

Orange County Continuum of Care
Housing Opportunities Committee
Governance Charter

The Housing Opportunities Committee is a committee of the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) Board. The purpose of the Housing Opportunities Committee is to identify, coordinate and evaluate housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness in the Orange County CoC. The Housing Opportunities Committee fulfills this goal by coordinating information and resources amongst regional housing providers, identifying gaps in affordable and permanent supportive housing, and supporting the creation of more housing opportunities in coordination with affordable housing developers, homeless service providers, cities and Public Housing Authorities. The mission of the Housing Opportunities Committee is to provide more housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness in Orange County.

1. Name

The technical name is the Housing Opportunities Committee hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”.

2. Purpose

The Committee will function as an advisory group to the CoC Board and the Policies, Procedures and Standards (PPS) Committee. The Committee assists in the overall coordination of efforts and information sharing to foster the development of housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness. The Committee will facilitate regional and systemwide collaboration in the development and implementation of affordable housing programs and opportunities that provide permanent housing solutions, such as housing choice vouchers, short-term rental assistance and/or permanent supportive housing, to reduce homelessness and to increase the supply of affordable and permanent supportive housing in Orange County. In addition to the facilitation and regional collaboration of housing opportunities in Orange County, the Committee will align its efforts with the Orange County CoC Board Vision.

3. Responsibilities

The Committee is responsible for the following functions in coordination and collaboration with the Orange County CoC:

- a. Coordinate information and resources amongst regional housing providers to reduce homelessness.
- b. Implement regional, system wide collaboration that includes the participation of regional affordable housing developers, homeless service providers, cities and Public Housing Authorities.
- c. Identify opportunities to increase housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness, including sharing information on various funding opportunities and implementing strategies to provide more housing opportunities, including affordable and permanent supportive housing.
- d. Track the development and utilization of tenant-based and project-based housing opportunities including permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, housing choice vouchers and other affordable housing programs, utilizing readily available data and HMIS.
- e. Provide recommendations on the types of housing interventions needed to effectively reduce homelessness to the Orange County CoC.
- f. Coordinate the activities of Orange County’s four Public Housing Authorities and entitlement jurisdictions administering federally funded programs and grants allocated by the U.S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD Programs include but are not limited to the Housing Choice Voucher Program, Mainstream Voucher Program, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing, Emergency Housing Vouchers, Family Unification Program/Foster Youth to Independence Vouchers, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program, HOME Investments Partnerships (HOME) Program and Housing Opportunity for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program.

- g. Identify innovative solutions that create synergy, collaboration and partnerships with a broad range of stakeholders to create more housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness
- h. Manage a housing analysis and resources map of housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness in Orange County
- i. Identify gaps, disparities, and unmet needs of Orange County's homeless population to reduce and close the gaps in the homelessness response system.
- j. Commit to advancing equity in the Orange County CoC, specifically addressing populations who have been most disproportionately impacted by homelessness, to ensure all people in Orange County experiencing homelessness and those at-risk will have equitable access to navigation, housing, and supportive services that ensure equitable outcomes including overall well-being and long-term housing stability.

4. Recommendations

Matters referred by the Committee to the Policies, Procedures and Standards (PPS) Committee shall be placed on the calendar for consideration and action at the first meeting of the PPS Committee after such reference. If there is an issue of importance to the Committee, the Committee may submit recommendations to the CoC Board for their consideration in coordination with the Collaborative Applicant. The CoC Board may adopt, amend, or reject the recommendations of the Committee.

5. Chair and Vice Chair

The CoC Board shall assign a member of the CoC Board as the Chair of the Committee to ensure alignment with the CoC Board and facilitate coordination and collaboration between the CoC Board and Committee. The Chair of the Committee shall remain Chair of the Committee so long as he/she holds his/her seat on the CoC Board. The Chair may appoint a Vice Chair from one of the voting members of the Committee to support the Committee functions and assist with planning, facilitation, and coordination of the Committee meetings. The Vice Chair will act as interim chair if the Chair is unavailable, absent, or resigns. The Vice Chair term will mirror the Chair's CoC Board term.

6. Membership

Additional membership of the Committee shall be comprised of members of Orange County's four Public Housing Authorities, CalOptima Health, the Orange County Housing Finance Trust, Orange County United Way, the Kennedy Commission, the Orange County Housing Advocacy Collaborative, regional affordable housing developers/providers, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funded jurisdictions, homeless service providers and other housing advocacy organizations.

The specific voting members of the Committee shall be Orange County's four Public Housing Authorities, CalOptima Health, the Orange County Housing Finance Trust, Orange County United Way, the Kennedy Commission, the Orange County Housing Advocacy Collaborative, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

funded entitlement jurisdictions. The membership of the Committee will be appointed by the Chair and Vice Chair.

7. Meeting Schedule

The Committee shall meet on every even numbered month and meetings will be open to the public except as otherwise determined by the Committee. Any person who attends a meeting may be asked by the Chair to leave if the person is disruptive; if a conflict of interest applies; or if an agenda business item(s) is deemed by the Chair to be of such nature that it involves only Orange County CoC closed session business.

8. Voting and Quorum

No quorum is needed to hold a meeting, but quorum is needed to make decisions affecting the whole group. A quorum shall be constituted by the presence of a majority of more than 50% of the voting members of the Housing Opportunities Committee. Each voting member agency shall be entitled to one vote; proxy votes will not be accepted.

9. Conflict of Interest

Membership of the Committee shall abstain from voting on any issue in which they may be personally vested to avoid a conflict of interest in accordance with County, State and Federal laws, regulations and ordinances and shall refrain from engaging in any behavior that conflicts with the best interest of CoC.