



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

## Senior Citizens Millage

Commission on Aging  
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# OVERVIEW

## History of the Millage

Public Act 39 of 1979 is the enabling law that permits the establishment of a Senior Citizens Millage in the state of Michigan. It authorizes local units of government to appropriate funds for the purpose of providing activities or services to older persons. A Special Election on September 11, 1979 established the St. Clair County Senior Millage at .4 of a mill, equating to \$492,605.

Over the years, the millage rate has been increased twice: 1986 to .5 mill and 2012 to .8 mill. In 2022, the rate was rolled back to .7983 mill due to the Headlee Amendment. The Headlee Amendment requires a local unit of government to reduce its millage when annual growth on existing property value is greater than the rate of inflation. Consequently, the local unit's millage rate is "rolled back" so that the resulting growth in property tax revenue, community-wide, is no more than the rate of inflation.

The Senior Citizens Millage was renewed by the voters on August 2, 2022 Primary Election. The 4-year millage renewed at .7983 of a mill. The St. Clair County Senior Citizens Millage is typically renewed by an overwhelming majority of voters. The 2022 vote was no different with *over 78% of the voters approving* the renewal of the Senior Citizens' Millage for 2022-2025.



## About Us: Commission on Aging

The Commission on Aging (COA) was established in 1979 via Resolution 79-82 as an advisory board to the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners appoints the nine (9) member COA. The positions represent each of the seven (7) Board of Commissioner Districts and the member must reside in the commission district. There are two (2) at-large positions that can reside anywhere within St. Clair County. The Senior Citizens Millage Administrator serves as the Secretary to the COA and is a non-voting member.

The duties and responsibilities of the COA members are as follows:

- Stay abreast of current issues related to St. Clair County seniors.

- Educate the public on the resources available through the Senior Citizens Millage.
- Make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on senior services and Senior Citizens Millage annual budget.
- Monitor expenditures of the millage service providers.
- Seeks proposals for new services funded by the millage as the needs of St. Clair County seniors change.

## Mission Statement

The Commission's purpose is to recommend prudent spending of public funds (Senior Citizens Millage Fund) and to coordinate programs and services that meet the changing needs of St. Clair County seniors 60 years of age and older that promote their well-being and quality of life.

## Current Membership

District 1 - Linda Schmitt

District 2 - Kristal Jones (2023-24 Vice Chair)

District 3 - Diane Cooper

District 4 - Karynn Carrell (2023-24 Chairperson)

District 5 - Todd Bigger

District 6 - CarolAnn Wasilco

District 7 - Judy Wallis

At-Large position - Sharron DeFever

At Large position - Vacant

Secretary/Senior Millage Administrator - Jennifer Posey

## Term Expiration

12/31/2025

12/31/2024

12/31/2023

12/31/2023

12/31/2025

12/31/2024

12/31/2023

12/31/2025

12/31/2024

By Virtue of Position

## Contact Information:

Jennifer Posey, Senior Citizens Millage Administrator

200 Grand River Avenue, Suite 203

Port Huron, MI 48060

Phone: (810) 989-6900

E-mail: [jposey@stclaircounty.org](mailto:jposey@stclaircounty.org)

Hours: M-F 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

# SENIOR SERVICES

Senior Services funded by the St. Clair County Senior Citizens Millage are available to residents 60 years and older. Many of the services are free of charge, utilize a sliding fee scale and/or are available for a small donation to qualifying residents. In order to determine eligibility, residents should contact the appropriate service provider.

## What's New

In 2022, the COA authorized the Senior Citizens Millage Administrator to seek proposal for three (3) new services: Hearing, Vision and Personal Emergency Response Devices (PERS).

The Council on Aging, Serving St. Clair County, is administering both the hearing and vision programs. The Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) is administering the PERS program.



These programs are anticipated to begin in late spring 2023 and will be available to low income, resident seniors **free of charge**. Age, residency and income limitations shall apply and interested parties should contact the Council on Aging for the hearing/vision programs and VNA for the PERS program to determine eligibility.

## Services and Providers

There are currently 12 Service Providers and more than 25 programs being funded by the Senior Citizens Millage. Below is a listing of the current providers, along with some details of the services they provide our resident seniors.

### **Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA 1-B) - (800) 852-7795**

The AAA 1-B is part of a national network of Area Agencies on Aging that access federal and state grants to support local seniors. The millage provides necessary “match money” to receive the state and federal grants for services to St. Clair County residents.

### **Blue Water Safe Horizons - (810) 989-5246 or Crisis Hotline (888) 985-5538**

Blue Water Safe Horizons provides emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence. Seniors receive shelter assistance, case management and advocacy services with the assistance of millage funds.

### **Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan - (810) 987-9100**

Catholic Charities provides counseling services for seniors and/or caregivers. The program works to assist the individual with life changes such as loss of a significant other person, grief process, coping with chronic illness, marital and family problems, retirement adjustment, economic stresses, housing changes, abuse, neglect, isolation, and/or abuse of alcohol or medications.



### **Council on Aging, serving St. Clair County - (810) 987-8811**

Council on Aging provides adult day care, assistance with chores necessary to maintain their homes, Foster Grandparent program, homemaker/personal care services to assist with daily living, home repair services for general home repairs or security concerns, outreach/advocacy services to identify seniors in need and assist with finding resources, programs that assist with fitness, health, education, social or recreations activities, transportation services to medical appointments, shopping, senior centers, etc., hearing and vision services (new), congregate/group meals, home delivered meal program for homebound or impaired seniors, and replacement of Meals on Wheels vehicles as needed.



**Housing Matters Inc. - (810) 984-3173**

Housing Matters provides temporary housing (2 beds) for seniors who are homeless or at high-risk of becoming homeless. The Foundations Program is a newly added program that opened in September 2021. Seniors must be relatively independent and referred by a partner agency.

**Hunter Hospitality House - (810) 824-3679**

Hunter Hospitality House provides free lodging, transportation and amenities during a medical crisis to St. Clair County residents 60+ years and older at one of their facilities. HHH is available to those with a hospitalized loved one or if a senior is needing treatment at a local medical facility.

**Lakeshore Legal Aid - (810) 985-5107**

Lakeshore Legal Aid provides legal assistance and representation by an attorney for resident seniors. The Port Huron office focuses its work on senior abuse and exploitation issues, domestic violence cases, consumer protection cases, housing and public benefit and other non-criminal matters (legal advice, review/prepare legal documents, etc.).

**Life Skills Centers - (810) 331-0030**

Life Skills provides a Memory Care program for seniors with Alzheimer's and other related forms of dementia. The millage currently provides a portion of the program cost for low income seniors 60+ years of age, as well as snacks and meals during the program day.

**Port Huron Housing Commission - (810) 984-3173**

Port Huron Housing Commission (PHHC) provides bed bug remediation program and a senior bed program in low income housing complexes for seniors 60+ years of age and older. Direct service costs are provided for bed bug preparation/purchase of beds and mattress covers/hotel accommodations for residents in Port Huron, Marysville, St. Clair and Algonac Public Housing Commission. In addition, the PHHC provides beds to seniors that could not otherwise afford a bed of their own.

**Public Guardian's Office - (810) 985-2095**

The Public Guardian's Office provides court-ordered guardianship and conservatorship for legally incapacitated seniors, including designated case manager for seniors to assist with food, shelter

and living support. A Case Manager assists with emergency housing needs for seniors under public guardianship.



### **Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home - (810) 985-5631**

Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home provides four (4) dedicated beds for seniors that are homeless or in jeopardy of becoming homeless. They provide assisted living services including housing, personal care services, meals, medication administration, laundry services, etc.

### **Visiting Nurses Association - (810) 984-4131**

Visiting Nurses Association provides personal care for daily living activities, respite care for in-home relief to primary care providers and families, bereavement services for individual counseling, support groups, etc., and Blue Water Hospice Room and Board to supplement for seniors who cannot afford the Hospice Home.





## How Many Seniors are Being Served?

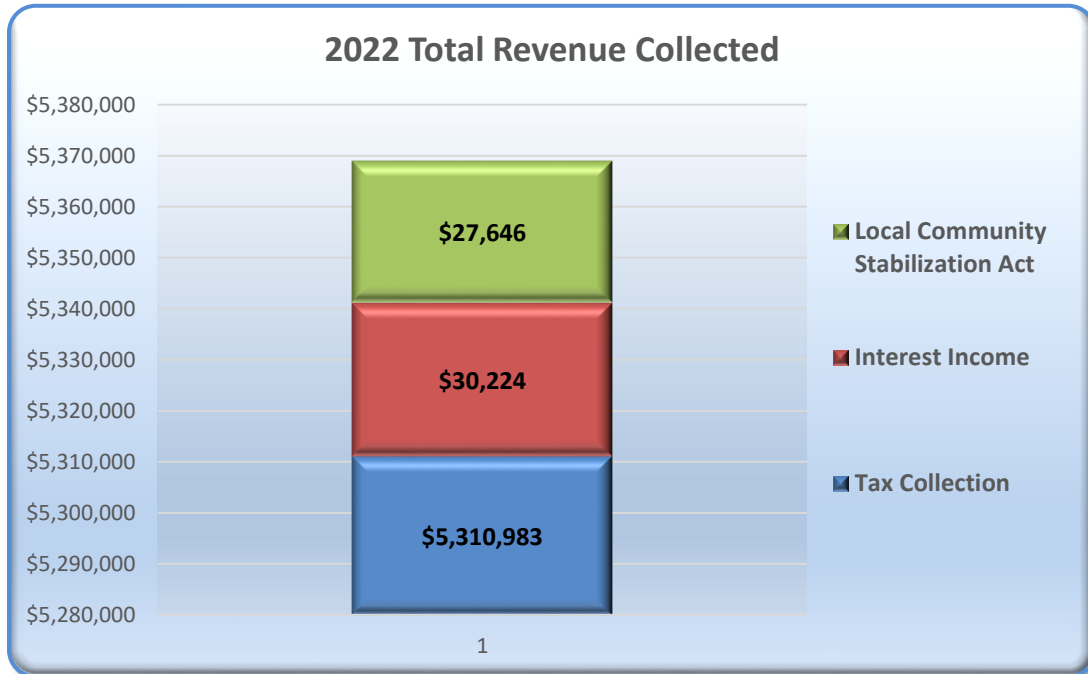
<b>Senior Citizens Millage - Unduplicated Client Count</b>	
AAA 1- B - Information & Referral	425
Blue Water Safe Horizons - Shelter Housing	21
Catholic Charities - Counseling Services	191
Council on Aging - total all programs*	15315
Housing Matters Inc. - Foundations program	8
Hunter Hospitality House - Accommodations	10
Lakeshore Legal Aid - Legal Services	258
Life Skills Center - Memory Care Program	31
Port Huron Housing Commission -Bed Bug/New Bed	23
Public Guardian - Housing Crisis Program	196
Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home - Homeless Program	10
Visiting Nurses Association - total all programs	473
<b>Total Unduplicated Clients</b>	<b>16,961</b>
Note: unduplicated per program	
*From Council on Aging 09/30/22 fiscal year end report	

<b>Additional Client Service Data - 2022</b>	
Blue Water Safe Horizons - Nights of Stay	385
Catholic Charities - Hours	1,587
COA Home Repair - Hours	6,877
COA Starpath - Hours	9,253
COA Chores - Hours	5,925
COA Homemaker/Personal Care - Hours	22,009
COA Community Liaison - Visits	20,375
COA Transportation - Rides	43,277
COA Programs - Participants	300,085
COA Home Delivered Meals	295,420
Housing Matters - Nights of Stay	607
Hunter Hospitality House - Nights of Stay	72
Lakeshore Legal Aid - Hours	6,254
Life Skills Centers - Hours	3,543
Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home - Nights of Stay	1,188
VNA Personal & Respite - Hours	7,512
VNA Hospice - Nights	962

# FINANCIALS

## Millage Revenue

The Senior Citizens Millage fund is comprised of revenue from three sources: tax collection, interest income and local community stabilization act funds. In 2022, the total revenue collected was **\$5,368,853**.



## Millage Expenditure

The Commission on Aging makes recommendations for the allocation to each service provider and the County Board of Commissioners adopts the Senior Citizens Millage budget along with the other Special Revenue Funds each December. The following page outlines the annual budget, as well as the actual expenditures for each service provider for 2022.

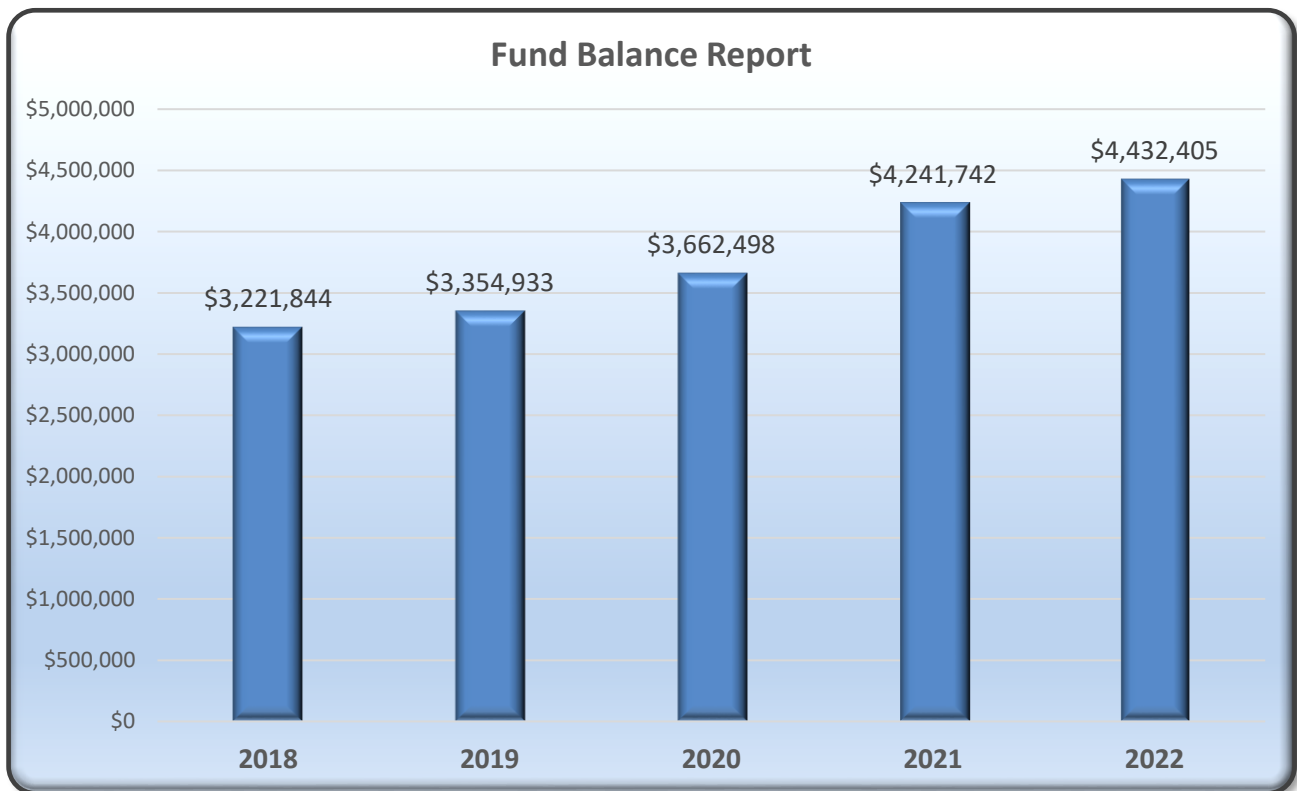
## 2022 Budget to Actual Report

<b>St. Clair County Senior Citizens Millage Fund</b> <b>Final Annual Expenditure Report</b> <b>AMENDED</b> <b>December 31, 2022</b>					
Provider	Service Type	2022 Budget	Actual Expenditures	% Spent	
AAA 1- B	County Dues/Match Money	\$ 15,340	\$ 15,340	100.00%	
<b>Blue Water Safe Horizons</b>		<b>\$ 51,779</b>	<b>\$ 51,779</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	
	Emergency Shelter - overage approved administratively	\$ 10,297	\$ 13,997	135.93%	
	Outreach/Advocate	\$ 36,482	\$ 36,482	100.00%	
	Case Management Supplies- \$5000 approved 04/27/22	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,300	26.00%	
<b>Catholic Charities of SE MI</b>	Counseling	\$ 166,796	\$ 166,796	100.00%	
<b>Council on Aging</b>		<b>\$ 4,123,204</b>	<b>\$ 3,906,162</b>	<b>94.74%</b>	
	Adult Day Care - StarPath	\$ 136,479	\$ 110,769	81.16%	
	Chore Services	\$ 145,488	\$ 118,069	81.15%	
	Foster Grandparents	\$ 64,026	\$ 72,192	112.75%	
	Homemaker/Personal Care Services	\$ 1,142,112	\$ 954,972	83.61%	
	Home Repair Services	\$ 166,015	\$ 175,068	105.45%	
	Community Liaison	\$ 272,972	\$ 309,553	113.40%	
	Programs	\$ 747,651	\$ 676,558	90.49%	
	Transportation	\$ 396,269	\$ 450,300	113.63%	
	Congregate/Group Meals	\$ 59,400	\$ 23,612	39.75%	
	Home Delivered Meals	\$ 930,792	\$ 1,015,068	109.05%	
	MOW Truck - replacement	\$ 62,000	\$ -	0.00%	
	Note: Additional \$6,000 approved for vehicle 04/27/22				
<b>Housing Matters Inc.</b>		<b>\$ 14,900</b>	<b>\$ 14,741</b>	<b>98.93%</b>	
	Foundations Program - Rent	\$ 14,400	\$ 14,400	100.00%	
	Foundations program - supplies	\$ 500	\$ 341	68.19%	
<b>Hunter Hospitality House</b>	Lodging, Transportation, Amenities	\$ 10,800	\$ 3,240	30.00%	
<b>Lakeshore Legal Aid</b>	Legal Services	\$ 346,658	\$ 346,659	100.00%	
<b>Life Skills Centers</b>	Memory Care Program including dietary supplement	\$ 42,424	\$ 42,424	100.00%	
	Note: Additional \$8,000 approved 10/26/22				
<b>Port Huron Housing Commission</b>		<b>\$ 23,590</b>	<b>\$ 18,372</b>	<b>77.88%</b>	
	Bed Bug Remediation	\$ 22,000	\$ 17,216	78.25%	
	New Bed Program	\$ 1,590	\$ 1,156	72.71%	
	Note: Additional \$6475 approved 10/26/22				
<b>Public Guardian</b>	Senior Emergency Housing Case Manager(s)	\$ 84,387	\$ 67,833	80.38%	
<b>Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home</b>					
	Room and Board	\$ 100,000	\$ 77,724	77.72%	
	Reimbursements - client co-share		(\$5,800)		
<b>Visiting Nurses Association</b>		<b>\$ 498,425</b>	<b>\$ 438,921</b>	<b>88.06%</b>	
	Respite/Personal Care Services	\$ 280,000	\$ 240,169	85.77%	
	Hospice Room and Board	\$ 170,000	\$ 166,323	97.84%	
	Bereavement Services	\$ 40,030	\$ 24,526	61.27%	
	One-time Capital Purchases for Hospice House	\$ 8,395	\$ 7,904	94.15%	
	Note: Administrative transfer of \$20K from P/R to HH				
<b>Commission on Aging</b>	Planning and Administration	\$ 35,348	\$ 33,998	96.18%	
<b>Contingency</b>	Incentive Funds to fill vacancies	\$ 50,000	\$ -	0.00%	
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$ 5,563,651</b>	<b>\$ 5,178,189</b>	<b>93.07%</b>	

## Fund Balance

In general, Fund Balance is the total accumulation of operating surpluses and deficits since the establishment of the account. Fund Balance can be used annually for operating expenses, special requests, new services or continuation of programs in the event the millage did not pass. The current Fund Balance would allow services to be provided for an additional 9-10 months.

The “New Services” that are scheduled to begin in early 2023 are intended to spend down some of the Fund Balance, as well as bringing service levels back up to pre-COVID numbers. A history of the Senior Citizens Millage Fund Balance can be seen below.



\*Note: Audited Fund Balance from the Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports.

## Independent Auditors

The Senior Citizens Millage fund is audited annually in conjunction with the County of St. Clair, MI’s independent audit. The current auditor is UHY LLP, Certified Public Accountants.