

Seattle-King County Continuum of Care Board

Application Form

Please complete the entire form and email to CoC.Questions@kcrha.org

Full Name and Pronouns:

Victor Loo and he/him

Preferred Contact Information:

Phone:	+1 (206) 769-5545
Email Address:	victorseattle@gmail.com
Preferred Method of Contact: (Circle One)	Email
Zip code:	98122
Are you able to commit up to 15 hours a month for the 2 year duration? (Circle One)	Yes

Question 1: Please describe your understanding of a Continuum of Care (CoC).

A Continuum of Care (CoC) is an integrated approach designed to support homeless individuals by coordinating healthcare, behavioral health, and social services from initial engagement through to stable housing and aftercare. This model emphasizes addressing social determinants of health like food access, employment, and social connections, essential for individual stability and well-being.

The CoC framework involves healthcare providers, mental health specialists, and substance use professionals collaboratively addressing complex health challenges. Behavioral health support, including crisis intervention and counseling, is crucial, particularly during the transition to stable housing.

Social supports are integral, with case managers and social workers helping clients access government aid, job training, and education, enhancing their prospects for stable, secure living.

Key to the CoC are personalized service plans, which detail necessary interventions and adjust support as individuals progress towards independence. Aftercare plans are strategically designed to prevent a return to homelessness.

Long-term stability is reinforced through regular follow-ups by case managers, ensuring individuals integrate into their communities and receive support for emerging challenges. The effectiveness of a CoC relies on ongoing, collaborative efforts across various sectors to ensure a seamless transition from immediate care to sustained self-sufficiency and stability.

Question 2: What motivates you to be on the CoC Board?

Please share your specific field of interest related to the CoC.

My motivation to join the Continuum of Care Board is deeply influenced by my background as a first-generation Asian immigrant and a non-binary individual from the LGBTQIA+ community, coupled with my professional skills in integrated managed care and personal experiences with homelessness. These diverse perspectives equip me with a unique understanding of the challenges faced by marginalized communities, fostering a strong commitment to advocacy and systemic change.

I have navigated the challenges of cultural adaptation, racism, and societal expectations, which have deepened my empathy and driven my passion to advocate for equity and inclusivity in social care systems. Professionally, my expertise in managing healthcare services underscores the importance of accessible and comprehensive care that meets the needs of diverse populations.

By serving on the Continuum of Care Board, I aim to confront institutional barriers and advocate for policies that enhance service provision, promote equity, and support systemic reforms. My goal is to leverage my experiences and professional knowledge to ensure our care systems are inclusive and effective, striving for a fairer and more equitable society.

Question 3: What skills and experiences will you bring or draw upon as a member of the CoC Board?

Please list any experiences or familiarity you have with accessing homeless housing services or program delivery, funding, the Continuum of Care, or other relevant skills.

As a prospective member of the Continuum of Care Board, I will draw upon my extensive experience with the JustCARE Program, which emphasizes a holistic approach to service provision that integrates body, mind, and spirit. This program has been particularly effective in addressing the complex needs of BIPOC and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals experiencing homelessness, working closely with partners such as Evergreen Treatment Services' REACH, Chief Seattle Club, and the Asian Counseling & Referral Service.

My work with these initiatives, including hotel-based lodging programs like Co-LEAD has equipped me with the skills to design and implement services that go beyond basic needs. These programs are crafted to provide sanctuaries for healing and self-reflection, recognizing the trauma and systemic challenges faced by our clients. I have seen firsthand how addressing physical, mental, and spiritual health in tandem can transform service resistance into community engagement and trust.

Throughout my involvement, I have prioritized culturally competent care that fosters emotional support and spiritual wellbeing alongside physical safety. By implementing support services and activities such as art therapy and meditation, tailored to the diverse backgrounds and beliefs of our clients, I have helped create environments where individuals can find dignity and peace. This approach has proven effective in building a sense of belonging and hope, encouraging participants to engage more fully in their journey toward stability and wellness.

These experiences have strengthened my conviction in the necessity of community-based, multifaceted solutions that respect and nurture the full humanity of those we serve. On the Continuum of Care Board, I am committed to advocating for and implementing policies and programs that honor the body, mind, and spirit of every individual, ensuring our services are accessible, respectful, and responsive to the diverse needs of our community. This holistic perspective is essential for fostering lasting change and empowerment among vulnerable populations.

Question 4: Describe your vision or understanding of a successful CoC Board.

A successful Continuum of Care Board fosters active listening, genuine engagement, and inclusivity. We prioritize understanding over mere response, creating spaces where everyone feels valued and heard. By ensuring access for all, we promote inclusivity and representation. Effective change management helps us navigate challenges and adapt to evolving community needs. Flexibility and empathy guide our actions, enabling us to create lasting positive change and support the well-being of all community members.

Question 5: Describe your leadership experiences.

For example, other boards you have been a part of, community groups or leadership activities.

I am a passionate advocate for equity and justice, showcasing exemplary leadership across various platforms. As a principal consultant, executive coach, and strategist, I have spearheaded initiatives to address health disparities and promote equity. My leadership is evident in my involvement with prominent organizations such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration - Health Resources and Services Administration (SAMHSA-HRSA) Center for Integrated Health Solutions and the National Council for Mental Wellbeing's Healthy Youth Leadership Institute.

In my role as a distinguished representative for the United States Department of Health & Human Services' Region 10, I play a pivotal role on the Achieving Behavioral Health Equity Steering Committee. I also serve on multiple committees and advisory boards, including the Washington State Commit to Change Steering Committee, the Nonprofit Association of Washington's Equity Ambassador in Seattle, King County, and various committees within the Washington State Department of Health.

My commitment extends to advocating for marginalized communities, including Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, immigrants, refugees, and the 2SLGBTQ+ community. I have previously co-chaired the City of Seattle LGBTQ Commission, demonstrating my dedication to fostering inclusivity and representation.

Beyond my advocacy roles, I explore the intersection of fashion and social justice as a non-binary/androgynous model. Through my work, I aim to promote integrated managed care principles while advocating for broader messages of inclusion and equity in the fashion industry and beyond.

Question 6: How does systemic racism impact housing and the root causes of homelessness?

Systemic racism profoundly impacts housing and homelessness, particularly for BIPOC and LGBTQIA communities, intersecting with broader public health concerns. Discrimination in the housing market limits access to safe and affordable housing for BIPOC and LGBTQIA individuals, leading to unstable living situations. Historical disinvestment in BIPOC neighborhoods perpetuates cycles of poverty and housing instability, with inadequate infrastructure and limited resources exacerbating the problem. BIPOC communities, disproportionately affected by mass incarceration and over-policing, face housing instability upon release, worsened by discriminatory housing policies. Discriminatory housing practices contribute to health disparities among BIPOC and LGBTQIA communities, exposing them to environmental hazards and inadequate healthcare access, increasing the risk of chronic health conditions. LGBTQIA individuals, especially BIPOC, face unique challenges due to intersectional discrimination, leading to housing instability and homelessness, particularly for transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals. Addressing systemic racism in housing requires multifaceted solutions, including combating discrimination, increasing affordable housing options, investing in community development, reforming criminal justice practices, and providing targeted support for marginalized communities experiencing homelessness. Recognizing housing insecurity as a public health issue is crucial for developing comprehensive strategies that promote equity and improve overall well-being.

Question 6: Reviewing the Theory of Change what is one way you apply this theory in your everyday life and work? Briefly, describe how you will center the theory of change on the Board and how you plan to uplift the communities you represent and support.

KCRHA Theory of Change:

If we create a homeless response system that centers people with lived experience, then we will be able to focus on responding to needs and eliminating inequities, in order to end homelessness for all.

In both my everyday life and work, I make it a point relatable to my professional and lived experience to listen closely to the voices and stories of marginalized communities, especially immigrants and the LGBTQIA community. Drawing from my own journey and experiences, I strive to advocate for equity and justice with compassion and empathy. Every interaction and decision I make is guided by a deep commitment to ensuring that the needs and perspectives of these communities are not only heard but also valued and addressed.

As a member of the Board, my goal is to embody the Theory of Change by working on policies and initiatives collaboratively and collectively that truly reflect its principles. This means to bring together and coordinate efforts to address homelessness across King County and the City of Seattle. I believe that by staying open to learning and continually adjusting our strategies based on feedback and evidence, we can better serve the evolving needs of marginalized communities.

Moreover, I am deeply dedicated to advancing racial equity and social justice within the homelessness response system. I am committed to dismantling the systemic racism that perpetuates inequities and ensuring that every decision we make is rooted in fairness and inclusivity. By prioritizing data-driven decisions, I advocate for transparency and accountability, knowing that it is through understanding and measuring outcomes that we can truly make a meaningful impact.

Above all, my ultimate goal is to uplift and support the communities I represent. I firmly believe that safe and stable housing is a basic human right, and I will advocate for Housing First principles that provide not just shelter but also the necessary support services to address the underlying causes of homelessness. By centering the Theory of Change on the Board, my aim is clear: to eliminate inequities and create a future where every individual, regardless of background or circumstance, has a place to call home and the opportunity to thrive.

Question 6: Optional: Is there any resource you would need in order to fully participate as a CoC Board Member?

No

Affiliation (please note any that apply):

Lived experience of homelessness (circle)	Yes
Public or Private Funder (circle); If yes, please note organization	No Organization:
Intersecting System – i.e. Behavioral Health, Child Welfare, Criminal Justice, etc. (circle); If yes, please note system & organization	No System & Organization:
Faith Based Organization or Partner	No
Homeless Housing and/or Service Provider (circle) If yes, please note organization)	No Organization:
Any other affiliations you'd like to note:	Yes

Sub-Population Representation (please check any areas in which you have specific experience or expertise):

Youth/Young Adults, Families, Chronic Homelessness, Single Adults (Not experiencing chronic homelessness and non-Veteran), Immigrant and Refugees, Other

Region (please check any areas in which you have specific experience or expertise):

Regional (King County - Non-specific), Seattle, South King County

Identity (optional):

How do you identify your race?	Southeast Asian
Sexual Orientation	Gay
Age	49
Disability Status	None

Agreement and Signature

I affirm that my application responses are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Name (<i>typed or signature</i>)	web-form@smartsheet.com
Date	04/25/24 6:47 PM

When you have completed this form, please submit the final to the KCRHA at CoC.Questions@kcrha.org. Thank you!