

# KALAMAZOO COUNTY PUBLIC HOUSING COMMISSION

## LOCAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUND MILLAGE PROGRAM

### JANUARY 2017 PROGRESS REPORT

With the start of the Local Housing Assistance Fund Millage Program there have been positive changes for families in our community. This report serves to show what our future holds by working together.



-- Citizens of Kalamazoo County care for the needs and well-being of their community's children; our citizens of tomorrow, our future. --

Over 1,500 school-age children experienced homelessness		Over 1,200 school-age children experienced homelessness	
Within Kalamazoo County	<b>2013-14 School year</b>	Within Kalamazoo County	<b>2014-15 School year</b>

### Continued community engagement in Kalamazoo County

The newest facet in civic involvement is the focus on assisting homeless families with school-age children. Displacement from permanent residence, and the effects of living without shelter, heat, water, electricity, and safety is a concern felt within every community of Kalamazoo County, the evidence of which was realized by the voter enacted Vote Yes! For Kids millage placed on the November 2015 ballot. The actuation of which is now the Kalamazoo County Public Housing Commission Local Housing Assistance Fund Millage Program.

School-age children in Kalamazoo County have been provided the opportunity of support, to help their families provide a stable home. Homelessness can be a result of chronic housing instability, or the aftermath of an emergency, or perhaps the loss or change in household income. Those effected can be some of the most vulnerable and inadvertently marginalized within our community.

The Kalamazoo County Public Housing Commission (KCPHC) Local Housing Assistance Fund (LHAF) Millage Program has established the goal of providing support for one-hundred families in it's first year. The growing effectiveness of this new program is being accomplished through a matrix of local partners. These organizations are using both well established and new networks to facilitate this teamwork. The added benefit of these partnerships for the community is that they are bringing about what can be accomplished now, and building teamwork that will enrich the future.

Housing Resources, Inc. (HRI) as the Kalamazoo County Continuum of Care Housing Assessment and Resource Agency (HARA), was contracted to carry out the activities of the LHAF Millage Program. HRI has the staffing, infrastructure, and experience to assist applicants seeking housing through the LHAF Millage Program.



**Kalamazoo County  
Public Housing Commission**

## **Local Housing Assistance Fund Millage Program**

The Local Housing Assistance Fund Millage (LHAF) Program is a Kalamazoo Public Housing Commission program funded through a millage approved by voters in November 2015. Its goal is to increase housing stability among families with school-aged children by providing temporary housing assistance and support services.

### **Am I Eligible?**

- FAMILIES with school aged children, grades K-12 **AND**
- HOMELESS — living in a shelter, motel, outdoors, vehicle, or unable to sustain housing with or forced to live with others **AND**
- RESIDENCY — last known permanent residential address while enrolled in school must be located in Kalamazoo County **AND**
- INCOME — must be 60% or below area median income (\$37,860 for a family of 4) and be able to immediately pay a portion of the rent and utilities. Participants pay 30-50% of income towards rent.

### **What Services Will I Receive?**

- SUPPORTIVE SERVICES — household needs assessment, individualized Family Success Plan, and connections to community resources for all family members from program start through exit .
- RENTAL ASSISTANCE — available for up to 1 year. This is not a voucher program. The program will provide temporary assistance for up to 100 families per year.

To **learn more** about how the Local Housing Assistance Fund (LHAF) Millage Program may help your family please call

**Housing Resources, Inc.**

**269-488-0923**



As the Kalamazoo County Continuum of Care (CoC) HARA, HRI has a wide range of services available to qualifying applicants, even those that do not qualify for the assistance through the LHAFF Millage Program. Additionally HRI has partnerships and networks with local organizations and non-profits that can be of help to families that qualify for the Millage Program.

# Community Housing Information Center

Every Wednesday 4-5 pm

Hosted at the HRI /Goodwill Alcott Location  
420 E. Alcott St Kalamazoo, MI 49001.

*Please join community agencies for information about housing, services available, and solutions to housing needs. Agency staff and/or information available from:*

- Housing Resources, Inc.
- Department of Human Services
- Kalamazoo Community Mental Health SAS
- Community Homeworks
- Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services
- 2-1-1
- Goodwill
- Job Corps
- Michigan Works!

## **Type of housing information available:**

- Housing search, current vacancies
- Private landlord and apartment complex information
- Preventing an eviction-understanding the process
- Resolving landlord/tenant disputes
- Emergency shelter referral
- Foreclosure and homeownership info
- Weatherization and utility cost savings
- Budgeting, housing costs: What can I afford?
- Sample leases and move-in checklists

***Please note: No appointment is required. Guests at this session are seen as quickly as possible. There will be NO financial resources available at this housing hour.***

## Kalamazoo County-wide Outreach

Homeless liaisons can serve as the first point of contact for students and families in need.

Every school district has one.

While HRI has been contacted by many families directly, one of the most valuable partners in the LHAF Millage Program are the school districts throughout Kalamazoo County. Under the McKinney-Vento Act established by Congress, funding and programs to identify and assist homelessness in school-age children is effected at a local level by each school district having a Homeless Liaison on staff. Below is a list of the Homeless Liaisons for each school-district in Kalamazoo County (retrieved from the Michigan Center for Educational Performance and Information website, <https://cepi.state.mi.us/EEM/EntitySearchQuick.aspx>):

Augusta Academy	Mrs. Vicki	Gustin	(269) 731-5454	vgustin@fbrcs.org
Climax-Scotts Community Schools	Mrs. Judi	Mentzer	(269) 746-2311	jmentzer@cssschools.net
Comstock Public Schools	Mr. Jay	Birchmeier	(269) 250-8930	birchmeierj@comstockps.org
Evergreen Academy	Ms. Michelle	Herman	(269) 488-6324	mherman@fbrcs.org
Forest Academy	Mrs. Brenda	Page	(269) 488-2315	bpage@forest-academy.org
Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools	Mrs. Pat	Sexton	(269) 484-2020 x2503	psexton@gacsnet.org
Gull Lake Community Schools	Mrs. Lisa	Anderson	(269) 548-3421	landerson@gulllakecs.org
Gull Lake Community Schools	Mr. Drew	Bordner	(269) 548-3422	dbordner@gulllakecs.org
Kalamazoo Public Schools	Ms. Monica	Poucher	(269) 337-0063	poucherm@kalamazoo.k12.mi.us
Kalamazoo RESA	Ms. Emma	Bentley	(269) 250-9428	emma.bentley@kresa.org
Oakland Academy	Mrs. Mary Kay	Farrell	(269) 324-8951	tspencer@oakland-academy.org
Paramount Charter Academy	Ms. Jessica	Rabine	(269) 553-6400	16.jrabine@nhaschools.com
Parchment School District	Ms. Kristy	Mattern	(269) 488-1091	kmattern@parchment.k12.mi.us
Portage Public Schools	Ms. Janet	Johnstone	(269) 323-5140	jjohnstone@portageps.org
Schoolcraft Community Schools	Ms. Ellie	Bohms	(269) 488-7285	bohms@schoolcraftschools.org
Vicksburg Community Schools	Mrs. Stacy	Lightfoot	(269) 321-1017	slightfoot@vicksburgschools.org
Youth Advancement Academy	Ms. Khalimah	Williams	(269) 353-4193	khalimahwilliams@ombudsman.com

Keep checking back for further information and statistics about the LHAF Millage Program coming in the first quarter of 2017.