

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

The following opportunities are presented uniquely through the lens of Housing Kent, a system building nonprofit working to ensure that all Kent County residents attain safe, high-quality, affordable housing. As the backbone to a network of private and public sector organizations known as the Housing Stability Alliance, Housing Kent's mission is to accelerate collective progress toward three universal goals: increase affordable housing, dissolve homelessness, and eliminate racial disparities in the housing system.

This list is preliminary and not exhaustive of the full set of opportunities across the housing stability continuum.

SHARED MEASUREMENT

A county-wide shared measurement system that has the power to align the entire community on universal goals and measures (think one-stop shop for data and narratives for strategic learning and decision making)

A comprehensive database for residents to access affordable housing options and related services

Community Rebuilders' Community Housing Connect 2.0 for improved coordinated entry

COMMUNICATIONS

A trusted platform that builds public awareness in a manner that helps everyone see how housing affects them and how they can get involved

POLICY & ADVOCACY

Permanent eviction prevention support, similar to CERA (Covid Emergency Rental Assistance), legal assistance, increased renter protections, and other programs that help renters keep their housing

Incentives to serve extremely low-income households and those experiencing homelessness (an urgent housing supply issue)

INVESTMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Capacity building and operating capital for nonprofits across the housing continuum

A collaborative investment strategy informed by the priorities set by the Housing Stability Alliance

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Universal compensation for the expertise of individuals with lived experience to be integrated into the planning, design, and implementation of all housing-related initiatives

Actual pathways of inclusion for single adults related to housing options (this is in addition to the focus on families and youth)

A concentration of opportunities in chronically disinvested neighborhoods of new housing units as well as housing improvements (e.g., Baxter, Black Hills, Burton Hills, others)

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Presentation to the Grand Rapids Affordable Housing Fund Board

Path to Housing Stability



ACROSS THE CONTINUUM

The Housing Stability Continuum illustrates the variety of housing situations that occur in Kent County. It's important to understand the different types of housing instability because there are different solutions required for each. Through enduring dedication, skill, and effort, countless individuals and organizations have made improvements along the continuum. But large systemic problems cannot be solved by any one organization. It will take all of us working together.



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A Working Understanding of Equitable Housing

Still in draft. Please do not distribute.
Thank you!

