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KENT COUNTY - The Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness/Continuum of Care (CoC) is excited to announce [the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\) awarded \\$2,477,852 for Kent County to help end youth homelessness](#). The funding was awarded through HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). The grant allows for homeless service providers in Kent County to develop a community plan and pilot innovative approaches to end homelessness for adults 18 to 24 years old.

"We are honored to be one of the 17 communities selected to receive the YHDP grant this year. The Coalition believes that complex social problems require multi-pronged approaches – this investment in our community is a great opportunity to innovate and make a huge difference for our unhoused youth and young adults," said **Courtney Myers-Keaton, Director of the Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness**.

The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is a federal initiative designed to reduce the number of young adults experiencing homelessness. Its goal is to support selected communities, including rural, suburban, and urban areas across the United States, in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness.

"This is a once in a generation opportunity for Kent County and we are excited for what it could mean to the young people we serve every day," said **Lauren VanKeulen, CEO of AYA Youth Collective**. "AYA is grateful to be part of the work of the Coalition and the greater community as we tackle youth homelessness. The commitment of our community as a whole to end youth homelessness will only be furthered by the YHDP."

The Grand Rapids Coalition to End Homelessness/Continuum of Care (CoC) is a collaborative housed within Heart of West Michigan United Way; providing leadership and coordination to more than 50 organizations, community leaders and advocates who partner to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. "We are so thankful to HUD for this grant, which will help us create new solutions to address youth homelessness that build on our existing investments in our community," said **Michelle Van Dyke, President & CEO of Heart of West Michigan United Way**. "Addressing this issue requires collaboration at all levels, from HUD, City and County officials to nonprofit leaders and community members, and this grant plays a critical role in helping us address these needs. It is a great honor that our community has been entrusted with these funds."

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