

**City of Grand Rapids
Human Rights Commission
2025 Progress & 2026 Priorities**

2025 Highlights

Community Needs Assessment Overview

- Created a high-level summary combining data from multiple organizations already doing the work.
- Provided a shared snapshot of community strengths, trends, and gaps to inform dialogue and decision-making.

Responsive Resource Development

- Developed and distributed a one-page resource guide when:
 - SNAP benefits were suspended during the federal government shutdown
 - Housing supportive services were discontinued
- Helped connect residents to available supports during disruption.

Education & Public Engagement

- Presentation at the League of Human Rights by Commissioner/Councilor Molly MacGregor.
- Strong engagement at the Pride Pancake Breakfast — an opportunity to:
 - Share information about the HRC
 - Connect with residents
 - Highlight ways community members can engage with the City more broadly.
- Continued participation in community events and ongoing commissioner training.

2026 Strategic Priorities

1. Community Awareness

- Increase understanding of the Human Rights Commission and its purpose.
- Improve visibility of meetings and engagement opportunities.

2. Education & Outreach

- Present to outside organizations (schools, civic groups, community partners).
- Host or facilitate two community dialogue opportunities.
- Continue participating in established community events.

3. Listening to Community

- Strengthen understanding of community concerns.
- Ensure protected classes feel heard and supported.

4. Collaboration

- Build and strengthen partnerships.
- Share relevant updates and emerging issues with City leadership.

5. Responsible Stewardship

- Reviewed and recommended changes to by-laws to better align with actual scope of work, volunteer capacity, and City structure
- Focus efforts where the Commission can have meaningful impact.
- Maintain a realistic scope aligned with volunteer capacity.