



MEDIA RELEASE

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April 2, 2024

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Kalamazoo County Continues to Invest in Housing to Fill Critical Needs

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – Furthering its commitment to addressing housing challenges in the community, the Kalamazoo County Housing Department is excited to announce the projects and programs selected for funding from the 2024 "Homes For All" Millage application cycle.

Funding was awarded at Tuesday's Regular Board of Commissioners meeting spanning four categories of projects: Multi-Family, Single-Family Rehab, Supportive Services, and Creative initiatives. No applications were received in the Single-Family New-Build category.

Among the 23 projects and programs awarded, which can be found in full detail in the April 2 [Board Agenda Packet](#), several standout initiatives are poised to meet the affordable housing needs in Kalamazoo County.

Noteworthy Projects Include:

- **TC Scott Construction (Portage)**, \$900,000 over two years for three quadplexes on a parcel that previously had one single-family home. The quadplexes will bring a total of 12 affordable rental units to the City of Portage and be the first known use of the [MML "Pattern Book Homes"](#) free architectural designs and building plans in Kalamazoo County.
- **Kilgore Apartments (Kalamazoo)**, \$1,000,000 to rehab an existing hotel into affordable long-term apartment rentals. This creative use of funds will bring a total of 83 affordable rental units online within the next year. Several of these units meet ADA accessibility standards, and all 83 will start with affordable rent at 60% AMI for [Kalamazoo County](#).
- **Hope Thru Navigation Tiny Houses (Kalamazoo)**, \$300,000 to construct three new "tiny homes," which will be affordable rental units for individuals with criminal backgrounds or substance use disorder history. The groundbreaking for this project will take place on April 4 at 4 p.m.
- **Sugarloaf Mobile Home Community (Schoolcraft)**, \$321,500 loan to provide infrastructure improvements in preparation for the placement of 10 new manufactured homes. This loan was awarded in partnership with funding from the Public Housing Commission to purchase the new manufactured units, which will be occupied by low-income families with school-aged children. Sugarloaf MHP (community owners) have agreed to rehab an on-site office building to provide wrap-around support services for families residing at the Sugarloaf community.
- **KNHS Employer Assisted Housing Program (County-Wide)**, \$1,050,000 over three years to provide matching funds for the first county-wide employer housing opportunity. Any employer within the County will be eligible to participate in the downpayment assistance and critical home repair loan program, which will match employer contributions with Millage dollars. The program, which is being funded as a three-year pilot, seeks to assist in housing affordability as well as employee retention.

- **Housing Resources, Inc. (Kalamazoo)**, \$144,000 to secure site control on the property identified for the PODS project – a significant step in ensuring that the PODS will be operational for winter 2024.

The “Homes for All” Housing Millage made significant strides in its initial two years, contributing over \$13.4 million to housing development and supportive services. To date, approximately 185 new units have been completed, with an additional 85 under construction, and more than 100 owner-occupied homes have received critical repairs to resolve health and safety issues. Additional projects, including the Mt. Zion affordable housing development in the Northside, and the workforce housing community in the City of Portage, are expected to break ground in Summer 2024. More information on these projects can be found in the [2022 Annual Report](#), with the 2023 report set for imminent release.

The widespread reach of this year's applications from across the County underscores the growing recognition of the invaluable role played by the "Homes for All" Millage. “We are excited about the additional housing opportunities for our residents throughout the County and the impact we are making,” said Mary Balkema, Housing Director.

For more information about the “Homes for All” Millage or specific projects funded this year or previous years, please visit www.kalcounty.com/housing.

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