

Candidate's Biography

Please provide the following information for the person you are nominating.

Name:	Tawanda Acosta	Agency:	Christian Community Health Center
Race:	African American	Address:	1701 W. Monterey Suite 2 Chicago, IL 60616
Gender:	Female	Phone:	773-233-5850 ext.3296
		Email:	Tawanda.acosta@cchc-rchm.org

Please check the box(es) next to the committee(s) the nominee is being nominated for:

- The Chicago Alliance's SPC Executive Committee, At-Large Member
- The Chicago Alliance's SPC Executive Committee, Alternate
- The Chicago Alliance's Advocacy Committee
- Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness
- Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness, Alternate

Please briefly describe the nominee's level of participation with the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness (i.e., Board of Directors, SPC Executive Committees and Constituency Groups), the Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness, and/or other work and experience related to homelessness that makes the nominee qualified to be a representative to the committee(s) checked above.

Tawanda Acosta is the Housing Case Manager Supervisor at Christian Community Health Center. Christian Community Health Center is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1991 to address the lack of health care in the Roseland community on Chicago's Southside. Since receiving Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) status in 2001, CCHC has propelled an expansion of programs and services, including supportive housing and case management.

Tawanda, in her role as Housing Case Manager Supervisor, is a direct advocate for her case managers and the 150 clients she oversees in the supportive housing program at CCHC. Her mission is to provide clients with affordable housing, wraparound health, and ancillary services.

Prior to being promoted to Housing Supervisor, Tawanda was the Housing Specialist for all permanent supportive housing programs at CCHC. While in that position she was able to forge meaningful relationships between landlords and clients. She was able to create a leveled playing field, minimize barriers, and stigma. Tawanda is committed to working with other like-minded individuals to end homelessness in Chicago.

Tawanda has always been motivated by people in her 15+ years as a customer service advocate. She has always been driven to help and improve people and their situation. Previously Tawanda worked at Ryder Transportation Services where she was the co-creator of the Ryder Black Employment Network (RBEN) for the Midwest Region of the United States. The purpose of this organization was to bring about networking and to empower the existing minorities within the company. The formation of RBEN spurred and empowered other minorities to create similar organizations within the company.

Tawanda received her undergraduate degree in Accounting from Robert Morris University. Her plan is to continuously be educated in the field of social services. Her passion has always been to service those in need. She often volunteers at local food drives, or shelters. Tawanda's primary goal is to house the homeless and gradually move clients into a more self-sufficient role. This allows her to work with a particular population and understand their every need. Tawanda has gained a lot of knowledge and is still learning in the very short time that she has worked in supportive services.