

## Mission Statement

The Grand Rapids Area Hoarding Taskforce (GRAHT) works to raise public awareness on hoarding disorder. We strive to provide early intervention in order to maintain a minimal standard of safe living within the community.

### Taskforce Goals:

- Promote the use of clutter screening and assessment tools
- Collaborate with private and public organizations within the community
- Raise public awareness and education
- Ensure best practice and client centeredness
- Work to keep individuals in their own homes and prevent displacement

## Grand Rapids Area Hoarding Taskforce G.R.A.H.T

***Have any questions?  
Contact us!***

**Phone:** (616) 456-3460

Or

**Call 311**

**Email:** [hoarding@grcity.us](mailto:hoarding@grcity.us)

**Website:**

[www.grandrapidsmi.gov](http://www.grandrapidsmi.gov)

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Grand Rapids Area Hoarding  
Taskforce**

## Grand Rapids Area Hoarding Taskforce G.R.A.H.T



**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS**  
1120 Monroe Ave NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

## What is Hoarding Disorder?

Hoarding disorder is a mental disorder recognized by the DSM-V. It is characterized by:

- Difficulty discarding or parting with possessions
- Distress at the thought of discarding items
- Excessive accumulation of items regardless of value
- Cramped living conditions with narrow pathways in the home

## Signs and Symptoms

- Building up clutter to the point where rooms become unusable
- From outside, seeing curtains pushed against windows with items or clutter
- Persistent need to save items
- Tendency towards perfectionism and problems with planning and organizing

## Consequences of Hoarding

- Unsanitary living conditions
- Bacterial infections from the condition of the home
- Pest infestations
- Tripping hazards
- Fire hazards
- Blocked entrances/exits
- Premature relocation to senior housing or eviction

## Best Practices

- Focus on the individual person, their strengths, and their goals
- Practice harm reduction
- Assess the individual's Activities of Daily Living (ADL)
- Use the IDC-Clutter/Hoarding Scale
- Be patient and recognize all accomplishments

## Report Concerns

Hoarding is considered "self-neglect" and concerns for a vulnerable adult or child living in unsafe conditions should be reported to Protective Services at (1) 855-444-3911.

- You can also report housing concerns to the Hoarding Taskforce by phone or email
- Provide detail of your concerns which may include:
  - Limited access to doors/windows
  - Clutter as trip hazards
  - Unsanitary conditions such as trash or infestations
  - The individual's known medical and mental health

## What Happens After You Make A Referral?

- A Taskforce member may reach out for further information
- An assessment of the home and client will follow
- Work with the client to create a safety plan