


Agenda Item

DATE: February 27, 2024

TO: DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THROUGH: DOUGLAS J. DEBORD, COUNTY MANAGER

FROM: TERENCE T. QUINN, AICP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 

CC: ALLISON CUTTING, COMMUNITY SERVICES SUPERVISOR
JENNIFER L. EBY, AICP, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

SUBJECT: OLDER ADULT INITIATIVE UPDATE

SUMMARY

The Douglas County Older Adult Initiative (Initiative) provided a collaborative, interactive, and community-driven discussion on challenges and opportunities facing Douglas County older adults. Input received is intended to inform program direction, educate residents, and assist organizations in providing a high quality of life for Douglas County older adults and their families.

BACKGROUND

The Initiative launched with the Older Adult Town Hall in March 2023. Community engagement was solicited through listening tour events and a resident survey. 255 residents attended thirteen listening tour events held throughout Douglas County between July and October 2023. Rural areas were represented by Sedalia, Larkspur, Louviers, and Roxborough, with 30 residents participating, equating to 11% of the total attendees.

A resident survey was made available both online and in print. The resident survey was open from July through December 2023 and had 292 responses. Rural area residents made up 18% of the survey respondents. These community outreach events and surveys allowed residents to provide input on the strengths and needs of Douglas County and identify the services and resources that would assist the County's aging population in the coming years.

DISCUSSION

Residents emphasized that ensuring safety, in-home services, transportation, and planning with aging in mind were paramount factors for aging well in Douglas County. Residents consistently rated access to recreation, healthcare facilities, emergency services, and opportunities for social connections highly, underscoring their appreciation for the accessible and quality services that contribute to the community's overall well-being.

An Executive Committee (Committee) was formed to support the Initiative. The Committee considered the input received through the listening tours and surveys and established the priority needs of housing, transportation, access to information and resources, and in-home services as areas that require improvement for residents to successfully age well in Douglas County. The Committee recommends the following proposed action items to address each priority need for the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) consideration.

Transportation

- Establish a County-wide micro transit program.
- Develop funding sources and find new partners to expand current services.
- Support funding and logistics for a shuttle program to serve older adult affordable properties.

Housing

- DCHP housing needs analysis and strategic planning, including the older adult population.
- Research opportunities to lower costs through development standards.
- Develop programs and design guidelines that result in accessible housing.

In-Home Services

- Develop funding sources and increase the number of providers offering home services.

Access to Information and Resources

- Identify, create, or better leverage trusted information sources for older adults and caregivers in Douglas County.
- Develop mobile outreach encompassing multiple services, information, and resources.
- Widely promote, support, and market Aging Resources of Douglas County as a resource.

NEXT STEPS

With BCC approval, the proposed priority needs and action items will be presented at the Older Adult Town Hall on February 29th at 4:30. County-wide outreach events will be planned in the spring of 2024 to report Initiative results and proposed action items.