

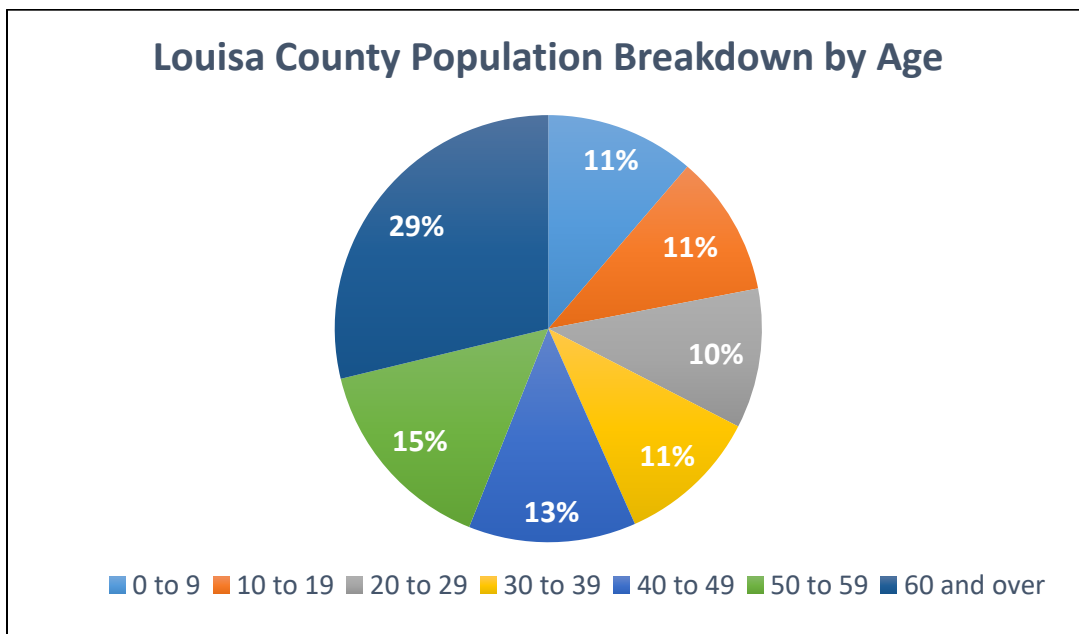


Louisa County Commission on Aging FY 2022-23 Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Louisa County Commission on Aging is to assess the needs of senior citizens in Louisa and advocate for their improved quality of life. The Commission acts as a conduit between seniors and the Louisa County Board of Supervisors regarding senior issues and conducts and assists other organizations with activities and events for the senior citizens of Louisa County.

The Commission is the only Louisa County agency that is exclusively designed to advocate for older residents. Our mission is particularly important due to the number of older residents in the County. About 29% of the Louisa County population or 10,664, are seniors aged 60 and older.



The Commission on Aging exists to serve this particular population throughout the County. Two members from each voting district are appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. The Commission currently has 15 members. We are seeking two new members from Green Springs, as both of those members resigned in 2023. We also need to fill two other vacant positions – one member each from Patrick Henry and Mineral Districts. The Commission is increasing community outreach to fill these vacant positions.

ACTIVITIES 2022-23 FISCAL YEAR

Data Collection and Needs Assessment

Beginning in June 2022 and continuing through December 2022, the Commission undertook a Needs Assessment of issues of interest to those residents of Louisa County age 60 or older. The purpose of the data collection was to identify broad-based issues of concern associated with Louisa County residents aged 60 or older. The Needs Assessment was distributed at various community events and supplemented with detailed information from age-related organizations, state surveys, and federal data. Completed assessments were statistically analyzed by Dr. Stephen Antonucci. The Needs Assessment identified issues in four focus areas that provide benefits for all older adults: Life and Health, Housing and Community, Finances, and Transportation. By collecting and analyzing this information, the Commission hoped to assist County decision-makers (Board of Supervisors and County staff) in planning for the future needs of older residents of the County.

The Needs Assessment was the result of hundreds of hours of work by volunteers. It was extensively researched and contained valuable information. However, in retrospect, it did not adequately measure the needs of low-income older residents. Nor did it receive a positive response from the Board of Supervisors. As a result, the Commission chose to redirect our efforts and fulfill our mission through other activities, as noted below.

Interagency Communication and Information Dissemination

As a result of the disappointing reception of the Needs Assessment presentation, the Commission decided to redirect its activities by increasing its interaction with other local and regional agencies and nonprofit organizations. The Commission rejoined the Interagency Council early in 2023.



Through the IAC and other research, we identified approximately 30 entities that work either in whole or in part with older adults. The list is continually updated. In mid-2023 we began meeting with representatives and adding descriptions and contact information to our database.

Our goal is to develop a database of all local, regional, and state organizations, with contact information and descriptions of services provided. We also obtained informational brochures and other literature from these organizations and others that provide services for older adults.

We compiled this information in packets, which we distributed at the NAACP Festival and the Agricultural Fair. An estimated 150 packets were given out.

Little Yellow Book

The Commission continued to distribute the 2022-2023 Little Yellow Book (LYB), which was available for print by the summer of 2022. The LYB contains information and contact numbers specifically for senior-related organizations. By the fall of 2023, approximately 1,500 copies of the Yellow Book had been distributed to government agencies, local organizations, and businesses throughout the county. Almost all copies have been distributed throughout the County. Because there is such a high demand for the LYB, the Commission plans to double the number of copies printed next year.

Holiday Resource Fair and Luncheon

In December 2022 the Commission hosted its very popular Holiday Resource Fair and Luncheon at the Betty Queen Center. About 160 seniors attended, along with 22 vendors from aging-related organizations. Attendees visited vendor tables to obtain literature, giveaway items, and prize tickets. Each guest was given a gift bag with small usable items, appropriate for the age demographic. They



were also treated to an appetizer table, a full hot lunch and live music from the Louisa County Middle School Choir and the Big Gavel Band, and a visit from Santa.

Volunteer Hours

We roughly estimate the time donated by Commission volunteers to be in excess of 1500 hours during fiscal year 2022-23. At the current value of a volunteer hour – estimated to be \$31.80 – total Commission volunteer time is worth at least \$47,700.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2024-25 FISCAL YEAR

In FY 2024-25 the Commission intends to pursue a schedule similar to last fiscal year, with the addition of a reprint of the Little Yellow Book. These activities include:

1. Continue to interact closely with other age-related organizations to develop a database of all local, regional, and state organizations that assist older residents.
2. Continue to collect, package, and distribute information for older residents at local events.
3. Update, print, and distribute the Little Yellow Book throughout the County.
4. Provide referrals to older residents in need of services or programs, as needed.
5. Host the Holiday Resource Fair and Luncheon for older adults in December.

As always, the Commission looks forward to working with other organizations to serve the needs of older adults in Louisa County. By working with other organizations, we can help ensure that the seniors in our community have access to the resources they need that will allow them to live a healthy, socially vibrant, high quality of life.