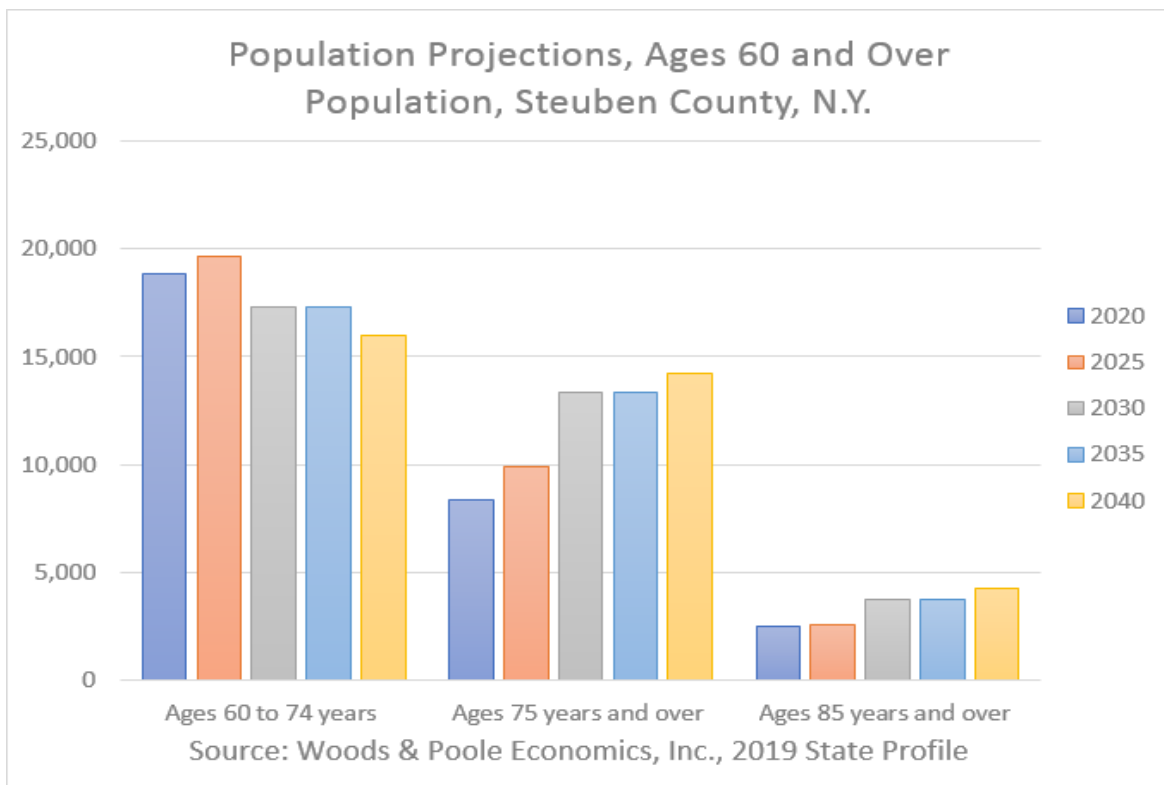


STEUBEN COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING 2021 ANNUAL PLAN ABSTRACT

OVERVIEW

Advances in health care, nutrition, wellness and lifestyles have resulted in increased longevity. Steuben County, just like the rest of the nation, has a growing population of older adults. There will be an estimated 27,576 older adults age 60 or over living in Steuben County in 2021. It is also notable that, in NYS, our life expectancy is 80.3 years...better than the national average (78.6)! Some areas of our county are above the state average, while some are below it. It is critically important for all residents to be counted in the 2020 census as this will inform our programming and affect local funding for the next 10 years! The older population often correlates with an increased need for long term services and supports (LTSS), so a true picture is needed to ensure adequate funding for these services.



OUR VISION

Our vision is that residents of all ages in Steuben County will have access to a broad array of services that allows them to remain independent with maximal quality of life as long as possible.

OUR MISSION

To maximize quality of life, safety and independence for individuals of all ages and their caregivers through information, assistance and exceptional programming.

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected every aspect of our lives and planning for our response to it in the coming year can have a huge impact on quality of life for those we serve. In response to the Governor's vision that New York State will be the healthiest state for residents of all ages, the Advisory Council of the Steuben County Office for the Aging has selected the following priorities for 2021:

1. Continue to pursue business acumen opportunities that address the social determinants of health (such as transportation, poverty, social support networks, etc.) for improved outcomes, while seizing opportunities to advocate for emerging needs of our aging residents.
2. Expand efforts to implement evidence-based, evidence-informed and other wellness programming to promote healthy aging and improved outcomes.
3. Build on the current programming for cutting edge tele-monitoring and develop other online access to services that allows for covid-related social distancing, dignity of risk and self-determination to age in place in the community.
4. Build on existing policies to enhance departmental Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) and disaster response/recovery to ensure safety and to avoid interruption of services for older adults in Steuben County.
5. Continue to provide legal support to older persons, including activities to prevent scamming, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The services provided by the Steuben County Office for the Aging are provided either directly by County employees or by contractors of the County. The services are funded by Steuben County, the New York State Office for the Aging, the federal Administration for Community Living, grants, donations or fees from program participants. Services can be obtained by calling 607-664-2298, emailing us at OFAInfo@SteubenCountyNY.gov or by scheduling an in-person appointment at one of the OFA offices Monday – Friday, 8:30 to 5:00. Home visits can be arranged, if appropriate. The Covid-19 pandemic has forced us to make some adjustments to our service delivery.

NY Connects – The Aging and Disability Resource Center:

- Information, assistance and referrals for services and supports for people of any age who have a long term care need.
- Personalized Options Counseling to help people develop a plan for existing or future long term care needs.
- Assistance with applying for benefit programs, such as, Medicaid, SNAP (Food Stamps), SSI, HEAP, home repairs and more, etc.

Nutrition Services:

- Community senior dinner clubs (congregate).
- Home delivered meals.
- Nutrition education and counseling.
- Farmers Market Coupon program.

Case Management & Home Care (EISEP PROGRAM):

- EISEP provides non-medical services to those 60 and over so they may remain as independent as safely possible in their own homes.
- Personal care aides help with bathing, meal preparation, laundry and housework.
- Case managers conduct in-depth assessments, develop care plans, coordinate and monitor services to ensure that the care provided addresses the person's needs.

Caregiver Resources and In-home Respite:

- Caregiver coaching
- Respite Care in the home
- Evidence-based Powerful Tools for Caregivers: Training for caregivers

Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP):

- One-on-one counseling on health insurance, including Medicare Part A, B and D, EPIC (Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage), the Medicare Savings Programs, "Extra Help" and Medigap, Medicare Advantage and other supplemental policies
- Medicare 101 video

Health Promotion and Education:

- Personal Emergency Response System (PERS): The Office for the Aging contracts with Doyle Securities for this service.
- TRIAD is a joint venture of police agencies, senior service organizations (including OFA), and older persons designed to promote safety for our county's older residents. TRIAD provides outreach through educational programs, disseminating information scams, personal security, elder abuse, Files of Life, disaster preparedness and other relevant topics.
- Volunteer Opportunities through RSVP allow us to expand our reach in delivering evidence-based health promotion and safety programs, such as Bone Builders, Tai Chi for Arthritis, TRIAD, A Matter of Balance Program, etc.)

Legal Assistance:

- Legal assistance is provided through our legal contracts and other partner agencies for issues such as Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy, landlord/tenant issues, public benefits, conflict resolution and other areas of law.

RSVP:

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program recruits, places and celebrates about 400 older volunteers in community agencies to expand the partner agency’s capacity and to enrich the older person’s life. Their emphasis on Healthy Futures aligns their goals with those of the OFA.

Transportation:

- Volunteer transportation to medical and other appointments
- Easy Rider Van Service for shopping, a collaboration with Dept. of Social Services

Aging in Place Supports:

- A collaboration of OFA, RSVP and Steuben Senior Services Fund, we work to create innovative solutions to help older persons remain safely in the community using dedicated volunteers, technology and a new way of thinking. The cutting-edge Full Circle America program, combined with smart technology is available to the fortunate residents who choose to spend their Golden Years in our beautiful county.

