

Homeless Response System

Affordable Housing Fund Board

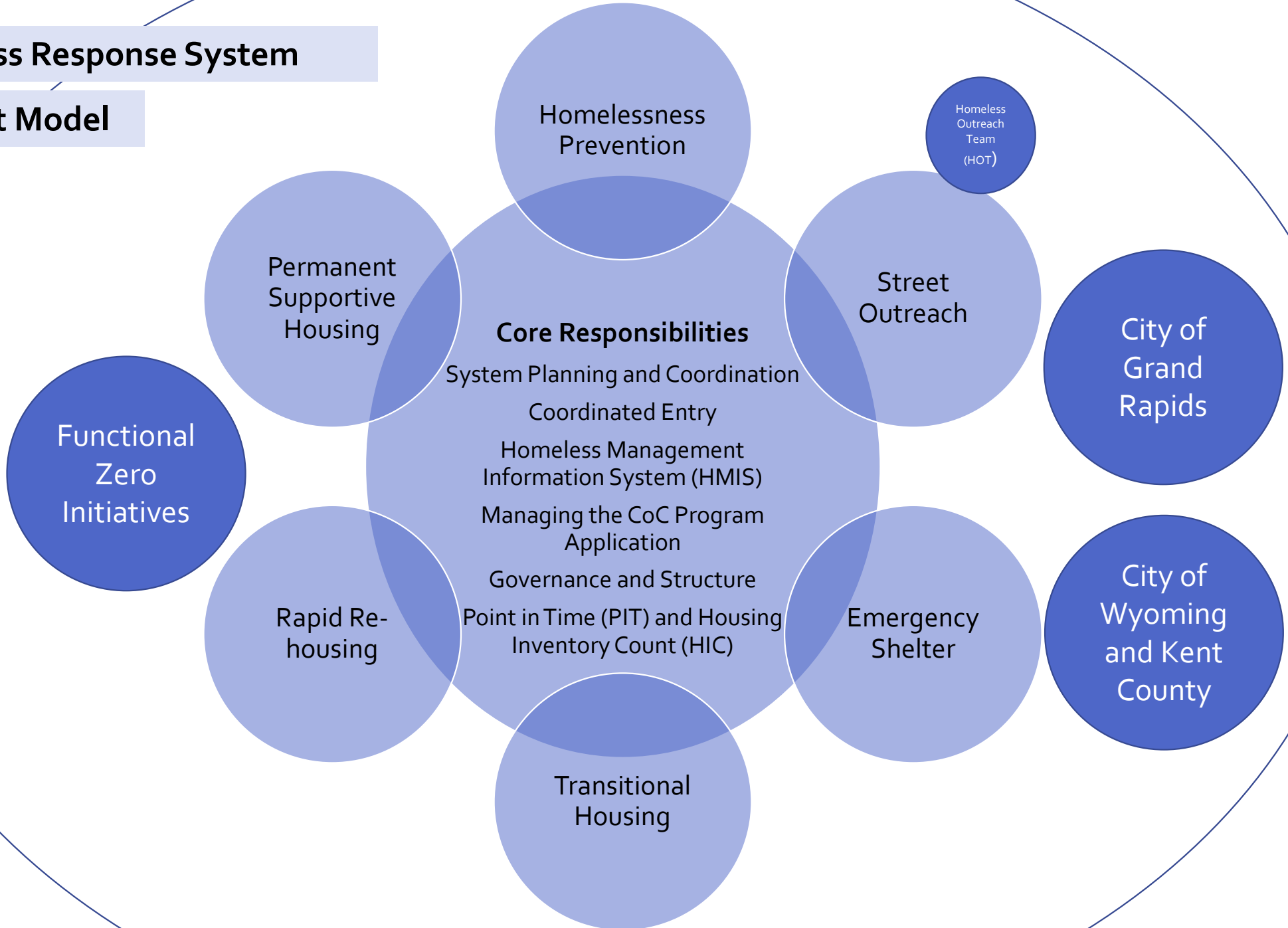
September 6, 2023

CTEH/CoC

- HUD established the Housing Continuum of Care (CoC) concept in 1994 as part of the Federal response to homelessness.
- **Continuum of Care:** A collaborative funding and planning approach that helps communities plan for and provide a full range of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing and other service resources to address the various needs of homeless persons.
- **Coalition to End Homelessness (CTEH):** Locally, the Coalition to End Homelessness operates as the Grand Rapids/Wyoming/Kent County CoC with Heart of West Michigan United Way as its fiduciary.
- **Mission:** To make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time throughout Kent County

CoC/Homeless Response System

Housing First Model



Core Responsibilities

- **System Planning and Coordination:** Developing a community-wide process involving the coordination of various providers to develop strategies for preventing and ending homelessness
- **Coordinated Entry:** Access, Assessment, Prioritization, Referral
 - Street outreach and emergency shelter are examples of access points
 - Assessment must be done to prioritize based on vulnerabilities
 - Referrals are made to TH, RRH, PSH as available and appropriate
- **HMIS:** Data collection system, mandatory for HUD funded projects. CoC maintains the HMIS system and does data analysis and reporting to the federal government.

Core Responsibilities

continued

- **Managing the CoC Program Application:** Preparing an annual application to HUD for funds which streamlines the application process and encourages coordination of providers on a local level.
- **Governance and Structure:** CoCs are responsible to establish and govern the work of the CoC such as maintaining governance structure and policies in accordance with federal regulations, including those for HMIS and Coordinated Entry.
- **PIT and HIC:** PIT is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people on a single night in January. HIC is an inventory of projects within a CoC of the beds and units dedicated to people that are homeless; conducted on the same night as PIT. Both counts are required of the CoC by HUD.

Definitions

- **Coordinated Entry:** Process to ensure all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access and are quickly identified, referred, and connected to housing and assistance based on their strengths and needs
- **HMIS:** Information technology system used to collect data on clients and the provision of housing services to homeless and at-risk households
- **Street Outreach:** Activities to meet the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness in unsheltered locations and an access point to the system
- **Emergency Shelter:** A facility with the primary purpose to provide temporary or transitional shelter for the unhoused
- **Transitional Housing:** Temporary housing for up to 24 months, may include supportive housing
- **RRH:** Intervention designed to help individuals and families that don't need intensive and ongoing supports to quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing.
- **PSH:** Housing in which housing assistance and supportive services are provided to assist households with at least one member with a disability in achieving housing stability
- **Housing First:** Approach to quickly and successfully connect households experiencing homelessness to housing without preconditions and barriers to entry

- CoC website: <https://endhomelessnesskent.org/continuum-of-care>
- CoC FY 22 funding application: https://endhomelessnesskent.org/wp-content/uploads/MI-506-CoC-Consolidated-Application_Submitted.pdf
- CoC program competition FY 22 awards: <https://endhomelessnesskent.org/fy2022-coc-program-competition>