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Kent County Awarded Excellence in Financial Reporting

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (February 16, 2021) – Kent County has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report. Kent County has received this award for over 20 years.

"Financial transparency is a pillar of our mission," said Kent County Administrator Wayman Britt. This recognition is a result of the hard work of our Board of Commissioners and our Fiscal Services team to ensure the County's finances are managed effectively and our fiscal story is communicated clearly."

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting and represents a significant accomplishment by a local unit of government and its management. While the criterion does not evaluate financial health, Kent County continues to stay financially strong after earning the Triple-A credit rating from S&P Global and Moody's Investors Service for the 22nd consecutive year in 2020.

"This award is a reflection of true team effort between the Board of Commissioners and our diligent and professional Fiscal Services staff," said Fiscal Services Director Jeff Dood. "The GFOA's standards helps us develop a consistent format for communicating our financial information but we are continually striving to improve our financial audit presentation, so it is more user friendly for our residents."

Program participants are asked to submit their report within six months of the end of the fiscal year. The GFOA's review process typically requires an additional four to six months, thus the 2020 program results are for comprehensive annual financial reports that ended during the 2019 calendar year.

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