



## Spring 2023 Board of Directors Cohort Recruitment

The Board of Directors of the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness seeks new members to help us fulfill our mission: to mobilize our community to challenge systemic causes of homelessness and advocate for housing justice.

We are looking for board members who:

- ✓ Are committed to housing justice and center equity in their work
- ✓ Are able to spend 5-10 hours per month (attend board meetings, participate in committees, and steward board work)
- ✓ Are willing to be good ambassadors for the Coalition in their communities

We are especially looking for board members who:

- ✓ Are passionate about the Coalition's mission, vision, and values
- ✓ Understand and are enthusiastic about performing board governance roles and responsibilities
- ✓ Identify as Black, Indigenous, or as a person of color

We value a diversity of backgrounds, skills, and perspectives. Don't worry if the above list doesn't exactly describe you – if you're eager to work alongside us, we encourage you to apply! If you'd like to learn more, please consider joining us for an informal information session (Feb. 28 or March 21). You can email questions to board @ homelessinfo.org or call the Coalition's office at 206.204.8350.

Please complete and submit an application by NOON on Friday, March 31:

<https://bit.ly/2023CoalitionBoardApp>. We will follow up with all applicants during the week of April 3.

### **Join us for a conversation and information session about Board service!**

When: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 or Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Time: 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Where: Zoom (Register for the link at our website: [www.homelessinfo.org](http://www.homelessinfo.org)).

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Board Member Position Description**  
***(Updated: Spring 2023)***

The Coalition on Homelessness welcomes and encourages applicants from a wide range of experiences and backgrounds to serve on the Board of Directors. Prospective Board members should embrace the governance responsibilities of serving on the Board of a small and mighty non-profit advocacy organization. Board members are, as a group, responsible for the governance, sustainability, and viability of the Coalition. Board members are elected by the voting members of the Coalition to serve three-year terms. Board members may serve two consecutive terms.

Primary roles and responsibilities

- Governance, oversight and planning to advance the Coalition’s mission, vision and values
- Financial oversight, including adoption of the annual budget
- Fundraising and sustainability planning
- Hiring and evaluation of the Executive Director

Members of the Board share these responsibilities while acting in the interest of the Coalition. Each member is expected to share information and make recommendations based on their experience and vantage point in the community. Board members who are affiliated with member or partner organizations of the Coalition are expected to deliberate, vote, and act as Board members in the interests of the Coalition.

Meetings and time commitment:

- The Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. We are currently meeting via Zoom. When possible, we will return to our usual 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. meeting.
- Board members are expected to attend and participate actively in regular Board meetings, as well as to attend Coalition-sponsored events as possible.
- Each Board member is expected to participate in at least one ad hoc working group or standing committee (currently: Executive Committee, Fundraising Committee, and Board Development Committee).
- Officers of the Board are elected at the Board’s annual meeting.

Board members agree to:

- Become familiar with the Coalition’s finances, budget, and financial and resource needs.
- Make a meaningful personal gift to the Coalition during each year.
- Help meet overall fundraising goals by inviting others to support the organization financially and by helping to acknowledge Coalition donors, volunteers, and members.
- Help communicate and promote the Coalition’s mission and activities in the community.

## About the Coalition on Homelessness

**We mobilize our community to challenge systemic causes of homelessness and advocate for housing justice.** We envision a region that acts on a shared sense of responsibility to ensure everyone has a home. We value equity, justice, and collective action – *our working definitions of these values are below.*

The Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness came together in 1979, as local shelter providers, city staff, and other witnesses to increased homelessness realized the powerful potential of uniting their experience and voices. Through direct services, advocacy, and community organizing, the Coalition grew into an active force to steward and increase needed resources, and inform and implement good policies. Through 2016 we coordinated our community's annual One Night Count of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Using a community organizing approach to gather accurate data through respectful and consistent methods, we trained and deployed hundreds of volunteers for overnight in-person observations and specialized surveys. Following three straight years of double digit increases in unsheltered homelessness, the Coalition declined to coordinate the 2017 One Night Count, choosing instead to deploy our organizational capacity towards increased policy advocacy, organizing, and community education.

At least 40,000 King County residents will experience homelessness during this year. More than half our neighbors without homes have no basic shelter on any given night, after available shelters are full. As a matter of policy in too many places, people without homes are punished and penalized for existing: for being poor, ill, disabled, or outcast in public view. We feel it is urgent to correct these fundamental injustices.

Our advocacy is rooted in the realities of homelessness: we stay informed through the daily and nightly experiences of front-line staff in housing and homeless services, currently and formerly homeless people, allies and advocates. Through monthly membership meetings, case manager trainings, and community conversations, the Coalition convenes direct service staff, people who are or have been homeless, and concerned community members to learn, share information, and take action together.

The Coalition works for effective public policies that work for real people in the real world. We find opportunities to strengthen services and change systems where policy ideas meet implementation on the ground. A focus on housing justice means we support and advocate for effective and lasting solutions, and funding to implement those solutions that is equitable and sustained, and scaled to meet the need. We engage in genuine and productive dialogue that offers people from all walks of life meaningful ways to engage, and build collective power and public agreement that in turn drive political will. We resist inadequate measures, dehumanization, tokenism, and inaction.

**Equity:** To center race in the fight for housing justice, as white supremacy and structural racism cause disparities in who experiences homelessness.

**Justice:** To uphold the dignity and civil rights of people who experience homelessness or housing insecurity.

**Collective Action:** To collaborate, unite, and act to build power.