

# 2025 Recognition Categories and Descriptions

Every November, for Homelessness Awareness Month, the Council on Homelessness recognizes outstanding individuals, groups and partnerships for their work addressing homelessness in Contra Costa. We need you to tell us who they are!

## 1. "Outstanding Volunteer"

The "Outstanding Volunteer" category is designed to recognize **individuals or groups who have enriched the lives of people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County through volunteer efforts.**

Outstanding efforts can be demonstrated by:

- Length of involvement;
- Strong concentration of service; and/or
- Impact of efforts to support people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

### Eligibility:

- Nominee must volunteer in Contra Costa County
- The volunteer activity must be without pay

Nominations are due by Noon on Thursday, September 18, 2025

Nominees will be notified in advance and recognized publicly by the Homeless Continuum of Care for their contributions. Their names and accomplishments will be highlighted widely, and they will be honored during a brief reception at the County Administration Building in Martinez on November 4, 2025 (time to be confirmed).

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## 2. "Outstanding Housing Provider"

The "Outstanding Housing Provider" category is designed to recognize **landlords, property management companies, and other housing operators that create permanent housing opportunities for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness** in Contra Costa County.

Outstanding efforts towards providing permanent housing opportunities for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness can be demonstrated in a number of ways including:

- Length of time involved in providing units/rooms
- Number of units/rooms; and/or
- Quality of units/rooms rented

Eligibility:

- Person or company must rent units/rooms in Contra Costa County to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. This may include shared housing, sober living environments, recovery housing, board and cares, halfway houses and transitional housing.
- Person or company may nominate themselves.

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### 3. “Outstanding Partnership”

The “Outstanding Partnership” category is designed to **recognize partnerships that support people at risk of or experiencing homelessness**. Partnerships can be with/between government agencies, nonprofits/CBOs, advocacy groups, faith organizations, individuals (including those facing homelessness), and businesses.

Eligibility

- The partnership must support people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County in some way, but does not have to only serve people facing homelessness.
- Partnership may nominate itself.

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### 4. Phoenix Rising

The “Phoenix Rising” category is designed to recognize **individuals with a lived experience of homelessness** who have demonstrated outstanding courage, strength and/or resilience. The Phoenix is a bird that rises up again and again from the ashes. It embodies courage and resilience through its journey or flight.

#### Eligibility

- Nominated people must have a lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County and/or have experienced homelessness elsewhere and currently live and/or work in Contra Costa County.
- People may nominate themselves.

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