



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

## St. Clair County Senior Citizens Millage

Commission on Aging  
200 Grand River Avenue, Suite 203  
Port Huron MI 48060

Tel: (810) 989-6900  
E-Mail: [thull@stclaircounty.org](mailto:thull@stclaircounty.org)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW	3
History of the Millage	3
About Us: Commission on Aging	3
Mission Statement	4
Membership	4
SENIOR SERVICES	4
Services and Providers	5
How Many Seniors are Being Served?	9
FINANCIALS	10
Millage Revenue	10
Millage Expenditures	10
2024 Budget to Actual Report	12
Fund Balance	12
Independent Auditors	12

## 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 with 3-year terms. 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**

## **Term Expiration**

District 1 - Linda Schmitt	12/31/2025
District 2 - Kristal Jones (2024-25 Vice Chair)	12/31/2027
District 3 - Diane Cooper	12/31/2026
District 4 - Karynn Carrell (2024-25 Chairperson)	12/31/2026
District 5 - Todd Bigger	12/31/2025
District 6 - CarolAnn Wasilco	12/31/2027
District 7 - Judy Wallis	12/31/2026
At-Large position - Sharron DeFever	12/31/2025
At Large position - Bonnie DiNardo	12/31/2027
Secretary/Senior Millage Administrator	By Virtue of Position

## Contact Information:

Senior Citizens Millage Administrator

200 Grand River Avenue, Suite 203

Port Huron, MI 48060

Phone: (810) 989-6900

E-Mail: [Thull@stclaircounty.org](mailto:Thull@stclaircounty.org)

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm

## SENIOR SERVICES

Senior Services funded by the St. Clair County Senior Citizens Millage are available to residents 60 years of age 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.

### 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.

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

The AgeWays 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 offers shelter and support services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse. With the assistance of millage funds, Seniors receive shelter, case management and advocacy services.

#### 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 is the millage's largest service provider and offers an array of services to keep resident seniors safe and independent in their own homes. Some of the millage-provided services include the following:

- 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 provide fitness, health, education, social or recreations activities,
- transportation services to medical appointments, shopping, senior centers, etc.,
- hearing and vision services, including hearing aids and glasses to those that qualify,
- congregate meals and home delivered meals for homebound or impaired seniors, as well as new delivery vehicles, as needed.
- Miles for Memories ID Bracelet Program provides support for the person in early stages of dementia to continue to be active. The bracelet allows for emergency and medical information to be stored and accessed by emergency personnel when your loved one is found.



### **Housing Matters Inc. - (810) 984-3173 x405**

Housing Matters provides temporary housing (2 beds) for seniors who are homeless or at high-risk of becoming homeless. The Foundations Program is a program that opened in September 2021. Seniors must be relatively independent and referred by a partner agency. Port Huron Housing Commission provides a case manager to assist the senior in finding a permanent residence, as well as other supports to remain independent.

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

Hunter Hospitality House (HHH) provides free days of stay 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) 385-3710**

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 and older, 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 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 Nurse Association & Blue Water Hospice (VNA & BWH) provides Private Duty Home Care (personal care for daily living activities), Home Health (skilled medical care), Hospice Care, respite care for in-home relief to primary care providers and families, bereavement services for individual counseling & support groups, as well as Blue Water Hospice Home Room & Board supplement for seniors who cannot afford it. VNA & BWH administers the Personal Emergency Response System (PERS Alert), allowing a senior to call for help with the push of a button.





## Seniors are Being Served and Statistics

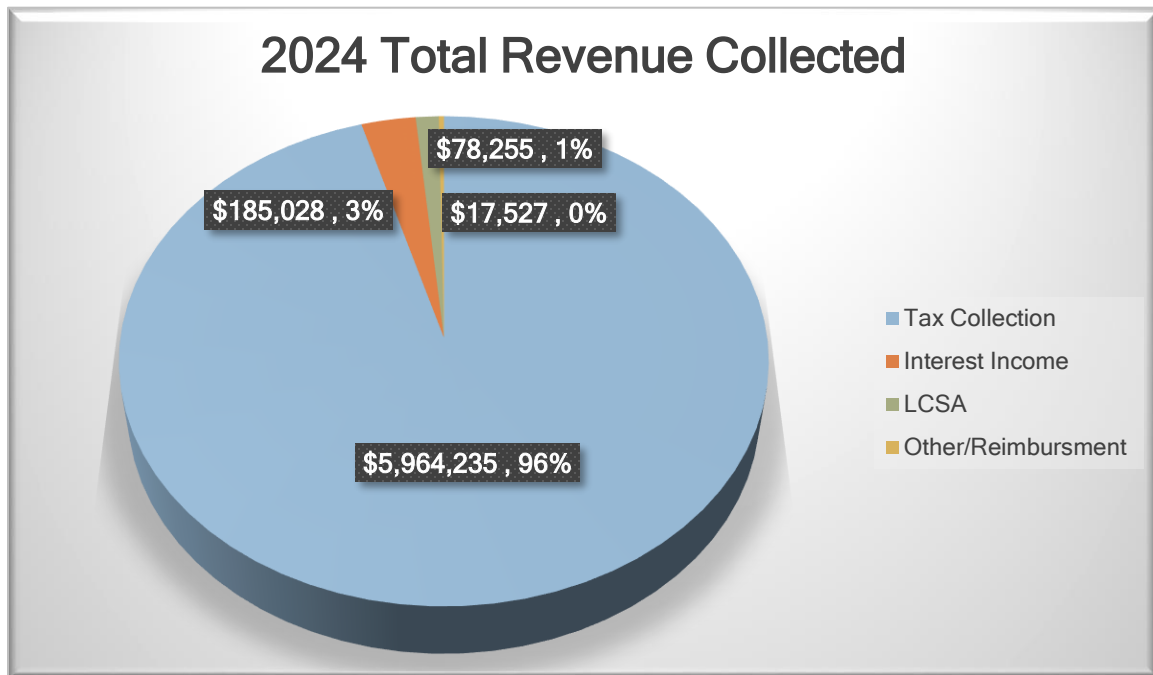
2024 Senior Citizens' Millage Outreach		
Service Provider	# Seniors Served	Provider's Measurement
Blue Water Safe Horizons - Shelter	6	335/nights
Blue Water Safe Horizons - Case Management	23	2110/hours
Catholic Charities of SEM (Pt. Huron) - Counseling Services	145	1,478/hours
Council on Aging - Adult Day Care (Starpeth)	24	8,888/hours
Council on Aging - Chore Services	281	5,625/hours
Council on Aging - Foster Grandparents	74	53,223/hours
Council on Aging - Homemaker/Personal Care	887	27,435/hours
Council on Aging - Home Repair	380	7,077/hours
Council on Aging - Community Liaison	2,418	25,688/hours
Council on Aging - Programs	4,501	574,585/programs attended
Council on Aging - Transportation	871	51,362/rides
Council on Aging - Congregate Meals	775	8,791/meals
Council on Aging - Home Delivered Meals	1,497	273,332/meals
Council on Aging - Memory Bracelets	24	24/bracelets
Council on Aging - Hearing	32	56/hearing devices
Council on Aging - Vision	23	23/eye glasses
Housing Matters - Foundations Homeless Program	4	307/days
Hunter Hospitality House - Accommodations	14	180/days
Lakeshore Legal Aid - Legal Services	557	9,763/hours
Life Skills Center - Memory Care Program	11	1,080/hours
Port Huron Housing Commission - Bed Bug Remediation	6	6/rooms
Port Huron Housing Commission - New Bed	9	9/beds
Public Guardian's Office - Housing Crisis Program	102	1 FT staff - 1950hours
Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home - Homeless Program	14	1,446/nights
Visiting Nurses Association - Bereavement	408	4,312/hours
Visiting Nurses Association - Blue Water Hospice Home	37	338/nights
Visiting Nurses Association - PERS Program	335	1,020/hours
Visiting Nurses Association - Personal/Respite Care	83	8,519/hours
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,541</b>	<b>158,168/hours</b> <b>2,606/day or night stays</b>

*Program services are partially funded through St. Clair County Senior Citizens' Millage.*

## FINANCIALS

### Millage Revenue

The Senior Citizens' Millage fund is comprised of revenue from four sources: tax collection, interest income, Local Community Stabilization Act (LCSA) funds and other/service reimbursements. In 2024, the total revenue collected was **\$6,227,537.85**.



### 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 2024.

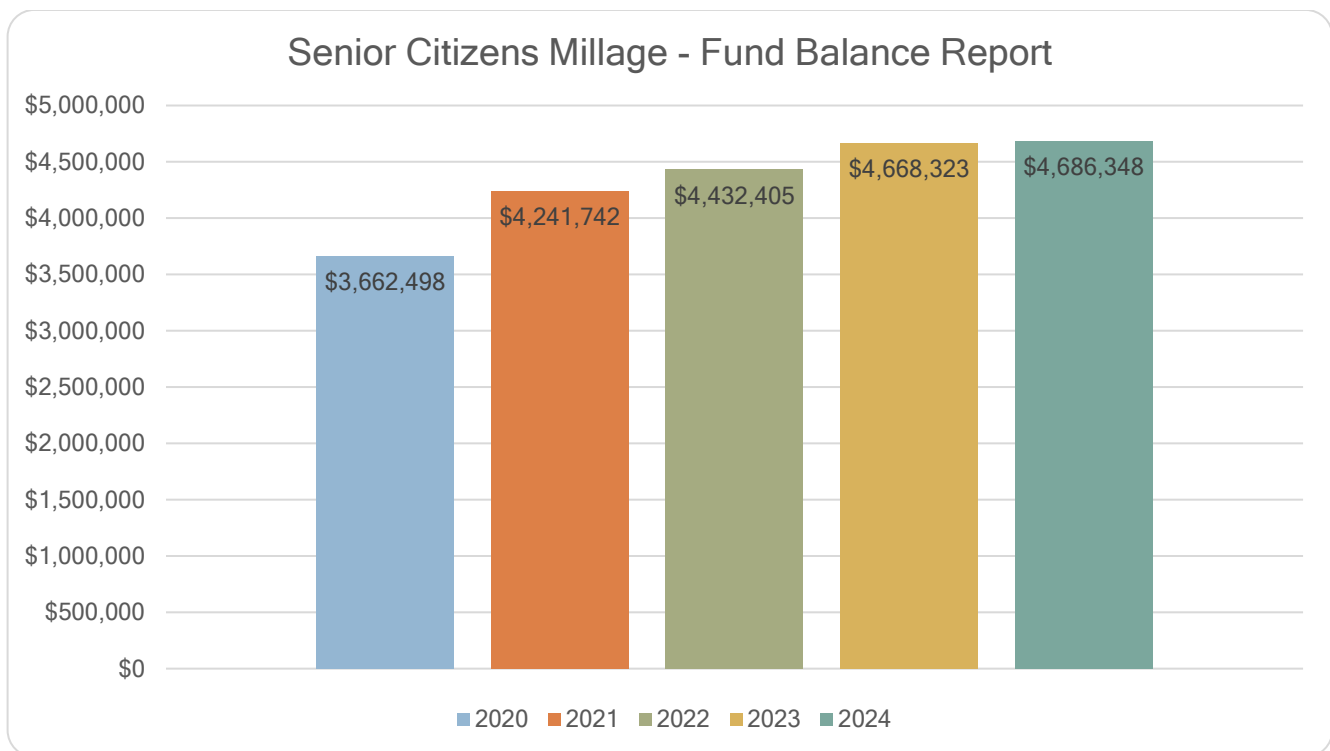
## 2024 Budget to Actual Report

St. Clair County Senior Citizens' Millage Fund Revenue/Expenditure Report 2024							
Provider	Service Type	2024 Budget		Expenditures		Balance	% Spent
AgeWays / AAA 1- B Thru December	County Dues/Match Money		\$ 16,748		\$16,748.00	\$0.00	100.00%
Blue Water Safe Horizons Thru December	Emergency Shelter	\$ 22,838	\$ 66,993	\$ 22,838	\$66,649.58	\$343.42	99.49%
	Outreach/Advocate	\$ 44,155		\$ 43,812			100.00%
	Note: reallocation of funds within line items.						99.22%
Catholic Charities of SE MI Thru December	Counseling		\$ 183,860		\$183,860.00	\$0.00	100.00%
Council on Aging Thru December	Adult Day Care - StarPath	\$ 142,928	\$ 4,696,419	\$ 173,723	\$4,637,905.35	\$58,513.65	98.75%
	Chore Services	\$ 131,617		\$ 98,474			121.55%
	Foster Grandparents	\$ 75,987		\$ 61,951			74.82%
	Homemaker/Personal Care Services	\$ 1,118,339		\$ 1,110,398			81.53%
	Home Repair Services	\$ 221,442		\$ 190,845			99.29%
	Community Liaison	\$ 350,045		\$ 404,959			86.18%
	Programs	\$ 721,605		\$ 800,988			115.69%
	Transportation	\$ 503,112		\$ 399,801			111.00%
	Congregate/Group Meals	\$ 34,364		\$ 40,635			79.47%
	Home Delivered Meals	\$ 1,020,480		\$ 1,221,807			118.25%
	Vision Services	\$ 68,250		\$ 10,642			119.73%
	Hearing Services	\$ 248,250		\$ 63,681			15.59%
	MOW - vehicles	\$ -		\$ -			25.65%
	Other Capital: Chore Cargo Van	\$ 60,000		\$ 60,000			100.00%
Housing Matters Inc. Thru December	Foundations Program - Rent	\$ 14,400	\$ 17,400	\$ 14,400	\$15,400.00	\$2,000.00	88.51%
	Foundations program - supplies	\$ 2,000		\$ -			100.00%
	Capital: Washer/Dryer	\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000			0.00%
Hunter Hospitality House Thru December	Lodging, Transportation, Amenities		\$ 8,000		\$8,000.00	\$0.00	100.00%
Lakeshore Legal Aid Thru December	Legal Services	\$ 402,148	\$ 424,814		\$424,814.00	\$0.00	100.00%
	Contract Amendment COA 7/31/24 - BOC 11/21/24	\$ 22,666					
Life Skills Centers Thru December	Memory Care Program	\$ 32,604	\$ 36,056	\$ 19,737	\$22,043.25	\$14,012.75	61.14%
	Dietary Supplement	\$ 3,452		\$ 2,306			
Port Huron Housing Commission Thru December	Bed Bug Remediation	\$ 26,000	\$ 27,590	\$ 9,221	\$11,179.30	\$16,410.70	40.52%
	New Bed Program	\$ 1,590		\$ 1,958			35.46%
							123.17%
Public Guardian Thru December	Senior Emergency Housing Case Manager		\$ 78,623		\$65,590.17	\$13,032.83	83.42%
Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home Thru December	Room and Board - Homeless Program	\$ 104,477	\$ 104,477	\$ 97,643	\$80,115.95	\$24,361.05	76.68%
	Client co-pay (Reimbursements thru - 1/3/25)			(\$17,527)			93.46%
Visiting Nurses Association Thru December	Respite/Personal Care Services	\$ 442,256	\$ 703,904	\$ 388,931	\$625,320.26	\$78,583.74	88.84%
	Hospice Room and Board	\$ 153,725		\$ 62,280			87.94%
	Bereavement Services	\$ 30,000		\$ 24,944			40.51%
	Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)	\$ 77,923		\$ 149,165			83.15%
	Other Capital	\$ -		\$ -			191.43%
Commission on Aging Thru December	Planning and Administration		\$ 52,264		\$51,887.19	\$376.81	99.28%
Contingency			\$ -		\$0.00	\$0.00	
TOTALS			\$ 6,417,148		\$6,209,513.05	\$207,634.95	96.76%
Revenue & Expenditure Overview		Budget		Actual to Date			
Revenue	Tax Collection	\$6,038,948		\$5,964,235.08			
	Interest Income	\$170,000		\$185,047.43			
	Local Community Stabilization Act	\$45,000		\$78,255.34			
	Total Revenues		\$6,253,948	\$6,227,537.85			
Expenditures	Total Expenditures for Services/Administration		\$6,417,148	\$6,209,513.05			
Estimated Ending Balance			(\$163,200)	\$18,025			
Audited Fund Balance 12/31/22		\$4,432,405					
Audited Fund Balance 12/31/23		\$4,668,323					
Budgeted Estimated Fund Balance 12/31/24		\$4,505,123					
Estimated Fund Balance 12/31/24		\$4,686,348					

## Fund Balance

In general, Fund Balance is the total accumulation of operating surpluses and deficits since the account was established. 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 fund balance increase from 2023 to pre-audit projection 2024 was \$18,025. The current fund balance would allow maintaining existing services for approximately 9 months, although it remains Administration's recommendation to maintain a 6 to 7 month operational fund balance as fiduciary best practice.

A history of the Senior Citizens Millage Fund Balance can be seen below.



\*Note: Audited Fund Balance from the Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports, with the exception of 2024.

## Independent Auditors

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