



From the Board of Directors

While 2021 is firmly in our rearview mirror, we mustn't lose sight of its challenges—to our community, to our housing systems, and to those experiencing houselessness. Even so, the partners within the Kalamazoo County Continuum of Care worked hard to meet those needs and serve the people who count on us.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to displace people from stable housing and put many others at risk, particularly in communities of color. The CoC partners stepped up, connecting hundreds of people to temporary shelter, permanent housing and other supports. They worked tirelessly to distribute state and federal dollars that supported homelessness prevention work. This report describes much of that activity.

Still, we know that the work is far from finished. That's why we came together in 2021 to create a robust, three-year strategic plan. Developed with crucial input from across our community, the plan includes solid, workable initiatives that will guide the CoC staff, Board and committees for the next three years. Future annual reports will detail our progress year by year.

Also in 2021, CoC Director Sara Jacobs left to pursue new opportunities. We wish her well, and we look forward to filling that vacancy soon. Meanwhile, our eyes and our hearts are on the road ahead—guided by our strategic plan, and eager to make use of new affordable housing units, new financial resources and our unwavering commitment to make sure every person in Kalamazoo County has a place to call home.

Kelly Doyle
CARES

Sandy Barry-Loken
Kalamazoo Community Foundation

Co-Chairs, Kalamazoo Continuum of Care

Committees and Workgroups

- **Allocations & Accountability Committee**
- **Coordinated Entry Workgroup**
- **Data Team**
- **Outreach Coordination Workgroup**
- **Shelter Committee**
- **Systems of Care Committee ***
- **Veterans By Name Committee**

*inactive in 2021, will resume in 2022

CoC Board of Directors

Co-Chair | Kelly Doyle

Community AIDS Resource and Education

Co-Chair | Sandy Barry-Loken

Kalamazoo Community Foundation

Amanda Sutherland

Michigan Works! Southwest

Amy Hunter

OutFront Kalamazoo

Andrew Chaponda

Open Doors Kalamazoo

Don Bouchard

Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo

Don Jones

Kalamazoo Defender

Don Roberts

Legal Aid of Western Michigan

Erica Patton

Integrated Services of Kalamazoo

Evelyn Lewis

Ministry with Community

John Simpson

Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries

Johnny Anderson

Ministry with Community

Laura Lam

City of Kalamazoo

Lee Adams

Southcentral MI Planning Council/
Upjohn Institute

Meagan Dunn

YWCA Kalamazoo

Michelle Davis

Housing Resources, Inc.

Robin Greymountain

Kalamazoo Public Schools

Stephanie Hoffman

Kalamazoo City Commissioner

Steve Powell

PNC Bank

Tiffany Cunningham

Department of Health and Human Services

Tracy Hall

Kalamazoo County Government

Zac Bauer

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

2021 Point-in-Time and Housing Inventory Count

Jan. 27, 2021

Each winter, the Kalamazoo County CoC conducts a Point-in-Time Count of people experiencing literal homelessness in our community on a single night. On the same night, we take an inventory of the programs in our community that are dedicated to providing homeless individuals with shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing.

While not representative of the extent of homelessness across the entire year, the Point-in-Time Count and Housing Inventory Count provide a “snapshot” of homelessness and our ability to provide shelter and housing supports.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires our CoC to conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness in our emergency shelter and transitional housing programs and conduct a count of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness every other year.

Recognizing the importance of this data on unsheltered homelessness, the Kalamazoo County CoC generally conducts a count of unsheltered persons every year, in addition to the sheltered count. However, due to the safety concerns raised by the COVID-19 pandemic and following guidance from HUD, our CoC did not conduct an unsheltered count in 2021.

While shelter capacity was reduced during the 2021 Point-in-Time count due to social distancing measures put in place during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Housing Inventory Count showed shelter beds available for all household types. Across our service system, there was about a 80% utilization rate for non-domestic violence shelter beds, and a 74% utilization rate for transitional housing programs serving veterans and youth.

Of our total housing inventory, the majority of beds (61%) were in programs offering permanent housing through rapid rehousing (43 beds), permanent supportive housing (450 beds), or other permanent housing programs (295). Domestic violence and non-domestic violence shelters provided an additional 436 beds, and transitional housing providers operated a total of 72 beds.

342

Number of individuals who were sheltered in our emergency shelter and transitional housing programs on the night of the 2021 Point-in-Time Count. This represents a significant decrease from the nearly 500 sheltered individuals counted in the 2019 Point-in-Time Count. See Page 3 for more context on why this decrease may have occurred.

What is HMIS?

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is our Continuum of Care’s local system designed to collect client-level data on the provision of homeless services. When all community partners use HMIS to capture data on their homeless clients, we can use this data to:

- Better coordinate client care between agencies
- Examine and improve system performance
- Inform community-level planning
- Meet funder reporting requirements

Why was there a decrease in the homeless count from 2019-2020?

The decrease can be attributed to several factors related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

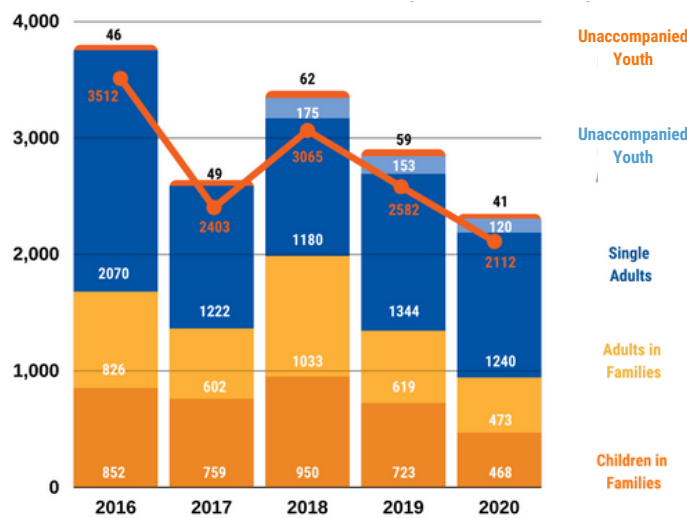
- Temporary reduction in shelter capacity
- Eviction moratoriums that kept people in their homes
- State and federal dollars that provided emergency rental assistance

Additionally, temporary reductions in shelter capacity due to social distancing measures, as well as public health guidance and stay-at-home orders, may have led more households to seek housing and supports from family or friends rather than our homeless service system. As temporary emergency funding sources for rental assistance and other safety net supports are fully expended, the number of new households experiencing homelessness may begin to rise.

Annual Homeless Count

Every year, the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness uses data from HMIS to inform their statewide [Ending Homelessness in Michigan Report](#). This data provides the most accurate view of the extent of homelessness within our county across an entire calendar year and highlights the large racial disparity among households who experience homelessness. Across calendar year 2020, at least 2,112 individuals experienced homelessness in Kalamazoo County (**Image 1**). This number represents individuals who resided in a shelter, transitional housing program, or unsheltered program for at least one night, and is likely an underestimation as it only captures households which have interacted with our homeless service providers who use HMIS. Many more households within the county are living in unstable, unsafe, and unaffordable housing conditions.

Image 1: Literal Homeless Count (2016-20)



Note: Unaccompanied youth age 18-24 were not tracked in a separate category prior to 2018; these youth are included in the single adult category for the years 2016-2017. Individuals may be represented in multiple categories as households shift over time. The solid orange line represents the total unduplicated count of homeless individuals in all categories.

From 2019 to 2020, there was a 22% decrease in the overall number of literally homeless individuals in Kalamazoo County, [mirroring trends found across the entire State of Michigan](#). These decreases were found among all household types and can be attributed to a combination of factors related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is likely that many fewer households became homeless during 2020 due to eviction moratoriums and increased funding for rental relief through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority’s (MSHDA) Eviction diversion program, federal CARES Act dollars for homeless prevention in the form of Covid-19 Emergency Solutions Grant-CV funding, and other sources.

33.5%

of literally homeless individuals indicated they were a survivor of domestic violence.

42.3%

have one or more disabling condition.

30.4%

have spent 12 or more months in emergency shelter, a safe haven, or in a place not meant for habitation during the past three years.

464

individuals were identified as chronically homeless.

88

individuals were identified as veterans.

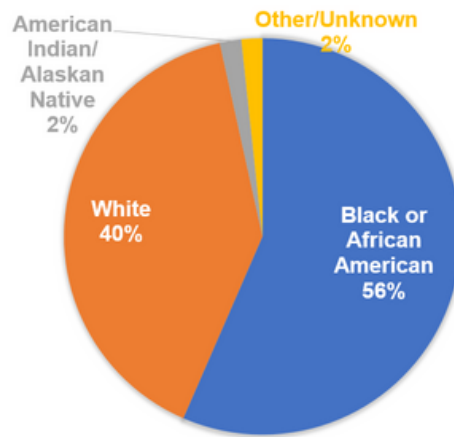
343

individuals were age 55 or older.

67%

individuals reported their residence was in Kalamazoo County, an increase from 62% in 2019

Image 2



Individuals Experiencing Literal Homelessness by Race/Ethnicity

When the population of individuals who experienced literal homelessness in 2020 is broken down by race, a wide racial disparity emerges. The majority (56%) of individuals experiencing homelessness in Kalamazoo County identify as Black or African American, while 40% identify as white. An additional 2% identify as American Indian or Alaskan Native and less than .5% identify as another non-white race (**Image 2**). Additionally, approximately 4% identify their ethnicity as Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x), compared to nearly 96% who identify as non-Hispanic/Non-Latin(a)(o)(x).

This disparity in the number of individuals identifying as Black or Indigenous becomes more pronounced when examined in the context of the racial demographics of the City of Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo County, both of which are majority white.

Less than 20% of Kalamazoo County residents identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), with less than 12% identifying specifically as Black or African American and only 0.5% identifying as American Indian or Alaskan Native, according to U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates.

Furthermore, these racial disparities manifest differently across household types. Homeless single adults are more likely to be white, with 51% of this population identifying as white compared to 45% identifying as Black or African American, while adults and children in families and unaccompanied youth are more likely to identify as Black or African American. Crucially, the largest disparity is found among homeless children, with Black or African American children making up over 80% of both children in families and unaccompanied youth under the age of 18.

In recognition of the ongoing racial disparities apparent in our unhoused community, our 2022-24 strategic plan emphasizes equity as one of 8 core goal areas. [Read more about the specific equity-focused strategies the CoC will employ here.](#)

State and Federal Funding Summary 2021

MSHDA Emergency Solutions Grant FY 2021-2022

The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) is intended to help households quickly regain permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness. Funds can be used for homelessness prevention, street outreach, emergency shelter, rapid-rehousing, and HMIS. ESG is a federal entitlement-based program; funds are provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), and then awarded to the Continuum of Care based on a formula. During the local funding process, the Continuum of Care collaborates with local partners to determine funding priorities and select sub-grantees to receive the funds.

Total Allocations: \$506,063

STREET OUTREACH

- Integrated Services of Kalamazoo (ISK)

RAPID RE-HOUSING

- Housing Resources, Inc (HRI)

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

- Housing Resources, Inc. (HRI)

EMERGENCY SHELTER

- Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo
- Integrated Services of Kalamazoo

HUD 2021 Continuum of Care Program Grant

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care Program Competition is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. Agencies can apply for funding for transitional housing, rapid-rehousing, joint transitional housing and rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, and coordinated entry projects. The total amount of funding the CoC is eligible to receive is determined by formula and includes renewal funding, CoC planning costs, and opportunities to receive bonus funding for new projects. The amount of funding *received* is determined by performance on a Collaborative Application submitted by the Continuum of Care. During the local funding competition, the CoC ranks projects to be prioritized for funding and submits this information to HUD as part of the Collaborative Application.

In 2021, the CoC received funds to renew existing permanent supportive housing programs.

Total Allocations: \$1,718,144

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

- Integrated Services of Kalamazoo (ISK)
- Housing Resources, Inc.

PLANNING GRANT (\$54,050)

- United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region

COVID Emergency Rental Assistance

COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) funds are provided by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and granted from MSHDA to help tenants facing hardships due to COVID-19. Tenants are eligible for funds for rental and utility assistance. CERA is administered by Housing Resources, Inc. and operated by Integrated Services of Kalamazoo, Open Doors Kalamazoo, and Housing Resource, Inc.

Total Allocations: \$31,808,013

Administered by HRI



	<u>Expended through 12/31/21</u>	<u>Funds Remaining</u>
Financial Assistance	\$7,134,101	\$2,112,656
Case Management	\$343,613	\$138,424
Administration	\$520,366	\$20,175
Total	\$7,998,081	\$2,271,256



Financial Assistance	\$5,192,862	\$1,553,895
Case Management	\$279,566	\$202,471
Administration	\$202,439	\$338,102
Total	\$5,674,867	\$2,094,470



Financial Assistance	\$9,355,794	\$3,390,963
Case Management	\$309,172	\$172,865
Administration	\$432,202	\$108,338
Total	\$10,097,170	\$3,672,167

Continuum of Care Mini Grants

The CoC Mini grant process is a low-barrier local funding stream available to all CoC members and partnering organizations, to help address housing system gaps and support individuals and families in Kalamazoo County experiencing housing crisis. The funding stream follows a trust-based grant-making process. This approach not only speeds up the application and allocations process but encourages grantees to be innovative and creative in addressing specific needs of a population served. The Mini Grants are made possible by generous funders including the Stryker Johnston Foundation and City of Kalamazoo's Foundation for Excellence.

Total Disbursed in 2021: \$78,000

Agency	Funded Activity	Populations Served
Hope Thru Navigation	Phones, phone cards, gas cards, bus tokens, and PPE	Unhoused residents sheltering at the various encampments in Kalamazoo County and or unhoused residents with no permanent, overnight shelter.
Hope Thru Navigation	Hoteling	A BIPOC family experiencing housing transition due to gun violence.
Hope Thru Navigation	Hoteling	24 adults and 73 children (largely BIPOC, Northside residents) displaced due to apartment fire.
Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services	Purchase of 11 rental homes to convert to homeownership opportunity	Northside renters below 60% area median income. All tenants that currently live in the single-family houses are BIPOC. Some of the households are multigenerational.
Urban Alliance	Tents, sleeping bags, tarps	Unhoused individuals residing in the City of Kalamazoo.
Ministry with Community	Hoteling for local isolation and quarantine	Individuals in Kalamazoo County who are unhoused and either awaiting COVID 19 test results or have a positive test result and cannot meet in a congregate setting.
Integrated Services of Kalamazoo	Food, staffing, transportation, and supplies for local isolation and quarantine	Individuals in Kalamazoo County who are unhoused and either awaiting COVID-19 test results or have a positive test result and cannot isolate in a congregate setting.