



## Sonoma County Continuum of Care Board 2022 Elections

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November 17, 2022

TO: Continuum of Care Board and Continuum of Care Members

FROM: Karissa White, Continuum of Care Coordinator, [Karissa.White@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Karissa.White@sonoma-county.org)

RE: Elections to the Continuum of Care Board

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### Overview

This memo describes the process for choosing elected representatives to the Continuum of Care (CoC) Board at the December 15, 2022 CoC Quarterly Membership meeting and includes a description of the Sonoma County Continuum of Care, a list of seats up for election, a Nomination Form, and a Statement of Interest form.

The Sonoma County Continuum of Care Governance Charter describes the makeup of the CoC Board, who is eligible to vote, and who may be nominated to serve on the CoC Board. This memo describes the Elections process for 2022, please read it carefully.

The Continuum of Care Board is the decision-making body of the Sonoma County Continuum of Care. Its meetings are open to the public and anyone may speak, but the charter governance establishes voting seats. The 17-member Board currently has four seats up for election.

### Sonoma County Continuum of Care

#### Mission

The Sonoma County Continuum of Care addresses the problems of housing and homelessness by having a countywide, community-informed, and person-centered CoC system that is compassionate, inclusive, financially responsible, equitable, coordinated, and outcomes based.

#### Vision

Our vision for the CoC in Sonoma County is that:

- We have a unified, coordinated, equitable, and integrated system with a clear vision across the community to reduce homelessness.
- The people of our county, via our Continuum of Care, have a system of care in that ensures that all persons experiencing homelessness have a safe, supportive and permanent place to call home.
- The people of our county are collectively building a future in which there are sufficient resources, political leadership, and community involvement to end homelessness as a permanent fixture in our social landscape.
- Our system ensures quick access to permanent housing, stable and increased income for participants, strength-based consumer relationships, effective and financially responsible

services and programing, coordination and collaboration with mainstream partners, policy and resource advocacy, and comprehensive community education.

- Our system provides for programming and services in all regions of Sonoma County.
- Supports policies that address the disparity we have experienced in Sonoma County, between community members' financial resources and housing costs.
- Our commitment to equity and inclusion at the Continuum of Care strives to engage all community members, regardless of background, throughout Sonoma County, especially those whose voices have been traditionally marginalized.

The CoC is committed to upstream investments before problems occur, to reduce overall societal costs, including:

- Diverting those at imminent risk of homelessness from entering shelters;
- Engaging and empowering people who are experiencing homelessness, to reclaim their dignity and to regain housing stability;
- Avoiding high criminal justice and hospital costs, and negative health outcomes, with appropriate housing, income, and access to health services.
- Aligning public and private efforts to address the problems we share.

## Nominations

Nominations are hereby invited for three (3) seats to be chosen by eligible CoC voters at the [CoC Quarterly Membership](#) meeting on **December 15, 2022, from 1:00pm – 4:00pm**, and one (1) seat to be chosen by the Lived Experience Advisory Planning Board (LEAP) on **December 16, 2022 from 12:00-1:30 pm**. If you are an individual being nominated, please reserve this time on your calendar to ensure you are able to attend the meeting for elections; for your convenience, attached is a calendar hold for the CoC Voting membership event. Nominations for the adult lived experience seat will receive a separate calendar invite directly as this seat will be elected by the LEAP, and these meetings are not open to the public.

For each category of elected seat, the nominee receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to a full two-year term. There are no term limits and indefinite reelection is allowed, provided the person is still eligible for that category of elected seat. CoC Board meetings are scheduled monthly with the first meeting scheduled on January 25<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-5:00 PM. With occasional cancellations and special meetings, the time commitment is normally about 12-18 meetings per year and approximately three to five hours at length.

Seats Available for Election

Four (4) seats are available:

- **One (1) Homeless Advocacy:** One homeless advocate or representative of a homeless advocacy organization; elected by the CoC voting members.
- **One (1) At Large:** anyone can apply for this seat, candidates need not be CoC members themselves; elected by the CoC voting members

- **One (1) Transitional Age Youth Lived Experience:** Any individual who is 18-24 years of age that is currently experiencing homelessness or who has experienced homelessness within five years (at the time of election) prior to the Board election; elected by the CoC voting members.
- **One (1) Adult Lived Experience:** Adult individual currently experiencing homelessness or who has experienced homelessness within five years (at the time of election) prior to the Board election; elected by the Lived Experience Advisory Planning Board (LEAP).

Those elected for the lived experience of homelessness seats shall be provided compensation through stipends for their time in the form of gift cards for each meeting attended. Stipends will not be provided for the seats if the elected individual is currently employed with an organization that will pay them while attending the CoC Board meetings.

Candidates may run for no more than two seats. Should a candidate run for two seats, one of them must be an at-large position.

Under the CoC Governance Charter, nominees are not required to have voting rights, or even to have been regular participants in CoC activities, if they provide the needed representation for the designated seat. Attached to this memo is a nomination form and statement of interest for this purpose.

**Nominations and Statement of Interest forms will be accepted until December 7th at 5pm.**

In making nominations, please consider geographic representation, representation of various homeless sub-populations, and diversity—including BIPOC representation (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), the criminal justice system, youth providers, victim service providers, Veteran service providers, housing development or property management, business interests, private hospitals, or health agencies. Newly elected members will receive an email notification and meeting invitation for the first meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. All CoC Board members will receive a Doodle Poll to confirm scheduling for the remainder of the 2023 calendar the first week of January 2023.

## Who Can Vote?

CoC voting membership has been established as follows:

Only one individual on behalf of a Sonoma County organization can apply to vote. Applications are currently being accepted until November 23<sup>rd</sup> to vote in this election. For more information, including a list of current CoC Voting Members and to download the application, please visit our website at:

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/development-services/community-development-commission/divisions/homeless-services/continuum-of-care/coc-quarterly-meetings>

The revised Sonoma County Continuum of Care Governance Charter can be found on our website using the following link: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/CDC/Homeless-Services/Continuum-of-Care/Compliance/>

While CoC membership applications remain open all year long, if you are an organization that wishes to vote in the 2022 Continuum of Care Board election, the **deadline to submit your application for voting membership is on November 23, 2022 by 5:00pm.**

## Nomination Form and Statement of Interest Form Notes

The Nomination form and Statement of Interest forms will be posted on our website and noticed through the CoC Listserv. Personal contact information will be redacted for privacy.

If you are nominating someone other than yourself, please forward the Statement of Interest form to the individual being nominated for completion. Both forms are due by December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.

## Nomination Form and Statement of Interest Submission Instructions

Forms can be submitted electronically to the Homeless Projects Specialist Araceli Rivera at [Araceli.Rivera@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Araceli.Rivera@sonoma-county.org) or dropped off at the Sonoma County Community Development Commission at 1440 Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa (please include "Attention: Araceli Rivera, Ending Homelessness Unit" on the submission package).

## Questions?

If you have any questions, please send them to the Continuum of Care Coordinator Karissa White at [Karissa.White@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Karissa.White@sonoma-county.org) and the Homeless Projects Specialist Araceli Rivera at [Araceli.Rivera@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Araceli.Rivera@sonoma-county.org).

Thank you for your interest in the Sonoma County Continuum of Care!