

INTEREST FORM: PART ONE

CoC General Member Information

Name:

Maricela Rios-Faust

If you represent a specific organization in Orange County,
please list your organization & role:

Human Options, CEO

Pronouns (for example: she/her, he/him, they/them, xe/hir):

she/her

2024 Continuum of Care Board Candidate Interest Form

What qualities, skills, and experience do you bring that would help the CoC Board to further its work in ending homelessness and furthering equity and inclusion?

I have served as a member of the Continuum of Care Governing Board, for the past 6 years. During this time I have leveraged my experience in the domestic violence field as well as my experience offering housing options for those fleeing abuse to explore opportunities to strengthen the continuum of care for homeless individuals and families. I served as the Vice Chair in 2021, in that capacity I chaired the Policies Procedures and Standards Committee, served as the Chair of the Board (2022), and most recently served as the chair of the DV Committee.

Additionally, while a member of the Governing Board I have participated on RFP review panels. This has deepened my understanding of how the Continuum of Care can continue to maximize resources and strategically move in the direction of ending homelessness.

I have been a part of Orange County's Continuum of Care for over 16 years. During this time I have have been involved in various high level strategic discussions on the Coordinated Entry System and Homeless Management Information System. I believe that effectively integrating data from the HMIS system and a comparable database can play a key role in understanding the complex housing needs of homeless individuals and families. These combined data points can then inform strategies, coordinate resources and identify needed support to vulnerable individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

As a current board member I have a greater understanding of how the CES and HMIS system operate in OC and various counties through out CA. This last year my team began work to identify ways in which we can improve access to data regarding individuals with our system

As a DV service provider we collect, maintain and track participant data in a comparable data base to HMIS. This data can be made available in aggregate form to the CoC.

What qualities or characteristics do you bring to a collaborative environment?

I have extensive experience working in collaborative environment to drive toward shared goals. I do this through open communication and prioritize goals that align with the community's needs. I take the time to understand others' viewpoints and approach the collaborative process with a positive mindset. I value the perspective of individuals from diverse backgrounds and believe that individuals with lived experience have valuable expertise to inform our collective work together.

As a member of the CoC Board I engage in systems level dialogue around opportunities for leveraging funding, improving outcomes and improving the systems of care. Additionally, I participate on a statewide cohort focused on improving housing options and outcomes.

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While having a conflict of interest does not make you ineligible to serve on the CoC Board, it helps CoC staff for record keeping purposes. Do you have any current conflicts of interest or previous ties to any agency that is a recipient or sub-recipient of CoC funding in the Orange County CoC? Examples of conflicts might include: Current or former staff, Board member, volunteer or client/participant at a CoC-funded agency, etc. For further information on what constitutes a conflict of interest, please click [here](#). For a current list of CoC-funded agencies, please click [here](#).

Yes

If yes or not sure, please describe the potential conflict(s) of interest:

I am the Chief Executive Officer of Human Options, we receive HUD DV Bonus Project funding and I have a conflict of interest with funding for DV Victims and Survivors.

We want to make sure that people who are elected to the Board have the support from their employer, agency, or group they represent (if applicable) to fully participate in the CoC Board. If applicable: is your employer, agency, or the group you represent aware that you plan to run for a CoC Board seat?

Yes

If applicable: does your employer understand the full commitment that you are making to the CoC Board, including time commitments to meetings, potential time away from work, and responsibilities you'll hold?

Yes

The CoC Board aims to accomplish the following goals: Permanently House Those Experiencing Homelessness Ensure an Efficient, Dignified System Promote an Equitable, Just System Drive System-Wide Engagement and Collaboration Strengthen Regional Leadership and Accountability Smartly Allocate Funds to Match the Greatest Needs Which of these goals resonate with you most, and where would you like to contribute to accomplishing these goals?

Permanently house those experiencing homelessness. Ensuring a efficient, dignified system.
Drive system-wide engagement and collaboration,

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Please discuss one (1) significant challenge to addressing homelessness in Orange County. If you could wave a magic wand to address this challenge, what would your solution be?

A significant challenge is rising youth and family homelessness. Youth and families experiencing homelessness face unique challenges and needs. Without targeted services, they face greater risks of exploitation, trauma, and chronic homelessness. Housing instability impacts children's education, social development, and mental health, creating long-term consequences for both children and parents.

If I had a magic wand, I would support a multi-faceted approach that includes expanding affordable housing, improving access to mental health, fostering community acceptance, and creating economic opportunities. With coordinated efforts across public, private, and nonprofit sectors, OC can create more sustainable, comprehensive solutions that address both immediate needs and long-term housing stability.

Are you able to commit to attending at least 75% of CoC Board meetings each year? The CoC Board meets monthly, currently every fourth Wednesday from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., though that time is subject to change. **Yes**

Are you able to commit to serving on at least one CoC committee, working group, or ad-hoc committee, and to attend at least 75% of that committee, working group, or ad-hoc's meetings? This is usually 1-2 hours per month, though, depending on the group you choose to participate in, the time commitment could be higher. **Yes**

Do you currently live or work in Orange County? Please select all that apply. **I live in Orange County,**
I work in Orange County

INTEREST FORM: PART TWO

Have you experienced homelessness? **No**

If you answered "yes" to the question above, please check all of the following that apply and that you feel comfortable disclosing.

2024 Continuum of Care Board Candidate Interest Form

What is your race and/or ethnicity?

Person of Color (including but not limited to people who are: Asian, Asian-American, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, Latino/a/e/x, Central American, South American, Caribbean, Middle Eastern, North African)

Are you 2SLGBTQQIA+ (2-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual/aromantic, +)? Please check all of the following that apply and that you feel comfortable disclosing.

No, I'm not 2SLGBTQQIA+

Do any of the following identities or experiences apply to you?

I have experienced domestic violence or intimate partner violence

Please select all of the entities or areas with which you have a personal or professional background or experience.

**Domestic violence agency or programming,
Behavioral health field,
Homeless system programs: Prevention,
Homeless system programs: Emergency Shelter,
Homeless system programs: Rapid Rehousing**
