

## **TX BoS CoC Board Nominations – Seat 10 - Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Recipient/Entitlement Jurisdiction**

### **Gloria Luna**

Organization (if applicable): United Way of Brazoria County

Job Title (if applicable): Community Outreach Director

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?

Brazoria

Which seat are you seeking?

Seat 10 -- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Recipient/Entitlement Jurisdiction

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:

Contractor

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

Yes

If yes, which LHC?

Homeless Coalition of Brazoria County

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

In 1986 I was a ward of the state at the age of 16 and placed in a Youth Home in Brazoria County for children that were neglected, abused, or abandoned. I have been an employee of United Way of Brazoria County since 2001. I relate with the clients that we assist due to me being one many years ago - I utilized United Way funded programs, governmental programs, and community programs as I gained knowledge and strength to overcome generational habits/past. Being an employee with United Way of Brazoria County for almost 20 years has allowed me to build and strengthen our relationship with many partners in our community. (Brazoria County Housing Development; TX Worksource; TX Human Services, etc.)

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

United Way of Brazoria County is an Entry Point for Coordinated Entry. I assisted our county in writing the policies and procedures; organized community meetings; and help our partners when needed with questions of the whole Coordinated Entry System. I also serve as the Chair of our newly formed Brazoria County Homeless Coalition.

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).

United Way of Brazoria County is working with our local Housing Development and COVID-19 ESG - CARES Fund to assist residents with rental and/or utility assistance. I also have close contact with our Mental Health Authority (Gulf Coast Center) who runs our PATH Programs here in Brazoria County. There is still a lot to learn however; I am willing to put the work in to represent our county.

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

I served on the Galveston County Community Actions board for a short while in 2019. I am Chair of the Brazoria County Long Term Recovery Committee; Chair of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program in Brazoria County; and Chair of the Homeless Coalition of Brazoria County.

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

I assisted United Way of Brazoria County in managing the American Red Cross Unmet Needs Grant of \$240,000 for Hurricane Harvey. I have also assisted in managing our Rebuild Texas Fund - Mobile Home Grant (\$1,265,859) for Hurricane Harvey. We just received word that Brazoria County was awarded Phase 37 and Phase CARES for Emergency Food and Shelter Program in the amounts of \$161,412 and \$230,127 - I will assist in managing these grants for

United Way of Brazoria County and our 9 Local Recipient Organizations that will be representing: ( Phase 37\$145,127 and Phase CARES \$114,412)

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

Being a ward of the state, knowing the struggle of being a single mom and living on one income struggling at times to make ends meet. I know what it is like to be alone and not have anyone assist you when needed - my determination and refusal to commit the same mistakes that my parents/grandparents did help me overcome and become a better mother and grandmother to my now 27- year-old and two beautiful grandchildren.

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

I want to continue making a difference for residents in Brazoria County. I also want to continue learning and bringing in any new funding that will assist those who struggle daily.

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

I plan to represent Brazoria County and United Way 100% professionally I plan to learn all I can as a Board Member of the TX BoS CoC and share it with all that will benefit from it moving forward.

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

I am a person who is willing to listen, learn, and remediate any mistakes to help make our programs better. I am also very compassionate to listen to the needs of our community and help be a voice/advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves.