

COALITION TO END FAMILY HOMELESSNESS CHARTER

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Coalition to End Family Homelessness (Coalition) is an initiative of United Way of the Columbia-Willamette (UWCW) and exists to bring together community members, service providers, public agencies, people with lived experience, philanthropists and advocates to prevent and end family homelessness by building a coordinated, family-centered system of support.

Our vision

We envision an Oregon where no family experiences homelessness because every family can readily access a coordinated and comprehensive system of care that provides the support they need to thrive.

Our mission

We unite partners across Oregon to advance community-wide strategies that prevent family homelessness, accelerate pathways to permanent housing, and build a more connected family stability ecosystem.

Our core values

- **Equity and justice:** We address systemic inequities and advance equitable outcomes through direct programming and policy reform.
- **Family-centered:** We place the needs, strengths, dignity and aspirations of parents, caregivers, children, and youth at the center of every decision.
- **Holistic stability:** We recognize that lasting housing stability requires more than housing by also advancing coordinated, wraparound supports that address the full range of a family's needs.
- **Lived experience leadership:** We center the voices of people with lived experience of homelessness and housing instability.

- **Cross-collaboration:** We foster shared problem-solving, transparent communication, and coordinated action with clear roles, responsibilities, and decision-making.
- **Evidence-based:** We use [ALICE data](#) as a foundational measure of need and use research, evaluation, and lived experience to identify gaps, guide decisions, and measure outcomes.
- **Prevention first:** We prioritize strategies that prevent homelessness whenever possible while also ensuring families in crisis receive the support they need to regain and maintain stability.

Our goal

To ensure every family in Oregon has access to safe, stable and affordable housing and the broader wraparound services necessary to thrive.

Our strategies

- Build public understanding and inspire shared responsibility for ending family homelessness.
- Mobilize a statewide movement committed to ending family homelessness through shared leadership, collective action, and sustained investment.
- Create a coordinated, responsive, and equitable system that ensures families can access the support they need when they need it.
- Transform the economic and systemic conditions that put families at risk of homelessness in the first place.
- Champion evidence-based solutions that generate lasting family housing stability and opportunities for families.

MEMBERSHIP

How members join or exit

Organizations and individuals may join the Coalition by formally agreeing to the Coalition Charter through a signed Memorandum of Understanding. As part of the intake process, members will designate a primary point of contact responsible for receiving Coalition communications and ensuring coordination within their organization, if applicable.

Coalition membership is based on a 12-month commitment, with the opportunity to renew annually. While members are encouraged to participate throughout the full term, they may withdraw at any time without formal approval. When possible, members are asked to provide advance notice to support continuity of collaboration.

As the Coalition's backbone organization, UWCW administers the membership process and reserves the right to decline or revoke membership when doing so is determined to be in the best interest of the Coalition or when a member's actions are inconsistent with the expectations outlined in this Charter.

Membership expectations

By joining the Coalition, members express their support for the Coalition's vision, mission, and values and agree to:

- participate in Coalition convenings and activities.
- engage respectfully and collaboratively with fellow Coalition members.
- complete the ALICE training module and adhere to the [United for ALICE terms of use](#).
- use the agreed upon common outcomes to measure success.
- contribute expertise, perspectives, resources, and/or opportunities that advance the Coalition's efforts.

OPERATING MODEL

Backbone organization

UWCW serves as the backbone organization for the Coalition, providing the leadership, infrastructure, and fiscal, administrative, and operational support needed to advance the Coalition's work.

Through this role, UWCW helps advance the Coalition's shared vision, supports implementation of its strategic priorities, and sustains its collective impact.

As the Coalition's backbone, UWCW is the steward of Coalition operations and resources, ensuring they are managed in alignment with the Coalition's Charter and shared priorities.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee serves as the Coalition's strategic leadership and advisory body, providing guidance on the Coalition's priorities and actions while helping ensure alignment with the Coalition's vision, mission, and values. The Steering Committee makes recommendations, fosters cross-sector collaboration, and helps advance the Coalition's shared priorities in partnership with UWCW.

Working groups

Working groups may be established for ongoing or time-limited initiatives to advance specific priorities. Working groups are formed based on Coalition needs and partner expertise and are approved by the Steering Committee in partnership with UWCW.

Potential areas of focus may include interventions for housing stability, family wellbeing, systems change, policy and advocacy, community engagement, data collection and resource development.

Each working group should identify a lead or co-leads, define objectives, and report progress to the Steering Committee.

Working groups may recommend strategies, develop proposals, and carry out approved activities, but they may not commit Coalition funds, enter into agreements, make public commitments, speak on behalf of the Coalition, or bind the Coalition or UWCW without prior authorization from UWCW and the Steering Committee.

Meetings

Meetings will be structured to support meaningful participation, information sharing, problem-solving, and action.

- Meeting cadence - Quarterly
- Steering Committee - Monthly and as needed
- Working groups - As needed

Decision-making

Major decisions should be guided by the Coalition's vision, mission, values, available data, community input, family experience, financial feasibility, and the likely impact on families experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

For decisions involving funds, contracts, staffing, grant obligations, compliance, fundraising, public communications, official Coalition positions, media engagement, or other legal or financial commitments, final approval rests with UWCW unless otherwise stated in a separate written agreement.

Contracts, commitments & fundraising

All fundraising, grant applications, sponsorship requests, and donor solicitations made in the name of the Coalition must be coordinated with and approved by UWCW in advance.

No Coalition member may enter into contracts, incur expenses, commit Coalition funds, apply for funding in the Coalition's name, hire staff, engage consultants or make financial commitments on behalf of the Coalition without prior written authorization from UWCW.

The Coalition is a collaborative body and does not independently possess legal, fiscal, contracting, employment, or fundraising authority unless such authority is expressly granted through a separate written agreement.

Funding & resource stewardship

The Coalition will be supported through an independent fund housed and administered by UWCW. This fund will support Coalition operations, strategic initiatives, advocacy efforts, research, capacity-building activities, and other investments that advance the Coalition's vision, mission, and values. As the backbone organization, UWCW has primary authority over the receipt, management, and expenditure of Coalition funds.

Funding decisions will be guided by principles of equity, transparency, and statewide impact. Resources will be allocated to advance the Coalition's strategic priorities, balance investments across regions of the state, and respond to areas demonstrating the greatest need and opportunity for impact. The Coalition will seek to ensure that funding decisions support both statewide systems

change and locally informed solutions that improve outcomes for families experiencing housing instability.

While UWCW will serve as the backbone organization, Coalition members may support fundraising efforts, grant development, and resource mobilization activities as appropriate.

UWCW may decline, delay, modify, or condition any proposed expenditure, contract, grant activity, staffing arrangement, or financial commitment if it determines that the action would create financial, legal, operational, reputational, compliance, or mission-related risk.

Budget development & approval

UWCW will prepare and coordinate the preparation of Coalition-related budgets. UWCW will provide reasonable financial transparency to the Steering Committee, including periodic reports on Coalition-related revenue, expenses, restricted funds, grant obligations, and major financial commitments. Financial reporting will support trust, accountability, and shared planning while recognizing that UWCW retains legal and fiduciary responsibility for funds under its control.

Final approval of budgets for funds held or administered by UWCW rests with UWCW unless otherwise required by a grant agreement, funder contract, or separate written agreement.

Communications

Coalition communications should be accurate, respectful, family-centered, and aligned with the Coalition's vision, mission, and values.

Authority to speak on behalf of the Coalition

- UWCW has primary authority to approve official Coalition communications and external representation, including public statements, media responses, testimony, reports, press releases, social media content, funding announcements, and advocacy positions.
- The Steering Committee may recommend positions or communications, but they are not official unless approved by UWCW.
- UWCW may designate authorized spokespersons for the Coalition and define the scope of their authority.

- Individuals may speak from their own organizational or personal perspective but may not represent views as official Coalition positions unless authorized.

Accountability & evaluation

The Coalition will track progress toward its goal using both quantitative and qualitative information. This may include system data, community feedback, family experience, service provider input, and policy or funding outcomes.

The Steering Committee, in partnership with UWCW, will periodically review its goals, strategies, membership structure, financial sustainability, and operating model to ensure they remain relevant, effective, and aligned with community needs.

UWCW will support accountability by maintaining appropriate records, financial reports, grant documentation, communications approvals, and operational systems for Coalition activities.

Amendments & Charter review

This Charter is a non-legally binding document and will evolve alongside the Coalition's priorities, membership, and statewide efforts to address family homelessness and housing instability. The Charter will be reviewed annually by UWCW and the Steering Committee to ensure continued alignment with the Coalition's vision, mission, and values.