



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

**NEWS RELEASE
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State of Michigan Applauds Kalamazoo County Board Decision Regarding Community Action Agency

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

Kalamazoo, MI – At the September 4th meeting, Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners voted to decertify its Community Action Agency (CAA), allowing the State of Michigan to immediately begin the transition of services. The State has repeatedly commended Kalamazoo County Government for recognizing the opportunities of this transition and for taking the crucial steps to ensure that Community Action Agency services and programs will be more expeditiously delivered to the residents of Kalamazoo County.

County Administrator Tracie Moored shared that Kalamazoo County Government has been working to improve the Community Action Agency services for the residents for more than five years, however a number of issues have produced barriers to providing and coordinating services. Of the 29 Community Action Agencies throughout the state, only 6 remain under a government structure.

The Michigan Department of Health & Human Services and Kalamazoo County Government have worked closely and guarantee a plan that services will continue to be distributed without lapse to the community, including the establishment of a local office. The State is preparing RFPs to solicit a provider for permanent placement. The transition will be complete by December 31, 2018.

Health and Community Services Department Director James Rutherford stated, “I feel that this is a logical move that ultimately will result in a stronger and more effective Community Action Agency to serve the most vulnerable residents in our community. I look forward to working with representatives from the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services to assure that the needs of our residents are met and that the CAA Program is placed within an agency that can strengthen it and make it the best that it can be.”

Kalamazoo County Government will continue to provide updates as information becomes available.

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