

LIVINGSTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVE BODY

Health and Human Service Needs FACT SHEET

Older Adults Aging in Place in Livingston County

March 2015

What is “Aging in Place”?

The Center for Disease Control defines **aging in place** as "the ability to live in one's own home and community safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability level."

90 percent of adults over the age of 65 report that they would prefer to stay in their current residence as they age, according to ["A Report to the National Livable Communities: Creating Environments for Successful Aging"](#). One-third of American households are home to one or more residents 60 years of age or older, according to ["Lifelong Housing: The Anchor in Aging-Friendly Communities"](#).

According to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), "Aging in Place": 87 percent of adults, aged 65+, want to stay in their current home and community as they age.

In order to support our seniors as they choose to age in place, we need to work together as a community to recognize the needs of their population. These needs can span from walking paths and transportation, to home repair and lawn maintenance.

Our goal is to uncover ways to support our senior population by developing Aging in Place initiatives across our communities.

Why is this issue so important to Livingston County?

According to the 2010 Census, the senior population (over 65) in Livingston County, has increased 66% over the past ten years (2000-2010). It is projected to increase by another 146% by the year 2040. That increase is staggering given that the population of young people (under 18) has increased by only 2.5% over the last 10 years and is projected to only increase by another 4.3% by the year 2040. It is critical that we begin to look at how to support our older adults and create initiatives to help them to age in place in Livingston County.

Additionally, seniors 65 and older were involved in 18.7% of the vehicle crashes in our county. This supports the importance of developing senior driving classes that can help to strengthen the driving skills of seniors in this most critical time of their lives. It also reinforces the importance of alternative transportation resources.

According to the Area Agency on Aging 1B Poverty Statistics, more than one in four (29%) seniors need financial assistance to live independently. Additionally, 5% of the seniors in Livingston County live below the poverty level. This translates to an annual

income of less than \$10,788 for an individual or \$13,609 for a couple. The recent Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) report helps to validate the impact of these numbers in our community.

The AAA1b statistics go on to say that 18% of the residents in Livingston County are over the age of 60. And as you can see above, this number is only rising. The statistic states that our population is growing by one older adult per hour.

It is time for us to develop programs, services and supports to address the needs of this growing population.

What is the impact locally?

Livingston County is comprised of urban communities and many rural areas. This geography has resulted in some unique challenges for the county. These challenges can be seen in the transportation areas, the safe city ideas, food support areas and even in the daily connections needed for this population. We can often have seniors who are isolated from the supports available to them.

As we look at safety in our community, Livingston County still has areas where no cell phones can be accessed and where landlines are critical. Some even use dial-up for internet access. In addition to these safety concerns, seniors are increasingly becoming targets of scams and other crimes as noted by the County Undersheriff. It is critical that we find ways to keep our seniors safe.

In 2014, the Livingston Leadership Council on Aging completed an assessment for The Community for a Lifetime designation. This process helped us to identify some of our strengths and ID areas needing to be strengthened. In addition, a survey was done with over 400 seniors in the community to really gain a sense of where they see the strengths and the gaps in services. Again, many recommendations came out of these discussions.

What programs & services exist?

The array of services available can be reached through the following directories or by calling our local 211 for more information.

Brighton Area Senior Services Directory available at

www.brightonlibrary.info/senior_services_directory

Senior Housing Guide for Livingston County at www.livingstoncoa.org

What Can the Community Do to help?

Get involved!

Advocate!

Donate/support a senior

Volunteer of your time and talents

Deliver meals to homebound seniors

Join Volunteer Livingston

Participate in United Way's Day of

Caring

Become Involved with the Livingston
Leadership Council on Aging

