

Senior Services Levy Supports Senior Programs

With the latest Central Ohio census figures showing that the age group between 50 and 69 years old grew by nearly a third over the last decade the Franklin County Office on Aging is partnering with local not-for profit community agencies to support 41 grant programs designed to meet the varied needs of Franklin County's senior citizens.

Senior Services Levy

Over \$2.35 million from the Senior Services Levy will fund these programs in the areas of caregiver support, outreach to specialized populations, supportive services, small group transportation, health promotion/wellness, intergenerational programming and volunteer programming. The Senior Services Levy is a property tax paid by homeowners and businesses in Franklin County. The Senior Services Levy provides the resources that make Franklin County Senior Options possible. This marks the 20th year of funding through the voter-approved levy.

New Initiatives

Two new initiatives with LifeCare Alliance will help meet the nutritional needs of older adults.

- Additional funding for the Farmer's Market Program will make it possible for more low-income seniors to purchase nutrient-rich fresh fruits and vegetables from area Farmer's Markets.
- Additional transportation will be available to take seniors to congregate meals sites to obtain nutritional meals and related nutrition services that are critical to health and quality of life.

Other programs areas:

- Support for caregivers to help them cope with the stress and other special needs associated with caring for an older adult.
- Small group transportation for medical appointments and group outings
- Outreach to older adults in targeted areas to ensure their basic needs are being met and they have knowledge of and access to community programs and resources.
- Health promotion and wellness programs that connect underserved older adults with those existing community resources.
- Intergenerational programming designed to build relationships between older adults and children.
- Volunteer programs to assist job seekers; provide a guardian and other friendly visiting activities to other older adults.
- Assistance for refugee seniors to adjust into their new homeland.

For more information on these programs and services call Senior Options at (614) 525-6200.