



Administration Building
West Hearing Room
5334 S. Prince St.
Littleton, CO 80120
303-795-4630
Relay Colorado 711
303-795-4630 Audio Agenda Line

Nancy A. Doty, Chair, District 1
Nancy Sharpe, District 2
Rod Bockenfeld, District 3
Nancy Jackson, Chair Pro-Tem, District 4
Bill Holen, District 5

Study Session November 7, 2016

The Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners typically holds weekly Study Sessions on Monday and Tuesday. Study Sessions (except for Executive Sessions) are open to the public and items for discussion are included on this agenda. Agendas (except for Executive Sessions agendas) are available through the Commissioners' Office or through the County's web site at www.arapahoegov.com. Please note that the Board may discuss any topic relevant to County business, whether or not the topic has been specifically noticed on this agenda. In particular, the Board typically schedules time each Monday under "Committee Updates" to discuss a wide range of topics. In addition, the Board may alter the times of the meetings throughout the day, or cancel or reschedule noticed meetings. Questions about this agenda? Contact the Commissioners' Office at 303-795-4630 or by e-mail at commissioners@arapahoegov.com

Study Session Topics

9:00 A.M. Calendar Updates (WHR)

*Diana Maes
BoCC Administration Manager*

9:30 A.M. BOCC Updates (WHR)

Board of County Commissioners

10:00 A.M. *Fall 2016 Open Space Grant Cycle Award Recommendation (WHR)

Discussion and presentation of the Open Space and Open Space & Trails Advisory Board joint recommendation to fund the four (4) ranked and qualified Trails Grants, totaling \$939,568, as presented in the attached Fall 2016 Grant Cycle Ranking Sheet for Open Space Grant Proposals

Request: Information/Direction

*Lindsey Miller, Grants Program Administrator, Open Spaces
Josh Tenneson, Grants and Acquisitions Manager, Open Spaces
Shannon Carter, Director, Open Spaces and Intergovernmental Relations
Janet Kennedy, Director, Finance
Tiffanie Bleau, Senior Assistant County Attorney*

Documents:

[BOCC_SS_FALL 2016 OPEN SPACE GRANT AWARD RECOMMENDATION 10.26.16 FOR 11.7.16.PDF](#)
[OSTAB RECOMMENDATION TO BOCC 2016 FALL GRANT CYCLE 10.26.16.PDF](#)
[FALL 2016 TRAILS GRANT CYCLE RANKING SHEET FOR OPEN SPACE GRANT PROPOSALS.PDF](#)

10:30 A.M. *Aging Strategic Plan Draft (WHR)

Discussion to provide information to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) in the form of the Aging Strategic Plan Draft and to seek direction on finalizing this draft and to have dialogue regarding the recommendations contained within the draft

Request: Information/Direction

*Linda Haley, Senior Resources Division Manager, Community Resources
Don Klemme, Director, Community Resources
Janet Kennedy, Director, Finance
Tiffanie Bleau, Senior Assistant County Attorney*

Documents:

[AGING STRATEGIC PLAN BSR.DOC](#)
[ASP_DRAFT_LR.PDF](#)

11:00 A.M. *Drop In (WHR)

Board of County Commissioners

1. Annual Weatherization Program Update

Discussion of a request from Community Resources to provide a notice of intent with the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) to continue to manage the Weatherization Program for the 2017-2018 fiscal year for Arapahoe County

Request: Information/Direction

*Steve Elliott, Manager, Weatherization Division, Community Resources
Don Klemme, Director, Community Resources
Keith Ashby, Purchasing Manager, Finance
Tiffanie Bleau, Senior Assistant County Attorney*

Documents:

[16 BSR FOR WX NOTICE OF INTENT_PY17-18.PDF](#)

11:20 A.M. * Executive Session (WHR)

Executive Study Session and County Attorney Administrative Meeting [Section 24-6-402 (4)C.R.S.](As required by law, specific agenda topics will be announced in open meeting prior to the commencement of the closed and confidential portion of this session) (WHR)

Ron Carl, County Attorney

*** To Be Recorded As Required By Law**

WHR - West Hearing Room

Arapahoe County is committed to making its public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. Assisted listening devices are available. Ask any staff member and we will provide one for you.

If you need special accommodations, contact the Commissioners' Office at 303-795-4630 or Relay Colorado 711.

Please contact our office at least 3 days in advance to make arrangements.



Board Summary Report

Date: October 26, 2016

To: Board of County Commissioners

Through: Shannon Carter, Open Spaces and Intergovernmental Relations Director

From: Lindsey Miller, Grants Program Administrator

Subject: Fall 2016 Open Space Grant Cycle Award Recommendation

Direction/Information: To provide information regarding the Fall 2016 Open Space Grant proposals and evaluation process and present the BoCC with the Staff/OSTAB joint award recommendation.

Request and Recommendation

Request BoCC consideration of the Staff/OSTAB joint recommendation to fund the four (4) ranked and qualified Trails Grants, totaling \$939,568, as presented in the attached Fall 2016 Grant Cycle Ranking Sheet for Open Space Grant Proposals.

Background

In furtherance of the County Open Space Resolution, Open Space grant funds are invested throughout Arapahoe County communities using 12% of the annual sales/use tax revenue. The goal is to fund eligible, high quality projects that address urgent local needs for open space, parks and trails. Eligible entities for grant funding include all incorporated municipalities and outdoor recreation-oriented special districts within the County.

At the study session on October 26, 2015, the BoCC gave direction to staff to run a Special Fall 2016 Grant cycle focusing specifically on trail planning and improvements and allocating a maximum of \$1 million for the grant cycle. The \$1 million allocated for this special grant cycle is a planned approach to spend down the grants fund due to increased sales and use tax revenue. The categories for the 2016 Fall cycle are as follows:

- Two (2) or more Trails Grant Awards: \$100 to \$500,000, 25% total project cost minimum cash match

Links to Align Arapahoe

- Optimize Use of Financial Assets
- Increase Intergovernmental Cooperation
- Increase Community and Regional Partnerships
- Improve Park, Trail and Open Space Opportunities
- Improve Communication and Stakeholder Input
- Improve Customer Experience
- Enhance Quality of Life

Discussion

By the deadline of August 26, 2016, 6 eligible agencies submitted a total of 6 eligible trails grant proposals, requesting a total of approximately \$1.7 million, with matching funds of about \$1.8 million. The County has \$1 million available for the Fall 2016 Trails Grant Cycle.

The evaluation process involved: 1) initial Open Space Grants Program staff review for eligibility and minimum qualifications; 2) evaluator group tour of each project site; 3) individual evaluation and ranking of each grant proposal by evaluators based on specific objective criteria; and 4) mathematical tallying and merit ranking of projects. The evaluation team consisted of four (4) OSTAB members and five (5) County staff members. Evaluators ranked each project by merit based on the following criteria:

- need and urgency of the project;
- scope of the project;
- leveraging dollars/cash match provided;
- ability of the applicant to achieve the proposed results according to budget in a two (2) year timeframe;
- supporting documentation; and
- capacity of the entity to maintain the project site in future years.

After evaluating the projects, participating OSTAB and County staff grant reviewers submitted their individual rankings, which were combined and averaged to reveal that there is funding to support four (4) out of the six (6) projects. The two (2) grant projects that are not recommended for funding at this time will receive evaluator comments and suggestions for reapplying for a future grant or joint project opportunity. The two projects that are not being recommended for funding were not ranked because they need additional planning and are not ready to move forward at this time.

Trails Grants:

- \$250,000 to City of Englewood for **Northwest Greenbelt Trail Connection Project**
- \$129,375 to South Suburban Park and Recreation District for **Phase II River Integration at Hudson Gardens**
- \$500,000 to City of Aurora for **Triple Creek Trailhead Construction**
- \$60,193 to Copperleaf Metropolitan District #2 for **Copperleaf Trails Planning Project**

Alternatives

Recommend approval, conditional approval, or denial per grant project.

Fiscal Impact

Twelve percent (12%) of annual revenue from the County Open Space Tax Fund is dedicated to funding competitive grants pursuant to the County Open Space Resolution. Recommended grant awards total \$939,568. The fund balance exceeds this amount.

Concurrence

On October 24, 2016, Open Space Trails and Advisory Board (OSTAB) and Open Spaces Staff discussed the results of the grant evaluation process and made a joint recommendation to the BoCC (attached).

Attorney Comments

None.

Reviewed By:

Lindsey Miller
Grants Program Administrator

Josh Tenneson
Grants and Acquisitions Manager

Shannon Carter, Director
Intergovernmental Relations and Open Spaces

Tiffanie Bleau
Assistant County Attorney

Janet Kennedy
Finance Director



OSTAB Recommendation

Date: October 24, 2016

To: Board of County Commissioners

From: Open Space Trails and Advisory Board (OSTAB)

Subject: **Fall 2016 Open Space Trails Grant Cycle – Ranking of Proposals & Recommendation**

OSTAB Recommendation: After reviewing the results of grant proposal evaluations and rankings for the Fall 2016 Trails Grant Cycle as an action item on this date, the evaluation team composed of five (4) County Staff and four (4) OSTAB members recommends to the BOCC that the County approve grant funding for the Fall 2016 Trails Grant Cycle as follows: “Fund the four (4) ranked and qualified Trails Grants (total of 4); totaling \$939,568, as presented in the attached Fall 2016 Grant Cycle Ranking Sheet for Open Space Grant Proposals. All grant awards are subject to available funds and the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) within 60 days of award notification unless otherwise approved by County Grants Program Administrator between the County and each grant applicant for each project.”

Motion by: Bev Bradshaw

Seconded by: Ron Weidmann

Vote: 6 Yes

 0 No

 0 Absent and Excused

 0 Abstain

2016 Fall Grant Applicants	Grant Amount	Match Amount	Total Project Amount	Project Type	Project Name / Description	Evaluator Avg/Final	Final Rank Order
Trail Grants							
City of Englewood	\$250,000	\$91,500	\$341,500	Trail Improvement	Northwest Greenbelt Trail Connection Project	1.666667	1
South Suburban Park and Recreation District	\$129,375	\$43,125	\$172,500	Trail Planning	Phase II River Integration at Hudson Gardens	2.333333	2
City of Aurora	\$500,000	\$225,600	\$725,600	Trail Head Construction	Triple Creek Trailhead Construction	2.444444	3
Copperleaf Metropolitan District #2	\$60,193	\$22,676	\$87,869	Trail System Planning	Copperleaf Trails Project	3.555556	4
Town of Bennett	\$234,375	\$78,125	\$312,500	Trail Construction	Kiowa Creek Trail Link Construction (Phase I)	N/A	N/A
City of Centennial	\$500,000	\$1,383,167	\$1,883,167	Trail Construction	Lone Tree Creek Regional Trail Construction (Phase I)	N/A	N/A
Totals Amount Requested	\$1,673,943	\$1,844,193	\$3,523,136				
Fall Grant Cycle Total Awards	\$939,568	\$382,901	\$1,327,469				
6 Trail Grant Applications Received from 6 Different Agencies	Projected Awards: 2 or more up to \$1M		Recommended Awards: 4 Awards				



Board Summary Report

Date: 10/27/16
To: Board of County Commissioners
Through: Don Klemme, Community Resources Department Director
From: Linda Haley, Senior Resources Division Manager
Subject: Aging Strategic Plan Draft

Direction/Information:

The purpose of this Board Summary Report is to provide information to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) in the form of the Aging Strategic Plan Draft and to seek direction on finalizing this draft and to have dialogue regarding the recommendations contained within the draft. It is important to note that a variety of resources were accessed in the drafting of recommendations, resulting in some recommendations that may be acceptable to the BOCC and others that may not. The thought is that by providing a wide array of recommendations there will be a solid basis for discussion on recommendations that are appropriate for Arapahoe County to include in the final plan.

Background

In late 2014 the BOCC directed that the Community Resources Department initiate the process of developing an Aging Strategic Plan utilizing The Boomer Bond Assessment Tool and the Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults as primary sources of data collection for this project.

Links to Align Arapahoe

The Aging Strategic Plan links to Quality of Life, Service First, and Fiscal Responsibility. Ensuring that our ever growing population of seniors can remain in their own homes or apartments and have the services necessary to maintain independence links to Quality of Life and Service First. Ensuring that seniors can access the least restrictive forms of care as they age connects to Fiscal Responsibility as the costs of assisted living and nursing home care far exceed the costs to maintain independence at home.

Discussion

Following the format of the Boomer Bond Assessment Tool, the Aging Strategic Plan contains four sections; Community Living (page 7); Mobility and Access (page 13); Housing (page 17); and Support Services (page 26). Each section contains recommendations relevant to that section with overall Countywide Recommendations on page 34.

Please note that page 2 currently contains “filler” as a place holder and will be replaced with a introduction by the BOCC and a statement by the Chair if the BOCC chooses.

The Recommendations for the various sections are listed below.

Community Living

Outreach and Education

Educate seniors and family members about the need to make plans, have discussions about needs and expectations before there is a crisis.

Community Organization

Continue Community Resources and Human Services participation in Helping Arapahoe Neighbors Discover Supports (HANDS).

Identify community members or organizational staff that can be leaders in developing or enhancing programs.

Increase relationship building in the community to ensure that gaps are filled and reduce duplication of effort.

Arapahoe County as a Leader

Arapahoe County can take a leadership role in ensuring that meetings, venues, etc. are senior friendly, consideration is given to the times of meetings and that they are located in transportation friendly areas.

Mobility and Access

Engage Older Adults in Conversations about Transportation on a routine basis

Continuously engage older adults in conversations about how transportation is working for them and what they would like to see for options as they age. Utilize these conversations to introduce new or different options.

Volunteer Driver Programs

Research opportunities to make volunteer driver programs more volunteer friendly with less liability to encourage more volunteer drivers to participate. Consider options such as a mileage stipend to cover increased costs. Encourage options such as providing a supplemental insurance policy for volunteer drivers.

Travel Training

Travel training programs have been successful in some areas in helping seniors develop a comfort and familiarity with using public transit when they have perhaps driven all of their lives. These programs could include training to use options such as Uber and Lyft. Due to the large geographic areas in Arapahoe County that are not served by public transit, creativity would be required.

Collaboration

Continue involvement with organization such as Transportation Solutions Arapahoe County (TSAC), the Denver Regional Mobility and Access Council (DRMAC), the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), municipalities and other organizations that are involved in providing, supporting, or funding transportation in Arapahoe County.

Increase Walkability

While many of the suburbs will never meet the walkability designs that are currently in use with new development, thoughtful planning as improvements are made in specific areas could include:

- a. increased timing of street lights
- b. improving poorly maintained sidewalks and making them ADA compliant
- c. providing resting spots on frequently used routes

Advocate with RTD

Advocate for RTD to consider expanding operations such as Call-n-Ride in Arapahoe County to increase access to existing bus service and light rail. Advocate for increased routes and against the continued reduction of routes in Arapahoe County.

Educate Municipalities, Elected Officials and Citizens

Elevate discussions about transportation needs through the County and various city processes, town hall meetings, district meetings, etc. to educate elected officials and citizens about the existing gaps and options for meeting needs.

Housing

Consider Zoning Changes Such As Inclusionary Zoning (IZ)

This is an example of a policy change that if positively received will require Government entities to amend current rules and programs. IZ requires developers to make a percentage of developed units affordable to seniors and or other lower income households. In exchange for the affordable units the developer can be awarded an incentive, such as a density bonus or a reduction in the amount of required parking spaces.

Support Development

There is new, affordable, multi-family housing constructed throughout Colorado annually. The tool that is used to make these projects feasible is the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC). Because this is a tool that is being used to generate affordable housing developments for seniors, Arapahoe County should support funding for both the State and Federal LIHTC, and if possible, lobby for an increase in funding in order to ensure the vitality of this program.

Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) for Seniors

Arapahoe County currently funds two TBRA programs, for families, in Arapahoe County. The TBRA program provides income qualified households with rental assistance, for up to two years, with the possibility for extensions. The household pays 30 percent of their monthly household income for rent and utilities and the rest is paid to the landlord with TBRA funds. The assumption could be made with a program targeting seniors, that TBRA would be used while a senior was on the waiting list for subsidized housing.

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)

The County should conduct dialogue on zoning changes that would allow an increase in density. Accessory Dwelling Units, also known as “Granny Flats,” could allow for seniors to live independently in close proximity to family members or other people in their network. The resistance to allowing ADUs is the thought that places will become overcrowded and unsightly.

Shared Housing

Shared housing is a growing option for seniors. Each municipality has its own regulations regarding how many unrelated people may live in a single dwelling. If regulations throughout the county were amended to allow at least four unrelated people to reside in a dwelling, this would provide an opportunity for unrelated seniors to purchase or rent a house at a cost far more reasonable than current rents.

Community Engagement

Arapahoe County can work with other cities and towns in the County to promote changes to their policies to allow for creative programs that allow for more affordable housing.

Home Maintenance

Utilize available funding to support emergency home maintenance and accessibility programs that will enable fixed income seniors to maintain their homes. Encourage volunteer organizations to provide these services.

Property Tax Exceptions

Ensure that the current property tax exceptions remain in place. Encourage the creation of programs that allow seniors to do volunteer work to “work off” portions of their taxes.

Support Services

Community Participation

Maintain and expand community participation as a means to both identify gaps in services and encourage service providers to work together to minimize duplication of services. Continue to support efforts such as H.A.N.D.S in bringing together government, nonprofit and faith based communities to work together, particularly on needs that do not have specific organizational solutions.

Identifying and Addressing Gaps in Services

Encourage service providers to address new or changing needs. Ensure that reviews of funding stream awards such as Aid to Agencies, Community Development Block Grants and Community Services Block Grants are addressing unmet needs. Utilize the Arapahoe County Council on Aging as a vehicle to provide information to the Denver Regional Council of Governments regarding needs during funding cycles.

Cultural Competency

Ensure inclusion of all people needing services by utilizing currently existing training opportunities for cultural competency in all areas including age, race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation. Through existing and new community partnerships, encourage other organizations to participate or provide cultural competency training to staff.

Support Legislation

As appropriate, support Local, State and Federal Legislation that will provide increased funding, change Federal funding formulas and bring local attention to service gaps.

Countywide Recommendations

In addition to the specific recommendations included at the conclusion of each of the four Sections, there are also some high level and more general recommendations that **will assist with identifying and meeting gaps and needs as our aging population continues to grow.**

Increase funding.

Consider a mil levy or sales tax that will allow for a predictable and steady income stream to support the increased needs of seniors whether it is housing, in-home services, transportation or other needs.

Staffing

Right size Senior Resources staff to allow for both day to day hands on management of Programs and working toward visionary needs for the future.

Community Education and Coordination

Increase outreach opportunities through community coordination to educate seniors and family members about resources and planning. Explore targeting children of seniors through community organizations, employee assistance programs and other venues.

Transportation

Support innovation by transportation providers whether paid or volunteer. Increase opportunities in the community for seniors to become comfortable with alternative means of transportation.

Volunteer Opportunities

Participation in HANDS. Continued development of volunteer opportunities through Arapahoe County. Community level participation by staff in other organizations that have the capacity to meet gaps through volunteers.

Municipality vs. County

Encourage dialogue and participation between the cities and the County in order to develop an approach to solutions that involve everyone.

Alternatives

The alternatives are to accept or reject specific recommendations in the four sections or the overall Countywide recommendations. Specific recommendations may be targeted as an area of focus within a specific time period.

Fiscal Impact

Fiscal impact will be dependent on areas of focus in the recommendations. The majority of recommendations will have no fiscal impact to Arapahoe County. There are some recommendations such as “right sizing” the Senior Resource Division that may have a fiscal impact.

Concurrence

The draft has been reviewed by Linda Haley, Senior Resources Division Manager and Don Klemme, Community Resources Department Director.

Reviewed By:

Linda Haley, Senior Resources Division Manager
Don Klemme, Community Resources Department Director
Janet Kennedy, Finance Department Director
Tiffanie Bleau, Assistant County Attorney



ARAPAHOE COUNTY COLORADO

Aging Strategic PLAN

Prepared by:
Arapahoe County Senior Resources Division

11/16



Table of Contents

Board of County Commissioners	2
Introduction and Overview.....	3
Community Living	7
Community Living Recommendations.....	12
Mobility and Access	13
Mobility and Access Recommendations.....	16
Housing.....	17
Housing Recommendations	26
Support Services	26
Support Services Recommendations.....	33
Countywide Recommendations	33
Senior FOCUS Conversations.....	35
Senior Poverty in Colorado Map	46
References	47

Board of County Commissioners

“Sed ut perspiciatis unde omnis iste natus error sit voluptatem accusantium doloremque laudantium, totam rem aperiam, eaque ipsa quae ab illo inventore veritatis et quasi architecto beatae vitae dicta sunt explicabo. Nemo enim ipsam voluptatem quia voluptas sit aspernatur aut odit aut fugit, sed quia consequuntur magni dolores eos qui ratione voluptatem sequi nesciunt. Neque porro quisquam est, qui dolorem ipsum quia dolor sit amet, consectetur, adipisci velit, sed quia non numquam eius modi tempora incidunt ut labore et dolore magnam aliquam quaerat voluptatem. Ut enim ad minima veniam, quis nostrum exercitationem ullam corporis suscipit laboriosam, nisi ut aliquid ex ea commodi consequatur? Quis autem vel eum iure reprehenderit qui in ea voluptate velit esse quam nihil molestiae consequatur, vel illum qui dolorem eum fugiat quo voluptas nulla pariatur?” increasing. Age sold some full like rich new. Amounted repeated as believed in confined juvenile.



“Sed ut perspiciatis unde omnis iste natus error sit voluptatem accusantium doloremque laudantium, totam rem aperiam, eaque quis nostrum Quis autem consequatur, vel illum qui dolorem eum fugiat quo voluptas nulla pariatur?”

With thanks to the following contributors:
Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners Office
Arapahoe County Communication Services
Arapahoe County Community Resources
Arapahoe County Department of Human Services
Arapahoe County Facilities and Fleet Management
Arapahoe County Public Works and Development
Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office

Nancy A. Doty
Chair

Introduction

In 2014 the Board of County Commissioners initiated the process of working toward developing an Aging Strategic Plan to provide information and guidance for the future to address the unprecedented growth in the population of people over the age of 60.

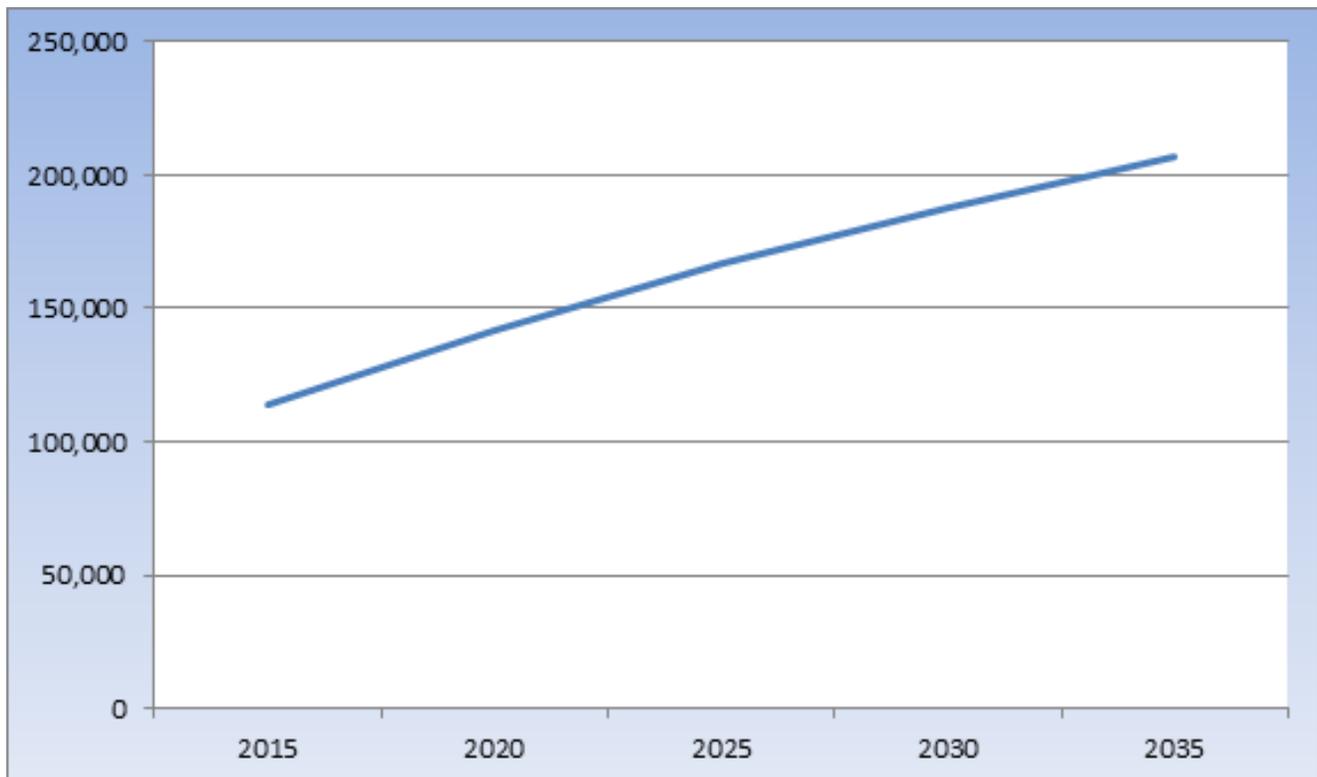
Overview

Arapahoe County is Colorado's first county and one of its' largest with a population that now exceeds 600,000. Arapahoe County is also a very diverse County with the different municipalities each having their own personality. The County stretches from Littleton and Sheridan on the Western boundary to Deer Trail on the Eastern Plains. It encompasses communities such as Littleton, with a very hometown feel, to the diversity of the City of Aurora and the rural and farming communities of the Eastern Plains. The County is home to areas with rapidly growing businesses, such as part of the Denver Tech Center and the Cities of Centennial and Greenwood Village. As such, the impacts of an aging population are felt somewhat differently in each of these areas.



Population projections from the Colorado State Demographers Office indicate that in 2015, 18 percent of Arapahoe County's population, or approximately 112,798 individuals, are age 60 or over. Projections for the year 2035 are that Arapahoe County's total population will be 875,379 with 23 percent, or 203,606 people, being over the age of 60.

Population Increases (over age 60)



It is also important to understand how the aging demographics effect the counties surrounding Arapahoe County. When examined on a County by County basis as a percentage of the total state population over the age of 60, the percentage changes are minimal at 1-2 percent increase or decrease. However, when you look at the real numbers the increases are larger. For example, in Arapahoe County, the increase is from 112,798 to 203,606 individuals over the age of 60 or increasing from 18 percent of the total population in 2015 to 23 percent of the total population in 2035. Douglas County will see an increase from 15 percent of the total population being over age 60 in 2015 to 26 percent in 2035. Jefferson County will also see a large increase from 23 percent to 30 percent.

Population Projections

Counties	2015 Population Over the Age of 60	Percent of Total State Population Over the Age of 60	2035 Projected Population Over the Age of 60	Percent of Total State Population Over the Age of 60	Increase/Decrease
Adams	71,868	7%	147,830	8%	+1%
Arapahoe	112,798	11%	203,606	12%	+1%
Denver	111,657	11%	168,677	10%	-1%
Douglas	47973	5%	117,608	7%	+2%
Jefferson	127,380	12%	199,355	11%	-1%
State of Colorado	1,034,790				

Counties	2015 Total Population	2015 % County of Population Over the Age of 60	2035 Total Population	2035 County % of Population Over the Age of 60
Adams	490,066	15%	726,331	20%
Arapahoe	628,324	18%	875,379	23%
Denver	677,863	16%	836,961	20%
Douglas	319,919	15%	455,616	26%
Jefferson	565,106	23%	674,244	30%
State of Colorado	5,443,613		7,462,185	

These significant changes in the aging demographics of both Arapahoe County and the Denver Metro Area provide opportunities and challenges as we move into the future. For the purposes of this report, we are looking at four primary topic areas, matching those in the Boomer Bond Assessment Tool developed by the Denver Regional Council of Governments and Tri-County Health. Those areas include Housing, Mobility and Access, Support Services and Community Living.

As part of the process involved in gathering information for this report, each of the appropriate departments within Arapahoe County Government completed the Boomer Bond Assessment Tool identifying what they knew or believed to be available for incentives, services, zoning codes, transportation, etc. within our community. In addition, we utilized information from the Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults (CASOA) completed every four years by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). Additional reports and sources of information from national studies were also used and are noted in Appendix III. County staff participated with the Centennial Senior Commission on their Boomer Bond process and also participated in the Littleton Boomer Bond assessment. Finally, three community focus groups were held focusing on the Western area of the County, the Central area and the Eastern Plains. Discussion topics at the focus groups included finding the resources needed, health care, transportation, nutrition, pets and community/civic participation.



Additional information utilized includes information from the Colorado State Demographers Office at the Department of Local Affairs, the 2010 US census and DRCOG's Four Year Plan on Aging.

According to AARP (Aging in Place: A State Survey of Livability Policies and Practices), "a livable community is one that has affordable and appropriate housing, supportive community features and services and adequate mobility options which together facilitate personal independence and the engagement of residents in civic and social life." In recognition of the impact that the changing demographics of an aging Colorado and an aging Arapahoe County will have on our citizens, municipalities and the County as a whole, it was decided by the Board of County Commissioners in late 2014 to direct staff to gather information that would assist in providing strategic direction to the County on steps that we can undertake to ensure that our citizens have the opportunity to age well in their communities.

“Aging in place” or “aging in community” have become the catch phrases to represent what the majority of older adults hope to achieve as they age. While each of us has our own definition of what aging in community or aging in place means, generally speaking it defines the ability to stay in your own home or within your community, accessible to your friends and family, able to participate in the community to the degree you choose, to have your community be culturally responsive and to have choices that represent your needs and values.

A challenge for Arapahoe County, as well as many other counties and municipalities throughout Colorado and the United States, is that coming out of the Great Recession, revenues have remained low or flat, while the cost of providing the services typically provided by counties and municipalities has continued to increase. Colorado entities must address these increases while remaining within the revenue raising limits of the Taxpayer Bill of Rights or TABOR. As the senior population continues its’ dramatic growth, revenue generation will not keep up with needs. Federal and State grants will also not keep pace with the growth in demographics. According to the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities, Administration on Aging funds spent in 1980 equaled \$8.33 per adult over the age of 65 in the United States. In 2015, this number has dropped to \$1.05 per adult over the age of 65. We know that meeting the needs of a growing senior population will call for increasing creativity and the development of partnerships with nonprofits, businesses and faith based organizations. In order to move forward thoughtfully, organizations will need to be willing to work together and share resources to meet the needs of greater numbers of people.

The following four topic areas address strengths and needs in each area in conjunction with recommendations for consideration as we strive to create a community where seniors have choices, are valued and can thrive.



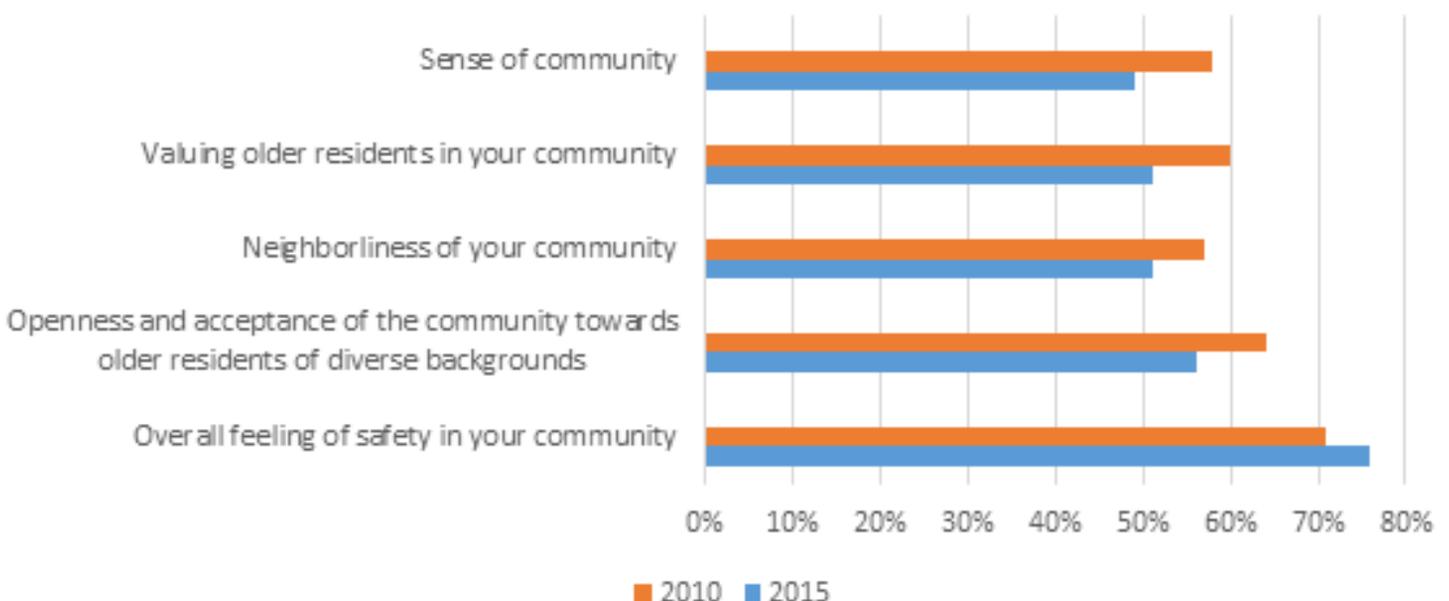
Community Living

Aging in place in the community of choice remains the preference for the majority of people as they grow older. Staying close to family, church, social and civic groups, libraries and familiar shopping venues is an important factor in well-being. In discussions of how community is defined, each person participating in the discussion had a different description of what “community” meant to them. The descriptions of “community” ranged from neighborhoods to the entire state of Colorado. There was also discussion of how your “community” might grow smaller as you age and mobility declines. For younger seniors, it was a much broader description.

When looking at aging in place, we tend to think primarily about accessible housing and mobility or transportation. In reality, thriving as we age involves a number of other factors. According to the 2015 DRCOG CASOA survey, “community involves a sense of membership, but also feelings of emotional and physical safety.” Arapahoe County 2015 CASOA results showed a notable decline in seniors’ perception of how older residents are valued in the community, dropping from a 60 percent rating of good or excellent in 2010 to a 51 percent rating of good or excellent. “Sense of community” showed a similar decline from 58 percent of respondents rating sense of community as good or excellent in 2010 to 49 percent in 2015. “Openness and acceptance of the community toward older residents of diverse backgrounds” showed a decline from a 64 percent good or excellent rating in 2010 to 56 percent good or excellent. The one area that improved was the “overall feeling of safety in your community” which improved from 71 percent good or excellent in 2010 to 76 percent good or excellent in 2015. As our aging population continues to grow, it will be important to identify why these ratings changed between 2010 and 2015 and how we can improve.

2015 Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults

Older Adult Ratings of Community and Belonging in Arapahoe County Percent rated "excellent" or "good."



In addition to the basic mobility or transportation that allows seniors to attend events and travel where they need to go, there are other factors that effect a seniors' ability to be active in their community. These involve having facilities that are ADA compliant and accessible, allowing service dogs, using microphones even in smaller meetings to facilitate hearing and participation, providing sign language interpretation at public meetings and publishing materials in large print. All of these options foster a feeling of inclusion and acceptance.

Work

For some seniors, continuing to work is important to them both financially and as a definition of self-worth. In Arapahoe County, Arapahoe/Douglas Works! provides opportunities for seniors who desire to remain in the workforce through their Generations program that connects them with employers who are interested in hiring older workers. Seniors may also take advantage of one-on-one career counseling, education and training for new job skills, assistance with resume development, networking opportunities and job fairs and events targeted specifically toward older workers through Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Opportunities for working in older years may include part time employment, flexible work schedules, working as a contractor and job sharing. The availability of these options differs between employers but for those seniors with a desire to work connecting with Arapahoe/Douglas Works! is a good place to start. According to the 2015 CASOA survey, the economic contribution of older adults in Arapahoe County who were being paid for their work was over \$1.3 billion. The 2015 CASOA survey notes that there was a significant uptick, from 18 percent to 39 percent of seniors in Arapahoe County, rating employment opportunities as good or excellent.



Play

Opportunities to play are an important factor for everyone regardless of age. The 2015 CASOA survey indicated 78 percent of Arapahoe County Seniors rated recreation opportunities as "good or excellent" and 66 percent rated opportunities to enroll in skill building or personal enrichment classes as "good or excellent." Access to senior centers and recreation centers varies with the geography of Arapahoe County. In the more densely populated areas, there are more choices. In Englewood the Malley Senior Center offers many programs and classes in addition to a Volunteers of America sponsored congregate dining program. The Malley center is wonderfully located between two low income senior high-rises and is also on the ARTS shuttle route allowing access to the center. South Suburban Parks and Recreation offers the Buck Center in Littleton and the Goodson Center in western



Centennial, both with a wide variety of programs targeted toward seniors. The Buck Center has a weekly lunch that offers a chance to socialize and enjoy a good meal with other seniors.

Aurora's Center for Active Adults is a vibrant senior center that offers a wide variety of programming in addition to a Volunteers of America Congregate Dining site for noon meals. Aurora Center for Active Adults has also worked with DRCOG to increase programming targeted toward the increasing diverse cultures who have settled in Aurora. The Trails Recreation Center, part of the Arapahoe Parks and Recreation District, serves eastern Centennial. While not exclusively a senior center, the Trails Recreation Center offers classes that are specific to seniors such as Silver Sneakers. Another vital component of the various senior centers are group trips. Group trips offer both the opportunity to participate in activities that some people might feel uncomfortable doing alone and also access to activities in areas where they may no longer feel comfortable driving.

In addition to access to senior centers and targeted programming, for many seniors opportunities to access parks and recreational facilities where they can share activities with family members including grandchildren are important. Arapahoe County's Open Space programs, South Suburban Parks and Recreation programs and Arapahoe Parks and Recreation District Programs all contribute to this. Additionally, parks such as Centennial's Civic Center Park and the programs offered at Englewood Recreation Center provide a wide variety of opportunities. Throughout the County there is a network of trails available to people of all ages. Many of these trails don't particularly cater to seniors as they don't have benches placed frequently enough for resting or taking breaks. While many of the parks have at least seasonal bathrooms available, there tends not to be bathroom facilities placed at any frequency along trails. This is an example of the type of amenity that would be positive for families with small children using trails as well as seniors.

Supplementing the traditional structures of senior centers and recreation centers, there also exist many opportunities for active engagement provided by faith based organizations in the community. Many of the churches, particularly the larger organizations, offer groups and classes ranging from grief support groups to Active Minds to senior meals or pot lucks and group trips to various events. Some churches provide transportation to their congregants. These faith based organizations also offer an opportunity to volunteer to support many of their different programs whether targeted to seniors, families or youth.

Additionally, the Community College system provides opportunities for recreation and skill building that are often overlooked by seniors. In Arapahoe County, both Arapahoe Community College, located in Littleton and Community College of Aurora, located in Aurora, offer opportunities for programs such as language learning, certificate programs and degreed programs. Arapahoe Community College and Community College of Aurora both offer many programs available to anyone in the community ranging from art to language to investment and travel. Despite the many opportunities available for social engagement, 25 percent of Arapahoe County seniors responding to CASOA reported having difficulty finding meaningful activities at times.

Volunteer

Seniors are in a unique position to share a lifetime of education and experience through volunteering. The 2015 CASOA survey indicated that one-third of responding seniors experienced difficulty finding meaningful volunteer work. This number was a slight increase from the 2010 CASOA survey and represented a higher number than reported in other communities in the United States. The same difficulty in learning or knowing about resources appears to extend to learning and knowing about volunteer opportunities. Despite the apparent difficulties for people in connecting with volunteer opportunities, there exist many opportunities to volunteer in the community. These opportunities include delivering meals on wheels, volunteering for Arapahoe County's Volunteer Connections Program, the volunteer program of the Arapahoe County Sheriff's office, the Arapahoe County Human Services Volunteer Program, participating in Boards and Commissions at both municipal and County levels, volunteering in local schools which may also provide a property tax break, volunteering in a local library and volunteering in many different nonprofits that exist in each of the communities. Connections to these opportunities can be found through municipal and county websites, Volunteer Match, local newspapers, organizational websites and faith based organizations among other avenues for connection.

Not surprisingly, two of the three focus groups reported that 75 percent of the focus group participants were active volunteers and in the third group 100 percent were volunteers. It would appear that the same community connections that fostered their interest in participating in the focus groups also keep them connected to the community and simplifies connecting with volunteer opportunities.



Seniors historically have been active participants in election processes whether local, state or national. According to the CASOA survey, 89 percent of respondents vote in local elections. In the DRCOG region, participation in civic activities other than voting was lower than in other communities nationwide. Participation by seniors in civic groups such as Lions, Kiwanis, Masons, Elks, etc. is particularly low in the metro area with only a nine percent participation rate noted in the CASOA survey.

Health and Wellness

Another significant aspect of Community Living and remaining independent is Health and Wellness. The best laid plans for housing, transportation and access to resources accomplish nothing if seniors don't have access to health care, mental health services and opportunities to maintain or improve their physical health. The availability of fitness opportunities was rated higher in the 2015 CASOA survey than the 2010 survey with 82 percent of respondents feeling that the opportunities were good or excellent. Additionally, 84 percent of respondents rated their overall physical health as good or excellent, up from 74 percent in 2010. With the classes and exercise equipment offered through senior centers, programs such as Silver Sneakers, Tri-County Health programs like Matter of Balance which can go "on the road" to locations that are frequented by seniors, the increasing programs offered by Medicare Advantage Plans and the previously identified parks and recreation opportunities, Arapahoe County provides a rich assortment of ways for maintaining and improving physical health. The only group of people who have less overall access to opportunities is the group that is homebound, either due to health issues or simply because they no longer drive and do not have reliable or accessible transportation available.

Mental health issues are also an important factor in community living. In the 2015 CASOA Survey, 43 percent of respondents reported at least a minor problem with "feeling bored," while 36 percent reported at least a minor or moderate problem with "feeling depressed." A minor problem with experiencing confusion or forgetfulness was reported by 26 percent and the same percent reported a problem with feeling lonely or isolated. At least a minor problem with having family or friends to rely on was reported by 25 percent. Services for those needing mental health support are available in the metro area of the County through Aurora Mental

Health and All Health Network (formerly Arapahoe Douglas Mental Health). While some services may be covered by health insurance, others are provided on a sliding fee scale which, anecdotally, some of our seniors have identified as being a problem. There also remains a stigma with some seniors to admitting the need for mental health services. During a resource fair hosted on the Eastern Plains in late 2014, access to mental health services for residents of this area was identified as a problem both from the cost perspective and the lack of local services, requiring residents to make it "into town" to access services.

Seniors living in the rural Eastern Plains area also have different challenges in remaining active in their communities. Being in a community where everyone knows everyone else has some benefits in that people often know who is ill, recuperating, no longer able to drive, needing additional supports, etc. and generally people in the rural areas are very willing to support each other. However, the distance involved in providing that support can be problematic. Tri Valley Seniors, an organization based primarily in Byers and Deer Trail, has been instrumental, with the Assistance of Arapahoe County Aid to Agencies funding, in enhancing social connections for seniors. Tri Valley Seniors works with both the Byers and Deer Trail High Schools to allow seniors access to the school lunches, which provides a modified version of the senior dining centers that exist throughout the Denver Metro area. They also use Aid to Agencies funds to support a volunteer driven van that transports seniors to meetings, social functions, exercise classes, the grocery store and occasionally into the metro area to participate in activities that aren't available in the rural area. The Tri Valley Seniors' group also provides volunteer opportunities for seniors ranging from checking in on other seniors to assisting with fundraising.



Community Living Recommendations

Note: Some of the aspects that support Community Living are addressed in the Housing and Transportation Sections in greater length.

Outreach and Education

Educate seniors and family members about the need to make plans and have discussions about needs and expectations before there is a crisis. Some avenues for this are through the Arapahoe County Council on Aging's Speakers Bureau, providing information and classes at senior centers, connecting with Employee Assistance Programs and reaching out to the faith based organizations.

While many older seniors currently don't use the internet as a search tool, younger seniors and their families are increasingly using the internet as a search tool. Consider enhancing a website, whether it is the County website or the County Council on Aging's website to provide connections to more information. Also consider providing specific reputable links and encouragement to municipalities to provide good information on their websites.

Strengthen relationships with local libraries as a means of providing information.

Community Organization

Continue Community Resources participation in Helping Arapahoe Neighbors Discover Supports (HANDS) program.

Identify community members or organizational staff that can be leaders in developing or enhancing programs.

Increase relationship building in the community to ensure that gaps are filled and reduce duplication of effort.

Arapahoe County as a Leader

Arapahoe County can take a leadership role in ensuring that meetings, venues, etc. are senior friendly, consideration is given to the times of meetings and that they are located in transportation friendly areas.



Mobility and Access



Mobility and Access can be defined very differently depending upon the community in which you live, but regardless of where you live, it is vital to maintaining independence. The Regional Transportation District (RTD) which provides public transit for the Denver Metro area including bus service, Call-n-Ride, para-transit service (Access-a-Ride) and light rail, does not serve large geographic areas of Arapahoe County. The metro area of Aurora is well served as is Arapahoe Road, University Blvd., Broadway St., Federal Blvd. and Littleton Blvd. but the ever expanding suburban communities in southeast Aurora, Centennial and in unincorporated Arapahoe County are not served. In addition, large areas of Centennial, Greenwood Village, Littleton and Sheridan are not served. For citizens who live in areas not served by RTD, there is also no access to Access-a-Ride. There is no public transit available on the Eastern Plains at this time.

Transportation

Giving up the car keys is a very difficult decision for almost everyone who faces physical health issues or vision issues that decrease their safety behind the wheel. For most seniors, being able to drive is the defining example of being independent. According to the Magazine for the American Planning Association, the difference between life expectancy and driving expectancy is seven years for men and ten years for women. There are programs through various insurance companies, AAA and AARP that seniors can utilize to determine their driving safety, or that will provide info and assistance on changes that an individual can make to improve their driver safety as they age. We

are aware from anecdotal information from family members, neighbors, and seniors themselves who call that often people continue driving well beyond the point where they are safe because they are either unaware of alternatives or don't find the alternatives to be appropriate to their needs. Currently, the funding available is targeted primarily to medical and nutritional related destinations. It is not sufficient, or even allowed to be used, to meet the needs of those people who want to make personal trips such as taking a pet to the vet, visiting a spouse in a nursing home, or attending an evening event. These personal trips are vital to an independent and thriving lifestyle for seniors.

In the 2015 CASOA survey, 26 percent of respondents indicated that having safe and affordable transportation is at least a minor problem. With the increased offerings of light rail touching Arapahoe County in the last few years, it is somewhat surprising that the number of respondents who used bus, rail or other forms of public transportation decreased from 44 percent in 2010 to 37 percent in 2015.

Resources currently available to seniors living in Arapahoe County include RTD for those people who live near one of the routes that serve this area; Access-a-Ride (RTD's Paratransit program) for those people who qualify as disabled and live within $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of an existing RTD Route; Medicaid funded transportation for those people who qualify; the Englewood ARTS shuttle which is a fixed route circulator bus; the Littleton Transportation Network's Omnibus and Shopping Cart services; Seniors' Resource Center transportation services supported by Arapahoe County and a DRCOG grant; Via provides trips to Aurora from the rural Eastern Plains one day per week and local transportation on the Eastern Plains one day per week; and private opportunities such as taxis and shuttles. Tri Valley Seniors operates a van which is used to decrease social isolation of seniors in the Byers and Deer Trail area by transporting them to meetings, social activities, exercise classes, etc. Family, friends and various small volunteer programs are also instrumental in assisting seniors in meeting their transportation needs. According to the National Center on Senior Transportation, 77 percent of seniors over the age of 70 continue to drive. When viewed in current 2015 numbers, 23 percent, or approximately 11,137 seniors, over the age of 70 in Arapahoe County are not currently driving and are dependent on some other form of transportation. Currently, through our DRCOG grant, we provide transportation to approximately 375-400 unique individuals, which leaves well over 11,000 seniors using other forms of transportation or remaining homebound. If the same percentages hold true, in 2040 these



numbers would increase to 51,161 seniors in Arapahoe County who are not driving. The lack of sufficient transportation services for those unable to drive has a direct effect on when people are willing to give up their car keys and often results in people driving longer than they should when they are impacted by health issues that may impair their ability to drive. It has also been noted that 50 percent of seniors who do not drive tend not to leave their home on any given day. This can be predicted to have an adverse impact on physical and mental health.

In the 2015 CASOA, 26 percent of seniors over age 60 reported at least a minor problem with having safe and affordable transportation available. It is not surprising that 95 percent of the people who attended the three senior focus groups reported that they were still driving, as personal trips such as focus group attendance would not be available within the current funding structure for senior transportation.

Access

Access can be affected by a number of different variants. For example, new sidewalks being installed today would meet different design elements including minimum width, ADA ramps, signage, buffers between the sidewalk and street and lighting that would improve access over the older sidewalks that have been in existence for many years. This also holds true for streets or intersections. New development is required to meet standards that were not in place for older developed areas. In terms of retrofitting neighborhoods or commercial areas, this is done either when redevelopment occurs and the new development is required to meet current standards, or if the priority of need is high enough, it is addressed by the County in the unincorporated areas. All municipalities within the County have their own zoning, codes and processes for addressing issues based on funding available and the priority of needs as perceived by the municipality. Arapahoe County does not require specific elements such as accessible paved surfaces, benches or seating areas, shade structures, signage and lighting at transit stops, leaving the decision regarding these items to RTD. Based on the results of the Boomer Bond Assessment, there is room for significant improvement in terms of adequate lighting for safety, signage, schedules and maps. Moderate improvement needed was identified for benches of seating areas, shade structures and rain shelters.

Arapahoe County maintains responsibility for the unincorporated areas of the County and is currently working from the Arapahoe County 2035 Transportation Plan which was adopted in November 2010. This plan incorporated input from County transportation stakeholders including cities within Arapahoe County, neighboring counties, development representatives, property owners and CDOT, in addition to public input gathered in community meetings.

There currently exists a Local Coordinating Council, recently renamed “Transportation Solutions, Arapahoe County” that meets regularly to talk about issues related to both mobility and access. Participants at the table for these meetings include representatives from Centennial City Council, the City of Englewood, City of Littleton, Arapahoe County, A3, Developmental Pathways, other organizations serving the needs of clients for whom transportation is a significant issue, individual citizens and the Denver Regional Mobility and Access Council. The DRMAC also exists to provide a platform for discussions, coordination and sharing of information related to transportation needs throughout the metro area with a mission of ensuring people with mobility challenges have access to the community. As the organization responsible for Metro Denver area wide planning, DRCOG addresses transportation needs in their Metro Vision Plans. Currently they are working on the Metro Vision 2040 plan.

The City of Centennial is the recipient of a Bloomberg Innovation Grant and the Innovation Team is currently working on several creative ideas that may have a positive impact on transportation available to citizens of Centennial. If implemented, these ideas may provide the opportunity to be modeled as “best practices” by other municipalities or counties.



Mobility and Access Recommendations

Engage Older Adults in Conversations about Transportation on a routine basis

Continuously engage older adults in conversations about how transportation is working for them and what they would like to see for options as they age. Utilize these conversations to introduce new or different options.

Volunteer Driver Programs

Research opportunities to make volunteer driver programs more volunteer friendly with less liability to encourage more volunteer drivers to participate. Consider options such as a mileage stipend to cover increased costs and a supplemental insurance policy for volunteer drivers.

Travel Training

Travel training programs have been successful in some areas in helping seniors develop a comfort and familiarity with using public transit when they have perhaps driven all of their lives. These programs could include training to use options such as Uber and Lyft. Due to the large geographic areas in Arapahoe County that are not served by public transit, creativity would be required.

Collaboration

Continue involvement with organization such as Transportation Solutions Arapahoe County (TSAC), the Denver Regional Mobility and Access Council (DRMAC), the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), municipalities and other organizations that are involved in providing, supporting, or funding transportation in Arapahoe County.

Increase Walkability

While many of the suburbs will never meet the walkability designs that are currently in use with new development, thoughtful planning as improvements are made in specific areas could include:

- a. increased timing of street lights
- b. improving poorly maintained sidewalks and making them ADA compliant
- c. providing resting spots on frequently used routes

Advocate with RTD

Advocate for RTD to consider expanding operations such as Call-n-Ride in Arapahoe County to increase access to existing bus service and light rail. Advocate for increased routes and against the continued reduction of routes in Arapahoe County.

Educate Municipalities, Elected Officials and Citizens

Elevate discussions about transportation needs through the County and various city processes, town hall meetings, district meetings, etc. to educate elected officials and citizens about the existing gaps and options for meeting needs.

Housing



In the 2015 CASOA survey, 28 percent of Arapahoe County seniors said that the availability of affordable quality housing was good or excellent, which was down from 44 percent in 2010. Additionally, 38 percent said that the variety of housing options is good or excellent, down from 55 percent in 2010. These numbers would indicate that a significant percentage of the senior population doesn't find the availability of affordable housing to be sufficient and based on the changes in numbers since 2010, seniors are now reaching the point where the variety of housing options and cost are beginning to have an impact.

Housing is currently the most difficult problem being faced by seniors on limited income. Based on the 2009-13 American Community Survey there were 49,182 households over the age of 65 in Arapahoe County. With the steady increase in aging population, we know that this number will have increased since 2013. The American Community Survey determined that between 8-11 percent of senior households live below the poverty level (in 2015 income for a household of one would be less than \$980/month and a household of two

“Affordable, accessible and well-located housing is central to quality of life for people of all ages, but especially for older adults.”

(Housing America's Older Adults, Meeting the Needs of an Aging Population, Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, 2014).

would be less than \$1,328/month). This means we have 5,400 or more senior households living within these income limitations. It can be expected that the percent of seniors in poverty will not decrease as the senior population grows, so it can be anticipated that the total number of senior households in poverty will continue to increase also.

Based on the 2013 Housing Needs Assessment completed for Arapahoe County (excluding Aurora) and the City of Aurora's 2015 Five Year Consolidated Plan, there is a gap of almost 18,000 rental units for people in the 0-30 percent Area Median income range. This includes all households, not just seniors. The fact that people of higher incomes often choose to rent at lower rental rates, making these units unavailable to people in the income range who cannot afford higher rents, further complicates the problem. While Arapahoe County enjoys a fairly high 2015 Area Median Income of \$79,900, many of our seniors fall into the very low income range with incomes for a household of one being less than \$28,800. A significant number fall into the Extremely Low income category for a household of one with incomes of \$16,800 or less. A senior in the Extremely Low income category, with a monthly income of \$1,400 or less, cannot hope to pay the current market rate rental costs of \$1,163 per month for a one bedroom apartment and also pay for utilities, medical care, prescription drugs and food.

The economic boom that has come with recovery from the 2008 recession has resulted in property value increases for homeowners and for owners of apartment buildings. This boom has led to the sale of many homes and apartment buildings and complexes that had previously been depended on for having reasonable rental rates. Once sold, and generally after an investment into improving the property, these rents have skyrocketed. In addition, smaller landlords with only a few rental units have been increasing their rents steadily for the past two to three years. It is not unusual to talk with seniors who tell us that their rent has increased by as much as \$300-\$400 per month. Many seniors are finding themselves in situations where their monthly rent exceeds their actual income.



Current rental market conditions with extremely low vacancy rates ranging from three to four percent in some areas of the County to as low as one percent in North Aurora (technically Adams County but traditionally an area of low rental rates) have impacted the ability of low income renters of all ages to find safe and decent housing. Wait lists for subsidized senior housing are frequently closed and once on the list, a wait of three or more years for an apartment to become available should be expected. While Section 8 vouchers are more family oriented, landlords who were previously very willing to accept Section 8 vouchers are currently becoming increasingly unwilling to do that as the tight rental market has made it unnecessary. Specifically, some landlords do not want to complete the extra paperwork required and submit to housing quality inspections when they can easily rent their units to someone without government subsidy. Seniors who have had Section 8 vouchers since they were raising their families are no longer able to find housing that fits within the rental range for Section 8 if they are forced to move. Many people, both seniors and families, report losing their vouchers because they couldn't find housing quickly enough.

Barriers to securing apartments, beyond financial, exist for some of our seniors. These barriers may include criminal records, past evictions and poor references. We are experiencing increasing calls from seniors who have had a good rental history but when their rents increased, they held on as long as they could as they were paralyzed by the task of finding decent, safe and affordable housing. Now, they are being evicted, perhaps for the first time ever, but this only exacerbates the housing problem as now they have an eviction on their record and this narrows down their options. During the first quarter of 2016, Arapahoe County Senior Resources took 61 housing-related calls from people who needed assistance securing affordable housing. A total of 39 of those calls were from seniors, the majority with monthly incomes well below the cost to rent a one bedroom apartment.

Moving is a particularly daunting task for seniors who have limited resources to pay for moving, limited or no transportation to do an apartment search and physical limits which may either require specialized features in a new apartment or may prevent being an active participant in packing and unpacking related to a move.

While there is much apartment development underway in the Denver Metro area, including Arapahoe County, the development is almost entirely targeted to high end apartments. There are developers interested in starting projects that would target limited income renters but they often have to apply for multiple cycles of Low Income Tax Credits (LITC) before receiving their project approval for LITC. In 2014, four developers submitted LITC project applications for projects within Arapahoe County and none were funded. In 2015, three LITC projects were approved, only one of which will be dedicated to seniors.

Transit oriented development targeted to the low and moderate income population has become popular in many areas of the country and there have been several projects in other cities within the Denver Metro area. However, in Arapahoe County, the transit oriented development has largely been targeted to higher income families and individuals. There currently are two projects underway in Englewood that could be considered transit oriented development and will have an affordability component. Because large geographic areas of Arapahoe County are not served by RTD, either through bus or rail services, the few areas that can be targeted for transit oriented development have high land acquisition costs.



While a few of the seniors who attended the focus groups indicated that they had already planned ahead and downsized, most had not. Several indicated they realized that the day may come when they have to take that step and they found the thought of downsizing and seeking new housing to be paralyzing and overwhelming. It was noted by some of the attendees that there is new development happening but the prices are not affordable to the average senior. When asked what would help seniors to remain in their own homes suggestions included help with the maintenance and repair needs. For those seniors who were renting, having some kind of rent cap that wouldn't allow their rents to increase at astronomical rates was suggested.

A conundrum mentioned at focus groups is the fact that while the State of Colorado has a Senior Property Tax Homestead Exemption program, the fact that it requires seniors to have lived in their home for at least the previous 10 years to qualify, may actually discourage people from making appropriate downsizing choices. When seniors downsize from the family homes they have lived in and raised their children in, to smaller one story homes, it benefits the community by making these family sized homes available on the market for larger families.

Residents of the Eastern Plains who attended the focus groups expressed a strong interest in remaining in their own homes and communities. Pragmatically, several realize that increasing health care needs, if coupled with the inability to drive, may not only force them to move from their homes, but may also force them to move from their communities into the metro area to access services. Comments about affordability included that while their home is currently affordable, if a spouse passes away, it will no longer be affordable. Other comments included that the cost of propane is extremely high and since that tends to be the source of heat for many people living on the Eastern Plains, this impacts the affordability of staying in their own homes.

Forty-nine percent of CASOA survey respondents indicated that they had been living in their homes for more than 20 years and 25 percent for eleven to twenty years. Additionally, 77 percent stated that they were very or somewhat likely to remain in their homes throughout retirement. Identifying programs that can assist with problems such as maintenance, upkeep, chores and accessibility is key for some people to remain at home. Some programs currently in existence that can help with these areas are the Weatherization Program through Arapahoe County, the Chore Services Program through Arapahoe County and Community Development Block Grant funding provided to Organizations such as Brother's Redevelopment for programs such as their Paint-a-thon and Accessibility Modifications. For very low income seniors on Medicaid, some accessibility issues can be addressed and paid through Medicaid. The City of Englewood provides Energy Efficient Englewood with Community Development Block Grant funds to assist low and moderate income households with energy updates. The City of Aurora offers an Emergency Repair Grant program and a Handicap Accessibility Program through their Community Development Division.



Other Housing Options

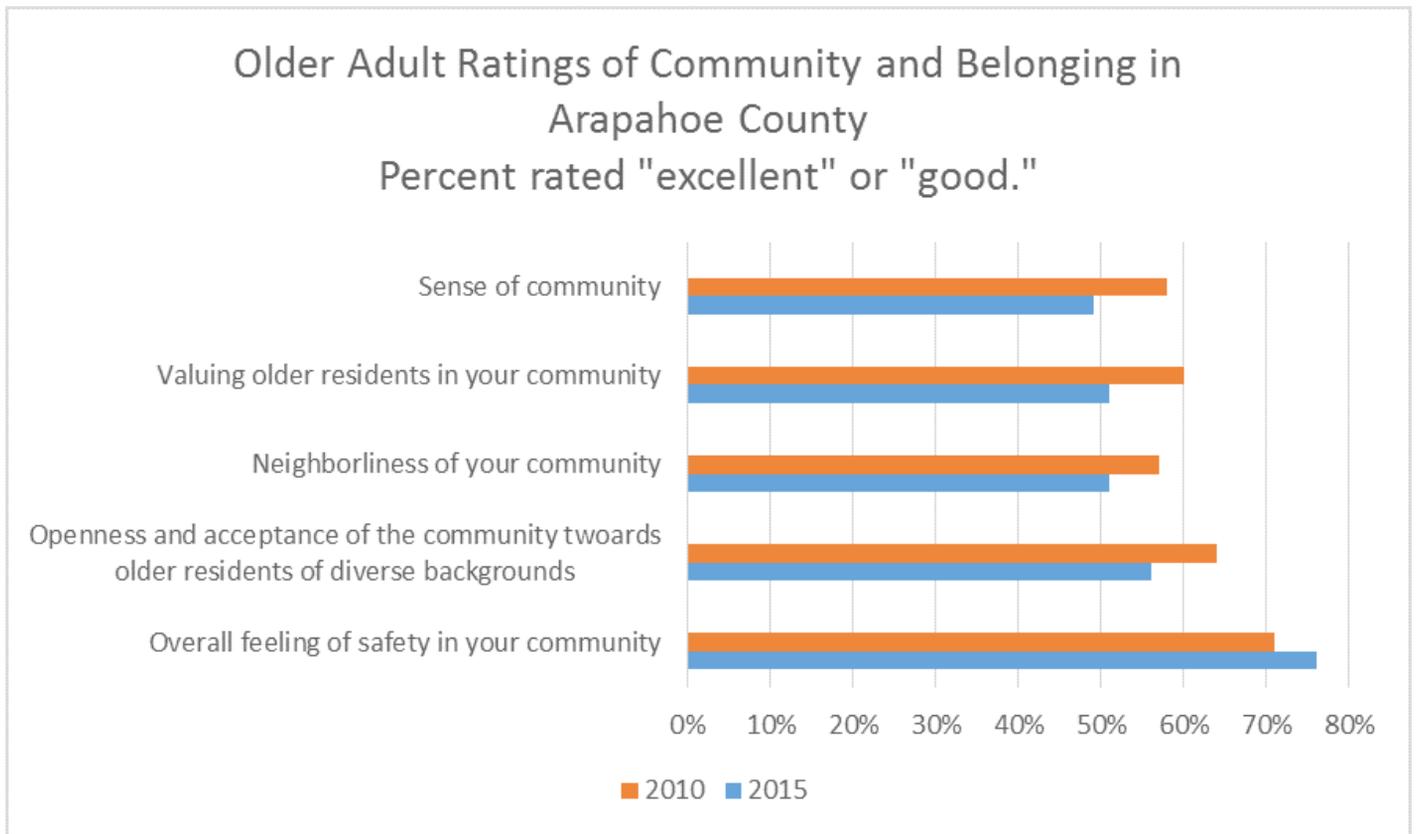
While the vast majority of seniors hope to remain in their own homes and communities throughout their life span, this is not always possible. Health needs may be a driving force to relocate. Not only may it become impossible to live in the home that has one or more flights of stairs to be climbed multiple times per day due to health concerns but other issues such as the ability to physically maintain a large house, cost of maintaining a house, proximity to family and transportation may become key forces. Throughout the county there are different types of solutions targeted to addressing these problems.

Littleton (South Metro Housing Options); Aurora (Aurora Housing Authority) and Englewood (Englewood Housing Authority) all provide subsidized senior housing for income qualified applicants. As noted above, in the current housing market, waiting lists for these apartments are frequently closed and once on the waitlist, a senior may wait as long as three years for an apartment. There are also a number of independently owned subsidized senior properties that maintain their own individual wait lists and they report the wait lists, when open, to be several years long at the present time.

One solution that is growing more attractive to many people is Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). ADUs are a small building, usually detached but on the property of a single family home. A senior can move into the ADU thereby allowing their family members to move into the main home and provide care as needed or it can be used for a hired caregiver or family member to move in and be nearby. In most municipalities, zoning or code changes are required. The biggest hurdle to ADUs isn't having a senior living in one, but the concern by other citizens and officials about what becomes of the ADU when the senior is no longer using it.

Home sharing is another creative way to solve both the economics of housing and also the social needs of people in general. Home sharing exists in different formats. Occasionally two or more unrelated people will choose to buy or rent property and share the costs. Most municipalities have regulations about how many unrelated people can inhabit a home. There are some Home Sharing programs that will match seniors up with other owners or renters. These programs can be extremely successful but most often require a case management process. Generally, seniors entering into a Home Share situation both bring certain expectations of the other person involved. These expectations must be carefully guided and communication supported if the home share is to be successful. There is a new Home Share Program just starting up in the Denver Metro Area that is promising the support needed for successful outcomes. The cost to participate has not yet been identified. Home sharing generally does not work for the more difficult to solve housing problems where severe illness, mental illness, criminal background issues, etc. are present.

For some people, moving on to assisted living or nursing home level of care is unavoidable. The fortunate seniors are those who can afford to buy into a continuum of care retirement community and move through the levels of care as needed. The Baby Boomers, those people born between 1946 and 1964, have saved less for retirement than past generations and are currently retiring at a rate of 10,000 per day. In Colorado in 2015, Genworth's Cost of Care Survey estimates the median cost of assisted living to be \$4,250 per month for a single person or \$51,000 annually.



The median annual rate for nursing home care in Colorado in 2015 is estimated by Genworth to be \$88,695 annually. The average long-term care stay is 2.4 years, which at private pay rates would cost approximately \$212,868. At those rates, it frequently takes but a few months for retirement savings to run out and for the senior to become dependent on Medicaid. We are fortunate to have Libby Bortz Assisted Living in Littleton. Libby Bortz is operated by South Metro Housing Options (formerly Littleton Housing Authority) and as a tax credit property, is able to offer reasonable rates for income qualified residents who need assisted living services. Arapahoe County, through the Five Year Consolidated Plan (2014-18) has identified a number of strategies that could reduce local government barriers to the construction of affordable housing. These include providing tax incentives such as a rebate of sales and use tax for construction materials for affordable housing, waiving or deferring fees on affordable housing, fast track permitting, providing flexible design standards, and implementing deed restrictions on a resale of an affordable housing unit to a qualified buyer. To date, these are considered on a case by case basis and apply mainly to development in the unincorporated areas of Arapahoe County, as each municipality has its own regulations and policies that are followed.

The differing personalities of municipalities within Arapahoe County also has an impact on whether those communities are willing to entertain the possibility of affordable housing within their communities. Land cost has a significant impact and although such developments offer easy access to businesses and services, the cost of land generally far exceeds what an affordable housing project can afford. There is a strong spirit of “nimbyism” in some areas making it difficult to move projects forward.

There is no easy fix to solve the affordable-housing shortage for seniors on limited incomes in Arapahoe County. Any solutions will require policy changes, adequate funding, socially motivated developers/agencies and education.

The first suggestion is to provide better information to individuals, particularly seniors on limited incomes, who want to relocate to Colorado and are looking for Housing Resources. It is no secret that Colorado is a desirable place to live. Denver was ranked the number one place to live in the 2016 U.S. News and World report, but that should have come with a disclaimer, “only if you can afford to live here.” While we cannot prevent income-restricted seniors from relocating to Colorado, we do try to educate people who call and inquire about housing options so that they understand the personal resources they will need to be able to provide in order to be successful living here.

Housing Recommendations

Inclusionary Zoning (IZ)

This is an example of a policy change and will require Government entities to amend current rules and programs. IZ requires developers to make a percentage of developed units affordable to seniors and or other lower income households. In exchange for the affordable units the developer can be awarded an incentive, such as a density bonus or a reduction in the amount of required parking spaces.

Denver passed inclusionary zoning laws in 2002, and while it has not been a huge success, it does provide a mechanism for creating an affordable housing account. In Denver, developments with more than 30 units are required to have 10 percent of the rental units made available to households with incomes below 65 percent of the Area Medium Income (AMI) for 15 years. In exchange the developer receives a cash incentive for each affordable unit created. The amount is determined by the location of the project. If the developer chooses to not make the required amount of units affordable, a fee is charged that is a percentage of the unit price per affordable housing unit not built. The percentage is determined by what zone the development is located in, with the percentages ranging from 70 percent in high areas to 50 percent in medium areas and 25 percent in low areas.

Support Development

There is new, affordable, multi-family housing constructed throughout Colorado annually. The tool that is used to make these projects feasible is the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC). There are two types of LIHTCs, the competitive 9 percent and the flexible 4 Percent. In 2015, there were 31 applications for the 9 percent LIHTCs and 14 of those were funded. Of the projects funded, only one was located in Arapahoe County and that was the Foundry Apartments in Englewood. Of the 14 projects funded, only five were targeting seniors. There were also two rounds of 4 percent LIHTC awarded. The first round was funded through Federal and State funds with a total of six projects funded. Only one project was dedicated to senior housing. The second round of LIHTCs used Federal and Community Development Disaster Recovery funds. In this round 10 awards were made with none being located in Arapahoe County and only one project in Fort Collins was dedicated to seniors. This round of funding was primarily targeting areas damaged in the 2013 floods.



Because this is a tool that is being used to generate affordable housing developments for seniors, Arapahoe County should support funding for both the State and Federal LIHTC, and if possible, lobby for an increase in funding in order to ensure the vitality of this program.

Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) for Seniors

Arapahoe County currently funds two TBRA programs, for families, in Arapahoe County. The TBRA program provides income qualified households with rental assistance, for up to two years, with the possibility for extensions. The household pays 30 percent of their monthly household income for rent and utilities and the rest is paid to the landlord with TBRA funds. The current funding source for the TBRA program is Federal HOME funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Currently, there are no TBRA programs for seniors in Arapahoe County, because we have not identified an agency/nonprofit to administer the program. This program would pose some problems and would not be a permanent solution. Specifically, the assumption about low-income seniors is that their incomes are not going to increase as they are on a fixed income. With the TBRA program, the assumption is that the household assisted would work in the two year time period to increase their income and reach self-sufficiency. However, an assumption could be made that the Senior TBRA program could be a place holder to house seniors while they are on a waiting list for affordable senior housing.

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)

The County should be open to zoning changes that would allow an increase in density. Accessory Dwelling Units, also known as “Granny Flats,” could allow for seniors to live independently in close proximity to family members or other people in their network. The resistance to allowing ADUs is the thought that places will become overcrowded and unsightly.

Shared Housing

Shared housing is a growing option for seniors. Each municipality has its own regulations regarding how many unrelated people may live in a single dwelling. If regulations throughout the county were amended to allow at least four unrelated people to reside in a dwelling, this would provide an opportunity for unrelated seniors to purchase or rent a house at a cost far more reasonable than current rents.

Community Engagement

Arapahoe County can work with other cities and towns in the County to promote changes to their policies to allow for creative programs that allow for more affordable housing.

Home Maintenance

Utilize available funding to support emergency home maintenance and accessibility programs that will enable fixed income seniors to maintain their homes. Encourage volunteer organizations to provide these services.

Property Tax Exceptions

Ensure that the current property tax exceptions remain in place. Encourage the creation of programs that allow seniors to do volunteer work to “work off” portions of their taxes.

Support Services

As with each of the topics examined through the Boomer Bond Assessment and the Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA), the support services available vary from community to community, both in terms of services available and ability to access those services from a mobility standpoint. The need for support services is not entirely linked to income, but certainly those citizens who fall near or below the Federal Poverty Level have a greater need for support services. Arapahoe County as a whole enjoys an Area Median Income of \$79,900 per household. According to the State Demography Office and the American Community Survey, the poverty level of seniors in Arapahoe County is between 8 and 11 percent. In real numbers this means between 9,024 and 12,408 seniors in Arapahoe County lived below the poverty level in 2015 (\$11,770/year for a household of one). This corresponds to the CASOA survey results for Arapahoe County indicating that nine percent of respondents had difficulty obtaining enough food for a healthy diet.

Traditionally, clusters of mixed use services have not been purposeful but rather have developed over a period of time. There seems to be a trend toward some more purposefully developed clusters of housing and services but for the most part in Arapahoe County, this has been on the high end of housing, rather than the affordable end. An example of this is “The Grove,” a privately owned project under construction which will provide amenity rich housing for seniors near the Littleton Light Rail station. Rents are expected to be in the range of \$1,800 per month for a one bedroom unit to \$2,300 a month for a two bedroom unit.

There are currently three developments underway in Englewood that will provide or will be located near services and transit but only one specifically targets seniors. Englewood also has two low income senior housing sites located directly across from the Malley Senior Center and on the ARTS shuttle route, which can transport seniors to nearby medical facilities and shopping opportunities. Littleton, through South Metro Housing Options, provides three sites for low income senior housing and the combined services of the Littleton Omnibus and Shopping Cart assist their residents in accessing services. Aurora, through the Aurora Housing Authority, provides two locations specifically targeting seniors, Fletcher Gardens and the Villages at Westerly Creek. The Villages at Westerly Creek, formerly known as Buckingham Gardens, has undergone a transformation in phases over the last several years replacing the dated apartments with modern buildings, apartments and community room space. This transformation has been very well received by residents. There are also seniors living in some other Aurora Housing Authority projects.



Arapahoe County is fortunate to have many services available to support seniors as they age. Funding for these services comes from a variety of sources including Older American's Act Funding, State Funding for Seniors, County General Funds, Municipality General Funds, Human Services funds, Community Development Block Grant Funds, Weatherization, Arapahoe/Douglas Works! and funding streams through many nonprofits which include privately raised funds and funds provided through faith based organizations.

Respondents to the CASOA survey provided somewhat mixed information about knowledge of services and information available about resources for older adults. While 49 percent of the respondents felt there was excellent or good information about resources for older adults related to financial or legal planning services, two-thirds of the respondents reported problems with not knowing what services were available. Anecdotally, older adults have shown some inclination to not seek out services until they need them, preferring to hold on to the hope that they won't ever need them. Unfortunately, this usually results in the need to seek out information and services in the midst of a crisis which makes the process more difficult for the older adult and the family members.

Attendees at the focus groups listed a number of ways that they seek out information about services and resources. Some people said that they use the internet but also stated quite emphatically that they have friends who won't touch a computer. Many said that they use the library. Asking friends was often cited as a solution. Some people said that they call Arapahoe County Senior Resources or the Arapahoe County Council on Aging. In the client satisfaction surveys completed by Arapahoe County for Homemaker and Chore programs, the most commonly cited referral source was "friends." This likely is an indication that people trust the information given to them by friends, particularly if it is based on actual experience and are more likely to follow up on it. Also noted in a number of discussions was the fact that when reaching out and calling for information, seniors want to speak with an actual person. There is little appreciation for automated calling systems that require multiple directions of pressing this number and that number. This often results in seniors giving up their quest for information due to frustration.

Additionally, there are four Meals on Wheels programs that serve Arapahoe County. Volunteers of America provides Meals on Wheels in the Aurora area; TLC Meals on Wheels provides meals in the Sheridan, Englewood, Littleton and Western Centennial area; The Senior Hub in conjunction with Volunteers of America provides the Meals on Wheels program on the Eastern Plains; and Project Angel Heart provides meals targeted toward people with life limiting illnesses and is able to accommodate many special diets. On the positive side, this means that most seniors in Arapahoe County can access one of the Meals on Wheels programs. On the negative side, depending on the funding streams involved, the programs have different guidelines and access points which can be confusing to people. Arapahoe County currently provides funding to TLC Meals on Wheels, The Senior Hub/Volunteers of America program on the Eastern Plains and Project Angel Heart.



Some of the services that currently exist within Arapahoe County include senior housing (as noted in more depth in the Housing Section). In-home services such as Homemaker and Chore services are provided free or on a sliding fee basis by organizations such as Arapahoe County, Jewish Family Services, Visiting Nurse Association and Dominican Sisters. For those seniors with the ability to pay for services, there are many Home Health Agencies that provide services ranging from personal care to homemaking and transportation for a fee. Because most home health agencies operate on a "block time" schedule where people must purchase a block of three hours of service at a rate of \$24 or more per hour, many seniors are reluctant to spend that amount of money, or in fact, cannot spend that amount of money. They will do without care often to the point where they reach a crisis situation. Thirty percent of seniors cited "having enough money to meet daily expenses" as at least a minor problem in the CASOA survey. That is nearly three times the actual poverty level for seniors in Arapahoe County. Chances are good that if people are having trouble meeting daily expenses, they are not going to be able to pay for support services but also may not qualify for those services targeted to low income seniors.



In Home Services and Support through Medicaid can help low and moderate income seniors remain independent in their own homes. In order to qualify, an applicant must meet the financial eligibility requirements of Medicaid and also have functional needs deficits with their Activities of Daily Living (bathing, dressing, eating, continence care, etc.) and their Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (managing money, doing ordinary housework, tracking medications, using transportation without help, etc.) comparable to the needs of someone residing in a nursing facility. If approved, services may be provided through the Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) or through Medicaid approved home health organizations. Arapahoe County is served by Colorado Access as the Single Entry Point agency

that completes the functional needs assessment and functions as the care manager. Colorado Access will also assist people with Medicaid applications if it is their first time trying to access services.

As rents have increased and the waiting time for access to subsidized senior housing has grown, some seniors are in the position of needing to seek more assistance from services such as food banks and organizations that provide assistance with rent or utilities. For this type of assistance, there are a number of possible sources. Arapahoe County, through Human Services, has a limited “General Assistance” fund that may be able to assist seniors whose income is below 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. General assistance is a one-time emergency assistance, not an ongoing gap filler when expenses exceed income. A number of other organizations such as Integrated Family Community Services, Broadway Assistance Center, Mission Hills Church, Presbyterian Church’s Covenant Cupboard, Smoky Hill Vineyard, Strasburg CARES Food Bank, Salvation Army, Aurora Interfaith Task Force, Catholic Charities, etc. also provide varying forms of assistance from food banks and clothing banks, to utilities and rent assistance. The metro area has many food banks and opportunities for senior commodities through Food Bank of the Rockies. Assistance with other items such as rent and utilities is on a first come, first served basis and the few organizations that provide these services generally run out of funds for this type of assistance very early in the month.

Depending on where you live within the County, there may be more choices for services. For example, Englewood residents might qualify for Englewood’s Energy Efficient Englewood program and also might qualify for Arapahoe County’s Weatherization program. These two programs work together to ensure there is no duplication of services. Littleton supports their seniors with the Littleton Transportation Network’s Omnibus and Shopping Cart for local trips but residents are also eligible for services through Seniors Resource Center funded by Arapahoe County and State Funding for Seniors/Older American’s Act Funding. Additionally, Love Inc. has a small volunteer transportation program that serves some Littleton and Centennial residents. On the other hand, if you are in the very southeastern area of the County, nearing Douglas County, you may have very little access to services as it is not cost effective for many organizations based in the metro area to travel that far to provide services and the transportation providers are hard pressed to serve that area. Residents of the Eastern Plains also have limited access to services and limited choice.

A recent program addition, targeted toward Eastern Plains residents, is the establishment of a Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funded program for emergency services such as rent, mortgage, mobile home lot rent, utilities and propane. Applicants must have income below 125 percent of the Federal Poverty Level and the future ability to meet their needs. This program was established following a change in the CSBG funding formula at the state level which considered “inverse density” as a factor in the formula and resulted in Arapahoe County receiving an increase in CSBG funds.

The primary provider of financial assistance to seniors is Arapahoe County Human Services. Programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps), Old Age Pension, Aid to the Needy and Disabled, Low Income Subsidy to assist with the cost of Medicare premiums, Medicaid Long Term Care for in home services or assisted living or nursing home placement, General Assistance which may provide limited emergency assistance to senior and disabled people and the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) are the primary sources of assistance. Seniors are frequently unaware of their potential eligibility for these programs. Sometimes the application process is daunting for seniors who have never had to access these types of services in the past.

A current gap in services for low and moderate income seniors who are living in their own homes is home rehabilitation. Part of the equation for people being able to remain independent in their own homes is being able to maintain that house not only for the structural integrity of the house, but also for the neighborhood and in many cases, to comply with HOA requirements. As income decreases and resources are increasingly needed to pay for medical care, prescription drug costs and assistance around the home, upkeep can become impossible. The City of Aurora offers Home Rehab Assistance and Arapahoe County currently provides funding to Brother's Redevelopment to support their Paint-a-Thon and their home rehab program that provides essential safety repairs and accessibility assistance such as ramps. A full-scale rehab program that can assist with larger needs currently does not exist outside of the City of Aurora.

Caregiving is a significant element of support services. In 2015, 60 percent of CASOA respondents indicated that they were providing care to a child under the age of 18, another adult or a senior. Additionally, 17 percent of responding seniors said that they received assistance from someone almost every day. "Caregiver burden" for Arapahoe County seniors was reported to be at least a minor problem with 30 percent reporting feeling emotionally burdened, 25 percent feeling physically burdened and 18 percent feeling financially burdened. Caregivers are at times reluctant to share their caregiving responsibilities for several reasons including seeing the responsibility as a "duty," feeling that no one else can do the job right, feeling cultural pressure to be a caregiver and having a care recipient who is unwilling to allow others to provide care.

While there are some support services available to caregivers, these services are not universally available and accessible. For example, there are support groups for caregivers of people with Alzheimer's and related dementias but these groups are not always close to attendees inquiring about them. The Rocky Mountain Stroke Center offers a support group in Littleton but this might not be convenient to someone from Aurora for whom transportation is difficult. Support groups are also sometimes available through hospitals. If the support group does not offer concurrent care for the care recipient, the caregiver may be unable to attend. Sometimes even when concurrent care is offered, it is simply too much for a caregiver, on any given day, to get the care recipient ready and out the door. In Arapahoe County there are geographic impediments to caregivers with few services available to those seniors living in the rural areas and the added burden of transportation and time to access services in the metro area.



Our current population of seniors remains reluctant to seek out mental health services in many instances. Older seniors still come from the generation that "didn't air their dirty laundry" to anyone. Arapahoe County is primarily supported by two mental health organizations, All Health Network (formerly Arapahoe Douglas Mental Health Network) and Aurora Mental Health. Both offer similar services to the geographic areas they serve. Additionally, Colorado Crisis Services provides a crisis hot line that is available 24 hours a day and some crisis intervention teams that can respond in certain areas. During a 2014 meeting with Eastern Plains residents, accessing mental health services was brought up as a concern. There are no services easily available to residents of the I-70 corridor, particularly if transportation needs and cost are part of the equation.

Economics are also an unfortunate reality for anyone needing services. For those who worked and earned good wages, were able to plan and save and perhaps had an opportunity to purchase long-term care insurance, there can be many options open. There are the high end continuum of care centers where it may cost \$500,000 to get in the door and an additional monthly cost for rent and services which can range from \$3,000 - \$8,000 per month. These centers generally offer a variety of services, meals, on-site amenities such as barber and beauty shops, transportation and activities and can support a thriving lifestyle through the continuum of care needs.

Seniors with significant assets have choices. Seniors with no assets and limited income have fewer choices but can access Medicaid funded Home and Community Based Services if they meet both Medicaid eligibility and functional level of care needs in their Activities of Daily Living (bathing, dressing, eating, toileting, etc.) and their Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (managing money, managing medications, grocery shopping, meal prep, ordinary housework, etc.). This same eligibility process would apply to being able to access assisted living or nursing homes if care at home is not a preference or option due to level of care needs.

For those people who are not as economically fortunate, they are in the constant position of balancing needs versus what they can afford to purchase for services. Our current senior population remains a fairly frugal population and often will go without services to hold on to what financial resources they have. People frequently see their home as their only asset and hope to leave the home to their children, resulting in foregoing services such as Medicaid Long Term Care for as long as possible so they don't lose their home to Medicaid. Seniors also often feel that they must hold on to the \$10,000 or \$20,000 or \$50,000 they have saved "for a rainy day" and put off addressing their current needs for fear that their needs will be greater in the future.

In between those with significant assets and those with few resources and assets are the majority of seniors. They have modest savings or investments, own their own home and have an income that they can live on reasonably, until a major health problem strikes. According to the Genworth 2015 Cost of Care Survey, the annual cost of a nursing home with a semi-private room in Colorado was \$83,950. The annual cost of assisted living in Colorado in 2015 was \$45,000. To support living at home with services, the annual cost of a daily home health aide in Colorado was \$50,336 and the cost to attend an adult day program was \$16,900. It is readily apparent how quickly modest savings and assets accumulated over a lifetime can disappear when a senior begins to need some level of support or needs to go to an assisted living or nursing home due to care and safety needs.

Receiving assistance at home is not just a preference of most seniors, but it is also much more cost effective for most people. If a senior can receive some basic services such as an occasional homemaker, Meals on Wheels and access to transportation to medical appointments, grocery stores and some social activities, there is a good likelihood that they will be able to delay or avoid moving on to the higher cost levels of care, which for a large percentage of people, will inevitably be funded by Medicaid when their personal funds are depleted. The average nursing home stay is 2.5 years. Based on 2015 costs for a nursing home, an individual would need to have at least \$209,875 put aside to cover that nursing home stay without depending on Medicaid.



Unfortunately, many seniors choose to live with the hope that they will never need these services as that is more preferable than trying to make plans when there seem to be no good options. No one wants to see their life savings disappear in a matter of months due to care needs. Many seniors who contact Arapahoe County Senior Resources for assistance have lived with the belief that these services would be available through Medicare when they were needed and are astonished to find out the actual limits to what Medicare will pay for.

An invaluable, and often difficult to access support service is care management, also referred to as case management. Again, for those people with the ability to privately pay there are numerous options to hire accredited care managers. The hourly cost ranges from \$75 to \$250 per hour. There are programs such as Lutheran Family Services that offer older adult care management on a sliding fee scale. For those seniors whose income does not allow them to privately hire and pay a care manager, there simply are not enough care manager services available at no cost. In situations where family members increasingly live out of state, having a care manager available to assess needs, make recommendations and follow through with the actions needed to connect with services is invaluable. Currently, the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) offers short-term care management within the eight county Denver Metro area. The wait to access a care manager through DRCOG averages four weeks. For seniors with urgent issues such as housing, assistance with Medicaid or SNAP applications, or assistance accessing medical services, this wait is too long.

Cultural competency in providing services is another important consideration as we experience a change not only in the number of seniors, but in the demographics of race and ethnicity of both care recipients and caregivers. Arapahoe County has had a significant and steadily growing Latino community for many years but is also seeing an increase in elders and families from many other countries and cultures including the Middle East, Africa, Bhutan and Asia. For many cultures, caregiving of elders is approached far differently than in the United States. Caregiving of elders' remains in many cultures both an honor and a duty and an activity that is not passed off to others or hired out to organizations. While respecting other cultures, it is important to ensure that information about programs and services is provided in culturally and language appropriate materials and that workers providing services are trained to be understanding and respectful of the varied people to whom they provide services.



A discussion of cultural competency must also include providing services to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) seniors. SAGE of the Rockies (www.sageusa.org/advocacy/sagenet-affiliate.cfm?ID=19) provides excellent information and connection to resources for the aging LGBT community. DRCOG assembled a resource guide of services that were LGBT friendly a few years ago. This is an area of competency that many organizations have not yet embraced or provided training to staff. LGBT elders continue to report discrimination by service providers, nursing homes and assisted living homes.

Arapahoe County is home to approximately 40,000 veterans and potentially 50,000 eligible dependents of veterans. While not all of the veterans are seniors and certainly not all of the dependents are, there remains a significant number of veterans and dependents who are seniors. Additionally, some younger disabled veterans face similar issues to seniors in securing safe and reliable transportation, housing and accessing services. Arapahoe County, through the County Veteran Services Office, provides support to our veterans and their families by assisting with claims, pensions, burial benefits, access and referrals to other community resources.

As the senior population increases, it is clear that funding for services will not increase at the same pace. In fact, in the last reauthorization of the Older American's Act (2006), a hold harmless clause was included that prevents states with stagnant or decreasing populations of seniors from receiving a funding cut, which essentially froze funding for those states with rapidly growing aging populations. A negative aspect to this is that lack of support services could push more people toward Medicaid if it is the only option for the support that they need. Medicaid services come at a higher cost

and greater impact to state budgets and as the need increases the higher cost of Medicaid services will increasingly squeeze the state's ability to fund other services. A more concerted effort will be needed with service providers working closely together to align and not duplicate services. Service organizations and faith based organizations will be called upon to fill in the gaps left by insufficient funding.

Arapahoe County, through an effort championed by Human Services, has recently launched "H.A.N.D.S" or "Helping Arapahoe Neighbors Discover Supports." This program is modeled after Jefferson County's Power of Partnership Program which brings together Human Services, faith based organizations and businesses to meet the needs of residents that do not fit into normal service models. H.A.N.D.S will form a network of people who can be accessed when there is a need identified.

For example, H.A.N.D.S may assist a person who has connected with a job but needs a car repair to be able to successfully get to work or a family that experienced a fire and may need beds and bedding. H.A.N.D.S will assist in making connections to fill gaps that will help Arapahoe County citizens remain self-sufficient. While not targeted specifically toward seniors, this program will undoubtedly assist some seniors as it is initiated.



Support Services Recommendations

Community Participation

- Maintain and expand community participation as a means to both identify gaps in services and encourage service providers to work together to minimize duplication of services.
- Continue to support efforts such as H.A.N.D.S in bringing together government, nonprofit and faith based communities to work together, particularly on needs that do not have specific organizational solutions.

Identifying and Addressing Gaps in Services

- Encourage service providers to address new or changing needs. Ensure that reviews of funding stream awards such as Aid to Agencies, Community Development Block Grants and Community Services Block Grants are addressing unmet needs.
- Utilize the Arapahoe County Council on Aging as a vehicle to provide information to the Denver Regional Council of Governments regarding needs during funding cycles.

Cultural Competency

- Ensure inclusion of all people needing services by utilizing currently existing training opportunities for cultural competency in all areas including age, race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation. Through existing and new community partnerships, encourage other organizations to participate or provide cultural competency training to staff.

Support Legislation

- As appropriate, support Local, State and Federal Legislation that will provide increased funding, change Federal funding formulas and bring local attention to service gaps.

Countywide Recommendations

- In addition to the specific recommendations included at the conclusion of each of the four Sections, there are also some high level and more general recommendations that will assist with identifying and meeting gaps and needs as our aging population continues to grow.

Increase funding

- Consider a mil levy or sales tax that will allow for a predictable and steady income stream to support the increased needs of seniors whether it is housing, in-home services, transportation or other needs.

Staffing

- Right size Senior Resources staff to allow for both day to day hands on management of Programs and working toward visionary needs for the future.

Community Education and Coordination

- Increase outreach opportunities through community coordination to educate seniors and family members about resources and planning. Explore targeting children of seniors through community organizations, employee assistance programs and other venues.

Transportation

- Support innovation by transportation providers whether paid or volunteer. Increase opportunities in the community for seniors to become comfortable with alternative means of transportation.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Participation in HANDS
- Continued development of volunteer opportunities through Arapahoe County.
- Community level participation by staff in other organizations that have the capacity to meet gaps through volunteers.

Municipality vs. County

- Encourage dialogue and participation between the cities and the County in order to develop an approach to solutions that involve everyone.



Senior FOCUS

■ ■ ■ Helping better your lives

Conversations with Seniors in Arapahoe County

Senior FOCUS Conversations Central Arapahoe County- Transportation

Questions- Transportation	Responses
How do you get to where you need to go?	90% of group still driving.
What will you do if you can no longer drive?	90% are not comfortable using RTD as an option.
	One respondent who doesn't drive currently uses First Ride (since replaced by SRC Transportation Services).
	Light rail is a good option for going downtown.
	RTD should be free for low income people.
	Bus system is good but the availability of tokens for special needs population has decreased.

Senior FOCUS Conversations Western Arapahoe County

Questions – Transportation	Responses
How do you get where you need to go?	Everyone in this group still drives.
What will you do if you can no longer drive?	Use the internet to find resources.
	Takes forever to get anywhere if you can't drive.
	Have safety issues with getting places if not driving.
	Sidewalks are impediments in some areas.

Senior FOCUS Conversations – Eastern Plains

Questions – Transportation	Responses
How do you get where you need to go?	95% of attendees still drive at least locally.
	Not everyone is comfortable driving into Aurora or Denver which is necessary for medical needs.
	50% of attendees rely on the Tri Valley van at least sometimes.
	Via services are not available enough.
	Children work and are not available to help with transportation.
	Children no longer live on the Eastern Plains so are not available as often.
What will you do if you can no longer drive?	My children depend on me!
	Couldn't get out.
	Less opportunity to socialize.
	Move into town was the answer from 4 people.

Senior FOCUS Conversations Central Arapahoe County-Volunteering

Questions	Responses
How many of you volunteer?	75% of the group of 12 volunteers.
Why do you volunteer?	Gets me out of the house.
	Fulfillment.
	Not just taking up space on the planet.
What types of volunteer activities are you involved with?	Volunteers of America
	Aurora Center for Active Adults
	Salvation Army
	The County
	Political Events
	Environmental Events
	Church

Senior FOCUS Conversations Western Arapahoe County - Volunteering

Questions	Responses
How many of you volunteer?	The entire group of 10 volunteers.
Why do you volunteer?	To contribute to the community.
	I would go brain dead.
	Meet people.
	Keep a proper perspective.
	Help people.
	Help the special needs population.
	Skill building.
What types of volunteer activities are you involved in.	Church
	The City
	County Council on Aging
	Food Banks
	Senior Center
	Caregiver Counseling

Senior FOCUS Conversations Eastern Plains - Volunteering

Questions	Responses
How many of you volunteer?	75% of the group of 19 volunteers
Why do you volunteer?	To help people.
	Fulfills personal needs.
	Feels good.
	Keeps life in perspective.
	Keeps you out and active.
	It's meaningful.
What types of volunteer activities are you involved with?	Volunteer driver
	Fair planning
	Tri Valley Seniors
	Friendly visiting
	Deer Trail Seniors Group
	Byers Seniors Group

In the CASOA survey, the ease of finding volunteer opportunities was cited as a problem for a significant percentage of respondents. Not unexpectedly, the majority of focus group participants did not see finding volunteer opportunities as a problem. Their active level of participation in their communities and continued ability to drive was in fact what led them to be focus group attendees. They all had quick responses to how they find these opportunities which included using the internet and using their connections.

Senior FOCUS Conversations Central Arapahoe County – Health Care and Nutrition

Questions	Responses
Tell us about your health care coverage and the ease of getting your medical needs met.	I have had my provider for 32 years and am happy.
	I wouldn't send my dog to that provider.
	My provider has made changes that were improvements.
	My provider makes changes with no notice.
	Hard to find doctors if you are on Medicare.
	I can't get vision, dental, hearing coverage.
	Mental Health is difficult to access.
Do you have access to the variety of nutritious foods that you enjoy?	Yes, in this area access to grocery stores is good.
	Access to farmers markets is not so good.
	Would like more access to local grown vegetables from farmers markets.

Senior FOCUS Conversations Western Arapahoe County – Health Care and Nutrition

Questions	Responses
Tell us about your health care coverage and the ease of getting your medical needs met.	I like my plan.
	It is sometimes difficult to find a physician that will take Medicare.
	Dental insurance is too expensive.
	Several people had suggestions for ways to get free or group dental services.
Do you have access to the variety of nutritious foods that you enjoy?	Access to fresh foods is good if your income is ok.
	I know 50-60 seniors who are on food stamps and commodities. Access to fresh vegetables is not so good for limited income.
	High sodium foods are a problem.

Senior FOCUS Conversations Eastern Arapahoe County – Health Care and Nutrition

Questions	Responses
Tell us about your health care coverage and the ease of getting your medical needs met.	3 people were happy with their provider.
	It is a problem to have to go to Denver for most services.
	Co-pays are too high.
	I don't like my provider.
	Access to dental care varies.
	Tri Care serves me well.
	Too hard to get information. Have to press multiple buttons.
	Mental health access is difficult. Mostly have to go "in town."
Do you have access to the variety of nutritious foods that you enjoy?	Some people felt that they have good access to nutritious food.
	A couple of people still garden.
	Use Tri Valley transportation to access grocery stores.
	Use VIA transportation to access grocery stores.
	I wish we could get King Soopers' delivery.
	Delivery is too expensive.

Senior FOCUS Conversations Central Arapahoe County – Community Resources and Community Participation

Questions	Responses
How do you find information that you need regarding any topic?	Ask others.
	Call the City of Aurora.
	Check Access Aurora.
	Find out after the fact.
	Need to be more proactive.
What types of services do you access?	Community Center.
	Exercising and water aerobics.
	Silver Sneakers.
	Tai Chi.
	Line dancing.
	Good to laugh.
	Helps social connections.
	Keeps my mind sharp.
	Use it or lose it.
Benefits of Volunteering	75% of the group volunteers.
	It gets me out of the house.
	I am not just taking up space on the planet.
	Volunteer for the County.
	Volunteer for political events.
	Support the environment.
	Volunteer through my church.

Senior FOCUS Conversations Western Arapahoe County – Community Resources and Community Participation

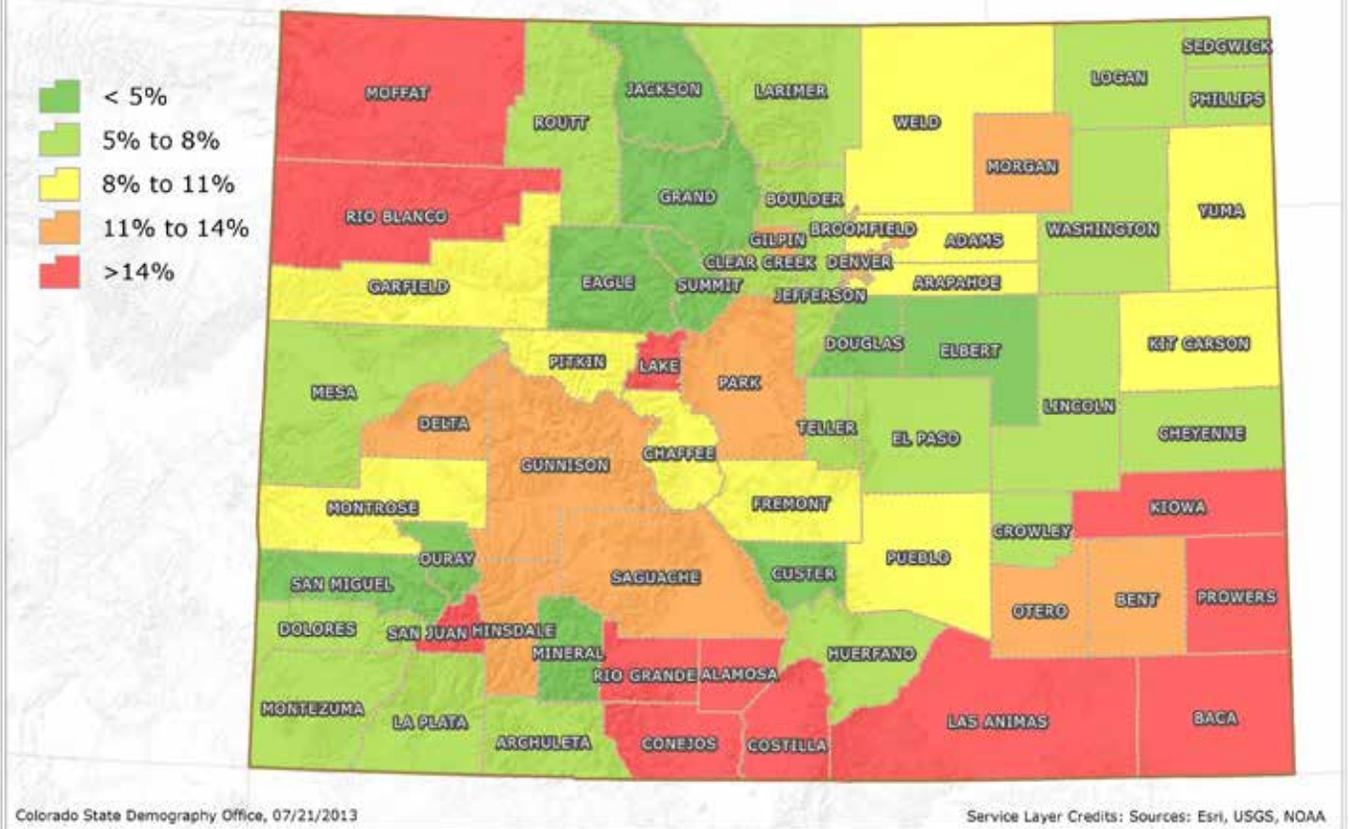
Questions	Responses
How do you find information that you need regarding any topic?	Internet but I have peers that won't touch a computer.
	Arapahoe County Quick Guide.
	Ask friends.
	Library publications.
What types of services do you access?	Recreation/senior centers.
	Exercise opportunities.
	Housing info.
	Transportation.
	Mental Health Services.
	Not enough services.
Benefits of Volunteering.	Easy to find opportunities.
	Enlightening.
	Feels good.
	1 person uses volunteers to assist.

Senior FOCUS Conversations Eastern Arapahoe County – Community Resources and Community Participation

Questions	Responses
How do you find information that you need regarding any topic?	Call Arapahoe County Senior Resources.
	Internet.
	Library.
	Ask my wife.
	Arapahoe County Council on Aging.
	Talk to other people.
	Through senior groups I am involved in.
What types of services do you access?	Library.
	Pool – aqua exercise.
	Exercise such as Zumba.
	Transportation.
	Social opportunities.
	Health opportunities such as flu clinic.
	Meals at High School.
Benefits of Volunteering.	75% volunteer.
	To help people.
	Fulfills personal needs.
	Feels good.
	Gives me perspective.
	It's meaningful.
	Keeps you out and active.

Senior Poverty in Colorado

(American Community Survey 2007-2011)



References

- AARP Public Policy Institute; National Conference of State Legislatures. "Aging in Place: A State Survey of Livability Policies and Practices." 2011.
- Aging Well 2015. Jefferson County Human Services. Fall 2015.
- Boulder County Area Agency on Aging. "Age Well Boulder County A Plan to Create Vibrant Communities." June 2015.
- Clarion. "Aging in Community: New Solutions." Webinar. March 12, 2015.
- Colorado State Demography Office. "Senior Poverty in Colorado." American Community Survey 2007-2011.
- Community Strategies Institute, "Arapahoe County Colorado Housing Needs Assessment," September 2013.
- David Evans and Associates; Felsburg Holt and Ullevig; BBC Research and Consulting." Arapahoe County 2035 Transportation Plan. November 2010.
- DeGroen, Cindy. "Colorado Population Trends in Aging." Colorado Department of Local Affairs; State Demography Office. 2015
- Denver Office on Aging. "Age Matters Report." April 2015.
- Denver Regional Council of Governments. "Boomer Bond Assessment Tool." 2015.
- Federal Interagency Forum on Aging Related Statistics, "Older Americans 2012 Key Indicators of Well Being"
- Genworth Life Insurance Company. "Genworth 2015 Cost of Care Survey." March 2015.
- Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University. "Housing America's Older Adults-Meeting the Needs of an Aging Population." 2014.
- Latino Community Foundation of Colorado/Rose Community Foundation. "It, Too, Takes a Village, Caregiving for Metro Denver's Latino Elders." 2014.
- Leading Age Center for Housing Plus Services., "Affordable Senior Housing Plus Services: What's the Value?" November 2015.
- N4A et al. The Maturing of America, Communities Moving Forward for an Aging Population." June 2011
- National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities, "Aging in America, We Can Do Better." 2015.
- National Center on Senior Transportation. "Older Driver Safety and Transition from Driving." 2015
- National Foundation to End Senior Hunger/National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities. "The State of Senior Hunger in America 2013: An Annual Report." April 2015.
- National Research Center Inc., "Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults," Arapahoe County 2015 Report of Results.
- National Research Center Inc., "Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults," Denver Regional Council of Governments 2015 Report of Results.
- National Research Center Inc., "Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults," Denver Regional Council of Governments 2015 Subgroup Comparisons.
- Reslock, Debbie Sullivan. "Senior Friendly Transportation Options." Planning. June 2015. 36-37.
- U.S. Census Bureau. Percent of Owners and Renters Spending More than 35% of Household Income on Housing Costs. Table DP04. 2008-12.
- (www.sageusa.org/advocacy/sagenet-affiliate.cfm?ID=19) Sage of the Rockies.



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
COMMUNITY RESOURCES DEPARTMENT



Board Summary Report

Date: October 24, 2016
To: Board of County Commissioners
Through: Don Klemme, Director, Community Resources Department
From: Steve Elliott, Manager, Weatherization Division
Subject: Weatherization Program

Request and Recommendation:

Annually, the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) notifies the managing agency for each weatherization region in the state the amount of funds available for expenditure in the region. Contracts are entered and the program continues into the subsequent fiscal year in a seamless (to the customer) transition from one year to the next. Periodically, the CEO requires competitive bidding. The Arapahoe/Adams region will next be required to bid in 2019.

However, for the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the CEO began requiring that each region provide notification of intent to continue to manage the program, regardless of the bidding schedule. The need for the notice of intent resulted from a problem caused in a previous fiscal year when the managing agencies for the Alamosa and Durango regions decided to serve some but not all of the counties of those regions. In an effort to assure that all counties of the state will be served, the CEO now requires managing agencies annually to provide a notice of intent to serve the entire region.

Direction was requested of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at a November 9, 2015 Study Session. At that Study Session the BOCC directed that staff should provide to the CEO notice of intent to continue to administer the program for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. However, given the CEO's current requirement for a notice of intent to continue to manage the program for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, it is necessary to again seek BOCC direction. Staff recommendation is to notify the CEO of Arapahoe County's intent to continue to manage the program for reasons supported by the information that follows.

Background:

The Weatherization Program, administered locally by the Weatherization Division of the Community Resources Department, and the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), administered by the Human Services Department, were created at the federal level in the mid-1970s to address the energy crisis. Both programs have been providing services to low-income citizens since then.

Weatherization program services consist of insulation measures (e.g., insulating walls, attics, basements and crawl spaces), sealing air infiltration and duct leaks, installing energy efficient furnaces, refrigerators and lighting, and providing energy conservation information to customers.

Historically, the majority of the customer base has been identified and referred by the LEAP programs of Adams and Arapahoe Counties. In order to receive assistance from LEAP, clients must apply for services provided by the weatherization program. By design, LEAP clients whose homes receive weatherization services will have more energy efficient homes in subsequent years, resulting in lower need for LEAP assistance. However, it is important to note that LEAP eligibility is 165% of the federal poverty level for program year 2015-16 (which for a family of four is \$40,095 annually). Meanwhile, the federal eligibility guidelines for the weatherization program remain at 200% of the federal poverty level (which for a family of four is \$48,600 annually). Thus, the weatherization program will be able to provide energy efficiency services to reduce the energy costs of low-income households that may not be eligible for utility bill assistance through LEAP.

Additionally, there is the health and safety issue of providing weatherization services to low-income, often vulnerable, citizens who are eligible for the program and often reside in substandard housing. For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, over 42% of the homes weatherized had some type of health and safety issue identified and mitigated; with approximately 20% of those being potentially life-threatening health and safety issues such as carbon monoxide leaks, gas leaks, faulty heating systems, unsafe electrical wiring, etc.

Although as many as 17,500 homes have been weatherized since program inception, thousands remain that could benefit from the service. Specifically, recent state demographic data reveals that over 64,000 households in Arapahoe County and over 54,000 households in Adams County are below the 200% federal poverty level. Excluding homes that have previously received weatherization services, it can be estimated that over 100,000 households in the Arapahoe/Adams region could be income-eligible for weatherization services. It is likely that a significant number of those homes are in need of energy efficiency upgrades.

The most recent U.S. Department of Energy - National Weatherization Program Evaluation found that the current energy savings of weatherization services to be an average of \$283 per residence per year. It is noteworthy that if the average in energy savings (\$283/year) is multiplied by the projected number of homes weatherized since program inception (17,500), the savings for all homes weatherized approaches \$5 million annually.

Discussion:

Arapahoe County continues to administer one of the most efficient and cost-effective weatherization programs in the state of Colorado. For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, 489 homes in the Arapahoe/Adams region received weatherization services by Arapahoe County crews and subcontractors at an average cost of \$5,260 per home. The remainder of the weatherization agencies across the state (excluding Arapahoe County) combined to weatherize a total of 2,027 homes at an average cost of \$7,223 per home.

As the Arapahoe County weatherization program is recognized to be one of the best in Colorado, there is no assurance that the citizens of the county will receive the same level of service should the program be administered by another organization. This could manifest in shoddy work, a break in service to allow another organization to ramp up, lower numbers of homes served, or some combination.

As the Board of County Commissioners considers whether or not to inform the CEO of its intent to continue to administer the program, areas to consider include the quality of service provided by Arapahoe County staff, the continued employment of 18 weatherization employees, the jobs created by the program for weatherization's current subcontractors, the resultant cost to the community should the program be closed down, the close relationship with the LEAP programs of Arapahoe and Adams Counties, the cost to the county of closing down the program, and the potential for savings associated with less exposure to liability, workers compensation and other claims attributable to the weatherization program.

Alternatives:

Because administration of the weatherization program is a discretionary decision by the Board of County Commissioners, there are two clear alternatives in regard to responding to the CEO request:

1. Notify the CEO that Arapahoe County intends to continue to administer the program; or
2. Notify the CEO that Arapahoe County no longer intends to administer the program.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact to the county for discontinuing the administration of the weatherization program primarily would be the unemployment costs for the layoff of 18 workers, the elimination of funding for any existing worker's compensation and unemployment claims, which may potentially be offset by the discontinuance of exposure to new worker's compensation claims. There also may be costs associated with disposing of assets and supplies.

Also discussed above is the cost to the employees and the corresponding cost to the community of eliminating 18+ jobs.

Reviewed by:

Donald A. Klemme, Director, Community Resources
Finance
County Attorney