Council has established this Guiding Principle: *Homelessness is first a housing issue, and necessary supports and services are critical to help people remain housed. Our system must be nimble and flexible enough to respond through the shared responsibility, accountability, and transparency of the community.*

Do you agree with the Housing First approach and Guiding Principle described above? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

9. Members of the Council are expected to attend standing monthly Council on Homelessness meetings which take place on the first Thursday of the month from 1 pm – 3pm in Martinez. Members are also expected to participate in at least one committee, which typically meet on a monthly basis.

Standing Committees (meet once a month or every other month)

- Equity Committee
- HMIS Policy Committee
- Oversight Committee
- PATH (Plan for Accelerating Transformative Housing) Committee

Ad Hoc Committees (meet on an as-needed basis for a limited time)

- Funding Committee
- Governance Committee
- Homelessness Awareness Month Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Committee

All Councilmembers are expected to attend meetings in person and can only attend virtually twice per calendar year under very narrow circumstances. Additionally, Councilmembers may miss up to two Council meetings per calendar year. Based on this information, please identify the level of commitment you can provide to the Council on Homelessness by selecting one of the options below: *

- ☒ I am available to attend the **standing monthly COH meeting** on the first Thursday of every month from 1pm to 3pm, and I am available to participate in at least one committee which would require attending a separate regular meeting.
- ☐ I am not available for the standing monthly COH meeting and/or I am not available to participate in at least one committee.

Demographic Information (Optional)

The Council aims to engage as broad a representation as possible of abilities, ages, sexual and gender identities, immigration statuses, and racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, and geographical representation within the County. Responses to the following questions are optional. The Nominating Panel will not review applicants' responses to the following questions.

10. What are your pronouns (for example: she/him/they/ze, etc.)?

[REDACTED]

11. What is your gender identity (for example: female/male/transgender/non-binary/gender non-conforming, other)?

[REDACTED]

12. What is your sexual orientation (for example: bisexual/straight/gay/pansexual, other)?

[REDACTED]

13. What best describes your age? (Check one)

☒ Transition aged youth (18-24)

☐ Adult (25-54)

☐ Older Adult (55-61_

☐ Senior (62+)

14. What best describes your race/ethnicity? (Pick as many as apply)

White

Hispanic/Latino(a)(o)(e)(x)

Black/African American/African

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

American Indian/Alaskan Native/Indigenous

Asian American/Asian

Multiple Races

Other

15. Which of the following geographic areas do you spend the most time in? *

- ☐ Far East Contra Costa County (for example: Discovery Bay, Bethel Island)
- ☒ East Contra Costa County (for example: Bay Point, Pittsburg, Antioch, Brentwood)
- ☐ Central Contra Costa County (for example: Martinez, Pleasant Hill, Concord, Walnut Creek)
- ☐ South Contra Costa County (for example: Alamo, Danville, San Ramon)
- ☐ West Contra Costa County (for example: El Cerrito, San Pablo, Richmond, Pinole, Hercules, Rodeo)
- ☐ I spend an equal amount of time in all five geographic areas listed above.

16. Is there any other information you would like to share, including anything that would help us understand how you would contribute to the diverse representation of people and experiences on the Council (for example: lived experience of homelessness, abilities, immigration status, ethnic background, or cultural background)?

I am a black woman that understands that even though they are more people of color unsheltered as a retired respiratory therapist color is not a factor for what I can bring to my community and my peers when it comes to my heart and the love that I have for others.

Contact Information

17. Name *

Elder Desiree Rushing

18. Email *

[REDACTED]

19. Phone Number *

[REDACTED]