



Seattle-King County Continuum of Care Board Application

Please complete the entire form and email to coc.questions@kcrha.org.

CoC Board Member Expectations and Commitment

CoC Board members are expected to attend one regular meeting and participate in one subcommittee or workgroup each month, in addition to any special meetings that require a CoC Board vote. Responsibilities also include reading and responding to emails and phone calls, as well as completing other administrative tasks – up to 15 hours per month. All applicants must be able to commit to a minimum two-year term.

| General Information | |
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| Full Name & Pronouns: | Dorsol Plants |
| Phone: | [REDACTED] |
| Email Address: | [REDACTED] |
| Zip Code: | 98057 |
| Are you able to commit up to 15 hours a month for the 3-year duration? | Yes |
| Please indicate which seat you are applying for: | |
| Lived Experience of Homelessness | |
| Please indicate the King County region you primarily represent. (Select one). | South King County |
| Please indicate the sub-population(s) you directly represent. | Veterans, Disability Community, Domestic Violence or Intimate Partner Violence |

Application Questions

1. Please describe how you are a representative of the seat for which you are applying.

I represent the South King County community through both my professional expertise and my personal lived experience. I have been a resident of the area for nearly a decade and have worked as a service provider here for several years. In my current role, I support eleven South King County cities on housing and homelessness issues, working directly with elected officials and staffing a community advisory board.

My perspective is also shaped by my background as a U.S. Army veteran and a Cavalry Scout with two deployments to Iraq. My own transition to civilian life was difficult; I have lived experience with homelessness, including a period of time spent living in my car. These challenges were compounded by a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) sustained in Iraq and a subsequent stroke a decade later. Living and working with a brain injury has made me a vocal advocate for disability awareness, and I am comfortable speaking openly about these difficulties to improve accessibility for others.

Additionally, as a survivor of domestic violence, I am dedicated to breaking cycles of violence and creating safer communities. Whether through my work as a veterans' transition case manager or my current role in local government, I use my history to ensure that the voices of those with lived experience are at the center of our regional policy.

2. Tell us how you use your influence, authority, or relationships within your representative community or sector to effect change. Please include a specific example.

I use my position as a local government staff member and my relationships in the community to ensure that policy is informed by the people it actually impacts. My goal is to move lived experience from just a story to a real strategy. For example, I am currently coordinating a listening session with the Department of Commerce regarding the Evergreen Sustainable Development Standards (ESDS). Since these standards are required for public funding, I am using my role to bring households with disabilities directly into the conversation to ensure that accessibility features in affordable housing actually meet their real-world needs. I also brought this perspective to my work on a community advisory group supporting Public Health, where I shared my experience as a former homeless person and a shelter provider to help develop heat mitigation strategies for South King County. Furthermore, I have spoken out as an advocate for male survivors of domestic violence. I try to walk a delicate balance of uplifting a group of survivors not often thought of, while acknowledging the complex reality that social dynamics play in the different journeys of survivorship. This work has included supporting the creation of a state-level commission to look specifically at issues impacting boys and men. In every role, I use my influence to ensure that representation means the community has a real seat at the table where decisions are made.



3. Please describe your understanding of the Continuum of Care (CoC).

My understanding of the COC is that it serves as the regional planning body responsible for coordinating funding and strategy to address homelessness. For WA-500, the CoC acts as a central hub that brings together local governments, service providers, and people with lived experience to ensure the region is working as a unified system rather than a collection of separate programs.

One of its primary roles is managing the federal funding process for HUD, which ensures that millions of dollars are directed toward the most effective local housing and service programs. Beyond funding, the CoC is responsible for regional data and standards, such as overseeing the systems used to track progress and setting the expectations for how shelters and housing programs should operate. It also handles strategic planning by identifying gaps in the system—like the need for more permanent housing or better diversion—and creating a roadmap to address those needs.

Ultimately, I see the CoC as the regional strategist. It ensures that no matter where someone asks for help in King County, there is a consistent, fair, and clear path to a stable home.

4. What motivates you to be on the CoC Board? Please share your specific field of interest related to the CoC.

I am motivated to serve on the CoC Board because we are in a period of significant change. Recent shifts in federal policy bring both risks and opportunities, and I believe my previous three years on the Board allow me to help protect our progress as we make these transitions. I have seen this Board work hard to become more responsive, and I am eager to help that collaboration continue to grow.

Additionally, our current momentum allows us to address deeper systemic issues, such as the cycle of prison to homelessness that impacts so many of our neighbors. While our region faces serious challenges ahead, I see immense opportunity for improvement. I want to continue using my experience to help our community meet this moment effectively.



5. Describe your vision or understanding of a successful CoC Board.

For the CoC Board to be successful, it must be a place where power is truly shared. This means that people with lived experience are not just invited to the table to share their stories, but are given the authority to help design the solutions. When the Board balances professional expertise with the direct knowledge of those who have used the system, it creates more equitable outcomes. Success looks like a transparent system, where service providers in areas like South King County feel supported and where the path from homelessness to housing is clear, fast, and accessible for every neighbor.

6. Describe your leadership experiences and style.

I approach leadership through the servant-leader model. I once heard a speaker describe a leader as someone who shows up, creates access, and gets out of the way. Leadership begins with the humility to simply show up; you can never ask others to do what you aren't willing to do yourself. This isn't about amplifying a title, but about clearing a pathway so those you represent can achieve their best selves. As someone with a passion for systems, I enjoy breaking down complex structures for different audiences to enable maximum participation. While 'getting out of the way' can be psychologically difficult, it is the ultimate goal: creating a culture of safety and understanding that empowers the next leader to step forward.

My leadership experience is rooted in high-stakes environments. I served in the U.S. Army, rising to the rank of Sergeant, and led coordinated combat operations during two deployments to Iraq. Since then, I have spent over five years in program management within the homeless services field. This includes managing a confidential domestic violence emergency shelter and establishing the first emergency housing program for families in Federal Way. Additionally, I have served as Vice-Chair of the Renton Planning Commission and Co-Chair of the WA-500 Continuum of Care Board.



7. Reflecting on the Theory of Change, please describe one way you incorporate this framework in your professional or personal life. Additionally, explain how you would integrate the Theory of Change into your work on the CoC Board and how you intend to advocate for and support the communities you represent.

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 personal life and my professional work, I incorporate the Theory of Change by treating lived experience as a vital form of expertise. To me, centering people with lived experience means moving beyond simply listening to stories and instead involving those impacted in the actual design of the system. I have found that when we break down complex systems for the community, we create a new level of access that allows people to advocate for their own needs. This ensures that the programs we build are not just well-intentioned, but are actually effective at eliminating the inequities they aim to solve.

On the Board, I would integrate this framework by acting as a bridge between high-level policy and the ground-level reality of the people we serve. My intent is to advocate for a homeless response system that is transparent and accessible to everyone, especially those from overlooked or misunderstood groups. I intend to support the communities I represent—including veterans, survivors of violence, and those living with disabilities—by ensuring that our Board’s decisions are always tested against the real-world experiences of the people in South King County. By keeping our work rooted in these diverse perspectives, I will help ensure our region responds to the actual needs of our neighbors and works toward ending homelessness for all.

6. Do you require any accommodations or support to fully participate as a member of the CoC Board?

Unsure

