

HOUSING and HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE

www.endhomelessnessnmi.org

Overview and Structure

Led by the Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness, the City of Traverse City, and Grand Traverse County, the Housing and Homelessness Task Force is an initiative designed to develop a comprehensive plan to prevent and end homelessness in our communities. It brings together representatives from government, homeless and social service providers, healthcare, housing development, law enforcement, and other key sectors to align efforts, maximize resources, and drive long-term solutions for safe and stable housing.

From May through September 2025, work groups will focus on three key areas: emergency shelter, safety net services, and housing solutions. These groups will assess current gaps, identify best practices, and develop actionable strategies. The resulting plan will guide implementation efforts starting in 2026, ensuring a coordinated, sustainable approach to addressing homelessness.

Goals

1) Develop a Unified Strategy

The Task Force will align efforts across agencies, ensuring shared goals, streamlined services, and the most effective use of resources to prevent and end homelessness in our region.

2) Address Systemic Barriers to Housing

By tackling systemic factors such as housing affordability, mental health services, addiction treatment, and economic stability, the Task Force will work toward long-term solutions that reduce the risk of homelessness.

3) Maximize Funding and Resources

The Task Force will strengthen coordination of federal, state, and local funding to enhance efficiency and close service gaps. It will also advocate for additional resources to meet the growing demand for housing and support services.

4) Enhance Service Coordination

Bringing together housing providers, healthcare systems, and social services, the Task Force will improve collaboration and accessibility, ensuring that individuals receive the right support at the right time.

5) Track Progress and Accountability

By setting measurable goals and regularly evaluating outcomes, the Task Force will promote transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in local housing and homelessness initiatives.

6) Incorporate Community Perspectives and Stakeholder Input

Through targeted engagement efforts, including public input sessions and collaboration with community leaders, the Task Force will promote awareness, education, and support for effective strategies to address and end homelessness.

7) Advocate for Policy Solutions

To create lasting change, the Task Force will champion policies that expand deeply affordable housing, increase funding for services, and remove regulatory barriers that impact those experiencing homelessness.

Duration

March 1 - December 31, 2025

Focus Areas

Crisis management/ Safety

Prevention and Diversion

Access to the Homeless Response System

Basic Needs

Emergency Shelter and Day Shelter

Housing Navigation Services

Housing With and Without Supports

Development of Deeply Affordable Housing

Supports that Enhance Housing-Based Case Management

Leadership Team



The Leadership Team will provide strategic direction, oversight, and accountability for the community-wide Task Force's efforts to address and end homelessness. They will be responsible for setting the overall vision, guiding the development of the community plan, and ensuring that Work Groups have the resources and support needed to succeed.

Nate Alger, Grand Traverse County
Ashley Halladay-Schmandt , NW Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness
Ryan Hannon, Central United Methodist Church
Benjamin Marentette, City of Traverse City
Christie Minervini, NW Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness
Sakura Takano, Rotary Charities

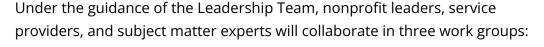
Advisory Council



The Advisory Council will include the Leadership Team, Work Group chairs, community leaders, local and state officials, and subject matter experts. They will review progress from each work group, offer input on proposed solutions, and help secure the necessary resources and policy support to implement the community plan.

Nate Alger, Grand Traverse County Chris Barsheff, Garfield Township Nikki Basch, Great Lakes Housing Services Becca Binder, Northwest Michigan Supportive Housing Dan Buron, Goodwill Northern Michigan Warren Call, Traverse Connect Randy Fewless, Grand Traverse County Sheriff Dept. Karl Fulmer, Traverse City Housing Commission Ashley Halladay-Schmandt , NW Coalition to End Homelessness Ryan Hannon, Central United Methodist Church Jennifer Holm, Traverse City Police Dept. Social Work Michele Howard, Traverse Area District Library Sarah Hughes, Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency Terri LaCroix-Kelty, Munson Medical Center Deb Lake, Goodwill Northern Michigan Bailey LaPan, Goodwill Northern Michigan Street Outreach Jen Leaf, Michigan State Housing Development Authority Pat Livingston, Safe Harbor of Grand Traverse Benjamin Marentette, City of Traverse City Alison Metiva, Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation Angela Mikula, Lived Experience of Homelessness Connor Miller, Aspire North Christie Minervini, Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness Chief Matt Richmond, Traverse City Police Dept. Kendall Rodriguez, Networks Northwest Offender Success

Working Groups





Safety Net Services

Sakura Takano, Rotary Charities

Chief Jim Tuller, Traverse City Fire Dept.

Megan Wick, Community Cares Coalition

Strengthens support systems that prevent homelessness and assist those currently experiencing it. Focus areas include access to healthcare and mental health services, crisis intervention, diversion and prevention efforts, and essential resources.

Jennifer Holm, Traverse City Police Dept. Social Work - Co-Chair Bailey LaPan, Goodwill Northern Michigan Street Outreach - Co-Chair Joe Barkman, Northern Lakes Community Mental Health Ryan Hannon, Central United Methodist Church Dr. David Klee, Munson Family Practice Paula Lapinski, Addiction Treatment Services Tara Peck, Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency



Emergency Shelter and Services

Improves crisis response systems to ensure immediate, safe, and supportive shelter. This includes enhancing emergency shelters, day services, and housing navigation efforts.

Dan Buron, Co-Chair, Goodwill Northern Michigan
Patrick Livingston, Co-Chair, Safe Harbor
Ryan Hannon, Central United Methodist Church
Jessica Hamilton, Community Cares Coalition
Mike McCrary, Safe Harbor
Jason Parks, The Salvation Army
Rev. Jim Perra, Grace Episcopal/ Jubilee House



Housing Solutions

Jon Stimson, Homestretch

Shawn Winter, City of Traverse City

Expands affordable housing options for people exiting homelessness by securing funding, partnering with developers and landlords, and advancing supportive housing models like Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Housing and other innovative housing solutions.

Becca Binder, Northwest Michigan Supportive Housing - Co-Chair

Dan Buron, Goodwill Northern Michigan

Karl Fulmer, Traverse City Housing Commission - Co-Chair

Maxwell Cameron, Grand Traverse County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

Shelly Charron, Housing North

Catherine Distelrath, Corporation for Supportive Housing

Nora Dunlop, Goodwill Northern Michigan

Julie Ellalasingham, St. Vincent DePaul

Sarah Hughes, Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency

Seth Johnson, Cunningham-Limp

Claire Karner, East Bay Township

Paula Lapinski, Addiction Treatment Services

Tony Lentych, Michigan State Housing Development Authority

Craig Patterson, Woda Cooper

Juliette Schultz, Women's Resource Center

Facilitator

Dr. Richard (Rick) Bellingham, Ed.D., is an organizational psychologist who has spent the last 40 years creating healthy, innovative, and productive work environments in over 200 organizations worldwide. The purpose of his work is to re-examine, redefine, and reform how we look at the meaning of community, leadership, and wellness in corporate culture.

10-Month Timeline

March Coordinate



Leadership Team meets with NWCEH
Steering Committee to help create the
Task Force structure, define work groups,
and recruit members.





Leadership Team defines objectives and set goals for the individual work groups, and hires a facilitator for the Advisory Council and Public Input meetings.





Advisory Council is presented with research and data from work groups in order to identify opportunities for better collaboration and efficiency.

June Strategize

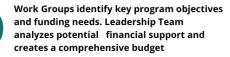


Work Groups develop strategies for their individual challenges and design systems to coordinate with others in homeless response.



Advisory Council meets to review Work Group progress and assist with prioritization, policies, and potential funding sources.

August
Create Budget



September Draft Plan



Leadership Team presents draft plan including research and trends, system recommendations, funding needs, and expected outcomes to the Advisory Council.

October Public Input



Work Groups review the draft plan before it is presented to the general public (and those with lived experience) for feedback to be considered for the Final Plan.

November Finalize



Final Task Force Plan is presented to the Advisory Council along with key community leaders and stakeholders.

December Unveil Plan



The Director and Coordinator publish the plan and present to local community groups, elected officials, and other potential supporters for implementation.

Meeting Schedule

Leadership Team

March 13th 11:00 – 12:30 pm April 17th 11:00 am – 1:00 pm June 27th 9:00 – 10:00 am July 31st 11:00 am - 12:00 pm August 19th 9:00 - 11:00 am September 9th 1:00 - 2:00 pm October 17th 9:00 – 11:00 am November 20th 11:00 am - 1:00 pm December 18th 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Advisory Council

May 8th 11:00 am – 1:00 pm July 17th 11:00 am – 1:00 pm September 18th 11:00 am – 1:00 pm November 20th 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Housing Solutions

May 1st 10:00 – 11:30 am June 5th 10:00 – 11:30 am August 7th 10:00 – 11:30 am September 4th 10:00 – 11:30 am October 2nd 10:00 – 11:30 am

Emergency Shelter & Services

May 1st 1:00 – 2:30 pm June 5th 1:00 – 2:30 pm August 12th 11:00 am – 12:30 pm August 20th 10:30 am - 12:00 pm September 4th 1:00 – 2:30 pm September 25th 1:30 - 3:00 pm October 2nd 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Safety Net Services

May 1st 3:30 - 5:00 pm June 5th 3:00 - 4:30 pm August 7th 3:00 - 4:30 pm September 4th 3:00 - 4:30 pm October 2nd 3:00 - 4:30 pm

Listening Sessions

July 17th 8:30 - 9:30 am September 11th 10:30 - 11:30 am

Public Input Sessions

October 16th 1:00 – 2:30 pm October 16th 5:30 – 7:00 pm

For more information

Ashley Halladay-Schmandt at 231-499-1019 or ashley@endhomelessnessnmi.org **Christie Minervini** at 231-218-4421 or christieminervini@gmail.com