

INTEREST FORM: PART ONE

CoC General Member Information

Name: **Shakoya Green Long**

If you represent a specific organization in Orange County,
please list your organization & role: **Thomas House Family Shelter**

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

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?

As a former foster youth with lived experience from the age of 7-to-18, due to my parents being addicted to drugs, coupled with more than 20 years of professional social work experience in underserved and under-resourced communities and direct social work experience, I can help further the work as a CoC Board member.

I am a strong advocate for individuals who require and need assistance to thrive and address their trauma. I also strongly believe that regardless of who you are and what you look like you deserve to be treated with empathy, dignity, and respect.

I am a Transformative Servant Leader, problem solver, and a disruptor when necessary. I believe that to see and make a change, you have to shift your mindset and disrupt old behaviors, policies, and routines.

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

In collaborative environments, it is important to be a proficient communicator and an attentive listener. I believe I possess both qualities, and I am self-aware enough to know when I should pause, ensuring that others in the room have the space to contribute and engage in communication.

I value diverse perspectives and bring a strong level of emotional intelligence as well as conflict resolution. I can analyze the advantages and disadvantages of situations and make difficult decisions when necessary.

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](#).

No

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?

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?

Promoting a fair and equitable just system starts with research and telling the story. Everyone needs to understand why we are where we are and then we can create an equitable just system. While this won't happen overnight, it will require individuals with lived experience to be involved, share their perspectives/experiences, and be very transparent.

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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?

While there are many challenges to addressing homelessness, I would address the lack of affordable housing options. The lack of affordable housing is a significant and pressing challenge. We do not have enough units to support the number of unhoused families and individuals.

If I could wave a magic wand, I would create more housing units that included resources and supportive services for unhoused individuals and families to ensure that they have the resources and supports to maintain their housing.

Housing is a fundamental human right, and everyone should have all the resources and support needed to live a happy, healthy whole life.

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.

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What is your race and/or ethnicity?

Black or African American

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.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program funded agency or recipient agency

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Behavioral health field,

Faith-based organization or community,

Homeless system programs: Prevention,

Homeless system programs: Family Agency
