

Y SAY
Yes
TO
SENIORS

Ypsilanti Township
May 16, 2023

Contents of this Presentation

1. Introduction
 - a. Vision
 - b. Mission and intro to the Millage
 - c. Say Yes to Seniors Coalition Members
2. Senior Services in Washtenaw County
 - a. Demographics of seniors
 - b. Funding realities
3. Millage possibilities
 - a. Details of the millage
 - b. Uses for millage funding
4. Time for Questions

The Say Yes to Seniors Coalition seeks to enhance the quality of life for older Washtenaw County residents and their family caregivers by strengthening the network of community programs and resources that support our ability to age in place with independence and dignity.

We believe that a vital part of fulfilling this vision is the **passage of a senior service millage in Washtenaw County.**

Who is in the Say Yes to Seniors Coalition?

The Coalition is a voluntary group made up of community members.

We are:

Senior service leaders, nonprofit aging service providers, older adults, advocates, and other interested individuals who all believe we need a senior service millage in Washtenaw County.

Our coalition is open to all to participate in or receive coalition emails and updates.



Yes SAY
TO
SENIORS



Together, the members of the coalition have an average tenure of 15 years of experience working in the older adult services sector.

The Current Status of Seniors and Services in Washtenaw County



Quick Facts about Seniors in Washtenaw County

Currently:

- ❑ Of Washtenaw County's estimated 371,000 residents, more than 72,000 (20%) are 60+ and this is fastest growing age group. By 2030 that number will be over 100,000.
- ❑ 32% of households in Washtenaw County currently have a senior in the household

Looking Ahead:

- ❑ Over the next 25 years the oldest subgroup of seniors (80+), and the group that utilizes the most services, will more than double
- ❑ By 2040, the number of seniors living in poverty in Washtenaw County will more than double
- ❑ The senior refugee population increases annually by 3%

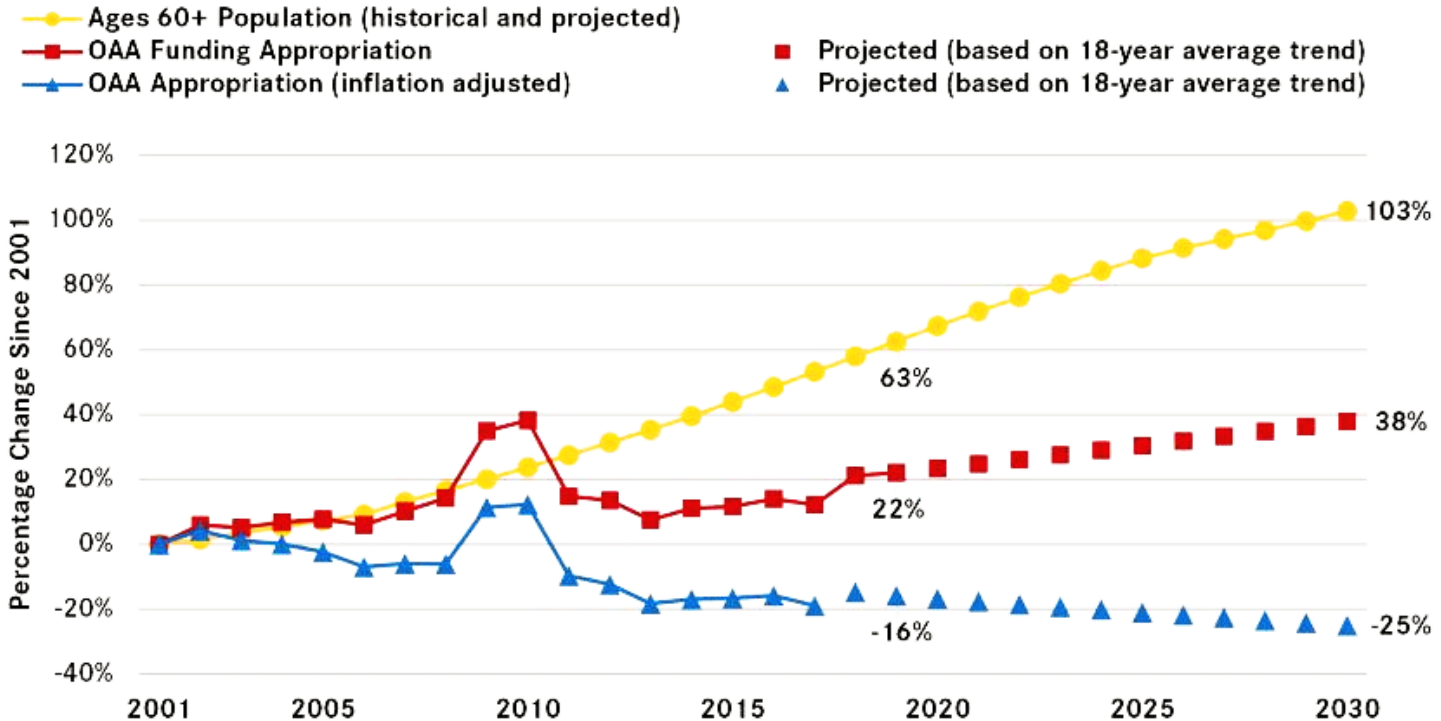
Service Providers are currently doing their best with what they have

Currently the service providers within the Say Yes to Seniors Coalition provide and are experts in:

- Food assistance
- Meals for homebound seniors
- Case management services
- Health and wellness services
- Eviction and foreclosure prevention
- Transportation assistance
- Counseling
- Home modification support services
- Caregiving support

Because of the wide range of services needed and increasing need, providers are faced with a consistent lack of sustained funding

The funding is not going to meet projected growth



73 of 83

Counties in MI have a senior
millage

County Aging Network Service Unit Comparison - 2016

	Total Service Units	Service Units per 1,000 Seniors
Washtenaw County (No millage)	262,040	4,547
Kent County (Millage that raises 11 million annually)	912,853	8,799

Kent County's Aging Sector delivers almost twice as many service units per 1,000 seniors than Washtenaw County's Aging Services Sector

So Why Do we need a Senior Millage

- As the 60+ segment of our population grows, we will fall further behind in our ability to meet present and future needs for services unless additional support is garnered. As such, it is vital that we, as Washtenaw County community members, take the steps necessary to ensure that the resources and services available are sufficient for meeting the growing needs we too will have as we age.
- The resources and services currently available to support Seniors are provided by a network of agencies who are limited in their capacity and are struggling to sustain current services.
- Washtenaw County is well behind the majority of other counties in Michigan in providing senior services. Compared to other counties, Washtenaw is often providing only half as many units of service for critical needs such as Meals on Wheels, congregate or dine-in meals, adult day care, outreach & advocacy programs, and elder abuse prevention.

Senior Millage: A Potential Solution to a Dearth of Resources



.5 mill

1/2 mill = 0.5/1000 of a dollar, or \$.0005 cents

\$9,300,000 would be raised annually by a .5 mill

A home with a property value of \$201,500 would pay \$100.75 per year/or ~\$8.40 per month.



Five Proposed Areas of Funding:

1. Case Management
2. Senior Nutrition
3. Maintaining and Expanding Senior Centers
4. Supporting Caregivers
5. Housing - Preservation and Security

Case Management

To support healthy aging and to connect service providers we will need an infrastructure to coordinate care for older adults referred for multi-services.

When an infrastructure is established, this will provide:

- A centralized hub for intake and referral services
- Connectivity to in-home and community-based support
- Management of back-office functions
- Closed-loop referral system supported by technology

For example: \$150,000 enables Jewish Family Services to hire two Case Managers, providing oversight and life preserving services to 100 seniors in crisis and another 200+ seniors who require ongoing help navigating specific needs



Senior Nutrition



Address areas where Meals on Wheels are not delivered and offer county wide access to:

- Special diet Meals on Wheels (vegetarian, gluten free, Kosher, DASH, etc)
- Offer second meals and weekend meal delivery

Maintaining and Expanding Senior Centers

Every senior center in Washtenaw County will:

- Be led by a full-time professional director
- Maintain evenings and weekend hours
- Meet National Institute for Senior Centers standards
- Reduce loneliness among seniors



Supporting Family Caregivers



County wide access to:

- Education and training
- Caregiver support hotline
- Subsidized respite services (in home and community)
- Supports for grandparents raising grandchildren

Housing Preservation and Housing Security



- Expand Minor home maintenance and repair assistance
- Create Aging in Place Home modifications and services
- Create Shared Housing Program
- Create Senior Affordable Housing Trust fund
- Expand Housing counseling services

References

Root Cause. (2021). Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation Washtenaw County Healthy & Fulfilling Aging Systems Research Report.
<https://www.aaacf.org/About/News-Updates/All-News/healthy-fulfilling-aging-systems-research-report>

Sarah Walsh. (2022, May). PhD, CHES is an Associate Professor of Health Administration in the School of Health Sciences at Eastern Michigan University|
“Service needs of Older Adults in Washtenaw County. In Say Yes to Seniors”

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Area Agency on Aging 1-B

US Census

Mich.gov

Members of the Coalition

<https://chelseaseniors.org/>

Bill O'Reilly – Executive Director

<https://csswashtenaw.org/>

Kasey Kerr – Director of Senior Services & Quality

<https://ypsiseniorcenter.org/>

Monica Prince – Director

<https://jfsannarbor.org/>

Sarah Hong – Chief Program Officer

Jill Kind – Director of WISE Aging Services

<https://aaa1b.org/>

Amanda Sears – Senior Grants Manager

<https://ymow.org/>

Alison Foreman – President & CEO

Nonprofit sector committee members: Janet Hunko, Yvonne Cudney, & Courtney Vanderlaan

Community committee members: Phyllis Herzig, Gary Munce, Chris Lemon, & Jason Fair

Commissioner member: Jason Maciejewski &

Community Member: Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation

Thank you for listening.

For more information please go to our website or Facebook page.

www.sayyestoseniors.com

