

HOUSING CONTINUUM OF CARE HCoC SUBCOMMITTEE



PURPOSE

A community planning body promoting the prevention of and end to homelessness by developing and maintaining a system coordinating our community's resources and services for homeless and precariously-housed families and individuals.

FACTS

- On an average night in 2004, 768 people were in shelter, 285 or 37% of them were children, an increase of 1% over 2003, while the percentage of adults decreased.
- Need for permanent affordable housing far outstrips current resources: in 2003, 7,000 families were waiting for Section 8 housing rental vouchers in Kent County; now there are 8,000.
- In 2004, the HCoC allocated more than \$5.1 million in state and federal funds to community providers for building and operating emergency, transitional and supportive housing. The Vision to End Homelessness will provide a plan to more effectively target those funds to keep people in their own homes.

2004 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Started *Vision to End Homelessness* (VTEH) planning by designing the process, enlisting local foundation support for operations and bringing the community together to write the plan. The plan will be presented in January 2006.
- Assisted nearly 100% of local housing providers to track client service with the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
- Opened or funded for 2005 completion, 145 Permanent Supportive Housing beds.
- Established an HCoC/VTEH website, www.grahoc.org to share updates and expand community connections and participation.

2005-2006 AGENDA

- Adopt and present to the community the Kent County *Vision To End Homelessness* plan.
- Use data compiled from the HMIS housing provider computer system to drive local housing assistance management decisions.
- Use state/federal housing support allocations to drive VTEH plan implementation.

UTILITY / CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE



PURPOSE

Assessment of services to remedy utility-related emergencies, weatherization, conservation and education.

FACTS

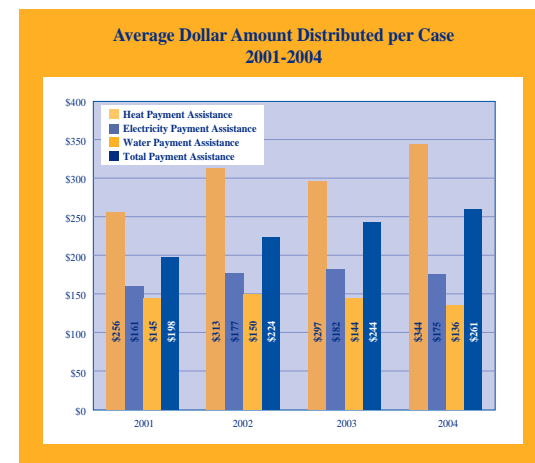
- With State direct payments to utilities, requests locally were down 30%, but available local funding also fell 19%.
- Utility costs continue to rise: average heat bills paid in 2001 were \$256.18; in 2004 they were \$343.63.
- Weatherization expenditures for low income homes increased 10% in 2004 to \$872,897, following a 28% increase in 2003.

2004 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- New energy conservation funding helped twice as many in 2003 compared to 2002.
- System management improved with help from GVSU Seidman Business School and the 2-1-1/ENTF Basic Needs Data Group.

2005-2006 AGENDA

- Expand conservation efforts with high-need clients.
- Continue *Energy Conservation Workshops* as a primary prevention strategy, add training for front line staff to incorporate conservation in every contact.
- Continue using data-driven decision making to further refine assistance management.



TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE



PURPOSE

Working to ensure that transportation is economically and easily available for all people to access basic needs, including medical care, employment, food, faith activities, social events, and social services.

FACTS

- According to United Way's 2-1-1, transportation issues accounted for 49% of those not able to access emergency food.
- Recent local surveys show that 30% of seniors do not have access to public transportation.
- Recent data shows 44% of pregnant Medicaid recipients have transportation barriers to prenatal treatment.

2004 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Drafted the *Single Access Medical Transportation Plan* which is targeted for launch by Winter 2006.
- Helped the Kent County Task Force on Health Care for People of Color share its *Transportation Resource Guide* at: [www.accesskent.com/Health/Health Department/Publications](http://www.accesskent.com/Health/Health%20Department/Publications)
- Transportation, Food Subcommittees and GVSU/CRI are addressing pantry system transportation related food issues.
- Provided transportation-related expertise to the senior collaborative, *Creating Community for a Lifetime*.
- The committee, working jointly with Faith In Motion, began plans for a community transportation summit in October 2005.

2005-2006 AGENDA

- Continue education efforts with *Transportation Resource Guide*.
- Continue using transportation data and geo-mapping to add credence to Transportation Subcommittee advocacy.
- Advocate for county-wide public transit; land use planning with public transit, and coordination with contiguous counties.
- Focus on work needed for schedule-less and county-wide public transportation.
- Continue advocacy work on sufficient state/federal public transit funding.

Kent County Emergency Needs Task Force 2004-2005 Update Report



The Kent County ENTF includes more than 100 non-profits, governmental, faith-based organizations, funders and concerned volunteers who work together to address our citizens' basic needs. The ENTF monitors basic service systems in Kent County, such as food, shelter, utilities and transportation. Each ENTF member organization continues to meet emergency needs requests from Kent County residents on a daily basis.

Internet access to the full Kent County Emergency Needs Task Force 2004-2005 Report Update is available for review or printing at www.accesskent.com/YourGovernment/Publications/kcentf.htm or where the Kent County ENTF logo is displayed.

Funded by:



July, 2005

The past year has been filled with exciting ENTF results. As outlined in this report, the community can expect to see changes in how we address homelessness, hunger and use public transportation. The following pages will explain how ENTF and many organizations and individuals are working together to help those in need and make Kent County a better place to live.

As we face challenging economic times and growing diversity in our community, the ENTF report recommendations can be our road map to meeting emergency basic needs.

Take the time to review the report and recommendations. Consider how you can work with others in the community to do your part. Your time or donation will help. If individuals in need ask for assistance with food, shelter or other basic support, suggest a call to United Way's 2-1-1 or take a look at the specialized referral flow charts in the web-based report for specific information.

Your interest in reading the 2004-2005 Kent County ENTF Update Report is appreciated. Your involvement is needed.

Sincerely,



Joan Krause, Chair
Kent County DHS Board

COORDINATING COMMITTEE



PURPOSE

Assessment of community needs, overall publicity and long-range planning.

The Coordinating Committee, providing ENTF leadership from government, human service and faith-based sectors, met on June 6, 2005 to review accomplishments, basic needs demands and recommendations for continuing action.

The Committee endorsed the Subcommittee recommendations and made the following suggestions:

- Continue to educate the community on its responsibility to assure sufficient basic needs resources are available to Kent County's most vulnerable populations.
- Continue developing and using data describing human service needs and resources for community education and management decisions.
- Work to refine the ENTF vision by focusing on and expanding collaboration, communication and advocacy successes achieved during the last 23 years.

LEADERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE



PURPOSE

Providing day-to-day management support to ENTF direct service subcommittees.

FACTS

- The Leadership Committee composed of subcommittee chairs and key support organization members, assists in developing resources, solving problems and advocating for basic human needs. Continuing Task Force support includes funding coordination and development, communications services such as this brochure and the internet-based report, expanded data collection and analysis through United Way's 2-1-1 and GVSU's Community Research Institute as well as ongoing subcommittee oversight.

2004 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The 2003-04 ENTF Update Report was published on the Kent County website and 3,000 copies of this brochure overview were distributed to Kent County citizens and interested parties throughout the state and country.
- Work was started on aligning the ENTF with other collaboratives through initial discussions with Kent County Commissioner's Family and Children's Coordinating Council.
- Plans for a Kent County sponsored ENTF website were started.

2005-2006 AGENDA

- Continue refining inter-committee communication and coordination.
- Continue work on data-driven collaborative management.
- Expand basic needs funding, education and advocacy.
- Finalize work on aligning the ENTF with other Kent County collaborative initiatives.

ENTF Funding and In-kind Support

Funding and in-kind support for ENTF operations is provided by:

Kent County Board of Commissioners,
Kent County DHS and
Heart of West Michigan United Way.

FOOD SUBCOMMITTEE



PURPOSE

Assessment of acquisition, storage, and distribution of food and related support services.

FACTS

- Food pantry use increased 11.5%, serving 60,000 families.
- Between 2002 and 2004, the numbers of families given pantry food 8 or more times in a year increased 82% to 3,406 in 2004.

2004 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The ENTF Food Subcommittee successfully launched its strategic plan envisioning *Kent County A Hunger Free Zone*.
- The food system met almost 98.5% of the 5,605 United Way 2-1-1 food assistance requests in 2004.

2005-2006 AGENDA

- Respond to transportation limiters – food distribution and client access – that create or add to hunger crises.
- Expand local food resource development through community gardening and food recipient self-sufficiency programs.
- Increase nutritional quality of pantry food and information on nutrition and health to help poor people be more self-reliant.
- Create and capitalize on more opportunities for donations of financial and in-kind resources from all sectors.
- Work to extend services to every hungry person in Kent County, while giving opportunity to the rest of the community to help.

KENT COUNTY ENTF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Internet access to the full Kent County Emergency Needs Task Force 2004-2005 Update Report, including client referral flow-charts, is available for review or printing at:

www.accesskent.com/YourGovernment/Publications/kcentf.htm or wherever the Kent County ENTF logo is displayed. Additional copies of this brochure are available from Heart of West Michigan United Way.

- For further information contact: David Schroeder

Heart of West Michigan United Way
United Way Center, 118 Commerce Avenue SW, Suite 100, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503-4106
Phone: (616) 752-8642 E-mail: dschroeder@unitedwaycares.com Or call United Way's 2-1-1

Comparison of Kent County Population and Food System Participants Ethnicity

