



Tri-County  
Office on Aging

# ANNUAL REPORT

# — 2025 —

Serving Clinton, Eaton,  
and Ingham Counties

October 1, 2024 –  
September 30, 2025

 517-887-1440

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 [info@tcoa.org](mailto:info@tcoa.org)



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# ABOUT TRI-COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING

Tri-County Office on Aging (TCOA) is the Area Agency on Aging for Region 6 serving Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties. As a not-for-profit organization, TCOA helps older adults access programs and benefits, improve their health, and remain active in their communities. Working in partnership with agencies and service providers across the area, TCOA embraces a person-centered philosophy that focuses on how a person wants to live their life while honoring their preferences. TCOA's mission is at the core of all programs and services the agency provides in its service area.

The Administrative Board governing TCOA, Tri-County Aging Consortium, consists of elected officials representing Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties and the cities of Lansing and East Lansing. The Consortium was established in 1974 through a regional cooperative agreement under the Michigan Urban Cooperation Act of 1967. TCOA was designated the Area Agency on Aging through the Michigan Aging and Adult Services Agency as a response to the 1973 amendments of the federal Older Americans Act.

According to the most recent Census Bureau American Community Survey, the older adult population represents 23% of the total tri-county population. In the TCOA service area, an estimated 75% are White, 8% are Black or African American, 0.3% are American Indian and Alaska Native, 5% are Asian, 0.05% are Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, 2% are some other race, and 8% are Hispanic or Latino (of any race).

TCOA's mission is to promote and preserve the independence and dignity of the aging population.



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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

2025 was a year of planning and perseverance. Thank you to our dedicated staff – the driving force behind our success. Whether working directly with those we serve or supporting behind the scenes, our staff make our mission possible. Their compassion, hard work, and relentless pursuit of excellence make a profound difference every day, and it is through those efforts that we are able to uplift and empower those who need it most.

For over 50 years, TCOA has been a cornerstone of support throughout Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties. Serving as the trusted, go-to agency for individuals seeking person-centered services, resources, and information, we touched the lives of 27,000 older adults, adults with disabilities, caregivers, and support networks in FY 2025 through meaningful partnerships with agencies and service providers. As we reflect on the year, I want to acknowledge all that we have accomplished together. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, TCOA pursued Strategic Planning efforts, enhanced collaboration, pivoted through program changes, and worked to expand access.

Strategic Planning took place to grow financial strength, connect with people in meaningful ways, and maximize program resources. This process includes employee engagement, improves communication, and provides a clear vision for the road ahead.

Enhanced collaboration with Senior Centers has been a welcome addition to our calendar to share information and resources, and foster communication. Senior Centers are critical community hubs that help combat social isolation by providing opportunities for engagement, support independence and active aging, and create a space of belonging for older adults. Thanks to the Ingham County Elder Services Millage, grants to Ingham County Senior Centers for Healthy Aging and Wellness activities became available and served 238 seniors in three locations throughout the community.

The Caregiver Resource Center (CRC) grant wrapped up in FY 2025. Staff were able to coordinate new initiatives like a Respite Voucher Giveaway and Caregiver Lunch and Learn, fund a marketing campaign and promotional materials, along with provide care packages and other program materials. Read more about these efforts later in the Report.

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TCOA launched a website redesign in FY 2025 to improve website functionality, accessibility, and flow. Check out the new site, including the Resource tab with a select and print feature, at [tcoa.org](http://tcoa.org).

Due to State level systematic changes, the Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) is now known as the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) and TCOA has expanded service delivery to include Shiawassee County per a request from the state, in addition to Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties. TCOA's SHIP program continues to work through changes as we transition from MMAP Inc to MDHHS oversight.

Also in FY 2025, TCOA engaged in educational trainings to improve person-centered service delivery to tri-county residents. TCOA was trained by Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency in December. This learning session shared the unique differences and experiences of veterans and their families so TCOA staff members can better address their needs and provide more effective services. Salus Center also joined us in December to discuss inclusive language and inclusive spaces. Disability Network Capital Area provided a Disability Pride presentation in June 2025. Supports Coordination and Case Coordination staff also participate in continuing education credits and other trainings through the training platform Relias on a regular basis.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to our dedicated volunteers, partners, and donors for their commitment to TCOA programs and services. The accomplishments in this Annual Report and beyond would not have been possible without their passion and perseverance. Their contributions are the heart of our mission, and together, we are making a lasting impact on the lives of older adults, their families, and caregivers across Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties. Thank you for being an essential part of our journey.

**Andrea Radel, TCOA Executive Director**



# PROGRAM AND PROJECT OUTCOMES

TCOA, working in partnership with agencies and service providers across the area, connected with 27,000 older adults, adults with disabilities, caregivers and support circles. Services and supports were provided to over 15,500 people.



Overall, contracted service participant counts increased by 20% from last fiscal year. Long-Term Care Ombudsman and the Elder Abuse Prevention program experienced the largest increases (over 100%). The Long-Term Care Ombudsman increase is likely due to the \$3 million increase in the State budget, a past network advocacy priority.

The Nutrition Program experienced a year of increased need. Participant counts in the Congregate Dining program experienced a 69% increase from last fiscal year. The Carry-Out Meals program continues to experience significant growth. Home Delivered Meals experienced a 9% increase in participants during this same time frame. Senior Project Fresh moved to an electronic distribution system and served 71% more seniors in our community with fresh produce at Farmers Markets.





The Caregiver Resource Center (CRC) grant wrapped up in Fiscal Year 2025. Staff expended \$196,750 to coordinate a Respite Voucher Giveaway; host a Caregiver Lunch and Learn; create, translate, and print caregiver outreach materials and informational documents; support a marketing campaign; and provide other program supports and administrative items.



TCOA staff outreached to over 11,350 community members and partners, and Information and Assistance Specialists provided information on a wide range of topics to over 4,400 older adults, caregivers, persons with disabilities, and their support circles. TCOA is expanding reach through monthly media appearances on the Fox 47 Morning Blend show. Additionally, TCOA's Advisory Council has formed an outreach subcommittee with the goal of connecting to new areas of the community to offer a tailored presentation on TCOA services.



# SERVICE DATA

TCOA Direct & Access Services	Participants	Units of Service**
Information and Assistance (I&A)*	4,423	7,099
Community Resource Navigator (CRN)	87	137
Crisis Services (CS)	760	760
Options Counseling	277	693
State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)*	1,758	2,060
Kinship Care Respite Program*	15	96
Diabetes Personal Action Toward Health (PATH)*	59	5
Matter of Balance (MOB)*	108	8
Chronic Pain PATH*	24	3
Walk With Ease*	29	5
Powerful Tools for Caregivers (PTC)*	41	4
The Savvy Caregiver® Program*	41	5
Dementia Caregiver Series*	39	5
Outreach*	11,357	443
Home and Community Based Services*	1,888	4,884,414
MI Choice I Medicaid Waiver	1,224	4,388,919
Other Participants Receiving Supports Coordination	502	7,724
Case Coordination	412	369,431
Ingham County Elder Services Millage Case Coordination	243	194,551
Care Management	129	118,340

\*Included in Grand Total 2025 \*\*Units of service vary by program

# SERVICE DATA

Nutrition	Participants	Units of Service**
Congregate Dining Sites*	723	44,509
Home-Delivered Meals*	1,921	360,633
Carry-Out Meals*	686	45,878
Senior Project Fresh*	487	487

Contracted Services	Participants	Units of Service**
Information and Assistance* Capital Area Community Services (CACS)	2,217	3,468
Transportation* Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) & Clinton Transit	79	173
Adult Day Care* Elizabeth's Place and Forster Woods	26	10,254
Elder Abuse Prevention* Michigan Elder Justice Initiative	134	79
Long Term Care Ombudsman* Michigan Elder Justice Initiative	1,335	1,504
Legal Services* Legal Services of South-Central Michigan (LSSCM)	190	3,640
Senior Fitness* YMCA of Lansing	219	1,535
Friendly Reassurance* RSVP	170	7,953

<b>Totals***</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Units of Service**</b>
<b>TCOA Direct &amp; Access Services Subtotal</b>	<b>19,782</b>	<b>4,894,147</b>
<b>Nutrition Services Subtotal</b>	<b>2,644</b>	<b>451,507</b>
<b>Contracted Services Subtotal</b>	<b>4,370</b>	<b>28,606</b>
<b>Grand Total 2025</b>	<b>26,796</b>	<b>5,374,260</b>

\*Included in Grand Total 2025    \*\*Units of service vary by program    \*\*\*Totals may include duplicates across programs

# MILLAGE REPORT - INGHAM COUNTY\*

The Ingham County Elder Services Millage supported over 7,000 older adults in Ingham County with essential services during 2025. This represents a 36% increase over the number served in 2024. Since 2021, the Millage has served 24,635 Ingham County seniors.

In 2025, 89,000 meals were served to over 1,200 Ingham County residents. TCOA is able to fulfill 100% of requests and avoid waiting lists for home-delivered meals in Ingham County due to the Elder Services Millage.

The number of Millage funded Case Coordination participants receiving In-Home Services averages at approximately 150. These services are designed to support or enhance an individual's independence, helping older adults avoid the need for residential or skilled nursing care. Demand for these services remains high, and a waiting list continues to be in effect as this is the maximum number that current millage funding can support.

Ninety-five (95) older adults were assisted with financial crises in 2025. Housing—particularly eviction prevention—continues to be the primary focus of crisis response efforts. Other common requests include assistance with utility shut-off prevention and pest control. Additionally, the millage provided chore services to 54 area seniors who would otherwise be unable to afford them.

Nutrition Services	Number of Meals	Number of Clients
Home-Delivered Meals	82,882	1,140
Congregate Dining	6,020	80
Other Services		Number of Clients
Home Repair		1
Chore Services		54
Crisis Services		95
Non-Covered Medical (Gap-filling)		106
Information & Assistance/Community Resource Navigator		4,128
In-Home Services (Personal Care/Respite/Homemaker)		183
Legal Services/Nursing Home Ombudsman		168
Healthy Aging/Wellness		237
<b>Total Clients Served with Millage Funds</b>		<b>7,006</b>

Funding for Non-Covered Medical assistance provided 106 individuals with various services, including Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) to 14 individuals and CATA passes to assist with transportation to medical appointment to more than 30 seniors every month.

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman and Legal Services programs continue to provide much needed advocacy services to vulnerable older adults experiencing various crises from elder abuse to eviction. Nearly 1,000 seniors were served between the two programs in 2025.

The final home repair project was completed in 2025, wrapping up the Home Repair service category for the Millage.

Nine Healthy Aging and Wellness grants were extended to various community partners, helping to provide 237 seniors with experiences such as group trips and healthy cooking classes.

\*Millage service data reflects Ingham County's fiscal year

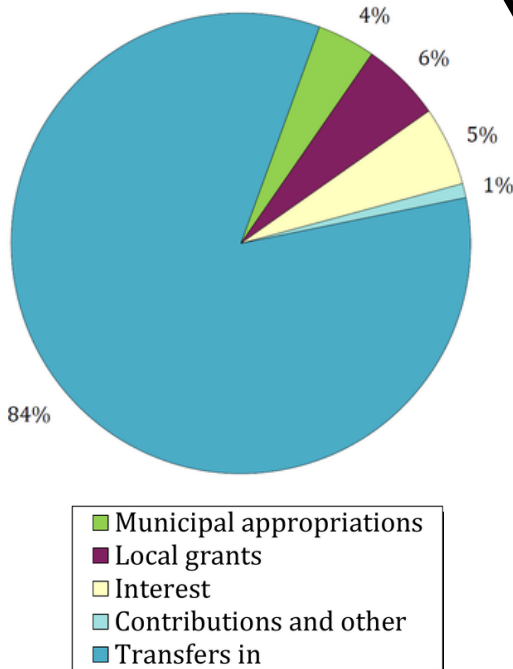
# FINANCIAL REPORT

	Revenue	Expense
General Fund Administration	\$1,120,987	\$1,058,664
Federal Title III Administrative	180,285	180,285
Federal Title III B Services	446,651	446,651
Federal Title III C1 Nutrition	615,830	616,171
Federal Title III C2 State Home Delivered Meals	2,037,878	2,072,904
Federal Title III C2 Supplemental Nutrition	856,829	856,829
Federal Title III D Services	46,431	46,431
Federal Title III E Services	281,881	281,881
Federal Title VII A Services	12,000	12,000
Federal Title VII Elder Abuse	4,653	4,653
Federal Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program	42,658	186,957
State Administrative	31,221	31,221
State Alternative Care	167,882	167,882
State Care Management	269,063	269,063
State Respite Care	101,133	101,133
State In-Home Care	766,639	766,639
State Access Services	28,774	28,774
State Merit Award Respite	127,772	127,772
State Aging Network Services	44,891	44,891
State Caregiver Support	15,740	15,740
Home and Community-Based Services Waiver	44,528,169	49,405,757
Evidence-Based Programs	172,622	186,802
Crisis Management	133,299	133,299
Ingham County Elder Services Millage	2,712,347	2,736,300
No Wrong Door	176,805	176,805
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$54,922,440</b>	<b>\$59,955,504</b>

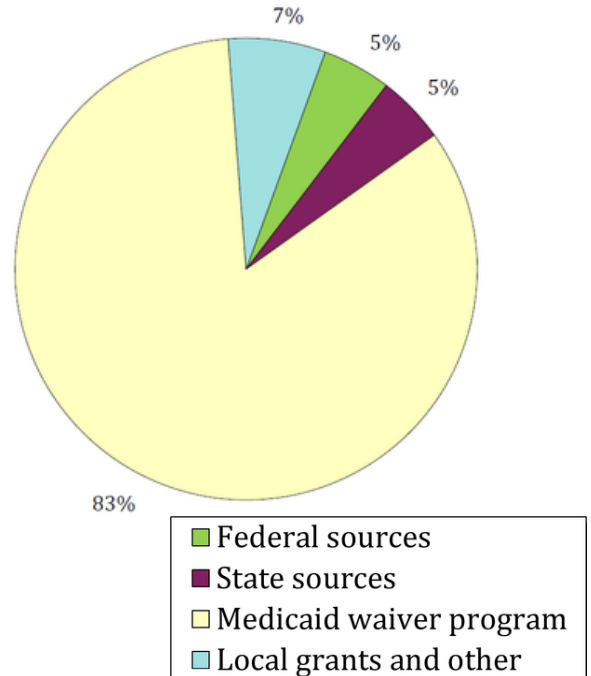
# Financial Report

## Revenues

### General Fund

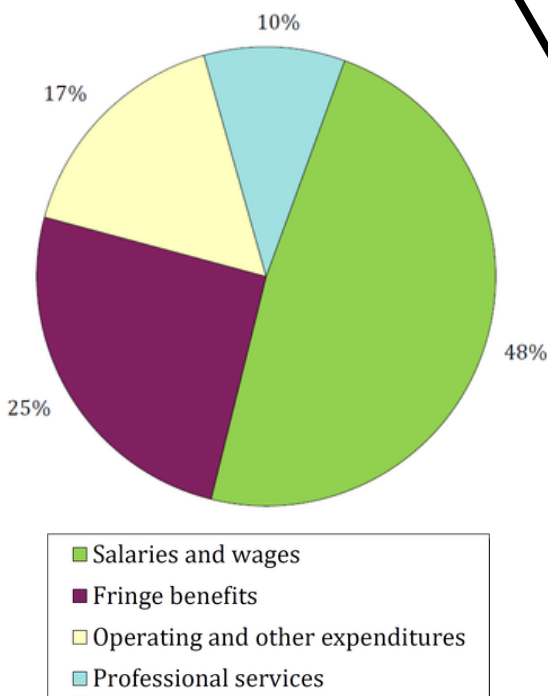


### Grants Special Revenue Fund

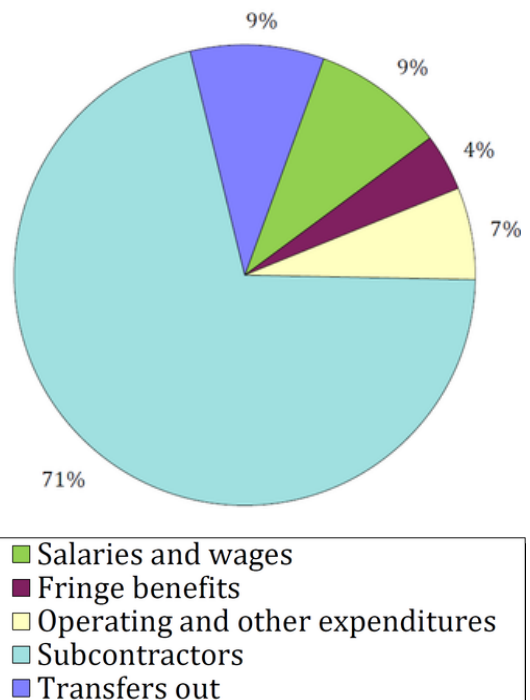


## Expenditures

### General Fund



### Grants Special Revenue Fund



# FUNDRAISING REPORT

Revenue	
Direct Mail Campaigns	\$60,208
Dinner & Auction	77,312
Golf Outing	44,923
Memorial Contributions	215
Raffles	5,530
Interest	8,260
Donations	5,965
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$202,413</b>
Fundraising Expenses	
Staff Support	\$56,636
Fundraising Expense (i.e. postage, supplies, printing, etc.)	50,571
<b>Total Fundraising Expense</b>	<b>\$107,207</b>
Program Allocations from Funds Raised*	
<b>Total Program Allocations</b>	<b>\$165,000</b>

\*Program allocations are based on the previous year's fundraising activities



# EVENT SPONSORS

## Dinner and Auction (November 2024)

### Event Sponsor

Jackson National Life Insurance  
Company® (Jackson)

### Auction Sponsor

University of Michigan Health Plan

### Raffle Sponsor

Dart Bank

### Entertainment Sponsor

University of Michigan Health Sparrow  
MSU Federal Credit Union

### Menu Sponsors

Cypress Home Care  
Home Care Alternatives  
Loving Hands Home Care Agency  
McLaren Health Plan

### Table Sponsors

Aiding Hearts  
Aria Nursing & Rehab  
Bev's Schnapps Shoppe Mary Boudreau  
and Carol Kasuda  
Burcham Hills  
CASE Credit Union  
CATA (2 Tables)  
Chalgian & Tripp Law  
City of East Lansing  
Denise Chrysler and Paul Pratt  
Ellen and Mark Sullivan  
Irene's Friends  
JWR Health Services  
Medilodge of East Lansing  
Safe Haven and Haven is Your Home Care  
Sun Valley Foods  
Thatch Computer Consulting



### Co-table Sponsors

Absolute Transport  
Acrisure  
City of Lansing  
Clerical-Technical Union of Michigan  
State University  
Delta Retirement Center  
Family and Elder Law of Mid-Michigan  
Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes  
Independence Village of East Lansing  
Lansing Board of Water and Light  
PACE (Senior Community Care)  
Shaheen Chevrolet

### Benefactors

Buhl, Little, Lynwood, & Harris PLC  
Caswell Law PLLC  
Deanna D. Haneski  
Financial Technology  
LeRoy's Classic Bar and Grill  
Timothy and Deborah Zielinski  
Willows at East Lansing and Okemos



# EVENT SPONSORS

## Golf Outing (June 2025)



### Platinum Sponsor

Jackson

### Hospitality Cart Sponsor

Dart Bank

### Golf Cart Sponsor

McLaren Greater Lansing  
Home Care Alternatives and loving  
Hands Home Care

### Silver Plus Sponsor

Ingham County Medical Care Facility

### Silver Sponsors

By Dawn's Early Light  
CATA  
Chalgian & Tripp Law  
Consumers Energy  
Cypress Home Care  
Humana  
Lansing Board of Water & Light  
Michigan CLASS  
Shaheen Chevrolet and Your Michigan  
Chevy Team

### Bronze Sponsors

PACE (Senior Community Care)  
Staar alert

### Hole Table Sponsors

Auto-Owners Insurance  
Brookdale Meridian  
Capital City Market Meijer  
CATA Eatran  
Family and Elder Law of Mid-Michigan  
Forster Woods Adult Day Center  
Shaheen Chevrolet & Your Michigan  
Chevy Team  
Sparrow Specialty Hospital  
The Courtyard at Delta

### Hole Sign Sponsors

Caswell Law PLLC  
Medical Care Alert  
Patriot Ambulance  
Strange Matter Coffee

### Benefactor

Larry Organek

# VOLUNTEER REPORT

**2025** = **11.5 Full-time employees**  
**Volunteers** or **\$828,365 of donated time**

TCOA extends its sincere appreciation to the individuals, businesses, and community partners who supported our mission through volunteerism in Fiscal Year 2025. More than 575 volunteers played a vital role in helping older adults and adults with disabilities live safely and independently, with volunteer hours equaling \$828,365 in In-Kind Giving. Their contributions included delivering and serving meals, providing guidance on Medicare options, facilitating health and wellness workshops, and teaching older adults smartphone literacy.

**TCOA also extends gratitude to the “Adopt-a-Route” Sponsors for the Home-Delivered Meals program, delivering meals through staff volunteer hours, and supporting fundraising activities: Lansing Board of Water & Light, Ethel’s Angels, The Dart Bank, HNTB Corporation, Huntington Bank, Jackson National Life Insurance Company®, The Michigan Department of Transportation, the Michigan State Police, River Terrace Church, and the St. John’s Rotary Club.**

In addition to volunteer service, Jackson National Life Insurance Company®, The Dart Bank, and Home Care Alternatives generously contributed staff time to assist with the planning and execution of TCOA’s fundraising events.

Looking ahead, the continued dedication, compassion, and commitment of TCOA’s volunteers and partners will be essential to expanding the organization’s reach and strengthening its community impact.

Program or Purpose	Number of Volunteers	Hours Served
Evidence-Based Programs	13	312
Events and Fundraising	31	78
State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)	11	737
Nutrition Programs	498	22,520
Advisory Council	22	161
Administration	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>23,810</b>

# 2025 VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS

Month	Volunteer Name	Volunteer Affiliation
October 2024	Danielle Lee	Fundraising Events
November 2024	Michael Pohnl	AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program
December 2024	Dinner & Auction Volunteers	Fundraising Events
January 2025	Shiny Imberman	Virtual Connections
February 2025	Mike & Linda Parent	Senior Dining Sites
March 2025	Barbara Rossi	Health & Wellness Workshops
April 2025	Victoria Johnson Chevoor	Meals on Wheels
May 2025	Kathy Waldo	Meals on Wheels
June 2025	Kathy Bouchard-Wyant	TCOA's Advisory Council
July 2025	Golf Outing Volunteers	Fundraising Events
August 2025	Marilyn Collister	Health & Wellness Workshops
September 2025	Kelley Zarka	State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

# TCOA PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



## CARE OPTIONS

**Caregiver Support** offers information, referrals, and classes for caregivers and their families to plan for the future regarding common concerns they face.

**Case Coordination** is available for people who can benefit from limited support. A specialist conducts an assessment and can arrange in-home services for eligible persons who need some assistance with personal care, homemaking, or respite from caregiving.

**MI Choice** offers an alternative to living in a nursing home for people who meet a level of care and financial eligibility. A nurse and social worker team assists eligible individuals, with their families and friends, to design a plan of care. Coordinating and providing key services, while respecting each individual's right to choose their own options, offers clients the opportunity to remain at home or live in the setting of their choice.

## EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

TCOA partners with local organizations to provide evidence-based programs to older adults and caregivers.

### Caregiving

**Powerful Tools for Caregivers** is a six-week workshop for non-professional caregivers designed to help family caregivers take better care of themselves while caring for a family member or friend.

**The Savvy Caregiver Program®** is a six-week workshop for non-professional dementia caregivers designed to provide in-depth dementia knowledge, skills, and mastery. The person with dementia cannot live in a 24/7 care facility.

**Dementia Caregiver Series** is a three-week series for non-professional dementia caregivers and community members. It is not intended for professional caregivers. This workshop is designed to provide caregivers with basic tools and information about dementia. This series is evidence-informed and not evidence-based.

### Health and Wellness

- A Matter of Balance: Eight-session workshop for fall prevention.
- Chronic Pain PATH: Six-week workshop for chronic pain management.
- Diabetes PATH: Six-week workshop for diabetes management.
- Enhance® Fitness\*: Group exercise program.
- Walk with Ease: Six-week walking program.

\* Administered by local partners, including YMCA of Metro Lansing.

**Trualta** is an online tool that aims to help caregivers with resources and courses on a variety of topics. Trualta can be found at [tcoa.trualta.com](https://tcoa.trualta.com).

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## NUTRITION

**Home-Delivered Meals (Meals on Wheels)** offers several home-delivered meal program options. Each of these options offers healthy, well-balanced, flavorful meals that provide 1/3 of the daily nutritional needs of older adults. Although payment is not required, donations for meals are welcome.

**Congregate Meal Program** provides participants with good company and wholesome food, as well as educational and entertaining activities. Although payment is not required, donations for meals are welcome.

- **Senior Dining Sites:** There are currently 14 sites throughout the tri-county area.

**Carry Out Meals** provides participants who do not qualify for Home Delivered Meals or are not comfortable dining at one of the Congregate Dining Sites with the opportunity to receive either a hot meal to-go at a dining site or a weekly pick up of frozen meals from the central kitchen. Payment is not required for these meals. Donations for meals are welcome.

**Senior Project Fresh** provides coupons to qualified seniors to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at participating Michigan farmers markets from June through October.

## RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

**Crisis Services** provides limited assistance for non-medical emergencies, i.e. imminent utility shut-off notices and the immediate need for prescription drugs. Crisis Services staff are available M-F. 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM EST.

**Information & Assistance** Specialists provide information on topics of importance to older adults, persons with disabilities, and their caregivers such as housing options, financial eligibility for programs, in-home services, and long-term care options.

**Kinship Care Respite Program** provides rest and relief for non-parent older adults (55+) who are raising a child 18 years old or younger, or caring for an adult with a disability ages 18-59. The program can help pay for activities such as daycare, sports camps, summer classes, and extracurricular activities. TCOA partners with MSU Kinship Resource Center.

**SHIP/MIPPA Counseling** (State Health Insurance Assistance Programs [SHIP]/Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act [MIPPA]) helps individuals understand Medicare & Medicaid, enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage, review supplemental insurance needs, apply for Medicaid Medicare Savings programs, and provide information to help identify and report fraud, abuse, or scams. Call 517-887-1416 for more information.

**Person-Centered Options Counseling** offers older adults and their caregivers assistance in planning to meet long-term care needs that arise as individuals seek to remain in the community as they age. This can include identifying needs, providing information regarding community resources, and creating a plan of action. Person-Centered Options Counseling takes place through both phone and in-person conversations, has no income eligibility requirement, and is available to both individuals and their support system.

**Tax Preparation/AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program** provides trained volunteers who assist low- and middle-income older adults and persons with disabilities with their income tax and property tax credit forms. Scheduling begins in late early February for appointments through April.



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# BOARDS AND COUNCILS

## ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

The TCOA Administrative Board is a body of elected officials (or their designees), including representation from the Mayors' Offices, Lansing and East Lansing City Councils, and the Clinton, Eaton and Ingham County Boards of Commissioners.

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

The TCOA Advisory Council acts in an advisory capacity to the Administrative Board. At least one-half of the council consists of senior citizens, appointed by their respective units of government. Remaining members represent community agencies. The Administrative Board approves agency appointments. This composition offers the perspectives of both seniors and service providers on aging issues.

## FRIENDS FOR INDEPENDENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL (FFI)

The Friends For Independence Coordinating Council was formed to help raise local dollars to supplement public funding by planning and organizing annual fundraisers including the Dinner and Auction and the Meals on Wheels Charity Golf Outing, as well as direct mail appeals. The Council is a key part of increasing private sector awareness and support for TCOA.

## QUALITY=CHOICE, SATISFACTION, AND INDEPENDENCE (CSI)

Q=CSI is a consumer based advisory group that defines quality as perceived by the consumer for Project Choices and the Self-Determination Option in order to provide access and increase quality care.

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## 2025 CONSORTIUM BOARD

City of Lansing  
Ryan Kost  
Trini Pehlivanoglu  
Lucianna Solis  
(for Mayor Schor)  
Chris Swope

City of East Lansing  
Mark Meadows (for mayor)  
Brookover-Vice Chair

Clinton County  
John Andrews  
Dwight Washington

Eaton County  
Scott Hansen  
Mark Mudry  
Jeanne  
Pearl-Wright

Ingham County  
Irene Cahill  
(Chair)  
Thomas Morgan  
Bob Peña

## 2025 ADVISORY COUNCIL

Clinton County  
Judith Gardi  
Larry Meyer

Eaton County  
Susan Hoffman  
Ruth Pearson  
(Corresponding Secretary)

Ingham County  
Gloria Kovnot  
Lucy Maillette  
Pat Munshaw

## 2025 ADVISORY COUNCIL, CONT.

City of East Lansing  
Kathy Bouchard-Wyant  
(President)

City of Lansing  
LaSandra Jones  
(Second Vice President)  
Susanne Mannino  
Raheema Muhammad

Community Mental Health  
Older Adult Services  
Tonya Randall

Disability Network Capital Area  
Doreen Patino

Ingham/Eaton County DHS  
Kelly Neve

Tri-County Nutrition Council

Social Security Administration  
Robyn Ford

Maplewood AFC  
Raul Presas

Michigan State University  
School of Planning, Design  
and Construction  
Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani

Hospice of Lansing  
Nancy Kapp

Capital Area Housing Partnership  
Cristi Setzer

Michigan State University  
Kinship Care Resource Center  
Alyssa Waters

Capital Area Transportation Authority  
Deb Wiese

# ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT

Tri-County Office on Aging (TCOA) has three delegates on the Michigan Senior Advocates Council (MSAC) and two representatives on the Senior Advisory Council (SAC).

Several TCOA staff serve on the Older Michiganians Day Steering Committee and Subcommittees. Statewide advocacy topics included expanding access to MI Choice through budget appropriations and administrative changes, increasing access to home and community-based services by increasing the budget for in-home and nutrition services, and supporting family and informal caregivers by permanently supporting Caregiver Resource Centers.

In June 2025, TCOA was grateful to be invited to a community roundtable discussion with Michigan Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist at the Greater Lansing Food Bank to discuss the impact of the proposed cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). TCOA staff and an MSAC delegate attended the USAging Aging Policy Briefing in Washington, DC in Spring 2025. This serves as an opportunity for aging advocates and stakeholders across the country to get the latest breaking news in policy developments and to meet with Congress members in Washington.

2025 advocacy resulted in increased state level legislative education on MI Choice priorities and kept federal Older Americans Act programs within one department while restoring funding for proposed cuts. TCOA increased advocacy alerts to the Advisory Council, staff, and providers in FY 2025 and will continue to share important updates as the legislative process continues.



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# ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT



TCOA was also able to build on previous advocacy efforts that secured funding for local Caregiver Resource Centers (CRC), a grant which ended at the close of Fiscal Year 2025, and to support Direct Care Workers (DCW) in our area. TCOA used CRC funding to promote caregiver resource accessibility throughout the tri-county area. Statewide caregiver support groups were available, and TCOA hosted a Caregiver Lunch and Learn. A Respite Voucher Program also provided tri-county caregivers a break from caregiving, and other marketing and administrative efforts rounded out the grant cycle. TCOA participated in the DCW Help Fund project with the Impart Alliance and helped connect home care agency employees to this assistance fund.

Locally, the housing crisis in the Greater Lansing area continues. TCOA collaborates with multiple housing groups, including local Continuum of Care meetings. TCOA staff have increased communication and provided education on TCOA service eligibility to several organizations that support homeless individuals in the region.

Despite early threats to funding for older adult and caregiver supports, advocacy by the network and national association, USAging, helped convince the Administration to ultimately fund all HHS OAA programs, and keep them together in under one department. Following the president's budget, the House and Senate released their FY 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (Labor-HHS) funding proposals over the summer. In the fall, Congress passed three appropriations bills but left the remaining nine bills extended only through January 2026 under a Continuing Resolution. Advocacy to protect and fully fund OAA programs and services continues.

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# CLIENT STORY: TIM



Tim is a longtime resident of Ingham County and participant at Tri-County Office on Aging. After a sudden sports accident left him paralyzed, TCOA's supports and services served as a lifeline between Tim, community resources, and in-home care. Tim shares his experiences living as a disabled adult and speaks to how his TCOA team helped make a huge difference in moving and thriving in our community. Linda, Tim's mom, also

shares her experience from the perspective of a family caregiver. While Tim participates in several programs, here we're highlighting MI Choice! MI Choice offers adults eligible for a nursing facility the option of receiving long-term care in the home or community setting of their choice. After Tim's initial assessment in 1994, a nurse and social worker team helped develop an individual plan of care specific to Tim's needs. Because of MI Choice, Tim receives the support necessary to be able to live safely and well in his family home. While one accident changed both their lives, Tim and Linda found help and community with TCOA.

**Because of MI Choice, Tim receives the support necessary to be able to live safely and well in his family home.**



Tri-County Office on Aging (TCOA) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, age, disability, disabled or Vietnam era veteran status, marital status, and their protected characteristics in any of its programs or policies. Tri-County Office on Aging complies with all applicable laws and regulations. For detailed information on Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, please visit our website at [tcoa.org](http://tcoa.org).

TCOA is devoted to attracting and retaining a diverse staff that is representative of our community and the clients we serve. TCOA is dedicated to creating and maintaining a work environment that is inclusive, equitable and welcoming to all.



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**Monday through Friday**

