



COUNCIL ON AGING IN UNION COUNTY

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022

The ages of 60-plus are supposed to be the golden years, the years of retirement, grandchildren, relaxation and travel – the reward for decades of hard work.

But that's not how life often works out.

Those golden years too often are accompanied by health issues and the accompanying expensive medical care, struggles to remain living independently at home, a need for in-home assistive equipment, wheelchair ramps and so much more.

Life can be overwhelming for our older residents and their families.

At Council on Aging, we're proud to provide many services to help both the seniors and their families with the goal of continued independent living.

The need for assistive services to continue independent living for our aging population is growing dramatically and expensively, but we provide most services at no cost.

Many of our clients are living on a limited fixed income, and rising routine costs are impossible for them to absorb. That's without considering increasing age-related expenses.

More than 74 percent of our single in-home clients have an income below \$20,385. That income presents a struggle to pay a mortgage or rent, plus utilities, food, medical expenses and transportation, just as examples.

The number of those vulnerable residents is anticipated to double in the coming years. In 2020, Union County had 46,306 residents 60 and older, or 19 percent of the county's population.

By 2040, those numbers are expected to rise to 93,242 residents or 26 percent of the population. That's a 101.4 percent increase in 20 years!

We pledge to not only continue providing services but to expand services to as many of our older neighbors as possible.

Because they deserve it.



Our Services And Achievements

IN-HOME AIDES

In-home aide services can be critical for seniors living independently in their homes.

As we age, it becomes much more difficult to perform household chores, run errands or even feel safe with personal care.

Our aides visit each client's home once or twice a week, providing assistance with these needs at no cost. This assistance helps them remain comfortably at home.

Most could not afford these services without our assistance. **Last year, Council on Aging provided 17,266 hours of in-home care at no cost.**

The no-cost service saved clients approximately \$508,311.



MEDICARE COUNSELING & RESOURCE INFORMATION



Our staff and volunteers provide unbiased Medicare assistance to help beneficiaries compare options and save money on their coverage and prescriptions.

In 2021, the NC Department of Insurance calculated that our clients saved \$300,256 on premiums and drug copays.

Seniors often need information on other resources and programs to help them overcome challenges associated with aging. Whether it was connecting seniors directly to our programs or connecting them with a community partner, **we helped 3,262 people last year with these services.**

HOME SAFETY REPAIRS

We are fortunate to have volunteers who make minor safety repairs in homes of our older neighbors.

These repairs, which include building wheelchair ramps plus installing grab bars in bathrooms and handrails for steps, help our older residents remain independent in their own homes.

Last year, volunteers completed 76 home repairs and 96 yard projects.



SAFETY EQUIPMENT & INCONTINENCE SUPPLIES

Council on Aging provides wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, raised toilet seats, bedside commodes and canes free of charge to seniors needing the equipment to prevent falls and remain in their own home.

Last year, COA distributed 831 pieces of equipment.

We depend on donations of gently-used equipment from families as well as purchased donations from benevolent organizations.

In addition, we provide incontinence supplies at no cost. **Last year, we distributed 5,346 incontinence packages.**



NEXT DOOR RESPITE

Our Next Door respite program offers a social opportunity for seniors with memory loss.

Staff and volunteers provide memory-appropriate social and recreational opportunities in this four-day-a-week program.

Equally important is the break Next Door provides caregivers who use this time to "recharge" by taking care of themselves, running errands, visiting with friends or even taking a much-needed nap!

Last year, COA provided 8,055 hours of respite to families.



In-home aide 'has helped me tremendously'

"I had some health issues, Type 2 diabetes, and that brought on some other things. And I realized that I needed some help."

Alice Massey was familiar with Council on Aging, having received supplies from our nonprofit agency. When she needed other services, she called and started receiving in-home aide visits.

"I have a wonderful, wonderful (in-home aide.) She does some of the tedious things, things that I have difficulty with.

"It has helped me tremendously that my environment is kept safe for me and others that come visit."



FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Family members caring for a loved one have a very difficult job. They typically are not prepared to care for a spouse, parent or other relative, and they may work or be older adults with their own health conditions.

Council on Aging helps caregivers take care of themselves so they can continue to care for their loved one.

Our program provides one-on-one counseling, support groups, caregiver book club, temporary and immediate respite options, supplies and equipment.

Last year, our caregiver support program helped 330 family caregivers.

Support also is offered to grandparents raising grandchildren 18 or younger.

SPREADING THE WORD

Last year, Council on Aging had several high-impact programs and products to spread the word about our services.

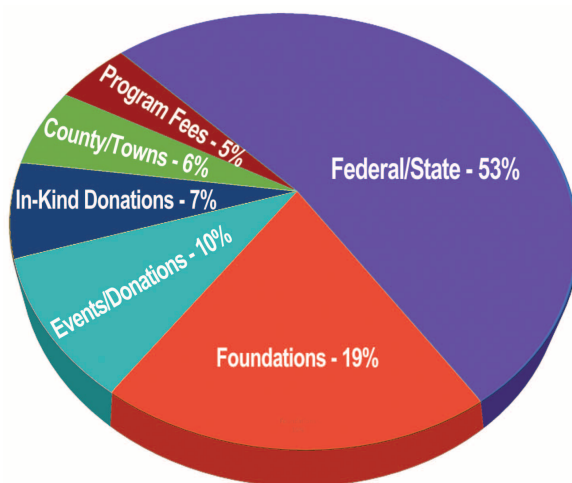
We printed our first in-depth resource guide listing contact information for senior-oriented services. The guide was in such demand that a second printing was required. You can download the 2022 guide at www.COAnion.org/guide. Pruitt Health was our presenting sponsor.

We hosted our first Carpe Diem fundraising and educational breakfast, which was attended by 165 residents and raised more than \$50,000 for client programming.

We held our 15th annual Wellness Expo with 80 community vendors offering information to 500 attendees. Novant Health was our presenting sponsor.

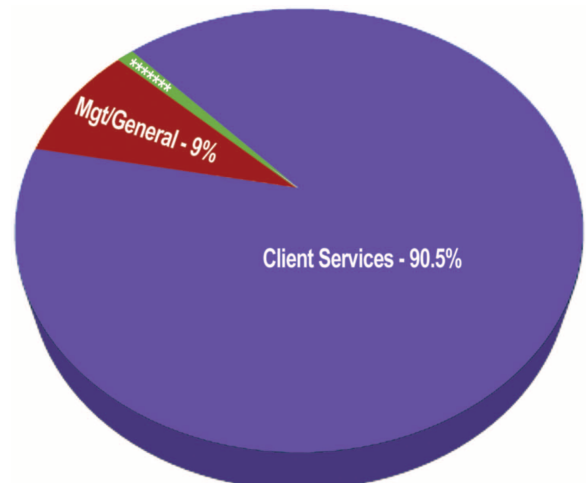
OUR FINANCIALS

INCOME



** Includes restricted federal Covid funding which ended September 2021.

EXPENSE



***** Fundraising expenses, which were less than 1 percent

As a nonprofit organization providing personal services to older adults, we're proud that our revenue continues to grow, which allows us to provide more services to more residents.

Last year's income of \$1,106,262 was an increase of 10.3 percent over the prior year.

Our expenses of \$1,057,574 were an increase of 10.5 percent or \$100,876. Of that increase, 72 percent or \$72,348 went directly to program services and support.



*Advocating for the well-being of older adults
by providing services and resources for them to live independently.*

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Council on Aging is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID 56-1081558.



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Thank you for your contribution.