



## From the Director

For the Kalamazoo County Continuum of Care, the year 2020 was defined by unimaginable challenges, changes both planned and unplanned, and significant wins for our community that brought us closer to our vision for all county residents to live in safe healthy, affordable homes in a thriving community.

United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region took on leadership of the CoC early in the year, shortly before the global pandemic hit. While the effects of COVID-19 have been widespread, its impact on individuals experiencing homelessness has been especially harsh.

The deep collaboration, creativity and diversity of the organizations that make up the CoC were critical in adapting quickly to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Local shelter providers, public health leaders and the CoC worked together to help hundreds of individuals and families shelter safely and get medical care when needed.

Among other community wins in 2020:

- The passage of the Homes for All millage, which will provide over \$7 million per year over the next eight years to provide rental subsidies, permanent housing and related support services for Kalamazoo County residents.
- Updates to the City of Kalamazoo Fair Housing Ordinance that prohibit discrimination based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, height, weight, marital status, physical or mental disability, family status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
- New state and federal resources that allowed us to address the impacts of COVID-19 on housing stability.

Our vision cannot be achieved by one agency. We are grateful for the many partners and funders - including City of Kalamazoo, Foundation for Excellence, Kalamazoo Community Foundation and Stryker Johnston Foundation - and the deep collaboration that I believe will lead us to long-term solutions for our community.

**-Sara Jacobs, CoC Director**

## Committees and Workgroups

- Allocations & Accountability Committee
- Systems of Care Committee
- Data Team
- Coordinated Entry Workgroup
- Veterans By Name Committee
- Eviction Diversion Committee

## New in 2020

- Shelter Committee
- Outreach Coordination Workgroup
- Vaccination Workgroup

# CoC Board of Directors

**Sandy Barry-Loken (Co-Chair)**  
Kalamazoo Community Foundation

**Kelly Doyle (Co-Chair)**  
Community AIDS Resource and Education

**Lee Adams**  
South Central MI Planning Council

**Zac Bauer**  
Kalamazoo County Government

**Don Bouchard**  
Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo

**Tiffany Cunningham**  
Department of Health and Human Services

**Michelle Davis**  
Housing Resources, Inc.

**Meagan Dunn**  
YWCA Kalamazoo

**Robin Greymountain**  
Kalamazoo Public Schools

**Tracy Hall**  
Kalamazoo County Government

**Stephanie Hoffman**  
Open Doors Kalamazoo

**Amy Hunter**  
OutFront Kalamazoo

**Don Jones**  
Ministry with Community

**Laura Lam**  
City of Kalamazoo

**Steve Powell**  
PNC Bank

**Don Roberts**  
Legal Aid of Western Michigan

**John Simpson**  
Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries

**Amanda Sutherland**  
Michigan Works Southwest

## At-Large Members

**Johnny Anderson III**

**Andrew Chaponda**

**Evelyn Lewis**

**Erica Patton**

**Christina Smith**

# The State of Homelessness in Kalamazoo County

## 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:

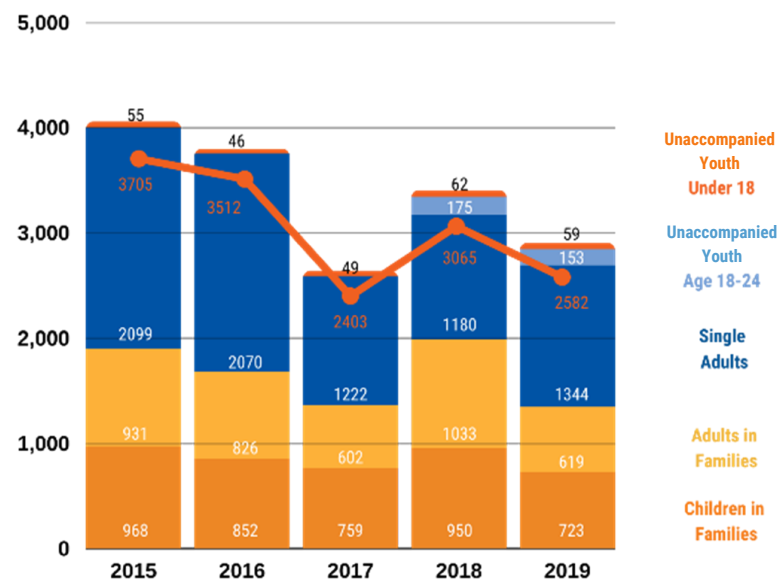
- Better coordinate client care between agencies
- Examine and improve system performance
- Inform community-level planning
- Meet funder reporting requirements

## 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.

**In 2019, at least 2,582 individuals experienced homelessness in Kalamazoo County.** This is likely an underestimation, as it only captures households which have interacted with our homeless service system while experiencing literal homelessness - residing in an emergency shelter or on the street, in a tent or vehicle, or another place not meant for human habitation. Many more households within the county are living in unstable, unsafe, and unaffordable housing. While the overall extent of homelessness has decreased from 2015-2019, the COVID-19 pandemic has had severe economic impacts which are expected to have significantly increased the extent of homelessness in 2020 and 2021. Additionally, homelessness among families with children continues to be a significant issue; nearly 50% of all individuals captured in our HMIS in 2019 were in households with adults and children.

**Image 1: Literal Homeless Count (2015-19)**



**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 2015-2017. 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.

**37.04%**

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

**36.77%**

have one or more disabling condition.

**28.89%**

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.

**409**

individuals were identified as chronically homeless.

**86**

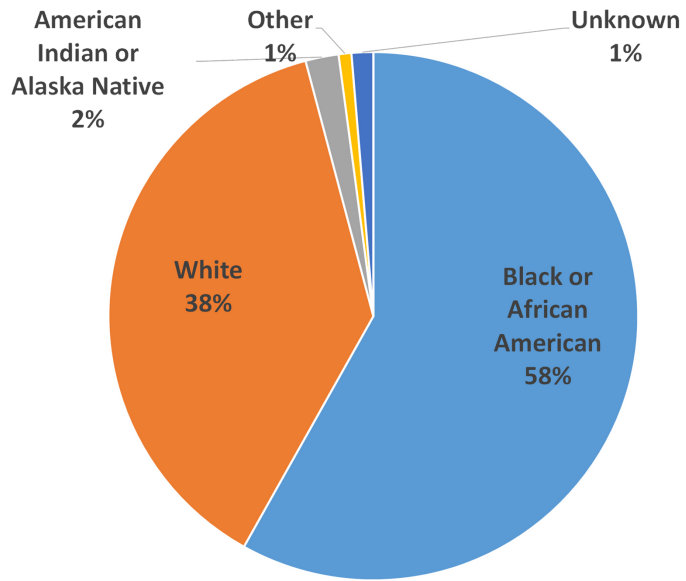
individuals were identified as veterans.

**356**

individuals were age 55 or older.

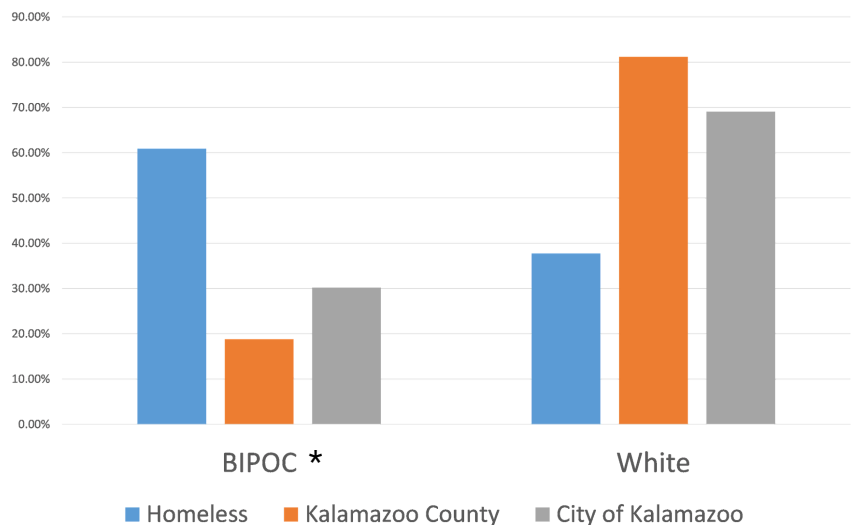
## Image 2: Individuals Experiencing Literal Homelessness

### by Race/Ethnicity



The majority (58%) of individuals experiencing homelessness in Kalamazoo county identify as Black or African American (Image 2, above). This is in stark contrast to the demographics of the county, which is majority white (Image 3, below).

## Image 3: City and County Demographics by Race/Ethnicity



\*Black, Indigenous, People of Color

# State and Federal Funding Summary 2020

**Total Allocations: \$3,490,211**

## MSHDA Emergency Solutions Grant

**Allocations: \$502,519**

### STREET OUTREACH

- Integrated Services of Kalamazoo (ISK)

Projected Served: 80 individuals

### RAPID RE-HOUSING

- Housing Resources Inc

Projected Served: 70 households

### HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

- Housing Resources Inc

Projected Served: 75 households

### EMERGENCY SHELTER

- Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo
- ISK

Proj. Served: 50 individuals

## MSHDA Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus 1

**Allocations: \$910,782**

### STREET OUTREACH

- ISK
- Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo

Projected Served: 350 individuals

### RAPID RE-HOUSING

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

Projected Served: 50 households

### HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

- Housing Resources Inc

Projected Served: 35 households

### EMERGENCY SHELTER

- Housing Resources Inc
- Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo
- ISK

Proj. Served: 415 individuals

## MSHDA Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus 2

**Allocations: \$1,217,625**

### STREET OUTREACH

- Integrated Services of Kalamazoo (ISK)

Projected Served: 360 individuals

### RAPID RE-HOUSING

- ISK
- Housing Resources Inc

Projected Served: 129 households

### HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

- Housing Resources Inc

Projected Served: 16 households

### EMERGENCY SHELTER

- Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo

Proj. Served: 216 individuals

## HUD 2020 Continuum of Care Program Grant\*

**Allocations: \$859,285**

- Integrated Services of Kalamazoo (ISK)
- Housing Resources, Inc.
- United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region

*\*Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, HUD canceled the 2020 Continuum of Care Program Competition and automatically renewed CoC funding for Kalamazoo County. [More information from HUD can be found here.](#)*

# Local Resource Grants made by CoC in 2020

## Integrated Services of Kalamazoo

\$110,000

Program: Lantern House

The Lantern House target population is adults without children, who are unsheltered and may be experiencing untreated mental health and/or substance use disorder issues. Program includes housing and intensive trauma-focused engagement and support. Estimated number served is 12 tenants at any given time.

## What's Coming in 2021

- Creation of a community-informed strategic plan that will drive CoC activities and the distribution of resources.
- Launch of RentAble pilot program providing security deposit replacement to households with landlord-perceived barriers to housing.
- Professional development and training opportunities for CoC partners and frontline housing staff, including equity-focused trainings.
- Implementation of strategies to strengthen data quality and use data to examine system performance from an equity-focused lens.
- Deployment of over \$17 million dollars in rental assistance through the COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) Program, a partnership between Housing Resources, Inc., Open Doors Kalamazoo, and Integrated Services of Kalamazoo.

## Continuum of Care Team



Sara Jacobs

CoC Director



Tiyanna Williams

CoC Associate



Carrie Bosch

CoC HMIS Systems Administrator



United Way of the  
Battle Creek and  
Kalamazoo Region  
[changethestory.org](http://changethestory.org)