

Orange County Continuum of Care
Veterans Committee
Governance Charter

At the meeting dated August 24, 2022, the Continuum of Care (CoC) Board approved the creation of the Veterans Committee. The Veterans Committee was created to ensuring that the CoC is actively working to prevent, reduce, and end homelessness for veterans, and measuring progress on these efforts.

1. Name

The technical name of this committee is the Veterans Committee, hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”.

2. Purpose

The Committee will function as an advisory group to the CoC Board and align its efforts to those of the Orange County CoC Board Vision. This Committee aligns with the intent of ensuring that the CoC is actively working to prevent, reduce, and end homelessness for veterans, and measuring progress on these efforts. The Committee will provide leadership on the issue of veteran homelessness and coordinate efforts to better serve veterans and their families in becoming permanently housed and achieving housing stability.

3. Responsibilities

The Committee is responsible for advising the CoC Board and exercising the following functions:

- Support the CoC in identifying all veterans experiencing homelessness and connecting them to the Veteran Registry.
- Coordinate efforts of the CoC’s measuring progress towards ending veteran homelessness through the analysis of data and information sharing.
- Coordinate the delivery of services to support veterans at risk of homelessness become achieve housing stability and veterans experiencing homelessness quickly secure housing.
- Convening local, state, federal and regional stakeholders working to address veteran homelessness together to share information on events, funding opportunities, and troubleshoot problems.
- Educate and inform the CoC on the needs and issues of veterans and veteran homelessness.
- Commit to advancing equity in the Orange County CoC, specifically addressing veteran 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 in ways that ensure equitable outcomes including overall well-being and long-term housing stability

4. Recommendations

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

5. Membership

The Committee shall be chaired by the CoC Board member elected to serve in the seat designated for a veteran or veteran services agency representative. The Chair may appoint a Vice Chair, if desired.

The CoC aims to build a diverse and inclusive Committee. The Committee is to be representative of different regions, service providers, and stakeholders involved in the work of preventing and ending veteran homelessness within Orange County. The following representation within the Committee is highly desirable:

- Representative from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- Representative from the Orange County Veterans & Military Families Collaborative (OCVMFC)
- Representative with current or past lived experience of homelessness as a Veteran
- Representative (s) from Orange County Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) service provider agencies
- Representative from United Way Welcome Home OC Program
- Representative (s) from Orange County housing providers and/or Public Housing Authorities
- Representative from a health care agency that serves veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness
- Representative from an employment-focused agency that serves veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness

6. Meeting Schedule

The Committee will meet bi-monthly, every odd month, and will be open to the public except as otherwise determined by the Committee. Any person who attends a meeting may be asked by the Committee 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 Committee Chair to be of such nature that it involves only Orange County CoC closed session business.

7. Voting and Quorum

A quorum is necessary to conduct business and make recommendations. A quorum shall be constituted by the presence of a majority of more than 50% of the appointed members of the Veterans Committee.

A majority vote of those members present is required to take any action. Each member shall be entitled to one vote; no proxy votes will be accepted.

8. 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.