



## THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of the *Detroit Continuum of Care*

**CAM** (313) 305-0311 **Hours:** M-F 9:00am - 6:00pm, Sat 10:00am-3:00pm, Sun Closed



### Two Long-time Homeless Men Attain Housing and New Starts in Life

June 7th, 2021

Willie Brown has many compelling tales to tell. Of a glorious past. Then a fall from grace that left him homeless for two decades, including sleeping in a tent through bitter Detroit winters.

He tells of being a Marine veteran. Of singing background vocals for the legendary funk band Slave. Willie says he's related to the great Sam Cooke and then croons his own soulful rendition of You Send Me. He tells of boxing professionally. Of making good money from fighting and singing, and then losing it all through bad financial decisions and alcoholism.

"I lost my home to foreclosure in the mid-80s, and then started living on the streets, in different shelters, in vacant houses and abandoned cars, wherever I could find temporarily," said Willie, who is now 63. "I put myself through hell and hit rock bottom. I didn't care, didn't trust people, and didn't have anything. I just wanted to be left alone."

You can read more about Willie's and others' success stories at Southwest Solutions's website [here](#).

### Bring America Home NOW! Campaign Kickoff

Thursday, Jun 17, 2021 | 3pm



The National Coalition for the Homeless is spearheading the launch of Bring America Home Now: A Comprehensive Grassroots Campaign to End Homelessness in the U.S. Led by people who have themselves experienced homelessness, they will focus on the passage of federal legislation aimed at addressing the interconnected solutions to the decades-long epidemic of homelessness in the United States.

The campaign focuses on 5 major policy areas:

### COVID-19 Assistance Resources

#### COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA)

Rental and Utility Assistance is available for residents in Detroit, Highland Park, and Hamtramck. Read more about eligibility requirements [here](#) & apply [here](#). For assistance navigating the application, call

- Housing,
- Health,
- Livable Incomes,
- Education/Training and,
- Civil Rights/Antiracism.

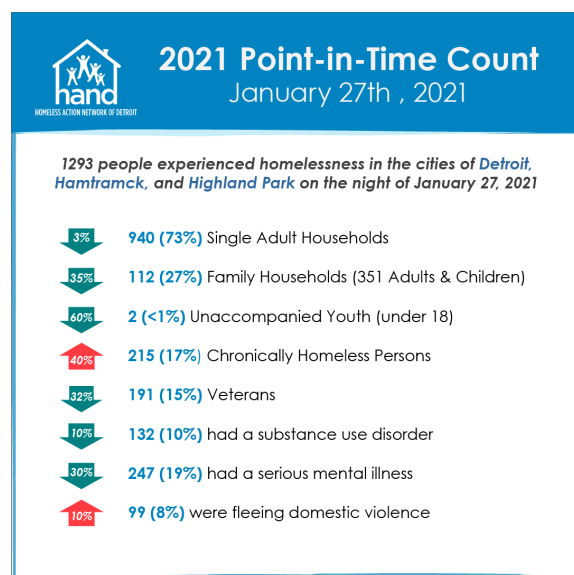
Register [here](#)

## Webinar Reminders

Affirming LGBTQ+ Tenants in Supportive Housing  
June 17, 2021 | 2pm-3:30pm. Register [here](#)

Maximizing Homelessness Resources with Progressive Engagement  
June 22, 2021 | 2pm-3:30pm. Register [here](#)

## 2021 HIC & PIT Reports Available



The most recent Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time (PIT) reports are now available on HAND's [website](#).

## Housing Forbearance Relief

If you or someone you know are one of the many FHA-borrowers in communities across the country having difficulty paying your mortgage due to the pandemic, HUD urges you to act now. FHA's special COVID-19 mortgage payment forbearance is currently available to FHA-insured borrowers.

[More information here](#)

866-313-2520. Landlords can also apply.

## Stimulus Payment & Child Tax Credit

- Help those experiencing homelessness access the expanded child tax credit and stimulus payment [here](#).
- View a pdf of free filing resources [here](#).
- Poverty Solutions at UofM created a website to learn about accessing child tax credit [here](#) and the stimulus [here](#).
- Learn more about the expanded child tax credit [here](#).

\*If you haven't received a previous stimulus payment, you may be eligible for a [Recovery Rebate Credit](#). To claim the rebate, you must file a 2020 tax return. Details are available [here](#).

## Funeral Assistance

If you paid for funeral expenses after January 20, 2020, for an individual whose death may have been caused or likely the result of COVID-19 you can apply for up to \$9,000 for funeral assistance.

Start the process by calling FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line at **844-684-6333**; TTY 800-462-7585, Monday-Friday, 9 AM - 9 PM ET. No online applications accepted. Multilingual services available.

For more information please go to this [link](#)

Check for updates on HAND's [news page](#).

Detroit residents aged 12+\* and those working in Detroit are eligible for free vaccines. Walk-ins are welcome at every location.

- Schedule an appointment: [313-230-0505](tel:313-230-0505). Lines open M - F, 9AM - 6PM. 18+ need some form of ID.
- Text for nearest vaccine site: [313-217-3732](tel:313-217-3732)
- Request free transportation: [313-230-0505](tel:313-230-0505)
- Transport a Detroit & receive a \$50 pre-paid card: [313-230-0505](tel:313-230-0505)
- Department of Health vaccine helpline: [313-876-4000](tel:313-876-4000)
- Michigan vaccine site locator: [site](#)
- *More information and updates from the City of Detroit [here](#).*

\*Ages 12-17 are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine and must be accompanied by an adult.

---

## Masks for Homeless Service Providers & Clients

Please complete this [form](#) to request masks and we will contact you to schedule a pickup day and time.

## NOW HIRING



**Covenant House Michigan**  
Case Management Coordinator  
(Detroit – House of Hope)

The Case Management Coordinator is responsible for providing comprehensive assessment, planning, implementation and overall evaluation of individual and program needs. They will draw upon youth strengths to inform service planning, advocate on behalf of youth, collaborate with other service providers and manage crisis situations as needed. And will provide administrative support to programs by maintaining comprehensive youth files, conducting data-entry and completing required documentation.

## Resources & Information



### Laptop-to-Go Program

Those with a valid Detroit Public Library (DPL) card can check out a laptop for free.

- Reserve a laptop *in person* at any open [DPL location](#) or by phone;
- ID and library card will be verified at pickup;
- Must be checked out on an adult card;
- *Not accepted:* restricted, digital, or other MLibraryCard library cards;
- Checkout period is 90 days, with an option for a 1 time renewal;
- Must renew in person with the laptop
- Laptop has Wi-Fi capabilities, but not built-in Wi-Fi service;
- Replacement fee is \$500;
- Apply for a library card [here](#). To complete registration, visit a DPL location.

**Call [313-481-1400](tel:313-481-1400) to learn more**

# Emergency Broadband Assistance

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program is an [Federal Communications Commission \(FCC\) program](#) that provides a temporary discount on monthly broadband bills for qualifying low-income households. Eligible households receive:

- Up to a \$50/month discount on broadband service and associated equipment rentals
- Up to a \$75/month discount if household on qualifying Tribal lands
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50)

More information [here](#)

## Funding for New CoC Programs for FY2021

The Continuum of Care (CoC) is accepting applications for new project funding in the upcoming FY2021 competition. The full RFP and application forms along with the webinars are posted [here](#).

New project applications are due by **12:00 PM on June 25, 2021**. If you have any questions please contact Amanda Sternberg at [amanda@handetroit.org](mailto:amanda@handetroit.org).

## Legislative Action Committee

Join MCAH's [Legislative Action Committee \(LAC\)](#) for updates on statewide and federal legislation relating to homelessness and housing funding. Register for July's meeting [here](#).



Detroit-Wayne  
Integrated Health  
Network's (DWIHN)  
**24-Hour Helpline:**  
**(800) 241-4949**

- Take a Self Mental Health Screening [here](#)
- State of Michigan Mental Health [resources](#)
- Virtual Support Groups - [link](#)

## Resource

To submit a resource, article, event, or other CoC-related information for the upcoming newsletter click [here](#) to access a submission form. For general feedback, contact [kimberly@handetroit.org](mailto:kimberly@handetroit.org). View past newsletters [here](#).

Visit HAND's  
Website

Follow us on social media

