

Continuum of Care Membership Application

The Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness is a community collaborative that is actively working on systems change in the area of homelessness and affordable housing. **The Coalition's mission is to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring throughout Kent County by providing community leadership and building capacity in our homeless response and prevention systems through cross sector engagement, collaborative planning, education and equity focused solutions. The Coalition's work is guided by our [Coalition Compass](#) and a three-year community developed strategic plan.**

The Coalition serves as the Continuum of Care (CoC) for Kent County with specific responsibilities to comply with the HEARTH Act, the guiding legislation for US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding.¹ The Continuum of Care champions the current strategic plan as well as the values and beliefs and values laid out in the [Coalition Compass](#).

Membership in the Coalition Continuum of Care is **free and open to all**. Relevant organizations include nonprofit homeless assistance providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, advocates, public housing authorities, school districts, social service providers, mental health agencies, hospitals, universities, affordable housing developers, law enforcement, organizations that serve veterans. Individuals include those who previously experienced homelessness, are currently experiencing homelessness, and community advocates who are unaffiliated with a local organization.

Members are expected to support the Coalition strategic plan, regularly attend Continuum of Care meetings, and are strongly encouraged to participate in Coalition committees and workgroups.

In return, Coalition Continuum of Care **members receive access to:**

- Voting rights on CoC governance issues
- Community data on progress toward reaching functional zero
- Timely email updates and presentations on policy and funding changes at the local, state and federal level
- Participation in system-wide strategy and direction for ending homelessness in Kent County
- Clinics and workshops that promote best practices
- Opportunities to network with those doing similar work to promote system building

Coalition Continuum of Care **meetings are open to all interested parties**, however, there is only one voting representative from any agency or organization. A roster of voting representatives is maintained and updated at least annually. A voting representative from an organization or agency may assign their proxy to another individual from their organization; however, at no time will any organization be provided with multiple votes. Refer to the Governance Charter for additional information.²

¹ General Provisions 52 § 578.1 Purpose and scope: (a) The Continuum of Care program is authorized by subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381-11389). (b) The program is designed to: (1) *Promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness;* (2) *Provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, States, and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals (including unaccompanied youth) and families, while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness;* (3) *Promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families;* and (4) *Optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.*

² For additional local information, see the Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness Governance Charter.

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Agency and organization members are eligible to vote on specific Coalition Continuum of Care matters and must designate one voting representative and supply the contact information below. Individual members do not need to be affiliated with a member agency or organization to vote as individual members but may not be employed by a member agency.

Membership must be renewed annually by submitting an updated Membership Application Form.

Organization Member	
<i>Check one:</i>	
Nonprofit	
Governmental entity	
Philanthropy	
Business/for profit	
Voting Representative	
First Name	
Last Name	
Title	
Organization	
Phone	
Email	
Mailing address	
Alternate Voter Name	
Individual Member	
<i>Check one</i>	
Homeless	
Formerly homeless	
Advocate	
First Name	
Last Name	
Phone	
Email	
Mailing address	

Affirmation By requesting to become members of the Coalition to End Homelessness Continuum of Care, I/we/our organization agree(s) to uphold the beliefs and values identified in Coalition Compass, regularly attend meetings, and actively engage in Coalition efforts to end homelessness.

Authorized signature and date

Printed name