



STEERING COUNCIL CONSUMER INCLUSION POLICY

The Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness, also known as the Grand Rapids/Wyoming/Kent County Continuum of Care entity and here forward referenced as the CoC, is committed to ending homelessness across Kent County. The CoC recognizes the importance of having voices of persons who have experienced homelessness or are currently experiencing homelessness to inform the community's response to homelessness.

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the HEARTH Act, requires at least one person who is or has been homeless to serve on the governing body of the CoC. Locally, the CoC has fully embraced the spirit of this regulation, and has increased this number to at least two (2) persons serving on the Steering Council within the CoC's Governance Charter.

In order to better enable members to become actively involved in the work of the CoC, participating on committees and attending meetings, the CoC will provide transportation assistance for eligible members. This assistance will be paid for out of the non-federal funds within the Essential Needs Task Force, CoC budget and used in accordance with funder guidelines.

Eligible Members

The Steering Council election process shall be conducted in a manner filled as described in the CoC Governance Charter that ensures the two positions for persons experiencing or having experienced homelessness are seated on the Council.

This assistance is intended for persons who are not engaged with the CoC as an employee of an entity that would be reasonably expected to pay for the employee's time in these meetings, nor is attending CoC meetings a periodic part of the employee's job duties.

If the member fails to attend meetings regularly, thereby jeopardizing their Steering Council membership, continued provision of the assistance shall be reevaluated.

Ensuring Access

The CoC is able to provide monthly assistance in the amount of a 10-ride bus pass, or equivalent value gas card, monthly for those members wishing to attend monthly Steering Council meetings and bi-monthly CoC Membership meetings. For those participating in additional committees, a monthly bus pass or equivalent value gas card may be provided.

Application Process

Eligible, interested members shall speak to CoC staff to arrange assistance. Any forms needed on behalf of the fiduciary agency will be completed at this time.

Process for Appeal



If a member is initially determined to be ineligible, or assistance is discontinued, the member may appeal these decisions. Appeals must be made in writing to the CoC Chairperson and will be heard by the Executive Committee.