

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

Seat 11 – Public Housing Authority

Terra Harris

Current Position: Executive Director at Front Steps

TX BoS CoC county served: Williamson

Do you have lived experience of homelessness? In other words, have you ever lived in a homeless situation? No

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?

No

Are you the Chair of a Local Homeless Coalition (LHC)? No

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

I started my career working in public housing at Murphy Homes Projects located in Baltimore, Maryland. I worked with the tenant's council, management and others in the community to support the needs of children and families. Murphy Homes' included four high rise buildings 725, 851, 925 and 1058. There were also a cluster of low-rise homes which were a part of Murphy Homes Projects, too.

I was the Attendance Monitor for George St. Elementary School. It was my responsibility to ensure sure students came to school daily. This required building positive cohesive relationships between the public housing staff, the community and the families, too. George Street has one of the highs daily student attendance scores of all Baltimore City's schools-95-97% annually. It's also important to share many of my very good friends lived in the and around the Murphy Holmes community.

The experience continues to shape my career even today, I remember the many lessons learned.

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

This would be my 1st engagement working with TX BOS COC. I started as the Executive Director with Front Steps on February 1, 2021. During the last year I have worked to entrench myself in the Austin [Texas] community to support the critical needs of the community.

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).

At Front Steps, we are currently funded through the City of Austin, HUD and other federal programs. We work with the local CoC ECHO and receive ESG funding. SSVF programs is a



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long-standing successful program of Front Steps. Yes, I am familiar with the SSVF process, its funding streams as well the requirements.

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

I've served on boards of directors in various locations:

Maryland-Female Task Force & NIA Organization

New Jersey- Mission Kitchen

Florida- The Seed School

I have held the following offices on these boards including: Chair, Co-Chair, and Secretary.

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

I have and am responsible for managing grants at the local, state and federal levels. The grants' totals started at \$200,000 up to \$4.5 million. In most cases, where allowed, the grants were extended in accordance w/the requirements. The extension were allowed due to requirements being met and we were in complete compliance w/the grant.

Please describe your specific skills that can benefit the CoC.

Currently, as an Executive Director including various other experiences in: for-profit, government, and non-profit sectors I will share the following benefits w/the CoC: Advocacy, Contracts, Financial, and Grants Management

Policy, Procedures, and Organizational Development

Project/Program Management

Strategic Planning and Implementation

Talent Recruitment, Retention, and Performance Management

Why do you want to serve on the CoC Board?

It is important for you me to share w/the CoC my focus to support the needs of the community. This includes public housing while utilizing both my skills, knowledge and abilities to ensure public housing is maintains and grows with those who most need public housing in our community.

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

If I am elected to the board, I plan to bring a better understanding and the importance of public housing to the public. The better understanding will be done by intersectionalization the importance of public housing and how it is an important part of supportive housing, too.

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

In closing, I share w/the CoC membership, I am committed to supporting those from under resourced and underserved communities. My commitment drives my interest in supporting the



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board, the community which results in productive ROI for all. I look forward to being part of the much needed work and responsibilities of the board if I am selected.



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