

TX BoS CoC Board Nominations – Seat 6

Daisy Lopez

Organization (if applicable): Friendship of Women

Job Title (if applicable): Victim and Education Manager

Do you live and/or work in the TX BoS CoC's geographic area?

Yes

If yes, in which TX BoS CoC county and/or counties do you live and/or work and would you represent on the CoC Board?

Cameron

Which seat are you seeking?

Seat 6 -- Victim Services

Do you have lived experience of homelessness? In other words, have you ever lived in a homeless situation?

Yes

Are you affiliated with a HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Program-funded project and/or Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program-funded project operating in the TX BoS CoC?

Yes

If yes, indicate your role:

Employee

Are you the Chair of a Local Homeless Coalition (LHC)?

Yes

If yes, which LHC?

Cameron County Homeless Coalition

1. Please describe your personal and/or work experience with the population you would be representing in the designated seat, if elected.

This year, 2020, I will celebrate 14 years working at Friendship of Women, Inc. (FOW), a family violence and rape crisis center in Cameron County. During my time at FOW, I served in direct advocacy roles such as Legal Advocate and Shelter Coordinator, and I have worked in the battering intervention space providing offender intervention. I currently serve as the project manager/director overseeing all outreach victim services, battering intervention and prevention program, community education and training, and primary prevention efforts at FOW. My journey in this movement started when I was a high school student volunteering at FOW. I am passionate about this work can understand the impact violence has on our community. I experienced domestic violence in my childhood and experienced a period of housing instability and homelessness. I continue to find ways where I can learn from and share my experiences with my community to help provide safety.

2. Please describe how you have participated in the TX BoS CoC in the past.

I currently serve as the Victim Services representative for the TX BoS CoC. I have served as a member of the Cameron County Homeless Coalition since 2015 and have served in officer roles, most recently serving as Chair. Friendship of Women, Inc. is a victim service provider and local shelter in Southern Cameron County and serves as an entry point in our community's housing crisis response system.

3. Please describe your experience, if any, working with the HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Program or similar programs focused on ending homelessness (ESG, SSVF, PATH, and RHY).

As mentioned, I currently serve as the Victim Services representative for the TX BoS CoC. Within my capacity at FOW, I manage and oversee project services funded by ESG. I have 7 years of experience managing ESG programs with FOW.

4. Please describe your experience, if any, serving on a board of directors, including any leadership roles.

I have served as a board member at TX BoS CoC since 2018. I am also a current Advisory Committee Member of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Regional Police Academy. I also served as Secretary, Vice-Chair, and Chair of the Cameron County Homeless Coalition between 2015 and 2020.

5. Please describe your experience, if any, with managing grants.

As the project director at FOW, I have over 10 years of managing local, state, and federal grants. In my role I assist with the writing, implementing, and managing of all agency grants. These grants include homelessness related funding as well as victim service grants. Currently, I assist in managing programming for an organizational budget of over \$2 million.

6. Please describe your specific skills that can benefit the CoC.

I believe my skills in grant management and working directly in a victim service organization can help the CoC in supporting programs in the BoS who work with victims experiencing homelessness. Having worked in this space for 14 years in a predominately Hispanic border community, I believe I can bring a different perspective on the initiatives and services survivors need in marginalized communities. I enjoy speaking to groups and communities about the realities impacting victims and I can use this platform to share these experiences. During my time as an officer for the Cameron County Homeless Coalition, I have supported my community in implementing a formalized crisis housing response system (coordinated entry) while lifting the existing work and strong relationships of community partners. This has resulted in a coalition that meets monthly with over 20 community partners representing their unique discipline all working to end homelessness in our community.

7. Why do you want to serve on the CoC Board?

I am passionate about sharing resources and supporting programs that serve victims to help make our communities safe for everyone. I believe that serving on the CoC Board will create opportunities for me to connect with new allies while building stronger and safer communities. I am willing, able, and ready to share about the needs of victims experiencing homelessness and the needs of programs that work each day to empower survivors.

8. If you are elected to the board, what do you plan to work on and accomplish?

If elected to continue to serve on the board, I plan to continue to share the needs and challenges of survivors and victim service providers. The underlying social issues impacting victims are the same issues impacting communities across the CoC. I hope to support creating a more open space where problem-solving can take place. I would also like to support more training for non-victim service providers around the unique challenges faced by victims and survivors.

9. What else would you like the CoC members to know about you?

It has been an honor to serve on the CoC Board as a victim service representative these past two years. This is not a responsibility I take lightly and I hope to continue to support this work in any way possible. If elected this would be my second consecutive term and I am just as motivated and determined as I was at the start of my first year. Thank you for this opportunity!