

Oakland County Senior Planning Coalition – Frequently Asked Questions

Why undertake a study of senior issues now? Oakland County is aging. By 2020 there will be more seniors over age 65 than school age children in many of our communities. It is projected that the number of seniors will *double* by 2030. Community leaders must be proactive in addressing the boom in this population and be prepared to create conditions that will encourage older adults to remain in and locate to Oakland County and our region.

What is the purpose of the study? The study will reveal important data that links to the demographics on aging in Oakland County so that appropriate measures can be considered in planning for the impacts of this change.

What will be the result of the study? The senior study will result in a “Blueprint for Action” describing the demographic change, the potential impacts of this change and the recommended actions to address this population shift.

Who will get the final report and how will it be used? The report will be widely shared with leaders, businesses, agencies, elected officials and others with business or personal interest in senior needs. The report will be distributed to the general public via the Oakland County Board of Commissioners web site and other agencies and government bodies that choose to post this information to their web sites. It is anticipated the information in the report will assist decision makers, providers of services, and those in planning roles to understand senior needs and act accordingly.

How is this initiative different from other senior studies in the region? Understanding senior issues is a critical need in our country and several important study initiatives are underway in Southeast Michigan. The Oakland County Study group will use information *from* these studies, as well as to provide information *to* these studies, as it relates to the unique needs and opportunities in Oakland County. This collaborative approach is an exciting opportunity to look at senior issues in both broad and very specific detail.

How was the study group appointed and what is their charge? The study group was formed with representation from Oakland County agencies, business leaders, County Commissioners, consumers, and elected officials with leadership from the Area Agency on Aging 1-B, Catholic Social Services of Oakland County, and United Way for Southeastern Michigan. The study group will lead sub-committees in the gathering, analysis and reporting of data that relate to seniors. They will report their findings and recommend actions.

Who will serve on the sub-committees? Interested citizens are invited to serve on the sub-committees and/or provide input to the sub-committees. An interest form is available on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners web site: <http://www.oakgov.com/boc>.

Who funded this study? The study is funded through a discretionary grant from the United Way for Southeastern Michigan’s Oakland office to support a project manager/facilitator.