



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Kalamazoo County Purchasing  
purchasing@kalcounty.com  
(269) 384-8967

## **Kalamazoo County Seeks Non-Profit Organizations Interested in Representing Indigent Adult Defendants**

*State-Funded Indigent Defense Program to Launch in 2019.*

**KALAMAZOO, MI**— Kalamazoo County Government is Requesting Qualifications for Indigent Defense Services from legal nonprofit organizations for the purpose of garnering legal representation to all qualifying indigent adult defendants in the Ninth Circuit and Eighth District Courts.

Public Act 93 of 2013 created the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission to ensure that local indigent defense systems comply with minimum thresholds. In turn, county governments were tasked with developing a plan for compliance to these thresholds.

After many discussions, the County's leadership, agents from the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission, Courts Administrators, Judges, Sheriff, Prosecutor and staff produced a plan to unite each of those different indigent defense systems into a stronger, independent single entity.

By funneling the provision of all of its indigent criminal defense needs through a single, nonprofit Public Defender organization, Kalamazoo County will seek to simultaneously help its hard-working public defense attorneys thrive *and* protect the rights of its accused citizens from injustice while insulating the system from undue influences at all stages of the indigent defense service delivery process.

Specifications and requirements can be downloaded at  
<http://www.kalcounty.com/purchasing/rfp.php>.

Proposals are being accepted at 201 West Kalamazoo Avenue, Room 402, Kalamazoo, MI 49007 until Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M. EST.

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**OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR**

201 West Kalamazoo Avenue | Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Phone: 269.384.8111 | [www.kalcounty.com](http://www.kalcounty.com)