

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **HRI Acknowledges City-County Effort to Address Homelessness As It Ends Plans for POD Community** *‘Our Innovative Approach Sparked New Momentum’*

KALAMAZOO, Michigan [Sept. 5, 2024]— Housing Resources Inc. (HRI) said today that its novel project to create a fully staffed, temporary living option for people experiencing homelessness will come to an end now that local municipalities are together exploring new ways to address the issue.

“It’s heartening to see our communities coming together to make sure every person has a safe place to stay while seeking long-term housing,” said HRI Executive Director Michelle Davis.

Kalamazoo County and the City of Kalamazoo recently revealed a shared effort to establish a shelter for individuals and families who are unhoused. While details remain in development, the City of Kalamazoo has committed \$1.2 million while the county is exploring possible locations.

Davis said this local collaboration reflects the message HRI has championed: Every person deserves a place of dignity where they can rebuild their lives.

“By bringing the PODs to Kalamazoo, we took a bold, creative step to tackle a serious need in a compassionate way,” she said. “It was something new and different. At times, that was hard for some folks to grasp. But in the end, our innovative approach sparked new momentum for addressing homelessness.”

HRI has been working for two years to establish the Kzoo POD Community: A Place of Dignity. It would have included 50 ModPod™ living units, with onsite staff to help clients through the process of securing long-term housing. The approach was modeled on successful efforts in other communities. The plan had been to establish the PODs at a location on Lake Street. With the project's end, HRI expects to sell the PODs for use elsewhere.

Davis expressed gratitude for donors and organizations that supported the POD project, particularly [Clark Logic](#), which stored the PODs at no charge for over a year and had offered property to host the proposed site. “The energy and support we experienced for this project showed that there are people in our community who care and who want to help those facing homelessness,” she said.

While the POD Community will not go forward, Davis said the plan notched important successes. It helped drive extension of the City of Kalamazoo's emergency housing ordinance. It prompted awareness and discussion of the need for sustainable housing. It also spawned conversations on how to work across communities and sectors for lasting solutions.

“The key now is to keep that momentum going,” said Davis. “HRI is eager to bring its expertise to the collaboration and to do our part to support a safe, secure and supportive strategy that will change people's lives with dignity and compassion.”

### **About HRI**

Established in 1982 as a 501c(3) nonprofit organization, Housing Resources Inc. provides housing solutions for individuals and families during a housing crisis. Our mission is the assurance of housing for socially or economically vulnerable persons in Kalamazoo County. As the Housing Assistance Resource Agency (HARA) for Kalamazoo County, HRI provides a comprehensive menu of services designed to stabilize households experiencing homelessness and help those in jeopardy of losing their housing. Online: [housingresourcesinc.org](https://housingresourcesinc.org).