



## GRAND RAPIDS HOUSING COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **GRAND RAPIDS HOUSING COMMISSION AWARDED \$450,000 IN HUD GRANTS IN SUPPORT OF VETERANS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, September 11, 2018—The Grand Rapids Housing Commission (GRHC) has been awarded a \$344,507 U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) grant to fund 55 rental subsidies administered through the federal Mainstream Voucher program. Mainstream Vouchers support the housing needs of non-elderly persons with disabilities and are particularly targeted to those who are transitioning out of institutional settings, at serious risk of institutionalization, homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless; HUD defines “non-elderly” as under age 62.

The GRHC will start the referral process for the available Mainstream Vouchers by drawing from several hundred potentially eligible non-elderly disabled applicants who are currently on our Section 8 waiting list. In addition to a rental housing subsidy, the Mainstream program will provide supportive services coordinated by the GRHC’s on-staff social work professionals in collaboration with The Salvation Army, Disability Advocates, local hospitals and nursing homes, and other community partner organizations that serve people with disabilities.

The GRHC was also recently awarded a \$105,705 HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) grant that will fund 22 rental subsidy vouchers in support of veterans experiencing homelessness or at risk for homelessness. Referrals to the GRHC’s HUD-VASH program will be through the VA Medical Center in Battle Creek.

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GRHC Resident Services staff will work with the Battle Creek VA Medical Center as well as local VA clinics and social services agencies to help the veterans served through the program access community resources that will support their long-term well being and housing stability.

With the goal of expanding its HUD-VASH program, in October the GRHC will submit an application for \$1,355,988 in federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits which would be leveraged to fund the construction of a 50-unit Section 8 Project-Based program development tailored specifically to meet the housing and supportive needs of homeless veterans. The site for the planned development is on South Division Avenue at Delaware Street SW.

“The Housing Commission is excited to receive these opportunities to diversify our portfolio of housing options and better serve some of our community’s most vulnerable citizens,” noted GRHC Executive Director Carlos A. Sanchez. “We are very grateful to the Veterans Administration, The Salvation Army Homeless Assistance Program, Disability Advocates, and all of the local partner organizations that will help us bring these residents supportive services that will encourage them to maintain stable housing.”

The addition of the 77 Mainstream and HUD-VASH vouchers brings the total number of rental housing subsidies provided through the GRHC’s Section 8 program to 3,459.

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