

Recognition Categories 2025 v Proposed 2026

Outstanding Housing Provider

Section	2025	2026
Description	As part of Homelessness Awareness Month (November), the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness wants to recognize those landlords, property management companies, and other housing operators that create permanent housing opportunities for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County through the Outstanding Housing Provider category. Outstanding efforts towards providing permanent housing opportunities for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness can be demonstrated in a number of ways including: • Length of time involved in providing units/rooms • Number of units/rooms; and/or • Quality of units/rooms rented	The Outstanding Housing Provider category recognizes landlords, property managers, housing operators, and organizations that create and maintain safe, stable, and accessible housing opportunities for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County. This award honors providers who demonstrate exceptional commitment, whether by offering units, reducing barriers, maintaining high quality housing, partnering with service providers, or consistently supporting residents’ success. These individuals and organizations play a crucial role in the housing-first response to homelessness and strengthen our community by expanding housing options.

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Eligibility	• Person or company must rent units/rooms in Contra Costa County to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. This may ○ include shared housing, sober living environments, recovery housing, board and cares, halfway houses and transitional housing. • Person or company may nominate themselves.	Nominees must meet all of the following: • Operate housing units or rooms in Contra Costa County that they rent to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. • Provide permanent or transitional housing, which may include shared housing, sober living environments, recovery housing, board and care homes, halfway houses, or transitional programs. • Demonstrate one or more of the following: ○ Commitment to renting units consistently over time ○ Meaningful number of units/rooms offered ○ High quality of units/rooms, responsiveness to tenants, and good property stewardship ○ Reduced barriers to entry (e.g., flexible screening, fair consideration) ○ Partnership with service providers or system partners • Providers may be individuals, companies, faith-based operators, organizations, or site-based housing programs.
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Nomination Form	1. Describe nominee’s outstanding contribution to ending homelessness. Please include any information available on length of involvement in housing people affected by homelessness, number of units/rooms rented to individuals and/or families facing homelessness, quality of units/rooms rented, etc. 2. Describe the difference that the Nominee’s service makes to individuals facing homelessness. Who was positively affected and how? Who values the work of the nominee and why? 3. Anything you wish to share that was not covered above?	1. Housing Type(s) Provided (required): Describe the housing offered (e.g., shared housing, single-site units, rooms, sober living, transitional housing, board-and-care, etc.). 2. Service to People Experiencing Homelessness (required): Explain how the provider supports people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Include any flexible practices, partnerships, or commitment to reducing barriers. 3. Quality and Consistency (required): Describe the quality of the units/rooms, maintenance practices, responsiveness, and length of time they have provided units to the homelessness system. 4. Impact (required): Share specific examples of how this provider has made a significant difference — whether through number of units, support for tenants, collaboration with case managers, crisis responsiveness, or innovative practices. 5. Additional Notes (optional): Highlight anything else that sets this provider apart.
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Outstanding Partnership

Section	2025	2026
Description	As part of Homelessness Awareness Month (November), the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness wants to recognize partnerships that support people at risk of or experiencing homelessness through the Outstanding Partnership category. Partnerships can be with/between government agencies, nonprofits/CBOs, advocacy groups, faith organizations, individuals (including those facing homelessness), and businesses.	The Outstanding Systems Partnership category recognizes two or more organizations that have worked together in a formal, ongoing collaboration that strengthens the homelessness response system. Recognized partnerships should demonstrate shared goals, coordinated work, and measurable improvements in the lives of people facing homelessness. This category focuses on deep, high-impact partnerships rather than informal collaborations or one-time joint activities. •
Eligibility	• The partnership must support people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County in some way, but does not have to only serve people facing homelessness. • Partnership may nominate itself.	To be eligible, a partnership must meet all of the following: • Involves two or more organizations (e.g., government agencies, nonprofits, CBOs, health or behavioral health providers, faith-based organizations, or businesses) working together in an established collaboration. • Has been active for at least 12 consecutive months. • Demonstrates clear, documented impact on people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County. Shows one or more of the following: • Cross-sector collaboration • Coordinated service delivery or integrated care • Systems--level improvements (policy, process, data sharing, workflows) Innovations that expand access, reduce barriers, or improve outcomes

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Nomination Form	1. Name of the Partnership 2. Who are the key partners? Please highlight if/how the partnership engages people with lived experience of homelessness in the work. 3. How does the partnership support people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County? 4. Anything you wish to share that was not covered above?	1. Partner Organizations (required): List all primary partner organizations involved in this collaboration. 2. Length of Partnership (required): Provide the start date (month/year) and describe how long the partners have been collaborating. 3. Description of the Partnership (required): Summarize the purpose of the partnership, what the partners do together, and how they coordinate their work. 4. Impact on People Experiencing Homelessness (required): Describe the partnership’s outcomes. Where possible, include specific examples such as increased placements, reduced barriers, improved coordination, or innovative approaches. 5. Why This Partnership Should Be Recognized (optional): Explain what makes this partnership exceptional, unique, or especially impactful.
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Outstanding Volunteer

Section	2025	2026
Description	As part of Homelessness Awareness Month (November), the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness wants to recognize individuals or groups who have enriched the lives of people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County through volunteer efforts through the Outstanding Volunteer category. Outstanding efforts can be demonstrated by: • Length of involvement; • Strong concentration of service; and/or • Impact of efforts to support people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.	The Outstanding Volunteer category honors individuals or groups whose voluntary, unpaid service meaningfully enriches the lives of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Contra Costa County. Volunteers may contribute through direct service, community support, resource distribution, mentoring, advocacy, organizing, or any other form of sustained, impactful involvement.
Eligibility	• Nominee must volunteer in Contra Costa County • The volunteer activity must be without pay	Nominees must: • Volunteer within Contra Costa County in a non-paid capacity. • Support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, either directly or indirectly. • Demonstrate one or more of the following: ◦ Length of service (sustained involvement over time) ◦ Concentration of service (significant commitment in a shorter period) ◦ Impact of service (notable outcomes, consistency, or influence) • Contribute through any setting including nonprofit organizations, community groups, faith communities, local initiatives, mutual aid networks, public programs, or independent volunteer efforts.

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Nomination Form	1. Describe nominee’s outstanding volunteer service(s). Please include any information available on length of involvement, concentration of service or impact of efforts 2. Describe the difference that the Nominee’s service makes to individuals facing homelessness. Who was positively affected and how? Who values the work of the nominee and why? 3. Anything you wish to share that was not covered above?	1. Nominee Name: 2. Nominee Contact (if available): 3. Type of Volunteer Contribution (individual or group): 4. Volunteer Activities in Contra Costa County (required): Describe the volunteer roles, responsibilities, activities, or contributions supporting people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. 5. Length and/or Intensity of Involvement (required): Explain how long the nominee has been volunteering or describe the depth of their involvement. 6. Impact of the Nominee’s Volunteer Service (required): Provide specific examples showing how the nominee has enriched the lives of people facing homelessness — through support, connection, leadership, advocacy, reliability, or other contributions. 7. Additional Strengths or Qualities (optional): Share any qualities that make the nominee exceptional (e.g., compassion, creativity, perseverance, problem solving, community building).
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Phoenix Rising

Section	2025	2026
Description	As part of Homelessness Awareness Month (November), the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness wants to recognize individuals with a lived experience of homelessness who have demonstrated outstanding courage, strength and/or resilience through the Phoenix Rising category. The Phoenix is a bird that rises up again and again from the ashes. It embodies courage and resilience through its journey or flight.	The Phoenix Rising Award category recognizes individuals with lived experience of homelessness who demonstrate extraordinary courage, resilience, and/or personal strength at any stage of their journey. This recognition is for people who are currently experiencing homelessness, are in the process of securing stability, or have already moved into housing. Like the Phoenix that rises again and again, this award celebrates individuals who continue to persevere, rebuild, and move forward despite challenges.
Eligibility	Nominated people must have a lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County and/or have experienced homelessness elsewhere and currently live and/or work in Contra Costa County.	Nominees must: • Have lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County, or have experienced homelessness elsewhere and currently live, work, or contribute in Contra Costa County • Be anywhere in their journey, including those who are currently unhoused, in shelter, in temporary or interim housing, or in permanent housing. • Demonstrate courage, resilience, determination, personal growth, or positive influence on others, whether through everyday perseverance, supporting peers, engaging in community or advocacy efforts, or inspiring others by example.

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Nomination Form	1. Does this person have a lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County and/or have experienced homelessness elsewhere and currently live and/or work in Contra Costa County? 2. Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated courage, strength and/or resilience. 3. Anything you wish to share that was not covered above. Nominee’s comments or comments from recipients are also welcome. 4. Can you get written permission (text or email is ok) to share this person's name publicly? 5. If no, we will edit the story to remove identifying information. Is this acceptable to you?	1. Connection to Contra Costa County (required): Explain how the nominee meets eligibility (lived experience in Contra Costa County, or experienced homelessness elsewhere and now lives, works, or contributes here) 2. Resilience and Growth (required): Describe the obstacles they have overcome and the personal growth they have demonstrated. 3. Impact on Others (required): Share how the nominee has inspired, supported, advocated, or positively influenced others. 4. Community Engagement or Leadership (optional): Note any volunteerism, advocacy, peer leadership, or community contributions.
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