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COUNTY

# INTERNAL COUNTY PROJECTS

OF

KENT



MICHIGAN



# DEPARTMENT PROJECT #1

## Broadband Installation

### Project Description

The project will install broadband internet service in Kent County where it is not currently provided through internet service providers or where existing service speed/quality is inadequate. The installation project will be based on maps that identify gaps in broadband service and data on other barriers to access (e.g., affordability, device access). The maps and data collected will be used to prepare a strategy to fill internet service gaps and improve service speed where it does not meet federal guidelines. The ARPA dollars will fund internet service provider installation of new and improved services in alignment with the strategy.

### Long-Term Benefit

The project responds to the increasing reliance on internet service for to meet basic household needs. Those without access to internet service experience disadvantages in employment, education and health care, as well as other quality of life factors. As technologies evolve, the need for access will to continue to grow. Areas of Kent County experience economic disadvantages as households and businesses avoid purchasing property or move away from areas where internet service is not available. Rural areas are most impacted. The revenue generated from broadband installation in rural areas does not incentivize service providers to install and the expense to bring the service to properties is too high for most households to afford. This also impact Kent County's agricultural community which uses increasingly uses technology in farming that requires broadband access. Without partnerships and additional investments, like ARPA, the providers will not have the economic incentive to expend broadband service to all who need it. In the long term, access to broadband will improve quality of life, economic outcomes, and health and education services for more people in Kent County

### Estimated Cost

The mapping and data collection work will identify the specific locations that require broadband installation and collaboration with service providers will determine the cost to install broadband in specific geographic areas of need.

### Other Sources of Funding

Kent County will partner with local units of government and internet service providers for each specific installation project in order to leverage county, municipal and service provider resources. Municipal partners have expressed interest in meeting their residents' needs for broadband and in partnering with Kent County. They will continue to be engaged in the mapping and strategy development. Internet service providers that currently operate in Kent County have been consulted through the Board's Technical Broadband Subcommittee and support the county's efforts. With specific gaps in service identified, formal funding arrangements will be developed with local partners and service providers for installation projects. Additional state and federal resources will be allocated for broadband, such as Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill dollars and Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) grants. Staff and the county's lobbyists are monitoring those opportunities and maintaining contact with the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office's work to support broadband installation statewide.

### Project Cost

**ARPA Request:** \$40,000,000

### Kent County Dept.

Administrator's Office

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Improving Government Operations

**Project Theme:** Government Services  
Broadband

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

### Eligibility Notes

n/a

### Completed by 2026?

It is estimated that \$40 million dollars of broadband installation can be completed in that time, with specific costs dependent on formal agreements with providers to install the service and partner investments. Installation costs can vary based on the locations of the projects, the cost of materials and labor and other factors.

# DEPARTMENT PROJECT #2

## Organizational Improvement and Employee Wellbeing & Development



### Project Cost

**ARPA Request:** \$1,500,000

### Kent County Dept.

Administrator's Office

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Improving Government Operations

**Project Theme:**

Government Services

**Eligibility:**



**Sustainability:**



**Feasibility:**



**Impact:**



### Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

### Completed by 2026?

This project will be completely finished before December 31, 2026

### Project Description

Kent County has long been an organization that values serving as responsible stewards of County resources and providing high-quality service to residents. As the Kent County population has grown substantially in recent years (+10.8% between 2010 and 2022), so too has grown the need to invest in our employees and internal processes. The County has already begun to roll out some of these organizational improvements to set Kent County up to be continually successful in the years to come. Some of the efforts underway include:

- The County Administrator's 6Cs Organizational Improvement Initiative (Customer Service, Creativity, Communications, Cultural Intelligence, Competency, and Collaboration)- a "playbook" to lead organizational improvement efforts
- Robertson Brain Health- an opportunity for employees to understand their brain chemistry and improve health and well-being
- The Customer-Centric Culture Workshop led by Bill Capodagli
- Kolbe conative assessments available to all County departments
- Implementing a Kent County futuring plan (i.e., 20, 30, or 40 year strategic plan)

The Administrator's Office is requesting funds to continue organizational improvements, employee well-being, and employee development opportunities. The \$1.5 million requested will fund the following endeavors:

- Developing a Kent County data warehouse
- Redesigning AccessKent.com
- Further supporting the efforts outlined in the previous section

### Long-Term Benefit

Some of the significant long-term benefits of investing in the outlined organizational improvement efforts will be:

- Improving internal process efficiency
- Continuing to strengthen the culture of Kent County
- Creating opportunities for more informed decision-making
- Talent attraction and employee retention

### Estimated Cost

\$1,500,000

### Other Sources of Funding

This proposal will primarily be funded by ARPA. Certain areas of this proposal will be sustained through General Fund.

# DEPARTMENT PROJECT #3

## Behavioral Health Crisis Center



### Project Description

The Fiscal Year 2023 State of Michigan budget included a \$5M allocation for this project. This additional funding will cover FY23, but the project is short \$1.6M of non-public patient cost for FY24. Project Description: Kent County is launching a continuum of innovative crisis mental health and substance use disorder services to fill a critical community need. Too many people with urgent behavioral health needs cannot gain access to a psychiatric hospital and end up in emergency departments or a correctional facility. Patients can remain in these settings for days or even weeks, creating significant strain on emergency medical and law enforcement systems, which are not designed and frequently not compensated for managing behavioral health crises. Patients are also impacted: settings not designed for mental health treatment often generate added trauma and can make a crisis worse.

Crisis services are clinically sound and cost-effective but are not generally funded by private insurance.

Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU): The planned CSU is a secure, high intensity alternative to full psychiatric hospitalization, capable of providing involuntary treatment and accepting direct drop offs from law enforcement. Enabled by Public Act 402 of 2020, the CSU will be jointly operated by Network180 and Mercy Health St. Mary's Hospital.

### Long-Term Benefit

A continuum of nimble, rapidly accessible crisis services can de-escalate situations early and resolve most behavioral health crises in less than 24 hours, preventing the need for full hospitalization. These services are much needed and bring significant relief to safety net systems in communities where they are made available. They also lower healthcare costs in the long run by avoiding unnecessary emergency department, hospital, and ambulance use.

### Estimated Cost

\$4,000,000

### Other Sources of Funding

The State of Michigan has appropriated \$5 million for this project; other grant funding is also being pursued.

### Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$3,923,356

### Kent County Dept.

Administrator's Office

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Improving Government Operations

**Project Theme:**

Government Services  
Mental Health

**Eligibility:**



**Sustainability:**



**Feasibility:**



**Impact:**



### Eligibility Notes

n/a

### Completed by 2026?

Yes

# DEPARTMENT PROJECT #4

## Kent County Insurance Authority



### Project Description

Funds will be used to establish an Insurance Authority for Kent County, the benefits of which are many including: An Authority ensures liability and property insurance even when the private market is tight or wholly uneconomical and offers flexibility to offload risk when market is favorable. Essentially, an Authority may invest like an insurance company in corporate bonds and securities as well as tangible assets such as land.

### Long-Term Benefit

An Insurance Authority provides an opportunity for risk management in the following ways:

- An internal group is created to meet monthly to review claims regularly and discuss risk management and mitigation.
- An attorney would participate in those sessions and provide insight from handling claims in court and through discovery.
- The Sheriff can sit on those sessions as the largest risk source and most productive for risk management.
- Departments have to run risky ventures by the internal group to identify opportunities for risk mitigation.
- Allows the benefits of risk management to accrue exclusively to the County.
- The group can create special funding opportunities for departments to mitigate risk.

### Estimated Cost

\$5,000,000 million is required to be deposited with the State of Michigan to start the Authority. Future contributions will be built into the 2024 budget process.

### Other Sources of Funding

Yes, a percentage of payroll will be added into future budgets to fund the Authority on-going.

### Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

### Kent County Dept.

Administrator's Office

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Improving Government Operations

**Project Theme:** Government Services

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

### Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

### Completed by 2026?

Yes



# DEPARTMENT PROJECT #5

## South, North, & Kentwood Landfill - PFAS Treatment Facility

### Project Description

PFAS pretreatment facility(s) designed to remove PFAS contaminants from landfill leachate prior to discharge to municipal waste water treatment facilities.

### Long-Term Benefit

Landfills and waste water treatment facilities are passive receivers of PFAS/PFOS compounds contained in municipal solid waste and waste water treatment facilities do not have treatment capabilities to effectively remove PFAS compounds from waste water prior to discharge to Waters of the State. Kent County DPW proposes to construct pretreatment facilities to remove PFAS/PFOA compounds that otherwise pass through to Waters of the State and increase the loading of these chemicals in surface water and groundwater.

### Estimated Cost

\$6,500,000

### Other Sources of Funding

Department of Public Works will cover ongoing operations and maintenance

### Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$6,500,000


### Kent County Dept.

Department of Public Works

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Improving Government Operations

**Project Theme:** Water and Sewer

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

### Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

### Completed by 2026?

Yes

# DEPARTMENT PROJECT #6

## Medical Examiner Facility



### Project Cost

**ARPA Request:** \$6,000,000

### Kent County Dept.

Facilities

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Improving Government Operations

**Project Theme:** Medical Care

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

### Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

### Completed by 2026?

Yes

### Project Description

The Medical Examiner's Office is mandated by State Statute to investigate reportable deaths, those that are sudden, unexpected, accidental, or violent. Additionally, the investigation of a death can be ordered by the County Prosecutor, Attorney General or by petition. Not all deaths investigated by the Medical examiner result in an autopsy. For over 30 years, the physical operations of the Medical Examiner's Office have been located at the Spectrum Health – Blodgett Campus and the Health Department. Over the past several years, a number of facility challenges have been identified including: operational and administrative support fragmentation resulting from two geographic locations, crowded autopsy room, inefficient physical layout, and a family viewing area that does not accommodate family needs. With Spectrum – Blodgett lacking available space and the desire to fully accommodate a possible medical examiner facility expansion, the County has identified the need to construct a standalone County owned and operated Medical Examiner's facility.

### Long-Term Benefit

A standalone medical examiner facility at the Fuller Campus which includes potential consideration for regional and teaching program options in the design will address the following issues:

- Replace an aging and undersized autopsy area
- Improve operational and administrative fragmentation from having two geographically distant offices
- Improve accessibility and proximity to I-196 and US-131; out of town funeral directors often have difficulty locating the Blodgett campus
- Address the current lack of sufficient space to meet the Kent County's medical examiner's needs

### Estimated Cost

\$6,000,000 million

### Other Sources of Funding

This proposal will primarily be funded by ARPA. Certain areas of this proposal will be sustained through General Fund.





# DEPARTMENT PROJECT #7

## New County Administration Building

### Project Description

The funding would include the construction of a new administrative services facility at the County's Fuller Campus and renovation of two existing downtown Grand Rapids facilities to improve service delivery, access, and customer service to the public. A new administrative facility at the Fuller Campus would consolidate Administration, Equalization, Board of Commissioners, Fiscal Services and Purchasing, Human Resources, Facilities, Treasurer, Central Services, Information Technology, Friend of the Court, County Clerk/Register of Deeds and leasable space to accommodate growth of Network 180. The current administrative offices (300 Monroe) would be renovated to support the Office of the Prosecutor, the Kent County Board of Commissioners, some support offices for Friend of the Court, and provide flex-meeting space for County staff. 320 Ottawa (Information Technology) would be renovated to support the growing needs of Indigent Defense.

### Long-Term Benefit

Consolidating services at the Fuller Campus would substantially improve internal/external service delivery and public access to county services. Additionally, the renovated spaces (300 Monroe and 320 Ottawa) would centralize justice administration services that have a need to be adjacent to the County Courthouse.

### Estimated Cost

\$53,000,000 million

### Other Sources of Funding

Additional funding, such as General Fund or Capital improvement Funds, could be used for this project as well as proceeds from the sale of 82 Ionia.

### Project Cost

**ARPA Request:** \$53,000,000

### Kent County Dept.

Facilities

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Improving

Government Operations

**Project Theme:**

Government Services

**Eligibility:**



**Sustainability:**



**Feasibility:**



**Impact:**



### Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

### Completed by 2026?

Yes - in whole



# DEPARTMENT PROJECT #8

## Fixture Replacement for homes needing Lead Remediation



### Project Description

Because people remained in their homes for an extended period of time throughout the pandemic, it is expected that blood lead levels will rise in the coming years due to lack of access to testing and increased exposure. Many of the homes that we have historical data of multiple children from different families with EBLLs still remain in our community and may be still renting the properties to people with children under six or women who are pregnant. Due to the lack of testing and participation from landlords, this is an elevated concern. One of the barriers for either inspection of the dwelling or apartment is the cost of the mitigation or abatement strategy. We propose that funds be set aside for property owners as incentive to take the needed measures to mitigate the risk. This would be for property owners that do not qualify for other lead programs. We currently have nearly 300 homes on the list. One hundred twelve of the homes have been contacted for investigation and only four have been able to access funding support. This is the same for homes in the 49507, 49504 and 49503 zip codes that are owner-occupied who do not qualify for funding support to eliminate the lead hazards harming their children in their homes. The remediation process varies from home to home and ultimately ends as abatement. We are using the average cost of abatement/mitigation for our estimates at \$25,000. We would like to have an amount of \$1,500,000 to cover the expense of lead remediation for 60 homeowners and landlords that are ineligible for lead remediation funding.

### Project Cost

**ARPA Request:** \$2,000,000

### Kent County Dept.

Health Department

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Community Health

**Project Theme:**

Public Health

**Eligibility:**



**Sustainability:**



**Feasibility:**



**Impact:**



### Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

### Completed by 2026?

Yes

### Long-Term Benefit

Lead quickly enters the blood and can harm a child's health. Once a child swallows lead, their blood lead level rises. Once a child's exposure to lead stops, the amount of lead in the blood decreases gradually. The child's body releases some of the lead through urine, sweat, and feces. Lead is also stored in bones. It can take decades for lead stored in the bones to decrease. The long-term benefits of mitigating this hazard are enumerable.

### Estimated Cost

\$2,000,000 million

### Other Sources of Funding

The Kent County Health Department is also seeking ARPA funds from the State of Michigan.

# DEPARTMENT PROJECT #9

## Lead Paint Remediation for Qualified Census Tracts



### Project Description

Lead paint remediation from Qualified Census Tracts. Buildings must be built prior to 1978, the year lead-based paint was banned from use in residential units. Remediation is any procedure that reduces the risk of lead-based paint on a site, which may be classified into encapsulation and enclosure procedures. Encapsulation, or sealing, involves applying paint approved by the EPA over the lead-based paint to create a watertight bond. Enclosure, or covering, is a process that covers the surface in question with a new surface such as drywall or cladding.

### Long-Term Benefit

Lead quickly enters the blood and can harm a child's health. Once a child swallows lead, their blood lead level rises. Once a child's exposure to lead stops, the amount of lead in the blood decreases gradually. The child's body releases some of the lead through urine, sweat, and feces. Lead is also stored in bones. It can take decades for lead stored in the bones to decrease. The long-term benefits of mitigating this hazard are enumerable.

### Estimated Cost

\$1,500,000 million

### Other Sources of Funding

The Kent County Health Department is also seeking funds from the State of Michigan.

### Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$1,500,000

### Kent County Dept.

Health Department

### Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Public Health

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



### Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

### Completed by 2026?

Yes



# DEPARTMENT PROJECT #10

## Grand River Greenway - Paved Trails, River Access & Parking

### Project Description

The Project will provide a 40 plus mile paved trail along the Grand River corridor. The current Greenway plan will connect from the Lake Michigan shoreline to the eastern Kent County border in Lowell. This will serve as a main east/west paved trail connecting communities. The route will provide greater river access for Kent County residents and visitors alike with an increased focus on access for all. The completed Greenway will have greater regional and national appeal for trail enthusiasts, kayakers and bicyclists including cycling tourists.

### Long-Term Benefit

The route will provide trail connections across communities and tie in local and regional Parks. The long-term goal is to have a national destination for cycling tourists.

### Estimated Cost

\$50,00,000 million

### Other Sources of Funding

State ARPA funds, DGRI ARPA funds, DNR Spark Grants, Local Townships, Parks Foundation, Local Foundations

### Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$6,000,000

### Kent County Dept.

Parks

### Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:

Parks & Recreation

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



### Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

### Completed by 2026?

Yes



# DEPARTMENT PROJECT #11

## Cannonsburg - DNR Trust Fund Grant

### Project Description

Kent County Parks is seeking to acquire and preserve Cannonsburg Ski Area. Established in 1965, and at 272.4 acres, the Ski Area is home to year-round activities including 11 miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, and trail running; a zipline course; and of course, winter skiing and tubing. The property also features 0.65-mile length of Bear Creek, over 180 acres of woods, a ski lodge with restaurant, concessions, and pro shop, and maintenance facilities to support the recreation facilities.

### Long-Term Benefit

Due to the unique topography, Cannonsburg is a one-of-a-kind outdoor recreation facility in West Michigan. The KCP 5-year Master Plan identifies several objectives under Goal #1 of addressing the growing need for additional recreational space in Kent County. Objective 1a is to reach 7,500 acres by 2023, currently KC Parks has 7,447 acres under ownership, this acquisition will take it over the top. Objective 1b is to reduce the county's deficit in regional-quality recreation space (i.e., parks of 200+ acres), this acquisition will also apply to that objective. Objective 1e is to preserve unique natural areas, and the Cannonsburg Recreation Area is a unique area with all its year-round recreation opportunities.

Preserving the 272 acres would allow the public to continue this unique place for many recreational activities including hiking, mountain biking, trail running, dog walking, bird watching and fishing. Future benefits will include trailhead facilities to connect neighboring communities and parks with regional trails, spaces for group picnics and community gathering spaces. We also see this location serving as a premier space for a regional adaptive sports park.

Many groups utilize Cannonsburg throughout the year: Cannonsburg Challenged Ski Association (CCSA) provides an opportunity for all individuals with disabilities to build skills, develop independence, gain confidence, improve fitness and achieve a sense of accomplishment through snow sports; CHILL West Michigan is a snowboard program for 10 to 18 years old who are dealing with various life challenges. They work with schools, youth agencies, social programs, and board sports partners to provide these programs with all associated costs covered and barriers to participation removed; Dirt Dawgs is a youth mountain bike program teaching kids trail stewardship and healthy living. The West Michigan Coyotes is composite team of Mountain bikers' grades K-12 from West Michigan that utilize Cannonsburg as a training and racecourse. Seven regional High School Ski teams and many High School ski clubs call Cannonsburg home.

### Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$2,500,000

### Kent County Dept.

Parks

### Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

#### Project Theme:

Parks & Recreation

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

### Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

### Completed by 2026?

Yes

### Estimated Cost

\$10,000,000

### Other Sources of Funding

The \$2,500,000 as a match to the Parks Department's 2022 MDNR Trust Fund Grant Application

# DEPARTMENT PROJECT #12

## School Safety Radio Network



### Project Description

At the end of last year, all area superintendents, police chiefs, and the prosecutor convened to discuss school safety in the aftermath of our state's own tragic school shooting in Oxford. Since the meeting, unfortunately, there have been several other school shootings, including one locally here at East Kentwood High School and, most notably, the incident at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, TX.

Even before last year's meeting, our agency had always done everything we could to ensure each school district within our jurisdiction received all of the law enforcement resources necessary to keep every student safe. However, since our meeting last year, we have increased our agency's presence and communication within all of our public and non-public schools. We have listened to the concerns of school administrators, parents, and students. Based on everyone's concerns, we have increased the frequency of our Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training, implemented a countywide Rescue Task Force (RTF) to ensure all area first responders are prepared to respond to an active assailant incident, updated school site surveys, provided school security assessments, and initiated monthly meetings and training with school security and administrative staff. We've learned from these debriefings, along with many other agencies nationwide, that communication is consistently identified as the most significant point of failure. The inability of those affected by these incidents to provide law enforcement with timely, factual information has resulted in countless deaths. The lack of effective, timely communication between school administrators and law enforcement must be addressed to ensure there are no senseless deaths in our county.

Before the deployment of our county's 800 MHz radio system, we were solely reliant on 9-1-1 calls to receive information from school administrators, staff, parents, or students when there was a need for an immediate police response to an incident within a school. However, with the number of mobile devices within our schools and the ability to not only call 9-1-1 but to text 9-1-1, agencies across the country, including our own, have documented the failure of their 9-1-1 systems in handling critical incidents. The 9-1-1 system is simply overwhelmed with callers, many with outdated, unreliable, or third-party information about what is occurring.

With the implementation of our county's new 800 MHz system, we now have a more viable option to communicate with school administrative staff that is scalable to the needs of each district and will provide area law enforcement with critical, factual, and real-time information they need to respond and end school-related incidents. The proposed solution would be to deploy a network of 800 MHz radio consoles into every K-12 school building, which regularly houses students.

### Long-Term Benefit

With the 800 MHz system, we can program radios with specific school safety talkgroups monitored by our agency's dispatch center and school administrative staff. The talkgroups would help establish a 2-way communication plan and allow school staff to request immediate police assistance. It would also enable our dispatch center to relay emergency notifications to school districts, such as the need to lock down buildings, the threat of inclement weather, or the need to alter bussing routes.

This type of communications network is already established within several communities across the country. Still, traditionally it has been seen as either cost prohibitive or impossible because of the number of dispatch centers or radio technology used by first responders.

Kent County is unique with only having two dispatch centers and having all area first responders utilizing the same 800 MHz system. This uniqueness allows us to successfully deploy a school safety radio network and address what has been identified as the most significant point of failure in responding to school-related incidents, communication. The radio system requested is specially designed for use within the school setting.

### Estimated Cost

\$2,837,500 million

### Other Sources of Funding

The KCSO continues to pursue grant funding for this project.

### Project Cost

**ARPA Request:** \$2,837,500

### Kent County Dept.

Sheriff's Office

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Quality of Life

**Project Theme:**

Public Safety

**Eligibility:**



**Sustainability:**



**Feasibility:**



**Impact:**



### Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

### Completed by 2026?

Yes

# DEPARTMENT PROJECT #13

## Comprehensive Records Digitization



### Project Description

Court records for the 17th Circuit Court, Probate and 63rd District Courts are largely paper, taking up space, precluding the ability for files to be accessed by more than one person at a time, and allowing for files to be misplaced.

### Long-Term Benefit

Digitizing the files will increase efficiency by allowing court staff to access court files quickly which will meet the needs of the community.

### Estimated Cost

\$3,200,000 million

### Other Sources of Funding

Additional funding will be sought from the State of Michigan

### Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$3,200,000

### Kent County Dept.

17th Circuit Court & Probate Court

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Improving Government Services

**Project Theme:** Government Services

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

### Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

### Completed by 2026?

Yes