

---

ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 17, 2018**

**For additional information contact:**

[LisaLaPlante@KentCountyMI.gov](mailto:LisaLaPlante@KentCountyMI.gov)

## **Kent County Community Action Celebrates Community Action Month**

**GRAND RAPIDS** – Kent County joins the nation in celebrating Community Action Month, dedicated to recognizing the success of the national Community Action Network. America's Community Action Agencies connect millions of children and families to greater opportunity, transforming their lives and making our communities — and our nation— stronger. This month, Kent County Community Action will be engaging in programs and events that showcase their innovative work.

The Community Action Division focuses on meeting emergency needs such as, but not limited to, food, utility assistance, housing, transportation and socialization for residents of Kent County. Staff also assist with areas of self-sufficiency, Medicare insurance enrollment, tax preparation and information and referral services. "Community Action Month is a wonderful time to honor and celebrate the impact this dedicated team has in the lives of families and communities across the county," said Susan Cervantes, Director of Kent County Community Action. "From programs to assist families struggling with utility bills to making sure our aging neighbors are receiving healthy foods, we are working on the ground to help families thrive, creating smarter solutions that can be put to work within communities across the country."

In addition to the month-long recognition, Kent County Community Action won two County **Excellence in Action** awards presented by the Board of Commissioners last week:

- **Excellence in Collaboration** for obtaining the status of functional zero homelessness for Veterans in Kent County by utilizing Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers and helping veterans experiencing homelessness in Kent County; and
- **The Chairman's Award for Grit and Determination** for a successful transition of two agencies in 2017 which created Kent County Community Action to deliver more effective and efficient community services.

"This team exemplifies the collaborative nature of our County in its efforts, going above and beyond what is expected and helping provide needed services to our most vulnerable residents," said Wayman Britt, Kent County Administrator/Controller. "Their work has been recognized nationally as a best practice model based on recruitment strategies, dual case management efforts, number of employed VASH clients and positive transitions from voucher recipient into self-sufficiency. I salute their successes this month as the staff continues to be role models for other Community Action organizations nationwide."

Kent County Community Action is a member of the Community Action Network, originally created in 1964. To learn more about their services, go to <https://www.accesskent.com/Departments/CommunityAction/>.

###