Public Call for Nominations for At-Large Representatives for the Steering Committee of The Way Home Continuum of Care

The Way Home Steering Committee is seeking to add At-Large committee members who will assist in leveraging non-housing funds in the region-wide effort to make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring.

Nominations or letters of interest are requested before 5 p.m. Friday, August 14, 2020.

Explanation

The Way Home Continuum of Care is the collaborative effort to prevent and end homelessness in Harris, Ft. Bend, and Montgomery counties. The Steering Committee is the leadership body (similar to a board of directors) of The Way Home. It has authority over the planning and deployment of federal government funds to address homelessness in our community.

At-Large positions are for professionals who work in systems that interact with the homeless response system (e.g., health, mental health, Veterans Administration, school districts, child welfare, workforce development, university, criminal justice, business, faith community, victims service providers, etc.). The role of At-Large Representatives is to assist the Continuum of Care in leveraging mainstream funding from — and making positive changes within — those systems for the benefit of people experiencing homelessness in our region.

Currently, The Way Home Steering Committee is prioritizing representation from the following systems: health, mental health, school districts, child welfare, higher education, and criminal/juvenile justice.

At-Large positions are elected positions of The Way Home Steering Committee. Visit https://www.homelesshouston.org/thewayhome to view the Steering Committee charter.

Commitment

The Way Home Steering Committee meets on the second Thursday of every month for two hours at 3:30 PM. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings have been hosted virtually through webinar. It is estimated that in addition to these two-hour meetings, Steering Committee members will need 8-10 hours of preparation and study time to prepare for each meeting. Also, at times there are calls for additional meetings to discuss new challenges or
events. Steering Committee members are expected to attend at least 75% of all meetings in one year and encouraged to attend all. Steering Committee member terms last for two years.

Support

The Way Home Steering Committee involves time-consuming, challenging work. To support all Steering Committee Members, there are monthly, pre-meeting information sessions, accessible staff, and a significant amount of email communication. In addition to these items, new Steering Committee members will receive a comprehensive training at the start of their commitment.

The Steering Committee is committed to improving its inclusivity and transparency; therefore, meetings will include clear presentation of information, deliberate requests for specific input from At-Large Representatives, and open discussions of choices in decision-making. The Steering Committee is committed to creating an environment where all voices are heard and valued. The Steering Committee will seek to make any accommodation necessary to ensure the meaningful participation of all members.

Opportunity

The oncoming At-Large Representatives are invited to provide feedback on Steering Committee processes and the new member experience through routine conferences with the Steering Committee Chair (leader) and staff of the Coalition for the Homeless, the Lead Agency to The Way Home.

How to apply

The Way Home Steering Committee is seeking four At-Large Representatives.

In evaluating nominations, the Nominations Committee will consider the following:

- Is the candidate representative of the diversity within the more than 100 organizations making up the Continuum of Care and representative of the diverse populations served by the Continuum of Care?
- Can the candidate assist the Continuum of Care with leveraging mainstream funds from — and making positive changes within — adjacent systems (e.g., health, mental health, Veterans Administration, school districts, child welfare, workforce development, university, criminal justice, business, faith community, victims service providers, etc.) for the benefit of people experiencing homelessness in our region?
Please send nominations or letters of interest to SCquestions@homelesshouston.org with a resume if available (or a paragraph describing the qualifications of the person nominated if a resume is not available). Please be sure to include the full name, email address and phone number of the nominee. Please indicate in the subject line of your email that you are submitting a nomination (or application) for an At-Large Representative.

Nominations or letters of interest are requested before 5 p.m. Friday, August 14, 2020. Nominations received after this date will be accepted but may not receive full consideration.

All nominations will be reviewed by the Nominations Committee. Several will be selected for interviews with Steering Committee Members, and recommendations for new Representatives will be made to the full Steering Committee for approval at the September 10, 2020, meeting. At-Large Representatives are elected positions of The Way Home Steering Committee.