



CoC Community Engagement Compensation Guidelines

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 ensuring homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring 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.

As such, advisory bodies such as Consumer Action Boards and an Advisory Council serve as recommending bodies to the CoC to incorporate consumer feedback within policy and strategic decisions and action items related to the CoC's efforts to end homelessness.

Their roles and responsibilities as stated in the CoC Governance Charter are outlined below:

1. Provide feedback to the CoC on prevention, crisis response, and housing solutions to end homelessness
2. Recommend policies and practices to prevent and respond to homelessness
3. Assist in project development and funding decisions
 - a. Action Boards shall inform planning efforts
 - b. To review and recommend funding priorities and applications in addressing homelessness for specific applications as required by funding application.
4. Advise on and support education and advocacy efforts for systems reform on the local, state and federal levels to support the plans to end homelessness.

In addition to these advisory bodies, the Coalition may also consult with individuals with lived experience of homelessness through focus groups, listening sessions, or surveys to gather feedback related to particular topics.

Compensation

The CoC is dedicated to ensuring there is equitable representation and compensation for individuals with lived experience and as such provides a stipend in exchange for their knowledge and expertise.

Meeting Stipends

The CoC will provide a stipend in the amount of \$35 per hour to advisory body members for participation in scheduled meetings, up to 5 hours per month. Stipends shall be in the form of a gift card.

Consultation

The CoC will provide a gift card in the amount of \$50 to participants in focus groups or similar activities. Survey participants will be entered into a drawing for a gift card in the amount of \$50.

Activity paid from the HUD CoC Planning Grant must adhere to Section 578.39 of the CoC Program interim rules, which states the CoC planning funds may be used for the costs of:

- Developing a communitywide or regionwide process involving the coordination of various stakeholders and homeless or formerly homeless individual,
- Determining the geographic area that the CoC will serve,
- Developing a CoC system,
- Evaluating the outcomes of projects for which funds are awarded in the geographic area (including funds awarded under the Emergency Solutions Grants program),
- Participating in the Consolidated Plan(s) of the jurisdiction(s) in the geographic area,
- Preparing and submitting the application to HUD on behalf of the CoC membership, and
- Monitoring recipients and subrecipients and enforcing compliance with program requirements.

In addition, the following criteria must be met for a community resident to be compensated for participation in CoC activities:

- Community resident lives or works in Kent County
- Community resident has experienced or is currently experiencing homelessness
- Participation is outside the scope of the community resident's paid employment

Other Activities

The CoC recognizes that advisory bodies may choose to engage in other activities that do not fall within the guidelines of the HUD CoC Planning Grant and as such, encourages boards to seek additional funds to support those activities.

Approved by Steering Council:
12-13-2019
Updated 9-16-2022