

OR-506CoC Hillsboro/Beaverton/Washington County

Continuum of Care (CoC) Board

Applicant Summary

Applicant: Katherine Galian
Organization: CoC Program Manager, Washington County Housing Services
CoC Board Position: HSSN Chair

Professional or lived experience in:

- Food Assistance
- Rent/Energy Assistance
- Training/Education
- Homelessness Services
- Asset Building (business or home purchase, credit repair, etc.)
- Veteran Supports and Services
- Senior Supports and Services
- Youth Services
- Case Management
- Housing Navigation
- Other (Please describe)

I have over 25 years of experience working with people experiencing homelessness both as a direct service provider and in program/fund administration. I began my career working with children and families in the emergency shelter setting and have also worked in the single adult shelter setting.

I joined the Washington County staff as the CoC Program Manager after 22 years of service in homeless and housing program management in Washington County, most recently at Community Action as the Director of Housing Stability. I have been an active member of the Continuum for all 22 years.

Experience and willingness to serve on behalf of and advocate for people experiencing homelessness:

The majority of my career has been dedicated to responding to and preventing homelessness. As a student in San Francisco I had the opportunity to work with families in emergency shelter and hear their stories. I grew to understand their individual pathways to homelessness and see the impact of deep poverty, instability, and homelessness on each individual in the family and the family unit as a whole. I was simultaneously studying the policy and systemic drivers of and responses to homelessness as well as the political implications of unsheltered and chronic homelessness in a community. I went on to work in single adult shelter and as an intern with the Shelter Plus Care program before moving to Washington County more than 22 years ago. This experience shaped my view of homeless services systems and my understanding of how policy choices and program rules impact the daily lives of people experiencing homelessness. I hope that my historical knowledge of the Washington County community and the CoC specifically, will be an asset as we collaboratively map the course of our community's future. Across the span of my work history, I have successfully managed all aspects of the funding cycle. I have experience both directly managing HUD funded housing and homeless programs as well as managing contracts with partner organizations. This experience of being both a funder and a subrecipient enables me to understand process from both perspectives. Most importantly, though, am dedicated to working collaboratively to build and maintain an equitable homelessness response system that centers the needs of our most vulnerable community members.