

MEDIA ALERT

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Media Contact: Liz McLachlan

248.891.0628

lmclachlan@chninc.net

Community Housing Network Partners with Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness to Improve Systems and Services to Oakland County Seniors

Community Housing Network will serve as a lead partner with Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness (MCAH) to better serve the housing and healthcare needs of older adults who are experiencing, or are at risk of, homelessness in Oakland County. This work will be possible thanks to a \$450,000 grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund

The goal is to help older adults in Oakland County get connected to appropriate services through improved data integration and enhanced communication within and across systems among housing and health care partners resulting in better outcomes with respect to their housing and healthcare.

According to Kirsten Elliott, VP & Chief Operating Officer at Community Housing Network, "We are excited to continue our work with Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness and our other core planning team members. Homelessness in our older populations has been increasing and we anticipate it is only going to continue to increase as our overall population ages." Homelessness among older adults in Oakland County has been rising slightly over the last few years and is projected to increase. According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, "Studies across the U.S. have shown a clear upward trend in the proportion of 'older persons' (aged 50-64) among the homeless population."

The initiative will create stronger collaborations between housing and health systems of care for unhoused or unstably housed older adults in Oakland County and beyond, who frequently access healthcare services through data integration, collective advocacy and enhanced communication.

The 2-year project is a collaboration of Oakland County partners in healthcare, senior services, and homeless response systems. Elliott added,

“We want to get ahead of this issue and this grant from the MHEF will help us create a coordinated system of care and navigation between the healthcare system and the housing system. It is our hope to demonstrate that strong partnerships between healthcare and housing with the key component of housing navigation is critical to ending homelessness for our older populations.”

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About Community Housing Network

Community Housing Network, a nonprofit organization located in Troy, MI, provides homes for people in need through proven strategies of homelessness prevention, housing assistance, development of affordable housing, community education, and advocacy. The organization has a demonstrated track record and depth of experience in housing development, crisis response, supportive services, homeownership programming and homeless response spanning two decades across Oakland, Macomb, and Wayne counties. Our principal belief is people and communities are more successful when everyone -- including people struggling with homelessness, those with disabilities and individuals earning low incomes -- are included in the fabric of sustainable communities. Everything we do is focused on helping families thrive.

Community Housing Network was named as a 2022 Detroit Crain’s Best Managed Nonprofit finalized and recognized as a Top Workplace for 11-consecutive years by the Detroit Free Press Top Workplaces program. For more information, please visit our website at www.communityhousingnetwork.org

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund works to improve the health and wellness of Michigan residents and reduce the cost of healthcare, with a special focus on children and seniors. You can find more information about the Health Fund at mihealthfund.org.

MCAH is a statewide, non-profit membership organization committed to addressing homelessness and affordable housing. For more information on MCAH, please visit www.mihomeless.org