



## FUNDING DECISION APPEAL POLICY

### INTERIM

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. A powerful tool for this is the appropriation of public funds to permanent housing and infrastructure projects.

The Funding Review Committee of the CoC is comprised of individuals with knowledge of the system for providing homelessness services. (A list of current Funding Review members is provided in the FRC Members and Process document.) This committee makes funding recommendations to the Steering Council of the CoC and the Steering Council votes on the recommendation.

Appeals may be made for the following reasons:

- 1) Scoring Error: The application was incorrectly scored and should have received a higher score that would change their funding award;
- 2) Additional Criteria to Consider: The applicant believes the score does not reflect the importance of the project to the community and ending homelessness or the decision to deny funding will adversely affect the community's work to end homelessness.

Appeals must be returned to CoC staff by the deadline stated on the funding application timeline provided with the initial application. Timelines will vary by funding source and overall application timeframe, but staff will work to secure a minimum of one week after funding awards are announced.

An Appeals Panel will be assembled, consisting of one of the Funding Review Committee members, one of the Steering Council members, CoC staff, and recruited members (minimum of three) from Continuums of Care outside of Kent County. All members of the Appeals Panel will have a vote, except CoC staff who will lead and inform the discussion. All members must declare any potential conflict of interest to the committee for consideration.

Decisions of the Appeals Panel will be sent as recommendations to the Steering Council. Following the Steering Council vote to accept or overturn the recommendations, the appeal decisions will be sent to applicants in writing, by CoC staff, within 3 business days.

Appeals will not be considered if:

- The organization or project failed to meet the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) thresholds

If the applicant's appeal is denied (following the Steering Council vote) and they wish to pursue the appeal further, they may appeal to the local granting agency or directly to HUD in the case of CoC Program

funding. Appeals to HUD may be made by solo applicants who, "...were denied the right to participate in a reasonable manner" (Notice CPD-14-01, 24 CFR Part 578) and their project is not included in the Priority Listing submitted by the CoC to HUD in the consolidated application. To appeal to HUD, applicants must submit their project application in *e-snaps*, the online application site of HUD, by the deadline listed on the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) pertaining to that application year.

It should be noted that while HUD reviews the appeal, the amount of funding requested by the appealing applicant will be withheld from the funding allocated to the rest of the community. In the event that the applicant does not receive a funding for its project application by HUD, the funds will be released back to the community, but will likely have caused a delay in new contracts being awarded to the project(s) on the bottom of the Priority Listing.