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WHY WASHTENAW COUNTY NEEDS A SENIOR MILLAGE

1. **RAPIDLY AGING POPULATION.** By 2030, 1 in 4 residents will be over the age of 60 and they will outnumber those under 18. Today, residents 60+ make up 21% of Washtenaw County's population, with 76,060 seniors. This demographic is the fastest-growing segment in the county
2. **SAFE, SECURE AND SUPPORTED HOUSING :** Providing essential support like food, grab bars, and chore work to allow seniors to stay safely in their own homes
3. **SENIOR CENTERS.** Nearly half of county senior centers do not have sufficient funding to open full time.
4. **FAMILY CAREGIVERS.** Family members caring for an older loved one need greater support, education and respite options to help them to provide care and avoid caregiver burnout.
5. **NUTRITION.** Congregate and Meals on Wheels programs do not have the capacity to serve those with cultural and chronic medical condition dietary needs such as meals that are gluten free, Kosher, no-sodium, etc.
6. **PREVENTION AND WELLNESS** There is no long term sustainable funding for senior wellness and prevention programs.
7. **ELDER ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION.** There is no funding support for elder abuse prevention or victim recovery.
8. **TRANSPORTATION.** An estimated 5,000 seniors report they have difficulty getting to places they need to go and approximately 2,700 have missed a medical appointment in the past 12 months due to lack of transportation.
9. **SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.** Reducing isolation by building connections at local community and senior centers, enriching the quality of life through social engagement, movement, lifelong learning, and intergenerational activities.
10. **ACCESS TO BENEFITS.** An estimated 9,000 seniors believe they are eligible but not receiving all available federal state and local social service, health, and income benefits that they are eligible for. Benefits Access Assistance is a service that can be provided through senior millage.
11. **SERVICE RATIONING.** Counties with a senior millage are serving 2-3 times more seniors and providing 2-4 times more services than Washtenaw County.
12. **FALLING BEHIND.** 74 of Michigan's 83 counties have a county-wide senior services millage.
13. **ACCOUNTABILITY.** The Washtenaw County Commission on Aging will ensure citizen input into the selection of funded senior millage services and in collaboration with providers make sure all services are evaluated for service quality, efficiency, and outcomes.