

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:

Josephine Jade Weise (she/her/they/them)

Preferred Contact Information:

Phone:	+1 (469) 684-9692
Email Address:	j.jadeweise@gmail.com
Preferred Method of Contact: (Circle One)	Email
Zip code:	98155
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).

My understanding of a Continuum of Care (CoC) is that it is a Public oversight mechanism in the form of a network made up of a broad community that is committed to ending houselessness. The community consists of folks with Lived and Living Experience, providers, faith leaders, researchers, funders, and many others working on the same goals. The CoC has a variety of responsibilities and powers as set by the United States Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 24 Subtitle B Chapter V Subchapter C Part 578. Some obligations and requirements CoCs must adhere to are monitoring Emergency Grant recipients and programming the implementation of a housing and service system within its geographic area.

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

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

Many things motivate me to apply for this opportunity to serve on the King County CoC board because I believe in all the possibilities of what a powerful Continuum can do. Inspired by local and sister communities like Puerto Rico's CoC (CoC-PR502), I invoke the energy needed to further grow King County's CoC success. Despite being a new CoC member and newer community organizer, I have vast Lived and professional experience that blesses me with a unique lens to approaching human rights crises such as houselessness and the criminalization of poor People. My high-level understanding of the local, statewide, national, and international systemic issues that permeate oppression adds fuel to my passion for the work. Also, throughout my personal and professional experience I have learned from folks actively experiencing the worst symptoms of being unhoused and from those who have made history in this sector to lead us to where we are today. I see this board opportunity as an honor and privilege to apply my skills. I would take the position very seriously and express deep gratitude to learn along the way of building cross-sector sustainable solutions in a beloved community with my fellow CoC members. I truly believe that CoC is a positive community pathway on which we may operate in good faith while engaging in the hardest conversations necessary to start using scarce resources in a big way.

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.

My skills toolbelt is always growing but currently well-equipped. As stated above, I have a high-level understanding of the systemic issues that create and exacerbate the very material conditions advocates so desperately seek to change. This understanding gives me a deep sense of respect for CoCs and their overall mission, although I realize it is one bandaid on a traumatic open wound. This brings me to my other skill of critical thinking; I do not always process information in binary ways. Despite living with a learning disability that was undiagnosed for the first 24 years of my life, my neurodivergence helps cultivate a unique way of thinking that fosters creative solutions to injustice. I'm always looking to get the work done with an open mind by hearing others' ideas and honoring how others both process and relay information, which is key to creating a space that is safe for folks with brains that do not function in a neurotypical way. With specific regard to the homelessness system, I have experiences navigating services from the inside out and the outside in. My work experience includes time at the King County Department of Community and Human Services, King County District Court and King County Department of Public Defense. At these jobs, I engaged and built relationships with providers, stakeholders and a variety of client populations. Not only did I have the opportunity to learn about things like HMIS operations and executing funding contracts, but I also learned tailored customer service and community engagement skills that have materialized success in courtrooms and in lives. Along the way, I have also had the opportunity to learn from mistakes, as I'm certainly not perfect and do not aim to be. I aim to be a better advocate and human being than I was the day before, and I am grounded in gratitude to take those lessons and apply them so I can then serve the People in the best way I'm able.

Personally, as a King County poor resident I have used services for rental assistance, food assistance (food banks), healthcare assistance, eviction prevention, and legal aid. I carry an understanding of the intricacies and intersections of mechanisms such as 211 and the CLEAR hotline.

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

My vision of a successful CoC board is pretty clear, because I believe the King County CoC is a huge success! From having the most Lived/Living Experience folks on the board than any other CoC nationwide, to leading another successful Point In Time (PIT) count with an evidence-based approach King County CoC is fulfilling its duties. Even the little things, which are so incredibly important, such as printing out the answered questions to the Public's written Q&A is a win and one that should not go unnoticed. I'm also excited about the Systems Performance Committee's cross-systems work and think all of the planning and organizing that has gone into it so far has been top tier.

All of that said, I of course have recommendations and ideas that can help expand upon all of this ongoing change-making work as our goals are fully in alignment. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to talk to the board about these things in the next phase of this application process.

Question 5: Describe your leadership experiences.

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

Most recently, I served on the Lived Experience Coalition's leadership team (aka the Executive board) where I helped lead a Know Your Rights campaign in the LEC Human Rights Committee on Forced Displacement (HRC). Although I stepped away from the leadership team (board), I am still an active member of the Coalition and serve on the HRC where we work to enforce our Human Right to Housing and abolish forced displacements aka sweeps on our unhoused neighbors. I also lead a project in the HRC where we partner with Seattle University's School of Law Homeless Rights Advocacy Project (HRAP) and Professor Sara Rankin. This includes being a liaison between the LEC and HRAP, leading community teach-ins and discussions as a person with Lived Expertise, and coordinating with Professor Rankin to plan and organize meetings.

During my time as a clerk at King County District Court, I helped lead the Civil unit with administrative functions such as organizing filings and Court calendars/assignments. I helped train and mentor new clerks when I was not actively supporting Judges Anne Harper, Gregg Hirakawa, and Ketu Shah. As a clerk, we were obligated to be leaders among Public Servants which included always behaving with tact and neutrality even in situations off-the-clock.

Although I will say I am a "born leader", my official leadership experiences originated as a teenager when I was an officer, instructor and choreographer for my school's dance team. Further, I volunteered in my free team where I served a community organization teaching dance to children ages 4-13 while actively coordinating with their parents. I did this volunteer work, 5-7 days a week >6 months a year from the age of 13 until I was 20 years old.

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

Systemic racism is a root cause of homelessness, as the economic system of white supremacy is capitalism. This system is inherently and decidedly racist – it was designed as such and will continue to operate that way until it is dismantled. Homelessness cannot be solved until white supremacy is abolished. Until then, it is the duty of those who are most privileged to continue staying focused on this uncomfortable truth. Black, Indigenous, Arab, migrant and Asian communities are the most brutalized by the symptoms of oppression (aka criminalization, homelessness, poverty), and most often lose their lives to state sanctioned violence more than any other groups. Understanding systemic racism helps us understand how the housing and nonprofit systems are weapons used to uphold the status quo. Systemic racism further exacerbates homelessness because it produces archaic methods that are frail “solutions”, and because those within services sectors seem to have an extreme aversion to openly talking about this uncomfortable truth. Therefore, systemic racism gets brushed under the rug and people who are too far removed from the claws of oppression continue to implement reactionary, wasteful policies that do nothing other than produce self-fulfilling prophecies.

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.

One way I apply this theory in my everyday life and work is by taking the movement to Stop the Sweeps extremely seriously and organizing ways to eventually achieve that goal, which People who are actively living outside have been demanding for years. I plan to center the theory of change on the board and uplift the communities I represent and support by speaking truth to power. I will be unafraid and unwavering, while practicing healing-informed care, in sharing the experiences and demands of the folks being forced to survive outside in King County. I will work to create educational workgroups that are designed to empower our Continuum of communities to show up in these spaces on their own accord, also unafraid and unwavering. I will engage and foster organic connections with more unhoused neighbors and bring the table to them; the King County Continuum of Care will be a tool for the community to take back power and I will help make that happen by operating with integrity and a human-centered, person-first perspective.

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

Yes

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):

Single Adults (Not experiencing chronic homelessness and non-Veteran), Domestic Violence, Other

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

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

Identity (optional):

How do you identify your race?	white Latina with Indigenous ancestry (Mexico) (mixed race/ethnicity)
Sexual Orientation	Queer
Age	31
Disability Status	I am someone who lives with physical, learning and neurological/mental disabilities.

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	05/01/24 12:33 AM

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