Ionia County Commission on Aging 50 Year Anniversary: Celebrating SENIORS Since 1973!

Semi-Annual Report
May 2025

The goal of the Ionia County Commission on Aging is to strengthen the well-being of all Ionia County Senior Citizens and to be the cornerstone of support services for their continued independence.

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Mid-Year Update

Thank you for this opportunity to share an update on our agency, the Ionia County Commission on Aging (ICCOA).

In these times of uncertain funding, we'll take a closer look at our financial outlook and funding in this semi-annual report, as well as update you on our goals for 2025.

We welcome feedback and comments in how we serve our county, and we would be happy to offer each of you, separately or as a group, a tour of our facility and a chance to meet our staff.

This year has presented a number of challenges and uncertainties, but our agency remains as committed as ever to supporting Ionia County Seniors, and to help them maintain their health, dignity and independence.

At the Commission on Aging, we are proud to serve our county's Senior Citizens and their families.

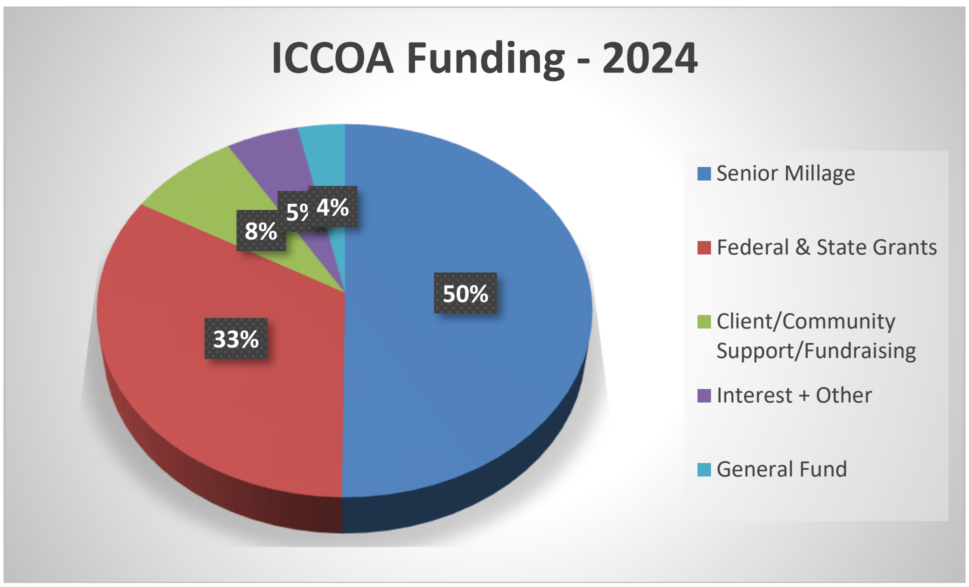
Carol Hanulcik
Director

The Funding Picture

The topic on everyone's mind this year is, of course, funding.

Over the last several years, our agency has been able to increase funding, in particular with partners the Area Agency on Aging of West Michigan (AAAWM) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), to help with both the increased need for services and rising costs.

But the future of this increased funding is uncertain. And there is definite concern that funding could *decrease*, while the number of individuals who are eligible for our services continues to rise, and Seniors continue to live longer, which indicates the need to provide more services, to more individuals, for decades to come.



To "balance the books" in 2024 we relied on our fund balance for $87,791, not included in above chart.

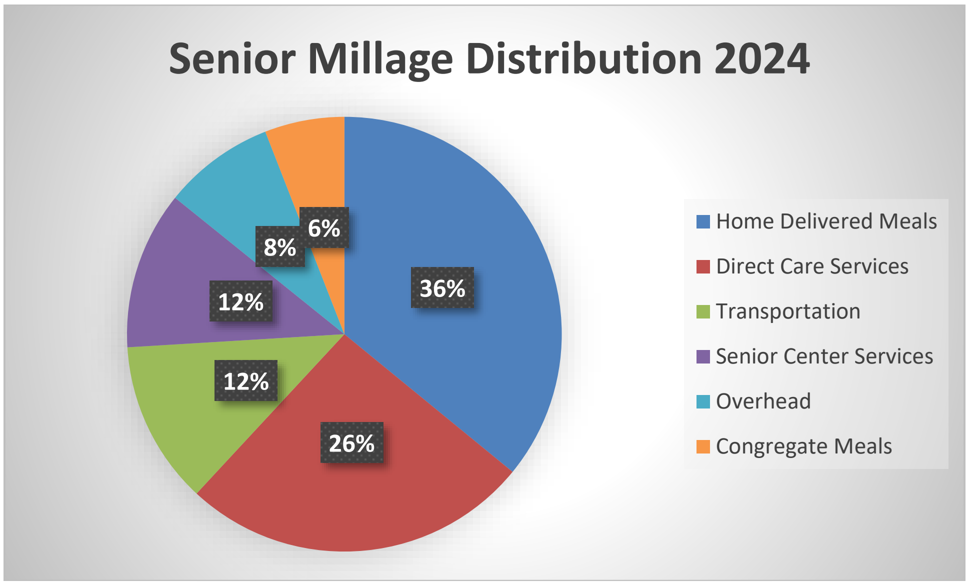
ICCOA provides services through a diverse mix of funding streams, but local funding remains the most important. Fully half of our funding comes through the Ionia County Senior Millage.

Federal and state grants received through AAAWM and MDOT form the next most important source of funding at roughly 33-35% of our agency budget.

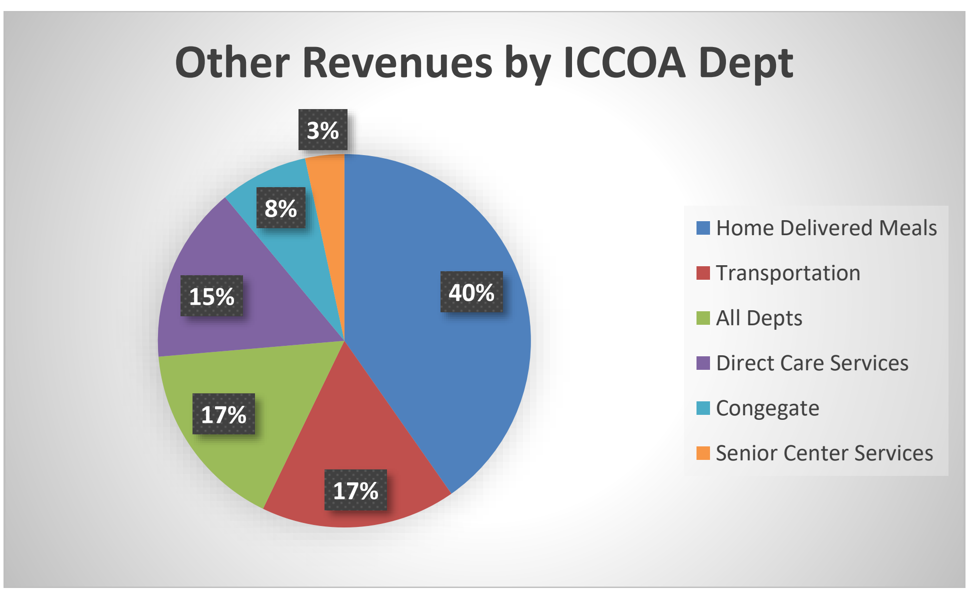
Millage dollars and federal/state grants are supplemented by local fundraising, community support and donations, and contributions from those receiving services in the form of donations, fares and cost share payments or billed services.

An important new source of revenue, first received in 2024, was interest earned on our fund balance. In 2024 this added $72,507 to revenues for providing services. The General Fund revenue, indicated above, was applied to the Indirect Cost Allocation (CAP) charged to our agency, reducing the total charge to ICCOA from $204,377 to $135,728.

The Ionia County Senior Millage is **essential** to providing services. There isn't a program or service that does not rely on these dollars to serve seniors. In 2024, the $1,019,000 received in Senior Millage dollars was distributed to ICCOA Departments as follows:



The remaining half of our budget, $1,011,791 in 2024, is largely tied to specific ICCOA programs and services. For example, funding for Meals on Wheels cannot be used for Transportation.



There were a handful of variances in 2024: Transportation received $63,839 for a vehicle which was booked as an expenditure in 2023, as well as a one-time funding bump from MDOT of

$20,000 for operations, typically capped at $36,928 for the year.

The “All Depts” category above includes the $72,507 in interest received on our fund balance, as well as the General Fund contribution of $68,649 to reduce our CAP charge.

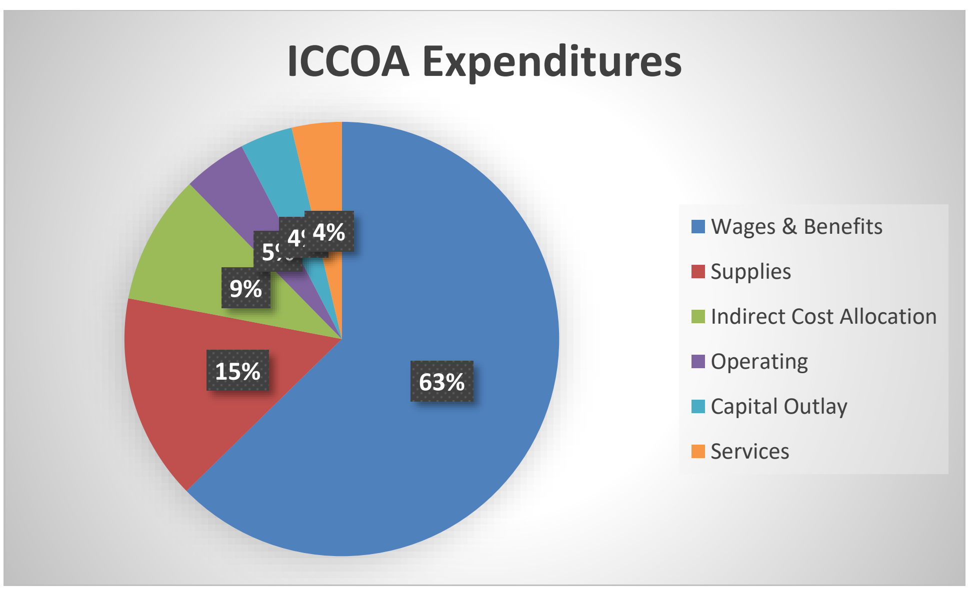
It also includes 2024’s fundraising efforts which brough in over $20,000 for the year!

Most ICCOA services are provided on a donation basis. Where there is a cost-share required, this is based on a sliding scale, and many of our seniors have incomes which then require little to no cost share. We received total cost-share payments of just over $7,750 in 2024. Most transportation also requires payment of a fare, total fares received in 2024 were $13,121.

Expenditures

ICCOA is committed to the wise use of taxpayer funds. Dollars saved become additional services delivered. We continually work to identify needs and priorities to help us determine the best use of funds, for the most pressing issues, and to work strategically to find cost efficient ways to provide services.

One constant that remains clear is that the need for our support and services continues to grow. And delivery of services requires adequate staff in the field - to deliver meals, to help a loved one take a shower or clean their home, or to transport them to a medical appointment.



Wages and benefits were 63% of all agency expenditures in 2024. Supplies came in a distant second, even with the increased cost of food and gasoline. ICCOA wages have risen from 2022 to date, to help staff keep up with inflation. Nonetheless, our lowest Grade, at Step 1, is still below $15.

As we see an increased need for services + rising costs, along with the possibility of reduced funding, every cost, and any possible alternatives, are being considered.

Finally, it should be noted that we have seen real growth in federal/state funding over the last few years. This has essentially allowed our agency to make considerable payments into the General Fund while not impacting services. If federal/state revenues are decreased, this would have a direct impact on available funds to pay into the General Fund, or it could force us to cut services.

	AAAWM Funding Earned	ICCOA CAP Paid (net)
2021	$ 389,181	$ 174,938
2022	$ 433,488	$ 178,417
2023	$ 533,772	$ 253,493
2024	$ 552,752	$ 135,728

Status on our FY 2025 goals:

1. Fill vacant positions/hours and become "fully staffed" in order to meet increased need.

   We continue to work to fill vacant positions.

2. Work to reduce or eliminate the Waiting List for Direct Care Services (Homemaker and Respite).

   One area where we continue to see increased, chronic need is in the area of Direct Care Services, with over 55 individuals on our waiting list for services.

   Two full-time aides are retiring and the need here continues to grow, even while we delivered more services in 2024 than in any year since 2014.

   The county's Indeed account has translated into additional resumes received and we are hopeful this will help to add additional staff soon.

3. Continue to develop and raise the profile of other services that support caregivers such as Memory Café, Caregiver Support Group and Respite Certificates. Launch the Blue Skies Adult Day Program, providing a low-to-no-cost option for Ionia County residents, one day per week.

   ICCOA's Blue Skies Adult Day Program is on target to launch in August 2025. Our Caregiver Support Group has increased to 2 times per month. We continue to work to find alternatives to one-on-one care in the home while we look to bring on more staff.

4. Continue to help Seniors become more **tech savvy** – to stay connected with family and friends, to access online programming and services, to stay informed on current events, and to improve cognition.

   Two Tech Savvy Senior Workshops have been held so far in FY 2025, with a 3rd coming soon.

5. Bring on more volunteers! This will help us to deliver more Senior Center Activities, add more Transportation hours and help ensure 5-day-per-week Meals on Wheels delivery.

   Without doubt one of our most important challenges today is to recruit and retain additional volunteers. One staff member, who previously helped recruit volunteers during the early days of the pandemic, has been tapped to help coordinate this effort.

6. Renovate the other half of our facility – adding space to meet confidentially with clients, completing an essential refresh of our kitchen and replacing ductwork and separating HVAC runs for kitchen/office space.

   Even in these times of uncertain funding, it's important to take the necessary steps to maintain our facility and provide an environment where client confidentiality can be respected.

   With that in mind, we continue to look for a way to complete renovations on the other half of our facility, even with a year-end net of revenues and expenditures "in the red" the last 3 years:

<u>YE net of revenues and expenditures</u>

2023	(155,853)	
2024	(87,791)	
2025	(214,816)	(*initial budget, not including cost of renovations or additional millage)*

Our 2025 budget included *estimated* Senior Millage revenues of $1,017,586. But through April 2025 ICCOA has received an additional $59,000 in millage revenue over our budget, decreasing the amount we project to be "in the red" in 2025 to $155,542.

Projecting this into the future, we feel this should allow our agency to move forward on renovations, although scope may be modified to save money and/or due to increased costs.

$	1,475,055	Beginning fund balance, January 2025
2025	(155,542)	(*not including cost of renovation)s*
2026	(155,542)	
2027	(155,542)	
2028	(155,542)	
2029	(155,542)	
2030	(155,981)	
$	541,803	Balance

2031 would be the first year of collection under a renewed millage.

Conservatively, the ending fund balance projected above would indicate funds are available to complete renovations needed in the non-public areas of our facility, including: HVAC ductwork and breaking kitchen/office into separate zones, adding entrance between kitchen to parking lot for deliveries and Meals on Wheels loading, minor cosmetic upgrades to office space, etc.