
Event Chronology: Kent County Small Business Recovery Fund

PLEASE NOTE: While some of the events outlined in this document took place before Representative Grant took office in the Michigan House of Representatives on January 1, 2023, we refer to her as Rep. Grant throughout.

2020

April 24, 2020: Kent County was awarded \$114.6 million in federal CARES Act funding from the U.S. Department of Treasury.

May 4, 2020: Former Board Chair Mandy Bolter established the Board of Commissioners COVID-19 Relief Subcommittee, pursuant to Standing Rule 6.0. Commissioners Bolter, Stek, Jones, Brieve, Talen, Morgan, Skaggs, and Womack were appointed to the subcommittee. The charge of the Subcommittee was to identify available funding sources and the allowable uses of each fund and to recommend to the Board of Commissioners guidelines for disbursement of the CARES funding.

May 7, 2020: The COVID-19 Relief Subcommittee convened its [first meeting](#).

May 28, 2020: The COVID-19 Relief Subcommittee [recommended](#) the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce (The Chamber) proceed in developing the Kent County Small Business Recovery Fund.

June 4, 2020: The COVID-19 Relief Subcommittee [approved](#) an Executive Report containing the first set of funding recommendations to be presented the full Board. These recommendations included allocating \$27 million for business assistance.

June 11, 2020: The full Board [approved](#) the COVID-19 Relief Subcommittee Executive Report.

June 12, 2020: Kent County signed a contract with the Chamber to administer the Kent County Small Business Recovery Fund. The work included, but was not limited to, developing all marketing and application materials, soliciting and reviewing all grant applications, recommending whether an application should be approved, and determining grant amounts.

June 22, 2020: The Chamber began accepting grant applications for the Kent County Small Business Recovery Fund.

July 2020: The U.S. Department of Treasury started requiring quarterly reporting.

July 1, 2020: Rep. Kristian Grant submitted a grant application for Mini Mogul.

July 9 - July 15, 2020: The Chamber's review committee vetted the Mini Mogul application. The committee recommended funding of \$10,000.

July 20, 2020: Rep. Grant submitted a grant application for Game Plan Lifestyle Planner

July 23, 2020: The Chamber [provided an update](#) to the COVID-19 Relief Subcommittee on the status of the Kent County Small Business Recovery Fund.

July 26 – July 28, 2020: The Chamber's review committee vetted the Game Plan Lifestyle Planner application between. The committee recommended funding of \$5,000.

July of 2020: Kent County Fiscal Services reviewed the list of grantees throughout the entire process to ensure a business did not receive multiple grants. This included looking at names, addresses, and contact persons to find similarities, and lists sent to the Chamber to confirm applicants were separate businesses with separate employees.

August 27, 2020: The Chamber [provided an update](#) to the COVID-19 Relief Subcommittee on the status of the Kent County Small Business Recovery Fund.

August 8, 2020: Kent County signed a contract with Plante Moran to monitor subrecipient compliance with program requirements. This monitoring was done on all subrecipients who received CARES ACT funding.

September 8, 2020: Kent County Fiscal Services verified Game Plan Lifestyle Planner Taxpayer Identification Number

September 10, 2020: The Chamber [provided an update](#) to the COVID-19 Relief Subcommittee on the status of the Kent County Small Business Recovery Fund.

September 10, 2020: Mark Allen, a previous Chamber employee, provided written confirmation that Dante Villarreal, previous Chamber employee, confirmed Mini Mogul and Game Plan

Lifestyle Planner were separate businesses with separate employees and approved the processing of the payments.

September 16, 2020: Kent County Fiscal Services verified Mini Mogul's Tax Identification Number

September 14, 2020: Funding (\$5,000) was issued for Game Plan Lifestyle Planner

September 17, 2020: Funding (\$10,000) was issued for Mini Mogul

October 8, 2020: The full Board [approved](#) an additional \$3.5 million be allocated to the Kent County Small Business Recovery Fund.

November 19, 2020: The Chamber [provided an update](#) to the COVID-19 Relief Subcommittee on the status of the Kent County Small Business Recovery Fund.

November 19, 2020: The COVID-19 Relief Subcommittee convened its final [meeting](#).

November 29, 2020 at 11:59pm: The Chamber closed applications for the Kent County Small Business Recovery Fund.

2021

April and June 2021: CARES ACT funds and other funds expended in 2020 were subject to Kent County's Single Audit conducted by the County's external auditing firm. This audit was conducted to ensure the County was compliant with federal funding requirements.

2022

July – September 2022: Former Commissioner Robert Womack verbally requested documentation regarding Rep. Grant's two grant applications and continued to ask more questions.

Fall 2022: Our internal review, initiated by Mr. Womack's inquiry, noted an inconsistency between the two separate applications (Mini Mogul and Game Plan Lifestyle Planner)

December 2022: The original inquiry made by former Commissioner Womack and subsequent documents were transferred to Warner Norcross + Judd (Warner) for an independent review.

2023

January 19, 2023: Warner sent a letter to Rep. Grant requesting an explanation of the inconsistency or that the funding be returned. She was given a deadline of February 2, 2023 to respond.

February 27, 2023: Warner contacted Rep. Grant after not receiving a response to the January 19, 2023 request for additional information. They asked her to address the inconsistency no later than March 9, 2023.

Week of March 6, 2023: Rep. Grant notified Warner that she was meeting with her accountant.

March 24, 2023: Warner contacted Rep. Grant after not receiving an explanation for the inconsistency. The deadline to respond was extended to March 31, 2023.

April 15, 2023: Rep. Grant contacted Warner to explain that her accountant made an error in her 2019 tax returns and that her accountant would be filing an amended return.

May 2, 2023: Rep. Grant contacted Warner to confirm the filing of the amended return and forwarded a client copy of the amended return.

May 10, 2023: After Warner confirmed that Rep. Grant's amended paperwork resolved the discrepancy and the application met the requirements, Kent County closed the inquiry.

2024

April 18, 2024: Kent County initiated a secondary review in response to media inquiries into Game Plan Lifestyle Planner's application and eligibility.

April 22, 2024: Kent County contacted Rep. Grant to request documentation verifying her amended 2019 tax return had been filed with the IRS.

April 24, 2024: Rep. Grant contacted Kent County to acknowledge that her amended 2019 tax return had not been filed with the IRS, despite her assertion on May 2, 2023 that it had been filed.

April 24, 2024: Warner contacted Rep. Grant's legal counsel to discuss a plan to rectify the latest development.

April 26, 2024: Rep. Grant’s legal counsel promised Warner that Rep. Grant would provide a signed statement accepting responsibility for the initial discrepancy in her grant application, informing Kent County that she had amended her taxes, and acknowledging the failure to then file the amended tax return.

April 30, 2024: Rep. Grant sent Kent County a letter acknowledging she informed Kent County that she had amended her 2019 taxes but failed to file the amended tax return on May 2, 2023. Rep. Grant agreed to repay the \$5,000 Game Plan Lifestyle Planner grant by May 1 at 3:30 p.m.

May 1, 2024: Rep. Grant repaid the \$5,000 to Warner at 10:15 a.m.