

Senior Services Advisory Task Force Recommendations

JUNE 3, 2026



GENESEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Task Force Members

District	Commissioner	Task Force Member
1st	Delrico J. Loyd	Helen Walker
2nd	Charles H. Winfrey	Elizabeth Taylor
3rd	Gary L. Goetzinger, Vice Chair	Richard Richardson, PhD, RN, Chair
4th	Dr. Beverly Brown	Kathy Boles
5th	James Avery	Mike Yancho
6th	Shaun Shumaker	Russ Perkins
7th	Martin L. Cousineau	Liza Gulliver
8th	Dale K. Weighill, Chair	Sandra Murphy, Vice Chair
9th	Brian K. Flewelling	Casey Clark



Mission Statement

- To assess the needs of older adults in Genesee County and to make non-binding recommendations to the Board of Commissioners as to programmatic, service, and budgetary priorities for this population
- Recommendations with quantitative and qualitative data will be given no later than June 1, 2026
- Members will present these recommendations no later than July 1, 2026

Data Collection and Timeline

- Millage History and Existing Conditions: To gain a better understanding of the Senior Millage in its entirety, members requested presentations on the Millage by the Director of Senior Services, Lynn Radzilowski. These presentations were conducted during the October 7th and December 4th meetings.
- Existing Plans in Genesee County: Yaushica Aubert, President and CEO of the Valley Area Agency on Aging (VAAA) was invited to review their existing Multi– Year Plan with a focus on existing needs for seniors. This presentation was conducted during the January 8th meeting.
- Senior Needs, Gaps, and Trends: Members heard from the Greater Flint Health Coalition, Michigan’s Poll on Healthy Aging, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services who collect and evaluate data on senior needs, gaps, and trends. These presentations were conducted during the February 5th meeting.



Data Collection and Timeline

- Senior Millage Stakeholder Input: Members requested input from all millage funded providers on unmet senior needs, gaps in services, and underserved senior populations. Stakeholders presented during the March 7th meeting.
- Recommendations and Prioritization: Members discussed and approved recommendations based on the information they gathered during this process. Prioritization of recommendations was done during the April 2nd meeting.
- Approval of Draft Report: Members conducted a final discussion on the proposed recommendations and suggested additional changes. A final approval vote was conducted via email.



Overall Recommendation:

The Genesee County Department of Senior Services should be the convener for collaborations with all parties to eliminate waitlists, bridge funding gaps, and provide better overall services to seniors in Genesee County.



High Priority Recommendations (5+)

- Provide funding for the Michigan State University Senior Assessment Research study and establish a study design that considers both able bodied and homebound seniors (9).
- Review and increase the annual millage funds allocated to senior centers (7).
- Increase millage funding and create a marketing plan for the millage. This plan will utilize data from MSU (6).
- Provide funding for case managers for all senior centers to assist with needs (6).

The Task Force recommended moving the following two items to the high priority category per discussion at the May 7th meeting:

- Create a Development Department within the County for grant research, writing, and reporting, and hire grant writers (4).
- Expand programs for homebound seniors including programs such as home care, meal delivery, wellness checks, and caregiver support (0).



Medium Priority Recommendations (4-3)

- Find better ways to deliver transportation services through collaboration between agencies (4).
- Strengthen outreach and marketing for all services to underserved and marginalized populations (4).
- Encourage partnerships between local government, nonprofits, healthcare providers, and community groups to maximize impact and to reduce gaps (3).
- Create action teams that are problem specific to help eliminate waitlists. Create additional teams as new needs arise (3).
- The Genesee County Department of Senior Services will conduct an orientation to Senior Services to the Board of Commissioners every two years (3).



Low Priority Recommendations (2-0)

- Establish a permanent Senior Citizen Advisory Committee that includes program recipients. Periodically commission a county-wide needs assessment (2).
- Provide additional funds to senior centers specifically for transportation programming. Convene a Task Force Subcommittee to do a deep dive on transportation (1).
- Obtain internal and/or external funding to reinstate the ramp program (1).
- Identify funding priorities based on a countywide needs assessment (1).
- Implement regular reporting and community feedback mechanisms to ensure funds are used effectively and equitably (1).
- Brainstorm how senior centers can get better involved in the delivery of services (1).



Low Priority Recommendations (2-0)

- Authorize funds to help seniors set up AAA memberships (0).
- Increase homemaking programs (0).
- Establish a “911-like” hotline for senior emergencies that will provide contact numbers for food, electricity, heat, or other emergencies. Assists seniors and provides wellness checks (0).
- Contract with local farmers, gardeners, orchards, etc. for produce to expand the quality and quantity of food for seniors (0).
- Increase support for mental health services, chronic disease management programs, and preventative care initiatives (0).
- Encourage fundraising for senior centers and other programming outside of the millage. Create a “senior services” fund composed of a percentage of senior center funds and donations from individuals/organizations (0).



Low Priority Recommendations (2-0)

- Provide transportation for all service provider clients (0).
- Provide bonuses and competitive salaries to retain employees (0).

The following recommendation was removed from the list at the May 7th meeting:

- Do not approve millage funding for additional senior centers that are within a 15-mile radius of an existing millage-funded senior center (4).