

Kalamazoo County

continuum



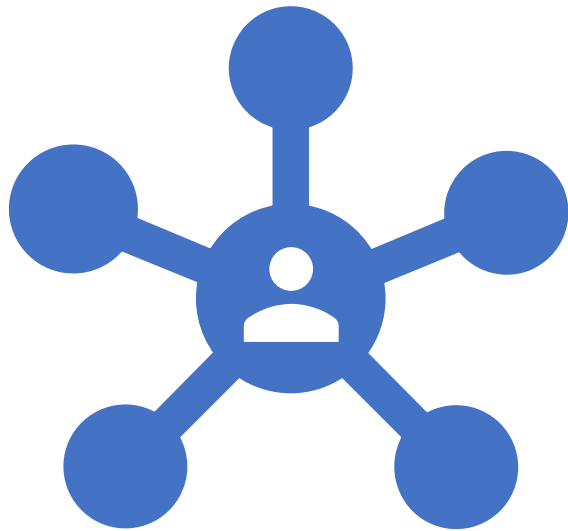
OF CARE

**United Way of
South Central Michigan**

**United
Way**




Calhoun | Clinton | Eaton | Ingham | Jackson | Kalamazoo



CoC Team

- Patrese Griffin – CoC Director
- Carrie Bosch – HMIS Systems Administrator
- Tanya Wilson – CoC Associate
- Lily Fossel – Grants Manager

What is the Continuum of Care (CoC)?

- **The Continuum of Care (CoC)** is a **Housing and Urban Development Program (HUD)** designed to **promote** communitywide commitment to the **goal** of ending homelessness.
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The Role of the Kalamazoo County CoC



We **partner** with our members to **increase coordination** and find solutions to the gaps, inequities, and challenges they experience when working to reduce homelessness



We **measure** and **analyze** data to ensure accountability throughout the system of services for those experiencing homelessness



We write, maintain, and monitor a community-developed, countywide, 10-year Plan to End Homelessness as mandated by HUD



We administer state and federal funding streams that mandate the use of the CoC structure

CoC Board/Committees/ Workgroups

- **Continuum of Care Local Advisory Board***
- **Allocations & Accountability Team***
- **Systems of Care (SoC) Committee**
- **Data Team***
- **Coordinated Entry Workgroups***
- **Veterans By Name**
- **Shelter Committee**
- **CoC Equity Results Team (CERT)**
- **Community Consultants**

*These committees are required by the US
Dept of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Community Consultants

- The CoC is looking to establish a team of (6-8) individuals with direct lived experience of homelessness to work as community consultants to help guide the work of the CoC. The CoC has implemented a stipend to compensate those consultants for their time and expertise.
- The goal is to create a committee with individuals from various backgrounds with different experiences of homeless (e.g. unsheltered, couch surfing, living in temporary shelter, etc)
- Information on how to apply will be shared April 1st.



Grants

*Funding to empower
effective, strategic
local programming*

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) (HUD/MSHDA): \$495,603

Designed to assist people to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness through emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, HMIS data collection and other supports. Grant Cycle runs yearly April-August.

Funded Agencies: ISK, HRI, CCDOK

HUD COC Grant: \$1,664,094 (max)

Supports permanent housing, transitional housing, supportive services, and HMIS data collection. Grant cycle runs yearly June-September.

Funded Agencies: HRI, ISK, CoC Planning Grant

Mini-Grants – Up to \$15,000

Available to CoC members to address immediate short-term needs and initiatives. Applications accepted year-round, as funding is available.

Funded Agencies: Dignity in Motion, HOPE Thru Navigation,

CoC Community Grants – \$200,000 available for 2024

Available to CoC members. Intended to fill gaps in state/federal funding through permanent housing, homelessness prevention, trauma-informed care training, and support for pregnant individuals and families with children. Grant cycle runs yearly January – March

Specialized Ad Hoc State and Federal Funding Streams

**2023
MSHDA
Funding
Overview:
Specialized
Funding**

Housing Community Development Fund:

State budget of \$50 Million with \$3 million invested in a 2-year shelter diversion pilot

Shelter Diversion: \$500,000, 2-year grant, Applications due 4/21

Result: Joint \$500,000 project submitted by YWCA/HRI was not selected.

2023 MSHDA Funding Overview: Specialized Funding

HOME-ARP:

\$5 billion in ARP funds administered through HUD HOME Investment Partnerships to specifically address homelessness and assistance to vulnerable populations through development of affordable housing, tenant-based rental assistance, supportive services, acquisition and development of non-congregate shelters, and non-profit capacity building assistance.

Homeless Prevention Program: Continued support for homelessness prevention activities implemented under other federal efforts in response to Covid-19, MSHDA allocated \$5million in HOME ARP funds to aid in HPP.

Result: \$231,133, 1 FTE, 1 yr grant, 3/1/23 – 2/28/24, Funding Received by HRI

Housing Navigation: MSHDA rec'd \$63,793,681 (MI non entitlement portion of HOME-ARP); Formula based calculation to allocate 85%, 15% left for addt'l allocations

Result: \$150,000, 1FTE, 2-year grant, 1 FTE, 5/1/23 to 4/30/25 Funding Received by Outfront Kalamazoo and HOPE Thru Navigation.



Volunteer with Us!

Apply to join our Allocations and Accountability Team to speak into strategic funding priorities, lift up gap-filling programming, and help our community thrive.

Rent  Able

RentAble Program

- Designed to fill a gap in supports for ALICE Population. Support for individuals and families that traditionally do not qualify for state and federal resources
- Originally created in 2020 as a security deposit assistance program
- Relunched in April 2023 with \$160,000 funding from the City of Kalamazoo (must either live in or be moving to the City) - Assisted 105 households, 66 identified as Black/African-American. Primary need: past rent and move in costs. Avg payment: \$1599.75
- October 2023 Expanded program to Kalamazoo County – 920 applications and counting (City of Kalamazoo, Kzoo Twp, Portage, Galesburg, Oshtemo, Comstock, Parchment)

RentAble continued

We work with landlords, eviction court, property managers, attorneys, other partners to coordinate and ensure no overlap of services

Issues to note:

- Some properties are not city certified, yet people are still being charged rent
- Eviction court is full and court cases are averaging amounts of over \$5000 in back rent due
- Full RentAble data will be available in the 2023 CoC Annual Report



Coordinated Entry

What is Coordinated Entry?

Coordinated Entry is a process that ensures that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access and are quickly identified, assessed for, referred, and connected to housing and assistance based on their strengths and needs.



What is Coordinated Entry?



- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) established that all CoCs must create, adopt and meet all requirements related to the use of standard Coordinated Entry (CE).
- CE is a centralized or coordinated process designed to coordinate program participant intake and assessment and provision of referrals within a defined area.
- CE makes it possible for service providers to manage high demand for limited housing resources.
- CE makes it possible for the CoC to prioritize preferences and meet grant requirements for serving specific populations, like the chronically homeless.
- CE also provides valuable data about the level of need for housing resources within the community, and creates a by-name list of individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

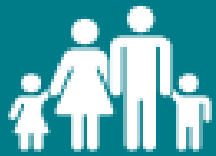
Coordinated Entry Core Elements

ACCESS

ASSESSMENT

PRIORITIZATION

REFERRAL



Initial Triage



Diversion



Intake



Initial Assessment



Potential Eligibility Assessment

Comprehensive Assessment


1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Coordinated Entry Next Steps

- **CoC participated in Coordinated Entry Mini lab** - National Alliance to End Homelessness led Mini-Lab Series to create more just and equitable Coordinated Entry Systems (CES). T
- **Michigan Prioritization Pilot:** to formulate the pilot process and provide important insight/feedback to its development and implementation. The goal of the pilot is to identify or create new prioritization processes/tools that can be evaluated for equity, effectiveness, and potential replication in other CoCs across Michigan.
- **Medical Vulnerability Pilot:** DHHS has developed an innovative new tool for CoCs to support their local prioritization processes. The Medical Vulnerability Level (MVL) combines Medicaid utilization data, demographics, homeless episodes and other information to create an indicator that can be incorporated into a CoC's prioritization process and used to guide decision making for housing placement. This first of its kind tool is unique because it harnesses an extensive amount of data without disclosing any personal health information. MDHHS is looking for five (5) CoCs willing to participate in a 6 to 9 month pilot to incorporate the Medical Vulnerability Level (MVL) into their prioritization process and report on its accuracy and usefulness.
- **Focus groups to gather feedback**

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- Local system designed to collect client-level data on the provision of homeless services in order to:
 - Coordinate client care
 - Examine system & program performance
 - Inform community, state, and national planning
 - Meet funder reporting requirements
 - Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
 - Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)
 - HUD requires each Continuum of Care (CoC) to operate an HMIS & specifies standards for HMIS governance, privacy, and data.
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Data Snapshots

What is the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count?

- A literal count of all the people experiencing homelessness in our community on a single night (i.e., at a point in time)
- Generally conducted by every community nationwide in the last 10 days of January
- A “snapshot” of homelessness on this one night in our community

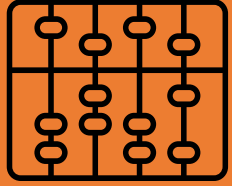


Who is Counted by HUD in the PIT Count?

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) definition of "homeless," for the purpose of the PIT count, includes two main types of homelessness:

- Unsheltered: Individuals or families whose primary nighttime residence is a public place not meant for human habitation
- Sheltered: Individuals or families residing in a place dedicated to serving people who would otherwise be unsheltered
 - Emergency shelters (including those using hotel and motel vouchers)
 - Transitional housing
 - Safe Havens





Who is counted in the Unsheltered PIT Count?

- **Individuals or families whose primary nighttime residence is a public place not meant for human habitation**
 - Tents
 - Cars
 - Parks
 - Camping grounds
 - Abandoned buildings
 - Bus or train stations
 - Parking lots
- **This does NOT include individuals or families who are:**
 - Doubled-up
 - Couch surfing
 - In a Hotel/motel
 - In a shelter or transitional housing program

Why do we do a PIT count?



To measure and monitor trends and changes in homelessness on local and national levels



To help our community understand what resources we need and strategize the best ways to use them to end homelessness



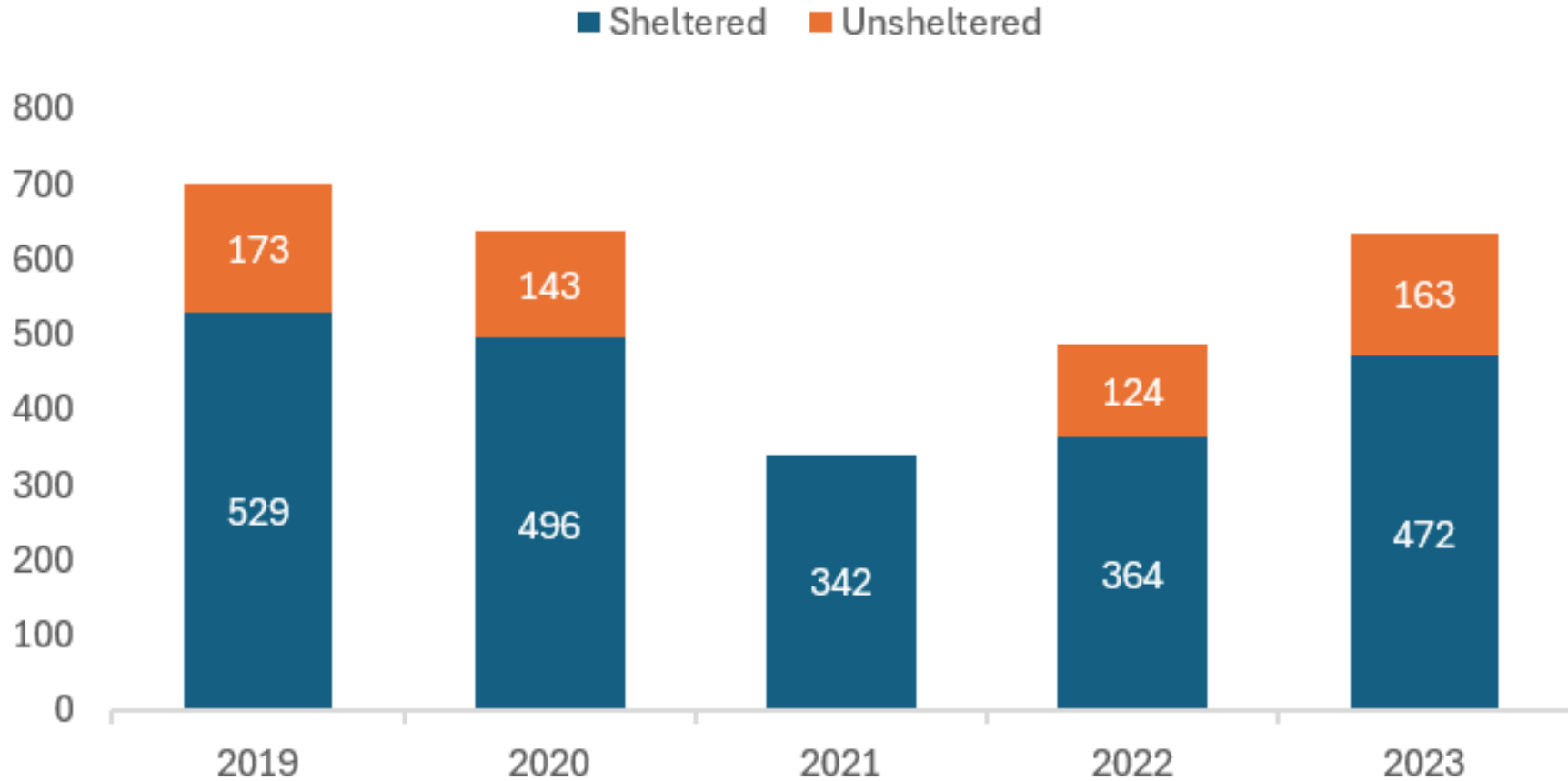
To comply with federal regulations and requirements



2023 Point-in-Time Count Results

- Total Persons counted: **635**
- Total Sheltered Persons: **472**
 - Total persons in emergency shelter: **396**
 - Total persons in transitional housing: **76**
- Total Unsheltered Persons: **163**

Kalamazoo County Point-in-Time Count, by Year



Note: Due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, an unsheltered count was not conducted in 2021.

National Context: Rising Homelessness

- National PIT Count Changes from 2022 to 2023

Population	Total
Overall	+12%
Sheltered	+14%
Unsheltered	+10%
Families	+13%
Individuals	+11%
Chronically Homeless	+12%
Veterans	+7%
Youth	+15%

National Context: Economic Factors & COVID-19

Start of Pandemic Through Summer 2022

Federal eviction moratorium supported by many state moratoria

CARES Act includes homeless assistance, unemployment relief, and other emergency measures

Subsequent Measures, including ARP, provide housing assistance such as EHV, unemployment assistance, Emergency Rental Assistance, and other relief measures

FEMA and other agencies expand non-congregate sheltering

Emerging from the Pandemic

Federal eviction moratorium ends along with many state moratoria leaving an estimated 15 million at risk of eviction

Many temporary income supports (e.g. enhanced child tax credit and stimulus payments) have ended

End of Emergency Rental Assistance Program which served approximately 11 million renters by the end of 2022

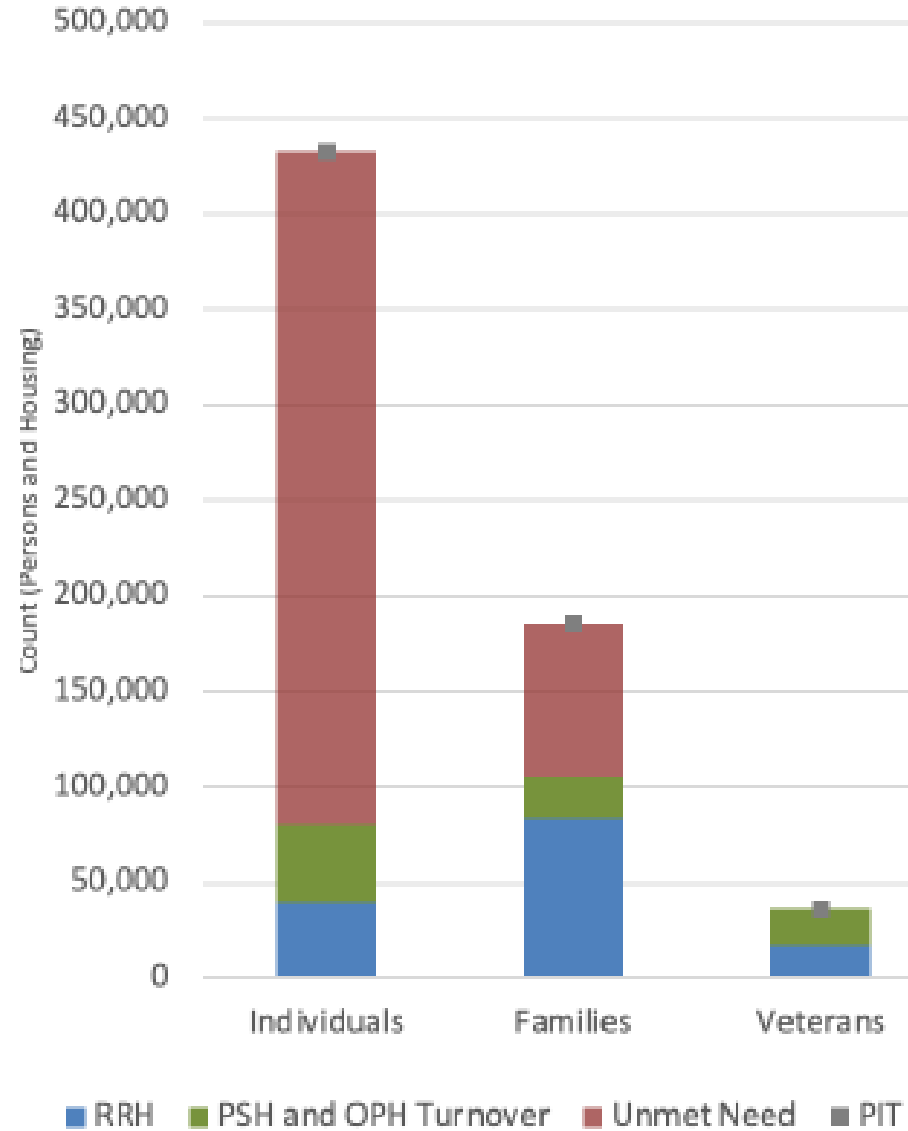
FEMA and communities scale back NCS

ARP – American Rescue Plan

EHV – Emergency Housing Vouchers

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency

Permanent Housing Resources Compared to People Identified as Homeless in the PIT Count



2023 Sheltered Count Results: Single Adults

- **Single Adults: 292**
 - 22 adults (7.5%) were young adults aged 18-24
 - 31 adults (10.5%) were seniors aged 65+
 - 35 (12%) were categorized as chronically homeless
- **Gender:**
 - 88 (30%) identified as exclusively female
 - 203 (69.5%) identified as exclusively male
 - 1 (<1%) identified as another gender
- **Ethnicity:**
 - 280 (96%) identified as Non-Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)
 - 12 (4%) identified as Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)
- **Race:**
 - 149 (51%) identified as white
 - 125 (43%) identified as Black, African American, or African
 - 8 (3%) identified as American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous
 - 6 (2%) identified as multiple races
 - 2 (<1%) identified as Asian or Asian American
 - 2 (<1%) identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

2023 Sheltered Count Results: Households with Children

Families with children: 178 individuals making up 61 households


- 115 (76%) were children under age 18
- 14 (8%) were young adults aged 18-24; 6 of these were parenting youth.
- 1 (<1%) were seniors aged 65+
- 5 total persons in 1 household were categorized as chronically homeless
- An additional **2** individuals were unaccompanied youth (non-parenting)
- Gender:
 - 117 (65%) identified as female
 - 63 (35%) identified as male
- Ethnicity:
 - 175 (97%) identified as Non-Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)
 - 5 (3%) identified as Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)
- Race:
 - 135 (75%) identified as Black, African American, or African
 - 30 (16%) identified as white
 - 9 (5%) identified as multiple races
 - 6 (3%) identified as Asian or Asian American

2023 Unsheltered Count Results

- **Single Adults: 149**
 - 11 adults (7%) were young adults aged 18-24
 - 4 adults (3%) were seniors aged 65+
 - 66 (44%) were categorized as chronically homeless
- **Gender:**
 - 38 (25.5%) identified as exclusively female
 - 110 (74%) identified as exclusively male
 - 1 (<1%) identified as another gender
- **Ethnicity:**
 - 141 (95%) identified as Non-Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)
 - 8 (5%) identified as Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)
- **Race:**
 - 85 (57%) identified as white
 - 21 (14%) identified as Black, African American, or African
 - 21 (14%) identified as multiple races
 - 18 (12%) identified as American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous
 - 4 (3%) identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

Additional Populations

- **108** total adults were identified as having a serious mental illness
 - 31 in emergency shelter
 - 4 in transitional housing
 - 73 in unsheltered situations
- **36** total adults were identified as having a substance use disorder
 - 18 in emergency shelter
 - 18 in unsheltered situations
- **1** sheltered adult was identified as having HIV/AIDS
- **51** total adults were identified as survivors currently fleeing domestic violence
 - 19 in emergency shelter
 - 20 in transitional housing
 - 12 in unsheltered situations
- **28** total adults identified as veterans
 - 27 single adults
 - 1 adult in a household with children
 - 13 in emergency shelter
 - 11 in transitional housing
 - 4 in unsheltered situations
- **13** total parenting youth (age 18-24) households comprising of 30 total people
 - 6 households in emergency shelter
 - 7 households in transitional housing



What is the Housing Inventory Count (HIC)?

An inventory of beds and units available to serve people experiencing homelessness within the CoC on the night of the PIT count

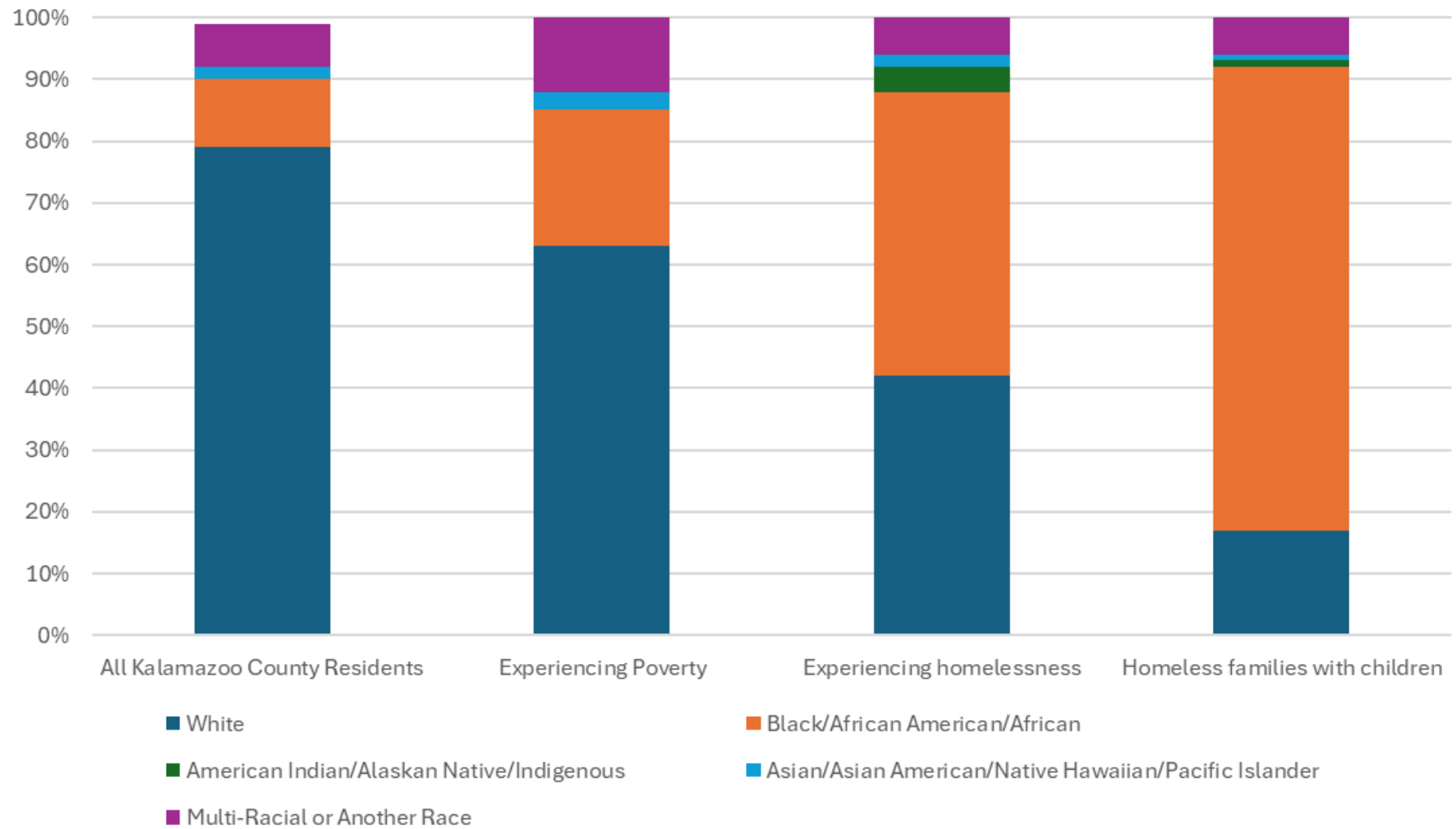
A “snapshot” of our ability to address homelessness on this one night in our community

In addition to emergency shelters and transitional housing programs, this also includes permanent housing programs including permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing.

2023 Housing Inventory Count Highlights

- **28 total projects** were able to provide **1235 total beds** on the night of the PIT Count
 - 88% of these beds were utilized (**1,081 persons served**)
- **537** total beds were available in emergency shelters
 - 396 total beds were utilized (74% utilization rate)
- **81** total beds were available in transitional housing projects
 - 76 total beds were utilized (94% utilization rate)
- **609** total persons were provided supports for permanent housing
 - 73 persons were permanently housed in a rapid rehousing program
 - 400 persons were permanently housed in a permanent supportive housing program
 - 136 persons were permanently housed in another permanent housing program

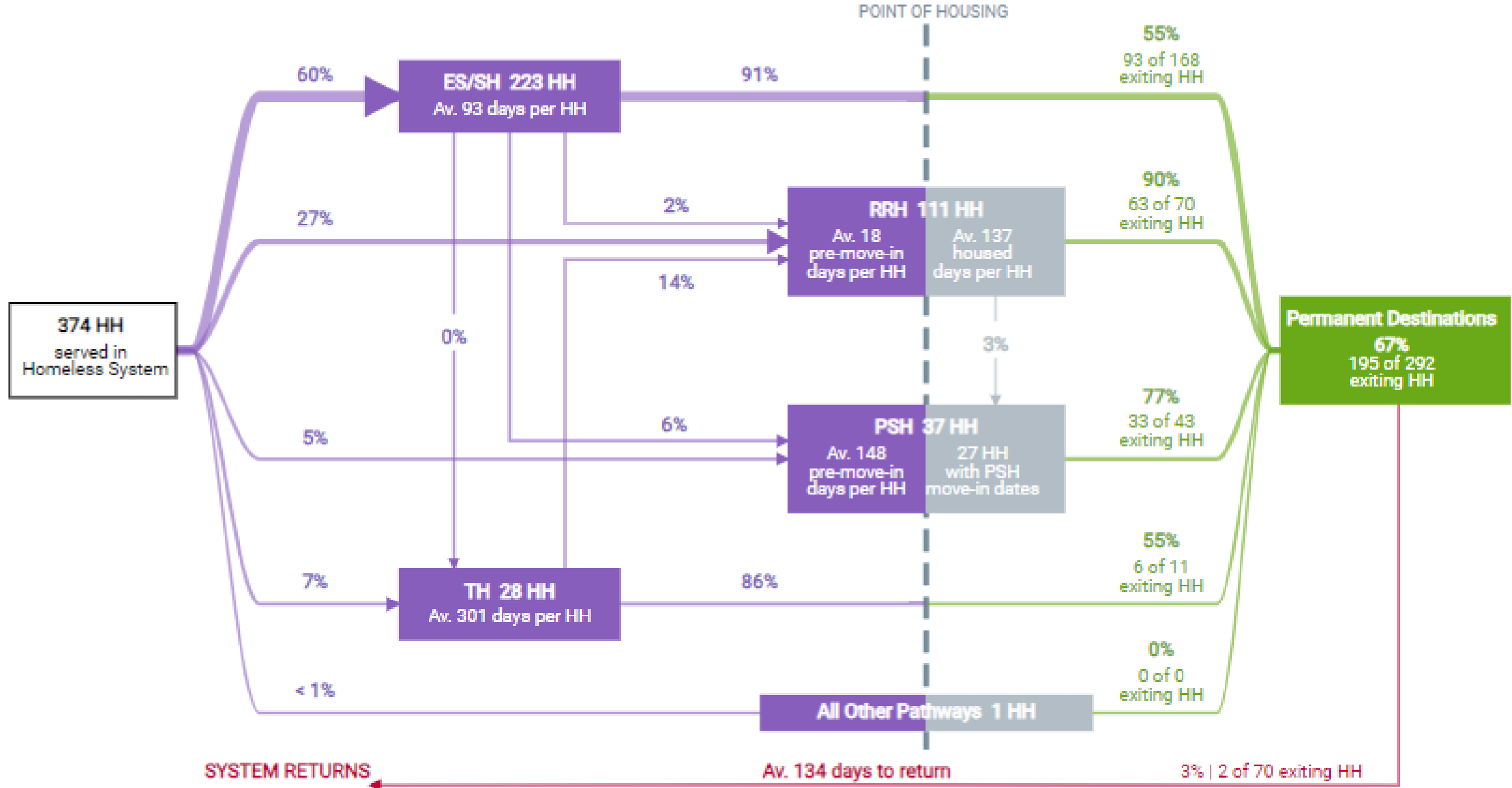
Racial Disparities in Homelessness



System Navigation

- Households spend an average of 93 days homeless in emergency shelter and transitional housing programs.
- 67% of clients in our HMIS-using residential programs (emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing) exit these programs to a permanent housing destination.
- 3% of those who become permanently housed after exiting these programs return to homelessness within 6 months. 12% return within 2 years.

93 Days Homeless






Coming Up in 2024

- Systems of Care Meeting – April 16th at 1pm. Meetings will take place 3rd Tuesday of the month via Zoom, bi-monthly beginning in April. First meeting is April 16th.
- CoC Members: Electronic nominations for CoC Local Advisory board at large members, 4 seats available. 3-year terms.
- Coordinated Entry work continued
- 2023 Annual Report
- Work on plan to end homelessness

Update on HUD 10-year Plan to End Homelessness

- Michigan State housing plan – Released in 2022: [MI-Statewide-Housing-Plan_Final-112723.pdf \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/MI-Statewide-Housing-Plan_Final-112723.pdf)
 - Regional Housing Plan – Region J
 - County Housing Plan – Released July 2022: [Kalamazoo County Housing Plan final 8.15.22.pdf \(kalcounty.com\)](https://www.kalamazoo-county.com/County-Housing-Plan-final-8.15.22.pdf)
 - Some municipalities within the County are working on individual housing plans, hiring staffing to support housing such as Oshtemo township and the City of Portage
 - **CoC Plan will begin development this year.**
 - Intended to be an active document with progress reported out in the CoC Annual Report
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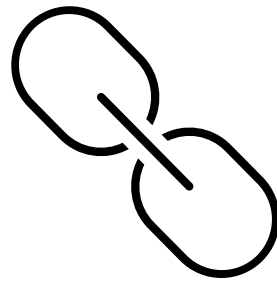
CoC Membership

- The CoC invites community members to join us in our efforts to end homelessness and to create a county where everyone has equitable access to safe, affordable, dignified housing by becoming a member of the CoC.
- Access to state, local, federal funding streams, nominate and vote for at-large board members, opportunities to learn about other communities and their efforts
- Membership applications are available throughout the year
- If you or your organization wants to be part of the nominations for 2024 at-large board members, membership applications need to be submitted by Monday, April 1st.

CoC Boards, Committees, Workgroups

- The work of the CoC is carried out by the amazing groups of volunteers that make up various boards, committees, and workgroups.
- If you are interested in joining one of them, please complete an interest form here: www.kzoococ.org/become-a-member

For more information on the CoC, data, grants, RentAble, and membership visit www.kzoococ.org



For questions, please email coc@uwscmi.org





**Thank you for your
partnership.**

