

2.2 What Makes a Good Board Member?

The board members have a variety of life experiences, and this diversity contributes greatly to its success. However, there are several values that all members will need to share. These include:

- **Service:** a willingness and dedication to commit their time to both prepare for and attend board meetings.
- **Impartiality:** the ability to be fair and objective when reviewing and considering applicants. Board members must ensure all stakeholders are treated with dignity and respect.
- **Confidentiality:** a board member needs to keep all sensitive and private information confidential (even after they leave the board).

In addition, board members will also have a variety of practical and essential skills. These skills could be obtained from paid work, volunteering, formal education, or many other sources.

Some of the most valuable skills to have on a housing authority board include:

- Community relations;
- Leadership skills;
- Organization skills;
- Program management knowledge;
- A background in human services;
- Knowledge of housing and government strategies;
- Cultural awareness and sensitivity;
- Accounting and financial skills; and
- Knowledge of the communities they serve.

The board should regularly evaluate its own effectiveness and advise the nominating committee of any skill areas that may need to be strengthened to maintain the board.