



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Resident Advisory Committee (RAC)?

The RAC is comprised of 14-20 volunteer members who live in Home Forward properties or participate in Home Forward's Section 8 voucher program. These volunteers provide advice from the perspective of community members living in subsidized housing and/or needing supportive services. As a group, RAC members select an advocacy topic each year in order to research, develop a pilot project and to recommend successful practices for agency-wide implementation.

Who do RAC members advise?

RAC members provide input and advice to the Home Forward Board of Commissioners (BOC) and management staff about policy changes and program development prior to review and decision-making by the BOC. They also present information directly to the BOC approximately twice each year.

What type of commitment would I be expected to make as a RAC member?

The typical commitment is to serve a two year term as a committee member. The committee meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday of the month (10 times each year). Meetings alternate between public meetings (held at Home Forward properties throughout Multnomah County) and work sessions (held in downtown Portland at Home Forward's main offices). Other time commitments include an annual retreat (usually six hours on a Saturday) and occasional subcommittee or outreach events. An agenda packet is mailed prior to each committee meeting and RAC members may spend 1-2 hours reading and researching prior to the meeting.

What might I expect to learn and receive for my volunteer activities?

The contribution made by RAC members is highly valued by the BOC and staff at Home Forward. Staff members work to ensure that RAC members have sufficient training in order to provide informed input (in addition to recognizing the valuable life experiences that members bring to the committee!)

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Current RAC members report that they value:

- thought-provoking discussions,
- presentations about existing programs within Home Forward and from community partners,
- satisfaction for a job well-done,
- gratitude for the opportunity to “pay back” and help others,
- recognition and appreciation for their input and time, and
- the ability to credit their service on their resume for college and career opportunities (including requesting staff to serve as professional references.)

In addition, RAC members receive:

- a small stipend for each of the ten regularly scheduled committee meetings. This is currently budgeted at \$30 per monthly meeting.
- Tri-Met bus tickets for attending meetings.
- child care at the meeting locations (if given three days’ notice to staff)
- a light buffet dinner prior to each regularly scheduled meeting.