

COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Both parts of the Council on Homelessness applications are due Friday, September 25, 2026, at 5 PM.

About the Council on Homelessness

The [Council on Homelessness \(CoH\)](#) works to improve how Contra Costa County helps people experiencing homelessness. Members of the Council help guide decisions, share ideas, and make sure services are working well. The Council wants people from different backgrounds to apply—this includes people of different ages, abilities, genders, and cultural identities. People with personal experience with homelessness or the justice system are encouraged to apply!

Who Does the Continuum of Care (CoC) Help?

The Continuum of Care (CoC) provides services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The goal is to help people move into permanent housing and stay housed. You can find more information in our [Data Summary](#).

What Do Council Members Do?

Council members:

- Attend monthly Council meetings and serve in committees they're interested in.
- Give advice about homeless services and new programs.
- Review and rank funding requests.
- Study community needs and data on homelessness.
- Teach the public and policymakers about homelessness issues.
- Check how well the homeless services system is working.
- Help with planning and policy decisions about housing and homelessness.
- New members get training and support to help them in their role.

Who Can Apply?

To apply, you must:

- Live or work in Contra Costa County.
- Agree to follow the [Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy](#).

What Makes a Strong Applicant?

The Council prefers applicants who:

- Have skills or experience related to an open seat.
- Have lived experience of homelessness.
- Know about homelessness and ways to address it.

- Can actively participate in meetings and committees.
- Have past leadership or volunteer experience in homelessness-related work.
- Have connections to government or community organizations.
- Have attended homelessness-related meetings before.
- Support the Housing First approach, which means that people should not face extra barriers to getting housing (such as requiring that someone is sober or having a certain amount of income).

We encourage you to apply, even if you do not need to meet these preferred qualifications. You may have knowledge and experiences not specifically listed here that would support the mission of the Council.

How Long Do Members Serve?

Council members serve for two years. They can reapply at the end of every two-year term.

What is the Time Commitment?

- **Meetings:** First Thursday of each month (1 PM – 3 PM in Martinez)
 - Note: meetings are IN PERSON
- **Committees:** Each member must join at least one committee or workgroup (usually meets monthly in Concord).
 - Note: meetings are IN PERSON
- **Training:** New members must complete three virtual required trainings within three months.
- **Attendance:** Members must attend IN PERSON; virtual attendance is only allowed twice per year in specific cases. Members can miss up to two meetings per year.

Which Seats Are Open?

1. **Affordable Housing Developer:** Must work for an affordable housing developer with projects in Contra Costa County.
2. **Educational and Vocational Services:** Must work for an agency providing K-12 educational services to individuals experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County.
3. **Health Care:** Must work for an agency providing health care services in Contra Costa County.
4. **Homeless Service Provider:** Must work for an agency providing housing and/or services to individuals experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County, which can include those who are also fleeing domestic violence.
5. **Lived Experience Advisor #1:** Must have current or past experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County.
6. **Veterans Services:** Must be an employee of the Veterans Administration serving individuals in Contra Costa County.
7. **Workforce Development:** Must work for a workforce development or vocational services agency or a social enterprise business in Contra Costa County.

How Do I Apply?

Complete two applications:

- [Supplemental Application](#)
- County Application: A link will be sent to you after completing the Supplemental Application.

Application Deadline

- Both applications must be completed by Friday, September 25, 2026, at 5 PM.

Need Help?

We want the application process to be easy for you. We are hosting 2 **Application Support Sessions** where staff from Contra Costa Health, Housing & Homeless (H3) services will be available to answer questions and help people fill out their Council on Homelessness (CoH) application. You can join on Zoom or come in person to 2600 Stanwell Drive, Suite 200, Concord.

[Support Session #1](#)

September 15, 2026

9 am – 10 am

[Online](#) or in person at 2600 Stanwell Drive, Suite #200 Concord

[Support Session #2](#)

September 23, 2026

Noon – 1 pm

[Online](#) or in person at 2600 Stanwell Drive, Suite #200 Concord

If you have other questions or need additional support, contact:

- Email: cchomelesscouncil@cchealth.org
- Call or text: **(925) 464-0152**