

Local Housing Assistance Fund Millage Program

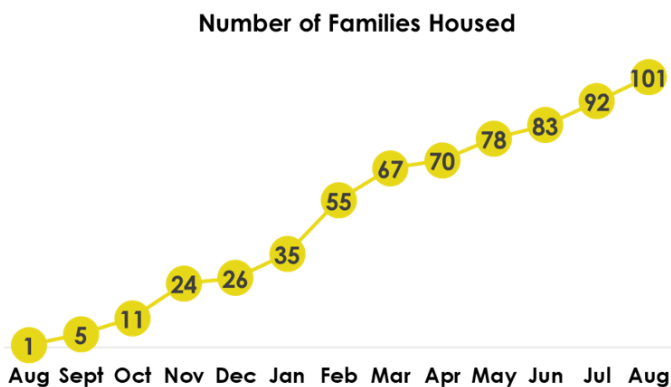
The Local Housing Assistance Fund (LHAF) Millage Program was approved by voters in November 2015 to re-house homeless families with school-age children. Participants are provided temporary housing assistance and support services. Kalamazoo County families began accessing funds in August 2016 through the Kalamazoo County Public Housing Commission's (KCPHC's) contract service provider Housing Resources, Inc.

By August 31, 2017, the LHAF Millage Program met its first-year goal of housing one-hundred families.

- Through August 2017, \$545,000 of the first-year millage funds were expended.
- 60% of the above funding was invested in direct client assistance including rental subsidies, back utilities and security deposits.
- 25% of the funding was directed to family support services.
- Family vulnerability was reduced by 24%.
- Suspensions were reduced and school attendance improved for students.
- Language arts grades improved.
- Over 100 families, including 242 children, were housed.

"... Seeing me stressed out, stresses my children out. If it weren't for this this program I would still be homeless..." -LHAF Millage Program Family

92% of participants were at or below 50% of Area Median Income



"... Back then it would be nineteen or twenty-two tardies because I wasn't able to get him to school on time. When we moved into an apartment, we had a school bus and he was only tardy four times maybe. He did awesome this school year. His academics since January up until the summer literally skyrocketed. The principal told me he was going to be honored as the turnaround student..." -LHAF Millage Program Family

Frequent User Service Engagement (FUSE) Program

The KCPHC, funded by the Kalamazoo County General Fund and in partnership with Bronson Healthcare, initiated a FUSE (Frequent User Systems Engagement) program. FUSE serves individuals experiencing chronic homelessness who are frequent users of the emergency department at Bronson Hospital. The FUSE Program completed the **first program year** of the **two-year pilot**. Between August 2016 and September 2017, preliminary measures indicate FUSE Program Participants:

- Dramatically reduced emergency department usage by approximately 80%.
- Received 1,842 days of stable housing in total.

FUSE provides access to a **stable living environment** paired with wrap-around support services.

Ongoing Programs of the KCPHC

LHAF subsidy, transitional and permanent housing programs assisted 345 individuals in partnership with Kalamazoo County, MSHDA, KCMHSAS, Nurse Family Partnership, Open Doors, and Catholic Charities.