

Senior Millage Information

1. Leelanau County's senior population has steadily increased and currently makes up approximately 43% of the population and is projected to continue to increase.
2. Leelanau County Senior Services has prided itself on being ready to serve all seniors offering support and resources to allow them to remain in their homes and living life on their terms. This past year LCSS's newsletter reached 5,500 senior households per publication and our services and supports have touched around 35% of the senior population.
3. LCSS provides a broad spectrum of services and plays a pivotal role in connecting people with community organizations and services available to assist seniors in maintaining their independence. LCSS has collaborative working relationships with Meals on Wheels, Area Agency on Aging, Leelanau Probate Court, ShareCare of Leelanau, elder law attorneys, AARP tax assistance, Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program, Leelanau Christian Neighbors, Munson Home Health, and Comfort Keepers. These collaborations allow ALL Leelanau County seniors to access services such as Meals on Wheels, Estate Planning consultation and services, assistance in signing up for Medicare and Medicaid, tax preparation services, Medical Equipment Loan closet, foot care clinics, phone reassurance program, transportation to medical appointments, in home assessments, sales and service of Freedom Alert Emergency Pendants, along with social and education programs.
4. It has also been our honor to provide in-home services (personal care, respite care, medication management, and homemaking) and some financial assistance to seniors who fall within poverty guidelines and those with a limited income.
5. This year the pandemic has provided new challenges in providing services to ensure Leelanau County's seniors were safe and had the resources needed to remain independent in their homes. We have worked with various organizations and volunteers to ensure seniors have access to food, household items and services. As a result, so far we have provided 282 homes with 2,290 lunches from local restaurants, delivered 190 quarantine boxes with shelf stable meals, delivered approximately 400 boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables, and distributed 2,595 frozen Meals on Wheels to any senior that could use some extra meals during this time. Delivering food and meals to seniors raised the profile of our department but provided much needed services to many during this challenging time.
6. As the senior population continues to rise in Leelanau County, Senior Services has seen an increase in the number of seniors seeking information, services and support through our office. Senior Services is looking to the future to strengthen and extend our reach to all seniors to promote aging well in Leelanau County. *The Senior Service Millage will be on the August 4th Primary ballot for a renewal rate of .320 for four years. The millage rate of .320 will equate to \$32.00 of tax for every \$100,000 in property taxable value per year*

7. If approved, the millage will allow Senior Services to continue to :

- **Provide services and supports for seniors in their homes.**

Maintain in home services supported by Senior Services as well as offer home visits to assist seniors in making a plan for aging in place by connecting with them services provided by Senior Services or other agencies and service providers in the area including volunteers.

- **Create additional educational opportunities related to aging and caregiving.**

Collaborate with individuals and organizations to offer classes and trainings related to specific health concerns as well as information to help prepare seniors for the future.

- **Provide activities to engage in healthy aging.**

- **Coordinate volunteer opportunities for seniors to assist other seniors.**