



COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS – 2014 UPDATE

There are numerous examples of how Kent County interacts and works with local units of government within its boundaries, including its largest city, Grand Rapids, as well as other local and regional partners.

Regional (Local Government) Efforts

1. **Ada Township DDA:** The County entered into a tax sharing agreement with Ada Township and its DDA pursuant to the County's *Economic Development Participation Policy*.
2. **Area Community Services, Employment and Training (ACSET) Council:** In 1985, the City of Grand Rapids and the County partnered, via an Urban Cooperation Act, to establish ACSET. The Council was established to administer State, Federal and local funds to provide job training, foster self-sufficiency, and to advocate for a reduction in the causes of poverty. Until August 2014, ACSET included the County, City of Grand Rapids, and Allegan County. In August 2014, Barry County was added.
3. **Animal Control and Local Police:** Local police agencies throughout Kent County often encounter urgent situations where animals are involved. In some instances, the animal is the cause of the problem and an active threat; in other cases, abandoned animals require care in the aftermath of criminal activity. Police agencies are not readily equipped to capture and/or care for animals in these situations. During 2014, the Animal Shelter (Animal Control) responded to approximately 300 calls from police agencies requesting assistance.
4. **Assessing:** In 2006 and 2007, the County entered into two agreements to provide appraisal services for commercial/industrial properties and deed-splitting services for the City of Grand Rapids. The deed-splitting services contract continues. In 2008 and 2009, the Bureau of Equalization completed work on the reappraisal of all commercial/industrial property in Alpine and Grand Rapids townships. In 2010 and 2011, the Bureau completed a commercial/industrial property reappraisal for Algoma Township. The Bureau is exploring several options to collaborate with local assessors seeking to achieve greater efficiency in their mapping and assessing related duties. In 2013 and 2014, Equalization completed work on a one year name/address maintenance contract with the City of Grand Rapids. Equalization is working with locals, counties, and BS&A software to achieve better systems integration between the county and local units. Additional efforts are underway to promote and establish a shared regional equalization server between counties.
5. **Assisted Debt Financing:** In 1997, and again in 2000, the County issued \$12.4 million of debt to assist the City of Grand Rapids in financing of certain floodwall improvements utilizing the County's AAA credit rating providing the City of Grand Rapids (lower credit rating) with an interest rate savings of over (0.25% interest rate reduction) \$400,000 over the life of these bond issuances. In September 2008 the County refinanced \$7.87 million of this indebtedness, achieving a gross interest savings of \$291,000 over the remaining life of this indebtedness. In 2014, and again in 2015, the County will be assisting the City of Grand Rapids with additional bond issues for floodwall improvements utilizing the County's AAA credit rating to obtain a lower interest rate and provide additional savings. Improving and maintaining the floodwalls benefits both the City of Grand Rapids and the County. Without the application of the County's AAA credit rating, the City would not have been able to achieve the interest savings noted above along with additional interest savings for the upcoming bond issues.
6. **Body Art Facility Enforcement:** In an effort to improve the enforcement component of the Michigan Body Art law, the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) has strengthened its relationship with the Community Policing Section of the Grand Rapids Police Department. Through this relationship, the KCHD has effectively worked on several occasions either directly with a body art facility or with complainants alleging the illegal operation of a body art facility in an unlicensed facility.

7. ***Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention:*** The Health Department works in collaboration with the City of Grand Rapids Code Compliance Division, Community Development Department and the Housing Rehabilitation Office, along with the Rental Property Owners Association, the local non-profit Healthy Homes Coalition and five City neighborhood associations on lead-based paint hazard control of homes in the City of Grand Rapids. This partnership started in 2001 through the community collaborative, Get the Lead Out! and has succeeded in bringing 14 million dollars into the City of Grand Rapids, eliminating lead hazards in 1,350 homes, creating construction-related jobs and helping to reduce the number of lead poisoning cases by 87%.
8. ***Children's Assessment Center:*** A facility/program providing multi-disciplinary response to allegations of child sexual abuse. The Children's Assessment Center (CAC) is located at 901 Michigan NE and provides office space for two Sheriff Deputies, three Grand Rapids police officers, four Department of Human Services' protective service workers, counselors and doctors/nurses. The County and cities of Grand Rapids, Wyoming, Grandville, and Walker provide financial support for operations of the Center. In addition, the Sheriff's Department has an agreement with the CAC and contributes \$52,500 annually to the Center, and investigates situations occurring in cities without trained investigators.
9. ***Clandestine Drug Laboratory Response:*** Illegal drug manufacturing is a problem which has plagued law enforcement and public health for many years. The number of clandestine drug laboratories reported to the Kent County Health Department has risen in recent years. These labs generally manufacture methamphetamines, LSD, or methcathinone; and these operations leave toxic residues throughout a property which can be extremely harmful to subsequent residents. Michigan state law designates local health departments as the lead enforcing agency during the clean-up phase of clandestine drug operations, however, an effective response involves a partnership between local and county officials. During 2014, the Kent County Health Department worked closely with the Grand Rapids Police Department, the Cedar Springs Police, and the Metropolitan Enforcement Task Force in response to five clandestine drug labs. During 2014, the Kent County Health Department worked closely with the Kentwood Police Department, Wyoming Police Department, Grand Rapids Police Department, the Metropolitan Enforcement Task Force and the Kent Area Narcotics Enforcement Team (KANET), that includes officers from Grandville Police Department, East Grand Rapids Public Safety Department, Walker Public Safety Department, and the Sheriff's Department, in response to nine clandestine drug labs.
10. ***Community Collaboration Work Group:*** In January 2012, the County created a new Committee (the Community Collaboration Work Group or CCWG) which includes the following individuals: County Commissioners Jim Saalfeld (Chair), Carol Hennessy, Dan Koorndyk, and Michael Wawee Jr.; City Commissioners Rosalynn Bliss and James White; Grand Rapids Township Supervisor Michael DeVries; Walker City Manager Cathy VanderMeulen; Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Rick Baker; The Right Place, Inc., President/CEO Birgit Klohs; Hispanic Center of West Michigan CEO Martha Gonzolez-Cortez; municipal attorney James Brown; and GVSU Professor Dr. Paul Isley. The CCWG met regularly in 2012 and reviewed the many functions of local government and developed some concepts for consideration. The group also reviewed two reports from Dr. George Erickcek, Upjohn Institute economist, related to collaboration activities and potential economic impact of consolidations, and heard from a national expert (Dr. Kurt Thurmaier). A final report was issued in March 2013 and adopted by the Board of Commissioners on June 13, 2013. Since that time, the managers of the cities of Grand Rapids, Wyoming, and Plainfield Township, along with County Administrator Daryl Delabbio, GVMC Executive Director John Weiss, and Chamber of Commerce President Rick Baker have been meeting regularly to identify areas where more collaboration can exist and how the Chamber of Commerce can assist in facilitating dialogue. Dispatch, police and fire services, and assessing have been discussed as potential areas where collaboration can move forward.

11. **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program:** The Community Development and Housing Department works with 32 local units of government, and public and non-profit agencies to develop strategies to improve the quality of life throughout the County. The Department acts as a conduit to bring “Entitlement” grant funds and Section 8 funds to the County to expand opportunities for low and moderate income residents. The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) is part of the CDBG program and began in 2008 with a \$3.9 million federal grant. The program is designed to rehabilitate existing housing stock and make it available for low-moderate income individuals for purchase or rent. Property has been rehabilitated in Wyoming, Kentwood and Grandville. The County has, for the past several years, been contracted by the City of Wyoming to monitor sub-recipient services for its CDBG program. In addition, the County was awarded a grant through the State of Michigan’s Competitive Grant Assistance Program to study the potential consolidation of community development offices with the cities of Grand Rapids and Wyoming.
12. **Community Health Needs Assessment:** In 2014, the Health Department worked with more than 100 partners, including the area’s major hospitals and mental health providers to collect data for a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The results from the CHNA will be used to formulate a Community Health Improvement Plan which will address the issues identified in the CHNA. Community input for the CHNA included regional community focus groups with over 200 participants and survey data which was received from a racially and ethnically diverse group of individuals throughout Kent County with a broad range of life experiences and economic backgrounds. The CHNA identified many strategic issues that community stakeholders would like addressed.
13. **Community Probation:** Five local communities have pooled Juvenile Accountability Block Grant dollars, required local funding and other resources into a Juvenile Community Probation Program offered by the 17th Judicial Circuit Court Family Division. Juvenile Probation Officers and Surveillance Officers team up with Community Policing Officers in the communities to provide greater coordination and closer monitoring of juvenile offenders.
14. **Corridor Improvement Districts:** In 2008, the County worked with the Townships of Plainfield and Grand Rapids on an intergovernmental agreement to participate in a Corridor Improvement District (CID) on Plainfield Avenue. This is the first such agreement reached based upon the County’s Economic Development Policy. In 2009, a similar agreement was entered into with the Townships of Byron and Gaines for its CID (Division Avenue CID), which was affirmed again in 2014, and in 2014 an agreement with Byron Township and its 84th Street CID.
15. **County 911 Dispatch:** The County has been working with local units of government since 2001 to make improvements to the emergency 911 system. While this has been in the discussion stage for the past decade, over the past several years a significant amount of progress has been made. The County, along with the cities of Grand Rapids, Wyoming, Walker, and Grandville, formed a dispatch authority comprised of representatives from police, fire, and the EMS agencies as well as managers and supervisors from participating communities. In July 2007, the Authority adopted a Strategic Plan that consolidates the call-taking function by reducing the number of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in Kent County from five to two. In December 2009, the Authority entered into a contract for a new \$2.8 million Computer Aided Dispatch system which will provide the technology to simultaneously dispatch police, fire, and EMS personnel. In 2010, the Authority began contracting for call-taking services with the Sheriff’s Department and the City of Grand Rapids; all 911 calls are now routed to one of the two PSAPs, which reduce the number of times a call may be transferred. As the Authority continues to improve the delivery of emergency 911 services, work is now beginning to improve radio communications capabilities. Address updating and ongoing maintenance is being performed through an agreement with the Bureau of Equalization’s Property Description and Mapping Division. The Dispatch Authority is working with a consultant to evaluate and upgrade radio capabilities through a \$2-plus million grant through FEMA.

16. ***Cooperative Law Enforcement Programs:*** The Sheriff's Office collaborates with local units of government and local police departments to share the cost and use of various enforcement, investigative, and crime prevention programs. In June 2006, the Grand Rapids Metropolitan Area Law Enforcement Partnership was established, including the State Police, cities of Grand Rapids, East Grand Rapids, Wyoming and Kentwood and the Sheriff's Department. This partnership formally established several cooperative teams including: Metropolitan Area Cold Case Team, Metropolitan Area Major Case Task Force, Metropolitan Fraud and Identity Theft Team, Metropolitan Crime Analysis Project Team, Metropolitan Major Case Accident Investigation, and the Metropolitan Policy/Procedure Development Committee. In addition, the Sheriff's department provides a variety of services to local communities as a part of mutual aid which includes the Marine Unit, K-9 unit, Mounted unit, and other investigative/enforcement services. The Sheriff's Office also participates in numerous other local and regional initiatives recognizing that crime is not restricted to the boundary of any city, village, or township. The Sheriff's Office has underwater search and recovery capabilities, computer forensic services, and an indoor firearms training facility, all of which are shared with local governments. In addition, the Sheriff provides mobile command service to local units. The Sheriff's Office led the way to share law enforcement incident records, first with all local law enforcement agencies, then with a large block of West Michigan counties (and their local units), and is leading the way to share data statewide and nationally. The County has entered into agreements with several townships and school districts to provide enhanced patrol services. The County also worked with Gaines Charter Township to lease a portion of its township hall for the Sheriff's South Substation, which serves the southern tier of townships in the County. In addition, the Sheriff provides dispatch services for several local units of government. The Sheriff's Office has the only arson dog in the County, which is provided to not only all local police and fire departments, but to any requesting agency in Southwest Michigan. And the Sheriff has a service contract with the City of Kentwood to provide for crime scene forensic and evidence collection and processing service. The Sheriff, through the County Board of Commissioners, has entered into an agreement with six school districts, sharing the cost of School Resources Officers and, most recently, entered into an agreement with the City of Cedar Springs to provide all law enforcement services for that community.
17. ***District Courthouse:*** In 2008, the County, working with Grand Rapids Charter Township, identified a location for the new co-located 63rd District Courthouse. The new Courthouse is part of a municipal center in Grand Rapids Township which includes the Township Hall, the Township fire station, and a Township park. The design of the Courthouse and the common area was done in collaboration with the Township so as to generate a municipal center that will be a notable asset to the community for many years to come. The Courthouse was completed and became operational in November 2009. Related to this is an agreement that was entered into with the City of Rockford, turning the building that formerly housed a division of the 63rd District Court over to the City. In 2013, the City of Rockford acquired the remaining portion of the building that was used by the County and District Court for some court and probation functions. The facility now houses the Rockford Area Historical Museum.
18. ***Dog Licensing:*** State and local laws require dogs to obtain rabies vaccination and an annual license from the county in which they live. These requirements are in place in order to help ensure animal welfare and public safety. Animal control services, which are provided by the Kent County Animal Shelter, are funded in part by license revenues and benefit all citizens of Kent County. Twenty townships and/or nine cities/villages collaborate with Kent County by selling dog licenses during the annual licensing season. Vet clinics are now also participating with the dog licensing program. Twenty-three clinics participated in 2014 and several more are in the training process. In return, the county reimburses those local units and vet clinics \$0.80 per license sold and provides a service that the local units are not otherwise equipped to handle. This year, these local units and vet clinics sold over 10,000 dog licenses.
19. ***Drain Plan Updates:*** For a number of years the Drain Commission worked with local units in Kent County to update their respective drain master plans, with the County paying one-half the cost of the updates. To date, the following communities have had their master plans updated through this program: the townships of Algoma, Alpine, Byron, Caledonia, Cannon, Cascade, Gaines, Grand Rapids and Plainfield; and the cities of Grand Rapids, Kentwood, Walker and Wyoming.

20. **Elections:** The County Clerk programs the school, primary and general elections for all locales, and creates the over 280 ballot styles needed for each election and works with local unit Clerks to coordinate bulk purchasing of election supplies.
21. **Emergency Management:** Kent County Emergency Management is an active part of the Region 6 Homeland Security Planning Board. Since 2007, Homeland Security Funding has been administered on a regional basis. The Region 6 Homeland Security Planning Board is comprised of the counties of: Clare, Isabella, Ionia, Lake, Kent, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa; the cities of Grand Rapids and Ionia; Public Health agencies; and Region 6 Bioterrorism Defense Committee. The activities at the regional level consist of planning, training, exercising, equipment, interoperable communications, law enforcement efforts, and citizen preparedness. Kent County has a leadership role in the Critical Infrastructure /Key Resources committee, which includes the West Michigan Water and Energy Security Consortium and the West Michigan Cyber Security Consortium. These Consortiums continue to provide liaison, training, and information sharing for critical infrastructure facilities, as well as area law enforcement and response agencies at all levels. The Critical Infrastructure / Key Resources committees are a tribute to the collaborative efforts of both public and private sector shareholders. Kent County has representation on all seven regional committees as well as a leadership role on the Regional Planning Board. Kent County has collaborated with the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, as well as local and regional resources and agencies to provide Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and team formation in an effort to enhance citizen preparedness. On July 1, 2012 the City of Grand Rapids contracted with Kent County Emergency Management for services. The County now provides those services for all cities, villages and townships within Kent County. In addition, the City of Grand Rapids and Kent County's Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) merged in 2012. In 2013 formation of an automatic mutual aid system for the Kent County fire departments was implemented. The Mutual Aid Box Alarm Systems (MABAS) has successfully created policies and procedures to enhance response to mutual aid requests in the fire services. The Kent County MABAS division is able to assist on incidents in Kent County, Region 6, as well as throughout the State of Michigan. Michigan PA 390 requires that all jurisdictions with populations over ten thousand have an emergency Local Support Plan, which compliments the overall County emergency response plan. In 2012-2013 the Kent County Emergency Management office assisted all jurisdictions within Kent County either write an original plan, or update their current plan. The Kent County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) serves as the point of contact for emergency operations in Kent County. Due to record flooding in 2013, the EOC served as the coordination point for flood response and recovery actions. Kent County Emergency Management provides training to both public and private sector shareholders in the Incident Command System, Severe Weather (SKYWARN), Emergency Planning and Response, Community Preparedness, and School Violence and Threat Assessment. The emergency management office continues to be active in school safety and security. We are currently engaged in planning and presenting a series of workshops dealing with emergency planning, school drills, and other school safety issues. Those attending these workshops represent all school districts within Kent County, as well as area law enforcement agencies. Kent County Emergency Management continues to partner and take a leadership role with critical infrastructure providers in both the public and private sector. The West Michigan Water and Energy Consortium continues to provide liaison, training, and information sharing for critical infrastructure facilities, as well as area law enforcement and response agencies at all levels.
22. **Equalization Collaboration:** In March 2011, the Bureau of Equalization entered into a collaborative effort with Montcalm County. Through the agreement, Kent County's Director, Matt Woolford, also became the director of record for Montcalm County's equalization department. Kent County now oversees the work of the existing Montcalm County staff, with Matt Woolford or Deputy Director Steve Rickers spending one day a week, on average, at Montcalm County's offices in Stanton. The first years of the agreement have been viewed as a pilot and have been extended through December 2015. This collaboration has worked well thus far, with Kent County's general fund receiving additional revenue while Montcalm is saving money on Equalization Director services.

23. **Family Self Sufficiency (FSS):** The Kent County Housing Commission, through its Family Self Sufficiency Program (FSS), co-sponsored events with Huntington Bank and the Department of Human Services (DHS) to help boost employment and savings for certain recipients of federal housing assistance. By law, residents living in public housing or receiving Section 8 vouchers are required to pay 30 percent of their adjusted income for rent and utilities. While this rule keeps rents relatively low, increases in income are siphoned off by higher rents, creating a work disincentive. FSS creates a structure for residents to save the money that would otherwise go toward increased rents and to become independent of public assistance. In 2011 Huntington Bank provided mortgage underwriting training for the Housing Commission Home Ownership programs for Kent County, Wyoming, Grand Rapids and area non-profits. Additionally the Housing Commission hosted an informational session presented by DHS for area agencies regarding the reduction in cash assistance and changes in DHS policies and procedures that impact clients at the Grand Rapids Charter Township Hall. A Resource Fair was also conducted by Grand Rapids Community College, the Kent County, Wyoming and Grand Rapids Family Self Sufficiency programs. Over 48 organizations and community partners provided information and services to participating clients.
24. **Farmers Markets:** Kent/MSU Extension educators provide information and support to all community farmers markets within an eight county area of West Michigan. Many of these markets are operated by local units of government. The Michigan Farmers Market Association held their 2014 Market Manager Certificate Program at Kent/MSU Extension in January and February 2014. MSU Extension has an office at the Downtown Grand Rapids Market and partners with the Market and more than 20 businesses located there to offer educational programs around local food and agriculture. From April – October 2014, over 1,000 people received information from MSU Extension at this location. Additionally staff received a \$9,800 grant from the Wege Foundation to support consumer education around local agricultural products.
25. **Fiber Optic Data Network:** The County has been working with a group of partners on two separate projects. The first involves Grand Valley Metro Council, Kent Intermediate School District (KISD), various local public school districts, the City of Grand Rapids, and the Michigan Department of Transportation. As a result, the County will be able to offer a faster, more reliable data network connection to some outlying County facilities, including Health Department clinics, John Ball Zoo, and the Parks department administration building. In the second project, the County has partnered with Grand Rapids and KISD in extending our high-speed data network to the new 63rd District Courthouse at Knapp and the East Beltline. These projects are now complete. In addition, an extension to the first project also provides high-speed data access to the Gerald R. Ford International Airport, allowing us to support the airport much as we support other County departments.
26. **Fire Commission:** The present Fire Commission originated in 1942 by the County Board of Commissioners to provide fire protection in areas of the County. The County and local units share the program cost. The program is administrated by the Purchasing Division. Numerous local units participate with the County on joint purchasing of insurance, fire equipment, and fire emergency vehicles, taking advantage of cost savings realized with the “bulk” purchase of goods and services.
27. **Financial Management System:** The City of Grand Rapids was awarded an Economic Vitality Incentive Program (EVIP) grant related to replacement of its financial management system. As part of this undertaking, the City planned to survey best practices of other local units of government in the state. Initially, the County agreed to participate as part of an advisory group that was to solicit those best practices. As the project has progressed, the City came to the conclusion that it would enhance the project to have another government more closely involved than just advisory group participation. Kent County is partnering with Grand Rapids in this effort, and the City has included a County needs assessment as part of the EVIP grant. The project is being headed by a joint executive committee, with consultants from Plante & Moran guiding in the needs assessment and eventual product selection. It is our hope that participation in the project will result in choosing an application and an administrative structure that will be suitable for the County’s use. Even if that does not turn out to be the case, the needs assessment is work that we would need to have undertaken, and we will be able to leverage that work for our own selection process.

28. **Fiscal Services/Central Services Printing:** The Central Services Division currently provides printing services for the City of Grand Rapids and a few other participating municipalities and organizations (the cities of Kentwood, Grandville, Rockford and Wyoming, the Village of Sparta, Nelson Township, the Rapid, the Grand Rapids Downtown Development Authority, Grand Rapids Kent County Convention Arena Authority, Michigan Public Purchasing Officers Association, NACCTFO Treasurers Association, etc.). Approximately 425 print orders per year come from these outside agencies. In addition, we expect to add Ottawa and Allegan Counties in the next few months.
29. **Fiscal Services – Purchasing:** A) The Purchasing Division’s collaboration initiative utilizing County purchasing services was implemented in 2010. Participating local government agency membership has grown 40% within the last year resulting in average savings of more than 15% on commodity purchases. The Purchasing Division regularly coordinates purchases among and assists local government agencies in bidding, requesting quotes and reverse bidding. In addition, the Purchasing Division hosted a regional procurement summit for Kent and Ottawa County participating agencies in 2014 to discuss ongoing collaboration efforts and share ideas. B) The Purchasing Division developed a bid calendar to benefit both Kent County and local government agencies who participate in the County’s procurement collaboration programs. The calendar is an upcoming solicitation schedule posted on Kent County’s website for County employees, vendors and local participating agencies that helps coordinate purchases between agencies and leverage volume purchases, resulting in reduced acquisition costs and increased business opportunities for suppliers. The calendar has resulted in joint bidding the waste hauling services contract between the County and two local government agencies. This initiative positions the County for future expansion of procurement collaboration with other West Michigan communities. C) The Purchasing Division expanded procurement collaboration programs originating with the Kent County Fire Commission to the Kent County Fire Chief Association. This initiative provides new tools for fire departments to efficiently consolidate their purchase volume with other Kent County Fire Departments and local government agencies, utilizing the established County collaboration initiatives, County Purchasing systems and expertise.
30. **Friend of the Court (FOC): Early Intervention:** The FOC worked with Cherry Street and Kent County Health Department (KCHD) Maternal Infant Health Providers to develop and distribute an eye-catching brochure about the child support program. This document provides information about FOC and its partner agencies so new parents who will be involved in the child support system will be better prepared. The goal is to help get payments to families sooner, and continue connections between fathers and children. **Community Resource Fairs:** Through events such as Kent County Resource Fair, Fresh Start Expo, and e-Bus, the FOC works with multiple organizations to provide information to the community and coordinate services. **Prison Outreach and Re-entry:** The Friend of the Court, in conjunction with Grand Rapids Police Department (GRPD), the State Department of Corrections and community activists, enter Bellamy Creek Prison once a month to discuss child support and other matters. In addition, FOC representatives attend re-entry meetings held at Bates Place Ministries. This gives the parolees an understanding of expectations of the FOC and guidance for them upon their release back to the community. This is invaluable in that it helps develop a relationship, educates and allows for managing of the inmates’ case status prior to parole, and assists a population that is starting over again. **Mission Friday:** The Friend of the Court sends representatives monthly to the Guiding Light Mission on South Division Avenue to connect with those that have child support concerns and are unable to make it to the office. The agencies in the Heartside neighborhood post upcoming events on public information screens so residents will know when the FOC representatives will be available. Although Kent County FOC can only take action on in-county cases, we are able to make referrals to other offices throughout the State of Michigan on behalf of the participants. This service is valuable in locating, educating and informing a population that has multiple challenges. **Education Programming:** The Salvation Army provides an on-site education program that will assist them to manage their FOC issues, to promote relationship building, and to encourage future communication so that stigmas surrounding dealing with the FOC office are overcome. **ICCF:** Building Assets for Fathers and Families (BAFF) ICCF works closely with the FOC assisting custodial and non-custodial parents gain financial stability in order to better the lives of their children. The agency is able to provide direct communication to the office so that debt management strategies can be discussed.

31. **GIS:** While the County is no longer a formal member of the Regional GIS (REGIS) consortium, it continues to contribute certain data it maintains, such as parcels, to REGIS at no cost. The County further maintains street centerline data on the REGIS system to the benefit of all local units, as this information is used by the Kent County Dispatch Authority. In addition, the County has offered a special version of its internal web-based data viewing application at no charge, and allows no-cost downloads of its internally-maintained GIS data to the public. Finally, mobile versions of the County's parcel viewer application are available at no cost on Apple iOS and Android devices.
32. **Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC):** In 1990, the County became one of thirteen original (charter) members of the State's first, and only, Metropolitan Council (Grand Valley Metro Council). The Metro Council is now comprised of 34 units of government from the Grand Rapids/Kent County area. GVMC has developed competencies in transportation planning (MPO) and as a forum for discussing regional issues. Commissioners Carol Hennessy and Jim Saalfeld, and County Administrator/Controller Daryl Delabbio serve on the GVMC Board. In addition, Daryl Delabbio serves on its Executive Committee. The GVMC serves as grant administrator and fiduciary for the State's new "Prosperity Regions" initiative to encourage public, private, and non-profit organizations to partner for more regional communication, cooperation, and collaboration.
33. **Grand Valley Regional Biosolid Authority (City of Grand Rapids, City of Wyoming):** The Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board, through the Purchase of Development Rights Program, has a partnership with the Grand Valley Regional Biosolid Authority to develop and implement a Biosolid/PDR Pilot program. The potential for partnership remains open, but currently no farms meeting the criteria for funding have been identified.
34. **Hazard Mitigation Plan:** As a result of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, local units of government were required to prepare a hazard mitigation plan by November 2004. While the County is mandated by state law to provide for countywide emergency management through a designated coordinator, as well as administering a planning committee to conduct activities relating to the clean up and disposal of hazardous material spills, Kent County has gone above and beyond these functions by joining forces (and resources) with the City of Grand Rapids and Ottawa County to prepare a regional hazard mitigation plan. The Greater Grand Rapids Hazard Mitigation Plan (GGRHMP) was approved by FEMA in 2012. The approval of this plan allows our jurisdiction to receive federal mitigation funding; as a result, several awards have been received by cities and townships in Kent County for mitigation projects.
35. **Household Hazardous Waste:** The Department of Public Works purchased and placed a hazardous waste containment system at the City of Wyoming Clean Water Plant. The City of Wyoming and DPW jointly carry out the collection of household hazardous waste from the community. The DPW also manages three other household hazardous waste sites for County residents. These containment sites are located in the cities of Grand Rapids, Kentwood and Plainfield Charter Township.
36. **Human Services Complex:** Since 1974, the County had leased the 415 Franklin facility to the State of Michigan's Department of Human Services for the cost of operations and maintenance. After multiple attempts to find a new location, in 2005 the County, the City and the State began discussing the possible relocation of the DHS to a new, County-owned facility. Land was acquired, in cooperation with the City and the Grand Rapids Public Schools to develop a new Human Services Complex on the site of a building housing County (Health Clinic) and ACSET services, located on Sheldon Street in Grand Rapids. In early 2007, the County and the State signed a lease agreement to construct a new \$27 million consolidated facility, which now houses the State DHS, ACSET and a County Health Clinic. Construction on the 137,000 square foot facility was completed and opened in June 2009.
37. **Investment Pool:** The County Treasurer has implemented a pooled investment program whereby local units of government can participate and have funds invested with the County's funds to obtain the best possible rate of return. Approximately 20 local units within the County, as well as several authorities, participate. In October 2011, the City of Grand Rapids joined the investment pool.

38. **Joint Committee on NPDES Phase II Stormwater Permitting:** To date, 25 local units of government within Kent County have adopted a stormwater control ordinance using the Model Stormwater Ordinance developed by the teams which worked under the umbrella of the County Drain Commissioner. A number of other counties have requested a copy of the model ordinance to use as a basis for a model ordinance in their county. The Drain Commissioner is serving with representatives from Ottawa County and numerous local units of government on several committees of the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW) with the goal of meeting NPDES Phase II requirements.
39. **Kent Trails:** In 1992, Kent County and the communities of Grand Rapids, Grandville, Wyoming, Walker and Byron Township entered into an agreement to develop and maintain Kent Trails. A unique component of the agreement resulted in the communities collectively depositing \$12,500 annually into a fund to ensure that sufficient funds would be available when the time came to rebuild or do significant repairs to the trail. This fund was used to match and secure an MDOT grant which the Parks Department used to rebuild Kent Trails in 2009. In 2011, all partners agreed to extend the inter-local agreement for another 20-year period. The Sheriff also operates a volunteer trail patrol for safety and assistance.
40. **Local First and the West Michigan Growers Group:** MSU Extension staff authored a USDA Farmers Market Promotion program grant application for \$94,000, which was awarded. The money will be used for collaborative marketing of CSA's (Community Supported Agriculture) in 2015-16. Partners in this effort are Local First and the West Michigan Growers Group.
41. **Local Units Law Enforcement In-Service Training System:** The Sheriff's Department, along with the police and fire departments of Grand Rapids, East Grand Rapids, Kentwood, Walker, Wyoming, and Grandville now has the ability to login and view the schedule of all in-service training sessions county-wide. At a glance, the user is able to sort the schedule by title, category, location or date/time, and determine if a class is open to registration. The user is able to view the class description, hours, cost, training location, prerequisites, and what materials, equipment and uniform to bring to the class. Training coordinators are able to register staff members electronically, with email reminders and other notifications sent automatically to class participants. The system allows each training coordinator to store their staff's training history by person and run year-end reports. Each department can view training opportunities available and whether that training is open for all police departments (interdepartmental) or exclusive to the particular police department sponsoring the training.
42. **Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS):** Over the past ten years, the County has worked with Grand Rapids, Wyoming, and Kentwood, and administrators from the three major medical facilities (Spectrum, St. Mary's and Metropolitan Hospital) within the County on an Executive Committee to facilitate and prepare private and public sector organizations throughout the County for response to mass casualty incidents.
43. **Millennium Park:** This is a 1,500 acre park along the Grand River located within the cities of Grand Rapids, Wyoming, Walker, and Grandville. This \$30 million-plus park is the crown jewel of parks in Kent County and one of the largest urban parks in the country. The Parks Department has worked with the City of Walker to cross roads with pedestrian bridges and crosswalks as the trail system in the park expands, and has partnered with the cities of Walker and Grand Rapids to construct a water main to serve a portion of the park. Construction of the main will take place at the same time as the next phase of development, which is currently in the fundraising and planning stages.

44. **Parks Department:** The Kent County Parks Department regularly seeks and develops collaborations with outside organizations and units of government. Many local units of government are strong partners in park projects within their borders, including the funding of acquisition or development projects: Alpine Township (Wahlfield Park), Caledonia Township (Ruehs, Riverbend, Two Rivers), Cannon Township (Luton), Gaines Township (Creekside, Brewer Park), and Grand Rapids Township (Knapp Valley Forest). The department has also assisted many local jurisdictions with master planning and design or development of a local jurisdiction's facilities: Ada (trail easement and layout assistance, Covered Bridge/riverfront design development), Algoma (design/development of Camp Lake and Fonger Park), Alpine (design assistance for Westgate and Alpine Sports Complex, master plan assistance), Cannon (trail easement and trail maintenance), Casnovia (design and development of ball field and parking), Grand Rapids Township (prepared Park Master Plans, provided design and development for park at Township Hall, grant writing assistance), Lowell Township (design assistance for Lowell Township Park), Nelson (trail development funds for Gordon Park/White Pine trail connection), Oakfield Township (design assistance township hall ball field), Plainfield Township (design assistance for township properties and 10 Mile landfill property, worked with township of Comstock Park library), and Sparta Village (design service for community park). In addition, the department plays a significant role in the development of major non-motorized off-road trails in the community which invite collaboration due to their multi-jurisdictional nature. The Department worked with Kentwood, Gaines Township and Caledonia Village and Township in developing the Paul Henry Thornapple Trail and with Gaines and Byron Townships as well as the Road Commission and the Michigan Department of Transportation in the development of the M-6 Trail. Development of a trail connecting the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park to the Musketawa Trail was created via a partnership with the DNR, MDOT, the City of Walker and the Meijer Foundation. The Parks Department played key roles in the planning and establishment of the Lowell to Greenville Trail, the Lowell to Ionia trail as well as the North Country Trail corridor south of Lowell. Finally, the department's Volunteer Services Program regularly works with many community organizations and units of government on multiple projects annually. Significant new collaborative activities in 2014 included working with Caledonia Township and private property owner for the construction of a parking lot at Leopard Park, securing local match funds from Gaines Township to match MDOT funds for the construction of one mile of the Paul Henry Trail over M-6, working with KCRC and MDOT to develop a very creative solution for the trail routing, securing \$75,000 from each Cannon and Courtland townships for new parking at Luton Park, and working with Cannon Township on the layout and proposed construction of a trail connecting Townsend Park to the Village of Cannonsburg, securing \$200,000 from various sources for the local match to \$810,000 in DNR grant funds
45. **Planning Assistance:** Kent/MSU Extension Office provides local officials from all units of government in Kent County land use information and educational opportunities on land use issues. Educational opportunities include Citizen Planner programs, as well as local and state conferences. MSU Extension provided a workshop on Parliamentary Procedure for Effective Meetings for Cannon Township in 2014.
46. **Plainfield Township/Mountain Biking:** The West Michigan Mountain Biking Association has laid out five miles of mountain biking trails on the 10 Mile Road Property that has been leased to Plainfield Township. The County, Department of Public Works, West Michigan Sports Commission, and Kent County Road Commission have reviewed and approved a contour map layout of the course and amended leases are in the process of being prepared to accommodate the course.
47. **Personal Property Tax:** During 2012, representatives from County Administration, Fiscal Services, and Bureau of Equalization met with representatives from Ottawa County, the cities of Grand Rapids and Wyoming, and the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council to work with Lt. Governor Brian Calley to develop a methodology for eliminating the personal property tax and funding replacement for local units of government. West Michigan's work group and input were critical components to the resulting legislation adopted in December 2012. In 2013, the collaborative effort has continued with the focus shifting to working with local units and the state to pass legislation making the promised technical amendments to the legislation adopted at the end of 2012. In August 2014, voters approved a ballot question that eliminates the personal property tax and provides for the state to replace most of the funding through a designation of the "user tax."

48. **Preliminary Examination Subpoenas:** As a result of collaboration between the Prosecutor and the various district courts, a new process has been implemented whereby only the investigating detective and victim are subpoenaed for the preliminary examination since most of these hearings are waived and testimony is not needed. There are some exceptions, depending on the charges. The benefits are significant: civilian and police witnesses are not brought into court unnecessarily and the County and courts save on witness and parking fees. In addition, police agencies, including the Kent County Sheriff's Department, benefit by 1) not having to pay off-duty officers for up to three hours of overtime for a court appearance, and 2) freeing on-duty officers to remain "on the job" in lieu of having to sit in a courtroom.
49. **Purchase of Development Rights:** The Kent County Purchase of Development Rights Program has been supported through a variety of public and private partnerships. Current funding partnerships in support of this program include Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Frey Foundation, Wege Foundation, Kent County Farm Bureau, and the following townships: Ada, Alpine, Bowne, Caledonia, Grattan, Nelson, Sparta, and Vergennes.
50. **Recovery Zone Facility Bonds:** In February 2009, Congress adopted legislation entitled "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009" (ARRA). Among other provisions, it defines the authority under which local units of government might issue Recovery Zone Facility (RZF) bonds. Kent County received its "allotment" for authority to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$54.857 million. The Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution designating the entire geographic area of Kent County as a "Recovery Zone," allowing the County to consider projects within the County. RZF bonds are tax exempt, private activity bonds which may be issued to assist local businesses with the construction, renovation or acquisition of property used in the conduct of most trades or businesses. The County acts as a "conduit" in the allocation of this bonding authority to private interests. The City of Grand Rapids and the County provided \$12.5 million each of bonding authority toward a \$25 million project involving the renovation and reuse of the former Federal Building (148 Ionia, NW). This project involves The Christman Capital Investment Group leasing the building from the City of Grand Rapids, renovating it, and subleasing it to Ferris State University for exclusive use of Ferris State and the Kendall College of Art and Design. An additional \$28.5 million in RZF bonds was allocated to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for the Avatar Park re-use project for the acquisition, construction, and installation of a music and film studio. The facility is now open for use.
51. **Residential Recycling:** The Department of Public Works has a number of collaborative efforts in the area of residential recycling services, including the following. A) Kentwood Recycling Drop-Off Center: the County collaborates with the City of Kentwood and a private company to provide a drop-off center for recycling. The City of Kentwood provides the land, a private company and the County's DPW provide funding, and the DPW operates the facility. B) Community Events: The DPW provides recycling drop-off collection stations that are loaned to municipal events (e.g., Festival of the Arts). C) Residential Recycling Operations: The DPW owns and operates a residential recycling facility. The existing facility accepts recyclable materials from locations within and outside of the County for processing. The DPW contracted with Rockford Construction to design and build a single stream recycling facility located at 977 Wealthy Street SW, Grand Rapids. The Recycling and Education Center construction was completed and the facility opened in July 2010. The facility has contracted with the City of Grand Rapids and several private waste companies in the area for the delivery of recyclable materials. D) Residential Recycling Delivery and Carts: The Department of Public Works entered into an agreement with the City of Grand Rapids that provides for delivery of recyclable materials to the Recycling and Education Center for processing. In addition, this agreement provided a loan to the City for the purchase and distribution of recycle carts to all City residents participating in the recycling program.
52. **Sparta Foundry:** A multijurisdictional collaboration between the Village of Sparta, Kent County Land Bank Authority, The Right Place, Inc., Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to acquire—through the tax foreclosure process—an obsolete, abandoned foundry, remediate the environmental issues, and re-sell it for productive use.

53. **Waste-to-Energy Facility:** Kent County created this partnership with the cities of Grand Rapids, East Grand Rapids, Wyoming, Grandville, Kentwood and Walker to finance and operate the Waste-to-Energy Facility (WTE). Refuse from the communities is burned to produce steam for electricity sold to Consumers Energy. The WTE also serves regional and local law enforcement and other governmental agencies to destroy illegal drugs and other unwanted material. The waste-to-energy facility bonds were fully paid in 2010.
54. **West Michigan Economic Partnership:** In April 2012, the County entered into an interlocal agreement with the cities of Grand Rapids, Wyoming, and Kentwood and Cascade Township, as well as Muskegon County, the City of Muskegon, and Muskegon Township to create the West Michigan Economic Partnership, an economic development authority designed to advance the marketing and development of a region that is served by two or more modes of transportation infrastructure (i.e., air, rail, road and water-port facilities and infrastructures). In 2013, the Partnership Board identified specific zones to be included in the Marketing Plan, and applied for and received a \$20,000 marketing grant from the State of Michigan.
55. **West Michigan Take Back Meds Program:** The traditional ways of managing unwanted household pharmaceuticals, such as flushing them down the toilet, pouring them down the drain, or throwing them into the trash, may be harming the environment and threatening public health. The City of Wyoming Clean Water Plant, City of Grand Rapids Waste Water System, North Kent Sewer Authority, Sheriff's Department and the Department of Public Works have jointly developed a regional unwanted pharmaceutical program: West Michigan Take Back Meds. A web page has been designed and has been implemented. Cities outside of Kent County have joined the program.
56. **Wyoming CDBG:** The County's Community Development Department, working with City of Wyoming Community Development office, established a service sharing agreement for monitoring of the City of Wyoming's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) sub-recipients: the Fair Housing Center; Home Repair Services; and Compassion This Way. A Memorandum of Understanding has been created which includes a mutually acceptable fee arrangement that was approved in November 2012.
57. **63rd District Court and Area Police Chiefs:** the Chiefs of Police of the north County cities (Rockford, Sparta, Cedar Springs and Sand Lake) requested that a system be developed that would allow these agencies to deliver their original citations, appearance tickets, police reports and other pertinent paperwork – required by statute to be in their “original” state when used in Court proceedings – to the 63rd District Court in a timely manner and at the same time minimize the time the police vehicles needed to be out of their jurisdiction. After some checking, the County's Purchasing Division determined that a private courier firm could add a Rockford-to-Grand Rapids Township run into its schedule twice a week at a cost of \$8-10 per run. As a result, Sand Lake, Cedar Springs, Sparta, and Rockford Police Departments now “pool” their citations at the Rockford Police Department, where the courier picks them up and delivers them to the Court twice weekly. District Court pays for the courier service (approximately \$900 annually) from its existing budget. The Sheriff's Office is working on an electronic warrant process with the Circuit Court, 63rd District Court, and Prosecutor's Office. This process will reduce errors and significantly reduce time necessary to process warrants.

City of Grand Rapids

58. **City-County Building Authority:** Many years ago, the City and County created a City-County Building Authority as a financing mechanism for many public improvement projects, including a parking structure at the former Grand Center, the Van Andel Public Museum facility, and most recently, the DeVos Place Convention Center.

59. **Community Archives and Research Center:** In 1999 the County committed to participation in the construction of a community archives and research center to be located on the site of the old public museum in Grand Rapids. This is a joint venture with the City of Grand Rapids and the Public Museum of Grand Rapids. Its vision is to bring together under one roof the off-exhibit collections of the museum, the archives of the City, and the public records of the County so that researchers, students, and the general public may access all of them in a “one-stop shopping” setting. The County has contributed \$3.5 million to the project along with significant staff time. Maintenance of the facility was assumed by the City Facilities Management Department in July 2006, and the County and City work together on facility maintenance/operational programs.
60. **Coordinated School Health Project:** Since 1999, Kent/MSU Extension and the Kent County Health Department have partnered with other community agencies and local school districts to increase the health of students in Kent County related to nutrition and physical fitness. Using USDA funds to provide primary support for these efforts, the focus of this work has been on low-income school buildings with more than 50% of the students receiving free or reduced-price lunch. Partners include several local school districts (Grand Rapids, Wyoming, Godfrey Lee, Godwin), the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids, Spectrum Health, United Dairy Industries of Michigan, Kent Intermediate School District, Campfire USA, and ACCESS.
61. **Courthouse:** The City of Grand Rapids and the County worked to finance jointly the construction of a \$60 million Courthouse, which houses the County’s judiciary and some ancillary services as well as the City’s 61st District Court. Once bonds are retired, the County and City will be co-owners of the facility (County – 68.65%; City – 31.35%).
62. **Grand River Floodwalls:** The Drainage Board has authorized and provided for the issuance by the Grand River Floodwalls and Embankments Drainage District of bonds to finance part of the costs of the Grand River Floodwall and Embankments Improvements. The County has pledged its full faith and credit on the bonds.
63. **Grand Rapids Smart Zone:** A Smart Zone has been established with medical, university and governmental partners to focus on medical research and biotech development. Partners include the City of Grand Rapids, Grand Valley State University (GVSU), Grand Rapids Community College, and the State of Michigan. It is centered on Michigan Hill where the Smart Zone funds a wet laboratory incubator in the GVSU Health Sciences Building and also includes the Monroe North District. A second Smart Zone area has been added to facilitate retention of Siemens’ Grand Rapids campus.
64. **Joint Maintenance Agreement:** The City and County share the same lobby and parking structure for the City Hall and County Administration Building. The City is responsible for maintenance of both facilities, and a joint maintenance agreement has been in effect for a number of years and was most recently reviewed and updated in 2007.
65. **Money Management Education:** In 2014, Kent/MSU Extension provided numerous money management workshops and educational series for community members in partnership with the following organizations: Grand Rapids Housing Commission (Hope Community and Sheldon Apartments), Dwelling Place (Weston Apartments), Cherry Street Health Services (AmeriCorps staff), Grand Rapids Salvation Army – Kindred Transitional Housing Program, Family Network of Wyoming, North Kent Community Services, Kent County Area on Aging, Kent County Senior Neighbors, and Kent County MI Works!.
66. **Remonumentation Surveyor:** The Bureau of Equalization is responsible for administering the remonumentation program in Kent County. This program requires the services of a registered Land Surveyor. Upon the retirement of long time county representative to the program, Harv Hubers, the Bureau of Equalization reached out to the City of Grand Rapids and has contracted with the City Engineering department to perform this service. In 2012, the County entered into an agreement with the City of Grand Rapids for John Wiles to serve as the County Representative to the Remonumentation Program. The agreement was extended in 2013 and 2014. This collaboration has worked very well and is expected to continue in the coming year.

67. ***Wealthy Street Extension/Butterworth Street Realignment Project:*** When the Millennium Park Master Plan was updated in 2006, it identified the extension of Wealthy Street and realignment of Butterworth Street near the east end of the Park as having the potential to provide improved access and gateway appearance. These infrastructure improvements would also be important to support the full development of the Master Plan for the Park, which includes a potential amphitheater near the east end. The roads are actually under the jurisdiction of the City of Grand Rapids, with a small part in the City of Walker. In support of the plan, the CAA applied for and received a HUD Economic Development Initiative Special Projects grant of \$142,500 for preliminary design and survey work on the project. Subsequently, the City of Grand Rapids also applied for and received a \$500,000 grant from MDOT for the realignment and reconfiguration of Butterworth from Veteran’s Memorial Drive to the Wealthy Street Extension area, and continues to seek funding for the project. Both the City of Walker and Kent County staff have been part of the planning team on these projects.
68. ***415 Franklin Property Exchange:*** Following the move of the Department of Human Services to the new Human Services Complex in 2009, the County and City of Grand Rapids entered into an agreement for the transfer of the former properties that housed the DHS to the City of Grand Rapids in exchange for six properties near the new Human Services Complex that were converted into additional parking for the facility.
69. ***61st District Court Information Technology Services:*** Since 2006, the County has provided the City of Grand Rapids’ 61st District Court certain information technology services. Transition of the information technology services took place in mid-August 2006 and continues to this day.

The County and Others

70. ***Aeronautics/Public Safety:*** The Department of Aeronautics has entered into the following mutual-aid agreements: County-wide police and fire mutual aid agreements, Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (see item #21), and the Metro Area Fire Service Initial Emergency Automatic Aid Agreement (Grand Rapids, Cascade Township and Kentwood fire departments). The Department of Aeronautics has also entered into a CPR Training Site Agreement with the Cascade Township Fire Department.
71. ***Aeronautics/The Rapid:*** As part of the Terminal Area and Parking Improvement Program, GFIA built one air-conditioned, heated inter-modal shelter for use by the The Rapid (under its former name, the Interurban Transit Partnership or ITP) at a cost of \$260,250. The shelter opened in November 2009.
72. ***Coalition to End Homelessness:*** For a number of years, the County—through the Unmet Needs Fund of the Department of Human Services—has partnered with the City of Grand Rapids and Salvation Army to fund a Housing Continuum of Care Coordinator position to provide increased support for the vision to end homelessness. The “Vision to End Homelessness” strategy was adopted in 2006 to ensure a permanent residence for every citizen by 2014.
73. ***Convention/Arena Authority:*** The County, along with the City of Grand Rapids, State of Michigan, and the private sector joined forces through the creation of a convention/arena authority to own and operate the Van Andel Arena and DeVos Place Convention Center. The County is the major funding unit for the Convention Center (\$95 million), along with the State (\$65 million), private sector (\$33 million), and City of Grand Rapids DDA (\$10 million). The County appoints two representatives to serve on the seven-member CAA Board (Steve Heacock and Rick Wynn), and several staff members of the County staff serve on the Finance Committee (Daryl Delabbio) and Operations Committee (Daryl Delabbio and Darius Quinn) of the Authority.
74. ***Dietetic Interns:*** Western Michigan, Michigan State, Andrews and Eastern Michigan Universities are among the schools that send dietetic students to the Kent County Health Departments WIC program as part of a dietetic internship rotation. Students spend between 6-8 weeks within the WIC clinics applying their classroom education and learning valuable hands on experience in a community health setting. Students are mentored by registered dietitians within the WIC program.

75. **Drug Enforcement:** Kent County partners with three different drug enforcement initiatives: the local office of the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Walker, Grandville, East Grand Rapids and Kent County with the Kent Area Narcotics Enforcement Team (KANET); Grand Rapids, Michigan State Police, Wyoming, Kentwood, and Kent County with the Metropolitan Enforcement Team (MET); and Sheriff Stelma is a board member of a consortium of State and Federal partners in the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). These groups work in concert with each other on different aspects of the drug problem in our community. Collectively, they bring hundreds of thousands of enforcement dollars into the area and account for hundreds of arrests from street dealers to those involved in national drug expertise.
76. **Essential Needs Task Force (ENTF):** Since 1982, the County, City of Grand Rapids, other governmental agencies, the United Way, along with 100 non-profit and faith-based organizations have worked collaboratively to address basic food, shelter, utility, and transportation needs within the community. A number of County staff serve on various committees and subcommittees of the ENTF.
77. **Emergency Preparedness Coordinators Collaboration Committee (EPC3):** In an effort to ensure the consistency of preparedness plans to successfully meet the increasing demands of public health preparedness with dwindling resources and avoid duplication of efforts by local health departments across the state, the local Emergency Preparedness Coordinators (EPCs) in several preparedness regions selected representatives to form the EPC3. The EPC representatives from each region examine the grant work plan each year and determine which activities should be completed collaboratively. Each region is assigned tasks to complete and subsequently share with EPCs statewide. Tasks include plan development, exercise development and execution, and quality improvement activities. Additionally, the EPC3 serves as the communication body between local EPCs and the state. This ensures that information is shared and received uniformly. The Kent County Health Department EPC serves as the Region 6 representative to the EPC3.
78. **Experience Grand Rapids (formerly the Convention & Visitors Bureau):** The County is the single largest contributing partner in Experience Grand Rapids through the Lodging Excise (Hotel/Motel) Tax and participates in the organization's affairs. The County is formally represented on the Board of Directors. Experience Grand Rapids markets tourism and lodging in Kent County and also serves as the marketing arm of the Convention/Arena Authority and has had significant success marketing convention dates at DeVos Place. In November 2012, the Board of Commissioners approved a three-year agreement with Experience Grand Rapids, which provides that the County pay 16.75 percent of the collected Hotel/Motel Tax revenues to Experience Grand Rapids for destination marketing services (2013-2015).
79. **Fallasburg Dam:** The Fallasburg Dam was constructed in 1903 by the Grand Rapids Edison Company for the purpose of generating hydroelectric power. In 1906, the Dam's ownership was transferred to what later became Consumers Power, who operated it until 1965, when it was "retired." The Dam was transferred to Kent County in 1968 (probably because it was within the Park). Between 1968 and 1972 there were minor repairs, and in 1979, the Michigan Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers cited it as an engineering and historical landmark as one of the first hydroelectric facilities built in the State. In the early 1980s, the County conducted a feasibility study to see if the hydroelectric power generation function should be revived but decided not to do so because of the upfront capital investment needed. In 1983, the County entered into a 35-year lease with a Wisconsin consulting firm whereby it would make the capital investment, operate it, and pay the County (\$29,000/year + a portion of the gross revenues). According to the lease, the County has to set aside at least \$4,000/year from the rental payments for repairs when the need for such arises. As of December 2012, the County has "netted" approximately \$800,000 from the lease. The lease has an automatic renewal option for another 35 years.

80. ***First Steps/Great Start Collaborative:*** Spun off from the Kent County Family and Children’s Coordinating Council, an organization made up of representatives from a variety of organizations, including but not limited to, United Way, Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Family Resources, Arbor Circle, Grand Rapids Community College, Kent ISD, Kent 4C Childcare, Aquinas College, Children’s Commission, Child and Family Resource Council, and Creative Learning Center. The Great Start Collaborative worked together to launch First Steps Partnership which is a partnership of parents, community, agencies, business leaders, healthcare providers, educators, foundations, faith leaders and individuals who are investing in our youngest children to ensure a better future for all of us. The vision is that every young child in Kent County will be ready to succeed in school and in life. Funders have included the Frey Foundation, Steelcase Foundation, Heart of West Michigan United Way, and the Early Childhood Investment Corporation. The four key pillars within the theory of change is that each child in Kent County will have a medical home (Community Health Access Program); each first born child in Kent County will receive a newborn home visit to link it to the existing home visiting services (Welcome Home Baby); the quality of Friends, Family & Neighbor Child Care will improve (FFN); and the community will understand the importance of the early years in a child’s life. More information can be found at firststepskent.
81. ***Grand Rapids Association of Realtors:*** In 2013, the County implemented a new agreement with the Grand Rapids Association of Realtors (GRAR). This partnership will allow both sides of the local real estate industry, public and private, to benefit by exchanging relevant real estate data. The County has arranged for a master agreement where any local unit can voluntarily participate in the data exchange where a local assessor will provide the GRAR with building characteristic information in exchange for full read only access to the GRAR multiple listing service. By providing the local real estate industry an easy to read format in its system, local realtors can save time and money by not having to contact local assessing offices for routine information. Local assessors, in turn, will have better information on sales statistics within their boundaries.
82. ***Grand Rapids Community College:*** A) Kent/MSU Extension: The GRCC Media Center works in partnership with Kent/MSU Extension staff to record and air various educational presentations, including the monthly “Lunch and Learn” series on the Kent/MSUE portal through YouTube and on GRTV. This series is directed to local agency, pantry and housing staff who work with clients new to food assistance. It is designed for professionals, para-professionals and volunteers who would like to be able to share sound nutrition information with their clients but do not have the time or resource to do their own research and materials development; B) Diversity Initiatives: This partnership also provides marketing for Money Management classes offered through the Kent/MSU Extension office.
83. ***Grand Rapids Public Schools:*** Each year, 60 students from Grand Rapids Public Schools make John Ball Zoo their classroom for the entire year. Their teachers and students utilize the zoo every day and interact with the staff of the zoo in various projects to enhance their educational experience. All subjects are taught with a strong emphasis on environmental science. This is a once in a lifetime educational experience for these students.
84. ***GVSU Nursing Students:*** For well over a decade, the Health Department and Grand Valley State University have been working together to enhance the public health education of nursing students. This partnership includes providing a public health rotation for approximately seven students per semester, which includes hands-on experience serving lower-risk clients. After graduation, some students have been hired as Public Health Nurses in the department.

85. ***Homeland Security Project IGNITE.*** Since March 2007, members of the Sheriff's Office, Information Technology Department and other participants from Michigan Homeland Security's Region 6 have served on the steering committee for Project IGNITE (Information Gathering Network & Intelligence / Technology Exchange). The goal of this project is to expand and enhance the sharing of criminal intelligence, crime analysis, and investigative information between law enforcement agencies in Region 6, the State of Michigan Fusion Centers, and other investigative partners. Project IGNITE has been divided into two areas: Information Sharing and Information Publication. Information Sharing involves sharing of records management data, provides a crime analysis tool, and enhances criminal investigations. At this time, crime information databases for each county in Region 6 can be created and shared by law enforcement agencies in Michigan. Going into the next year, we anticipate there will be new features and additional database resources. Region 3 has also joined this project. Information Publication will allow for timely, centralized publication of investigative information. The publication area of the project is currently undergoing testing by representatives from each member, and training for the Region began in mid-2009.
86. ***Hope Farms incubator farm for refugees:*** MSU Extension is a partner in this project led by Bethany Christian Services to develop a new incubator farm for refugees who wish to start their own farming businesses. The farm is located on the grounds of Holland Home in the City of Kentwood. Additionally, MSUE staff work with staff from Hope Farms, the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids (Veggie Van), and New City Urban Farms to increase distribution of healthy foods in underserved neighborhoods. In 2014 this effort received funding from a USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture grant for \$292,658.
87. ***Horticulture education partnership; The Grand Ideas Garden:*** MSUE Horticulture educator Rebecca Finneran has worked with Kent County Facilities Management on technical landscape plans as they work on new property development. They in turn assist Finneran with some of the maintenance requiring large equipment in the Grand Ideas Garden. As the Grand Ideas Garden plantings mature and need to be spaced out, she has provided these planting materials for other county facilities. MSU Extension Master Gardeners provide continued care of the landscape at the 775 Ball building. The Grand Ideas Garden has become an important part of the Kent County campus with over 6,000 visitors annually. A significant portion of visitors reside in the lower-income area surrounding the garden which provides a place of gathering and respite for families of all ages. The Garden also provides Kent County staff from many departments a great opportunity and destination for walking during lunch or just a stress free environment. Conservation and gardening programs also benefit the cadre of volunteers who work with Kent County Parks staff—whether it be an invasive plant pull, Discover Millennium event or other type of outdoor education.
88. ***Kent/MSU Extension Agreement:*** Since 1912, Michigan State University has partnered with counties throughout Michigan to provide extension services. The exact services to be delivered and funded have been formalized in various Memorandums of Agreement. In 2010, MSUE began the process of standardizing the services they offer as well as the manner in which they negotiated with counties for specific services. Under the new format, counties have been asked to enter into a five-year agreement with annual work plans which will be developed concurrently with the County budget. Under the terms of the new agreement, counties will pay a standardized assessment based on a formula which includes a base amount and population-based formula. The County approved the agreement in November 2011, and annually updates the work plan each November.
89. ***Kent County Juvenile Detention Summer School:*** Kent/MSU Extension educators provide an educational series during the summer program at Kent County Juvenile Detention. The four lesson series is called RELAX: Alternatives to Anger. Topics include: defining anger, ways to deal with stress, problem solving and forgiving and letting go of the past. During the summer of 2014 a total of 63 youth (20 female/43 males) ages 8-15 years took part in the series.

90. ***Kent County LEPC:*** In 1989 Kent County formed the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) to develop plans on how to respond to a chemical spill as well as to educate the community about hazardous chemicals. The LEPC consists of representatives from 13 different groups as designated by the Federal Government. These groups include industry, agriculture, human service groups, fire, law enforcement, EMS, public officials, environmental groups, hospitals, media, education, emergency management and hazmat response teams. Originally the LEPC Coordinator was at the Health Department, but in 1999 the organization moved to the Kent County Sheriff Department, office of Emergency Management. The LEPC covers all communities within the County.
91. ***Kent County Tax Credit Coalition (KCTCC):*** The Kent County Tax Credit Coalition is a collaboration of the Heart of West Michigan United Way, Kent County Department of Human Services, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the County and many other partners in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. The KCTCC helps individuals in Kent County whose income is \$55,000 or less to become aware of Earned Income Tax Credits and other federal and state tax credit opportunities that can help make life easier. It offers free tax preparation services at Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites in Kent County throughout the tax season. There were over 5,600 individuals and families served and \$6.5 million dollars returned to Kent County in 2012 for this effort.
92. ***Kent County “Working Together for a Healthier Tomorrow”:*** The Health Department is partnering with Spectrum Health, St. Mary’s Hospital, Pine Rest and Mary Free Bed in a community health assessment and improvement planning process designed to identify priority health issues and develop a plan to strategically and collaboratively improve community health. This initiative brings together a broad group of partners concerned about health in the community and working in partnership to achieve a shared vision for high quality of life, health, and well-being for all people in Kent County. The coalition working on this initiative is made up of over 80 organizations that represent a broadly-defined public health system in the County.
93. ***Kent School Services Network (KSSN):*** After two years of research and discussion, the Kent School Services Network was launched in September 2006 with leadership from the Kent County Family and Children’s Coordinating Council (KCFCCC) and the County Administrator’s Office. After six years of service, the initiative identified several positive outcomes, most notably a decrease in chronic absenteeism which affects the ability for students to learn. This is related due to the realignment of services provided by the Network. Currently, KSSN serves 21 schools in seven districts with the purpose of providing responsive and effective, seamless, integrated service delivery to families and students through Kent County public schools by all service providers (nonprofit, state, and county) to ensure that all kids are healthy and learning. The Network is a partnership among Cedar Springs Public Schools, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Godfrey Lee Public Schools, Godwin Heights Public Schools, Kelloggsville Public Schools, Kentwood Public Schools, and Wyoming Public Schools, Kent County and its Health Department, Kent Intermediate School District, Kent Department of Human Services, network180, and Spectrum Health. Funding has been provided by the above entities and the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Doug & Maria DeVos Foundation, Steelcase Foundation, Frey Foundation, United Way, Keller Foundation and the Institute for Systematic Change and the Kellogg Foundation. The Governor and the Michigan Department of Human Services are modeling the KSSN effort on the east side of the state (Detroit, Saginaw, Flint, Pontiac) through the [Pathways to Potentials Initiative](#).
94. ***Legal Assistance Center:*** Located on the fifth floor in the Courthouse, this non-profit agency works with community partners to provide assistance to the public in the resolution of legal problems. The Center provides this service to persons appearing before the Circuit Court and the Grand Rapids 61st District Court. Financial assistance in support of Center programs is provided by Kent County, the Bar Association, all local law firms and other private contributors. The County provides the office space and currently contributes funding toward operations (\$42,500 in 2015).
95. ***Local Food Purchasing Assistance:*** MSU Extension Community Food Systems Educators worked with Grand Rapids Public Schools and the West Michigan School Food Service Directors group as well as area hospitals on local food purchasing efforts through the Cultivate Michigan campaign in 2014.

96. **Michigan Veterans' Trust Fund:** The Michigan Veterans' Trust Fund central office requested that the County's Department of Veterans' Affairs enter into a service agreement for administration of the trust fund. This arrangement enables a single point of access at 82 Ionia for veterans experiencing financial emergencies or those interested in receiving benefits for their military service.
97. **MSU College of Human Medicine:** Dr. Jeffrey Dwyer, Principal Investigator for a grant to the Geriatric Education Center of Michigan, is facilitating the development of multidisciplinary teams of health professionals throughout the state to recognize early signs of dementia in their patients. Staff from the Kent/MSU Extension office serves on the implementation team for this grant. In 2014, several multi-disciplinary workshops were held for local health professionals in Kent County.
98. **Mounted Unit:** In partnership with the County's Parks Department, a new facility was constructed to house the Mounted Unit, a voluntary division of the Sheriff's Office that provides mounted law enforcement services for special events and other activities throughout the County.
99. **network180:** Since the 1990s, the Sheriff's Department and network180 (or its predecessor Kent County CMH) have partnered to provide mental health services to inmates at the Correctional Facility. This partnership, in both services and funding, has led to many achievements, including the development of a mental health unit, the Sober Living Unit, and a number of other assessments and programs. In 2009, the State attempted to prohibit network180 from financially partnering with the County to provide these services and as a result County staff has worked with our State Legislators and network180 to ensure that we are not prohibited from collaborating.
100. **Parking:** Since 2001, the County has been part of a condominium association (with Ellis Parking) that owns a parking structure on Lyon Street. The County "owns" approximately 100 parking spaces used by employees who work at the Courthouse. And in 2008, the County entered into an agreement with the Gerald R. Ford Foundation to lease parking spaces for jurors at the Courthouse. The agreement will end in 2021, and the County will receive \$1 million from Ellis Parking. The County will, however, have to find approximately 100 parking spaces to accommodate the needs of the Courthouse and comply with the City of Grand Rapids Parking Ordinance requirements.
101. **Prevention Initiative:** In 2000, Kent County made a long-term commitment to improving the well-being of children and families through the Kent County Prevention Initiative (KCPI). In 2003, the KCPI began providing expanded funding to four programs: two primary prevention family support programs, Healthy Start and Bright Beginnings; one child abuse and neglect program, Early Impact; and one family-focused substance abuse prevention program, Family Engagement Program. Programs are delivered through Family Futures, the Kent Intermediate School District (KISD), the Department of Human Services (DHS), and network180, respectively. These programs impact approximately 4,000 children each year. The County, via the Kent County Family and Childrens Coordinating Council and the Health Department, works with local hospitals, KISD, Juvenile Justice System, juvenile and adult courts, and the Sheriff's Department, to evaluate the short-term and long-term impact of the programs on families across Kent County. The most recent report concluded that program participants are less likely to be involved with the formal Child Protection System than their comparison groups and that each program had a positive cost/benefit ratio.
102. **Public Law Clinic:** In collaboration with the Cooley Law School, the County is participating in its Public Sector Law Project (PSLP). Law school students serve, under the direction of a Cooley faculty member and the County's Corporate Counsel, "internships" and provide legal research to County departments, elected offices, authorities, agencies, boards and commissions. In the past students in the PSLP kept busy with a variety of projects, including assessment of a Headlee challenge concerning the Children's Rights Agreement, assessment of the impact of expanded disability language in the ADA and FMLA, legal implications of countywide disaster preparedness planning and policy development, development of presentations on various legal topics for Kent County Correctional Facility inmates preparing for community reentry, development of FOIA training and electronic availability of FOIA request materials, and development of an e-discovery policy for the County. Various County officials have made presentations to the students that included the Chair of the Board of Commissioners, County Clerk/Register of Deeds, Sheriff, County Administrator, Corporate Counsel, IT Director and a Health Department Division Director. Due to cutbacks that recently took place at Cooley Law School, this program ended in June 2014.

103. **REACH Program:** The Kent County Friend of the Court (FOC) is one of seven sites nationwide (and the only site in Michigan) to receive federal grant funding for the Referral for Education, Asset development, Cooperation, and Hope (REACH) program. REACH aims to assist non-custodial parents to remove barriers which may prevent them from paying child support obligations. Kent County FOC and the Prosecutor's Office have partnered with Hope Network and Inner City Christian Federation (ICCF). Hope Network assists our clients by providing training as it pertains to employability skills, job placement, and job retention skills. ICCF provides our clients with financial management classes in an effort to educate them regarding saving, spending, credit scores, and opening bank accounts. ICCF assists with the establishment of Individual Development Accounts where federal funds match saved dollars for home ownership, starting a business, or obtaining post-secondary education. While not an official partner, the FOC has worked with Goodwill Industries as well as referred some of our clients to The Literacy Center and network180.
104. **The Right Place, Inc.:** Kent County has been a major public partner in The Right Place, Inc., since its inception over 25 years ago. County Administrator/Controller Daryl Delabbio serves on the Board of Directors of The Right Place, Inc., and the County will be contributing \$100,000 in 2015 toward this regional economic development effort for West Michigan.
105. **Saint Mary's and Metro Health Residency Programs:** The Health Department developed a public health rotation for Metro Health and the St. Mary's Hospital Family Practice Residency. This program, started August 1, 2011 for St. Mary's Residents, includes education and exposure to Health Department activities including management and care of tuberculosis, Refugee Health, Immunizations, and the Women, Infant & Children's (WIC) program. The doctors-in-training also work directly with Health Department educators to provide programs to specific audiences. Metro Health Residents were added to the program in late 2011.
106. **SafeDATES:** Started in October 2010, the Health Department is collaborating with Kent County probation to provide the SafeDATES program to youth currently on probation. SafeDATES is an adolescent dating abuse prevention program that deals with attitudes and behaviors associated with dating abuse and violence. The program strives to raise youth awareness of what constitutes healthy and abusive dating relationships, teach positive communication, anger management, and conflict resolution.
107. **School Resource Officers:** For a number of years, the Sheriff's Department has worked with local school districts to jointly fund school resource officers (SROs). Prior to this year, the two districts that have been involved in this program previously included the Northview and Forest Hills districts. In 2014, agreements were entered into with the Kenowa, Lowell, Byron, and Kent City School Districts for School Resource Officers, bringing the total to six school districts with SROs.
108. **ServSafe:** In 2014, Kent/MSU Extension partnered with the Kent County Health Department to offer ServSafe certification classes. MSU Extension staff also provided "Cooking for Crowds" safe food preparation training to Kent County Head Start food service staff.
109. **Silent Observer:** The County, City of Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, and many private business partners fund a Silent Observer program which results in dozens of crimes being solved on an annual basis.
110. **State of Michigan IT Connections:** The County worked with the State of Michigan to consolidate multiple leased line connections onto a single connection with higher bandwidth. Since the State of Michigan's building and the County's downtown data center are next to each other, it was a relatively easy and low cost matter to connect to the high-speed leased line the State uses from Grand Rapids to Lansing. This eliminated separate County connections currently used to support activities such as Friend of the Court and hook-up to "LEIN" – Law Enforcement Information Network. The County recently entered into an agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation to share a Fiber Optic network. MDOT has agreed to provide the County with access to the I-96, I-196, and M-6 Intelligent Traffic System fiber ring around the City of Grand Rapids with an irrevocable right to use the system. With the latter project, the County is expected to reduce costs by \$12,000 annually.

111. **South Kent Landfill:** South Kent Landfill Expansion Land Purchases—the Department of Public Works has a long standing agreement with Allegan to expand the landfill into Dorr Township. DPW has purchased several parcels from Dorr Township, one of which was a tree farm. The Department has authorized, at no charge, tree removal by the County Parks Department and any municipality. Trees have been removed for relocation by County and City parks.
112. **Landfill Gas-to-Energy:** The County (through the Department of Public Works) and Granger Energy, LLC (Granger Electric of Byron Center) entered into a 20-year lease that allows Granger the right to use the gas produced by the landfill for the production of electricity. The facility began operation in April 2009.
113. **West Michigan Sports Commission (WMSC):** This is a private-public cooperative venture to provide for a variety of sports activities and venues in the Kent County and West Michigan area. Its express purpose is to bring visitors into the area. The County provided initial staff work for almost one year researching the establishment of a sports commission and contributed \$1.2 million (2007-2012) toward funding its activities. Other funding partners include the Convention & Arena Authority (CAA), Experience Grand Rapids, and the private sector. The County no longer provides direct financial support to the WMSC, but is actively engaged on the WMSC Board, with Commissioner Dick Vander Molen serving as Chair of the Board, Commissioner Harold Voorhees also serves on the Board, and Commissioner Dan Koorndyk serves on the Advisory Council.
114. **West Michigan Cyber Security Consortium.** This group was started three years ago by Kent County employees. It now includes 400 members from public and private entities that meet quarterly. Their purpose is to enhance the prevention, protection, response and recovery to cyber security threats, disruptions, and degradation to critical information technology functions. They have used regional Homeland Security funds to assist critical infrastructure facilities with cyber projects; and to allow regional businesses access to security-focused conferences.
115. **Zoo:** A) Great Lakes Piping Plover Recovery Project – In collaboration with the following zoos: Brookfield, Detroit, Disney’s Animal Kingdom, Milwaukee County, Sea World Orlando, San Diego and Toledo – John Ball Zoo provided staff assistance with incubation, hatching, raising and release of endangered Great Lakes Piping Plovers as part of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service recovery efforts. Zoo staff has participated in this program since 2004. B) Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnakes Study – In cooperation with the American Zoological Association, (AZA) Eastern Massasauga Species Survival Plan (SSP) and The Edward Lowe Foundation, regional field research projects have been developed to study habitat use, behavior, range, and other factors impacting population change for Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnakes. This project began in spring 2009 and is continuing for a minimum of five years, collecting mark/recapture data. With data collected over the years, the study will begin to quantify survival and reproductive information which is important for understanding current changes in the population and for projecting future change. John Ball Zoo provides staffing assistance for the study annually in the spring. C) Annual Kirtland’s Warbler Census: John Ball Zoo collaborated with the Audubon Society, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to train individuals in identification and census methods. Participants in the study will eventually mentor others in these methods in the future so this important annual census will be carried on into the future. John Ball Zoo provided staffing support for the project.

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