



What is the Council on Homelessness?

The Council on Homelessness (COH) is an advisory board appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The COH is the planning body that coordinates the community's policies, strategies, and activities toward preventing and ending homelessness in Contra Costa County, California. It is a regional, year-round collective planning body of stakeholders ranging from non-profit service providers to local governmental entities. The Council's work includes gathering and analyzing information in order to determine the local needs of people experiencing homelessness, implementing strategic responses, educating the community on homeless issues, providing advice and input on the operations of homeless services, and measuring performance as related to serving the homeless population in Contra Costa County.

What do Councilmembers do?

Members of the Council on Homelessness:

- Attend required monthly meetings, participate in subcommittees, and attend quarterly General Membership meetings
- Provide advice and input on homeless service operations and development
- Review and prioritize project applications for some federal funding sources
- Gather and analyze information to determine local needs
- Educate the community and policy makers on issues relating to homelessness
- Measure homeless system performance
- Provide guidance to the development and implementation of long-range planning and policy formulation of homeless issues

Who Can Apply?

All Council members must reside or be employed in Contra Costa County and be willing to sign and abide by the Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest policy upon being seated as a Council member and annually thereafter.

What qualities is the Council seeking in an applicant?

Council members must demonstrate a professional interest in, or personal commitment to, addressing and alleviating the impact of homelessness. A person must contribute unique expertise, opinions, and viewpoints on homeless issues. The Council is comprised of 19 seats designated by area of expertise.

The Council aims to include and 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. Getting the composition of the Council to more closely represent the demographics of those experiencing homelessness is a priority for recruitment and filling vacancies. In addition, we would like both public and private sector seats to, as much as possible, include representation from organizations or agencies who serve various homeless subpopulations such as: *persons with chronic substance abuse issues, persons with serious mental illness, persons experiencing chronic homelessness, persons with HIV/AIDS,*

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veterans, families with children, homeless or formerly homeless youth and young adults, seniors, and victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and stalking.

How long would I serve?

Council on Homelessness members serve for a two-year term, which may be renewed.

What is the time commitment?

Council on Homelessness meetings take place the first Thursday of the month from 1 pm – 3 pm in Concord or online. Continuum of Care meetings take place 2-4 times a year. Members of the Council also participate in various subcommittees.

Where can I learn more about the Council on Homelessness?

<https://cchealth.org/h3/#Council>

What seats are open?

The following seats are accepting applications:

- **Affordable Housing Developer:** Candidates must work in the affordable housing development field in Contra Costa County in a role that includes shaping and/or implementing policy at agency or in field of affordable housing development.
- **Behavioral Health Representative:** Candidates must work in the behavioral health field in Contra Costa County in a role that includes shaping and/or implementing policy at agency or in field of behavioral health.
- **City Government Seat:** Candidates must work in city/town government in Contra Costa County in a role that includes shaping and/or implementing policy in the city/town.
- **Consumer/Consumer Advocate:** The Consumer/Consumer Advocate seat allows for one of two types of people to serve in this capacity, a consumer or a consumer advocate. Consumer appointees to the Consumer/Consumer Advocate Seat must have a lived experience of homelessness. Lived experience is not required for consumer advocate appointees to this seat.
- **Educational and Vocational Services:** Candidates must work in the educational and/or vocational services field in Contra Costa County in a role that includes shaping and/or implementing policy at agency or in the field of educational and/or vocational services
- **Emergency Solutions Grant Representative:** Candidates must work with Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funds in Contra Costa County in a role that includes shaping and/or implementing policy related to Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funds.
- **Healthcare Representative:** Candidates must work in the healthcare field in Contra Costa County in a role that includes shaping and/or implementing policy at agency or in the field of healthcare.
- **Homeless Service Provider:** Candidates must work in homeless services in Contra Costa County in a role that includes shaping and/or implementing policy at agency or in field of homeless services.
- **Public Safety Representative #2:** Candidates must work in the public safety field in Contra Costa County in a role that includes shaping and/or implementing policy at agency or in field of public safety.

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- **Veterans Administration Representative:** Candidates must work in the Veterans Administration in Contra Costa County in a role that includes shaping and/or implementing policy at the agency.
- **Workforce Development:** Candidates must work in the workforce development field in Contra Costa County in a role that includes shaping and/or implementing policy at agency or in field of workforce development. Priority for this term for Local Workforce Development Board staff.
- **Youth Representative:** Candidates must be between the age of 17 and 24 at the time they are appointed by the Board of Supervisors, have a lived experience of homelessness and be a member of and participate in the Contra Costa County CoC's Youth Action Council (YAC). As is best practice for working with youth, this position will offer a small stipend to the representative selected for this seat.

How do I apply?

If you are interested in applying to become a member of the Council on Homelessness,

- Complete the online application here: <https://contra-costa.granicus.com/boards/forms/321/apply/>
- **NOTE:**
 1. Select "Contra Costa Council on Homelessness" from the drop-down menu
 2. Enter the Seat Name you are applying for
- You will receive a supplemental application after you submit the initial online application. Please complete the supplemental questionnaire in addition to the online application.
- You may be contacted for an in person or phone interview.

How long are applications being accepted?

- Initial and supplemental applications must be received by Health, Housing and Homeless Services by **Friday, September 18, 2020.**

When will I know if I got a seat on the Council?

- We expect to notify people of the status of their applications after October 1, 2020.

Whom do I contact if I have questions?

Email: cchomelesscouncil@cchealth.org

Phone: 925-464-0152