

Application Form

Profile

Molly P Clopp
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

[Redacted] Suite or Apt

[Redacted] CA [Redacted]
State Postal Code

[Redacted]
Primary Phone

mollypclopp@gmail.com
Email Address

District Locator Tool

Resident of Supervisorial District:

☒ District 2

Retired
Employer Job Title

Length of Employment

Do you work in Contra Costa County?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, in which District do you work?

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

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

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

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

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 serve on the Council on Homelessness because I care deeply about building a stronger, more equitable Contra Costa County where everyone has access to safe and stable housing. Through my service as Board Chair of Trinity Center in Walnut Creek, I have had the privilege of working alongside dedicated staff and volunteers to support more than 1,400 individuals annually with housing navigation, workforce development, and safety-net services. These experiences have given me a deep understanding of both the opportunities and the persistent barriers faced by people experiencing homelessness in our community. I am applying for the Community Member Seat because I live and work in Contra Costa County and believe I can represent both the values and concerns of residents who want a compassionate and effective response to homelessness. My role as a Walnut Creek Planning Commissioner has provided me with additional perspective on how housing, land use, and city policy intersect with homelessness, affordability, and neighborhood well-being. I want to bring my experiences in nonprofit governance, city planning, and community engagement to help strengthen the Council's work. I am committed to collaboration, equity, and the Housing First approach, and I believe the Council can play a critical role in making sure that countywide strategies reflect the lived realities of unhoused residents and the voices of the broader community.

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

I bring a unique blend of nonprofit leadership and civic engagement experience. As Board Chair of Trinity Center, I have guided governance and fundraising efforts, strengthened collaborations with organizations such as City and County Leaders, Affordable Housing Developers, the Contra Costa Housing Authority, and local churches. This role has honed my skills in public speaking, coalition-building, and policy advocacy. My work on the Walnut Creek Planning Commission has given me practical experience with housing and development decisions, including affordable and supportive housing projects. I understand how zoning, permitting, and state housing laws influence the availability of housing for vulnerable residents. Beyond formal roles, I am an active community volunteer who regularly engages with residents, city staff, and county leaders. I am a recent graduate of Leadership Contra Costa, which has given me insight into all the dimensions it takes to run an effective county that serves our residents. These experiences and connections give me insight into both the concerns of housed residents and the urgent needs of unhoused neighbors. I would bring a balanced, informed perspective to Council discussions.

[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 bring a unique blend of nonprofit leadership and civic engagement experience. As Board Chair of Trinity Center, I have guided governance and fundraising efforts, strengthened collaborations with organizations such as City and County Leaders, Affordable Housing Developers, the Contra Costa Housing Authority, and local churches. This role has honed my skills in public speaking, coalition-building, and policy advocacy. My work on the Walnut Creek Planning Commission has given me practical experience with housing and development decisions, including affordable and supportive housing projects. I understand how zoning, permitting, and state housing laws influence the availability of housing for vulnerable residents. Beyond formal roles, I am an active community volunteer who regularly engages with residents, city staff, and county leaders. I am a recent graduate of Leadership Contra Costa, which has given me insight into all the dimensions it takes to run an effective county that serves our residents. I am active in my Church, St Pauls Episcopal, Walnut Creek. These experiences and connections give me insight into both the concerns of housed residents and the urgent needs of unhoused neighbors. I would bring a balanced, informed perspective to Council discussions.

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

22

Anonymous

17:09

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 would like to serve on the Council on Homelessness because I care deeply about building a stronger, more equitable Contra Costa County where everyone has access to safe and stable housing. Through my service as Board Chair of Trinity Center in Walnut Creek, I have had the privilege of working alongside dedicated staff and volunteers to support more than 1,400 individuals annually with housing navigation, workforce development, and safety-net services. These experiences have given me a deep understanding of both the opportunities and the persistent barriers faced by people experiencing homelessness in our community. I am applying for the Community Member Seat because I live and work in Contra Costa County and believe I can represent both the values and concerns of residents who want a compassionate and effective response to homelessness. My role as a Walnut Creek Planning Commissioner has provided me with additional perspective on how housing, land use, and city policy intersect with homelessness, affordability, and neighborhood well-being. I want to bring my experiences in nonprofit governance, city planning, and community engagement to help strengthen the Council's work. I am committed to collaboration, equity, and the Housing First approach, and I believe the Council can play a critical role in making sure that countywide strategies reflect the lived realities of unhoused residents and the voices of the broader community.

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 bring a unique blend of nonprofit leadership and civic engagement experience. As Board Chair of Trinity Center, I have guided governance and fundraising efforts, strengthened collaborations with organizations such as City and County Leaders, Affordable Housing Developers, the Contra Costa Housing Authority, and local churches. This role has honed my skills in public speaking, coalition-building, and policy advocacy. My work on the Walnut Creek Planning Commission has given me practical experience with housing and development decisions, including affordable and supportive housing projects. I understand how zoning, permitting, and state housing laws influence the availability of housing for vulnerable residents. Beyond formal roles, I am an active community volunteer who regularly engages with residents, city staff, and county leaders. I am a recent graduate of Leadership Contra Costa, which has given me insight into all the dimensions it takes to run an effective county that serves our residents. These experiences and connections give me insight into both the concerns of housed residents and the urgent needs of unhoused neighbors. I would bring a balanced, informed perspective to Council discussions.

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) *

1. Language and Cultural Barriers – Residents who speak languages other than English or come from immigrant communities may find it difficult to navigate systems that are not culturally or linguistically responsive.
2. Stigma and Discrimination – Individuals who are LGBTQ+, people of color, or those living with disabilities often encounter discrimination when seeking housing or services, which reduces trust in systems and makes it harder to access care.
3. Eligibility and Documentation Requirements – Many services require identification, proof of residence, or income verification. For unhoused youth, undocumented residents, and those with criminal justice involvement, these requirements can prevent them from accessing help.

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. Broaden Affordable and Supportive Housing Development – The County should expand partnerships with cities and nonprofit developers to reduce barriers to creating supportive housing. As a Planning Commissioner, I have seen how zoning challenges and delays impact projects. Streamlining approvals and aligning city-county priorities could make a significant difference.
2. Improve Care Navigation and System Coordination – At Trinity Center, we see how difficult it can be for people to move through a fragmented system of health, housing, and social services. Embedding care navigators at shelters and day centers and strengthening Community Support and Enhanced Care Management can ensure smoother transitions from crisis to stability.

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
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- 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)?

In addition to my leadership at Trinity Center and my service on the Walnut Creek Planning Commission, I have professional experience in the healthcare sector. This background gives me insight into how physical health, behavioral health, and social determinants of health intersect with housing stability. At Trinity Center, I have seen how untreated medical conditions, gaps in behavioral health care, and lack of access to preventive services can all contribute to cycles of homelessness. My healthcare knowledge helps me advocate for approaches that integrate medical care, housing, and supportive services, ensuring that people are not just housed but able to thrive. Combined with my governance and civic roles, I believe this perspective adds to the Council's diversity by bridging health, housing, and community planning.

Contact Information

17. Name *

Molly P Clopp

18. Email *

[REDACTED]

19. Phone Number *

[View results](#)

Respondent

21

Anonymous

60:26

Time to complete

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- ☐ **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) *

As a public health professor with 25 years of experience and a department chair for five years at Diablo Valley College (DVC), I am sincerely interested in addressing the homelessness crisis in our county through evidence-based, compassionate solutions. Prior to teaching, I worked in a county health department for five years in New York that included conducting outreach to unhoused individuals via a mobile health unit that offered basic healthcare and harm reduction strategies as a first step into integrative treatment. My current role as the program coordinator for a community health worker (CHW) certificate program has provided insight into various community and public health agencies in Contra Costa County that focus on assisting vulnerable populations, including those experiencing homelessness, and I want to contribute to those ongoing efforts. My extensive background in public health allows me to understand homelessness as a public health crisis driven by social determinants like housing instability, lack of healthcare, history of trauma, substance abuse, and mental health challenges. I have a record of leadership and strategic planning, which I apply as department chair to foster collaboration and implement impactful programs within our department and the college. These skills position me to effectively advocate for policies such as 'Housing First' initiatives, increased funding for shelters, and expanded mental health services, which are critical in California. As a community representative, I will aim to bring data-driven insights to bridge the gap between research and policy to create solutions to this expanding problem in our state. My desire to participate as a community representative is founded on helping to meet the needs of the homeless population and drive systemic change to improve health outcomes and quality of life in our city.

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) *

With 25 years as a public health professor and five years as department chair, I bring extensive expertise in addressing social determinants of health, including homelessness, to the Council on Homelessness. As the program coordinator of a community health worker (CHW) certificate program, I collaborate with public health agencies that implement community-driven solutions for vulnerable populations, equipping me to advocate for effective, equitable policies. My five years working with a public health agency in New Jersey and New York, including a mobile outreach unit, provided direct experience engaging with unhoused individuals and connecting them to critical services, deepening my understanding of their needs. I am an experienced public speaker, comfortable presenting data-driven insights and advocating for systemic change in public forums. My personal connections, which include a family member and a friend who are struggling with permanent housing and co-occurring disorders, have given me firsthand insight into the challenges of navigating resources, fueling my commitment to improving service access. These professional and personal experiences, combined with my relationships with public health organizations, position me to contribute meaningfully to the Council's mission of addressing homelessness with compassion and impact.

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.
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- ☐ 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) *

Three reasons (not limited to) why certain groups in Contra Costa County may face greater barriers to services include racial and ethnic disparities, language and cultural barriers for Immigrants, and age and disability-related accessibility gaps. Black, Indigenous, and other people of color may encounter biases from providers or stricter program eligibility requirements that exacerbate barriers to housing, healthcare, and social services. Non-English-speaking or undocumented immigrants may struggle with language and cultural obstacles. Limited access to translated materials or culturally competent staff can hinder navigation of complex service systems, such as shelter applications or Medi-Cal benefits enrollment. Fear of deportation further deters undocumented individuals from seeking help, as well. Older adults and individuals with disabilities may face physical barriers. Many shelters lack accommodations like ramps, excluding those with mobility impairments. Older unhoused individuals often struggle with technological tools due to limited tech literacy, such as online housing waitlists. Mental health or cognitive disabilities can also complicate navigating bureaucratic processes, highlighting the need for tailored outreach.

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) *

Two of my ideas include expanding 'Housing First' with comprehensive and integrative services. My work with a mobile outreach unit in New York demonstrated that stable housing is a foundation for addressing health, employment, and social challenges. By integrating on-site mental health care, substance use treatment, and community health worker support, the county can address diverse needs. Funding could be sourced through state grants, such as California's Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention program, ensuring sustainability. Second, implement a countywide prevention and diversion that offers financial assistance and mediation to prevent evictions and connect individuals to resources before they become unhoused. My experience coordinating community health worker training highlights the value of proactive, community-based interventions. This program could include emergency rental assistance, legal aid for tenants, and partnerships with local nonprofits to provide case management. Pilot programs in cities like Oakland, such as Bay Area Community Services (BACS), have shown that diversion efforts can reduce homelessness by up to 30%, offering a cost-effective strategy.

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.

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Demographic Information (Optional)

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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)?

Contact Information

17. Name *

Kristen Colchico

18. Email *

19. Phone Number *

Application Form

Profile

Kristen

First Name

Colchico

Last Name

Middle
Initial

Home Address

Suite or Apt

City

CA
State

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Email Address

[District Locator Tool](#)

Resident of Supervisorial District:

None Selected

Diablo Valley College

Employer

Health and Community
Health Worker (CHW)
Program Coordinator

Job Title

Length of Employment

23 years

Do you work in Contra Costa County?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, in which District do you work?

Contra Costa Community College District

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

23 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

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?

1

Education

Select the option that applies to your high school education *

☒ High School Diploma

College/ University A

Name of College Attended

Cal State East Bay

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

BS Clinical Exercise and Nutrition

Degree Awarded?

☒ Yes ☐ No

College/ University B

Name of College Attended

Indiana State University

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

MS Kinesiology

Degree Awarded?

☒ Yes ☐ No

College/ University C

Name of College Attended

Columbia University

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Ed.D Public Health

Degree Awarded?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Other Trainings & Occupational Licenses

Other Training A

Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES)

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Other Training B

Community Health Worker (CHW)

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.

As a public health professor with 25 years of experience and a department chair for five years at Diablo Valley College (DVC), I am sincerely interested in addressing the homelessness crisis in our county through evidence-based, compassionate solutions. Prior to teaching, I worked in a county health department for five years in New York that included conducting outreach to unhoused individuals via a mobile health unit that offered basic healthcare and harm reduction strategies as a first step into integrative treatment. My current role as the program coordinator for a community health worker (CHW) certificate program has provided insight into various community and public health agencies in Contra Costa County that focus on assisting vulnerable populations, including those experiencing homelessness, and I want to contribute to those ongoing efforts. My extensive background in public health allows me to understand homelessness as a public health crisis driven by social determinants like housing instability, lack of healthcare, history of trauma, substance abuse, and mental health challenges. I have a record of leadership and strategic planning, which I apply as department chair to foster collaboration and implement impactful programs within our department and the college. These skills position me to effectively advocate for policies such as 'Housing First' initiatives, increased funding for shelters, and expanded mental health services, which are critical in California. As a community representative, I will aim to bring data-driven insights to bridge the gap between research and policy to create solutions to this expanding problem in our state. My desire to participate as a community representative is founded on helping to meet the needs of the homeless population and drive systemic change to improve health outcomes and quality of life in our city.

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

With 25 years as a public health professor and five years as department chair, I bring extensive expertise in addressing social determinants of health, including homelessness, to the Council on Homelessness. As the program coordinator of a community health worker (CHW) certificate program, I collaborate with public health agencies that implement community-driven solutions for vulnerable populations, equipping me to advocate for effective, equitable policies. My five years working with a public health agency in New Jersey and New York, including a mobile outreach unit, provided direct experience engaging with unhoused individuals and connecting them to critical services, deepening my understanding of their needs. I am an experienced public speaker, comfortable presenting data-driven insights and advocating for systemic change in public forums. My personal connections, which include a family member and a friend who are struggling with permanent housing and co-occurring disorders, have given me firsthand insight into the challenges of navigating resources, fueling my commitment to improving service access. These professional and personal experiences, combined with my relationships with public health organizations, position me to contribute meaningfully to the Council's mission of addressing homelessness with compassion and impact.

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

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

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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

Donnie F Diego
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

[Redacted] [Redacted]
[Redacted] CA [Redacted]
State Postal Code

[Redacted]
Email Address

District Locator Tool

Resident of Supervisorial District:

☒ District 5

Employer Job Title

Length of Employment

Do you work in Contra Costa County?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, in which District do you work?

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

13 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

community member

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 College

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Health and Human Services

Degree Awarded?

☒ Yes ☐ No

College/ University B

Name of College Attended

DVC

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Addiction Sciences

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

Donnie F Diego

Other Training A

Peer Support Specialist

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Other Training B

HIPPA/CPR

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 serve on this board because I am deeply committed to improving the lives of people experiencing homelessness and those at risk of losing their housing. Having personally experienced homelessness, I understand the challenges, barriers, and emotional toll that come with housing instability. This lived experience drives my passion to ensure that the voices of those most affected are heard, valued, and reflected in the policies and programs that shape their lives. In addition to my personal experience, I bring professional expertise in mental health, substance use, and peer support. I am a Registered Substance Abuse Counselor, Certified Peer Support Specialist, and currently serve as Chairman of the Contra Costa Healthcare for the Homeless Consumer Advisory Board. These roles have given me insight into the systems and services designed to support vulnerable populations, as well as the gaps that still exist. I am skilled in collaboration, problem-solving, and advocacy, and I am committed to bringing these skills to the board to help create practical, effective solutions. I am particularly drawn to this board because it offers the opportunity to contribute to policy and program development that can make a real difference in the community. I want to help ensure that services are equitable, accessible, and culturally responsive, addressing the unique needs of individuals from diverse backgrounds, including youth, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and people from various racial, ethnic, and cultural communities. Serving on this board would allow me to combine my lived experience, professional expertise, and community connections to make a meaningful contribution. I am motivated by the belief that everyone deserves stability, dignity, and opportunity, and I want to help the board create systems that empower individuals and families to move from survival to thriving.

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

I am uniquely qualified for this appointment due to a combination of lived experience, professional expertise, and demonstrated leadership in the field of homelessness and community support. Having personally experienced homelessness, I understand firsthand the challenges and systemic barriers that individuals and families face when trying to secure stable housing. This perspective allows me to advocate authentically and compassionately for programs and policies that are grounded in the real-life experiences of the people they serve. Professionally, I am a Registered Substance Abuse Counselor, a Certified Peer Support Specialist, and HIPAA and CPR certified. My career has included roles in case management, peer support, and residential house management, giving me extensive experience working directly with unhoused and at-risk populations. I currently serve as Chairman of the Contra Costa Healthcare for the Homeless Consumer Advisory Board, where I have honed my skills in leadership, collaboration, public speaking, and policy review. These experiences have strengthened my ability to navigate complex systems, advocate effectively, and bring together diverse stakeholders to address pressing community needs. In addition to professional expertise, I have strong connections with organizations addressing homelessness, mental health, and substance use in Contra Costa County. These relationships enable me to facilitate collaboration, connect individuals to critical services, and ensure that community voices are included in decision-making. My experience spans working with youth, adults, and families from diverse cultural, racial, and socioeconomic backgrounds, giving me a holistic understanding of the structural, social, and cultural barriers that can prevent people from accessing the support they need. By combining lived experience, professional qualifications, and community connections, I am well-equipped to contribute meaningfully to the Council. I am committed to ensuring that policies and programs are equitable, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of all populations experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Contra Costa County. My goal is to bring insight, dedication, and advocacy to this appointment to help create practical, effective, and lasting solutions for our community.

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:

Health Care for the Homeless Consumer Advisory Board

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

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

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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.

Application Form

Profile

Nichole L Gardner
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 3

N/A
Employer Job Title

Length of Employment

Do you work in Contra Costa County?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, in which District do you work?

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

42 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

Community Member/Volunteer

Nichole L Gardner

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?

approximately 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

Other Training A

Business/Clerical

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.

As the director of a non-profit organization that has served the unhoused community in Antioch and nearby cities for the last 8 years and as a local homeless and social justice advocate, I would love to be able to do more to help black, brown, and poor communities. Some of the issues that I have fought for as an advocate include renter and tenant rights, rent control, youth programs, anti- gun violence, adopting Antioch's Antioch Police Oversight Commission, police reform, human rights for homeless individuals and families, affordable housing and shelter for the unhoused and residents living in underserved communities, just to name a few. My passion is to get more involved with the process as it pertains to making sure black, brown, and poor people have the same opportunities as everyone else and to find a way to bring healing to these communities who rarely have a voice.

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

Resume and Statement of Information attached

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.

Please read my attached resume and statement of information sheet to see volunteer and community experience.

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

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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

13

Anonymous

90:19

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 community member in Antioch. I have a non-profit that serves the unhoused and am a local volunteer and homeless advocate who cares about the everyday lives of unhoused people living in not only Antioch but the entire county. I would like to get more involved with the working and coordinating with county providers and providing resources to the unhoused to strategically get more unhoused individuals and families connected to housing and shelter.

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) *

Over the last 9 years I have worked closely with the city of Antioch to include local non-profits, religious groups, the mayor and council, the unhoused resident coordinator, our police department and code enforcement to assist the unhoused living in the city of Antioch. I have also worked with many county core members to assist with housing and shelter for individuals and families living on our streets, in cars, and in SUVs. I am a local homeless advocate and have not shy when it comes to addressing the needs of unhoused individuals and bringing individuals and families stories to not only our local government but have used my platform to address stereotypes attached to homelessness. I fought hard for the city council and former mayor to use our own general fund to get our first transitional housing project (Opportunity Village) and for resources such as laundry and motel vouchers and safe parking for the unhoused. I not only have a clear understanding of the needs of the homeless living on our streets but of the needs of the community as a whole when it comes to solutions around blight and problems that that homeowners and businesses that are affected by the unhoused. I have relationships with many organizations in the city and county and we have worked together to provide housing, food, and shelter to many unhoused individuals and families living on the streets and individuals and families who are at risk of being homeless.

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) *

From my experience simply being poor and homeless makes it hard to get resources regardless of race, ethnicity, etc. but a few things that come to mind is that it has been difficult for myself and my team to communicate well with those who do not speak English. Spanish speaking unhoused individuals that I have come across need translators in order to request items that they need including basic necessities, housing and shelter. Which makes it difficult to get or direct them towards resources. Although many unhoused people have difficulties with abatements, I have found that black men have been more subjected to being searched and arrested by the police far more often than any other group that I have encountered on the streets. When it comes to housing, renter rights, and a lack of legal help surrounding housing for tenants, the many people that have complained about illegal evictions and issues with slum lords who make it difficult for those who are housed to stay housed, I have found that the most if not all the calls and interactions I have had with tenants and former tenants have been from areas of color and in underserved areas in the community.

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) *

I would love to see a more coordinated effort to connect local non-profit organizations, church groups, and others with county services. From my experience there have been many situations over the last 9 years where a person needs assistance with housing, shelter and other resources and I am unable to lead them in the right direction but later find out that there is a county program that could have assisted them. One of these things were a county program helped individuals with help to get their car registration paid and minor car repairs paid in order for them to avoid getting them towed by the city. Having an updated guide for organizations and individuals to connect the unhoused to resources is important. I would also like to see the county to coordinate with cities to get more warming, cooling centers, and water distribution centers for the unhoused in their own individual cities. There are city buildings that should be accessible to the unhoused when the weather and elements could literally cause someone to die due to extreme cold or heat, which many of us have seen before. Our CORE teams may be able to help along with volunteers to be present at these facilities during extreme weather. Spreading more information to the public surrounding harm reduction and help with mental illness and substance abuse could also be helpful.

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 would be a good candidate because I believe my background having been poor in an underserved and high crime area, having close family members who have and do have mental health issues, disabilities, and alcohol and substance abuse issues has given me a clear understanding of those living on the streets. My family was poor but we always made room to house our neighbors and other family members who had no where to go. Sleeping 15 people in a small 2 bedroom house at one point. My compassion for the unhoused is because I know what it is like to be poor, to be hungry, and understand that no one should be left on the streets, no matter what issues they may have. Another reason why when many people feel uncomfortable going deep into encampments or in areas where some consider not to be the safest, I have no problem doing it because I was raised around people and in neighborhoods where it wasn't safe but we were neighbors, people may have looked threatening but they were good people. While doing this work, I have worked with and spoken with people of all races and ethnicities and I can see myself in many of their stories. My mom was able to get some assistance and we were able to move to Antioch back in 1993 from Richmond to give me and my sisters a better life. I believe everyone just needs a chance to get on their feet. Housing, food, and shelter is a human right, no matter your circumstances, we as human beings all deserve at least that.

Contact Information

17. Name *

Nichole Gardner

18. Email *

19. Phone Number *

[View results](#)

Respondent

14

Anonymous

34:04

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 deeply committed to advancing equitable and effective solutions to homelessness, and I believe serving on the Council on Homelessness would allow me to contribute meaningfully to systemic change. I do not see homelessness as an isolated issue. It is the visible outcome of many interconnected challenges, including poverty, mental health needs, substance use disorders, systemic racism, family instability, gaps in education and employment, and the severe shortage of affordable housing. Treating it as an individual failure oversimplifies its causes and leads to fragmented responses. It must instead be understood as the cumulative result of overlapping social, economic, and health inequities that build up over time. When early supports are missing, small setbacks can quickly cascade into housing loss. Recognizing this complexity reframes how we design solutions. It shifts the focus from temporary fixes, like short-term shelter, to coordinated strategies that address root causes. This means expanding permanent supportive housing, strengthening wraparound services, aligning healthcare and housing systems, and building pathways to education and employment. It also means elevating the voices of people with lived experience so policies are grounded in reality, not assumptions. My background blends community engagement, policy analysis, which equips me to add value to the Council's work. I will collaborate with nonprofits and public agencies on housing insecurity, behavioral health supports, and workforce reentry programs. I would serve with humility, collaboration, and a commitment to breaking down silos, closing service gaps, and preventing homelessness before it begins.

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 would bring a combination of lived community insight, nonprofit leadership experience, and a commitment to building systems of care to the Council on Homelessness. My work has centered on bridging gaps between service systems and the individuals they are meant to serve, with a focus on addressing the root causes of housing instability and strengthening long-term support networks. I currently serve as the President of the Bay Community Services Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established with the purpose of providing enhanced care management and community-based services to vulnerable populations. Through this role, I would be right individual to build partnerships across healthcare, housing, and social service sectors to improve care coordination for individuals at risk of homelessness. This work will give me deep insight into the operational and policy-level barriers that often prevent people from accessing stable housing, as well as the importance of cross-sector collaboration to overcome them. In addition, I am the founder of Bay Shelter Homes, an emerging initiative dedicated to developing supportive housing solutions. This work reflects my belief that housing stability cannot be separated from health, employment, and community belonging. I am also currently working toward becoming a certified community health worker, which will further strengthen my ability to provide direct support, navigate service systems, and advocate effectively for individuals facing complex challenges. These roles have allowed me to build relationships with local service providers, advocacy organizations, and county-level stakeholders who are actively engaged in homelessness response. I am comfortable with public speaking, facilitating cross-sector meetings, and representing community-based perspectives in policy discussions.

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) *

People who are unhoused in Contra Costa County come from many different backgrounds, but not everyone gets the same chance to get help. Some groups have a harder time getting services because of unfair systems, language or culture barriers, and programs that don't meet their needs. These problems are connected to something called the social determinants of health — the things in life like where people live, work, learn, and get support that affect their health and well-being.

1. Unfair treatment and lack of trust

Some communities, like Black, Latino, and Native people, have faced unfair treatment for a long time in housing, schools, and healthcare. This has made many people feel like they can't trust the system. Because of this, they might be scared to ask for help or might stop going if they feel disrespected. This shows how someone's community and how they are treated can affect their health and chances to get housing.

2. Language and culture differences

Some unhoused people are immigrants or don't speak English well. Many services only speak English or don't understand their cultures. This makes it hard to ask questions, fill out forms, or understand how to get help. Some people who are undocumented might also be scared to go to services because they worry about being reported. This shows how education, language, and feeling safe all affect someone's health and housing.

3. Services not built for everyone

Some programs are not made to support LGBTQ+ youth, people with disabilities, or older adults. LGBTQ+ youth might not feel safe or accepted. People with disabilities might find buildings hard to use or rules they can't follow. Older adults may struggle with health problems or mobility but find shelters meant for younger people. These barriers show how safe housing and healthcare access are part of staying healthy.

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) *

Idea 1: Create Care Navigation Hubs in High-Need Areas

One major barrier for unhoused people is that services are scattered and hard to navigate. Many people do not know where to start, give up after long waitlists, or are sent from one agency to another without follow-up. This is especially hard for people with health issues, mental health needs, or no phone or transportation.

Contra Costa County could set up "Care Navigation Hubs" in areas with high homelessness rates. These would be one-stop centers where people can get help with housing, healthcare, benefits, and case management in one place. Staff could include social workers, housing navigators, community health workers, and people with lived experience who build trust. Services could include help with IDs, benefits, job training, and medical care. This supports the SDOH areas of health care access, economic stability, and social/community context.

Having everything under one roof would reduce confusion, build trust, and help people stay connected to care instead of falling through the cracks.

Idea 2: Launch a Community Health Worker (CHW) Program for Prevention

Many people at risk of becoming unhoused never reach out until they are already in crisis. By then, prevention is harder and more expensive. The County could train and hire local Community Health Workers who go out into neighborhoods, schools, and clinics to identify and support people showing early signs of housing instability, such as missed rent, sudden job loss, or health problems.

CHWs would provide culturally grounded outreach, connect people to rental help, legal aid, or counseling, and follow up to make sure they stay housed. Because they come from the same communities they serve, they can build trust and break stigma. This supports the SDOH areas of economic stability, education access, and social/community context and would shift the system from reacting to homelessness toward preventing it.

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)

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- 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

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- ☐ 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.

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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)?

Contact Information

17. Name *

Manish Jain

18. Email *



19. Phone Number *



Application Form

Profile

Manish First Name Jain Last Name
Middle Initial

Phone Address Suite or Apt
City State Postal Code

City

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?

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

13 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

Community Member Seat

Manish Jain

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?

1

Education

Select the option that applies to your high school education *

☒ None of the above

College/ University A

Name of College Attended

SPCE

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Electronics Engineering

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

Other Training A

Community Health Worker training

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Other Training B

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Occupational Licenses Completed:

I have finished my community health worker training conducted by COPE Health Solutions. Hopefully I will get my credentials soon.

Qualifications and Volunteer Experience

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

I am deeply committed to advancing equitable and effective solutions to homelessness, and I believe serving on the Council on Homelessness would allow me to contribute meaningfully to systemic change. I do not see homelessness as an isolated issue. It is the visible outcome of many interconnected challenges, including poverty, mental health needs, substance use disorders, systemic racism, family instability, gaps in education and employment, and the severe shortage of affordable housing. Treating it as an individual failure oversimplifies its causes and leads to fragmented responses. It must instead be understood as the cumulative result of overlapping social, economic, and health inequities that build up over time. When early supports are missing, small setbacks can quickly cascade into housing loss. Recognizing this complexity reframes how we design solutions. It shifts the focus from temporary fixes, like short-term shelter, to coordinated strategies that address root causes. This means expanding permanent supportive housing, strengthening wraparound services, aligning healthcare and housing systems, and building pathways to education and employment. It also means elevating the voices of people with lived experience so policies are grounded in reality, not assumptions. My background blends community engagement, policy analysis, which equips me to add value to the Council's work. I will collaborate with nonprofits and public agencies on housing insecurity, behavioral health supports, and workforce reentry programs. I would serve with humility, collaboration, and a commitment to breaking down silos, closing service gaps, and preventing homelessness before it begins.

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

I would bring a combination of lived community insight, nonprofit leadership experience, and a commitment to building systems of care to the Council on Homelessness. My work has centered on bridging gaps between service systems and the individuals they are meant to serve, with a focus on addressing the root causes of housing instability and strengthening long-term support networks. I currently serve as the President of the Bay Community Services Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established with the purpose of providing enhanced care management and community-based services to vulnerable populations. Through this role, I would be right individual to build partnerships across healthcare, housing, and social service sectors to improve care coordination for individuals at risk of homelessness. This work will give me deep insight into the operational and policy-level barriers that often prevent people from accessing stable housing, as well as the importance of cross-sector collaboration to overcome them. In addition, I am the founder of Bay Shelter Homes, an emerging initiative dedicated to developing supportive housing solutions. This work reflects my belief that housing stability cannot be separated from health, employment, and community belonging. I am also currently working toward becoming a certified community health worker, which will further strengthen my ability to provide direct support, navigate service systems, and advocate effectively for individuals facing complex challenges. These roles have allowed me to build relationships with local service providers, advocacy organizations, and county-level stakeholders who are actively engaged in homelessness response. I am comfortable with public speaking, facilitating cross-sector meetings, and representing community-based perspectives in policy discussions.

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.

1)President of Bay community Services Foundation - Non-Profit working with homeless population. I have been awarded a grant by DHCS to build a program for homeless population for providing ECM and CS. 2)President of Jain United Sangh Of Bay Area for year 2025 3)BOD - United Indian Association

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:

I wanted to be transparent in terms of grant that Bay Community Services Foundation that I have received from DHCS to build a program for homeless population for providing ECM and CS. I also own Bay Shelter Homes which I hope to utilize to serve homeless population.

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

Ashley Johnson
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

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

[Redacted]
Primary Phone

[Redacted]
Email Address

District Locator Tool

Resident of Supervisorial District:

☒ District 1

Urban Tilth Human Resources Manager
Employer Job Title

Length of Employment

3 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?

30 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

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

Post University

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Undergrad Human Resources Management

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

Ashley Johnson

Other Training A

Wellness and Environment Certificate

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Other Training B

Certificate in Depression

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 feel combined with my human resources background and continued studies in many different areas of need I possess the right mindset and experience to be apart of these conversations.

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

Undergrad Human Resources Management Continued studies in environmental justice and depression in underdeveloped communities and Criminal Justice Law

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:

Work

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

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

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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

17

Anonymous

27:47

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 want to serve on the Council on Homelessness because I see homelessness as one of the biggest challenges we face as a community. The number of people experiencing homelessness continues to rise, and it impacts all of us. For people who are homeless, it means living every day without safety, stability, or dignity. For the broader community, it creates strain on public health, local services, and the sense of security we all want in our neighborhoods. This issue is also very personal to me. As a youth, I experienced homelessness myself. At the time, I didn't have many resources or support systems, and I know first-hand how scary and isolating that can be. That experience shaped me. It gave me empathy for people going through it and a drive to push for better solutions that actually help people rebuild their lives. I also come to this as a small business owner in Walnut Creek. I see the effects of homelessness daily—on the streets, on businesses, and on the broader community. I understand how important it is to create solutions that are compassionate toward people who are homeless, while also addressing the concerns of residents and business owners. Both sides need to feel heard for progress to last. I believe I can bring a unique perspective to the Council by balancing lived experience, community involvement, and the realities of running a business in this area. I want to contribute to approaches that are practical, compassionate, and sustainable. My goal is to help make real improvements for people experiencing homelessness while also strengthening the health and resilience of the 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 bring a mix of personal experience, community involvement, and professional skills that I think would be valuable to the Council on Homelessness. On a personal level, I was raised as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, a group where young people face a very high risk of homelessness if they leave or are forced out. I know what it feels like to grow up in an environment where your support system can disappear overnight. That background gave me empathy for kids and young adults who feel isolated, disconnected, or without options, because I've been there myself. In the community, I serve on the Walnut Creek Police Chief's Community Advisory Board. In that role, I work directly with city leadership on issues of safety and community well-being. It's taught me how to listen to many different perspectives, bring people together, and speak up in ways that help build solutions. These are skills I believe translate directly to addressing homelessness, which is complex and requires a lot of collaboration. I'm also on the board of Plantify, a nonprofit focused on sustainability and youth empowerment. Through Plantify, I've had the chance to work with homeless and at-risk kids. Seeing how much a little support, mentorship, or access to resources can change a young person's outlook has been powerful. It showed me that solutions don't always have to be huge to make a difference—they just have to be consistent and real. As a small business owner in Walnut Creek, I also see the day-to-day impact of homelessness on the community. I understand how it affects local businesses, residents, and public spaces, and I also see the people behind it—the human beings trying to survive. That puts me in a unique position to help connect both sides: the needs of the homeless population and the concerns of the community at large. Altogether, I bring lived experience, community service, and professional perspective. I care deeply about this issue, and I want to use my voice and my role in the community to help push for solutions that are compassionate, practical, and sustainable.

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) *

In Contra Costa County, people who are homeless come from so many different backgrounds, and I've seen how some groups have a much harder time getting help than others. A big part of that comes down to stigma and judgment. For example, LGBTQ+ people, especially transgender youth, often don't feel safe in shelters or service spaces because they aren't sure if their identity will be respected. When someone already feels rejected or judged in daily life, it makes reaching out for help that much harder.

Language and culture also create big barriers. For people who don't speak English fluently, the system can feel impossible to navigate. Even when translation is available, cultural differences can make it uncomfortable to open up or trust providers. Some immigrant families also worry about how seeking services could affect their immigration status, so they end up avoiding help they're actually eligible for.

Another big issue is trust. Communities that have faced discrimination or over-policing in the past often don't believe that the same systems now want to help them. I understand that feeling personally. I was raised as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, a community where young people are at high risk of homelessness if they step away from the faith. When I left, I experienced how fragile a support system can be when it disappears overnight. That loss made me hesitant to turn to outside systems for help, because I wasn't sure they would see me or understand me. Many people in marginalized communities carry that same hesitation.

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 idea that I think would make a big difference is having more drop-in resource centers around the county. When you're homeless or close to it, just figuring out where to go can feel impossible. A simple, safe place where people can walk in without an appointment and get immediate help—whether that's food, a shower, legal advice, or just someone pointing you in the right direction—would take away so much of that stress. Having everything in one place instead of sending people all over the county would make services easier to use and more effective.

The other idea comes from my own experience. When I was homeless as a youth, I ate because Trader Joe's gave away food that was about to expire. If it wasn't for that, I often wouldn't have eaten at all. That small act kept me going. It made me realize how important food access is, and how businesses can play a huge role. The truth is, tons of good food gets thrown away every day by grocery stores, restaurants, and coffee shops. At the same time, people are going hungry right outside their doors. If the county helped build stronger partnerships with local businesses to get that food into the hands of people who need it—whether through shelters, food banks, or direct pickups—it would be life-changing for a lot of people.

Food and stability go hand in hand. If someone knows they can eat that day, it's easier to focus on the next step, whether that's finding work, housing, or connecting with services. By making resources easier to reach and making food more available, Contra Costa could help people survive the hardest days and give them a real chance to rebuild their lives.

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 bring lived experience of youth homelessness and an understanding of how cultural and religious backgrounds can increase risk. Raised as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, I know what it means to lose both housing and community when leaving that environment. Today, I am a small business owner in Walnut Creek, serve on the Police Chief's Community Advisory Board, and sit on the board of Plantify, where I work with homeless and at-risk kids. These experiences give me empathy, perspective, and the ability to bridge diverse voices to create solutions that are both compassionate and practical.

Contact Information

17. Name *

Janay McCullough

18. Email *

[REDACTED]

19. Phone Number *

[REDACTED]

Application Form

Profile

Janay

First Name

Middle Initial

McCullough

Last Name

Home Address

Suite or Apt

CA

State

Primary Phone

Email Address

[District Locator Tool](#)

Resident of Supervisorial District:

None Selected

Self

Employer

Owner

Job Title

Length of Employment

6 years

Do you work in Contra Costa County?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, in which District do you work?

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

36 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

Janay McCullough

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

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

Other Training A

Le Cordon Bleu Patisserie & Baking

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.

See first application. I never received a copy of it so I cannot copy the answer into here as directed.

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

See first application. I never received a copy of it so I cannot copy the answer into here as directed.

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.

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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

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☒ I Agree

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Application Form

Profile

Dorie OFOGH
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

[Redacted] Suite or Apt

[Redacted] CA [Redacted]
City State Zip

[Redacted]
Primary Phone

[Redacted]
Email Address

District Locator Tool

Resident of Supervisorial District:

None Selected

Employer Job Title

Length of Employment

Do you work in Contra Costa County?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, in which District do you work?

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

42 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

board member

Dorie OFOGH

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?

>2

Education

Select the option that applies to your high school education *

☒ High School Diploma

College/ University A

Name of College Attended

UC Berkeley

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Bio-resources science

Degree Awarded?

☐ Yes ☒ No

College/ University B

Name of College Attended

Creighton University

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Doctor of Pharmacy

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

Registered pharmacist

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Other Training B

ACLS, BLS, CCHI, DRE license, RCFE administrator

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Occupational Licenses Completed:

ACLS, BLS, CCHI: certified interpreter, DRE license: real estate license, RCFE administrator

Qualifications and Volunteer Experience

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

I'm passionate about serving on boards and committees that focus on homelessness, aging, and medical supportive services because of my own life journey. As an immigrant who experienced displacement, discrimination, and the upheaval of starting over after a revolution, I deeply understand what it feels like to lose everything and rebuild from the ground up. My medical background gives me a deeper understanding of the medical system and how to serve the patient population better. I want to make a difference in our society and to enrich other people's life.

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

My professional background as a clinical pharmacist, a licensed healthcare interpreter, instructor at the School of Practical philosophy which concentrated on living a meaningful and caring life, and a real estate professional gives me a unique perspective on the needs of diverse communities. My RCFE administrator license has allowed me to study the challenges of aging populations in depth, and my medical expertise helps me understand the health issues that older adults face. All of these experiences equip me to contribute meaningfully, bridging empathy with practical skills. I believe in using my background to advocate for those in need and to help shape compassionate, informed policies that truly make a difference. I tried multiple times to upload my resume but it keeps failing.

Upload a Resume

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I have v

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[View results](#)

Respondent

6

Anonymous

77:53

Time to complete

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- ☐ **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) *

As a representative of the Farsyar Foundation, I am writing to express my strong interest in serving on the board. Our foundation is dedicated to supporting individuals in vulnerable situations, including those facing social, emotional, and housing challenges. I believe this seat offers a meaningful opportunity to contribute to solutions that uplift our community.

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 motivation to serve stems from both professional and personal commitment. As a licensed pharmacist, certified healthcare interpreter, real estate professional, and Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE) administrator, I bring a unique combination of healthcare, language access, housing, and elder-care experience. These skills allow me to understand the complex needs of individuals experiencing homelessness—ranging from medical care and mental health to stable housing and supportive services. Through my nonprofit work with the Farsyar Foundation, I have witnessed firsthand the struggles of individuals navigating homelessness, housing insecurity, and the lack of accessible services. Farsyar was created to be a source of hope, bridging gaps for those who are often unseen or underserved. We provide community support, translation and interpretation for immigrant families, educational opportunities, and elder care services. Expanding this work into homelessness aligns with our belief that every individual deserves dignity, stability, and the opportunity to thrive. Serving on this board would allow me to help ensure that policies and programs are not only practical but also compassionate and inclusive. I am especially interested in strengthening collaboration between service providers, healthcare professionals, housing organizations, and community advocates so that resources are delivered effectively and respectfully. I am committed to contributing my time, energy, and perspective to this important work. By joining the [Name of Homelessness Board], I hope to bring both the voice of our foundation and my own dedication to making a tangible difference in the lives of individuals experiencing homelessness.

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) *

One may ask, "Why don't people just use the services available?" the answer is clear: it's not about willingness, it's about access. First they may not know where to go or what to do. Even if they find out, language, paperwork, health issues, discrimination, and lack of resources all create walls that block people from the support they deserve. They may also be afraid and hesitant to pursue services. Understanding these barriers helps us see why compassion, patience, and better-designed programs are so important.

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) *

They say an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and it's so true here. One great way to support people is to step in early—before they lose their housing. This might mean offering short-term rental assistance, emergency funds, or legal help to prevent evictions. By doing this, we can keep people in their homes and reduce the number of individuals who end up on the streets in the first place. For those who are already unhoused, making services easier to access is key. That means creating low-barrier shelters and drop-in centers where people can get help without jumping through hoops. It also means doing more outreach—going out into the community, meeting people where they are, and building trust. By making services welcoming and easy to reach, we help more people get the support they need, whether it's a hot meal, medical care, or a path to permanent housing.

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

Mediterranean

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 was born in Iran. My family and I suffered a revolution, lost our home, migrated and lost our identity and had to rebuild everything. My parents and I dealt with language issues, discrimination, getting substandard treatments and religious persecution. I understand what it is like to lose all support and all that you have and to rise up from the ashes again.

Contact Information

17. Name *

Dorie M. Ofogh

18. Email *

[REDACTED]

19. Phone Number *

[REDACTED]