



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Kalamazoo County to host Community Listening Session following overwhelming response to Opioid Community Needs Assessment Survey

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – In response to an incredible outpouring of interest during our recent Opioid Community Needs Assessment survey, Kalamazoo County invites community members eager to engage in further discussion to a special Community Listening Session **Tuesday, Oct. 10, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Zion Baptist Church**, located at 120 Roberson St.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support and engagement from our community," Deputy County Administrator for External Services Lyndi Smith said. "The overwhelming number of survey respondents interested in participating in a focus group shows a strong desire for open dialogue and collaboration. The Community Listening Session will help ensure as many voices as possible are heard and that everyone has an opportunity to contribute."

Due to the limited availability of our focus groups, Kalamazoo County and the [Opioid Prevention and Education Network-Michigan State University](#) (OPEN-MSU) recognized the need to expand engagement efforts to accommodate this demand.

"We are excited to continue working with OPEN-MSU to facilitate this dialogue and create a space to harness the collective wisdom of our community to address the opioid crisis together," Smith said. "We look forward to engaging in productive discussions, learning from insights shared, and collectively shaping the path forward."

The Community Listening Session will provide community members with a platform to share their thoughts, ideas, and concerns directly with representatives from OPEN-MSU, the partner engaged by the County to conduct the Community Needs Assessment. Input shared will contribute to the overall opioid community needs report, which is set to be released in late fall.

All community members are encouraged to attend and join the conversation.

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