HOMELESSNESS COALITION MEMBERSHIP GUIDE

LANCASTER COUNTY Homelessness Coalition

A guide for organizations and individuals working to end and prevent homelessness in Lancaster County.

WHO WE ARE

The Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition is the local homelessness Continuum of Care (CoC) which is a network of organizations and individuals across Lancaster City and County working together to prevent and end homelessness. Membership brings together nonprofit homeless assistance providers, victim service providers, faith community, government agencies, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service and mental health agencies, hospitals, universities, affordable housing developers, law enforcement, organizations serving veterans and people experiencing homelessness.

The Coalition is actively seeking members who reflect the full range of our community, including organizations working in behavioral health, substance use recovery, physical health, employment and workforce development, youth-serving, and LGBTQIA+ organizations, along with organizations serving historically marginalized communities and housing and community development professionals. Individuals with lived experience of homelessness or housing insecurities are strongly encouraged to join and are central to the Coalition's work.

WHAT MEMBERSHIP MEANS

Organizational Members

- Designate up to 3 authorized representatives per year who have authority to speak for the organization
- Only one vote can be cast on the organization's behalf and determined by that organization
- Staff, board members, or consultants of member organizations may join individually, without a separate vote
- A representative may represent only one organization

Individual Members

- Community members who provide housing stability or homelessness support on their own initiative, not as a representative of a member organization
- Individuals with lived experience with homelessness or housing insecurity
- Individuals who meet these perimeters will have voting rights
- The individual cannot designate someone else to represent them

Eligibility: membership is open to any individual or organization currently engaged in addressing homelessness and contributing to the CoC's goals. Short, one-time projects or initiatives without a sustained mission are not eligible.

WHY JOIN

- Help shape a coordinated, county-wide strategy to prevent and end homelessness
- Vote on Governance Board seats and on proposed Charter amendments

- Serve on the Governance Board, committees, or work groups
- Access training and semiannual membership meetings
- Member organizations may apply for federal, local, and state funding
- Use Empower Lancaster (HMIS) for free
- Request a customized letter of support for a funding opportunity

APPLYING & GETTING STARTED

- Complete and submit a Coalition Membership Application (hyperlinked), by QR code and at lchra.com
- Formally affirm your commitment to the Coalition's purpose, shared values, strategic direction, and Code of Conduct
- Attend a membership orientation provided by the Office for the Homelessness Coalition (O4C) before voting, being elected to the Board, or selected for a committee or work group

Complete your application today!

MEMBER RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Vote on Governance Board representative seats and on proposed Charter updates
- Serve on the Governance Board if elected or appointed
- Serve on committees or work groups, as willing and selected
- Receive priority access to training, workshops, and professional development opportunities.
- Attend and participate in membership meetings, held at least semiannually

MEETINGS, QUORUM & VOTING

Full membership meetings are held at least semiannually, with written agendas distributed in advance, and may be held in person or virtually. Action on items requires a quorum of a majority of the Coalition membership.

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST

Annual Conflict-of-Interest forms are required. Members must disclose any real or perceived conflict of interest as soon as it is known and recuse themselves from related discussion and/or voting.

MEMBERSHIP TERMS & STANDING

Membership information is reviewed and updated annually by the Governance Board Secretary; there are no term limits.

A public invitation to join is extended at least annually, and applications are accepted year-round by emailing homelesscoalition@lchra.com

READY TO JOIN? Discuss with your organization leader and submit an application (noted above) to homelesscoalition@lchra.com. **New members are welcomed year-round.**

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

LANCASTER COUNTY
Homelessness Coalition

WHAT IS THE COALITION?

The Coalition unites 75+ organizations—including health and human service providers, private sector partners, and faith-based organizations—with a shared vision: **ensuring everyone in Lancaster County has a safe and stable place to call home.** Through service coordination, advocacy, public education, and community organizing, we work collaboratively to eradicate homelessness and build lasting housing solutions throughout Lancaster City and County.

VISION

A sustained, safe and quality home for all who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Lancaster County.

MISSION

Together, the Coalition provides quality, personalized human and housing services for all individuals and families facing or experiencing homelessness, and ensures homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

SHARED CORE VALUES

Client-Centered
Place the client first, always! Serve people experiencing homelessness with respect and dignity and empower them to strive to reach their objectives.

Bias Towards Action
Deliver collaborative initiatives through orchestrated actions that accelerate clearly defined published goals.

Be Authentic
Expect open communication and transparency to foster trusting relationships and value interactions that embrace diversity of thought.

Value Our People
Live a culture where our partners, employees, and volunteers are encouraged and motivated to achieve excellence.

Foster Community Ownership
People experiencing homelessness are valued members of our community: collectively we need to come together as good neighbors to support and empower them.