

Austin/Travis County TX-503 Continuum of Care (CoC) Independent Review Team (IRT)

Purpose: To provide objective review of all local HUD Continuum of Care grant applications and provide preliminary ranking recommendations to the TX-503 ECHO Membership Council for voting approval.

Composition:

11 Members
Appointed Members (3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ City of Austin➤ Travis County➤ United Way for Greater Austin
Community Members (8)
Representatives including but not limited to the following categories:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Criminal Justice➤ Faith Community➤ Veterans➤ Healthcare➤ Survivors of Domestic Violence➤ Business Community➤ Housing Developers➤ Youth and Young Adult➤ LGBTQ
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Recommend that at least two IRT members have a finance/budgeting background</i>

Community Members & Chair

- Applications for vacant community member slots are accepted once per year and/or as needed and approved by the ECHO Membership Council.
- The IRT Chair will be appointed by the Membership Council to serve one-year terms

Qualifications for Members

- A commitment to the fair and sufficient distribution of HUD CoC funding to local homeless-serving agencies.
- Time to participate in the review of applications and site visits (when they occur).
- Ability to participate in a fair and equitable process without agency or programmatic preferences.
- Ability to participate in a respectful, consensus-driven and problem-solving process.
- Significant knowledge of issues and services related to solutions to homelessness.

- **Individuals who are employees, contractors, or board members of service providers that receive HUD CoC funding are not eligible to serve on the IRT.**

Confidentiality: Members will be required to sign the Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality policies annually to help ensure the integrity of the IRT review process.

Tenure: Appointed members are designated by the sponsoring organization with a recommendation that they rotate every three years. Representatives of special populations and community members serve three-year terms, with an annual review of their commitment, and the option to serve two consecutive terms.

Components of IRT for Reviewing and Ranking HUD CoC Applications

- Review Performance Report Card
- Review applications
- Assess project and cost-effectiveness
- Rank based on the above results and Community funding priorities
- Evaluate project readiness (new)

2018 Anticipated Timeline for IRT

May 7	Identification of 2018 IRT Members and Select IRT Chair
June 5	Orientation of IRT members (9-11AM)
June 12	One-day application review and preliminary scoring session (9-5PM)
June 19	IRT Q&A with applicants (9-5PM)
June 26	IRT Project Ranking (9-12PM)
July 2	Report renewal ranking to ECHO Membership Council-Chair

Application Threshold Review and Standardized Scoring

ECHO Staff will review organizations’ applications for the following items, to determine eligibility and create standardized scores where appropriate:

- Performance Score Card
- Match for project (previous year and proposed year)
- Continuum of Care Participation
- Independent audit (if necessary)

Proposed 2018 IRT Members

Appointed:

Chair- Thomas Visco, Glasshouse Policy

1. City of Austin- Josh Rudow
2. Travis County- Martha Brown
3. United Way for Greater Austin- Sara Reeves

Community Members:

- Criminal Justice- Darla Gay, Travis Co District Attorney's Office
- Faith Community- Cathy Stone, FUMC
- Veterans- *Vacant*
- Healthcare- David Houke, Austin Recovery
- Survivors of Domestic Violence- *Vacant*
- Business Community- Tom Visco, Glasshouse Policy
- Housing Developers- *Vacant*
- Youth and Young Adult- Bill King, Retired Judge- Juvenile Justice
- LGBTQ- Briona Jenkins, Out Youth
- Community Member- Toni Townsend, Master of Criminal Justice