Presentation by
JustPartners, Inc
Baltimore, MD
to the
Frederick County
Board of Commissioners

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2013

**Needs Assessment of the Aging Population
in Frederick County, MD**

Prepared by

JustPartners, Inc.

The current assessment

Combined with:

- ✓ **State and federal funds,**
- ✓ **local nonprofit efforts, and**
- ✓ **an array of volunteers**

the County currently utilizes its local funds and other resources to *good effect* on behalf of those older residents who are able to access services and supports.

We found…

✓ **A talented Department of Aging and committed Commission on Aging, with many local allies exhibiting a strong spirit of collaboration.**

✓ **Meaningful County attention to targeted services and supports for older residents of Frederick County:** e.g., TransIT-plus, Senior Tax Credit, County-subsidized housing, taxi vouchers, support for the Department of Aging

✓ **Existing local plans and actions that are compatible with seniors' priorities and needs, so long as their particular concerns are incorporated:** e.g., land trust, transit-oriented development, incorporation of human service considerations into other planning issues, promotion of shared facilities

✓ **Considerable untapped spending power, entrepreneur potential, and volunteer time that seniors have to offer – and that the County needs!**
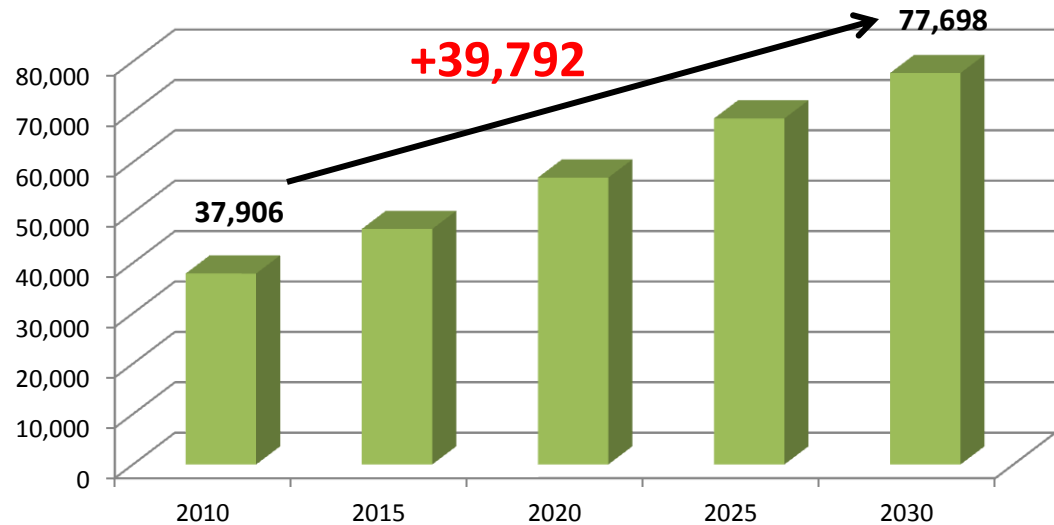
We also found that...

✓ **Services and supports for the most vulnerable older residents are overwhelmed.** The Department of Aging and the larger provider community are confronted with insufficient funds even to meet the needs of today's seniors, which portends a crisis as the older population doubles.

✓ **The needs of lower income, geographically isolated, and frail older residents are particularly acute.** They lack affordable housing, convenient transportation services, the necessary array of community-based supports, physicians who will accept Medicare/Medicaid and understand geriatric issues, adequate options for serious mental health issues, and overall case management. Residents above income eligibility thresholds for Medicaid and other means-tested supports are too often unable to pay full-cost for what they need.

✓ **Waiting lists only scratch the surface of need.** Some have been closed because of the certain unavailability of services. None reflect the growth in need that comes with the looming growth in the older population.

The view ahead, if nothing changes:

a *crisis* in the well-being of older residents

Projected Increase in Frederick County Seniors 60+, 2010-2030

77,698

+39,792

37,906

80,000
70,000
60,000
50,000
40,000
30,000
20,000
10,000
0

2010   2015   2020   2025   2030

Source: http://www.aging.maryland.gov/documents/demogtable1.pdf

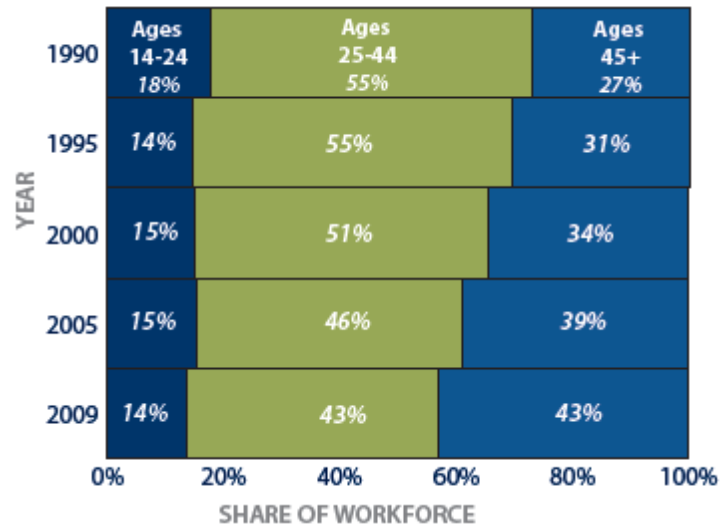**Current seniors and baby boomers are changing what it means for a community to be "senior-friendly."**

- Desire to age in place, in own homes, in own community

- Remain in the workforce longer and constitute a larger share of the overall workforce

Maryland's Workers, by Age Group: 1990 - 2009

YEAR	Ages 14-24	Ages 25-44	Ages 45+
1990	18%	55%	27%
1995	14%	55%	31%
2000	15%	51%	34%
2005	15%	46%	39%
2009	14%	43%	43%

SHARE OF WORKFORCE (0% - 100%)

- Are healthier, but live longer with chronic illness, requiring more community-based long term care services and supports
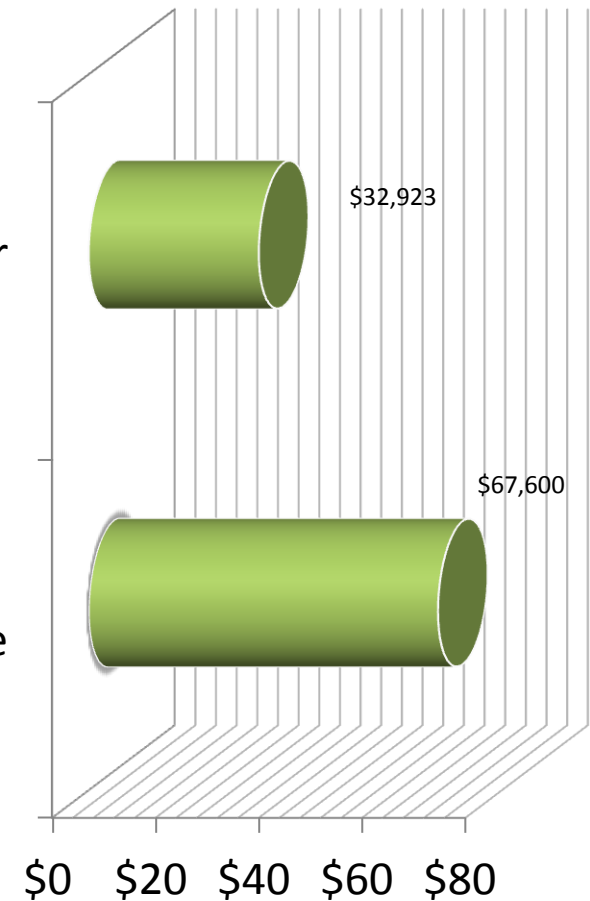
The good news: long-term community-based services and supports are more cost-effective than institutional care.

Avg. Annual Cost per Senior
in thousands

Medicaid Waiver for Older Adults — $32,923

Nursing Home — $67,600

$0 $20 $40 $60 $80

More good news…

Older adults are good for a community!

✓ **A growing pool of volunteers**
250 volunteers in aging services alone
save the County >$300k/yr

✓ **A net-plus economically**
Net avg. local surplus per older household:
persons 55+ est. $4,967
persons 85+ est. $4,209

Older adults are good for business!

✓ **New business creation to serve the senior market**

✓ **As entrepreneurs and employees**

Many attributes that make a community more senior-friendly enhance its livability for all ages

✓ **affordable housing**

✓ **convenient transportation**

✓ **accessible healthcare**

✓ **social connections**

What's needed to forestall a crisis…

✓ **Public-private partnerships** for new business services and product development, affordable housing, expansion of community-based services available on a sliding scale

✓ **Support for volunteer recruitment and management**

The essential role of local government...

- ✓ **PLANNING**: Ensure that the targeted needs of older residents are considered in all County plans; direct all relevant government agencies to be intentional to find innovative ways to address the needs of aging residents.

- ✓ **HOUSING**: Expand the development of affordable, accessible senior housing by pursuing public/private partnerships (such as the Land Trust) and using the Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit Ordinance funds and other sources of funds, both private and public, dedicated to affordable housing

- ✓ **TRANSIT**: Expand the availability of transportation options, to include TransIT, accessible taxicabs, walkable streets ; assess the use of County vehicles to reduce any duplicated services and enable resulting vehicle availability to address needs of more isolated seniors

- ✓ **LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS** Provide assistance to the Department of Aging for the development of a business plan, in collaboration with businesses and County agencies, to offer needed services (on a sliding scale); support the position of a volunteer coordinator within the Department of Aging

- ✓ **HEALTH**: The Department of Aging, in conjunction with the Health Department, Frederick Memorial Hospital, health care providers, relevant non-profits, the Community Foundation and others, should advocate for increased access to health and dental care, with special attention to mental health interventions and management of chronic diseases.

- ✓ **COMMUNICATIONS:** Utilize every opportunity available to the County and through other channels to educate older residents and their caregivers about available services and to promote healthy aging that ultimately reduces costs.

Aging is everyone's business…

OTHER KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A SENIOR-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY:

✓ **Department of Aging –** secure ongoing funding for MAP

✓ **Commission on Aging --** with the Department of Aging, form a Business Task Force to help employers understand the impact of the growing senior population on employee caregivers; encourage them to mobilize volunteers and support LTSS programs

✓ **Business community** -- work with the Department of Aging to identify opportunities and partners for new business development to meet the needs of a growing senior population

✓ **Nonprofits** -- Increase the availability of volunteer-offered home modifications and volunteer drivers

✓ **Institutions of higher education** -- Develop career pipelines and intern opportunities for needed health providers; utilize service learning on behalf of older residents

✓ **Local non-governmental funders** – invest in the priorities of this assessment

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