



# Candidate Forum

## 2025 Steering Committee Elections

NEW YORK CITY CONTINUUM OF CARE (NY-600)

11.05.2025 – VIRTUAL – ZOOM

# Ground Rules



One mic/refrain from speaking while someone else has the mic



Speak/engage in first draft



Respect differences in experience and understanding



Hold questions until the presenter(s) open(s) the conversation



Share ideas and resources in the chat



# Agenda



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- 1) Candidate Forum Overview
  - 2) What does the Steering Committee Do?
  - 3) Voting Procedure
  - 4) Candidate Presentations



# Candidate Forum Overview

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## Overview:

This Candidate Forum is designed to give the CoC community an opportunity to learn more about the individuals running for the 2026 Steering Committee. Each candidate will have 2–3 minutes to speak. Candidates who are unable to attend have submitted speeches or videos to be shared during the event. For those who are not present and did not submit materials, an excerpt from their application will be presented.

## Host:

- **Jonathan R. Martinez** | Director, CoC Engagement and Project Oversight at DSS

# What does the Steering Committee Do?

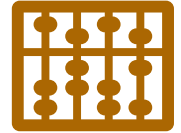


**The Steering Committee** consists of 17 members who provide overall leadership to ensure the CoC carries out its vision and meets all HUD mandates and requirements. The Steering Committee provides direction to, and coordinates the efforts of CoC Committees, approves and sets policy priorities, and communicates with the public and external stakeholders to build their understanding of homelessness and the solutions required to prevent and eradicate it.

## **Breakdown:**

- Serve a two-year term
- Meet monthly
- Serve on at least one committee

# Candidate Forum Overview



## The nine (9) available seats:

One (1) At-Large seat

Two (2) Coalition seats

Two (2) Government seats

Two (2) Persons with Lived Experience

- One (1) General seat
- One (1) Youth seat

One (2) Non-profit seats

## Number of applications received:

At-Large: 5

Coalition: 2

Government: 2

Non-profit: 13

Persons with Lived Experience (G): 4

Persons with Lived Experience (Y): 1

# Voting Procedure

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## Overview:

After the Candidate Forum the ballot will be released. Eligible voters will have until November 21st to vote. Voting will be extended if quorum (one more than half of the eligible voters) is not met by November 21st.

## Eligible Voters:

One (1) vote per CoC-funded organization

One (1) vote per Youth Action Board member

One (1) vote per Persons with Lived Experience Committee member

One (1) vote per current CoC Steering Committee member

## Note:

Any person eligible to vote under multiple categories shall not be entitled to more than one vote.



Vote for Me!

# Candidate Presentations

2025 STEERING COMMITTEE CANDIDATES



# Government (2 candidates)

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**Definition:** A government agency applicant must have significant oversight over homeless services and housing programs in New York City. They must also be a NYC, NY State or a Federal agency (excluding HUD).

## Candidates:

1. **Anthony (Tony) Lee** – NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)
2. **Tracy Thorne** – NYC Dept. of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)

# Persons With Lived Experience

(5 candidates)

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**Definition:** An individual who is currently or has formerly experienced homelessness in New York City.

## Candidates:

1. Cameron Craig
2. Avii Van Praagh
3. William Stanford
  - Speech
4. Doobneek
5. Nedelyn Helena-Diaz

# At-Large (5 candidates)

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**Definition:** An individual or entity that has a demonstrated interest in ending homelessness in NYC and has expertise in a specific area that will be of value to the NYC CoC

## Candidates:

1. **Lauren Velez** – Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) – Entity
2. **William Watts** – Coalition for the Homeless – Entity
3. **Nicole Ruiz** – Individual
4. **Shanet Dunovant** – Individual
5. **Dr. Vikki C. Terrile** – Individual

# Coalition (2 candidates)

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**Definition:** A group of at least five organizations that has come together with a priority to advocate for services and/or needs of homeless or formerly homeless individuals and families.

## Candidates:

1. **Victoria Leahy** – Homeless Services United (HSU)
2. **James (Jim) Mutton** – Association for Community Living (ACL)

# Non-profit (13 candidates)

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**Definition:** A 501(c)3 organization funded by the CoC that provides housing and/or services to homeless or formerly homeless individuals and families in New York City; serves as a subject matter expert for a specific housing type and/or service model; has a structure for actively engaging persons with lived experience in policy making decisions for the organization.

## Candidates:

1. **Clare Acharya** - Anthos | Home
2. **Maryum Christie** - Praxis Housing Initiatives
3. **Joyce Kelly** – HousingPlus
4. **Martha Kenton** - HELP USA
5. **Vivian Louie** - Community Housing Innovations, Inc. (CHI)
6. **Theresa Manuel** - CP Unlimited formerly Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State

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## Candidates:

1. **Molly Mattimore** - HSI /Kenmore HDFC
2. **Justin Miller** - Breaking Ground
3. **Jady Sanchez** - Restore NYC
4. **Pria Sibal** - Sakhi for South Asian Survivors
5. **Sebastien Vante** - Safe Horizon
6. **Stephanie Zovich** - Care for the Homeless
7. **Karen Lyken** – Harlem United



# Thank You for Joining!

NYC CONTINUUM OF CARE