REQUEST FOR SERVICES:

Resident Empowerment Program Leader

The Resident Empowerment Program (REP)

At Hope Solutions, we believe that people with lived experience have the power to co-create a world where everyone has access to a safe and dignified home. The path to healing, including changing how housing gets built and provided, should be shaped by individuals with firsthand knowledge and experience of housing insecurity and the associated challenges. You are essential to our mission and vision. If you would like to become a leader in the work to end homelessness, then we invite you to apply for REP.

REP is an initiative at Hope Solutions where people with lived experience of homelessness or housing insecurity help the organization raise our voice about important decisions being made by elected officials, voters, and other community leaders that relate to housing and homelessness services.

We are looking for **four REP Leaders** in **Contra Costa County** for **Fall 2026**, with the possibility of an extension. REP Leaders are compensated for their time as contractors with Hope Solutions and make **$25 per hour** for approximately **12-15 hours per month**. These hours are **mostly in-person, with some virtual meetings.**

What You'll Be Doing

REP Leaders use their natural connections with their neighbors and other people in our communities to highlight how federal, state, and local government decisions affect their day-to-day lives. This includes talking about the potential pros and cons for issues that are currently up for a vote by decision makers or voters.

REP leaders may share parts of their own story to persuade decision makers to cast votes that are in the best interest of keeping our neighbors housed, including making budget decisions about services and the building of new affordable housing.

REP leaders help other people who may have experienced homelessness or housing insecurity to see the value in and find the courage to share parts of their story. We know that braiding many voices as part of a movement is often a good way to help bring about change more quickly.

Priorities for Fall 2026

- **Veterans' and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026**
    - Helping our neighbors understand that when we vote for more money for affordable housing and support services in our community, more homes can be built, and more people can stay housed.
- **Relationship building with local elected officials**
    - Reminding our local elected officials that the way Hope Solutions' runs programs makes real change for people in our community
- **Supporting new building projects at Hope Solutions through neighborhood meetings and celebrations**
    - Hope Solutions is building several new projects, and it is often helpful for neighbors and local decision makers to hear how these projects help real people and improve the community.

Tasks You'll Be Asked to Do

- Actively participate in in-person and online trainings regularly
- Educate others on the value of voting; help them know where to sign-up
- Educate others about specific decisions that are in front of decision makers or voters; this may include outreach over the phone, email, text message, as well as tabling and door-knocking.
- Help create events or activities to support community education about upcoming decisions
- Create short written and video messages, that may include sharing part of your story
- Participate in the creation of longer written documents, like a case study or news story
- Attend and speak at meetings and workshops to understand what other groups are doing and bring attention to issues we are working on
- Help Hope Solutions' staff make presentations to groups
- Help others tell their story by asking questions based on a guide and working through their answers
- Attend meetings with decision makers as part of a team with Hope Solutions staff (may include 1-2 meetings in Sacramento; Hope Solutions would coordinate transportation)
- Speak at events on behalf of Hope Solutions' programs and new development projects
- Track activities, give feedback on which strategies are working, and help brainstorm ways for the REP Initiative to keep getting better
- Other similar activities as requested

**Note: A lot of training will be provided on voter registration, how to influence decision makers and other voters, and on the specific policies we are supporting. No experience or specific knowledge is required to apply.*

Skills and Qualities We Are Looking For

- Ability to talk, build trust, and share information with people from different backgrounds

- Willingness to gain skills to talk in front of groups of people, including decision makers
- Comfort sharing a part of your story to benefit others
- Passion and desire to help others, using laws and budgets as the tools
- Willingness to share and take feedback on what is going well and what we can do better
- Willingness to learn, grow, and collaborate as a team
- Computer skills, including the ability to use email, attend virtual meetings (like Zoom), and create/edit documents in Google Docs or Microsoft Word
- Available to attend in-person meetings and events
- Ability to secure your own transportation for the majority of local meetings and events (Hope Solutions will coordinate transportation for all conferences and long-distance activities)
- Commitment to Hope Solutions' mission, values, and policy platform

Eligibility

You are eligible to apply if you can say yes to all the statements below:

- I have lived experience of homelessness or housing insecurity
- I currently live in Contra Costa County
- I have been part of a Hope Solutions program. I have either finished the program or have been in a program for more than one year. I have been successful in my progress towards my goals and have had a good experience with Hope Solutions.
- I have a consistent internet service.
- I can commit to 12-15 hours per month, mostly in-person, which may be in the evenings or on the weekends. *(You would know what the schedule is in advance in order to plan for it.)*

To Apply

Complete the online application at this link by Nov 2: www.hopesolutions.org/REP/

What to Expect Next:

- You will receive a phone call after you submit your application to confirm eligibility.
- You will be invited to an in-person interview in Pleasant Hill the week of Nov 2 or Nov 9.
- If selected to move forward, you will be invited to a second interview the week of Nov 9.
- If selected, our kickoff event and first training day will be held in mid-November. (Specific dates will be made available by the first interview).

For more information or assistance filling out the application, please call or text Siena Elvins at (925) 995-5476.

Contractor Opportunity

REP Leaders will work as consultants for Hope Solutions and will be acknowledged with an hourly rate. They will not be employees of Hope Solutions. It is each applicant's job to find out how this pay

will affect their taxes. It may also affect public support (CalWORKs, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, etc.). Contractors will receive no benefits, paid time off, etc.

Who We Are

Founded in 1997, Hope Solutions, formerly Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, is a vibrant and socially responsive non-profit agency that provides permanent housing and vital support services to over 3,500 homeless or at-risk families and individuals in Contra Costa County. Over 40 faith-based communities support our work, although there are no religious requirements or affiliations to receive services.

At Hope Solutions – we envision a world in which everyone has a place to call home and the support of a strong community so that they can live with dignity and reach their full potential. We strive to be inclusive and responsive to community needs. We are committed to excellence and accomplish our work with integrity, respect, compassion, and humility.

Hope Solution's mission is to heal the effects of poverty and homelessness by providing permanent housing and vital support services to highly vulnerable families and individuals.