



Council on Homelessness 2026 Supplemental Application

Due: 9/25/26

The Council on Homelessness (CoH) works to improve the local response to homelessness in Contra Costa County.

The Council on Homelessness encourages all members of the community to apply for a seat. The Council aims to include members with a broad representation of abilities, ages, sexual and gender identities, immigration statuses, and racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, as well as geographical representation within the County. Individuals with lived experience of homelessness and/or the justice system are encouraged to apply.

For more information about the Council on Homelessness and its work supporting and governing the Continuum of Care (CoC), including information about the programs, funding, and performance, go to <https://cchealth.org/h3/#Council>.

About this Supplemental 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 **September 25, 2024 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.

Submitting Supplemental Questions

Please note, this form can be filled out as a Word document and emailed to cchomelessscouncil@gmail.com along with your contact information OR submitted via Microsoft Forms [here](#). If you are unable to complete this application online, ask for accommodations.



Supplemental Questions

1. **Which vacant Council on Homelessness seat are you applying for? Please select one seat below.** *Please review the Council on Homelessness Board Recruitment FAQ document for descriptions of each seat and seat terms*

- ☐ Behavioral Health Representative
- ☐ City Government Representative
- ☐ CoC/ESG Program Grantee Representative
- ☐ Community Member Representative
- ☐ Federal Homeless and Housing Funding Administration Representative
- ☐ Employment and Human Services (EHSD) Representative
- ☐ Faith Community Representative
- ☐ Public Housing Authority Representative
- ☐ Public Safety Representative
- ☐ Reentry Services Representative
- ☐ Youth Representative

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)

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)



[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

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)~~

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

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)

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

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~~

~~_____ ☐ If no, please explain (400 word maximum):~~

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.**

Optional: Demographic Information

~~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.~~

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

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

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

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

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

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

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. Please identify the following geographic areas you represent and/or spend the most time in by selection of one or more of the options below:

- ☐ Far East Contra Costa County (ex: Discovery Bay, Bethel Island)
- ☐ East Contra Costa County (ex: Bay Point, Pittsburg, Antioch, Brentwood)
- ☐ Central Contra Costa County (ex: Martinez, Pleasant Hill, Concord, Walnut Creek)
- ☐ South Contra Costa County (ex: Alamo, Danville, San Ramon)
- ☐ West Contra Costa County (ex: 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)?

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)