

Request for Nominations
For the Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Governance Board

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) charges communities that receive funds under the Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) Program of the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act with specific responsibilities. Relevant organizations in the Georgia Balance of State (BoS) designated the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to manage those responsibilities.

In the Governance Charter for the Georgia Balance of State CoC, which was approved as updated by the Balance of State CoC, the make-up of Balance of State CoC board membership was established. The board will be comprised of twenty-one people, fifteen of which will be appointed by various state departments, local governments, or interests related to homelessness among Veteran, and one homeless/formerly homeless representative that will be appointed by the Membership and Rules Committee. Five members of the Governance Board will represent each of the five DCA “Super Regions,” that will be selected by a community process. In January 2025, the terms for all “At Large” seats will expire. These five board seats will be filled following this call for nominations from the community, followed by a review by a Membership and Rules Committee that will finalize a recommended slate of Board Members.

The Membership and Rules Committee is inviting the community of stakeholders to nominate potential Governance Board members for the “Super Region” seats. A basic packet of information as well as a FILLABLE Nomination Form is posted on DCA’s web page at the following link: <https://dca.georgia.gov/georgia-balance-state-coc-large-board-member-nominations>. Please share it with others in the community. Please consider in making your board nomination that the Balance of State CoC strives to foster a climate of purposeful diversity of racial and cultural identity, background, nationality, sexual and affectional orientation, gender identity and its expression, religious background and belief, marital status, family structure, age, and educational status mirroring that of the constituents served. It affirmatively prioritizes those persons who by their background are effective voices for constituents served, including but not limited to those who have experienced (or who are experiencing) homelessness. Nominations that help fulfill this goal are encouraged.

Detailed information about the Governance Structure, and the responsibilities of the Board, can be found at: <https://dca.georgia.gov/affordable-housing/homelessness-assistance/georgia-balance-state-continuum-care/continuum-care-1>.

If you are interested in serving on the Governance Board, or if you wish to nominate a person, please complete the form attached and submit it to Alison Morgan at bosmonitoring@dca.ga.gov.

The deadline to submit nominations is December 20, 2024, at 5:00 P.M.

Thank you for helping to identify key candidates for the CoC Governance Board and for your investment in ending homelessness in Georgia.

MEMBERSHIP AND RULES COMMITTEE “AT-LARGE” NOMINATION AND VOTING PROCESS

BoS CoC Board membership shall be established to include five (5) members to be elected by the full membership, with one from each of the five (5) GA Department of Community Affairs’ “Super Regions” (see map in Exhibit A).

The Membership and Rules Committee is charged to develop and implement a process for the nomination and election of “at-large” Board members from each of the five (5) DCA super-regions. All appointments will be subject to approval by the Membership and Rules Committee based upon criteria established by that Committee herein.

The Membership and Rules Committee will have ultimate responsibility for making sure that the appointments meet HUD and Continuum rules around diversity in the selection of Board members so that “relevant organizations” will be included.

This Committee may serve, as necessary, as a nominating committee for Board appointments, as well as for candidates for election.

In accordance with HUD’s Continuum of Care Interim Regulations, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is designated as the Collaborative Applicant. The Collaborative Applicant shall conduct elections for regional Board members.

Minimal criteria used for nomination and confirmation of “at-large” members to the CoC Board are:

- They must be representative of the relevant organizations and/or of projects serving homeless subpopulations;
- They must be “relevant” – meaning that they must be located in, or represent a balance of community stakeholders in that region; and
- They must have experience or expertise in homelessness or in providing homeless assistance.

Individuals must meet these criteria in addition to being an active participant in the continuum of care. In the case of an organization that HUD calls a “relevant organization” which has not previously participated in the continuum of care, the past participation requirement may be waived. Representatives from relevant organizations include nonprofit homeless assistance providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service providers, mental health agencies, hospitals, universities, affordable housing developers, law enforcement, and organizations that serve veterans and homeless and formerly homeless individuals.

Other desired characteristics for Governance Board Members include:

- Familiarity with local homeless needs and/or resources, gaps;
- Experience in homelessness or in providing homeless assistance;

- Have a passion for working to end homelessness;
- Recognition as a leader by the constituency they will represent;
- Capable of working effectively on a team;
- Have experience limiting/managing conflicts of interest;
- Have time available to accomplish the tasks and participate in quarterly meetings/special called meetings; and
- Willing to commit to at least 3 years of service.

In regard to the time commitment, the standing schedule for Board meetings are quarterly (February, May, August, and November). Meetings start at 1:00 PM (until around 2:00-2:30 PM), and they are held at the Atlanta office of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. There is a conference call option for the standing meetings. In addition, during the CoC competition there are up to two special meetings called that are held by conference call. Board Member terms shall be for three years. Absent reappointment or a new appointment, Board Members shall continue to serve indefinitely following the end of their term. There shall be no limit on terms of service.

As listed in the Georgia Balance of State CoC Governance Charter*, responsibilities of the Board include:

- Following its initial ratification by membership, and in consultation with the Collaborative Applicant and the HMIS Lead, update and follow the Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Governance Charter (24 CFR 578.7(5)). Exception: The Board selection process outlined in the Charter may only be revised by a vote of membership;
- Publish agendas on the DCA Continuum of Care website and hold meetings as necessary to carry out the work of the Continuum. Full membership meetings must be held at least twice annually (24 CFR 578.7(1));
- Appoint standing committees outlined in the Governance Charter, as well as additional committees, as necessary, and in collaboration with its committees, manage the work of the “Collaborative Applicant,” and “HMIS Lead” (24 CFR 578.7(4)).
- Appoint Committee members;
- Act on recommendations of Continuum Committees; and
- Set Priorities for the Continuum based solely upon committee recommendations.

*Approved Governance Charter and other related information available under the Manuals link at: <https://dca.georgia.gov/affordable-housing/homelessness-assistance/georgia-balance-state-continuum-care/continuum-care-0>.

Nomination and Voting Process

1. Following membership solicitation, DCA will distribute the Request for Nominations to interested parties serving or living in the Balance of State CoC and post the notice on DCA's web site
2. Nomination forms, with candidate information, are to be sent to DCA (see page 1 of the Request for Nominations document for instructions).
3. Candidate information will be distributed to the Membership and Rules Committee. Following review by all parties, DCA will set up a meeting (conference call or in-person) with this

Committee to discuss eligibility of candidates, regional selection, and other criteria. Specific candidates may also be targeted by this Committee.

4. Based on the selection criteria listed, the Membership and Rules Committee will develop and release a slate of proposed candidate nominations (one for each region) for full membership vote on the slate, as a whole.
5. DCA will solicit votes from the full list of Designated Voting Members and voting will take place through an on-line process so that votes will be recorded.

Voting Membership Policy

1. Each agency will have one vote for all matters called to a vote, including but not limited to, board representation.
2. It is the responsibility of each organization to designate a voting member.
3. While individuals, and non-voting staff of agencies, can be members of the CoC, provide input, and serve on committees, only organizations will have the ability to vote.

Regional At-Large Board Member Vacancies Policy

1. Following the determination of a vacancy(ies) of a Regional At-Large Board Member (as defined in the Code of Conduct), DCA will distribute the Request for Nominations to the full membership roster for nominations of interested parties serving or living in the BoS CoC Region(s) with the vacant seat(s) and post the notice on DCA's web site.
2. Nomination forms, with candidate information, are to be sent to DCA (as defined in the Request for Nominations).
3. Candidate information will be distributed to the Membership and Rules Committee. Following review by all parties, DCA will set up a meeting (conference call or in-person) with this Committee to discuss eligibility of candidates, regional selection, and other criteria. Specific candidates may also be targeted by this Committee.
4. Based on the selection criteria listed, the Membership and Rules Committee will develop and release information on the proposed candidate nomination (one for each related region with a vacancy) for full membership vote on the slate, as a whole.
5. DCA will solicit votes from the full list of Designated Voting Members and voting will take place through an on-line process so that votes will be recorded.

GA DCA Contacts:

Josh Gray

Josh.Gray@dca.ga.gov

Phone: (404) 327-6811

Alison Morgan

Alison.Morgan@dca.ga.gov

Phone: (470) 645-6270

Tina Moore

tina.moore@dca.ga.gov

Phone: (404) 327-6870

Attached is one (1) document:

- 1) GA Balance of State CoC Board Nomination Form

Exhibit A

BoS CoC Super Regions

