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Kent County Board of Commissioners Meeting Summary

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (May 28, 2020) – The Kent County Board of Commissioners met virtually today on several issues related to the Kent County Community Action and federal legislative priorities. Additionally, the Board received a [financial overview](#) from the County Fiscal Services Director and an annual update from the Kent County Road Commission. Specifically, the Board discussed and approved the following resolutions:

5-28-20-49: Kent County Community Action Amended Community Development 5-Year Consolidated Plan

The 5-year Consolidated Plan consists of a housing and homelessness needs assessment, market analysis and related goals and objectives, and is a prerequisite of HUD for obtaining Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) from HUD. An amendment to the Plan is necessary to allow the use of funding to expand public services and to respond to the coronavirus emergency. The expanded public service activities include emergency payments to individuals or families for the purpose of preventing shut-off of services or rent/mortgage payments for the purpose of preventing homelessness, services to address health needs of residents, legal services and counseling to provide legal aid to low-and-moderate income persons.

5-28-20-50: Kent County Community Action Community Development Annual Action Plan

The Annual Action Plan (AAP) contains funding for CDBG, HOME, ESG-funded activities requested by local units of government occurring between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. An amendment to this AAP is a HUD requirement to allow a change in use of funding to expand public service activities such as emergency payments to individuals or families for the purpose of preventing shut-off of services or rent/mortgage payments for the purpose of preventing homelessness, services to address health needs of residents, legal services and counseling to provide legal aid to low-and-moderate income persons. Also, assistance to for-profit businesses, including microenterprise assistance for small and micro-businesses, impacted by COVID-19 to enable the creation or retention of jobs and the addition of emergency shelter activities will be expanded.

5-28-20-51: Kent County Community Action Supplemental Appropriation Funding for the CDGB Program Income

Due to a technical change in HUD's accounting methodology, \$688,903 needed to be appropriated to the Kent County Community Action for small business grants and technical assistance for relief from the COVID-19 pandemic.

5-28-20-52: Kent County Community Action Community Development Block Grant Appropriation Related to the CARES Act

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, And Economic Security Act (CARES Act) allocates \$1,023,791 HUD program funds to Kent County for a special Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. These funds will be used outside the City of Grand Rapids and the City of Wyoming as both cities are CDBG recipients and the funding cannot cross boundaries. Eligible activities include small business grants to support businesses with COVID-19 related issues such as business stabilization, avoidance of job loss, short-term capital assistance and retention of low-and-moderate income employees, technical assistance, increased public services, and assisting the Kent County Health Department to increase its response to targeted health services for infectious disease response.

5-28-20-53: Kent County Community Action Community Emergency Solutions Grants Appropriation Related to the CARES Act

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, And Economic Security Act (CARES Act) allocates \$532,303 HUD program funds to Kent County for a special Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program. These funds will be used to prioritize the needs of persons experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness in areas of Kent County outside the City of Grand Rapids. Eligible activities include tenant based, short-term rental assistance, payment of last month's rent, and partnering with area shelters to pay Hotel/Motel Vouchers. ESG COVID-19 grant will reimburse costs of eligible activities incurred for pandemic response with a period of performance starting April 2, 2020 and ending September 30, 2022.

5-28-20-54: 2020 Federal Priorities

Three federal priorities related to the expansion of Medicaid coverage for inmates, environmental challenges, and COVID-19 funding were approved.

To review all of the Board of Commissioners' agendas, minutes and recorded sessions, [click here](#).

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