

From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [Jill Nixon](#); [Jake Logan](#); [Executive](#); [Cathy Halka](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Advisory Group Application
Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 4:37:13 PM

Advisory Group Application

Step 1

Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Advisory Groups

Public Statement

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public advisory group, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All advisory group members are expected to be fair, impartial, and respectful of the public, County staff, and each other. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in revocation of appointment and removal from the appointive position.

Title	Mr.
First Name	Andrew
Last Name	Calkins
Today's Date	4/16/2025
Street Address	
City	
Zip	98225
Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	YES
Mailing Address	
Primary Telephone	
Secondary Telephone	Field not completed.
Email Address	

Step 2

1. Name of Advisory Group	Economic Development Investment Board
2. Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying?	Yes
3. Which Council district do you live in?	District 2
4. Have you ever been a member of this Advisory Group	No
5. Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency that does business with Whatcom County?	Yes
If yes, please explain	I am the Executive Director / CEO of the Bellingham & Whatcom County Housing Authorities and we often apply to Whatcom County to fund the development of affordable housing and associated services.
6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county?	No
You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions	Calkins Resume for EDI Board.pdf
7. Please describe your occupation (or former	I currently serve as the Executive Director / CEO for the Bellingham & Whatcom County Housing Authorities (BWCHA). BWCHA is an active developer of affordable housing in

occupation if retired),
qualifications,
professional and/or
community activities,
and education

Bellingham & Whatcom County and currently manages a portfolio of 1,747 affordable homes for low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities. In my role, I also serve on Whatcom County's Housing Advisory Committee and the City of Bellingham's Community Development Advisory Board. In addition to BWCHA, I have a decade of experience working in affordable housing, most recently at the King County Housing Authority as the VP of Policy & Intergovernmental Affairs. A detailed resume is attached.

8. Please describe why
you're interested in
serving on this
Advisory Group.

Access to affordable housing is foundational to an array of community priorities, including economic development. I am interested to serve on the EDI Board in part due to the recent change allowing the funding of workforce housing and other housing-related programs to a greater degree than before. My experience in the affordable housing industry would provide a knowledgeable perspective (addressing the desire for a non-profit housing development community member) on the need and difficulty of building affordable housing in the community. I am interested to participate in county-wide discussions with other board members on how the EDI funds can be most effectively deployed to advance housing opportunities across the region, and in particular, permanently affordable workforce housing. We have significant opportunities to grow affordable housing throughout the region through collaboration across sectors and stakeholders, and I see participation on this Board as one avenue to further that work.

References (please
include daytime
telephone number):

Patience Malaba, [REDACTED]
Kristy Johnson, [REDACTED]

Appointment
Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Andrew Calkins

Place Signed /
Submitted

Bellingham, WA

(Section Break)

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Education

Master of Public Administration (2015)

Emphasis in Policy Analysis

University of Washington, Evans School of Public Affairs, Seattle, WA

Bachelor of Arts, International Studies (2010)

Emphasis in International Political Economy

University of Washington, Jackson School of International Studies, Seattle, WA

Recent Professional Experience

Executive Director / CEO, Bellingham & Whatcom County Housing Authorities (6/2024 - Present)

- Provide strategic leadership to a multi-jurisdictional housing authority, overseeing all operations, financial management, and program development to expand affordable housing opportunities.
- Direct real estate acquisition and development initiatives, managing risk and guiding the planning, financing, and execution of new construction, property rehabilitation, and long-term asset management.
- Lead cross-sector collaboration and community engagement efforts, building strong partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies, elected officials, and nonprofit organizations to advance regional housing solutions.
- Strengthen organizational capacity and financial health by identifying diverse funding sources, driving process improvements, and fostering a high-performing leadership team aligned with mission-driven goals.

Vice President of Policy & Intergovernmental Affairs, King County Housing Authority (2021-6/2024)

- Lead KCHA's federal, state, and local policy advocacy, including development of legislative strategy, coalition building, stakeholder and legislator engagement, and oversight of legislative consultants
 - ➔ *Passed impactful and politically sensitive state legislation that preserved the viability of KCHA's workforce housing model by ensuring the continued ability to efficiently manage operations and maintenance*
 - ➔ *Led successful industry efforts to enact a statewide Real Estate Excise Tax exemption for housing transferred to affordable housing organizations*
- Oversee development and submission of annual plans and reports to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under KCHA's Moving to Work (MTW) Program
 - ➔ *Collaborated with internal departments to develop new programs and policies for FY 2024, including a framework for a local homeownership voucher program and an income exclusion for residents working with KCHA on career development activities*
- Led housing authority engagement with Washington State's Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to develop the statewide Child Welfare Housing Program to link housing vouchers with state-funded support services (launched in 2023). My role included negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding, successfully advocating for state funding, and developing buy-in and participation from non-profits and PHAs.
- Collaborate with internal partners to analyze and implement new policies and practices, including those in response to changes in state and local tenant protections
- Manage analysis and response to federal regulatory proposals, maintain strong relationships with congressional staff and policymakers, and work with HUD officials to address policy and programmatic concerns
- Advise the President/CEO and Executive Team on issues relating to external strategy, problem-solve emerging development and policy issues with governmental partners, and provide regular briefings to the Board of Commissioners on housing authority operations

- Represent KCHA on committees and workgroups, including South King County Housing and Homelessness Partners - Advisory Board (SKHHP), WLIHA Public Policy Committee, HDC-Seattle King County Policy Advisory Group, and Chair the Association of Washington Housing Authorities' Legislative Committee

Manager of Policy & Legislative Affairs, King County Housing Authority (2019-2021)

- Worked with affordable housing stakeholders and legislators to pass significant legislation benefiting the affordable housing and public housing industry, including policies related to public works and local funding
- Oversaw development of a food delivery program for public housing residents during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, coordinating resources to successfully deliver meals to over 1,800 households at launch
- Developed multi-variate forecasting tools to estimate agency revenues and expenditures based on projected funding levels, voucher issuances and turnover, and rental rates
- Chaired policy committees for the Housing Development Consortium of Seattle-King County and the Association of Washington Housing Authorities

Senior Program Manager - Policy & Research, King County Housing Authority (2015-2019)

- Led the analysis and implementation of the agency's first ZIP code-based payment standards system for the Housing Choice Voucher Program, one of the first in the nation to be implemented absent a court decree
- Provided assistance on a range of HCV process and program improvement efforts, including caseload design, rent reasonableness, move-in assistance programming, and dashboards to monitor program metrics
- Supported federal, state, and local policy advocacy efforts through research, policy analysis, data collection, and development of advocacy materials

Additional Experience

Intergovernmental Affairs Internship, Association of Washington Housing Authorities (2015)

- Researched and analyzed issues impacting public housing authorities during the 2015 legislative session, including budget issues and those impacting the financing and operations of existing housing sites

Municipal Management Internship, City Manager's Office, City of Kenmore (2014-2015)

- Managed an Ad Hoc Citizen Committee to create a multi-modal safety strategy and recommendations, including multiple presentations to City Council, background research, data collection, and staff coordination
- Completed a comprehensive data analysis of bicycle and pedestrian collisions and surrounding cities, as well as characteristics of accidents in Kenmore, which laid the groundwork for future ballot measures

Leadership Activities

- Chair, Association of Washington Housing Authorities Legislative Committee (2019 - 2024)
- Co-Chair, Eastside Affordable Housing Coalition (March 2023 - Present)
- Advisory Board Member, South King County Housing & Homelessness Partners (2021 - 2024)
- Legislative Committee Member, Moving to Work Collaborative (2023 - Present)
- Chair, Housing Development Consortium of Seattle-King County Policy Advisory Committee (2018 - 2020)