

Key facts:

- Ashland's senior participation in the food program has 58% who are over age 80; where as the total Jackson County percentage is 49%. Ashland has an unusually high percentage (84%) of moderate-to-high risk seniors ... compared to other cities in Valley, e.g., Jacksonville has 61%. Source: Evelyn Kinsella of Food and Friends (meals on wheel and lunch program) at APRC 1/25/16 meeting. This shows how the Senior Program had effectively connected to and assisted the most vulnerable seniors in Ashland.

- From 2010 census (per Wikipedia):

- 13.5% (of households - 1270 people) had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older; 18% (of residents - 3614 people) were 65 years of age or older. 35% (of residents - 7041 people) were 55 years of age or older.

- In the census of 2010, there were 20,078 people residing in the city. (source: "American FactFinder". U.S. Census Bureau. Retrieved August 22, 2017)

- **City Council Mission Statement, Goals and Objectives** that were approved Nov. 4, 2014 included:

- Mission Statement - To support a resilient, sustainable community that lives within its means and maintains the distinctive quality of life for which it has become known -- in the face of external change and internal development – via direct delivery of basic services and leveraged enablement of enhanced services.

- 6. **Develop supports to enable citizens to age in Ashland.**
 - 6.1 Support and augment existing programs.
 - 6.2 Provide links to local non-profit support organizations on City web site.
 - 6.3 With Parks Commission, explore expansion of the Senior Center and senior services.

- A review of current resources on **new multigenerational programs** in other cities shows that they are in addition to dedicated senior and youth programs. It **does not do away with the services for the special needs of these populations**. Rather it has activities that bring them together at each others centers, such as youth visiting seniors to do art together, or seniors visiting schools to discuss careers. Note that while some will change their name from Senior Center to Adult Center, they still focus the center on senior programs and needs.

- Senior Centers/ Connecting Older Adults to Economic Assistance - National Council on Aging survey: "The 94 responses indicate that **senior centers are dedicated to connecting their low-income clients to a holistic set of services** to improve their economic well-being. ... As the gateway to the nation's aging network, senior centers play a valuable role for seniors who are struggling financially by providing and connecting them to vital community services that can help them remain active and independent in their communities."

- Senior Center Design & Architecture - National Council on Aging: "Be sure to seek assistance from a professional with an appropriate understanding of universal design and aging-related considerations, who **understands the focus and mission** of your center. You might be surprised to discover that many design professionals have no understanding of the differences between senior centers, retirement communities, and nursing homes."

- Latest data shows that Americans' health is declining and millions of middle-age workers face the prospect of shorter, and less active, retirements than their parents enjoyed. Almost 1 in 3 Americans age 65 to 69 is still working, along with almost one in five in their early 70s. 25% of Americans age 58 to 60 that have an Social Security age 66 retirement date rated themselves in "poor" or "fair" health ... 11% already have some kind of dementia, and 12.5% have an activity of daily living limitation

(ADL). Social services to assist seniors are needed more than ever.