

Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy

Annual Report

For Program Year
April 1, 2001- March 31, 2002



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Paul V. Fuller, *Director*
Sandra Fletcher, *Social Program
Administrator*

Letter from the Director

The voters of Ashtabula County have said “Yes for Seniors.” They have recognized the needs of our senior citizens and have generously voted tax dollars to address those needs. The staff and management of the Ashtabula County Department of Job and Family Services are honored to have been selected to administer these funds and accept this public trust with a complete commitment to efficiently delivering high quality services to meet those needs.

During the first year of the Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy we continued developing a solid foundation upon which we will build new, expanded, and improved senior services. We have developed a public process for procuring services to be delivered county-wide by a variety of experienced, local community agencies. We have responded to valuable input from seniors, our Senior Services Levy Advisory Board, and the many partners listed throughout this report. I believe you will be pleased with the progress that has been made and excited about developments planned for the future.

This report is one of several methods we will use to regularly inform the community about how the Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy is being used. We welcome your feedback on this report and the services described.

Sincerely,

Paul V. Fuller, Director

Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners

We are pleased to deliver to the Ashtabula County community the first annual report of the accomplishments made possible through the Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy. Thanks to the voters of Ashtabula County, this five year levy has provided the necessary funds to expand and enhance services to senior citizens and their families. This one mill property tax levy, passed by the voters in March 2000, generates approximately \$1.4 million annually to be used for services to Ashtabula County residents age 60 and over.

The following pages detail the programs and activities performed during our first full year in operation. Many of the programs were developed based on a needs assessment study conducted in 1999, which identified five specific categories of services most needed by seniors:

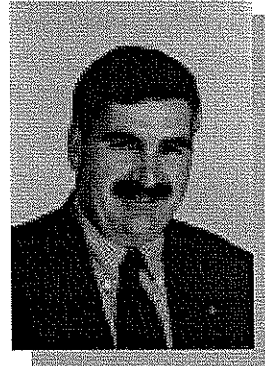
- In-Home care
- Prescription assistance
- Transportation
- Protective services
- Education and wellness.

Newly developed and expanded services are currently being delivered countywide for in-home care, prescription assistance and transportation. Programs for protective services and education and wellness are currently under development and will be available soon.

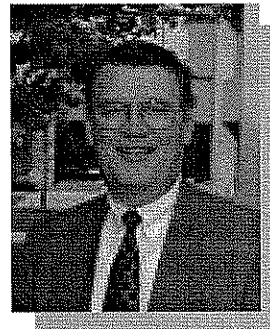
Each program listed has expectations and performance requirements. We are delighted that the Prescription Assistance for Seniors (PAS) program has already saved senior citizens over **one million dollars** in out-of-pocket expenses for their prescription medication the first year of the program.

An Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy Advisory Board, consisting of local community members, has advised the Commissioners and the Ashtabula County Department of Job and Family Services throughout this process. Their insight and dedication on behalf of senior citizens has been invaluable during the first year of development.

Thank you citizens of Ashtabula County, Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy Advisory Board and staff for the opportunity to provide successful programs for our senior citizens through this much needed levy.



Duane S. Feher



Robert J. Boggs



Deborah A. Newcomb

The History of the Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy

According to census data, nearly 20% of the population in Ashtabula County is age 60 and over. As a whole, Ohio will not reach that level until 2015. Over 20% of Ashtabula County Seniors have incomes below poverty level.

In March 2000, voters passed a county wide property tax levy to expand services for senior citizens and their families. This five year, one mill levy is expected to generate approximately \$1,260,000.00 per year. The Ashtabula County Commissioners appointed the Ashtabula County Department of Job and Family Services as administrator of Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy funds.

“We need County Commissioners and other public officials to be advocates for services.”

-Levy focus group participant

The Commissioners sponsored a series of focus groups around the County to solicit input from citizens about the services that would best meet the needs of the County’s older adults. From that input, five service

categories were established for levy funding. Those five categories are:

- Prescription Assistance
- In-Home Care
- Transportation
- Protective Services
- Education and Wellness

About the Ashtabula County Department of Job and Family Services

Working on behalf of the Board of Ashtabula County Commissioners, the Ashtabula County Department of Job and Family Services strives to professionally and efficiently administer government programs, including financial assistance, workforce development, medical assistance, child support, social services and public transit, according to laws and regulations established for them. Administrative duties include those needed to efficiently and effectively administer funds collected for the use of Ashtabula County seniors age 60 and over through the Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy.

Paul V. Fuller, *Director*

Sandra Fletcher,

Social Program Administrator

Linda Beeman, *Social Program Specialist*

Mary Spencer, *Fiscal Supervisor*

Virginia Edixon, *Fiscal Officer*

Sherry Styzej, *Account Clerk III*



Prescription Assistance for Seniors

The Prescription Assistance for Seniors (PAS) program is designed to assist Ashtabula County residents age 60 and over in obtaining free or reduced cost prescription drugs. The program provides improved access to existing prescription drug assistance programs offered by pharmaceutical manufacturers.

After the Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy passed, the County Commissioners provided funding to begin the program in November 2000, prior to the actual collection of levy revenue. These initial funds allowed the program to run for ten months until a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) process resulted in a one year contracting period for successful proposals.

The Prescription Assistance for Seniors Program targets seniors whose incomes are too high to qualify for Medicaid, but who have no private prescription drug coverage. The service is available to seniors in every township in the County. **During the first ten months of the program, seniors assisted through this program realized savings that were nearly twice what it cost to administer the service. The program staff successfully applied for help with over 1,500 prescriptions.**

The Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners paved the way for an innovative program to help fill a gap in services for older adults. Many more people are able to maintain their independence and stay in the community longer due to the successful implementation of this program.

Interested seniors may apply for assistance with any of the six agencies funded by the levy to provide the service. Each Agency schedules appointments during business hours and makes home visits as needed.

Prescription Assistance for Seniors November 2000 - March 2002	
Clients	Savings
600	\$734,056.00
Average Cost of Prescriptions	Approved Prescriptions
\$200.00	2,500

Prescription Assistance For Seniors Providers:

Ashtabula County Community Action Agency
Janet Lee, Caseworker

Ashtabula Regional Home Health Services
Jeanne Colver, Caseworker

Ashtabula County Council on Aging
Janice Griggs, Caseworker

Catholic Charities
Jennifer Brockway, Caseworker

Conneaut Human Resource Center
Marilyn Telega, Caseworker

Country Neighbor Program, Inc.
Yvonne Bunn, Caseworker
Dennis Searls, Caseworker

This program won a 2002 National Association of Counties (NACo) Award.



In-Home Care: Home Delivered Meals

Home Delivered Meals is one of four In-Home Care service categories funded through the Ashtabula Senior Services Levy program. The basic eligibility criteria for the In-Home Care program are:

- Age 60 and over
- Ashtabula County resident
- Frail and/ or homebound
- Verified need (as determined by initial intake assessment)

The Home Delivered Meals program is designed to prepare and deliver one or more meals per day to an individual's residence. The home delivered meals program helps to prevent malnutrition, institutionalization and feelings of isolation.

Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy dollars prevented an extensive waiting list for the home delivered meals program operated by the Community Action Agency. As state funds available continued to decrease, levy funds provided stability to this essential program, saving 93 individuals from being put on a waiting list for service. In the southern townships, levy funds expanded service to townships where no meal service was previously available.

Contracts to provide this service were awarded based on the providers' ability to deliver services to all areas of the County. Levy dollars ensure that any senior who requires a home delivered meal will have a provider ready to provide service in their area.

Home Delivered Meals Providers:

Northern Townships

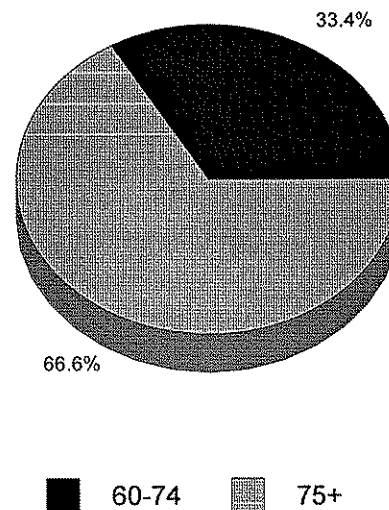
Ashtabula County Community Action Agency

Southern Townships

Country Neighbor Program, Inc.

Home Delivered Meals Served 2001-2002 Contract Year	
Geographic Service Area	Number of Meals Served
Northern Townships	22,172
Southern Townships	12,066
Total	34,237

Home Delivered Meals Clients By Age Group



NOTE: Although this service is available to any resident over the age of 60, 66% of those served in the first year of the program were over age 75. Those over age 75 are the fastest growing segment of the population, and are most at risk of premature institutionalization. There has been a 20% increase in those age 75 and over. Among those served who are over age 75, more than 40% are 85 and older.

In-Home Care: Personal Care

The Personal Care program provides basic health maintenance and personal hygiene assistance to individuals in their own home. These services enable participants to achieve optimal functioning with their activities of daily living.



The contracts for this service were awarded in January 2002, and will run through January 2003. The two service providers will provide service to residents in all townships in Ashtabula County.

The contracts are for “units of service,”

which in the case of personal care is one hour of personal care provided in a recipient’s home. Between the two contracts, 5,724 units of service will be provided during the year.

Personal Care Service Providers:

Ashtabula Regional Home Health Service,
Kerry Gerken, Executive Director
serving the northern townships

Country Neighbor Program, Inc.
Barbara Klingensmith, Executive Director
serving the southern townships

In-Home Care: Chore-Homemaker



The chore-homemaker program provides services which enable recipients to achieve and maintain a clean, safe and healthy environment. Providers may assist with housecleaning, laundry, meal planning and kitchen care.

The contracts for this service began in January 2002 and will continue through January 2003. Residents of all townships will be served through this service.

The contracts provide for 6,864 units of service, which is one hour of chore-homemaker service provided in a client’s home.

Chore-Homemaker Service Providers:

Ashtabula County Community Action Agency

Richard Pepperney, Executive Director
serving the northern townships

Country Neighbor Program, Inc.
Barbara Klingensmith, Executive Director
serving the southern townships

In-Home Care: Minor Home Repair

The final service category under In-Home Care is Minor Home Repair. This service category is currently under development, with funds to be awarded by the end of 2002.

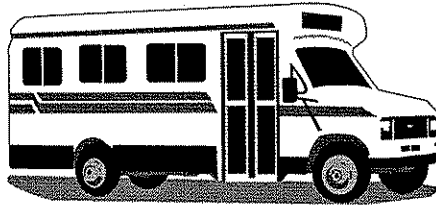
This service will provide one-time assistance to individuals whose homes need minor repairs to ensure the living environment is safe.

Transportation

The Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy is playing a key role in senior citizen transportation in the County. Funds are being used to expand service, create new opportunities and reach a new audience of seniors.

The Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy was able to provide funds to preserve the mid-day service routes on the Ashtabula County Transportation System (ACTS). By maintaining service between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., seniors who rely on public transportation to attend the nutrition site, ride free most of the time they need the service the most.

Ashtabula County residents age 60 and over are issued a Senior Bus Pass to use during the mid-day hours. The pass allows them to ride anywhere on the service free of charge.



The Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy provided funding to fulfill a match requirement for the Ohio Department of Transportation Capital Assistance Grant Program. As an elderly transportation provider, Country Neighbor Program qualified for a dual wheel cutaway lift van that will increase the amount of service available to seniors in South County. With a relatively small investment, the Senior Services Levy helped bring another transportation option to residents of

Ashtabula County.

Transportation Providers:
Ashtabula County Transportation System
Deborah Boyd-Tressler, Project Manager

Country Neighbor Program, Inc.
Barbara Klingensmith, Executive Director

Programs Still To Come

There are still a couple of service categories under development. Those categories include: In-Home Care- Minor Home Repair, Education and Wellness, Protective Services (guardianship, representative payee and ombudsman services) and Transportation. Each of these categories will round out the service delivery system funded by the Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy.

Since this report covers the year ending March 31, information about additional funded transportation projects is not included in the above description. However,

those funds have been allocated, in addition to what is described above.

Under education and wellness, the Levy funds will be spent on innovative programs to meet the needs of the County's mobile older adult population. Protective Services will expand guardianship, develop a payee program and expand ombudsman services, providing greater protection to our County's vulnerable elders. Finally, minor home repair will provide one time assistance to individuals whose homes put them at a safety risk.

Request for Proposal Process

The process of awarding Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy funds conforms with the current county procurement procedures outlined in the Ohio Administrative Procedure Manual (APM). Competitive proposal (APM 4032.2) and non-competitive proposal (APM 4032.3) methods describe the requirements for the purchase of services, supplies or items costing in excess of the small purchase threshold.

As administrator of the Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy funds, the Ashtabula County Department of Job and Family Services provides staff to complete the RFP process, write and monitor contracts and complete invoice processing.

Competitive proposals require a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) bidding process that begins with a publicly advertised notice published once a week for not less than two consecutive weeks preceding the deadline for submission of proposals.

Allowing for a question and answer period, proposal submission and evaluation, the entire process- from advertisement of fund availability to contract award - may take two months or more.

The Board of Ashtabula County Commissioners appointed a ten member advisory board to help oversee the use of the levy funds. The Senior Services Advisory Board serves as a sounding board and voice of the community on the development of levy programs.

Levy funds become available in April of each year, after property tax collections are completed for the first half. During the first year, from April 2001 through March 2002, fourteen contracts were awarded through the RFP process. Each of the providers met stringent requirements to ensure that Ashtabula County seniors receive the best service available.

Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy Advisory Board

Cora Arkkelin	Geneva
Sanford Baumgardner	Andover
Dwight Beebe	Ashtabula
Dorothy Bradford	Jefferson
Sandra Fletcher, <i>Chair</i>	Ashtabula
Paul Fuller	Ex-Officio Member
Willa Hummer	Conneaut
Barbara Klingensmith	Orwell
Don Medd	Youngstown
Richard Pepperney	Ashtabula
Madge Pontius	Ashtabula

Ashtabula Senior Services Levy Contracts through March 2002

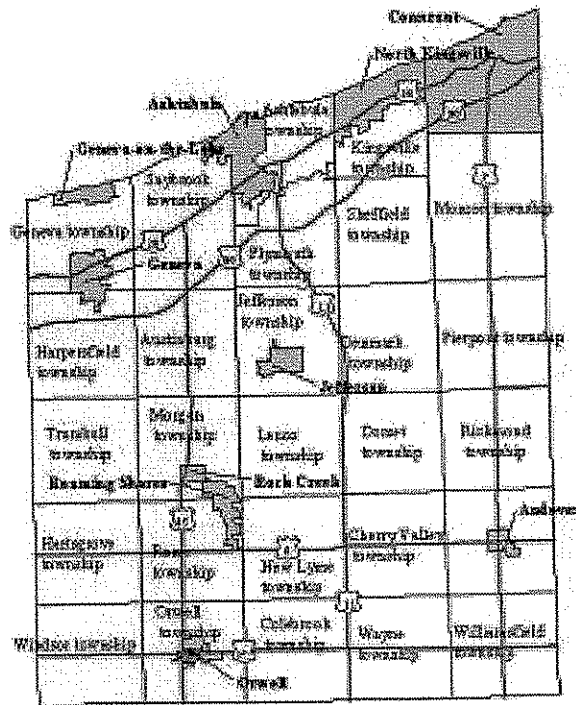
Year	Program	Providers	Total Dollars
11/00- 8/31/01	Prescription Assistance for Seniors (PAS)	ACCAA ACCOA ARHH Catholic Charities Conneaut Human Resources Country Neighbor Program	\$163,133
11/1/00 (one time)	Computers for PAS	(same as above)	\$22,379
1/1/01- 12/31/01	Administrative Expense	ACDJFS	\$60,000
7/1/01- 12/31/01	Home Delivered Meals	ACCAA Country Neighbor Program	\$218,375
9/1/01- 8/31/02	Prescription Assistance for Seniors (PAS)	ACCAA ACCOA ARHH Catholic Charities Conneaut Human Resources Country Neighbor Program	\$196,000
12/14/01	Transportation Matching Funds	Country Neighbor Program	\$8,100
1/1/02- 12/31/02	Administrative Expense	ACDJFS	\$60,000
1/14/02- 1/31/03	Personal Care	ARHH Country Neighbor Program	\$107,981
1/14/02- 1/31/03	Chore/ Homemaker	ACCAA Country Neighbor Program	\$94,995
3/1/02- 12/31/02	Transportation- Bus	Ashtabula County Transportation System (ACTS)	\$85,000
TOTAL			\$1,015,963*

Abbreviations

ACCAA Ashtabula County Community Action Agency
 ACCOA Ashtabula County Council on Aging
 ARHH Ashtabula Regional Home Health Services
 ACDJFS Ashtabula County Department of Job and Family Services

* Levy funds are based on a "Fiscal Year" of April through March. Funds were contracted on the original estimate of tax revenue of \$1.26 million. Based on the original estimate, 80% of the first year's revenue was encumbered. Tax collections resulted in an additional \$200,000 in revenue. The Board anticipated a spending lag and will target funds towards projects that meet levy goals.

Ashtabula County Demographics



Township	Age 60+	Age 75+	Township	Age 60+	Age 75+
Andover Township	612	220	Morgan Township	290	79
Ashtabula Township	4,418	1,801	New Lyme Township	161	38
Austintown Township	356	111	North Kingsville Township	474	130
Cherry Valley Township	142	49	Orwell Township	480	177
Colebrook Township	117	27	Pierpont Township	203	87
Conneaut City	2,656	1,102	Plymouth Township	421	145
Denmark Township	149	39	Richmond Township	156	47
Dorset Township	142	31	Rome Township	248	68
Geneva Township	2,368	873	Saybrook Township	2,280	805
Harpersfield Township	363	103	Sheffield Township	240	71
Harts Grove Township	151	50	Trumbull Township	217	65
Jefferson Township	1,015	460	Wayne Township	110	37
Kingsville Township	517	231	Williamsfield Township	294	82
Lenox Township	223	61	Windsor Township	285	135
Monroe Township	348	92	County Total	19,436	7,216

