

THE NORTHWEST MICHIGAN COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

Remembering Our Values

WRITTEN BY ASHLEY HALLADAY-SCHMANDT

Hi everyone. Thanks for taking the time today to read our monthly newsletter and learn more about the important work to end homelessness across our region. We hope with our monthly newsletters you will be able to find information about the work to end homelessness going on across our workgroups, have updated details about funding allocation and opportunities, receive data on the criteria and benchmarks required to end homelessness, as well as an overview of the systems level work members across the Coalition are doing each and every day.

As this is our first "official" newsletter, I would like to take a moment to remind us of the mission and values of the Coalition. Our mission is to make homelessness rare, brief and one-time across the 10 county region. We will make this happen by being accountable to each other and to the people we have the privilege of serving, collaborating with each other like we are one big organization operating from a common agenda, and committing to data driven decision making. This work can so often feel overwhelming and really, really hard. But when it does, we must remember that we can do hard things. We have the ability to achieve great things, and we have done it before.

This spring we faced uncertainty like never before; but we made it through. When things got really tough, we relied on each other more than we ever have, and we got the work done. We sheltered our most vulnerable, we safely provided housing based supports, we prevented evictions, and we HOUSED people. We must remember that as we head into the fall and winter season which will likely feel similar to March of this year. However, this time, we will be better prepared, we will focus on accountability and collaboration, and will allow data to drive our decision making. The months ahead will not be easy, but before we get there let's remember that we are coming to this work with good intentions, and that we will only achieve great things if we act as one team with one common goal of ending homelessness.

Let's do this.
-Ashley



NORTHWEST MICHIGAN
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IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

**HIGHLIGHTING THE
WORK TO END
HOMELESSNESS - 2**

**A PLACE TO START WITH
DATA DRIVEN DECISION
MAKING - 3**

THE WORK AHEAD - 4

Highlighting the Work to End Homelessness

100 DAY CHALLENGE TO END FAMILY HOMELESSNESS IN THE GREATER GRAND TRAVERSE AREA

100 Day Challenges have been successfully used by communities nationwide to prevent and end homelessness. The homeless response system is under a lot of strain due to the pandemic. It's crucial that we find housing for 20 families experiencing homelessness before the snow flies. We hope the highly-visible, compressed timeframe of 100 days will inspire rapid progress before winter hits.

The Challenge is being led by three community champions in the work to end homelessness: Goodwill Northern Michigan, Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency, and Northwest Michigan Supportive Housing. These partner agencies of the Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness have each committed funding and staff to find 20 new units to rent by December 1, and permanently house 20 families currently experiencing homelessness.

Since the kick off of this challenge the incredible teams at Goodwill and NMCAA have housed 14 families! Due to the amazing housing focused work done by these teams, the Greater Grand Traverse Area saw a **68% decrease** in the number of families experiencing homelessness...and we aren't done yet! We are right around the mid-point mark of this challenge and I am confident we will meet our goal.

This incredible achievement was accomplished by collaboration between partner agencies **and** by the extremely hard work of the Family Outreach and Navigation team Veronica Hollman, Breanna Demeray, and Demetria Swenseid of Goodwill. Breana, Veronica and Demetria were handed this challenge and took it on full force. Without their hard work and dedication to the Housing First philosophy we would not have seen this dramatic decrease in family homelessness.

**WE
NEED
YOU**



**NORTHWEST MICHIGAN
COALITION
TO END
HOMELESSNESS**

End Homelessness

Benefits & Incentives for Landlords / ADUs

FOR
20
FAMILIES

WITHIN
100
DAYS

FIND
20
HOMES

Call **231-463-0201** to help

SUPPORTED BY:

Goodwill Northern Michigan | Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency | Northwest Michigan Supportive Housing

A Place to Start With Data Driven Decision Making

ANNUAL COUNTS

Our 2019 annual counts are now available on the [Coalition website](#). Here you will find data regionally throughout the 10 county area. This is quite basic in terms of data related to our system, however, it's where we will begin our journey diving into data driven decision making. We will use this data as a jumping off point to examine area to include but areas not limited to:

- Ending homelessness within sub-populations
- Racial disparities within our system



ESG CV ROUND 1 FUNDING

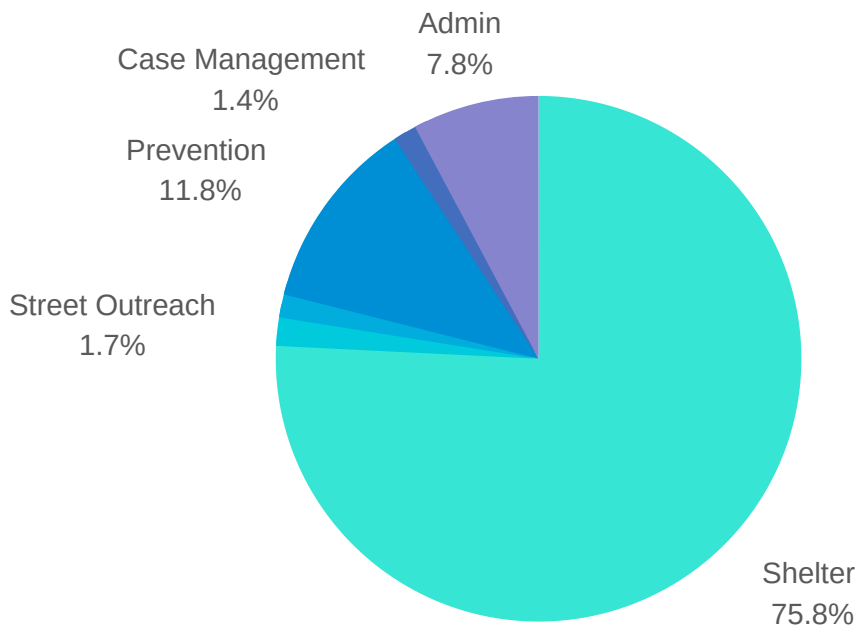
Special Emergency Solutions Grants Program funds (ESG-CV) were allocated by HUD as authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136. These special ESG-CV funds are to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance; and to support additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.

These funds were allocated to the 10 county region of the Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness in March 2020. The former steering committee of the NWCEH made recommendations for allocation to the lead agencies that met application eligibility requirements. This is the first round of ESG-CV funding. MSHDA is currently working to allocate the second round of this funding. Look for future communication from Coalition staff when this funding has been allocated, and for procedures on the application process. As the focus of first round funding was highly centered on stopping the spread of COVID-19 within the homeless population, efforts must now be prioritized on HOUSING interventions with Round 2 funding. [Click here](#) for more recommendations on this funding allocation from national experts.

FACTS ABOUT ROUND 1 FUNDING;

- **Agencies awarded funding:** Goodwill Northern Michigan, Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency, New Hope Shelter
- **Total Allocation:** \$701,701
- **Grant Dates:** March 1, 2020 to September 30, 2022

ESG CV FUNDING ALLOCATION



The Work Ahead

RESTRUCTURING THE WORK TO END HOMELESSNESS IN NORTHWEST MICHIGAN

After years of iteration around finding an effective way to affect change in the 10-county NWCEH service area, the NWCEH has developed a Continuous Quality Improvement Plan that will help us move the needle towards an end to homelessness in our region. We believe that our best resources are the staff and membership of our Coalition and its member agencies. Our intent is to gather these resources in a way that will take advantage of the strengths and insights of those who work directly with people experiencing homelessness and align them using data and the CQI Process to analyze specific issues related to Data Quality, System Performance, and System Capacity.

Because this process is new and different from anything we have tried in the past, it's important to realize it will need ongoing adjustments and refinements as we learn the strengths and weaknesses inherent in large scale collaboration about complicated and complex issues.

Over the next month, we will begin to implement this new model of Continuous Quality Improvement through the roll-out of the Workgroups of the Coalition. The NWCEH CQI process is modeled by a five-step system of analysis designed to provide a structured and data driven framework through which to examine issues, formulate recommendations for improvement, validate recommendations, and implement solutions.

The steps in the process are facilitated and monitored by Coalition staff to ensure consistency, provide feedback, maintain focus, and act as messenger and gatekeeper between process steps. It will be the responsibility of the Coalition staff to ensure that Workgroup efforts are properly focused, that the necessary data is available to each Workgroup so that they can make data informed decisions.

Each process is performed by one of the NWCEH Workgroups depending on the type of work being done, the types of decisions to be made, and the level of expertise required to make informed choices and recommendations.

If you haven't already, please sign up for a Workgroup today! Our first workgroup begins on October 15th with Coordinated Entry. Find more information on our website and register for a workgroup today!

[Register for a workgroup here](#)



Workgroups of the Northwest Michigan
Coalition to End Homelessness