

## Services for Seniors

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In 1970, only 3.0 percent, or 13,764, Fairfax County residents were age 65 or older. By 2003, the size of this demographic group had grown to 8.4 percent of the County's population, or nearly 83,000 individuals. The number of County residents age 65 or older is projected to nearly double in the next 20 years, and grow to almost 13 percent of the total population. Given this aging of the population, the County has begun identifying the services currently provided to seniors. It should be noted that this analysis reflects only those services included in General Fund and General Fund Supported agencies, and does not include services supported by non-General Fund or non-appropriated funds, such as rent relief provided through Fund 941, Fairfax County Rental Program or recreational activities provided by Fund 111, Reston Community Center. Likewise, this analysis does not include capital projects funded in prior years, such as Senior Centers or Adult Day Health Care facilities. Capital expenses vary significantly from year to year and one year's data cannot serve as a proxy for "average" capital expenditures in a particular service area. In addition, these figures do not reflect the cost of all services provided to seniors, as only those services specifically designed for seniors, or where participation by this population has been tracked or reasonably estimated, have been included. There are many general County services that are used extensively by the senior population, such as Emergency Medical Services and cultural tours, but limited data on actual utilization rates makes it difficult to isolate those costs.

The cost of services to seniors included in the FY 2006 Adopted Budget Plan totals \$51.6 million, offset by revenues of \$8.2 million, for a net cost to the County of \$43.4 million. It should be noted that expenditures of \$51.6 million are 1.7 percent of FY 2006 Adopted Budget Plan General Fund Disbursements of \$3.02 billion. Excluding the General Fund Transfer to Fairfax County Public Schools and School Debt Service of \$1.56 billion, spending on services for seniors is approximately 3.5 percent of the remaining General Fund Disbursements.