

April 5, 2023

Bellingham Housing Authority

208 Unity St.

Bellingham, WA 98225

To the Executive Services Manager and HR of Bellingham Housing Authority:

Hello, and good day! My name is Alana Pattermann, and I am writing to express my interest in joining the Board of Commissioners for Bellingham Housing Authority as a resident member. I am currently residing in one of the units at Varsity Village with a project based voucher, and I currently work for Opportunity Council as a Housing Navigator. Previously before this role, I have been with Opportunity Council in the Rental Assistance/Community Services department, and prior to that, I was a residential counselor at both 22 North and Dorothy Place locations in the department of Housing Development and Property Management. In these roles, I have played a major part in the field of housing and local resources, and have learned a tremendous amount of information surrounding low income and otherwise extremely vulnerable populations. In my line of work, I also assist clients with signing up, or checking in to their account on the Bellingham Housing Authority website, and occasionally contact BHA to further assist our clients.

Upon reviewing the list of qualifications mentioned on the BHA website for this role, I have determined that I one hundred percent fit the preferences of numbers 1, 2, and 6:

1. Commitment to BHA's mission to offer opportunities for people to thrive by ensuring access to quality, affordable homes;
2. Familiarity with the needs, conditions, and services available to lower income residents of Bellingham;
6. Knowledge and expertise concerning affordable housing programs and issues.

Further, numbers 3, 4, and 5-although I am not as strong in these areas, I am confident that I can learn, and I certainly possess the passion and the drive to obtain the required knowledge and experience/expertise once given the opportunity-which I have not yet been offered in previous roles, but expressed great interest-and would be happy to learn of whom I can contact to glean from.

3. Experience developing, implementing, and monitoring public policy;

4. Knowledge and expertise concerning the successful administration of mid to large business, non-profit, or governmental entities and have served in a management position within such an entity;
5. Knowledge and expertise concerning community development programs and issues;

I have been, and known several others that have been a part of the Section 8 program and of low income status, therefore I possess the personal experience of navigating Whatcom County resources and the waitlist process for Section 8, as well as obtaining my voucher and maintaining a unit in a project based subsidized home/neighborhood. I also have worked in the fields of human services with the main resource hub of Whatcom County, Opportunity Council, in three departments over a course of going on 3 years-during and post-Covid. I have at least three professional references listed on my resume that I have had the pleasure of being supervised by, and they are excited to hear from you!

Between my work and my personal living experiences over the past 9 years, I have seen many of the issues presented within the low income population and experienced such struggles myself. Therefore, I believe that I have much to offer this board in assisting with the endeavors of future programs, and I would love nothing more than to help be a part of the pursuit of a solution! Right now, I am receiving calls from folks that are being put out of their homes due to the rental assistance program ending, and they are struggling to pay the extremely high rent posed to them without any other assistance, and attempting to move and pay first and last month's rent and deposits are practically inconceivable. We need more affordable low income housing and vouchers!

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you, and working with you on these extremely beneficial projects!

Sincerely,
Alana Pattermann

