

Application Form

Profile

Belinda Jackson-Thomas
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

[Redacted] Suite or Apt
[Redacted] CA [Redacted]
City State Postal Code

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

District Locator Tool

Resident of Supervisorial District:

District 1
Contra Costa County Human Services Division
Employment & Human Services Manager
Employer Job Title

Length of Employment

18 yrs (includes prior service)

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?

30+

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

EHSD

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?

Education

Select the option that applies to your high school education *

☒ High School Diploma

College/ University A

Name of College Attended

Contra Costa Community College

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

liberal arts

Degree Awarded?

☒ Yes ☐ No

College/ University B

Name of College Attended

Cal State East Bay

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Human Development

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:

Qualifications and Volunteer Experience**Please explain why you would like to serve on this particular board, committee, or commission.**

I would like to represent EHSD on the Council on Homelessness. This is a topic that I am passionate about in both my personal and professional life. While working in Solano County, I managed multiple homeless housing programs from 2018 through January 2025. My primary program was the CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP), but my team was also responsible for Bringing Families Home (BFH), Housing & Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) and Home Safe. In my personal life I volunteer with an organization in Oakland and help assemble and distribute food and hygiene kits to encampments throughout the city.

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

Starting in 2018, as a manager for Solano County Health and Social Services, I was responsible for managing the Housing Support Program (HSP) for CalWORKs families. The budget grew from \$1 million to \$3 million and as high as \$9 million with county redistribution funds. We were able to receive redistribution funds because we spent our allocation while other counties underspent. I had a team of social workers who not only located housing but also provided case management services to HSP and HDAP clients.

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.

I volunteer with the East Oakland Collective, I donate money and/or assemble and distribute food and hygiene kits directly to encampments for an event called Feed the Hood. In Solano County, I participated in regular CoC meetings, as well as meetings with other community-based organizations that served the unhoused in some capacity. I am also on the Board of Directors for urban university, a non-profit in Oakland that serves single mothers in Alameda County by providing job training and/or housing.

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 understand 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

8

Anonymous

268:02

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 am a Human Services Division Manager with Contra Costa County Employment & Human Services Department (EHSD), and I would like to represent my agency on the Council. I have a longstanding passion for serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness. In 2018, while serving as a manager in Solano County, I was assigned to oversee a bureau that managed homeless programs for CalWORKs families, including Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), the Housing Support Program (HSP), and the Bringing Families Home initiative for Child Welfare. Through this work, I quickly came to understand that effectively addressing homelessness requires collaboration across multiple teams and systems. My bureau worked closely with Fiscal staff to monitor spending on a monthly basis and partnered with Child Welfare to coordinate support for families referred to our programs. What I valued most about the Housing Support Program was the county's ability to tailor policies to meet client needs within the state's regulatory framework. For example, we had flexibility to adjust housing assistance amounts, establish payment schedules (e.g., 100%, 75%, 50%), and create policies for landlord incentives, loss mitigation, and unit retention. We also modified the length of program eligibility in alignment with available resources. These experiences reinforced the importance of creative, collaborative, and adaptive approaches in order to achieve lasting outcomes for vulnerable families.

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 experience with homeless programs began in 2018 working for Solano County Health & Social Services. As the Program Manager, and later the Administrator, I was closely involved at many levels including making policy decisions for the CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP), and Housing & Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP). In addition to these programs, my team also administered Bringing Families Home (BFH) and Home Safe for other divisions within the department. I closely monitored budgets and participated in regular meetings with county staff, CoC staff, CBOs, and landlords. HSP was the largest program I managed, we always spent our allocation and repeatedly received additional funds from county redistribution. The primary group I served was CalWORKs families (over 225 annually), followed by single adults served under HDAP. One of my proudest achievements was building relationships with landlords, one of whom dedicated his entire apartment complex to our HSP program because he felt strongly about the work we did. In my personal life I am a board member of a non-profit that provides job training and housing to single mothers in Alameda County. I also volunteer with the East Oakland Collective for an event called Feed the Hood; boots on the ground delivery of food and hygiene kits to those in encampments.

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 that accessing services for any unhoused person or family is challenging, with many barriers to overcome. Here are three reasons why certain groups have a harder time.

1. Sexual and gender identity - In addition to family rejection, LGBTQ+ individuals experience higher rates of abuse and harassment in shelters. Transgender people may be assigned housing that doesn't align with their gender identity
2. Immigrants - they face barriers that may include language needs, especially if it is a language outside of threshold languages within the community. Typically, there will be services available in Spanish, but it can be more complicated beyond that. In the current political climate, immigrants have a lot of fear about asking for benefits or services, even if they are documented. As we continue to witness on the news, no one seems to be immune from being profiled and plucked off of the street for what our government has perceived is the crime of being foreign born. Fear is one of their biggest challenges.
3. People with disabilities - this likely also includes a large number of elderly as well. Their challenges include accessing services and/or housing that can accommodate their disabilities and accompanying equipment. Often this group may be limited to locating housing on first floor levels which limits available inventory.

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. In Solano County, we met with the local Board of Realtors to promote the HSP program. We developed brochures and a power point presentation with an overview of the program. Some of the people in the room were current HSP landlords who voluntarily gave testimonials about their experience with the county and the HSP program.
2. I am still new to returning to Contra Costa County after a 13-yr absence. I think it's imperative to listen to those with lived experience. What helped them overcome homelessness? What were barriers to getting housed and how could we have been more helpful? I think it's much easier to prevent homelessness than to try to get housed, is Contra Costa giving priority to prevention?

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.)?

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)?

I'm excited at the prospect of being selected. I look forward to participating in a group that can affect change.

Contact Information

17. Name *

Belinda Jackson-Thomas

18. Email *

19. Phone Number *