



# Seattle-King County Continuum of Care Board Application

Please complete the entire form and email to [coc.questions@kcrha.org](mailto: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	
<b>Full Name &amp; Pronouns:</b>	Ruby Tuesday Romero
<b>Phone:</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email Address:</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Zip Code:</b>	98116
<b>Are you able to commit up to 15 hours a month for the 3-year duration?</b>	Yes
<b>Please indicate which seat you are applying for:</b>	
Lived Experience of Homelessness	
<b>Please indicate the King County region you primarily represent. (Select one).</b>	South King County
<b>Please indicate the sub-population(s) you directly represent.</b>	Domestic Violence or Intimate Partner Violence, Additional Representations

## Application Questions

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

During 2016, I entered a relationship that quickly became abusive in a physical, financial and emotional way. It contributed to an episode of homelessness for me. I remained living homeless in tents, RVs and vehicles in South King County cities like Renton, Kent, Burien and White Center.

Now that i am housed, I am able to provide case management to people who are currently experiencing domestic violence, are veterans, disabled, people struggling with substance use disorder who are living unsheltered in South Seattle and South King County. I serve Burien, Kent, Renton, and White Center- the places where i was homeless. i intentionally bring policy questions to my clients and acquaintances or inform them on what the CoC board is doing. They give me honest feedback on the system and i do my best to communicate those experiences back into the system.

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.

The past two years i have volunteered time to the only seasonal cold weather shelter in west seattle assisting operations and providing case management through the medicaid foundational community supports program. During this last season, there was a serious safety risk and i learned there were no policies in place to ensure safety for the residents or those working in the shelter. I notified the shelter's board of the situation and informed them we needed to halt operations. The board ultimately agreed and due to my knowledge and experience, the shelter's board appointed me to the committee working on the policy documents.

During my time on the CoC board and system performance committee i was approached by a service provider concerned about how Youth and Young Adults were able to participate in the coordinated entry process. I was able to connect the group with the coordinated entry manager and help begin the YYALTe (Youth and Young Adults Leadership Team). The work within this group is meaningful and the out come is a pilot of new nominations process within Coordinated Entry that has been well received by service providers.

Additionally, i influenced my project manager to provide the participants with transportable signs to easily identify the musicians with the Busking Program while at parks without concierges.

At the venue i work with, i taught members in my art collective the importance of carrying narcans and how to administer it. Now its a required training to work with our group.



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

The CoC is comprised of three components its the grant provided under the federal Continuum of Care program, the region that receives those funds and the group of governmental agencies, non profit organizations, businesses and individuals committed to making homelessness brief rare and non recurring. The membership, as it's called, convenes to plan the homeless response system for their region.

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

I am committed to respecting the voices of the communities we serve by interacting meaningfully and intentionally bringing information back to those communities and the public. I intend to guide the system to be more qualitative and focused on the well being of the people in need of our resources. The underlying driver of this work for me is the lack of access i felt i had while homeless.



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

A successful board will complete the required functions for the federal program, such as the application for funding, point in time count, and oversight of the planning for our continuum. In order to accurately represent our membership, we need to have an understanding of what direction the continuum wants to move in by meeting with the groups and individuals involved. Additionally, the board should work with the collaborative applicant to guide the work and bring underrepresented voices to the table.

6. Describe your leadership experiences and style.

I lead by example and with an open mind. When training, i offer the methodology behind any requirements and where to find resources. I use my ability to think critically and creatively to present all the details and context in many ways in order for the group to make an informed decision. Intentionally try to find a path that brings everyone in and hope to provide the tools necessary to complete the tasks.

I have held multiple lead positions and trainer qualifications for service oriented jobs. Recently, I served as co chair of the System Performance Committee in 2023-24 and was elected twice to serve as cochair of the CoC board in 2024-26. During the past three years, I've learned a lot of how to work with different personalities and how to utilize the boards abilities to effect change.

Currently, i am an independent contractor for the citys Busking Program which requires us to manage our own time and how we represent the program. As a musician, i manage my appearances and booking communications.

Additionally, i am event manager at the Quality Flea Center, a local music venue and events space. I'm tasked with the scheduling, staff responsibilities, run of show, task delegation, safety protocols, and communications with the renters.



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.

At the work with the shelter, in the new iteration there will be a pathway for the residents to participate in the management of the facilities and governance. We will be incorporating a framework to stabilize people and include them in self advocacy while practicing life skills. The visible participation will help build community around the residents, leading to more successful outcomes.

Through my work on the board i will continue to bring the gaps the community feels need addressed to the planning of our system, to hopefully find solutions. I intend to have more opportunities for living experience to have involvement and the ability to participate in developing our system. Most importantly, i will continue focus on ways to maximize our federal dollars so we can continue to support the communities that are being targeted by the current administration and who are also disproportionately experiencing homelessness.

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

No

