

Application Form

Profile

Stefanie First Name J Middle Initial Brynen Last Name

Home Address Suite or Apt Walnut Creek City CA State Postal Code

Primary Phone

Email Address

District Locator Tool

Resident of Supervisorial District:

District 4

City of Walnut Creek Employer Housing Manager Job Title

Length of Employment

2.5 years

Do you work in Contra Costa County?

Yes No

If Yes, in which District do you work?

District 4

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

2.5 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

City Government 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?**

2

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## Education

**Select the option that applies to your high school education \***

☒ High School Diploma

### College/ University A

**Name of College Attended**

UC, Santa Cruz

**Degree Type / Course of Study / Major**

BA/Sociology

**Degree Awarded?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

### College/ University B

**Name of College Attended**

Brandeis University

**Degree Type / Course of Study / Major**

MBA/Public Administration/Human Services

**Degree Awarded?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

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### College/ University C

**Name of College Attended**

**Degree Type / Course of Study / Major**

### Degree Awarded?

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☐ Yes ☐ No

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### Other Trainings & Occupational Licenses

#### Other Training A

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Diversity Trainer

#### Certificate Awarded for Training?

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☒ Yes ☐ No

#### Other Training B

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Public Sector Management

#### Certificate Awarded for Training?

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☒ Yes ☐ No

#### Occupational Licenses Completed:

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### Qualifications and Volunteer Experience

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

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I have a deep commitment to addressing homelessness and have dedicated much of my career to advancing housing solutions at the regional level. While I currently work at the local level, I miss the broader collaboration, strategic impact, and policy development that regional work offers. Serving on the Council would allow me to contribute my expertise while re-engaging in the kind of cross-jurisdictional efforts that are essential to effectively addressing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

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

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See attached resume

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Upload a Resume

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

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☒ Yes ☐ No

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

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☐ Yes ☒ No

Stefanie J Brynen

If Yes, please explain:

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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:

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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)

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☐ 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?

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☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:

---

### Please Agree with the Following Statement

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

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☒ I Agree

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## 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

3

Anonymous

27:32

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 Friday, May 22, 2025. 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 [cchomelesscouncil@cchealth.org](mailto:cchomelesscouncil@cchealth.org) or calling or texting (925) 464-0152.

## Supplemental Questions

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



**City Government Representative:** Must be an employee of a city or town located in Contra Costa County. The candidate's work must be related to homelessness, housing, and/or community grants/services, and the candidate's employer must engage with unhoused populations in some manner. This seat is not open to representatives elected to positions in Contra Costa County.

2. **Please briefly describe any personal or professional skills, experiences, 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 having insight because you received services in the county, comfort with public speaking, experience working with unhoused youth, community activism, etc.** (400 word maximum) \*

With over 25 years of experience in housing, public policy, and community development, I bring a comprehensive understanding of the impact homelessness has on individuals and communities. I also have a deep understanding of affordable housing systems, cross-sector collaboration, and program administration that aligns with the mission of the Council on Homelessness. As the Housing Manager for the City of Walnut Creek, I lead the city's housing program, overseeing our homelessness prevention strategies, affordable housing policies, compliance with state and federal regulations, and administration of critical housing and human services funding. I foster partnerships with nonprofits, cities, counties, and regional stakeholders to advance housing goals and ensure equitable service delivery. Previously, at the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, I managed over \$100 million annually in capital funding for public housing across diverse communities, ensuring compliance, strategic investments, and effective vendor management. My experience spans project oversight, policy development, regulatory enforcement, and technical assistance to local housing authorities. Earlier in my career, I worked for the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, where I managed statewide programs and contracts focused on child welfare, family engagement, and community-based services. In that role, I developed policies, led program evaluations, facilitated cross-agency collaborations, and supported community coalitions serving the state's most vulnerable families. This experience deepened my understanding of how housing instability intersects with family wellbeing and the importance of coordinated service delivery. Throughout my career, I've built partnerships across government, nonprofit, and community sectors to advance housing access and stability. My experience in grant administration, program evaluation, contract management, and community engagement equips me to contribute meaningfully to the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness and its mission to prevent and end homelessness through coordinated, strategic efforts.

3. **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

4. **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. From your personal experience, why do you think it's important for all people have equal (or equitable) access to the service and help that they need?** ( \*

From both my professional experience and personal values, I believe equitable access to services is essential because housing insecurity does not affect all communities equally. In my work at the City of Walnut Creek and previously with the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development and Department of Children and Families, I have seen firsthand how systemic inequities can create significant barriers to stable housing and services.

Unhoused individuals often carry the compounded weight of trauma, discrimination, and generational disadvantage. Equitable access means more than simply making services available, it means intentionally designing and delivering them in ways that recognize and address the specific barriers people face based on their identity, lived experience, and systemic context. Without that context well-meaning programs can inadvertently exclude those who need them most.

Equity is also critical for building trust. Many unhoused people have experienced institutions that have historically failed or harmed them. Ensuring equitable access helps rebuild that trust and ensures services are not only available but actually usable and effective.

Ultimately, I believe a community is only as strong as its commitment to the dignity, safety, and wellbeing of all its members. Addressing homelessness in a meaningful way requires us to lead with equity, both in principle and in practice.

5. **Please share and explain two (2) ideas to help Contra Costa County better support unhoused people 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. Expand Flexible, Low-Barrier Prevention and Stabilization Funding

One of the most effective ways to reduce homelessness is to prevent it from happening in the first place. In my experience managing housing and human services programs, I've seen how flexible financial assistance (such as emergency rent, utility payments, or move-in costs) can stabilize households at risk of losing housing. Contra Costa County could expand low-barrier prevention funding administered through trusted community-based organizations, with streamlined applications and quicker turnaround times. Many residents facing eviction or financial crisis fall just outside the eligibility thresholds for traditional aid but still urgently need support. Making prevention dollars more accessible, particularly for undocumented residents, gig workers, or people with informal housing arrangements, can keep people housed and reduce demand on the shelter system.

2. Increase Permanent Supportive Housing Paired with Robust Services

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) remains one of the most effective interventions for people experiencing chronic homelessness, particularly those with disabling conditions. From my work with affordable housing development and capital program management, I've seen how PSH can create long-term stability, predominantly when paired with services that are adequately funded and designed to meet residents' complex needs. Contra Costa County can better support this by prioritizing funding for deeply affordable PSH units and ensuring service providers have the capacity to offer mental health care, case management, and tenancy support. This includes leveraging state and federal funding streams (e.g., No Place Like Home, CalAIM) to sustain service delivery and staffing.

Additionally, co-locating PSH within or near transit, health centers, and community resources makes housing more accessible and integrated. Coordination between housing developers, service providers, and behavioral health systems is key to making this work.

Together, these two approaches, upstream prevention and permanent housing with wraparound support, address both immediate risk and long-term need. They reflect the principle that housing is a basic human right, and that with the right resources and support, we can create a system where everyone has a safe place to live.

6. **Please state how many Continuum of Care (CoC), Council on Homelessness (CoH), or Youth Advisory Council (YAC) meetings you have previously attended. \***

☐ 3 or more meetings

☒ 1-2 meetings

☐ 0 meetings

7. The Council is committed to the Housing First approach (meaning no barriers or requirements as a prerequisite to housing, including sobriety, religious affiliation, or other structure not required for housing) and 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.* **Are you in support of the Housing First approach and Guiding Principle described above? \***

☒ Yes

☐ No

8. **Council on Homelessness meetings take place on the first Thursday of the month from 1 pm – 3pm in Martinez. Members of the Council are also expected to participate in at least one committee or workgroup, which typically meet on a monthly basis. 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 can be available for **2 or more IN PERSON meetings per month**, including the standing monthly COH meeting the first Thursday of every month from 1pm to 3pm.

☐ I can be available **only for the standing IN PERSON monthly COH meeting** the first Thursday of every month from 1pm to 3pm.

☐ I am **not available** for the standing monthly COH meeting, **but can make other meetings 2 or more times** per month.

☐ I am **not available** for the standing monthly COH meeting and **may not be able to make other meetings** more than once per month.



## 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 and will be considered in aggregate to ensure that we have recruited a diverse pool of applicants. The Nominating Panel will not review applicants' responses to the following questions.

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

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

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

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

☐ Transition aged youth (18-24)

☐ Adult (25-54)

☐ Older Adult (55-61\_

☐ Senior (62+)

13. 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

14. 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.

15. 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

16. Name \*

Stefanie Brynen

17. Email \*

18. Phone Number \*

## Application Form

### Profile

Jesus

First Name

M.

Middle  
Initial

Morales

Last Name

Home Address

Richmond

City

Suite or Apt

CA

State

Postal Code

Mobile:

Primary Phone

j

Email Address

### [District Locator Tool](#)

### Resident of Supervisorial District:

☒ N/A - Out of County

City of Richmond

Employer

Housing Manager

Job Title

### Length of Employment

3 years

### Do you work in Contra Costa County?

☒ Yes ☐ No

### If Yes, in which District do you work?

District 1

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

3 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: Not Submitted

**Seat Name**

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

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☐ Yes ☒ No

**If Yes, how many meetings have you attended?**

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**Education**

**Select the option that applies to your high school education \***

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☒ High School Diploma

**College/ University A**

**Name of College Attended**

---

USC

**Degree Type / Course of Study / Major**

---

Bachelor of Science/Bus.Admin/RE

**Degree Awarded?**

---

☒ Yes ☐ No

**College/ University B**

**Name of College Attended**

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St Mary's College - Moraga, CA

**Degree Type / Course of Study / Major**

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None/Liberal Arts

**Degree Awarded?**

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☐ Yes ☒ No

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**College/ University C**

**Name of College Attended**

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**Degree Type / Course of Study / Major**

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**Degree Awarded?**

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☐ Yes ☐ No

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## Other Trainings & Occupational Licenses

### Other Training A

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#### Certificate Awarded for Training?

---

☐ Yes ☐ No

### Other Training B

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#### Certificate Awarded for Training?

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☐ Yes ☐ No

### Occupational Licenses Completed:

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## Qualifications and Volunteer Experience

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

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In my position as a Housing Manager for the city of Richmond the majority of my work with the past three years has been dedicated to the administration of grants, ERF-1, ERF-2R, ERF-3R, and Homekey, the city has received to address homelessness in Richmond. Part of this work requires collaboration with local community organizations, nonprofit service providers, and staff from neighboring cities, and Contra Costa County to share resources and ideas and enhance the delivery of services to the unhoused population. Richmond is taking a very active role in addressing homelessness and is willing to work with our partners in the County to see how we can coordinate the delivery of services to the unhoused population not only in Richmond but in the county.

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

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I have over 20 years of experience working with a number of cities, Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Corona, Huntington Beach, Fairfield, Richmond, in the area of affordable housing development and loan programs to assist homeless, extremely low-, very low-, low-, and moderate income households. This background is provided a wide breadth of experience in dealing with individuals, the community, local and nonprofit organizations, private developers, and staff are different levels of government. This experience has been invaluable in my current work which is focused primarily on the administration of the grants the city has received to provide services to the unhoused population Richmond. Getting appointed to the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness is a continuation of the work I have done for the past 20 years and provides a great opportunity to develop professional relationships but also a learning opportunity in the work I am currently doing. I look forward to being a member of the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness.

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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:**

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## Please Agree with the Following Statement

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**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.**

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[View results](#)

Respondent

4

Anonymous

37:46

Time to complete

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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.

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## Supplemental Questions

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



**City Government Representative:** Must be an employee of a city or town located in Contra Costa County. The candidate's work must be related to homelessness, housing, and/or community grants/services, and the candidate's employer must engage with unhoused populations in some manner. This seat is not open to representatives elected to positions in Contra Costa County.

### 2. Please briefly describe any personal or professional skills, experiences, 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 having insight because you received services in the county, comfort with public speaking, experience working with unhoused youth, community activism, etc. (400 word maximum) \*

In my position as the Housing Manager for the city of Richmond have been working on the administration of several grants, ERF-, ERF-2R, and ERF-3 that the city has received to provide services to the unhoused population in the city. This has provided me insight into the many challenges of providing services and housing opportunities to the unhoused population. Through this work I have had the opportunity to develop a lot of relationships with community organizations, nonprofit organizations, and staff from neighboring cities, the county, and homeless individuals. My background has been in working in affordable housing development and other federal, state, or local funded programs targeting homeless, extremely low -, very low -, and low-income populations in the communities I've worked. This has given me a unique perspective and using a variety of resources and programs to provide services and housing opportunities to these clients



3. 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.
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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

4. 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. From your personal experience, why do you think it's important for all people have equal (or equitable) access to the service and help that they need? ( \*

Everyone, respective of their background, should have the same opportunity as any other person to have equal access to housing opportunities and services to address their specific needs.

5. Please share and explain two (2) ideas to help Contra Costa County better support unhoused people 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. There should be work programs that help people that have been unemployed for extended periods of time renew and update their employment skills. Part of these work programs would help clients obtain their GED and or direct them to apprenticeships and or community college job training programs. Provide job training and develop relationships with businesses in the community to provide entry-level work opportunities. This would include continued job enhancement training so these clients can move on to better paying jobs. They need to get past minimum wage jobs so they can become self-sustainable.
2. Cities need to adjust zoning restrictions that will facilitate the development of tiny home villages that can provide affordable housing opportunities for clients that they started their path toward developing their income. These villages can be temporary. 3-5 years, so the sites can be developed at a later point in time. This would address the short-term goal of providing affordable housing while the client receives services to address their needs including developing income and a long-term goal of making the site available for full development.

6. Please state how many Continuum of Care (CoC), Council on Homelessness (CoH), or Youth Advisory Council (YAC) meetings you have previously attended. \*

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

7. The Council is committed to the Housing First approach (meaning no barriers or requirements as a prerequisite to housing, including sobriety, religious affiliation, or other structure not required for housing) and 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.* Are you in support of the Housing First approach and Guiding Principle described above? \*

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

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

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

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

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

- ☒ Transition aged youth (18-24)
- ☐ Adult (25-54)
- ☐ Older Adult (55-61\_
- ☐ Senior (62+)

13. 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

14. 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.

15. 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)?

This would be a great opportunity to be able to share experiences and how the city of Richmond in collaboration with its partners is addressing homelessness in the community. It also provides an opportunity to hear what other communities in Contra Costa County are doing and learn and share how we can better improve the delivery of services we provide to unhoused clients.

Contact Information

16. Name \*

Jesus M. Morales

17. Email \*

[REDACTED]

18. Phone Number \*

[REDACTED]

Application Form

Profile

Jared

First Name

K

Middle Initial

Murti

Last Name

Home Address

Suite or Apt

San Mateo

City

CA

State

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Email Address

[District Locator Tool](#)

Resident of Supervisorial District:

☒ N/A - Out of County

City of Pinole - Partnership  
for the Bay's Future

Employer

Housing Policy

Job Title

Length of Employment

5 mo

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?

5 mo

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**

City Government 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?**

2

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**Education**

**Select the option that applies to your high school education \***

☒ High School Diploma

**College/ University A**

**Name of College Attended**

College of San Mateo

**Degree Type / Course of Study / Major**

Associate Degree in Political Science; Associate Degree in Sociology

**Degree Awarded?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

**College/ University B**

**Name of College Attended**

University of San Francisco

**Degree Type / Course of Study / Major**

BA in Sociology, minor in Politics

**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.

My career has been dedicated to addressing homelessness and housing insecurity within the Bay Area, with a specialization on historically marginalized communities. This is a passion of mine that I have been fortunate enough to be able to shape a career around and would be honored to continue my service efforts within context of the Council on Homelessness. My current role as a housing policy fellow is aimed specifically at supporting the city of the Pinole, but the scope of my program extends to Contra Costa and the rest of the Bay Area. Fellows in my cohort have been placed in municipalities across the Bay. The aim is homelessness prevention and increasing housing access in the Bay Area through innovative programmatic solutions. This network has served to expand my understandings of homelessness prevention in the County and will be a useful tool in supporting the Council's endeavors.

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

Current Housing Policy Fellow for City of Pinole through Partnership for the Bay's Future focusing on homelessness prevention and support, tenant protections and affordable development 5 years of experience in property management of market-rate, affordable, and permanent supportive housing. Published research on homelessness in Bay Area HCD Tribal Homekey+ Program Representative Equity Policy Research Fellow for California Housing Partnership,

---

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:**

No personal contracts or economic relationships, but in my capacity working for the city of Pinole I have worked on contracts with the county's CORE program.

## Please Agree with the Following Statement

---

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

---

☒ I Agree

---

### Important Information

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



[View results](#)

Respondent

1

Anonymous

3011:40

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 Friday, May 2, 2025. 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 [cchomelesscouncil@cchealth.org](mailto:cchomelesscouncil@cchealth.org) or calling or texting (925) 464-0152.

## Supplemental Questions

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



**City Government Representative:** Must be an employee of a city or town located in Contra Costa County. The candidate's work must be related to homelessness, housing, and/or community grants/services, and the candidate's employer must engage with unhoused populations in some manner. This seat is not open to representatives elected to positions in Contra Costa County.

2. **Please briefly describe any personal or professional skills, experiences, 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 having insight because you received services in the county, comfort with public speaking, experience working with unhoused youth, community activism, etc.** (400 word maximum) \*

My professional and academic career has centered around developing equitable solutions to homelessness and housing precarity in California and the Bay Area. I currently serve as a housing policy fellow through the Partnership for the Bay's Future (PBF), where I work for the City of Pinole on multiple housing and homelessness initiatives. In this role I have worked diligently with CORE to secure increased services in Pinole, supported the development of permanent supportive housing projects such as SAHA's Valor Village, presented equitable housing and homelessness solutions to city council, and partnered with surrounding cities – including Richmond, El Cerrito, San Pablo, and Hercules – to increase regional access to homeless services. The PBF fellowship has placed fellows with the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority, Contra Costa County, and the cities of Richmond, Concord, and Antioch. The partnership's model is to work jointly with community-based organizations, which has further extended the program's network in Contra Costa to Multi-Faith Action & Hope Solutions, Richmond Our Power Coalition, Community Housing Development Corporation, RichmondLAND, Northern California Land Trust, and the Richmond Community Foundation. Access to this network creates the opportunity to foster nuanced understandings of the complexities around homelessness, housing, and service provision that the Council on Homelessness is intended to operate within. Previously, I have managed market-rate, affordable, and permanent supportive housing and worked as a program representative for Tribal Homekey+ with the California Department of Housing and Community Development. These roles require the close collaboration with service providers, individuals experiencing or recently having experienced homelessness as well landlords, developers, and local agencies to ensure the successful creation of and placement in housing. My education focused on policy in the Bay Area and resulted in research projects published in both my university's research journal and the Barnard-Columbia Urban Review. This led to an equity policy research fellowship for the California Housing Partnership where I supported existing projects around Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing, Housing Needs Assessments, and homelessness policy. I also led a racial equity impact assessment of the State's first three rounds of Homekey, and provided policy recommendations for Homekey+. I hope that both my experience and current rolls will strongly support the Council on Homelessness' goals of supporting Contra Costa's community members navigating the complexities of homelessness and housing precarity.

3. **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

**4. 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. From your personal experience, why do you think it's important for all people have equal (or equitable) access to the service and help that they need? ( \***

The overarching goal of public and private programs that the county partners with is to end homelessness. That goal means that our approaches need to address the specific contexts that lead to and perpetuate homelessness for the diverse individuals that experience it in our community.

For example, my research projects have examined the specific barriers to exiting homelessness experienced by black and indigenous persons of color in the Bay Area. Historic marginalization and disenfranchisement have led to elevated rates of housing precarity in black and brown communities within the Bay Area, resulting in overrepresentation of black and brown folks in our homeless populations. Further, over-policing and mass incarceration has created barriers to accessing housing, employment, and support. Barriers also result from implicit bias within our support structures, both in their implementation and often times in their design. What this means is that if our approaches to ending homelessness do not consider the impact of these circumstances, they will fail to end homelessness for all folks in Contra Costa.

While working with California Tribal Entities on permanent supportive housing development for HCD through Tribal Homekey+, I also learned the complexities of navigating solutions to homelessness in the context of indigeneity. The impact of the state's history and current relationships with tribal entities shapes the way tribal members interact with homeless services. Addressing homelessness amongst tribal members means that municipalities need to work closely with tribal representatives to ensure services are effective. When designing Tribal Homekey+, it was vital to coordinate with tribal entities to design a development model that worked for their circumstances. This impacted both the development processes and the service provisions.

For context, Homekey+ is a program HCD implemented in 2024 that provided funding for the conversion of existing hotels, motels, and other commercial properties into permanent supportive housing for folks with acute behavioral health conditions. Tribal Homekey+ operated as a fully separate program (rather than a set-aside fund) that worked with tribal entities towards the same goal but catered to their specific contexts and needs. The aim was to reduce barriers, the result was a NOFA nearly a third the size of the original program to ensure tribal entities could successfully navigate the application process. Rather than assessors, we worked as collaborators with tribal representatives to help make their projects feasible. We also worked closely with tribal service providers to ensure that the programs provided worked for the specific contexts their tribal members experiencing homelessness faced. Doing so made the program far more successful than any other endeavors to create supportive housing for tribal members and I would argue that deeply rooting the program's development in community engagement was the key to this success. This is a lesson that I now apply to any and all programs I am involved in.

Ending homelessness means ending homelessness for all. Services need to be accessible to varied backgrounds and contexts of the individuals we aim to help if we truly aim to help all folks. Failing to do so will mean that even the best of intentioned programs' will have lopsided and incomplete successes.

**5. Please share and explain two (2) ideas to help Contra Costa County better support unhoused people 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 of the programs I really appreciate in Contra Costa's CoC is CORE. I am excited to be helping the City of Pinole secure a joint CORE Outreach Team dedicated to our city, San Pablo, El Cerrito, and Hercules. And while their services and impact have been exceptional since their implementation, I believe it would be worthwhile to figure out ways we can increase the salary provided to the team members. Something that has come up in my interviews with municipalities is issues – not with the program itself – but with its staff retention. Based on the input received, making salaries more competitive would have a great impact on staff retention. At the same time, doing so in a cost-effective way will be important in ensuring municipalities are able to continue to support their teams. Possible strategies could include breaking the CORE outreach program into regional coverages (i.e. North, East, West) where salaries can reflect regional elevated costs of living and localizing service provision can reduce operating expenses by collaborating with regional municipalities. Increasing this program's staff retention capacity will allow team members to better build the individualized trust and relationships that can help community members experiencing homelessness.

While much of my career has focused on creating systems to help folks successfully exit homelessness, support programs that can help folks at risk of homelessness remain housed are equally pivotal in ending homelessness. I am excited that Contra Costa is working with Bay Area Community Services on a regional Keep People Housed Program and look forward to the program's impact. I think it would be great for the county to build off this program towards landlord engagement and eviction prevention programs. My experience working in property management has highlighted the role advocacy and aid can play in minimizing displacement through preventing eviction tactics before proceedings even begin. This includes more 'soft' eviction practices that render a space less and less hospitable such as through deferred maintenance. Developing support programs around eviction that target landlord accountability, engagement, and alternative dispute resolution techniques can help resolve underlying circumstances in a less confrontational manner that maintains positive relationships with tenants and landlords alike and bypasses eviction defense counsel proceedings.

**6. Please state how many Continuum of Care (CoC), Council on Homelessness (CoH), or Youth Advisory Council (YAC) meetings you have previously attended. \***

☒ 3 or more meetings

☐ 1-2 meetings

☐ 0 meetings

7. The Council is committed to the Housing First approach (meaning no barriers or requirements as a prerequisite to housing, including sobriety, religious affiliation, or other structure not required for housing) and 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.* **Are you in support of the Housing First approach and Guiding Principle described above?** \*

☒ Yes

☐ No

8. **Council on Homelessness meetings take place on the first Thursday of the month from 1 pm – 3pm in Martinez. Members of the Council are also expected to participate in at least one committee or workgroup, which typically meet on a monthly basis. 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 can be available for **2 or more IN PERSON meetings per month**, including the standing monthly COH meeting the first Thursday of every month from 1pm to 3pm.

☐ I can be available **only for the standing IN PERSON monthly COH meeting** the first Thursday of every month from 1pm to 3pm.

☐ I am **not available** for the standing monthly COH meeting, **but can make other meetings 2 or more times** per month.

☐ I am **not available** for the standing monthly COH meeting and **may not be able to make other meetings** more than once per month.

### 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 and will be considered in aggregate to ensure that we have recruited a diverse pool of applicants. The Nominating Panel will not review applicants' responses to the following questions.

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

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

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

12. **What best describes your age? (Check one)**

☐ Transition aged youth (18-24)

☐ Adult (25-54)

☐ Older Adult (55-61\_

☐ Senior (62+)

13. 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

14. 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.

15. 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)?

Having grown up in the Bay Area, I have watched development, displacement, and homelessness reshape the communities and relationships I cherish. It has been an honor and privilege to combat homelessness in my communities and an blessing to continue that trajectory within this council.

## Contact Information

16. Name \*

Jared Murti

17. Email \*

[REDACTED]

18. Phone Number \*

[REDACTED]

Application Form

Profile

Bessie Marie

First Name

Scott

Last Name

Middle Initial

Home Address

Suite or Apt

Antioch

City

CA

State

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Email Address

[District Locator Tool](#)

Resident of Supervisorial District:

☒ District 3

City of Antioch

Employer

City Manager

Job Title

Length of Employment

7 months

Do you work in Contra Costa County?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, in which District do you work?

3

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

7 months

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Board and Interest

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness: Submitted

**Seat Name**

City Government 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

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**Education**

**Select the option that applies to your high school education \***

☒ High School Diploma

**College/ University A**

**Name of College Attended**

UC Santa Barbara

**Degree Type / Course of Study / Major**

Law & Philosophy

**Degree Awarded?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

**College/ University B**

**Name of College Attended**

University of Washington

**Degree Type / Course of Study / Major**

Master's in Public Administration

**Degree Awarded?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

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**College/ University C**

**Name of College Attended**

**Degree Type / Course of Study / Major**

**Degree Awarded?**

---

☐ Yes ☐ No

---

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

---

Certified Inspector General

**Certificate Awarded for Training?**

---

☒ Yes ☐ No

**Other Training B**

---

**Certificate Awarded for Training?**

---

☐ Yes ☐ No

**Occupational Licenses Completed:**

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**Qualifications and Volunteer Experience**

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

---

I served as the Strategic Advisor to the Rental Assistance and Housing Choice Voucher Program at the Seattle Housing Authority where I worked with a team of Housing Counselors who helped families locate housing units to lease with a Section 8 Voucher, and worked with Seattle Public Schools to assist homeless families access stable housing in the area, in addition to other special programs and strategic initiatives, I have been working throughout my career on criminal justice and policy related issues such as healthcare disparities issues affecting women and minorities, enforcing the Fair Housing Act by conducting secret shopping in the rental market, and writing fair housing assessments and creating education and outreach initiatives for jurisdictions.

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

---

See attached Resume.

---

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 understand that all information in this application is publicly accessible. I understand that misstatements and/or omissions of material fact may cause forfeiture of my rights to serve on a board, committee, or commission in Contra Costa County.**

---

☒ I Agree

---

### Important Information

1. This application and any attachments you provide to it is a public document and is subject to the California Public Records Act (CA Government Code §6250-6270).
2. All members of appointed bodies are required to take the advisory body training provided by Contra Costa County.
3. Members of certain boards, commissions, and committees may be required to: (1) file a Statement of Economic Interest Form also known as a Form 700, and (2) complete the State Ethics Training Course as required by AB 1234.
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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

5

Anonymous

34:53

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 Friday, May 22, 2025. 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 [cchomelesscouncil@cchealth.org](mailto:cchomelesscouncil@cchealth.org) or calling or texting (925) 464-0152.

## Supplemental Questions

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



**City Government Representative:** Must be an employee of a city or town located in Contra Costa County. The candidate's work must be related to homelessness, housing, and/or community grants/services, and the candidate's employer must engage with unhoused populations in some manner. This seat is not open to representatives elected to positions in Contra Costa County.

### 2. Please briefly describe any personal or professional skills, experiences, 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 having insight because you received services in the county, comfort with public speaking, experience working with unhoused youth, community activism, etc.

(400 word maximum) \*

My past experiences include working to enforce the Fair Housing Act for the Department of Justice within the state of Washington across 22 counties. I have also worked for Housing Authority for almost 7 years to include managing Section 8 housing vouchers, Project-based vouchers, Agency vouchers, FUP vouchers, and VASH vouchers. I have worked across different programs for housing placement, shelters, and hotelling based service models under federal ARPA funds. I have done harm reduction and implemented housing first principles for several cities and jurisdictions.

3. **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

4. **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. From your personal experience, why do you think it's important for all people have equal (or equitable) access to the service and help that they need? ( \***

No matter what intersectionality's exist for people, it's important for all everyone to have equitable access to the service and help that they need because individual outcomes are jointly felt across society and within communities. The entire county is impacted by the lack of addressing the needs of the most marginalized within our community, and as a collective we should compassionately and intentionally address the root cause issues impacting those who are at risk of being unhoused or are currently/intermittently experiencing homelessness. This is a devastating social problem that reflects broader systemic failures and social inequalities which diminish us all. By extending aid to our unhoused residents, the county commits to the collective values which include upholding the inherent dignity of every person, while affirming the principles of caring for one another across our community. Homelessness often stems from complex systemic issues, including poverty, lack of affordable housing, mental health challenges, and substance use disorders. Everyone needs housing and access to services in order to realize their potential, and help communities thrive.

5. **Please share and explain two (2) ideas to help Contra Costa County better support unhoused people 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 would be to focus more resourced on prevention such as rental assistance programs, the creation of affordable unit through public private partnerships under the housing authority to tie subsidies to units, and the creation of public private partnerships, all for prevention. The second idea is to create regional partnerships to consolidate resources and apply jointly for federal, local, and state dollars to carry out a strategy across the county.

6. **Please state how many Continuum of Care (CoC), Council on Homelessness (CoH), or Youth Advisory Council (YAC) meetings you have previously attended. \***

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

7. The Council is committed to the Housing First approach (meaning no barriers or requirements as a prerequisite to housing, including sobriety, religious affiliation, or other structure not required for housing) and 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.* **Are you in support of the Housing First approach and Guiding Principle described above? \***

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

8. Council on Homelessness meetings take place on the first Thursday of the month from 1 pm – 3pm in Martinez. Members of the Council are also expected to participate in at least one committee or workgroup, which typically meet on a monthly basis. 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 can be available for **2 or more IN PERSON meetings per month**, including the standing monthly COH meeting the first Thursday of every month from 1pm to 3pm.
- ☐ I can be available **only for the standing IN PERSON monthly COH meeting** the first Thursday of every month from 1pm to 3pm.
- ☐ I am **not available** for the standing monthly COH meeting, **but can make other meetings 2 or more times** per month.
- ☐ I am **not available** for the standing monthly COH meeting and **may not be able to make other meetings** more than once per month.

### 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 and will be considered in aggregate to ensure that we have recruited a diverse pool of applicants. The Nominating Panel will not review applicants' responses to the following questions.

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

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

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

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

- ☒
- Transition aged youth (18-24)
- ☐
- Adult (25-54)
- ☐
- Older Adult (55-61\_
- ☐
- Senior (62+)

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	White
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hispanic/Latino(a)(o)(e)(x)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black/African American/African
<input type="checkbox"/>	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
<input type="checkbox"/>	American Indian/Alaskan Native/Indigenous
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian American/Asian
<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Races
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

14. 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.

15. 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 also have lived experience and was homeless as a child which is why I do this work.

Contact Information

16. Name \*

Bessie Marie Scott

17. Email \*

[REDACTED]

18. Phone Number \*

[REDACTED]