



Coho/US Board Member Application Packet

Revised 9/11/2015

Greetings to all potential Coho/US Board candidates!

Coho/US is a volunteer organization – our board members are big picture thinkers who have the ability to roll up their sleeves and get involved in the work. We are always on the lookout for people who have time to commit to Coho/US, as well as a passion for community and cohousing.

If you are interested in serving as a board member, please review the attached Expectations of a Coho/US Board member, and the webpages [About Coho/US](#); [Our Board](#); and [Our Staff](#). An attached set of questions serves as an application.

Coho/US accepts Board member applications throughout the year. Once we receive your completed application, and determine you have the qualifications we are looking for, we will arrange for an interview, by phone or in person as available.

You will be asked to provide personal and professional references during the application process. After checking the references, and reviewing the interview notes, the Board will decide whether to offer you a position on the Board.

If you have any questions about Board service, or would like to submit an application, please contact president@cohous.org.

Yours in community,

The Coho/US Board



Expectations of a Coho/US Board member

Responsibilities & commitments

A) Ensure sufficient financial resources to meet strategic objectives of the organization

- Make a personal gift significant for you
- Cultivate support from individuals, cohousing communities (particularly in your region), cohousing professionals, and businesses
- Ensure a sustainable business model through approval of an annual budget

B) Participate in Board conference calls

- One monthly Board Conference call - typically two (2) hours long.
- Additional committee conference and private calls are scheduled as needed.

C) Attend Board Face to Face (F2F) meetings

- As resources and time allows, the Board gathers for a long weekend annually.
- These gatherings take place at various locations around the country, but are typically near clusters of cohousing communities that can host us.
- Regional and national cohousing conferences are good opportunities for meeting.
- Presently, travel costs are a personal expense; Coho/US will consider supplementing travel expenses for those who request assistance.

D) Representing Coho/US

- Board members will represent Coho/US within the geographic region they presently live, as well as nationally.
- Board members are expected to reach out and develop relationships with the cohousing communities within their assigned region.
- To assist in this outreach, Board members are encouraged to identify and recruit volunteer community liaisons.

- E) Attend the biennial National Cohousing Conference as a representative of Coho/US
- The cost of conference registration is provided by Coho/US.
 - Lodging and travel is a personal expense; home hosting and carpooling are often coordinated. Coho/US will consider supplementing travel expenses for those who request assistance.

F) Participate as a Committee member

- Coho/US has various standing and ad hoc committees.
- Board members are expected to participate on at least one committee.

G) Help nurture strategic relationships for the Association, including organizational alliances Coho/US has with

- Cohousing Research Network (CRN)
- Partnerships for Affordable Cohousing (PFAC)
- Fellowship for Intentional Community (FIC)
- Sage Cohousing International (SCI)
- National Cooperative Bank (NCB)

H) Assist with Board member recruitment.

I) Serve as an advocate for the cohousing movement, and an ambassador for Coho/US.

Terms of Service

A) Board members serve one, three-year term, with an annual recommitment in the fall, and an option to renew without term limits.

B) Service is provisional for the first six months, giving both the candidate and the existing board an opportunity to assess fit. During this period, the candidate is mentored by a regular board member if requested, and either the candidate or the board may end service for any reason.

- A confidential conversation will be held between the Board President and the provisional Board member if any current Board member raises concerns about the provisional member continuing on the board.
- After the first six months, the candidate is affirmed as a board member.



Coho/US Board Member Application

Date:

Name:

Community/Company Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Describe your connection to cohousing:

Why would you like to serve on the Coho/US Board?

What is your previous Board experience with other organizations?

Describe the skills and experience you would bring to the Board:

If you live in cohousing, describe your role(s) within your community:

What are your previous experiences with fundraising?

What other activities / organizations are you involved with? Please list year, organization and leadership position (if any).