



Jackson County CoC – OR-502 General Member Application

Please review the attached documents fully, before filling out the application.

Membership Type:

- Individual
- Grantee Organization
- Non-Grantee Organization
- Government Agency
- For-Profit Business/Organization
- Other

Name of Individual or Organization: _____

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Contact person (if organization):

If you or your organization is a community service provider, please select the services you or your organization provides:

(Please select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| Food or Nutrition Services | Educational Services: |
| Sheltering Services | Employment Services: |
| Rehousing Services | Childcare Youth Services: |
| Eviction Prevention Services | Veteran Services |
| Legal Services | Senior Services |
| Medical or Medical Navigation Services | Substance Use Recovery Services |
| Energy or Utility Assistance Services | Immigration and Naturalization Services: |
| Social Justice Services | Disability Services: |
| Behavioral Health Services: | |

Do you have lived experience with homelessness, sheltered or unsheltered?

Y N

Curent Areas of Operation:

(Please select all that apply)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Ashland | White City | McLeod |
| Butte Falls | Wimer | Mountain View |
| Central Point | Applegate | Persist |
| Eagle Point | Beagle | Pinehurst |
| Gold Hill | Bitter Lick | Provolt |
| Jacksonville | Brownsboro | Rock Point |
| Medford (county seat) | Buckhorn Springs | Rogue Elk |
| Phoenix | Buncom | Sams Valley |
| Rogue River | Cascade Gorge | Seven Oaks |
| Shady Cove | Climax | Starvation Heights |
| Talent | Colestin | Steamboat |
| Prospect | Dardanelles | Table Rock |
| Foots Creek | Four Corners | Tolo |
| Ruch | Lake Creek | Union Creek |
| Trail | Lincoln | |
| | McKee Bridge | |

Please describe your and your organization’s impact on Jackson County. Please also provide details of impact duration.

Please list your experience (Professional, or lived experience) working with marginalized and underrepresented groups?

Are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors or a Workgroup?

Yes No

Notice

To participate in election of CoC Board members, the General Membership Application must be submitted to the Board Secretary no later than 1 week prior to the call for vote of election, and approved no later than 2 days prior to the call for vote of election.



Who We Are

The Jackson County Continuum of Care (CoC) is a HUD-mandated, community-wide effort to end homelessness by providing stable housing for the unhoused and offering preventative services to those at risk of becoming unhoused. The Jackson County CoC seeks to end homelessness in Jackson County through the collaborative efforts and resources of all sectors of the community.

The Jackson County Continuum of Care commits to:

- Comprehensive strategies to quickly re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness.
- Promoting access to and utilization of programs by unhoused individuals and families through person-centered, coordinated entry, assessment and referral policies and effective utilization of mainstream programs by unhoused individuals and families.
- Offering broad strategies and solutions to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.
- Promoting and creating permanent affordable housing solutions to specifically address the needs of chronically homeless individuals and families, as well as others at risk of homelessness, including permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing.
- Maintaining a regional Homeless Information Management System (HMIS) and a coordinated entry system, which matches individuals and families with available housing.
- Effective distribution and use of available resources from HUD Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs, as well as any other appropriate sources.
- Comprehensive and collaborative oversight of the CoC workgroups, the annual assessment of the state of homelessness in Jackson County, including a Point-in-time Count, Housing Inventory Count, and evaluation of changes in overall homeless conditions and by subpopulations.

How We Operate

The CoC's work is currently carried out through a collaboration of local non-profit agencies, persons of lived experience, local government, and other community partners. Unhoused individuals or families are now placed on a centralized, coordinated entry list for housing after a robust trauma-informed vulnerability index assessment. As housing becomes available, those with the highest vulnerability scores are placed first. The Continuum of Care utilizes the housing units from all providers to make these placements; thus ending the proprietary nature of agencies who previously had provided housing only to their own clients. This coordinated entry system more efficiently and rapidly houses individuals and families by breaking down silos to improve access so that those with the greatest need are served first. Through the work of the Board and workgroups, barriers to housing are removed and the communities of Jackson County are educated on why a "Housing First" approach is critical. Housing First is a no-barrier or low-barrier model that has successfully demonstrated that once barriers to housing are removed and homeless individuals are housed, they are better able to take care of their health concerns, Substance Use Disorders, family traumas, and employment opportunities. Stable housing is the first step in helping people to actualize their full potential and to strengthen communities.

Community-wide Benefits

Once those experiencing homelessness are placed into stable housing, statistically it is shown that:

- Emergency room visits decrease.
- Repeated incarcerations decrease.
- City and County expenses to clean up unsheltered campsites decrease.
- Overall community health increases
- Substance use disorders can be treated more effectively.
- Couch surfing among children and teens decreases and more attention can be placed on education.
- Opportunities for employment increase.

History

The Jackson County Homeless Task Force (HTF), comprised of nonprofit and public organizations, began spearheading the effort to end homelessness in 1989. The HTF began functioning as the HUD-designated CoC in 2001 and developed a 10-year Plan to End Homelessness in Jackson County in 2009. In 2018, the Continuum was restructured and the HTF became one of the CoC's workgroups.

Need

A comprehensive undertaking to solve such a large, area-wide issue is complex and requires a commitment from all community sectors along with the will to create change. It is not one agency, one city, or one community's issue. Commitment, input, and the will to create change are needed from all sectors. Because the CoC is not a 'program' but truly a collaboration and partnership, financial resources, and valuable input are needed from all participating communities and organizations to ensure the CoC's success.

Membership

The CoC's membership is a group of organizations and individuals interested in creating, implementing, and serving collaboratively to effectively address issues causing homelessness and to provide support to those experiencing homelessness. Membership is open year-round, through the application process, to anyone in Jackson County, Oregon, including those currently unhoused. CoC members are encouraged to join or propose workgroups that provide guidance and expertise to the CoC Board. CoC members are also eligible to apply for funding through the CoC. The membership application is available on the CoC's website at <https://jacksoncountyorcoc.org>, and by requesting a copy from the CoC Lead at the contact information listed below. If you need assistance applying or would like additional information, please contact the CoC Lead.

CoC Lead Contact

Melissa Markos, CoC Lead
Jackson County Continuum of Care,
3630 Aviation Way, Medford, OR 97504
mmarkos@accesshelps.org; (458) 488-1216