



Grand Rapids/Wyoming/Kent County – MI 506
Continuum of Care Membership Meeting Agenda
August 28, 2025 □ 9:30-11:00 am
Grand Rapids Public Library – 111 Library St NE

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of June 26, 2025 Minutes*
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. MSHDA HCV pulls
 - i. *May-June*: 48 households
 - ii. *August*: anticipated 48 households
4. MI Bridges – *MDHHS, Crystal Korpi*
5. Increasing Income for Program Participants – *Community Rebuilders, Maranda VanZegeren and Angela Gillisse*
6. Community Agency Spotlight – *AYA Youth Collective, Erick Chavarria*
7. Federal Updates
8. Community Partner Announcements and Updates
9. Adjournment

**indicates potential action item*



CoC MEMBER MEETING MEETING MINUTES

June 26, 2025

9:30-11:00am

Facilitator:	Elizabeth Stoddard		
Meeting Attendees:	<p>Darcy Capitano, Chris Palasky, Felicia Clay, Tim Beimers, Elizabeth Stoddard, Keigan Brown-Edwards, Maria Williams, Jordan Brinker, Eileen Mckeever, Katherine Beesaw, Casey Gordon, Tenisa Frye, Frieda Campos, Bill Weld-Wallis, Hanna Visser, Gordie Moeller, John Wynbeek, Stacy Datena, Raymond King, Thelma Ensink, Molly Perez, Zenaida Jimenez, Emily Schichtel, Alyssa Bryan, Gail Brusseau, Sam Westhouse, Amy Lloyd, Lindsey Reames, Latrice Harrison, Brian Kamstra, Joan Wallace, Colin Dick, Shelby Sichta, Ryan Verwys, Francine Kalnins, Brian Bruce, Maranda VanZegeren, Paul Smith, Kate Berens, Mark Fankhauser, Jacob Doorn, Annette Vandenberg, Tammy Vincet</p> <p>Staff: Courtney Myers-Leaton, Ronan Parmenter, Alyssa Anten, Brianne Robach, Robyn Van Dyke</p>		
Time Convened:	9:31am	Time Adjourned:	

Approval of Agenda			
Motion by:		Support from:	
Discussion			
Amendments			
Conclusion			
Approval of Minutes		6/26/2025	
Motion by:	Paul Smith	Support from:	Zenaida Jimenez
Discussion			
Amendments			
Conclusion	All in favor, motion carries		
FY 26 Proposed Federal Budget		Courtney Myers-Keaton	
Discussion			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gave context for the FY26 budget – Homelessness is rising, and data shows that it’s driven by the lack of affordable housing. Dollars allocated to CoC/Homelessness response system are primarily focused on Category 1 homelessness. At local level, outflow is stalled. Coordinated Entry committee continues to discuss this with partners but can’t move people fast enough to serve folks coming in.Narrative in Congress opposes facts – Courtney gave facts around rent and wages. She also noted a shortage in Kent County and plans to make housing more affordable in the community. While currently facing significantly reduced budgets, there are not enough resources to meet demand. Hard conversations to come in the next few months.Overview of things lost in the shift – Permanent Supportive Housing, YHDP, Housing Opportunity for People with AIDS (HOPWA), National Homelessness Data Analysis Project, technical assistance, homelessness and crisis response backbone, and Emergency Housing Vouchers.			



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<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cuts will impact faith-based organizations and other non-profits serving vulnerable groups — 73% serving people with disabilities and older adults. As for just HUD funding: Medicaid, food assistance, and other budget cuts will compound the issue.Overview of Federal Budget — Courtney reviewed phases 1-3 and urged members to advocate on behalf of funding our community.		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Send presentation to general membershipDistribute packets with local data, talking points, and contact information for local, state, and national legislators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CoC Staff	
Responses to Local Survey	Courtney Myers-Keaton	
Discussion		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Courtney shared an overview of a survey sent out in February/March about HUD funding and reviewed the impacts of funding cuts to both agencies and clients in our community. Seven agencies would be at risk of having to close permanently.		
	Person Responsible	Deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Share HUD Funding slideshow	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CoC Staff	
Break Out – Concerns/Solutions	Small Groups	
Discussion		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sam Westhouse – Noted that without structure, everyone will be looking for private funding and encouraged that we stick with the system and structure that currently exists as much as possible. For frontline workers, volunteer work could cover staffing gaps.Thelma — Mentioned getting community data of those impacted by the loss of HUD funding through corporate partners and engaging with their conversations on a national levelGordie—Suggested that hospitals may be in a position of support and funding as they will see an increase in patients		
	Person Responsible	Deadline
Agency Updates		
Discussion		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lindsey Reames — RFP for project-based vouchers anticipated to come out the week of July 7; still will be issuing that RFP and plans to hold an informational session once published.		



MI 506 - Grand Rapids/Wyoming/Kent County CoC

Below is a table that includes agencies, with project type and total budget that were awarded FY24 HUD CoC and YHDP Funds in Kent County for a total of \$11,318,629. These funds provide services for case management support, system infrastructure, database management and data collection, housing supports, include short-term – medium term rental assistance and long-term rental assistance for chronic households.

Agency	Project	Project Type	Budget
Heart of West Michigan United Way	Housing Assessment Program	SSO	\$239,368
Heart of West Michigan United Way	Coordinated Entry 2	SSO	\$219,696
Heart of West Michigan United Way	Coordinated Entry 1	SSO	\$68,953
Heart of West Michigan United Way	HMIS	HMIS	\$144,594
Safe Haven Ministries	Housing Services for Domestic Violence Survivors	Joint TH & PH-RRH	\$605,616
Community Rebuilders	Keys First	RRH	\$1,114,335
Community Rebuilders	Housing Solutions	PSH	\$721,948
Community Rebuilders	PACT (Partners Achieving Change Together)	Joint TH & PH-RRH	\$1,630,284
Community Rebuilders	Shelter Plus Care	PSH	\$2,408,232
Community Rebuilders	HEROES	PSH	\$206,575
Community Rebuilders	LOFT	PSH	\$511,876
Heartside Nonprofit Housing Corporation	Verne Barry Place	PSH	\$209,736
Heartside Nonprofit Housing Corporation	Ferguson Apartments	PSH	\$66,000
Grand Rapids Housing Commission	Hope Community	RRH	\$167,146
Heartside Nonprofit Housing Corporation	Commerce Apartments	PSH	\$353,628
YWCA West Central Michigan	Project HEAL TH-RRH	Joint TH & PH-RRH	\$587,342
YWCA West Central Michigan	Project HEAL TH	TH	\$407,518
Arbor Circle	YHDP: Host Homes	SSO	\$130,950
Arbor Circle	YHDP: Outreach/Peer Navigator	SSO	\$188,200
Heart of West Michigan United Way	CoC Planning	Planning	\$467,490
AYA Youth Collective	Housing As You Are	YHDP – TH-RRH	\$869,142



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In Kent County, MI approximately 1,200 people experience homelessness on any given night. The majority of those resolve their housing crisis within 3 months with about 20% of the homeless population experiencing chronic homelessness and needing longer term supports. In order to assist households, agencies use a combination of federal, state, and private dollars and provide much needed services to the community's most vulnerable residents.

The infrastructure of the local Continuum of Care allows for the community to coordinate efforts and align services to more effectively and efficiently serve unhoused households. Kent County is working towards ending chronic homelessness and in fact has already ended Veterans homelessness and is able to do so under the leadership and structure of the Continuum of Care. These funds are necessary to ensure strategic alignment and accountability and without them the community will not only struggle to meet an already overwhelming need but will be unable to coordinate and collaborate as they have for the past 3 decades.