

Council on Homelessness Applicants

Fall 2024

Which Seat Applied For	First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	District
Affordable Housing Developer	Max	Heninger	Eden Housing	2
Affordable Housing Developer	Courtney	Pal	Resources for Community Developn	N/A
Educational Services Representative	Alejandra	Chamberlain	Contra Costa Office of Education	3
Educational Services Representative	Cameron Everet	Parr	Contra Costa Office of Education	5
Health Care Representative	Mia	Fairbanks	Contra Costa Health: Healthcare for	5
Homeless Service Provider Representative	Janny	Castillo	Safe Organized Spaces Richmond	N/A
Homeless Service Provider Representative	Selenia	Charles	SHELTER, Inc.	5
Homeless Service Provider Representative	Angelita	Corona	Lao Family Community Developmen	N/A
Homeless Service Provider Representative	Sherina Rina	Criswell	Contra Costa Health: H3	2
Homeless Service Provider Representative	Linda	Jacob	N/A	5
Homeless Service Provider Representative	Rebecca	Sanders	Contra Costa Health: H3	3
Homeless Service Provider Representative	Ricka	Davis-Sheard	SHARE Community	5
Homeless Service Provider Representative	Athena	Matthias	Bay Area Community Services	1
Homeless Service Provider Representative	Deanne	Pearn	Hope Solutions	2
Lived Experience Advisor	Winter	Antone	N/A	1
Lived Experience Advisor	O'Neill	Fernandez	N/A	1
Lived Experience Advisor	Lori	Gandaro	N/A	N/A
Lived Experience Advisor	Renee Juno	Hedrick	N/A	N/A
Lived Experience Advisor	Nathalie	Hughes-Erskina	N/A	1
Lived Experience Advisor	Amanda	Jenkins	N/A	1
Lived Experience Advisor	Amelia	Juner	N/A	4
Lived Experience Advisor	LeAnn	Matthews	N/A	4
Lived Experience Advisor	Rebecca	Sanders	N/A	3
Lived Experience Advisor	Jessi	Taran	N/A	1
Lived Experience Advisor	Brendi	Velasquez	N/A	4
Lived Experience Advisor	Joyce	Williams	N/A	3
Lived Experience Advisor	Karen	Zeigler	N/A	1
Lived Experience Advisor	Ronald	Broach	N/A	3
Veteran Services Representative	Heather	Worobey	Department of Veteran Affairs	4
Workforce Development Representative	Verneda	Clapp	Contra Costa EHSD	5
Workforce Development Representativ	DeVonn	Powers	Humanity Way	2



**Seat Name**

Affordable Housing Developer Seat

**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?**

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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**

Williams College

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

B.A. Political Science

**Degree Awarded?**

Yes  No

**College/ University B**

**Name of College Attended**

UC Berkeley

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

Masters in City Planning

**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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### Certificate Awarded for Training?

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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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Whether through my work advocating for a more equitable housing element in Lafayette, participating in the Point in Time count on Bethel Island in the early hours of the morning, or working to build 43 units of affordable housing in Richmond, I've seen the range of how Contra Costa is doing its part to address the housing crisis and where we are falling short. Now I'm ready to bring my voice to the Council on Homelessness and do my part to help drive solutions to our region's most pressing problem.

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

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I'm a senior project developer at Eden Housing, a nonprofit affordable housing developer. I'm also a Lafayette resident where I serve on the board of Inclusive Lafayette, a pro housing organization advocating to build more housing in Lafayette and other high opportunity parts of the County. Prior to working at Eden, I earned a masters in city planning and real estate development at UC Berkeley. I have worked in affordable housing development at Eden for four years. In that time, I've worked on several projects with a major supportive housing component: 1) Blue Oak Landing, Vallejo, 75 Units, 100% Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) 2) Tabasa Gardens, Watsonville, 53 Units, 11% PSH 3) Legacy Court, Richmond, 43 Units, 30% PSH 4) Nugent Square (Rehab), 32 Units, 6% PSH Through work on those projects, I've worked at every stage of the development process for affordable housing: entitlements, funding applications, closing, construction, and stabilization/lease up. My job as a project manager is to know how all the diverse disciplines of affordable housing development fit together and to use that knowledge to bring a project from a piece of land into a completed community ready to serve its residents as soon as possible. I understand how well intentioned policies and regulations can slow down the development process and add cost. I want to be part of this council to be a voice on what we can do as a County to deliver more affordable housing units to the community as quickly, cheaply and most equitably as possible.



**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.**

Board Member of Inclusive Lafayette <https://www.inclusivelafayette.org/meet-the-board>

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## **Conflict of Interest and Certification**

**Do you have a familial or financial relationship with a member of the Board of Supervisors? (Please refer to the relationships listed under the "Important Information" section below or Resolution No. 2021/234)**

Yes  No

**If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:**

**Do you have any financial relationships with the County such as grants, contracts, or other economic relationships?**

Yes  No

**If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:**

## Please Agree with the Following Statement

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**I 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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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

26 Anonymous

08:11

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 **September 26, 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 [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? \*

- Affordable Housing Developer: Must work for an affordable housing developer.
- Educational Services Representative: Must work for an agency providing educational services to K-12, transitional aged youth, and/or adult individuals experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County.
- Health Care Representative: Must have substantial experience with the Contra Costa County health care system.
- Homeless Service Provider Representative: Must work for an agency providing housing and/or services to individuals experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County, including those who are also fleeing domestic violence.
- Lived Experience Advisor (must have a lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa)
- Veteran Services Representative: Must be an employee of the Veterans Administration.
- Workforce Development Representative: Must have substantial experience in the workforce development or vocational services fields 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 name is Max Heninger, I'm a senior project developer at Eden Housing, a nonprofit affordable housing developer. I'm also a Lafayette resident where I serve on the board of Inclusive Lafayette, a pro housing organization advocating to build more housing in Lafayette and other high opportunity parts of the County. Prior to working at Eden, I earned a masters in city planning and real estate development at UC Berkeley. I have worked in affordable housing development at Eden for four years. In that time, I've worked on several projects with a major supportive housing component: 1) Blue Oak Landing, Vallejo, 75 Units, 100% Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) 2) Tabasa Gardens, Watsonville, 53 Units, 11% PSH 3) Legacy Court, Richmond, 43 Units, 30% PSH 4) Nugent Square (Rehab), 32 Units, 6% PSH Through work on those projects, I've worked at every stage of the development process for affordable housing: entitlements, funding applications, closing, construction, and stabilization/lease up. My job as a project manager is to know how all the diverse disciplines of affordable housing development fit together and to use that knowledge to bring a project from a piece of land into a completed community ready to serve its residents as soon as possible. I understand how well intentioned policies and regulations can slow down the development process and add cost. I want to be part of this council to be a voice on what we can do as a County to deliver more affordable housing units to the community as quickly, cheaply and most equitably as possible. Whether through my work advocating for a more equitable housing element in Lafayette, participating in the Point in Time count on Bethel Island in the early hours of the morning, or working to build 43 units of affordable housing in Richmond, I've seen the range of how Contra Costa is doing its part to address the housing crisis and where we are falling short. Now I'm ready to bring my voice to the Council on Homelessness and do my part to help drive solutions to our region's most pressing problem.

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?** ( \*

While the principles of federal fair housing law dictate that we as housing providers not discriminate against any protected class we must consider what we can do to lower barriers to housing so that the "hardest to serve" residents are still able to access it. For example, on a farmworker project I worked on in Watsonville, the Affirmative Marketing Plan we created pushed outreach to trusted community organizations, in some cases going directly to farms. We knew that absent a concerted effort to establish trust we were going to have people without legal immigration status be afraid to apply.

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) Better coordination with Housing Authority and developer partners on lease up. The process of getting units filled form coordinated entry is a time consuming one across the Bay Area and Contra Costa county is no exception. It is important that Contra Costa Continuum of Care partners start the process as early as possible (right after construction has started) to work with the developer to finalize an MOU, confirm what services are being provided and be able to provide future residents with the support they need to quickly pass through the screening and interviews. On the Council, I would advocate for staff to do a roundtable with developer partners to determine where the pain points in lease up are and what the County could do differently to improve the process.

2) Revising the NOFA process. When applying for funds for the Legacy Court project we noticed that some parts of the scoring where not as clear cut as they could be, leaving some guess work for applicants. On the Council, I would advocate for an evaluation how scoring criteria could be more objective. This review should happen in tandem with an evaluation of how the County will move forward on prioritizing its resources given the failure of the BAHFA bond to make the ballot

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)?

N/A

## Contact Information

16. Name \*

Max Heninger

17. Email \*

[REDACTED]

18. Phone Number \*

[REDACTED]

# Application Form

## Profile

Courtney

First Name

Pal

Last Name

Middle Initial

[Redacted]

Home Address

Suite or Apt

San Francisco

City

CA

State

94103

Postal Code

[Redacted]

Primary Phone

[Redacted]

Email Address

## [District Locator Tool](#)

### Resident of Supervisorial District:

N/A - Out of County

Resources for Community Development

Employer

Policy Manager

Job Title

### Length of Employment

1.5 years

### Do you work in Contra Costa County?

Yes  No

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

1, 4, and 5

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

1.5 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**

Affordable Housing Developer

**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?**

Between 5-10

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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**

Stanford University

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

BA, Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity

**Degree Awarded?**

Yes  No

**College/ University B**

**Name of College Attended**

Stanford University

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

BS, Earth Systems: Human-Environmental Systems

**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

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**Other Trainings & Occupational Licenses**

**Other Training A**

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**Certificate Awarded for Training?**

Yes  No

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**Other Training B**

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**Certificate Awarded for Training?**

Yes  No

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**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 believe that homelessness is a housing issue, and that permanent housing is the only real solution to ending homelessness. Resultantly, I believe that affordable housing developers are a critical stakeholder in the homelessness response system. I would like to see more affordable housing developers embrace their role and responsibility in addressing homelessness. I would like to serve on the COH to contribute a developer/provider perspective to the CoC's work; to encourage my affordable housing peers to engage with the CoC; and to apply my skills towards the mission of ending homelessness, which is personally important to me.

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

---

I am currently the Policy Manager at Resources for Community Development (RCD), a non-profit affordable housing developer with nineteen properties in Contra Costa County. I head up RCD's advocacy efforts around local, state, and federal policy reform to catalyze affordable housing construction and facilitate sustainable operations. My work spans the real estate development, resident services, and asset management areas of the field. This enables me to bring a well-rounded knowledge of affordable housing to the Council on Homelessness (COH). I would also bring knowledge of government processes, skill at interpreting regulations, and ability to conduct effective advocacy. Prior to joining RCD, I was an Associate Planner for the City of Fremont, where I focused on local housing and homelessness policy. I was responsible for site selection for the City's first Housing Navigation Center; I wrote a Safe Parking strategic plan and led implementation of safe parking program at religious facilities; and I wrote the 2023-2031 Housing Element update. For all these policy initiatives, I designed and executed public input processes where the opinions of people with lived experience drove policy outcomes. Lastly, there are soft skills that I would bring to this appointment. I am an active listener, a systems thinker, and a team player.

---

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:**

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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:**

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**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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I have not previously served on any advisory boards. From Fall 2023 - Summer 2024, I was a leader in the Contra Costa County Housing Coalition, a group of organizations advocating for the passage of a regional housing bond in the County.

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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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**Do you have any financial relationships with the County such as grants, contracts, or other economic relationships?**

Yes  No

**If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:**

---

I do not have any direct, personal financial relationships with the County. Resources for Community Development, my employer, does receive funding from Contra Costa County for our affordable housing developments.

**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.**

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View results

Respondent

31 Anonymous

63:29

Time to complete

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## Supplemental Questions

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

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- Health Care Representative: Must have substantial experience with the Contra Costa County health care system.
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- Lived Experience Advisor (must have a lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa)
- Veteran Services Representative: Must be an employee of the Veterans Administration.
- Workforce Development Representative: Must have substantial experience in the workforce development or vocational services fields 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) \*

I am currently the Policy Manager at Resources for Community Development (RCD), a non-profit affordable housing developer with nineteen properties in Contra Costa County. I head up RCD's advocacy efforts around local, state, and federal policy reform to catalyze affordable housing construction and facilitate sustainable operations. My work spans the real estate development, resident services, and asset management areas of the field. This enables me to bring a well-rounded knowledge of affordable housing to the Council on Homelessness (COH). I would also bring knowledge of government processes, skill at interpreting regulations, and ability to conduct effective advocacy. I would be excited to utilize my connections to the Non-Profit Housing Organization of Northern California (NPH) and East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO) to keep my local developer peers informed about the Council's work and encourage their participation in the Continuum of Care (CoC). Additionally, I am a leader of an NPH Working Group focused on developing best practices in permanent supportive housing (PSH). As a member of COH, I would strive to identify opportunities for collaboration with developers to improve the experience of PSH residents. Finally, I would also bring connections to statewide homelessness advocacy organizations, including Housing California and Corporation for Supportive Housing. Prior to joining RCD, I was an Associate Planner for the City of Fremont, where I focused on local housing and homelessness policy. I was responsible for site selection for the City's first Housing Navigation Center; I wrote a Safe Parking strategic plan and led implementation of safe parking program at religious facilities; and I wrote the 2023-2031 Housing Element update. For all these policy initiatives, I designed and executed public input processes where the opinions of people with lived experience drove policy outcomes. For example, I partnered with outreach providers to administer a survey among people living in RVs to shape the design of the safe parking program. I held community input sessions at local homeless shelters and affordable housing developments to influence Housing Element policies for these uses. I would bring the same principle of centering those with lived experience, as well as my experience designing public input processes prioritizing those voices, to the COH. Lastly, there are soft skills that I would bring to this seat. I am an active listener, a systems thinker, and a team player.

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).
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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?** ( \*

I am a white woman raised in Fairfield County, Connecticut - one of the most racially segregated communities in the country. The blatant inequalities that I observed growing up spurred me to become involved in multi-racial community activism for desegregation via housing policy, and eventually drove me to pursue a degree in Ethnic Studies. These experiences form the foundation of my deep commitment to racial justice.

Early in my career, I interned at California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA). I worked with low-income clients to prepare them for mediation efforts to resolve housing issues without legal action. One of my first clients was a Black woman who was at risk of losing her affordable housing because her property manager claimed that her behavioral tics were making other tenants feel threatened. Together, we brainstormed key talking points for her to discuss during an initial meeting to contest the eviction notice. When that meeting didn't work, we wrote a letter explaining the protections she had under the Fair Housing Act, but the letter did not sway the property manager, either. Finally, we decided to ask for one more meeting that CRLA staff would attend to advocate on my client's behalf. Low and behold, the property manager agreed to withdraw the notice in that meeting - even though staff simply reiterated the exact same points that my client had made previously.

This experience illustrated for me the ugly reality of inequitable access to housing, and the fact that affordable housing is not immune to this problem. Not only was my client at risk of losing her housing due to her disability, but she was dismissed, ignored, and marginalized when she rightfully advocated for her fair access to housing.

I carry with me a deep belief that services and housing must be accessible to all people and operated in a manner that empowers people to utilize their rights. I believe that it is imperative to design policies that foster provision of culturally competent, trauma-informed housing, and to have accessible grievance procedures to help identify and address inequities. Similar to the role of CRLA in my personal story, I believe that the CoC has a critical role to play in uplifting the voices of people with lived experience, especially when they are not taken seriously in the current system, to ensure that there is equitable access to services and housing within our County.

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: Collaborate with Affordable Housing Providers to Accelerate Permanent Housing Move-ins.

Affordable housing providers and the County share the goal of having unhoused residents transition into permanent housing as quickly as possible. However, it can take a significant amount of time for a referred client to put together the paperwork needed to move into housing – up to eight months, in RCD's experience. This results in people spending more time without housing, as well as a frustrating and complex lease-up experience for unhoused residents.

This is not just a local issue, and other jurisdictions have paved the way with innovative solutions to reduce documentation burdens. For example, Los Angeles County has been exploring a waiver process that allows unhoused people to move into housing while completing their income documentation. Closer to home, Santa Clara County has partnered with providers to streamline the documentation requirements for move-in. Implementing these ideas, or similar ones, in Contra Costa County could help the County better support unhoused people and move people into housing faster. If selected for the COH, I would join the PATH Committee to pursue these ideas to accelerate housing move-ins, as well as explore other innovative approaches to ending unsheltered homelessness.

#2: Prioritize Unhoused Peoples' Needs in Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Implementation

A component of my current work is preparing for the upcoming transition to the BHSA, which recently passed as a part of Proposition 1. As part of this transition, the County will need to consider how to use its BHSA funding to better support people with behavioral health conditions who are experiencing homelessness. This represents a transformative opportunity to create innovative, new programming and expand the supply of permanent housing set aside for unhoused people. It will also involve unprecedented coordination between health, housing, and homelessness departments and organizations. To best support unhoused residents, the County must center the voices of people with lived experience in the BHSA community planning process and allocate funding to effectively address their stated housing needs. Additionally, the County must convene the many housing, health, and services stakeholders that will need to collaborate to make BHSA implementation successful. As a member of the COH, I would contribute to this coordination by advocating for the inclusion of those with lived experience in the community planning process and using my relationships with permanent housing providers to bring them into this discussion.

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)?

I am 28 years old, and would bring a young adult/early career perspective to the COH.

### Contact Information

16. Name \*

Courtney Pal

17. Email \*

[REDACTED]

18. Phone Number \*

[REDACTED]

# Application Form

## Profile

Alejandra

First Name

Chamberlain

Last Name

Middle  
Name

Home Address

State

Pleasant Hill

City

CA

State

94523

Post Office Code

Day Phone

Email Address

## [District Locator Tool](#)

### Resident of Supervisorial District:

District 3

Contra Costa County Office  
of Education

Employer

Director, Youth Services

Job Title

### Length of Employment

10 year

### Do you work in Contra Costa County?

Yes  No

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

Districts 4

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

33 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**

---

Educational and Vocational Services

**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?**

---

Attending board meeting since appointed

---

**Education**

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

---

High School Diploma

**College/ University A**

**Name of College Attended**

---

California State University, Sacramento

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

---

Master of Science in Counseling

**Degree Awarded?**

---

Yes  No

**College/ University B**

**Name of College Attended**

---

California State University, Sacramento

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

---

Child Development BA

**Degree Awarded?**

---

Yes  No

---

**College/ University C**

**Name of College Attended**

---

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

---

**Degree Awarded?**

---

Yes  No

---

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

---

**Certificate Awarded for Training?**

---

Yes  No

**Other Training B**

---

**Certificate Awarded for Training?**

---

Yes  No

**Occupational Licenses Completed:**

---

---

**Qualifications and Volunteer Experience**

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

---

I would like to serve on this board because my role as the County Office of Education (COE) Homeless Liaison allows me to work directly with children and youth facing housing instability, and I am passionate about advocating for their educational rights. Through the COE Youth Services department, my team and I provide critical support and resources to the 18 school districts in Contra Costa County, CCCOE-operated school sites, and charter schools to ensure that students experiencing homelessness or foster care have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as their peers. A significant new development in our efforts is the creation of the McKinney-Vento Education Council (MVEC), which serves as a dedicated platform for addressing the educational needs of homeless youth. This council brings together school districts, community partners, and service providers to collaborate on improving access to education and services for homeless children and youth. The MVEC aims to foster stronger partnerships between education and housing services, enabling a more holistic approach to supporting these students. I believe this initiative will drive innovative solutions, and I look forward to contributing my expertise to its growth and success. In addition, I facilitate quarterly Homeless and Foster Youth Collaborative meetings, which bring together District Homeless Liaisons to develop policies, share best practices, and receive updates on legislation affecting homeless youth. These meetings are essential for fostering collaboration and ensuring that local educational agencies (LEAs) are equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to support students facing housing instability. By serving on this board, I would be able to extend this collaborative approach and help shape policies that affect not only education but the broader services that unhoused families and youth need. My experience working with various school districts gives me a countywide perspective on the challenges faced by this vulnerable population, and I am committed to representing these perspectives and advocating for their needs.

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

---

As the County Homeless Liaison for the Contra Costa County Office of Education, I have extensive experience advocating for children and youth facing housing instability, particularly in relation to their educational rights. I regularly advise on policies, collaborate with community stakeholders, and coordinate efforts to support homeless students across our 18 school districts. In this role, my team and I ensure that these students have access to the same free, appropriate public education as their peers. My qualifications include providing technical assistance, resources, and professional development to school districts, empowering District Homeless Liaisons and staff to better serve students experiencing homelessness. I am well-versed in the implementation of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and have led initiatives such as the quarterly Homeless and Foster Youth Collaborative meetings. These meetings create a platform for districts to share best practices, receive legislative updates, and address barriers to service delivery. Through my work, I've developed strong relationships with both educational and community-based organizations, and I have a comprehensive understanding of the challenges homeless students face. My experience uniquely positions me to represent the county's collective perspective and contribute effectively to this appointment.

---

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:**

---

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

**If Yes, please also list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you have previously served:**

---

FACT

**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:**

---

As the director of the CCCOE Youth Services, Youth Services receives contracts to provide services for foster youth through EHSD and services for WIOA through the WDB.

**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

16 Anonymous

61:03

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 **September 26, 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 [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? \*

- Affordable Housing Developer
- Educational Services Representative
- Health Care Representative
- Homeless Service Provider Representative
- Lived Experience Advisor (must have a lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa)
- Veteran Services Representative
- Workforce Development Representative



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) \*

As the Education and Vocational representative for the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness, I advocate and bring awareness to the challenges children and youth face regarding homelessness. As the County Homeless Education Liaison, I represent the 18 school districts and charter schools across Contra Costa. I provide support and technical assistance to district homeless liaisons, ensuring they have the resources, capacity, and tools to implement the provisions of the McKinney Vento Act. This Act is vital for improving the identification, educational stability, access, and academic achievement of children and youth experiencing homelessness. In my role, I advise on policies that directly affect children and youth experiencing homelessness and work closely with school sites to ensure they meet the needs of this vulnerable population. My advocacy extends to providing council members and stakeholders with critical resources on education rights for youth facing homelessness, as well as foster care and justice-involved youth—groups that are also at high risk for housing instability. These resources include technical assistance, professional development, and necessary materials such as school supplies to ensure equitable access to education. As a resident of Antioch and a lifelong resident of East Contra Costa County, I have a deep personal connection to the community. The ongoing housing crisis and lack of resources for families greatly concern me, and I am committed to being a voice for students experiencing homelessness in the county. I am also experienced in public speaking and advocating in both professional and community settings, which allows me to effectively represent the needs of unhoused youth at the Council level. Through my role and personal commitment, I strive to ensure that every child has access to the same free and appropriate public education, regardless of their housing situation.

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?** (\*

Equity is at the heart of the Contra Costa County Office of Education's mission. We prioritize equity and embrace the inclusion of diverse perspectives to foster a learning community where everyone can succeed. As the County Homeless Education Liaison, I have the privilege of working with individuals and families from a wide range of backgrounds, including those affected by race, ethnicity, culture, ability, age, sexual and gender identity, and immigration status. From my personal experience, I've seen firsthand how critical it is for all individuals to feel valued and heard, especially those from marginalized or underserved communities. When my team and I connect with families experiencing homelessness, we make it a point to honor their unique stories and backgrounds. Creating a safe space where their voices can be heard without judgment allows them to share their educational and personal needs openly. This is essential in ensuring that the services and support we provide truly meet their needs. Without equitable access to services, we risk further marginalizing already vulnerable populations. Equity ensures that every person, regardless of their background or identity, has the opportunity to receive the support they need to thrive. In my work, I strive to create environments where differences are not only respected but are seen as strengths, helping us understand how to better support and empower the families and youth we serve.

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 to better support unhoused people, particularly children and youth, is for the Continuum of Care (CoC) to continue facilitating focus group discussions. These discussions could include Homeless District Liaisons—especially those from the three districts with the highest numbers of homeless children and youth—along with homeless service providers and the new Education CORE and TAY CORE staff. The goal of these discussions would be to gather insights from various agencies, identify barriers to service delivery, and brainstorm innovative solutions. This could take place during a McKinney-Vento Education Council (MVEC) meeting. By bringing these key stakeholders together, we can better understand the gaps in current support systems and explore new ways to improve coordination between education and housing services. This collaborative approach would enable us to address the unique needs of homeless children and youth in Contra Costa County and ensure that resources are allocated effectively.

Another idea is the data integration pilot we are starting. It is crucial to ensure that this work continues, regardless of funding challenges. The first year of the pilot will serve as an opportunity to learn, experiment with new processes using HMIS and student information systems, and promote the program within districts. The ultimate goal is to extend and create a centralized process, allowing more children, youth, and families to access services. By refining the integration of data systems, we can better identify and serve those in need, improving outcomes for families at risk of homelessness.

Through these two strategies—enhanced collaboration between agencies and the ongoing development of preventative services—we can better support both the unhoused and those at risk of becoming unhoused in Contra Costa County. By addressing root causes and focusing on early intervention, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of the county's most vulnerable populations.

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)?

While I do not have direct lived experience of homelessness, my personal and professional background has shaped my commitment to advocating for marginalized and vulnerable communities. As a County Homeless Education Liaison, I work closely with children and families from diverse racial, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Through this role, I have gained a deep understanding of the systemic challenges that many of these families face, including barriers related to housing, education, and access to essential services. As a lifelong resident of East Contra Costa County, I have witnessed the effects of housing instability and poverty on my community. My ability to connect with people from different walks of life and build trust has been central to my work, ensuring that the voices of those who are often unheard are represented in important discussions. I believe that understanding the nuances of different cultural and community experiences is crucial to crafting policies and solutions that are truly inclusive. Additionally, I come from a multicultural background and have firsthand experience navigating cultural dynamics that differ from the mainstream. This has strengthened my empathy and broadened my perspective on how best to serve diverse populations. My work with students experiencing homelessness, foster care, and justice involvement has further enhanced my ability to advocate for individuals whose needs are often overlooked. I am committed to bringing these experiences to the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness, where I can contribute to the diverse representation of people and experiences. My goal is to ensure that every voice is heard, and that equitable solutions are developed to serve the unique needs of our entire community.

## Contact Information

16. Name \*

Alejandra Chamberlain

17. Email \*

A

18. Phone Number \*

# Application Form

## Profile

CAMERON

First Name

E

Middle  
Name

PARR

Last Name

[Redacted]

Home Address

[Redacted]

State

Pittsburgh

City

CA

State

94565

Post Office Code

[Redacted]

Day Phone

[Redacted]

Work Address

## [District Locator Tool](#)

### Resident of Supervisorial District:

None Selected

Employer

Job Title

### Length of Employment

### Do you work in Contra Costa County?

Yes  No

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

Pleasant Hill

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

1 year /6 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

CAMERON E PARR

**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?**

10

---

**Education**

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

High School Diploma

**College/ University A**

**Name of College Attended**

████████████████████

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

████████████████████

**Degree Awarded?**

Yes  No

**College/ University B**

**Name of College Attended**

██

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

██

████████████████████

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

---

Emerging Leaders

### Certificate Awarded for Training?

---

Yes  No

### Other Training B

---

### Certificate Awarded for Training?

---

Yes  No

### Occupational Licenses Completed:

---

---

## Qualifications and Volunteer Experience

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

---

I am an educator, self-published author, educator, Father, Contra Costa County Office of Education employee, have lived in experience of homelessness, worked for the Department of Homeland Security as a Customs and Border Protection Officer in San Ysidro, CA (the largest port of entry in the world), and have traveled to various countries. This has allowed me to experience and live around countless different cultures around the world.

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

---

I am an educator, self-published author, educator, Father, Contra Costa County Office of Education employee, have lived in experience of homelessness, worked for the Department of Homeland Security as a Customs and Border Protection Officer in San Ysidro, CA (the largest port of entry in the world), and have traveled to different countries. This has allowed me to experience and live around countless different cultures around the world.

---

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:**

---

I am currently a full-time employee for the Contra Costa County Office of Education.

**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:**

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**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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Emerging Leader in Contra Costa County Office of Education, Back-pack giveaways in Oceanside, CA, Feeding the homeless in Los Angeles, CA (Skid Row), Churches, community clean-ups, tutoring and education, and coaching.

---

**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

CAMERON E PARR



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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.

# CAMERON EVERETT PARR

Pittsburg, CA

(760) 616-0364 | Parr.cameron5@gmail.com |  [LinkedIn](#)

## Youth Services Specialist – Contra Costa County Office of Education

Passionate and transformational Youth Services Specialist driven to empower at-risk youth and families through compassionate support and evidence-based interventions. Adept at developing and implementing effective plans, fostering positive relationships, and promoting healthy growth. Skilled in crisis management, behavior modification, and family support, with a strong commitment to delivering high-quality services that align with the organization's mission. Excels in building trust with diverse populations, ensuring confidentiality, and demonstrating cultural sensitivity. Dedicated to making a lasting impact in the lives of youth and families.

### *Selected Highlights:*

- **Professionally delivered Integrated Reading Curriculum (IRC) to 10 students at Children's Defense Fund**, leveraging ingenuity and dedication to overcome challenges, reading comprehension, and fluency.
- **Excelled as a Harambee leader and educator, earning commendations for professionalism and superb attention to detail** while consistently exceeding expectations and delivering the Integrated Reading Curriculum, facilitating improvements in reading comprehension and fluency at Children's Defense Fund.
- **Elevated professional expertise through proactive academic pursuit**, completing Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools® National Training and in-town training with Freedom School Partners.
- **Developed and delivered comprehensive law enforcement courses**, including contemporary issues, prompting high student satisfaction, increased student participation, and enhanced student-led discussions at UEI College.

### *Core Competencies*

*Education | Project Coordination | Planning & Organization | Communication | Leadership | Team Collaboration | Recordkeeping | Problem Solving | Attention to Detail | Staff Support | Counseling | Case Management | Youth Development | Family Support | Crisis Intervention | Behavior Modification | Mental Health | Trauma-Informed Care | Community Outreach | Program Development | Teamwork | Cultural Competence | Emotional Intelligence | Advocacy*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Contra Costa County Office of Education, Contra Costa County, CA**

2023 – Present

#### **Youth Services Specialist**

- Secured millions in grant funding from the California Department of Education and other sources.
- Fostered partnerships with community organizations, expanding resources and services for youth.
- Orchestrated participant satisfaction with YS programs via regular feedback and quality improvement efforts.
- Implemented a trauma-informed care training program for staff, improving service delivery.
- Spearheaded a significant increase in high school graduation rates among foster youth through targeted academic support and mentorship.
- Placed several program participants in jobs or internships within a few months of completing the workforce development program.

### **Summit Denali High School, Sunnyvale, CA**

2022 –2023

#### **9th grade Modern World I History Teacher**

- Championed self-directed learning structures that increased student autonomy and student engagement.
- Collaborated with colleagues to develop and implement a curriculum that increased student mastery of skills.
- Cultivated a supportive school environment, with a higher percentage of students reporting a strong sense of belonging and connection to the school community.
- Developed and led targeted interventions that reduced the achievement gap for historically underserved student populations.
- Coached students to complete personalized learning plans, setting them up for success in post-secondary education and careers.

### **UEI College, Oceanside, CA**

2019 – 2022

#### **Instructor – Criminal Justice**

- Taught academic courses, with excellent pass rates and boosted student enrollment in the programs.
- Mentored and advised students, with a commendable success rate in student internships and job placements in law enforcement and related fields.
- Delivered specialized law enforcement courses, empowering student engagement, and enhancing student-led projects and presentations.

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**Department of Homeland Security, San Diego, CA**  
**Customs and Border Protection Officer**

2011 – 2019

- Conducted thorough searches of vehicles simultaneously while collaborating with up to 50 colleagues.
- Identified counterfeit documents, leveraging expertise as a resident specialist in document authentication.
- Trained incoming officers on organizational practices and immigration laws, fostering knowledge retention.
- Fostered an increase in legitimate trade and travel through effective analysis of charts and conduct of secondary inspections, earning a shortlist nomination for the prestigious Superior Achievement Award (JAC).
- Authored comprehensive reports and paperwork with accuracy, streamlining workflow and minimizing administrative errors.

**Children's Defense Fund, Long Beach, CA**  
**Servant Leader Intern**

2008 – 2011

- Expanded professional expertise by attending CDF Freedom Schools National Training and in-town training sessions, enhancing teaching skills and knowledge.
- Effectively guided afternoon activities and special events for students, ensuring safety and engagement.
- Maintained total compliance with health and safety standards, exceeding performance objectives.
- Recognized by senior staff as a positive role model for Freedom School Partners scholars, demonstrating exceptional communication, interpersonal, and problem-solving skills.
- Fostered a positive and supportive team environment, prompting a commendable staff satisfaction rate with team coordination and collaboration.
- Streamlined classroom management methods, increasing efficiency while maintaining total adherence to guidelines and instructions.

**Additional Experience:**

**Paraprofessional** at Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles, CA (2008– 2011)

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## PROJECTS

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**The Book That Never Ends**

- Developed "The Book That Never Ends" to help individuals reconnect with their goals and priorities, addressing the modern challenge of work-life balance and the pursuit of meaningful purpose.
- Created a thought-provoking resource for those seeking substance and depth in a world dominated by superficiality, providing a guiding light for readers to re-evaluate their values and aspirations.

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## EDUCATION

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**National University, San Diego, CA: 2023**

Master's Degree in Education (GPA: 3.87)

**California State University, Dominguez Hills**

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science/Minor, Sociology

- Awards/Honors: Dean's List

**Certifications or Additional Education:**

CBEST (California Basic Educational Skills Test)

30-Day Substitute Teaching Permit (CTC)

Bureau of Security and Investigative Services Guard Registration

Certified HeartSaver Instructor for the American Heart Association

National Society of Leadership Success: NSLS Foundations of Leadership Training Program

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## ADDITIONAL CREDENTIALS

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**Technical Skills:** Microsoft Office Suite

**Honors & Awards:** Superior Achievement Award – Department of Homeland Security / Dean's List for Academic Achievement – California State University

**Community Engagement:** Oceanside, CA - Backpack giveaway

View results

Respondent

17 Anonymous

43:51

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 **September 26, 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 [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? \*

- Affordable Housing Developer
- Educational Services Representative
- Health Care Representative
- Homeless Service Provider Representative
- Lived Experience Advisor (must have a lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa)
- Veteran Services Representative
- Workforce Development Representative

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) \*

Contra Costa County Office of Education - Youth Services Specialist I. I currently work directly with homeless, foster, justice-involved, and pregnant and parenting youth to help them get a job through the Work Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) program. I was also a member of the Emerging Leaders Program. This program specifically focused on learning about the past, present, and current homelessness situation(s) in Contra Costa County. Furthermore, throughout my life, even within the past seven years, I have experienced homelessness.

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?** (\*

It's important for all people to have equal (or equitable) access to the services and help that they need because I have experienced homelessness. I currently work for the Contra Costa County Office of Education, am an educator, and have worked as a Customs and Border Protection Officer at the San Ysidro Port of Entry in San Ysidro, CA for almost nine years. I have experienced, worked for, and educated youth and adults who have experienced homelessness and the challenges that occupants face.

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) \*

Two ways to help Contra Costa County better support unhoused people and people at risk of being unhoused are to meet people where they are and take action. In my personal experience, there are stigmas attached to people who are unhoused or at risk of being unhoused. The systems in place were and are designed to keep this cycle from happening. By changing outdated and unfair regulations, Contra Costa County can spearhead an ongoing challenge our country is facing. By focusing on equal housing opportunities, Gerrymandering, and ridiculous housing expenses Contra Costa County can effectively adopt, alleviate, and develop a system to house and help those who are willing to receive the assistance.

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)?**

I am an educator, self-published author, educator, Father, Contra Costa County Office of Education employee, have lived in experience of homelessness, worked for the Department of Homeland Security as a Customs and Border Protection Officer in San Ysidro, CA (the largest port of entry in the world), and have traveled to various different countries. This has allowed me to experience and live around countless different cultures around the world.

## Contact Information

16. Name \*

Cameron Everett Parr

17. Email \*

[REDACTED]

18. Phone Number \*

[REDACTED]



# Application Form

## Profile

Maria \_\_\_\_\_ Fairbanks \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Name Middle Initial Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Suite or Apt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Address

Martinez \_\_\_\_\_ CA \_\_\_\_\_ 94553 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City State Postal Code

\_\_\_\_\_ Primary Phone

\_\_\_\_\_ Email Address

### [District Locator Tool](#)

#### Resident of Supervisorial District:

District 5

Contra Costa Health Services \_\_\_\_\_ Public Health Nurse Program  
 Employer Job Title  
 Manager

#### Length of Employment

13

#### Do you work in Contra Costa County?

Yes  No

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

5

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

16

#### 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**

Healthcare 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?**

20+

---

**Education**

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

High School Diploma

**College/ University A**

**Name of College Attended**

Robert Morris College

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

BSBA

**Degree Awarded?**

Yes  No

**College/ University B**

**Name of College Attended**

Community College of Allegheny County

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

ADN

**Degree Awarded?**

Yes  No

---

**College/ University C**

**Name of College Attended**

Touro University

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

---

MSN

**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.**

---

As manager for the Healthcare for the Homeless program in Contra Costa County, I can provide insight into the challenges that our homeless population face attempting to manage their chronic medical conditions while being homeless.

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

---

Nurse Program Manager - Healthcare for the Homeless - January 2022 - to present 20 years of Nursing Experience in Emergency Medicine 10 years as a Paramedic 10 years in the Contra Costa County EMS agency as the STEMI/Stroke Coordinator, working with all hospitals, other counties to provide evidence based care to patients having a heart attack or stroke.

---

[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:**

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

**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.**

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I Agree

---

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View results

Respondent

25 Anonymous

04:18

Time to complete

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## Supplemental Questions

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

- Affordable Housing Developer: Must work for an affordable housing developer.
- Educational Services Representative: Must work for an agency providing educational services to K-12, transitional aged youth, and/or adult individuals experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County.
- Health Care Representative: Must have substantial experience with the Contra Costa County health care system.
- Homeless Service Provider Representative: Must work for an agency providing housing and/or services to individuals experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County, including those who are also fleeing domestic violence.
- Lived Experience Advisor (must have a lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa)
- Veteran Services Representative: Must be an employee of the Veterans Administration.
- Workforce Development Representative: Must have substantial experience in the workforce development or vocational services fields 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) \*

Representing Healthcare for the Homeless/Replacing Linæe Altman - Healthcare for the Homeless provides medical, dental and behavioral health to the homeless population regardless of insurance or immigration status. Our mission is to improve the health of the homeless population in Contra Costa County by increasing access to healthcare through our mobile clinics, community outreach and shelter based clinics. We strive to improve access to healthcare services to improve the health of our homeless population by managing chronic conditions and collaborating with other county programs and providers to provide wrap around services.

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.
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- 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.
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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 Contra Costa County Healthcare for the Homeless program provides healthcare services to anyone experiencing homeless regardless of background. Clients that come to our clinics represent many backgrounds and are seen and treated regardless of age, sex, gender identity, immigration status and racial, ethnic and cultural background. The Contra Costa County Healthcare for the Homeless program partners with various organizations to provide MAT (Medication Assisted Therapy) through the Choosing Change program, Harm Reduction supplies, Contra Costa County HIV/STD clinics and other organizations and county programs to support specific subpopulations within the homeless community. Additionally, Healthcare for the Homeless has a governing Board with representatives from numerous community organizations, overseeing and guiding the program to continuously provide high quality healthcare to our homeless population.

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. How do we house our homeless clients with diminished capacity, unable to make decisions due to medical reasons (demential/alzheimers/Schizophrenia)? How do we prevent exploitation of these individuals?

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:** \*

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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)?**

Registered Nurse with 20 years experience in Emergency Medicine, Paramedic for 10 years, worked for the EMS agency for 10 years in Contra Costa County.

Contact Information

16. Name \*

Mia Fairbanks

17. Email \*

[REDACTED]

18. Phone Number \*

[REDACTED]