



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

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## **Kalamazoo County Selected to Participant in Housing Solutions Workshop**

*Program helps small and midsize communities develop and implement comprehensive local housing strategies.*

KALAMAZOO, Mich.: The NYU Furman Center's Housing Solutions Lab, Abt Associates, and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy announced on Tuesday, 10/20/21, that Kalamazoo County is amongst five localities selected to participate in the Housing Solutions Workshop. The Workshop will begin on October 25 and run through November 18 and plans to help small and midsize communities develop and implement comprehensive local housing strategies. Senior officials from key housing agencies and regional partners in these communities will participate in a series of virtual sessions led by prominent housing experts and researchers.

The Kalamazoo County cohort includes Mary Balkema, Kalamazoo County; Lee Adams, Upjohn Institute; David Anderson, Integrated Services Kalamazoo; Rebekah Kik and Laura Lam, City of Kalamazoo; and Kelly Peterson, City of Portage.

"Kalamazoo County has grappled with affordable housing issues and passed a housing millage last year to generate 7 million dollars to address the need. Kalamazoo County is honored to be selected to develop a comprehensive housing strategy, said Mary Balkema, Kalamazoo County Housing Director."

The selected counties include Kalamazoo County, Michigan; Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; Gallatin County, Montana; Huntsville, Alabama; and Pasco, Washington.

The selected communities were chosen following a national call for applications that generated many competitive applications. The process included written submissions and an interview round with applicants, ultimately deciding to build a cohort of communities at similar planning stages and represent broad national geography.

“In Kalamazoo County, we believe everyone should have equitable access to safe, affordable, dignified housing and recognize that our current reality does not meet this vision. We need creativity and innovation now more than ever. I am looking forward to applying what we learn in the Housing Solutions Workshop to help house our community”, said Laura Lam, Deputy City Manager for the City of Kalamazoo.

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