



MEDIA RELEASE

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Seeking Citizen Input – Survey to inform regional plan and priorities for future community investment

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Citizens of Grand Rapids, Wyoming and Kent County are invited to complete an online survey to identify housing and community development needs and priorities for housing, public infrastructure and facilities, and homeless and public services. Survey results will help identify priorities for the investment of future federal grant dollars anticipated by the three local governments to support related housing and community development projects and programs.

The survey, estimated to take 10 minutes to complete, will be used to inform a regional Consolidated Housing and Community Development (HCD) Plan for the period July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2021. Sample topics in the survey range from “What is the condition or maintenance of housing in your community?” and “Do you believe housing costs are affordable where you live?” to “Do you feel safe in your immediate neighborhood?” Responses are specific to the city or township where one lives and remain anonymous.

Submission of a HCD Plan by each of the three local governments is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs.

For the first time, the Community Development departments of Kent County and the cities of Grand Rapids and Wyoming teamed up to develop a joint HCD Plan. This regional approach will assist the three agencies in making data-driven, place-based investment decisions that align and focus funding to provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities principally for low- and moderate-income persons and neighborhoods throughout Kent County.

To complete the Community Needs Survey, please click on the following link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/kentcountyregionalconplan>

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