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<https://www.accesskent.com/>

Departments/CommunityAction/

## Senior Services

### Outreach and Assistance

This program provides information, referrals and follow-up to link seniors with specific needs to available resources. The goal is to keep seniors independent and residing in their own homes. Bilingual staff are available to assist.

### Transportation

Transportation is available for senior citizens who live in Kent County for medical appointments, grocery shopping, socialization and other services. These services are offered free of charge with a suggested donation of \$2.00 per trip which goes back into the program.

### Meals

Latin American inspired meals are provided in a congregate setting or delivered to your home. The congregate setting provides daily meals Monday through Friday at noon at 121 Franklin SE. Transportation is available. Meals can also be delivered to homes of those seniors that are homebound.

## Food Distribution Programs

### Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

This program works to improve the health of persons 60 years or older by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA commodity foods. Eligible households receive a monthly distribution of food products, which may include cheese, canned meat, plant-based protein, vegetables, fruits, grains, cereals and juices.

### The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

This program distributes United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) food quarterly through county wide distribution sites to eligible households in Kent County. Depending on what food items are available from the USDA, the distribution may consist of canned and frozen meat, canned vegetables, dry milk, peanut butter, and/or cereal.

## Housing Assistance Programs

### Housing Rehabilitation Program

The principle purpose of this program is to maintain or improve the structural condition and safety of homes belonging to low and moderate income households within Kent County by providing funding to homeowners in the form of deferred loans that do not accrue interest nor do they require a monthly payment. The loan is only due in full upon sale or transfer of the property.

### Housing Choice Vouchers

The Housing Choice Voucher program is the federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. The participant is free to choose any housing including single-family homes, townhouses and apartments that meets the requirements of the program and is not limited to units located in subsidized housing projects. Available vouchers also include Family Unification Program (FUP) and HUD-VASH special vouchers.

## Utility & Homeless Prevention Assistance

### Utility Assistance

KCCA provides funding for utility assistance, natural gas, electricity, propane, fuel oil, and water whenever funding is available and eligibility has been met.

### Homeless Prevention

KCCA provides Homeless Prevention financial assistance whenever funding is available in the form of rental arrears assistance, mortgage arrears, foreclosure prevention, and first months rent.

## Weatherization

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) enables households with low-income and seniors to reduce their heating costs by making homes more energy efficient.

## Tax Preparation Assistance

This service is an initiative to increase the number of low-income families applying for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Home Heating Tax Credit and Property Tax Credit. It provides free income tax preparation and filing for citizens with low-income in Kent County during tax season.

## SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR)

This program is designed to increase access to Social Security Administration (SSA) disability benefits for eligible individuals who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.

## Community Navigator

This program provides assistance using MI Bridges to assist residents identify and connect to resources, apply for benefits, and manage their ongoing cases on their behalf.