

# Seattle-King County Continuum of Care Board

## Application Form

Please complete the entire form and email to [CoC.Questions@kcrha.org](mailto:CoC.Questions@kcrha.org)

### Full Name and Pronouns:

Elizabeth McKeen FitzGerald Maupin she/her

### Preferred Contact Information:

Phone:	+1 (425) 677-8043
Email Address:	eli410maupin@gmail.com
Preferred Method of Contact: (Circle One)	Email
Zip code:	98027
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).

This is a board that works toward ending homelessness by promoting community commitment to that goal, and by providing financial support for efforts likely to rapidly rehouse those experiencing homelessness, efforts to optimize survival and self-sufficiency for those who cannot be rapidly rehoused, and those intended to decrease the rate of homelessness through efforts to keep those in unstable housing situations from becoming homeless.

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

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

I am particularly interested in efforts to keep people from becoming homeless and in addressing the needs of vehicle residents and unhoused couples, two groups that seem to be overlooked in many of our plans to address homelessness. I wish we might also spur our community to address the primary systemic causes of homelessness -- the high costs of housing here in King County and our low vacancy rate for housing that is affordable to those with modest to low incomes. Some of this should be addressed through changes in zoning ordinances and some through state legislation to keep rents from rising faster than minimum wage incomes. Public perceptions and political will are key to any efforts to address homelessness effectively.

**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.

I have learned a bit about the flaws of the subsidized housing that is available to those being rehoused through my association with the Imagine Housing Tenants Union and personal relationships with low income renters. I have attended many meetings with formerly unhoused people and learned that there can be a considerable difference in accountability between those providers who manage their own properties and those who hire for profit firms to do property management. It matters whether people or profits are the top priority. By serving on the board of Hutchison House I learned the importance of having residents of the property on the board that oversees the property and the importance of having board meetings at times and places when residents may attend and speak. I know less about funding, but did serve on the Issaquah city human services commission which evaluated grant applications and made recommendations to the city. I have worked in shelters on the Eastside and done outreach for the Seattle Safe Parking program when it was a pilot project.

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

In my vision, a successful continuum of care board would be aware of both the human and the financial costs of leaving populations without adequate and affordable housing and keep both in mind in deciding how to influence policy and provide services. They would also promote those practices that have been found to be truly successful in helping people to survive and thrive by making homelessness rare and short lived. The continuum of services funded would span from care for those who are housed yet vulnerable to poverty and displacement to those who are rehoused and regaining stability, so that fewer will lapse into homelessness or relapse into homelessness. We would also be concerned with practices that ensure some continuity of case management rather than the rapid turn-over of that I have witnessed.

**Question 5: Describe your leadership experiences.**

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

I have been the coordinator of the Issaquah Sammamish Interfaith Coalition since 2008. I have been a board member of Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council, Preserve Providence Heights (an effort to save a beautiful and historic campus from destruction and to preserve the dormitories for affordable housing and shelter efforts), the Board of Response Ability Builders, the Hutchison House Board, the Citizen Advisory Board of ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing); Sophia Way; Board of Governors of Vancouver School of Theology (2002-2003); vestry of St. Michael and All Angels, Issaquah '95-'96, and am currently serving on the board of Spirit of Peace United Church of Christ as liaison to the social justice team.

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

Systemic racism has deprived groups, including the indigenous inhabitants of Turtle Island and the descendants of enslaved Africans, from opportunities to accumulate wealth or hold onto real estate that could meet their need to thrive. Thus we see those groups of individuals who belong to racially marginalized or stigmatized groups tend to be greatly over represented among our unhoused neighbors. Redlining still exists in terms of mortgage access and the terms of loans in some areas. HOA's can restrict access to housing based on racial bias. Landlords sometimes fail even to respond to applications from some non-white applicants.

Beyond that, inequality in wages and job opportunities based upon race and gender are part of the huge wealth gap that makes homelessness most prevalent in highly affluent areas like Seattle. The racially influenced wealth gap has also allowed black communities and some ethnic communities to be targeted for redevelopment projects that lead to gentrification and displacement of whole communities, destroying the social safety nets of these communities and scattering the inhabitants. Without the social safety net, individuals become more vulnerable to loss of housing.

**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.

My bouts of homelessness have allowed others who have had similar experiences to trust me and share their frustrations and circumstances more freely than they might with someone who has never been on "the other side of the door." My experience has allowed me to advocate with greater authenticity than those who have never been unhoused or subjected to domestic violence, but less than those whose experience is current or recent. Using the lens of displacement and the knowledge of how easily it can happen I support groups that are voluntarily engaging in work to ameliorate the conditions of neighbors who are unhoused by providing meals, host homes, and other supports and those who encourage people with lived experience to speak up and to work together to end homelessness, such as SHARE, WHEEL, Real Change, and the Washington Lived Experience Coalition. I have encouraged unhoused neighbors and unstably housed neighbors to join the Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee, and other groups that could change local or regional policies. I encourage alliances that help us amplify our voice of experience, and seek direction from those in the marginalized groups that are most impacted.

**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	Yes
Homeless Housing and/or Service Provider (circle) If yes, please note organization)	Yes Organization: Not through an 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):**

<p>Families, Single Adults (Not experiencing chronic homelessness and non-Veteran), Domestic Violence, Immigrant and Refugees, American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous Communities</p>
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**Region (please check any areas in which you have specific experience or expertise):**

<p>East King County</p>
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**Identity (optional):**

How do you identify your race?	mixed, largely Caucasian, some Indigenous American, raised in East Asia
Sexual Orientation	straight heterosexual
Age	77
Disability Status	still able

**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	04/24/24 3:54 PM

**When you have completed this form, please submit the final to the KCRHA at [CoC.Questions@kcrha.org](mailto:CoC.Questions@kcrha.org). Thank you!**