

## **Volunteer Position Opening: Continuum of Care Racial Equity Taskforce Members**

**Initial Closing Date: August 9, 2024**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) through coordination with Arlington's Continuum of Care (CoC) and as the CoC's lead agency is seeking volunteer members to serve in leading implementation of the Arlington community's strategic efforts towards ending homelessness.

The Continuum of Care is a network of programs and services working to address homelessness through our collective efforts. The Continuum of Care is responsible for a number of Federal and State requirements, to include organizing as a CoC, operating a governance structure that provides leadership and oversight of local efforts, as well as developing and following a Strategic Plan that reflects local values and needs. The Arlington Continuum of Care's mission is to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring by providing affordable and sustainable housing, tailored services, and by centering the voices and expertise of people with lived experience of homelessness.

The Racial Equity Taskforce is a new committee of the CoC Governance, adopted in May 2024 and to strengthen and deepen the CoC's commitment to Racial Equity. The Taskforce sits within the CoC's Governing Board with the Leadership Board, Executive Committee, and Lived Experience(d) Advisory Council. The Racial Equity Taskforce works to ensure the CoC is practicing its commitments to centering racial equity across the CoC.

The Racial Equity Task Force is a diverse group of change-makers who understand how race impacts housing, who have experience with developing targeted interventions that improve outcomes by race, and who understand the multi-layered strategies to address systemic problems. The Racial Equity Taskforce ensures the CoC is operationalizing its commitments to racial equity, addresses other forms of oppression across the CoC, and supports the CoC in making progress towards becoming an antiracist, multicultural collaborative. Activities include:

- Utilizing an equity-driven, decision-making framework to review policies and practices undertaken by the CoC.
- Reviewing indicators of disparate outcomes, best practices, and local data to ascertain pertinent information on issues related to racial equity and working with subcommittees to develop an approach to improve disparate outcomes identified across CoC performance.
- Supporting other CoC committees in integrating racial equity throughout their activities and efforts.
- Supporting CoC members in learning and taking action to center racial equity.

To learn more about our Continuum of Care, please click [here](#). Given the known racial disparities which are experienced by Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) and the historical context of discrimination, oppression and marginalization occurred by these groups that result in these disparities, the Continuum of Care encourages people of color to submit statements of interest. People with lived

experiences of homelessness are also strongly encouraged to submit their interest. (Submission directions are found on page 2.)

### **RACIAL EQUITY TASKFORCE - KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Attend monthly meetings.
2. Participate and engage in thought partnership, collaboration, and discussions regarding agenda topics and implementation efforts of the CoC's Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.
3. Periodically participate in CoC-sponsored events or work sessions between committee meetings to carry out activities and goals.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

Qualifying applicants must:

1. Have ties to or a vested interest in Arlington (either as a resident or by working in Arlington).
2. Possess at least one full year of regular and active involvement (professionally, volunteerism, or personal experience) in Community Building and Engagement work, Safety Net Services, Anti-Poverty programs, Affordable Housing, and/or Homeless Services programs.
3. Have a fundamental understanding of the root causes of homelessness and their ties to Racial inequities, as well as foundational knowledge in Anti-Racist principles and action.
4. Have willingness and ability to serve at least a one-year term and maintain regular attendance at CoC Committee meetings.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

A CoC Membership Application must be submitted to [DHSEID-Housing@arlingtonva.us](mailto:DHSEID-Housing@arlingtonva.us) by the preliminary closing date of this announcement. Included in the submission, applicants are asked to provide a supporting letter of interest that includes information about their experiences in addressing Racial Equity.

Applications may be considered on a rolling basis after the initial closing date.

Membership application can be found here:

[https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/public-assistance/documents/coc-membership-application-form\\_7.2.24-final.pdf](https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/public-assistance/documents/coc-membership-application-form_7.2.24-final.pdf).

### **SELECTION**

Applications will be submitted to the Governance and Nominations Committee for review and recommendation to the CoC Governing Board members.

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If you are otherwise interested in joining and serving on the Continuum of Care and would like to learn about other ways to get involved here: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/DHS/Public-Assistance/Homelessness/Arlington-County-Efforts-to-Address-Homelessness/Continuum-of-Care-Governance>.