

# **Senior Services Levy August 5, 2008**

## **FACT SHEET**

### **Levy Facts**

Under state law, senior services levies can last no longer than five (5) years. Funding from the current senior services operating levy in Delaware County will expire in 2008. The current levy was approved by local voters in 2003. If local in-home and community services are to be continued in 2009, this levy must be on the ballot and approved by local voters in 2008.

The voted millage for the current senior services levy (0.7) has not increased since the spring of 1999. During the past 9 years the number of older adults receiving in-home services through levy funding has increased by 146% (from 409 clients in 1998 to 1,006 in 2007) this figure will continue to increase during 2008.

If approved, senior services will be available and managed locally through the year 2013.

The Council projects that the number of persons receiving in-home services during this period will increase by a minimum of 54%.

### **Service Facts**

The bulk of the levy funding is invested in providing in-home and community services designed to enable older residents to remain living at home for as long as possible.

The average in-home service client is a 79 year old female widow who lives alone.

In the year 2008, 33.4% of older adults living in Delaware County were moderately or severely disabled. As our local older population rapidly grows the need for in-home services will increase as well.

The Council for Older Adults receives over 7,000 individual requests for information, assistance and services annually.

The Council is currently serving over 16,000 meals per month to home bound adults and at four local dining programs. In 2008 this will amount to almost 200,000 nutritious meals delivered throughout Delaware County.

In 2007 the Council arranged and provided for a wide variety of in-home services for more than 1,000 home bound individuals designed to enable independence and dignity.

Services provided through the senior services levy include the following:

Caregiver Services	Personal Care
Insurance Counseling	Chore Services
Adult Protective Services	Homemaker Services
Adult Day Services	Prescription Assistance
Dining Centers	Nursing Services
Care Coordination	Medical Transportation
Mental Health Counseling	Home Delivered Meals
Home Repair	LifeCard
Medical Bill Counseling	Legal Clinics
Education and Training	Resource Center
Medical Equipment Loans	Volunteer Opportunities
Wellness Services	And more

Services are augmented by nearly 700 trained and supervised volunteers annually.

### **Levy Cost Facts**

The Senior Services levy requests the replacement of 0.7 (seven tenths) of a mill and an additional 0.2 (two tenths) of a mill for a total of 0.9 mill.

The additional cost of this levy, if approved, will be \$9.95 per year for each \$100,000 of property valuation. This is less than 3 cents a day.

### **Population Facts**

While Delaware County remains the fastest growing county in Ohio, our local older population is growing even faster than the growth of the rest of our general local population.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2000 Delaware County's older population (60+) was 12,734. It is projected that the county's older population is currently 18,719. By 2013 (the end of the proposed replacement levy) our local older population is projected to be 27,781, an increase of 48.4% in just five years.

Between the years 2010 and 2020, it is projected that our local older population will increase by 2,050 individuals - each year.

By 2020 it is projected that our local older population will be 42,896 individuals age 60 and above which is one in five county residents.

### **Governance Facts**

The Council for Older Adults, a local nonprofit organization is responsible for managing all senior service levy funding. An annual independent financial audit is conducted. The Council has never had an audit finding in the 15 year history of the organization.

In 2006 the management cost of the Council for Older Adults was only 11.6 %, an extremely low percentage for organizations of this type.

Local levy funding helps generate other funding for local services including state and federal grants, service fees, donations and other fund raising activities.

In 2007 the Council for Older Adults received certification from the Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organization's Standards for Excellence program. The certification is focused on good governance, public accountability, fiscal stewardship, organizational transparency and ethical board and staff behavior. Since the certification program began in 2000, the Council is one of only 19 nonprofit organizations in the state of Ohio to receive this recognition.

The Council for Older Adults was recently voted the Best local Non Profit Organization by the readers of the Delaware Gazette.