



Grand Rapids/Wyoming/Kent County – MI 506  
Continuum of Care Membership Meeting Agenda  
August 27, 2020 ▫ 9:30-11:00 am ▫ Zoom Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83423191762?pwd=MXVac1BScEM1RFRxRGJGTFRhQjRwdz09>

Or dial +1 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 834 2319 1762, Passcode: 205714

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of February 27, 2020 Minutes\*
3. Approval of April 23, 2020 Minutes\*
4. Approval of June 25, 2020 Minutes\*
5. CoC Updates
  - a. CoC Program Competition Update
  - b. Online Meeting Guidance
  - c. Dashboard Walk-Through
  - d. Data Reports: PIT Count and Annual Count
6. MSHDA Eviction Diversion Program Update
7. Strategic Plan Update
8. Coordinated Entry Flow
9. Organizational Announcements and Updates
10. Adjournment
  - a. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 22, 2020

**CoC 2020 Calendar: All Meetings - 9:30 to 11 am**

- October 22
- December 17 - *third Thursday*

*\*indicates potential action item*



**GRAND RAPIDS/WYOMING/KENT COUNTY  
CONTINUUM OF CARE – MI 506 DRAFT  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

February 27, 2020

9:30-11:00am

Facilitator:	Casey Gordon		
Meeting Attendees:	Casey Gordon (Kent ISD), Lauren VanKeulen (3:11), Rashida Mitchner (MV Homeless liaison), Michael Towns (Mercy Health), Michael Bohnsack (Bohnsack & Assoc.), Brianna Miranda (FHCWM), Catherine Landers (North Kent Connect), Laura St. Louis (DAKC), John Bosma (GRPL), Felicia Clay (GRHC), Alexandria Nix (GRHC), Randall Leneau (VOA), Caleb Rudd (VOA), Amber Jones (Hope Network), Mary Engle (Mel Trotter), Alisha Pennington (MDHHS), Jessica Altenbernt (MDHHS), Cathy LaPorte (Salvation Army), Lauren Cross (ICCF), Wende Randall (ENTF), Wendie Preiss (FROM), Sherrie Gillespie (KCCA), Dreyson Byker (community member), Katherine Besaw (Genesis), Emily Schichtel (HWMUW), Julie Kendrick (Degage), Alisa White (LINC UP), Stephanie Gingerich (LINC UP), Jennifer Brozowski (HealthNet), Jose Capeles (City of Grand Rapids), Cheryl Schuch (Family Promise), Tim Beimers (Salvation Army ESP), Jeffrey King (Community Rebuilders), K'Quiana Griffia Knowling (Community Rebuilders), Emily O'Brien (Salvation Army ESP), Courtney Myers-Keaton (CoC), Brianne Czyzio Robach (CoC)		
Time Convened:	9:38	Time Adjourned:	10:51

<b>Approval of Minutes</b>			
Motion by:	Lauren VanKeulen	Support from:	Michael Bohnsack
Discussion	None		
Amendments	None		
Conclusion	Motion Passed		

<b>Homeless Vital Documents</b>	
Discussion	
<p>Jessica Altenbernt of MDHHS overviewed the process for reimbursements for aiding individuals experiencing homelessness in obtaining vital records. <a href="#">Slides are available by clicking here.</a> On October 1, 2019, funding became available for birth certificate reimbursements for community members experiencing category 1 homelessness. Agencies aiding individuals experiencing homelessness should pay up front for individual's records and then send form MDHHS-5832 to MDHHS to reimbursement. Individuals must apply for a birth certificate in the county in which they were born. The process differs from county to county. Some counties may provide financial assistance. There are a few situations where clients may apply for state birth records (e.g.: if the individual is unable to travel to their county of birth). Rush processing is available for state requests, Jessica encouraged agencies to select this option to reduce wait times.</p> <p>To request reimbursement, agencies must be a public service agency and have a Sigma Vendor ID. In addition, the client must be in HMIS (for individuals surviving domestic violence situations, a homeless verification form is available). Currently, this program is written into legislation to service only category 1 homelessness. However, there is an amendment in the works to expand the program beyond category 1. If there are issues with documentation, Jessica encouraged members reach out to</p>	



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Shelly and her team and they will work with client directly to find ways to verify identity. Reach out to Jessica ([altenberntj@Michigan.gov](mailto:altenberntj@Michigan.gov)) or Shelly ([woodm@Michigan.gov](mailto:woodm@Michigan.gov)) with questions.

**Strategic Visioning and Planning Update**

Discussion

In January, the CoC released an RFQ strategic visioning and received 4 proposals. Courtney indicated the Steering Council may decide to form a small group to review proposals. An update will be sent after the Steering Council meeting. If you are interested in being part of this small group, if it is authorized by Steering, please connect with Courtney ([cmyers-keaton@hwmuw.org](mailto:cmyers-keaton@hwmuw.org)) or Brianne ([brobach@hwmwu.org](mailto:brobach@hwmwu.org)).

Courtney indicated that there will likely not be a finalized strategic plan before April 30, when the current plan expires. The next meeting may include an ask to extend the strategic plan.

**Coordinated Entry Grant Discussion**

Discussion

FY2019 Tier 1 funding awards were announced in January and the Coordinated Entry (CE) grant amount was decreased. Courtney provided the group with a timeline and background information and summarized the document. In FY2017 Salvation Army applied for an additional CE grant with the intention to apply for consolidation in FY2018. They were awarded the new grant with expectation that the grant agreement (GA) would be executed prior to 12/31/2018. There were issues with executing the GA in esnaps and troubleshooting conversations with HUD to resolve these issues. During this time, HUD shutdown and leadership changed at TSA without awareness of conversations with HUD. With the FY2018 awards, TSA was conditionally awarded the consolidated CE grant based on the execution of the GA. In the spring of 2019, TSA staff accidentally executed the grant agreement for the new CE grant while executing other grant agreements, releasing the funds. During the FY2019 CoC Program Competition, TSA applied for the consolidated grant amount. Since then, there has been communication between the CoC, TSA, and HUD on next steps. HUD has advised that if TSA waited until February 2020 to expend the funds, they would be available for renewal.

One outstanding question is whether the community's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) will be affected. To ensure CoC staff are aware of potential issues so that this does not happen again, staff will begin asking agencies to provide grant agreements and quarterly screenshots of expenditures. In addition, Steering Council will be asked to develop a process for monitoring.

There was a question about the impact of either scenario. Courtney noted there have not been concrete plans determined for either scenario yet. TSA has been operating without these funds until now, so there will not be a difference with on-the-ground operations. If funds are included in the ARD, there is an opportunity for conversations with the community to discuss strategies for expanding the Coordinated Entry system.

CoC staff will keep members updated as more information becomes available. Contact Courtney ([cmyers-keaton@hwmuw.org](mailto:cmyers-keaton@hwmuw.org)) or Casey ([caseygordon@kentisd.org](mailto:caseygordon@kentisd.org)) with any questions.

**System Performance Measures**



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<b>Discussion</b>	
<p>Performance measures are tracked in HMIS each year. The FY2019 draft measures were compiled by the HMIS System Administrator and will be submitted to HUD on 2/28. Courtney overviewed the data from the measures. Data Analysis Committee will also be reviewing these measures to determine potential reasons for changes.</p> <p>Length of time homeless: Courtney noted that mid-way through 2019, it looked as if length of time was increasing, however it evened out during the second part of the year. One area that saw an increase was the average days in shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing prior to move in. This measure is typically indicative of wait times for PSH. One potential reason for the increase is the renovation of Ferguson apartments decreasing the number of available PSH beds.</p> <p>First time homelessness: System entries increased from FY2019 to FY2018, however the percent of those experiencing first-time homelessness remained very similar. A potential reason includes increased access to the system through Fulton Manor. In addition, there were increased efforts in capturing data in HMIS and through diversion efforts.</p>	
<b>MSHDA Homeless Preference HCV Waiting List</b>	
<b>Discussion</b>	
<p>Courtney shared the latest HCV waitlist data from MSHDA, from January 10. The ongoing trend remains the same with a fairly high number of households added to the list and few or no drawdowns.</p>	
<b>Family Homelessness Update</b>	
<b>Discussion</b>	
<p>Courtney shared that Fulton Manor closed in December. With lower shelter capacity in the community, there is currently a waitlist for families seeking shelter. Family Promise staff recently went through the waitlist and were able to identify support for about a quarter of the families through a rapid resolution conversation. Family Promise also placed families staying in an unsafe space into hotels.</p> <p>The Diversion pilot released their final report which highlights that the diversion method was successful. There is still funding left for this project and the team is working on spending it down.</p> <p>Courtney noted that there will be future conversation and collaboration to address the issue of family homelessness and best practices for the community. Providers will continue conversations with Community Rebuilders around plans for their Day One funds and integration with Coordinated Entry, as well as how current diversion efforts will integrate with rapid resolution. The hope is to have an update to present at the next full CoC meeting.</p> <p>For agencies who receive calls asking for resources for families, they should encourage families to contact Salvation Army HAP. Cathy asked that any agencies seeing trends connect directly with her (<a href="mailto:Catherine.laporte@usc.salvationarmy.org">Catherine.laporte@usc.salvationarmy.org</a>) or Sam (<a href="mailto:Samantha.westhouse@usc.salvationarmy.org">Samantha.westhouse@usc.salvationarmy.org</a>) so</p>	



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they are aware. Cheryl noted that providers in the family space have been having daily conversations, agencies can bring families in need to HAP or Family Promise’s attention.

Courtney indicated that this an opportunity for further conversation around the need for housing as well as the need for shelter in the community to eliminate any bottlenecks. There are a few different options for what this may look like, but the CSH Financial Modeling report from a few years ago will provide a resource as will the upcoming strategic visioning process.

**CoC Coordinator Updates**

Discussion

Courtney provided updates from across the CoC:

- An update to the Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures is underway. Those interested in engaging with this process should attend the Coordinated Entry Committee meeting on March 3.
- Funding Review Committee has been discussing the local application process for the CoC Program Competition. If providers would like to share feedback, please connect with Courtney. Information on an updated process will likely be shared at the next full CoC meeting.
- Michigan Homelessness Advocacy Day is March 11 in Lansing. Connect with Courtney if you are interested in carpooling. Local talking points will be shared with the full CoC ahead of time.
- Providers that receive CoC HUD funding should be conducting Environmental Reviews for all projects. Reach out to Courtney for more information. In addition, local projects should expect a reach out from CoC staff in the next few months to schedule monitoring.
- PIT Count was January 29<sup>th</sup>. Preliminary numbers are not yet available but outreach teams reported an increase in unsheltered individuals than 2019, likely due to the warmer weather.

**Announcements and Updates**

Discussion

**Membership Meetings:** some of the 2020 membership meetings will be shifting to training focused, please pay attention to the weekly newsletter for updates.

**Disability Awareness Day:** March 27<sup>th</sup> Please help spread the word! Vendor booths are also available.

**Rapid on Demand:** is ending mid-March for GoBus users.

**Kaizen Health:** The app will begin off on March 16<sup>th</sup> and will focus on GoBus users in the neighborhoods of focus. Please share with any participants who are GoBus users. Participants should reach out to Laura ([laura.s@dakc.us](mailto:laura.s@dakc.us)) with questions.

**Utility Assistance:** Wende noted that funding that comes into the community for utility assistance has dropped over the past few years. KCCA’s Walk for Warmth is this Saturday, the 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am. This is an awareness event around the need for utility assistance which also helps raise funds for assistance.

**Executive Committee:** officers were elected in January. Casey Gordon remains on as chair; Lauren VanKeulen was elected as vice chair; Karen Tjapkes will serve as secretary; Erin Banchoff as treasurer; and Cathy LaPorte as member-as-large.

**Community Rebuilders:** applied for a DV Bonus Project in conjunction with Safe Haven. They were awarded funds. This project will provide support for families fleeing domestic violence situations.

**Adjourn**

Motion by:	Cathy LaPorte	Support from:	Wende Randall
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**GRAND RAPIDS/WYOMING/KENT COUNTY  
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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

April 23, 2020  
9:30-10:30am

Facilitator:	Casey Gordon		
Meeting Attendees:	<p><u>Attendees:</u> Casey Gordon (Kent ISD), Dreyson Byker (Community member), Michael Waldron (GRFD), Johanna Schulte (City of Grand Rapids), Jameela Maun (Community Rebuilders), Dave Gantz (Pine Rest), Katherine Besaw (Genesis), Tom Cottrell (YWCA), Catherine Landers (North Kent Connect), Wanda Couch (Grand Rapids Housing Commission), Rebecca Long (Dwelling Place), Alisha Pennington (DHHS), Julie Kendrick (Degage), Socorro Godoy (Cherry Health), Alisa White (community member), Laura St. Louis (Disability Advocates), Allison Wenk (Grand Rapids Housing Commission), Kelsey Kruis (ICCF), Cecilia Rush (VA), Lisa Cruden (Family Promise), Susan Cervantes (KCCA), Alonda Trammell (Dwelling Place), Karen Tjapkes (Legal Aid), Kendra Avila (3:11), Maureen Kirkwood (HealthNet), Christina Kalouche (Salvation Army), Adrienne Goodstal (Mel Trotter), Stephanie Gingerich (LINC UP), Gayle Witham (VA), Caleb Rudd (VOA), Brian Bruce (Dwelling Place), Sherri Vainavicz (United Way 2-1-1), Karen Leppek (AAAWM), Brad Miller (Fountain Street), Stephanie Brock-Knoper (City of Wyoming), Lisa Blackburn (Dwelling Place), Elizabeth Stoddard (Fair Housing Center), Amanda Sterzick (Family Promise), Emily O'Brien (Salvation Army), Hattie Tinney (Grand Rapids Housing Commission), Tim Beimers (Salvation Army), Brandon Frierson (VOA), Melissa Hoezee (Fountain Street), Julie Clossen (Arbor Circle)</p> <p><u>Staff:</u> Courtney Myers-Keaton, Brianne Czyzio Robach</p> <p><i>(List may not be complete- please contact Brianne if you were on the call but are not listed here.)</i></p>		
Time Convened:	9:31	Time Adjourned:	10:45

<b>COVID-19 Updates</b>
Discussion
<p>Thank you to everyone for your work in ensuring that those in the community have access to services and resources</p> <p><u>CoC Business</u> The majority of recent CoC activity has focused on responding to COVID-19.</p> <p>Currently, staff are waiting for HUD to determine what this year's CoC Program Competition process will look like. Many CoC's across the country, including Lakeshore Housing Alliance in Ottawa County have sent letters to HUD in support of amending the process this year so that providers and CoCs can continue to focus on COVID-19 response efforts.</p> <p>Many agencies have changes to their operations. Providers have been submitting changes in operations to the CoC and staff have been sharing those changes in the weekly updates. If you have not yet submitted or if there are additional changes, please reach out to CoC staff.</p>





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In terms of advocacy, staff are staying in communication with state and other agencies to discuss strategies that will need to be implemented to support a COVID-19 recovery response. If you are interested in staying in learning more, connect with [Courtney](#).

Staff are coordinating weekly check-ins with shelter and housing providers, the Health Department, and the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) to address needs and concerns. Efforts include working to identify isolation and quarantine locations for those who do not have a space to do so on their own. Shelters and EOC have also been looking at de-intensifying congregate shelters, including reducing population size and concentration with the goal of reducing transmission spread and mobility. If you are interested in joining these meetings, connect with CoC staff.

A survey is available for providers. (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3FBSWB8>). The survey focuses on need and capacity in the community to help determine where to focus planning and advocacy efforts moving forward.

HUD has issued a [memorandum](#) regarding the waiver of some regulatory requirements. Reach out to [Courtney](#) if you have specific questions around these waivers. Agencies should notify CoC staff if they decide to request a waiver.

Many committees took a hiatus in March as COVID-19 response was in full swing. Committees are beginning to meet again.

#### Shelter Updates

Mel Trotter – staff are working closely with the Health Department to address needs and ensure safety. Families in shelter were moved into hotels for the foreseeable future to increase shelter space and keep families safe. Temperature checks and screenings are in place twice a day. All guests and staff in the shelter are required to wear a mask. To allow for distancing within the shelter, all program men are staying at City Life church and women are at Catholic Central High School.

When someone staying at Mel Trotter has tested positive, staff look at which guests have sustained exposure and move them into quarantine space for 14 days. This week, they began testing on all shelter guests. Those who test positive and are asymptomatic will be sent to a hotel for isolation, those who are symptomatic will be sent to the Holding and Isolation Center (HIC) or hospital.

YWCA – Within the shelter, they are working to spread the population out and have established a quarantined space. Restrictions are in place regarding movement in and out of shelter. Staff are still processing intakes and providing housing. They are seeing an uptick in assault behavior against folks staying in TH and RRH. Providers with DV survivors should be aware of higher risk. Safety plans should be in place but may need revision. Call 454-YWCA to reach their crisis line to talk through updating safety plans if needed.

Family Promise – Families in shelter have been moved to hotels. Staff are working with HAP to ensure that all families are screened for COVID-19 exposure as they enter the system. Staff are continuing rapid resolution and diversion conversations with families.



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Degage – women in shelter were moved to a hotel. Screenings, temperature checks, and cleaning are in place. At Degage, breakfast and dinner are available to neighbors. The dining room is open 7-7, social distancing measures are required. Life Enrichment Center is open M,W,F 8:00am-1:00pm for showers, lockers.

Arbor Circle – the Bridge was closed for a short window of time. They are back open and have reduced census to comply with 6-foot separation. They have had to change protocols to meet state regulations, youth must wear masks and maintain social distancing. Assessments are done over the phone and screening/temperature checks are done before entering the building.

ICCF – Set-up of shelter space allows families to shelter in place.

#### Coordinated Entry

Call volume at HAP has decreased over the past 6 weeks, but referrals are still being made as resources become available.

Discussions regarding how COVID may impact the coordinated entry process and how the system can react to ensure that those who are highest risk are prioritized are ongoing. Community Rebuilders developed a flowchart which starts at the front door of the shelter system and overviews step by step process based on presence of COVID-19 symptoms. In the flow, those who are non-symptomatic receive resources to stay where they are or are prioritized based on risk of complications. Those who are symptomatic or COVID-19 positive are referred to the health care system and isolation.

Conversations around implementing a tool to screen for high-risk of COVID-19 complications are ongoing.

#### Eviction Moratorium

The most recent executive order continues the eviction moratorium through May 15, except in cases where a tenant poses a substantial risk. Staff at Legal Aid have heard reports of non-judicial evictions, tenants should contact Legal Aid if they are being locked out of their property. The CARES Act also has provisions prohibiting evictions due to non-payment of rent on certain properties including subsidized properties. Evictions are also prohibited on properties that have a federally related mortgage, though it can be difficult to determine if individual mortgage is a covered property. The State of Michigan recently released a court form for landlords to indicate whether they are covered under the CARES Act. Since the CARES Act only covers non-payment of rent, there may be landlords using an additional issue as disguise for non-payment. Legal Aid staff want to work with service providers to try to find ways to identify community members that have a legal case and should connect with Legal Aid. If you are with an agency that is doing prevention work, please feel free to reach out to [Karen](#) and/or Legal Aid staff to talk through this process.

#### Utility Shutoff Suspension

Consumers Energy and DTE have suspended shutoffs due to nonpayment and extended their Winter Protection Programs through June 1. In addition, the 1-time payment on SER benefits was eliminated.





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Folks can receive additional payments until cap is reached (\$1200 for propane and fuel oil, \$850 for other energy types).

Food Access Updates

Changes to SNAP due to the pandemic include the elimination of the work requirement, and increase to maximum benefit amount, and the elimination of the \$20 daily cap for Double Up Food Bucks. Several online resources with food access location throughout Kent County are available. Neighbors in need of food should reach out to nearby pantries.

**Announcements and Updates**

Discussion

**Kent County Community Action:** TEFAP food distribution April 30<sup>th</sup> from 9-1 at Delta Plex. This will be drive-thru only, traffic control will be in place. They are expecting to serve about 1000 families. In addition, they are taking applications for utility assistance especially for those has utilities shutoff prior to the suspension.

**Volunteers of America:** Caleb Rudd introduced himself as the new SSVF service coordinator. Recently, VOA received an influx of funding to serve veterans. They are now able to offer hotel stays with fewer restrictions to help bridge gap between permanent housing and are able to provide food and other services to any eligible veteran.

**Adjourn**

DRAFT



**GRAND RAPIDS/WYOMING/KENT COUNTY  
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June 25, 2020  
9:30-11:00am

Facilitator:	Casey Gordon		
Meeting Attendees:	<p><u>Attendees:</u> Emily O’Brien (Salvation Army), Alisha Pennington (MDHHS), Alexandria (Nix?), Allie Wenk (Grand Rapids Housing Commission), Brandon Frierson (Volunteers of America), Caleb Rudd (Volunteers of America), Catherine Landers (North Kent Connect), Colette McGuckin, Domenica Dault (Mel Trotter), Dreyson Byker (community member), Erin Banchoff (City of Grand Rapids), Elizabeth Stoddard (Fair Housing Center), Eunice Link, Gabriel Chapla, Jeffrey King (Community Rebuilders), John Wynbeek (Genesis), Johanna Schulte (City of Grand Rapids), Julie Kendrick (Degage), Kathy Besaw (Genesis), Katie VanHevel (Alternative Directions), Laura St. Louis (Disability Advocates), Lisa Cruden (Family Promise), Lt. Mike Waldron (Grand Rapids Fire Department), Jeremy DeRoo (LINC Up), Mary Engle (Mel Trotter), Maureen Kirkwood (HealthNet), Sherrie Gillespie (KCCA), Stephanie Brock-Knoper (City of Wyoming), Tom Cottrell (YWCA), Gayle Witham (VA), Wendie Priess (Flat River Outreach Ministries), Hattie Tinney (Grand Rapids Housing Commission), Steven DePolo (Covenant House), Wende Randall (ENTF), Wanda Couch (Grand Rapids Housing Commission),</p> <p><u>Staff:</u> Courtney Myers-Keaton, Brianne Czyzio Robach</p> <p><i>(List may not be complete- please contact Brianne if you were on the call but are not listed here.)</i></p>		
Time Convened:	9:32	Time Adjourned:	10:50

<b>Review of Minutes</b>	
Discussion	None
<b>CoC Updates</b>	
Discussion	
<p><u>CoC Program Competition</u></p> <p>There has not been an update from HUD on this year’s CoC Program Competition. There has been ongoing advocacy throughout the country to transition the program competition into a renewal application, but HUD has not responded either way. Staff will provide updates on the local application process based on HUD guidance as it becomes available.</p>	
<p><u>MSHDA ESG</u></p> <p>Round one of MSHDA ESG-CV funds were allocated to two applicants, Family Promise and Pine Rest for emergency shelter and street outreach, respectively. The application has been submitted to MSHDA. Federal funds were recently announced for ESG-CV2, however allocation have not been announced for Kent County. Staff are anticipating another RFQ process. The CoC just received notice for the regular allocation of MSHDA ESG funds. Staff and Steering will be determining steps to release and RFQ for these funds.</p>	
<p><u>CARES Act Funding</u></p> <p>There are many funding sources coming into the community from the CARES Act, including MSHDA ESG-CV, CDBG, and CSBG. Much of these funds with the City of Grand Rapids and Kent County are</p>	



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being used for prevention and financial assistance in anticipation of an influx into system once moratoriums lift. In addition, Kent County treasury funds were allocated to address homelessness due to the pandemic. Much of this funding will go through United Way and will be focused on prevention and housing. They anticipate information on the process will be released by July 15.

Advocacy Update:

Advocacy groups are anticipating the release of a proposed rule change to the Equal Access Rule which would allow providers to use biological sex to determine where to house transgender folks seeking access to safe shelter. Public comment is not yet available, but staff will share advocacy information for those interested. If you are interested in receiving information around public comment and resources, visit: [www.housingsaveslives.org](http://www.housingsaveslives.org)

Announcements:

There has been an extension of eviction and foreclosure moratorium for federally related mortgages. Michigan has appropriated rent assistance funds for eviction prevention. Funds will be distributed through Salvation Army as the HARA. They will be forming a workgroup with courts, landlords, and other agencies to determine process. Information on the process should be available within the next few weeks.

Upcoming meetings include Youth Committee, COVID-19 Provider Response, Outreach Workgroup, and Data Analysis. Data Analysis will be discussing data reports which the CoC plans to release on our website and to the full CoC.

**COVID-19 Isolation Plans**

Discussion

Over the course of the pandemic, there have been many changes to isolation plans for those experiencing homelessness. Most recently, the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) opened Fulton Care Center at Fulton Manor. Operations were suspended earlier this month as the number of positive cases have been low and cost is high. One reason the community has been able to maintain low numbers is continuous testing of those staying in a congregate shelter environment. The interim plan is to use hotel rooms through July 15th, after this point the hotel will not renew contract as they want to begin accepting guests.

This leaves the community at a point where collaboration is needed to address isolation plans. There have been meeting with KCHD, shelter providers, and local hospitals which will continue over the next few weeks. One of the first needs is identifying a location for isolation space, ideally in the Heartside area to address transportation and other needs. Staffing needs and supportive services needs will also need to be considered. Kent County will be providing funds but are looking for partnership with agencies to provide services. Staff will keep members updated as conversations continue. In addition, there has been conversation with the FUSE project as participants receive similar services so there is opportunity for collaboration.



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Attendees were given a chance to submit suggestions for isolation locations and additional considerations. If you have thoughts or suggestions, you can share them through this survey or by reaching out to CoC staff. Staff will provide information on upcoming meetings, please attend if you are interested.

**Coordinated Entry Update**

Discussion

Given the current situation, there have been conversations around how to look at the Coordinated Entry (CE) process to ensure that those who are most at risk are being prioritized into housing. Some communities are using risk-based screening tool or in conjunction with the VI-SPDAT. Conversations are continuing to ensure that there is connection to resources for households who are most vulnerable. Coordinated Entry Committee meets July 7<sup>th</sup>, hoping to have discussions around FUSE and CE prioritization at the meeting.

There are a few data points staff have been reviewing throughout the pandemic. One of which is the number of calls to HAP. These started to slow down at peak of pandemic, but these are starting to trend back up. HAP is anticipating increases in literal assessment calls and prevention calls as moratoriums lift. In addition, the number of referrals going out has decreased significantly. HAP will begin tracking openings moving forward as referrals are only available if there is an opening. Recently, most referrals have been for prevention. RRH saw a drop during peak of pandemic likely due to lack of openings. PSH has been stagnant, though this resource is limited in the community. Conversations around CE and prioritization have arisen and evolved in weekly provider meeting.

**Housing Stability Alliance Update**

Discussion

Many members of the CoC have been part of these conversations with KConnect to develop recommendations for a common agenda with road map. Their recommendations include those with lived experience as core of the process as decision-makers and has been divided into different core areas: high-leverage activities, continuous communication, shared measurement, and a backbone entity. The backbone entity will help move this work forward as KConnect pulls back. Staff will include information on workgroups and recommendations in the follow-up communication and encourage all to review the documents.

Wende noted that recommendations are important in addressing the root causes of housing instability across the spectrum and have opportunities for strong advocacy.

**Announcements and Updates**

Discussion

**ENTF** – is going through strategic design and implementation process. Part of this process is determining driving values that push their work forward. If you are interested in participating, reach out to [Brienne](#) or [Wende](#) as they are looking for additional voices and feedback.

**Covenant House** – their female floor is now open for youth ages 18-24. To connect youth, reach out to LoRae Robinson, House Manager, 616-608-1380 (ext. 2010) or Carolyn Allen, Case Manager, 616-



**GRAND RAPIDS/WYOMING/KENT COUNTY  
CONTINUUM OF CARE – MI 506 **DRAFT**  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

June 25, 2020

9:30-11:00am

608-1380 (ext. 2009). Update: they do not take youth with CSCs as they have a school and a daycare on their property.

**Fair Housing Center of West Michigan** – has new resource materials available regarding assistance animals under the Fair Housing Act, as well as for COVID-19 and housing. They can be found on their website at [www.fhcwm.org](http://www.fhcwm.org)

**Grand Rapids Housing Commission** – Jenn Boerman is new to GRHC but has experience with the Ottawa County CoC. Connect with Jenn at [jenn.boerman@grhousing.org](mailto:jenn.boerman@grhousing.org). Foster to Youth Independence Tenant Protection vouchers are specific for youth aging out of the foster care system ages 18-24 for up to 36 months. Youth will be referred by DHHS and WMPC.

**Next meeting:** August 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am, staff anticipate that we will be meeting via Zoom.

**Adjourn**

DRAFT

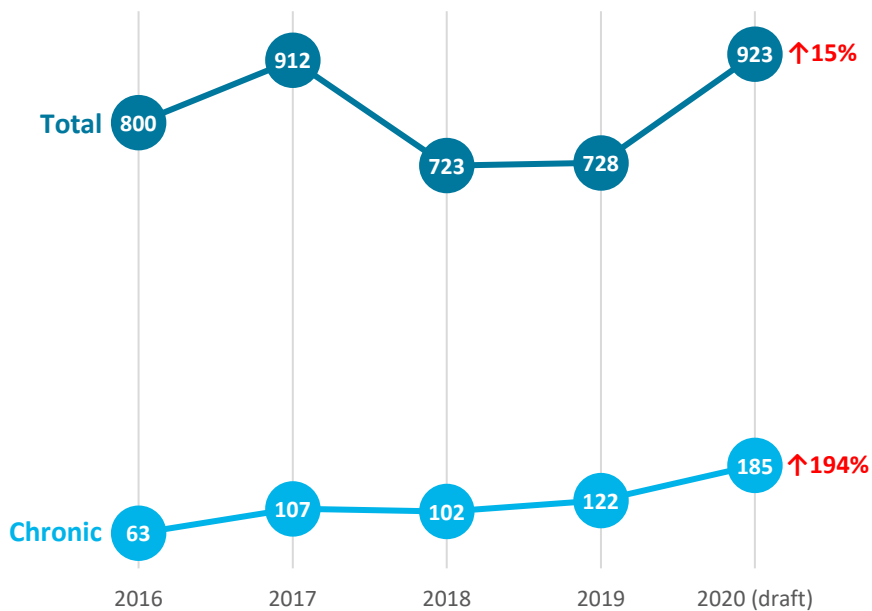


# 2020 Point-in-Time Count and Comparisons

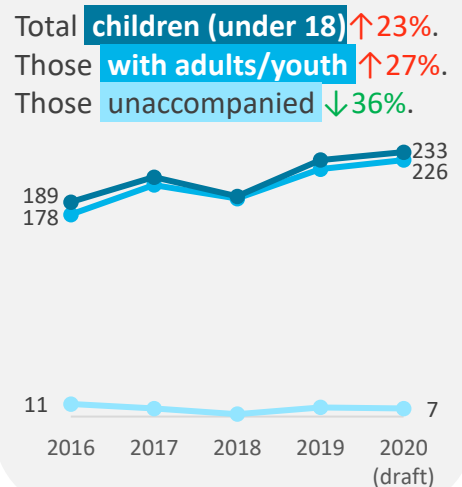
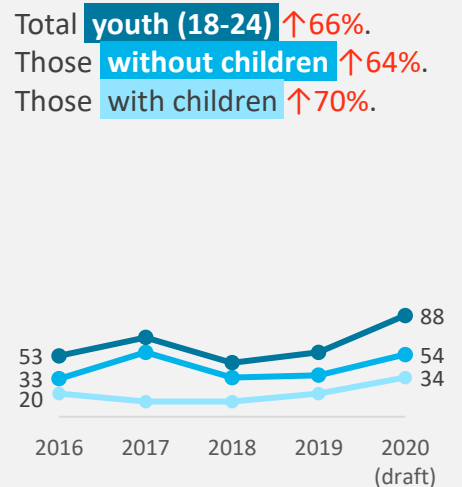
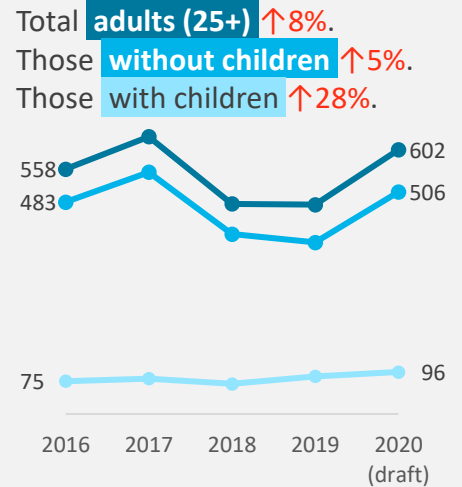
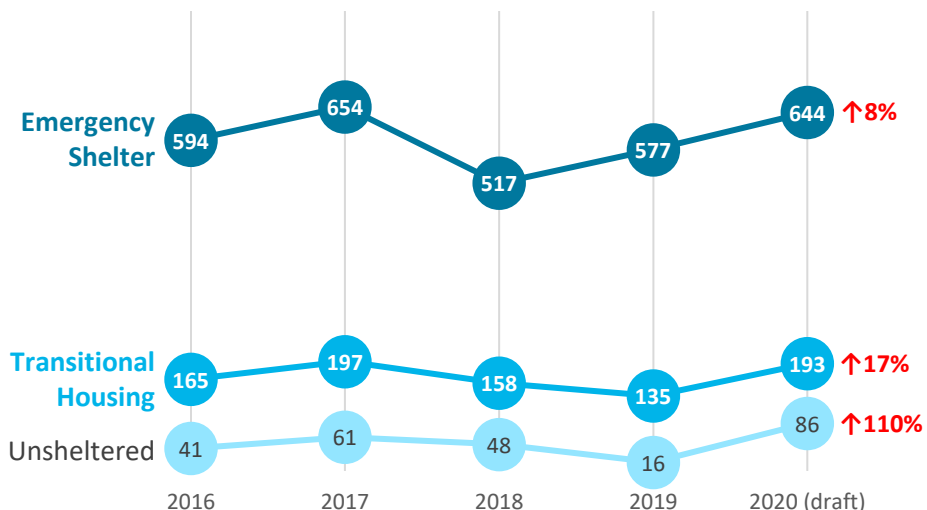
## MI-506 - Grand Rapids, Wyoming/Kent County CoC

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires each Continuum of Care (CoC) to conduct a count annually of people experiencing homelessness on a single night, known as the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. <sup>1</sup> See the 2019 Annual Count Report for recent information on homelessness throughout the year.

The total number of persons experiencing homelessness and chronic homelessness both increased. <sup>2</sup>

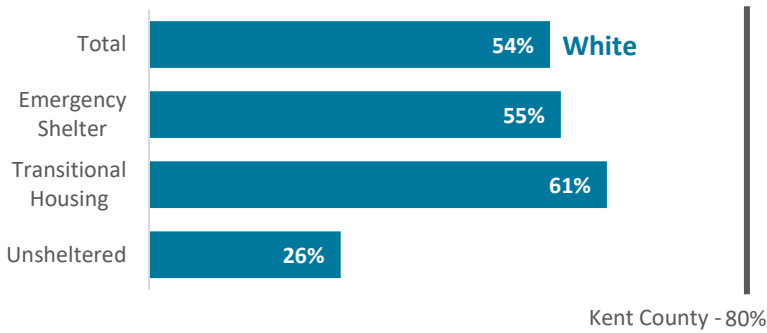


Persons in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or unsheltered all increased. <sup>2</sup>

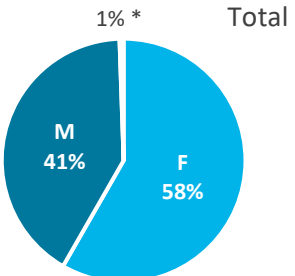




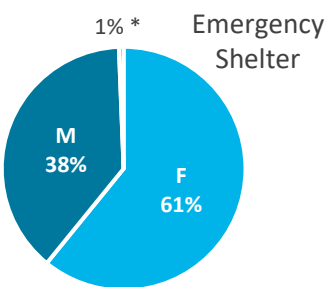
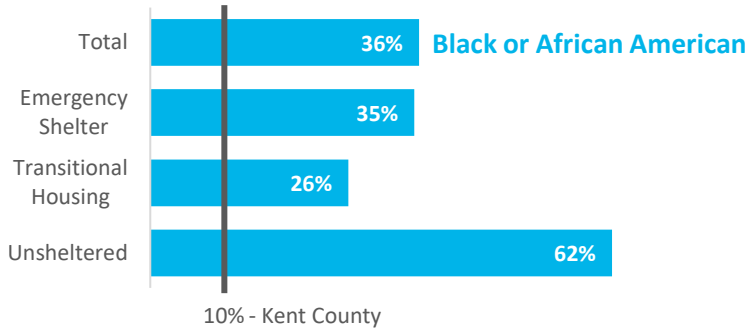
White individuals (54%) experiencing homelessness were underrepresented when compared to Kent County (80%).<sup>3</sup>



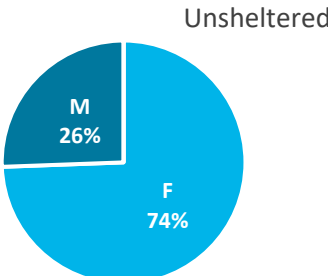
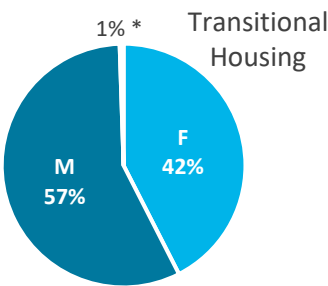
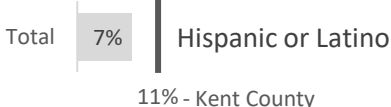
**Females (F)** made up more than half of those experiencing homelessness (total), in emergency shelter, and unsheltered. **Males (M)** were a majority in transitional housing.



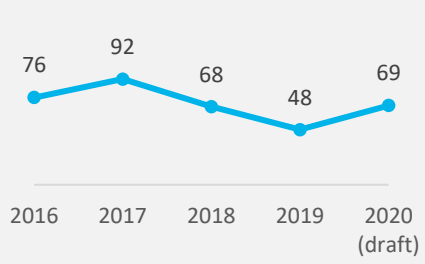
Black or African American individuals (36%) were over-represented when compared to Kent County (10%), revealing a **racial disparity**.<sup>3, 4</sup>



Hispanic or Latino individuals experiencing homelessness were underrepresented when compared to Kent County.<sup>3</sup>

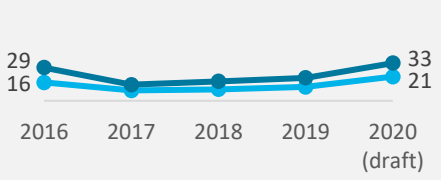


**Veteran** homelessness ↓9%.



**Children** (under 18) in parenting youth households ↑14%.

**Parenting youth** (18-24) ↑31%.



<sup>1</sup> When the year is not specified, only 2020 draft data is being used.

<sup>2</sup> For a definitions of chronic homelessness and transitional housing, see <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4847/earth-defining-chronically-homeless-final-rule/> and <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-program-eligibility-requirements/>.

<sup>3</sup> Kent County data is from the 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates Table B02001 - Race and Table B03003 - Hispanic or Latino Origin.

<sup>4</sup> Although data for remaining races is not shown here, "Two or more races" was overrepresented at 8-9% compared to 4% in Kent County for all categories except unsheltered, where "American Indian and Alaska Native" was overrepresented at 6% compared to <0.5% in the County.

\* Due to low number "Transgender" and "Gender Non-Conforming" (5 or <1%), responses were combined into one category.



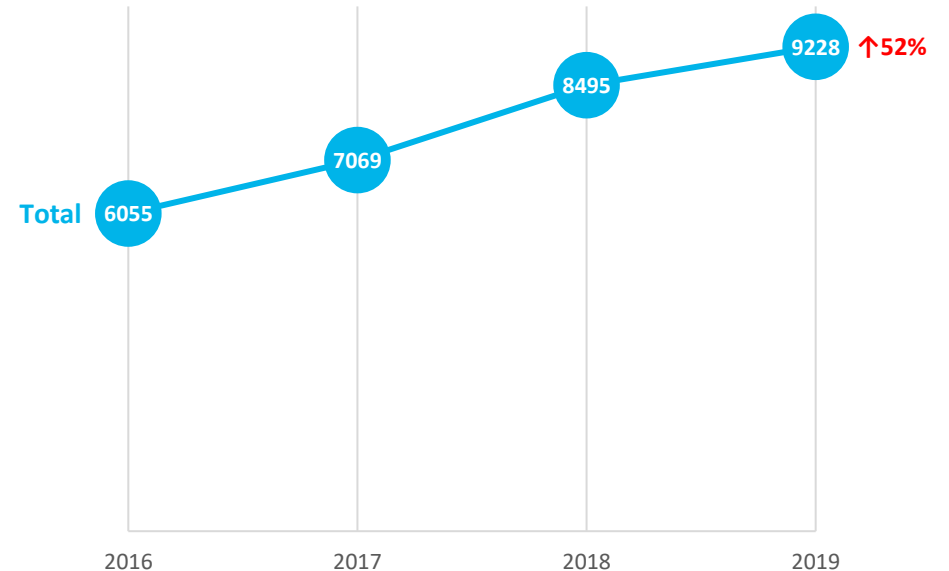
# 2019 Annual Count and Comparisons

MI-506 - Grand Rapids, Wyoming/Kent County CoC

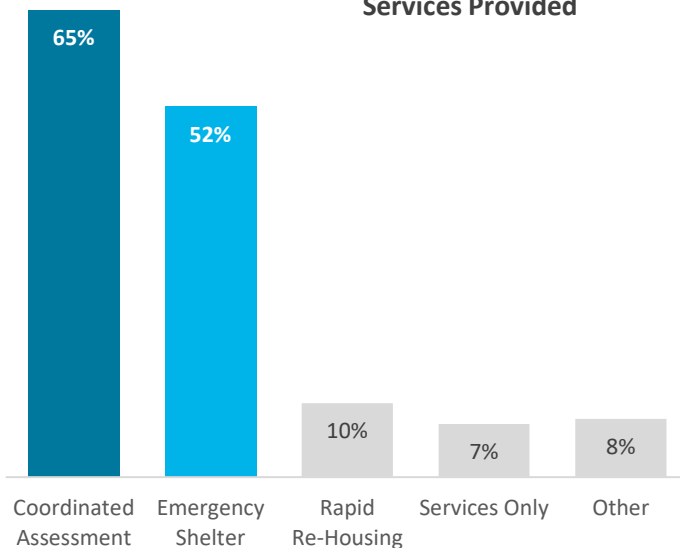
The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires each Continuum of Care (CoC) to utilize a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for collecting, managing, and reporting information on persons experiencing homelessness and housing services. The 2019 data in this report is an unduplicated count from HMIS for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2019.

Each person is included in one household type: adults/youth age 18 and over in families, adults age 25 and over without children, youth ages 18 to 24 without children, children under age 18 in families, or children under age 18 unaccompanied. They may also be included in one or more special population status: persons experiencing chronic homelessness, seniors age 55 or over, or veterans. <sup>1</sup>

In 2019, **9,228** people in Kent County experienced at least one episode of homelessness, a 52% increase since 2016.



Services Provided

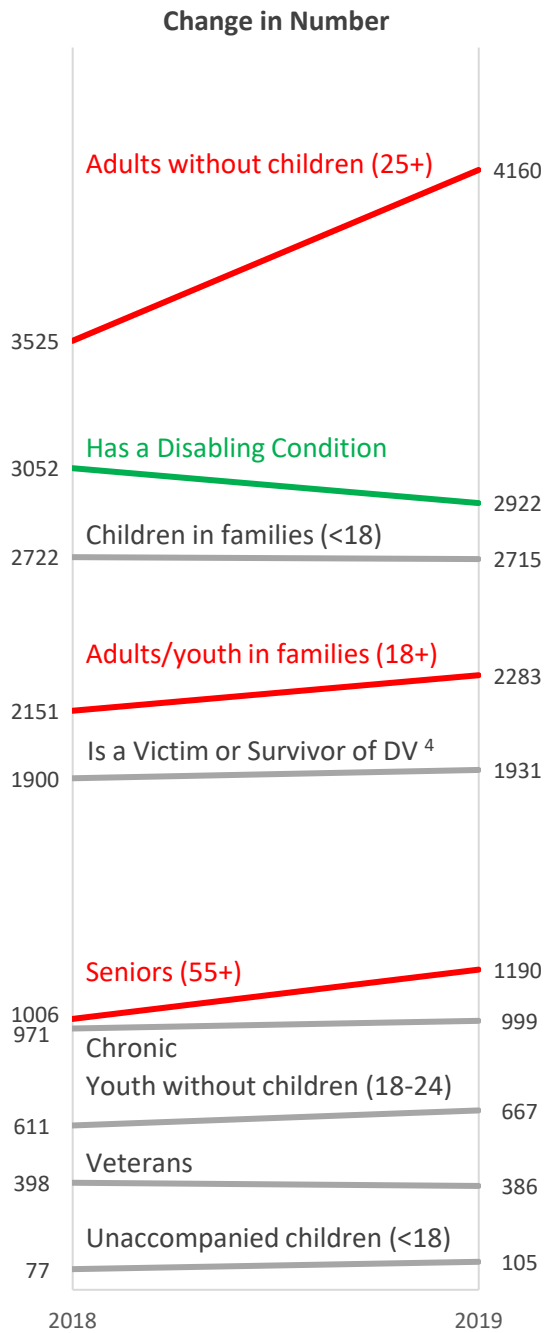


(Left) The most common services provided to those experiencing homelessness were coordinated assessment (6,022) and emergency shelter (4,781). <sup>2, 3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For a definition of chronic homelessness, see <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4847/hearth-defining-chronically-homeless-final-rule/>.

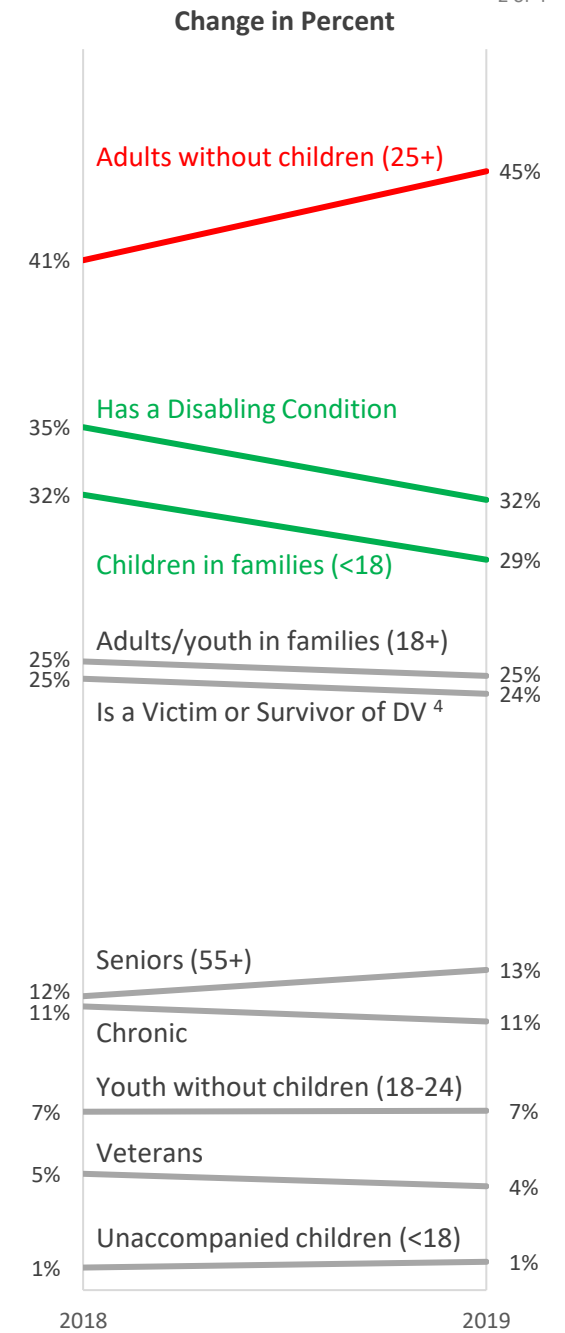
<sup>2</sup> For information about coordinated assessment and rapid re-housing, see <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5340/coordinated-entry-core-elements/> and <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3891/rapid-re-housing-brief/>.

<sup>3</sup> Percentages are calculated as the number of times a service was provided divided by the total number of people who experienced homelessness. Percentages add up to more than 100% because some people received more than one service. Other services provided include transitional housing, street outreach, permanent supportive housing, homelessness prevention, housing only, housing with services, and other.



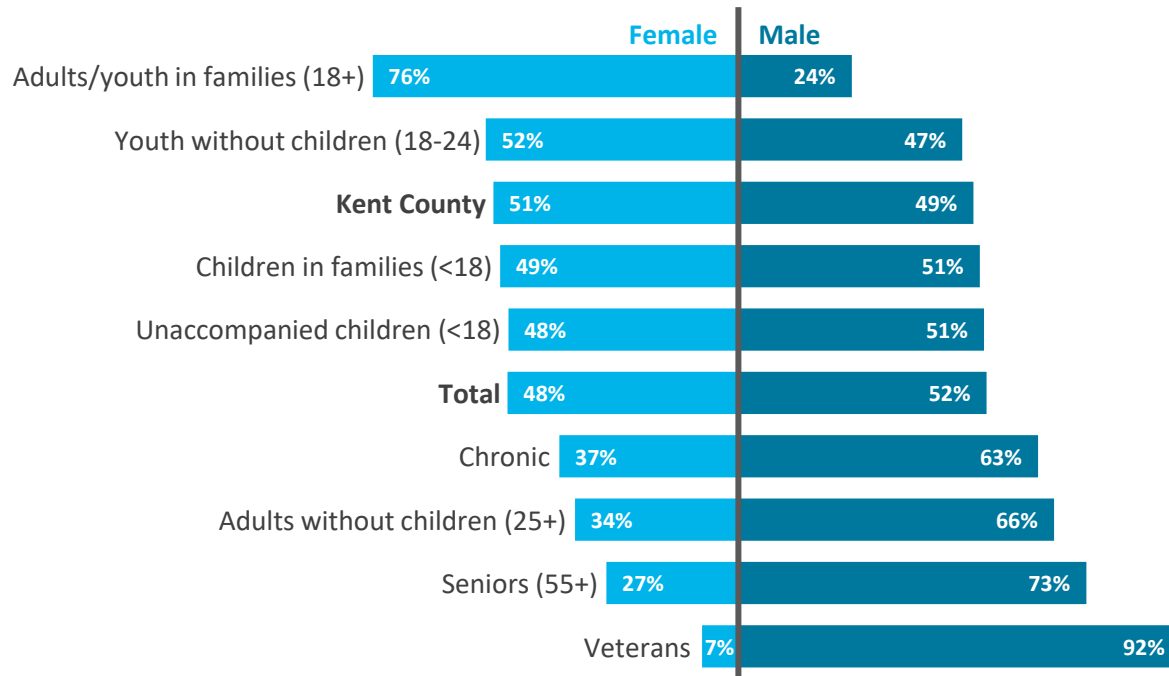
(Left) Since 2018, the number of people experiencing homelessness has increased in almost every category, with the largest increases among adults without children (+635), seniors (+184), and adults/youth in families (+132). The largest decrease was among those with a disabling condition (-130).

(Right) As a percentage of total people experiencing homelessness, most categories have remained relatively steady since 2018. The largest increase has been among adults without children (+4%) and the largest decreases have been among those with a disabling condition (-3%) and children in families (-3%). <sup>5</sup>



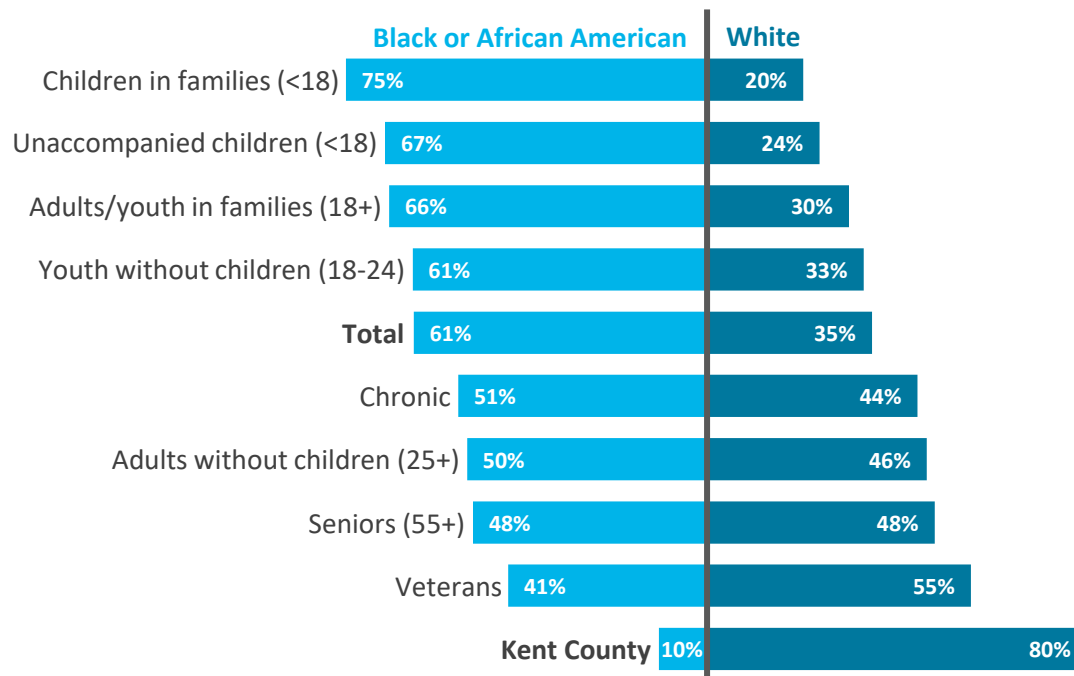
<sup>4</sup> Domestic Violence (DV) may have been experienced at any point in the person's life (survivor) and is not necessarily current (victim) or related to their experience of homelessness.

<sup>5</sup> Percentages are calculated as the number shown in the chart to the left divided by 9,228 (the total shown on page 1) for all categories except "Has a Disabling Condition" and "Is a Victim or Survivor of DV." Percentages for these two categories are each calculated as the number shown in the chart to the left divided by total responses to a specific question about that topic (9,176 and 8,039 respectively).



**Females** (4,416) and **males** (4,804) each make up roughly half the individuals experiencing homelessness (total) and half the population in Kent County. <sup>6</sup> Still, there are **gender disparities** among several populations.

Less than 0.5% of total individuals experiencing homelessness identified as transgender (14).

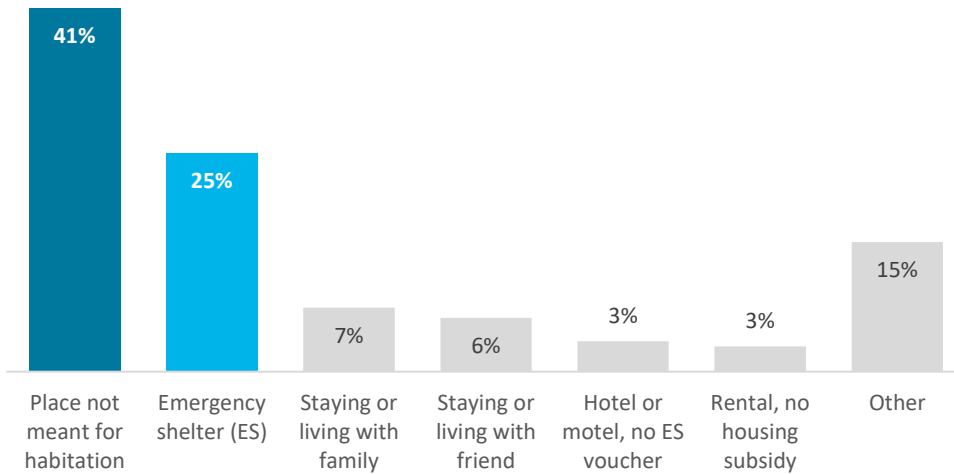


When compared to Kent County, **Black or African American** individuals (5,662) experiencing homelessness were over-represented as a total and in each category, revealing a **racial disparity**. <sup>6</sup>

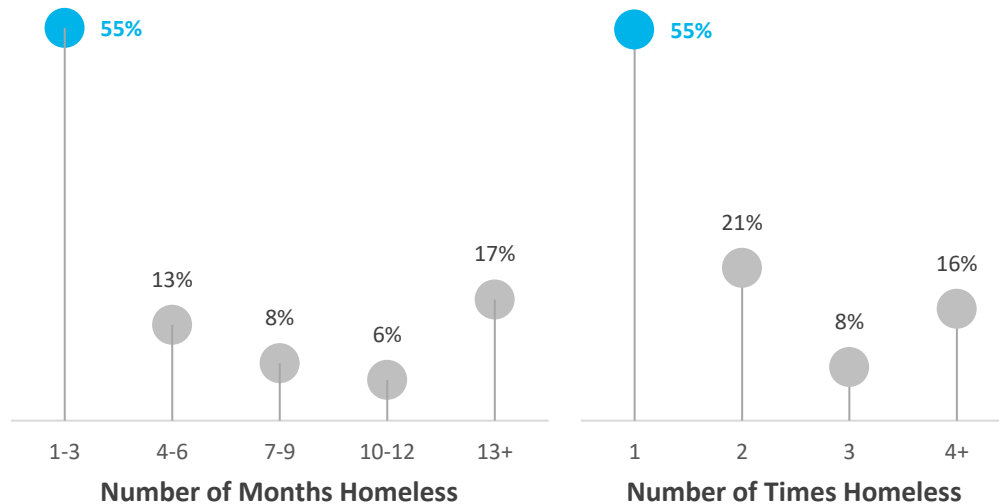
While other races make up 10% of Kent County, they make up only 2.4% of those experiencing homelessness (224). However, the “American Indian or Alaska Native” race was overrepresented by more than 300%. While accounting for only 0.37% of the County’s population, American Indians or Alaskan Natives comprised 1.54% or 144 of those experiencing homelessness.

<sup>6</sup> Kent County data is from the 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates Table S0101 - Age and Sex and Table B02001 - Race.

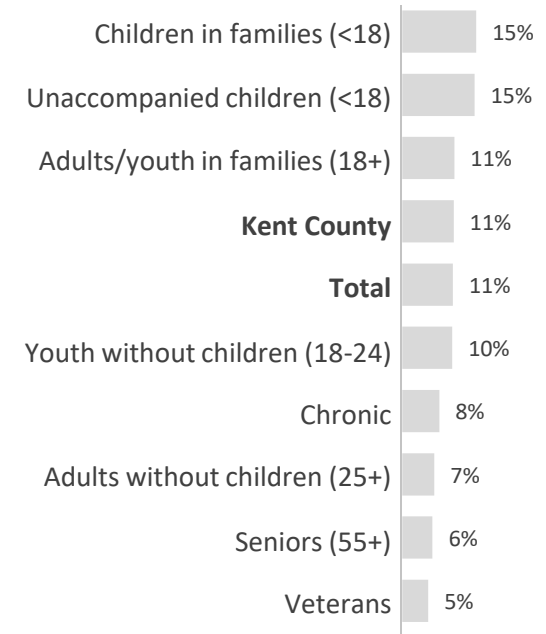
The most common **Prior Living Situations** of persons experiencing homelessness were places not meant for habitation (4,735) and emergency shelters (2,845). <sup>7</sup>



In the past three years, 55% (5,969) of those experiencing homelessness had spent one to three months in emergency shelter or on the street. Over the same time period, 55% (5,571) were experiencing homelessness for the first time. <sup>8</sup>



Although **Hispanic or Latino** individuals (973) were fairly represented as a total when compared to Kent County, a potential disparity existed for children in families and unaccompanied. <sup>9</sup>



<sup>7</sup> Other prior living situations include safe haven; rental with housing subsidy or in a public housing unit; transitional housing; jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility; hospital or other residential medical or psychiatric facility; substance abuse treatment facility or detox center; residential project or halfway house with no homeless criteria; permanent housing (other than rapid re-housing) for formerly homeless persons; residence owned with or without subsidy; interim housing; foster care; host home (non-crisis); long-term care facility or nursing home; mission; and unknown (data not collected, client refused, client doesn't know).

<sup>8</sup> Percentages are calculated as the number of months or times a person experienced homelessness divided by the total responses to a specific question about that topic (10,823 and 10,146 respectively).

<sup>9</sup> Kent County data is from the 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates Table B03003 - Hispanic or Latino Origin.