



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	
Full Name & Pronouns:	Lonness Valenna (she/her)
Phone:	[REDACTED]
Email Address:	[REDACTED]
Zip Code:	98032
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.	
Disability Community, Additional Representations	

Application Questions

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

I have 7 years of being homeless in 3 different cities, including Seattle and the I-5 corridor. Actively volunteering at a women and trans shelter in Seattle and currently serve on the board of directors for Elizabeth Gregory Home and have for 3 years.

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 have spoken to city council, been to Olympia for advocacy missions, I've spoken with US senators. I've advocated for folks to be able to get HEN and ABD at the same time and was successful in getting this changed. I advocate and help individuals who are experiencing homelessness. I've influenced change at Elizabeth Gregory Home by being an advocate for the women we serve to the board and sharing feedback to the Executive Director. I also co-lead a Peer Support Group for trans individuals through Peer Kent. I used to run the Gender Alliance of the South Sound out of the Rainbow Center in Tacoma for 5 years. I am also disabled and a recipient of HEN.



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

I understand that KCRHA is required to have a CoC board that represents the community and helps apply for federal funding for housing and homelessness issues. The board meets regularly and we are needed to provide insight and advice based on our unique experiences in the world with housing and homelessness issues.

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

I want to make a difference for the people I work with on a daily basis who have fallen through the cracks. I want to make a difference or a dent to ease the suffering of so many on our streets. I have a lot of empathy for the unhoused in Seattle and by serving on the CoC, maybe I can make a bit of difference.



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

Everyone is respectful of each other, all voices are heard, we have guidance and support from KCRHA, we are honest, and fulfill our commitments. And we must listen to the concerns of the nonprofits we serve, they are more than just an organization, they are people.

6. Describe your leadership experiences and style.

I currently serve on the Board of Directors for a local women's shelter called Elizabeth Gregory Home and I serve as the voice of our clients at our Board meetings. I go to EGH every week and I share criticisms and compliments in order to make change happen. I make my decisions and recommendations based on the unhoused I talk to. I always think of others before myself and everything I do is to help others.



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.

We must focus on equality for all, including voices from diverse populations in decision-making processes. We must listen to the problems directly from the community we are serving, we must put people before policies. I want to be a conduit of change in my community, in which I'm currently not seeing the change needed. This is not just volunteering, this is a duty and something that needs to be accomplished.

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

Unsure

