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## Sonoma County

The nominee should be considered for the CoC Board not just because he will be the only Latino on the board but also because he brings a unique perspective of equality, inclusion, diversity, and life experience to the table. As per the Sonoma County Department of Health Services, Hispanics represent 31% of the total population, and having a diverse board would lead to more informed decisions that consider the needs and perspectives of a wider range of individuals and communities. By including the nominee on the board, it would lead to a more inclusive and diverse environment for all members of the CoC community.



Candidates may run for no more than two seats. Should a candidate run for two seats, one of them must be an at-large position. **Please select which seat(s) the individual is being nominated for:**

At Large    Homeless Service Provider    Licensed Health Care Organization

**Nominations and Statement of Interest must be received by 5:00 pm on November 29th, 2023, to [Araceli.Rivera@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Araceli.Rivera@sonoma-county.org)**

## Sonoma County Continuum of Care (CoC) Board 2023 Statement of Interest

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This section is to be filled out by the individual being nominated and will be shared publicly.

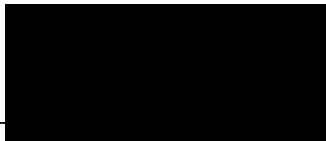
Name of Candidate: Uriel Brena Agency: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Please provide a statement of your interest in the Sonoma County Continuum of Care Board:

For the past six years, I have been working with St. Vincent de Paul to help our neighbors in need and the most vulnerable and marginalized population in Sonoma County. I believe that my unique perspective in life helps me understand and serve our homeless community better. When I was twelve, I hiked with my little brother for three days to get to America. Growing up, my family rented and shared a garage with two other families, and I often had to skip school to babysit my baby sister. However, I never saw myself as homeless, poor, or unfortunate. Now, having the opportunity to give back to my community, I constantly think that my work and community involvement will help others grow up just the way I wish someone had helped me.

I am interested in joining the Sonoma County Continuum of Care Board because I believe in the importance of ensuring that individuals experiencing homelessness are treated with dignity and respect. I am committed to finding effective solutions to the complex issues that homeless individuals face, and I believe that my experience working with St. Vincent de Paul and my personal background make me well-suited to serve on the board. I am excited about the opportunity to make a positive impact in Sonoma County and to contribute to the important work of the Continuum of Care Board.

Signature of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 11/16/2023