

INTEREST FORM: PART ONE

CoC General Member Information

Name: **Payal Sawhney**

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

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?

With 20 years in social work, I bring deep expertise in addressing homelessness, crisis management, and advocacy for marginalized communities. My skills in collaborative leadership and policy implementation will support the CoC Board in creating equitable, inclusive solutions to end homelessness.

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

I bring strong empathy, active listening, and adaptability to a collaborative environment, fostering trust and open communication with diverse team members. My experience in social work has honed my ability to mediate, facilitate inclusive dialogue, and keep teams focused on shared goals, ensuring productive and cohesive collaboration.

2024 Continuum of Care Board Candidate Interest Form

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](#).

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

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?

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?

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?

Promote an Equitable, Just System
Permanently House Those Experiencing Homelessness
Strengthen Regional Leadership and Accountability

2024 Continuum of Care Board Candidate Interest Form

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 in addressing homelessness in Orange County is the shortage of affordable housing, which forces many low-income individuals and families into unstable living conditions. If I could wave a magic wand, I would increase the availability of affordable housing units, paired with comprehensive support services, to provide sustainable, long-term solutions that address both immediate needs and the root causes of homelessness.

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 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?

No, none of these apply to me

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

**Public Housing Agency (PHA),
Domestic violence agency or programming,
Health care field,
Homeless system programs: Street Outreach,
Homeless system programs: Family Agency**
