

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

OVERVIEW – AIRPORT

In 1919, the Board of Supervisors agreed to collaborate with a local aeronautics club in establishing an airfield on 120 acres of County-owned land at the corner of Madison and 132nd streets in Wyoming. In the 1930s additional hangars were added and the WPA constructed a new Administration building; an additional 120 acres and a new control tower was added in the 1940s. In 1956, the Board of Commissioners established the Aeronautics Board of Control, and assigned it certain powers, duties and authorities, including determining fees and rentals; providing for concessions to supply goods, services and commodities; and investigating methods of improving the airport.

In 1959, the County broke ground for the airport's current location in Cascade Township. Over the years, the name and composition of the governing board changed, eventually becoming the Gerald R. Ford International Authority Board with an expanded membership to include representation in November 2011.

In 2014, the Board of Commissioners approved – in concept – the recommendation of an Airport Governance Steering Committee that governance of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRFIA) be transferred to an authority with regional representation. Following creation of the Authority, the Board in December 2015 approved a long-term Lease and Transfer Agreement with the Authority. Under the Agreement, the County continues to own the land but transferred operation and governance of the airport to the Authority pending approval of the Federal Aviation Administration. Approval was granted and the transfer was completed on July 1, 2016.

The County continues to appoint members of the Authority Board, and to perform certain activities as an obligation of the Lease and Transfer Agreement.

Aeronautics

Function	Mandated						Non-Mandated							
	Statute	Fully Funded	Un-Funded	Partially Funded			Board Authorized Agreement	Board Resolution	Necessary	Discretionary	Funding Source			
				Designated State/Feds	User Fees / Fines	Other					Gen. Fund	User Fees	State/Fed Grant	Other
Administration														
Participate on the Airport Authority Governing Board	PA 95 of 2015										X			
Take appropriate action to restrict the use of land adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of the Airport to activates compatible with normal airport operations							Airport Transfer Agreement 12-17-15-115				X			
Use police powers necessary and appropriate to protect the Airport and surrounding airspace							Airport Transfer Agreement 12-17-15-115				X			

OVERVIEW—COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Although Kent County has participated in a cooperative extension program since 1912, no formal documentation establishing the program was located. Through the budget process, the County has provided funding for administrative and support staff salaries, space, and administrative costs (e.g. equipment, supply, travel, training, etc.) for County and Michigan State University (MSU)-provided coordinator, educators, and para-professional staff and programs of the Cooperative Extension. As in other counties throughout the state, the Cooperative Extension Service is a county department, headed by a Michigan State University Extension District Coordinator who functions as a county department director.

In 2010, MSU began the process of standardizing the services they offer as well as the manner in which they negotiated with counties for specific services. As a result, MSU has restructured the Cooperative Extension services to reflect a more regional focus. The education and research efforts are organized around four programmatic institutes with efforts focused on:

- Enhancing Michigan's First Green Industry: Agriculture & Agribusiness
- Preparing Michigan's Children & Youth for the Future
- Greening Michigan: Leveraging Natural and Human Assets for Prosperity
- Improving the Health & Nutrition of Michigan's residents

Based upon the new program/institute structure at MSU, the County and MSU entered into a five-year agreement for the 2012-2016 time-period. They now jointly develop an annual work plan which stipulates the services that will be provided. Under the terms of the agreement, counties pay a standardized assessment which includes a base amount and is also population based. The terms of the agreement are subject to an annual appropriation by the County. This appropriation is utilized by MSU to provide: 4-H Programming with staffing levels based on per capita formula developed by MSU; operating expenses (supplies, training, postage copies, etc.) for 4-H and other educators assigned to or serving Kent County; access to all MSU-paid educators; supervision of educators assigned to or serving in the County, as well as supervision of County-provided clerical; and also annual reporting to the Board of Commissioners. The County provides office space, utilities, landlines, and internet connectivity as well as one administrative staff person.

Since counties are not required to support a Cooperative Extension program, and since specific Kent/MSU Extension initiatives do not require and thus do not receive review or approval by the Board of Commissioners, except where the County has agreed to serve as the fiduciary for certain grant-funded programs of the Extension Office, the County's support for these programs is considered discretionary.

The MSU Cooperative Extension staff also provide support to the Agricultural Preservation Board and oversight of the County's Agricultural Preservation (Purchase of Development Rights – PDR) program.

Cooperative Extension

Function	Mandated						Non-Mandated								
	Statute	Fully Funded	Un-Funded	Partially Funded			Board Authorized Agreement	Board Resolution	Necessary	Discretionary	Funding Source				
				Designated State/Feds	User Fees / Fines	Other					Gen. Fund	User Fees	State/Fed Grant	Other	
Provide office space, equipment, and support staff for County Extension Office							11-17-11-108				X	X			
Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute															
Promote best practices in agriculture and natural resources management through education and training programs							11-17-11-108				X	X			
Children and Youth Institute															
Provide educational/leadership programs for youth							11-17-11-108				X	X			
Greening Michigan Institute															
Provide financial education programs							11-17-11-108				X	X			

OVERVIEW – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/HOUSING COMMISSION

Kent County is eligible to receive, but not required to accept, funding from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The annual CDBG grant amount is determined by a federal statutory formula based on County population, degree of poverty and housing conditions and the national appropriation by Congress. The Board of Commissioners annually approves the application for funds and the CDBG Action Plan. All CDBG funds must be used for specific eligible activities detailed in federal statutes and regulations.

Among the programs supported by the CDBG program is the Housing Rehabilitation program. Additionally, this Community Development program is designed to provide low interest (3 percent) or deferred loans to low and moderate income home owners.

In 2005 the Community Develop/Housing Commission also began securing HOME funds from the Federal Government. The purpose of the HOME Program is to increase the supply of safe, decent, sanitary, and affordable housing for low and very-low-income households.

The Department also operates a Continuum of Care grant program, as authorized by the Board of Commissioners. The Community Development Department is responsible for implementing the Continuum of Care program, which contracts with non-profit housing corporations to provide rental units as permanent housing for homeless individuals and families.

The Kent County Housing Commission was established by the Board of Commissioners in August 1993 to provide rental assistance to extremely low and very-low income families outside of the cities of Grand Rapids, Wyoming, and Rockford which have their own housing commissions. This resolution authorizes the Housing Commission to seek, receive and disperse federal funds for housing purposes as allowed by law and in accordance with the purposes authorized by Michigan law.

As a part of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, the Housing Commission also operates a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program. The primary goal of the FSS program is to move participants from welfare to work by helping families identify barriers to employment and set goals detailing the steps that families will take to obtain the assistance needed to acquire and retain employment.

In 2006 the Housing Commission was approved as an official HUD Home Ownership Program. The intent of this program is to provide home ownership opportunities for Housing Choice Voucher clients completing the required Home Ownership education programs.

Community Development

Function	Mandated						Non-Mandated							
	Statute	Fully Funded	Un-Funded	Partially Funded			Board Authorized Agreement	Board Resolution	Necessary	Discretionary	Funding Source			
				Designated State/Feds	User Fees / Fines	Other					Gen. Fund	User Fees	State/Fed Grant	Other
Community Development Block Grant														
Administer the Housing Rehabilitation Program							4-22-04-37							X
Secure and administer CDBG funds from HUD							4-22-04-37				X			X
Secure and administer HOME funds from HUD							6-28-07-73							X
Housing Commission														
Administer County Housing Commission programs							8-12-93-105							X
Shelter Plus Care														
Housing assistance for general homeless population							8-26-04-73							X