

Chatham County

2026-2031 Master Aging Plan

August 17, 2026 Work Session - Chatham County Board of Commissioners



Introduction



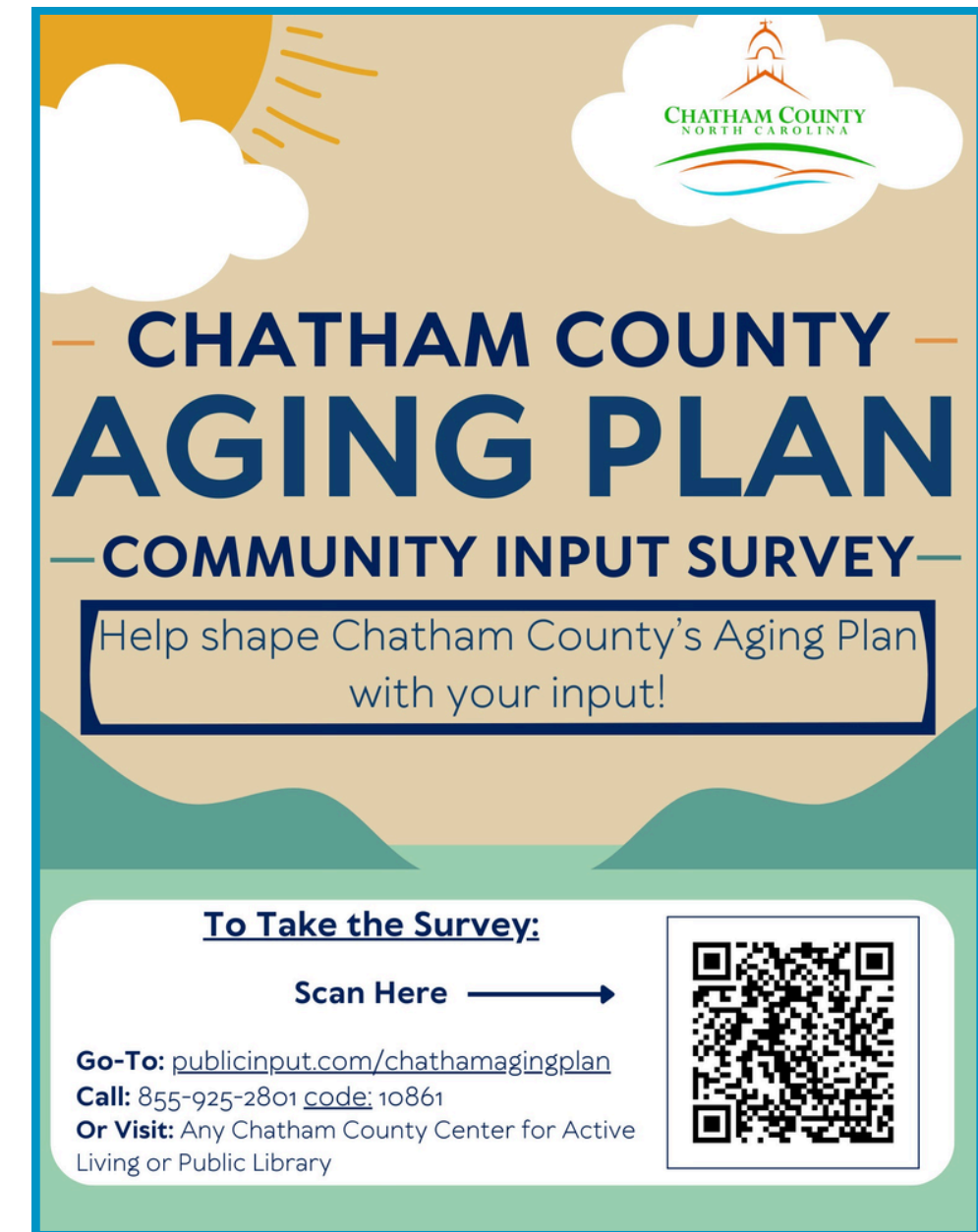
Overview

- Staff is presenting the final 2026–2031 Chatham County Master Aging Plan for adoption consideration.
- The plan was developed to guide the County's efforts to support its growing aging population and pursue consideration as an AARP Age-Friendly Community.
- The plan was informed by:
 - Community input,
 - Demographic data,
 - Stakeholder expertise,
 - and the work of the Master Aging Plan Steering Committee.
- This plan is not just a roadmap for Aging Services, but serves as a community wide vision.



Community Survey

- In December 2024, Chatham County launched a community survey to gather feedback on how the County can better serve its aging population.
- The survey remained open for four months and received 760 responses.
- The survey was promoted through Chatham County's social media accounts and official press releases.
- Physical copies (Spanish and English) were available at the Siler City and Pittsboro Centers for Active Living.



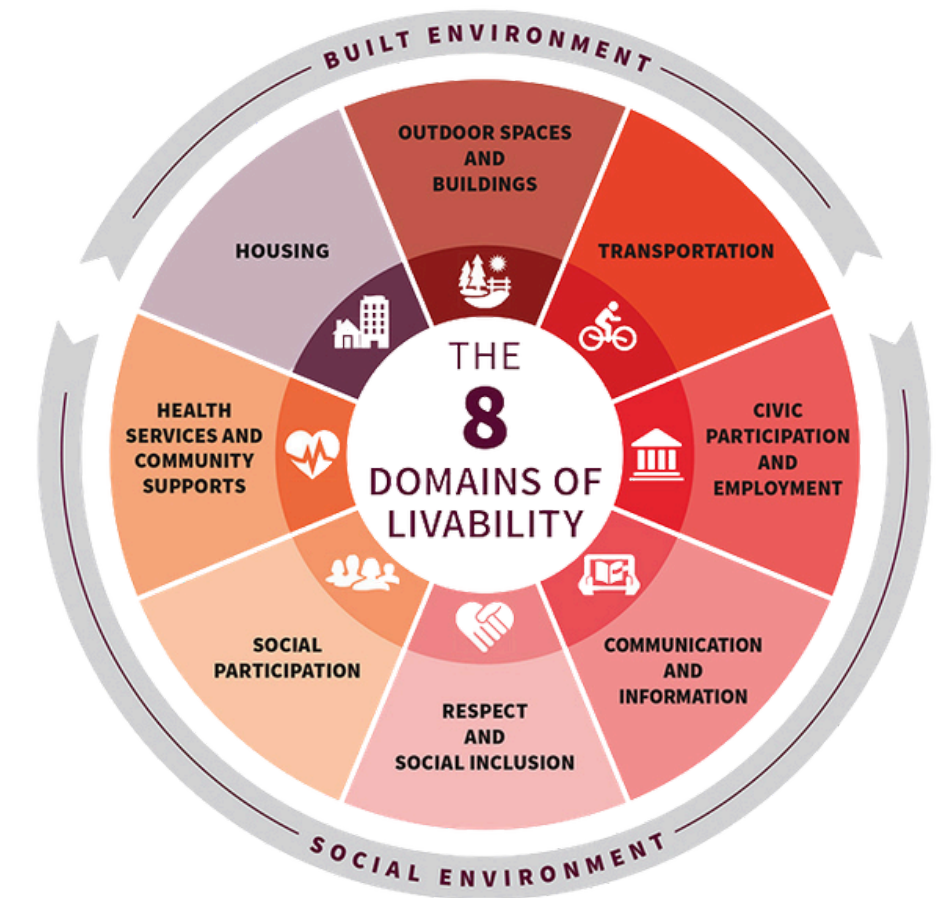
Community Input Sessions

- Community input sessions were held at Goldston Town Hall, the Siler City Center for Active Living, the Pittsboro Center for Active Living, and the Chatham Grove Community Center.
- These sessions gave residents an opportunity to:
 - Learn about Chatham County's plans to create a Master Aging Plan.
 - Understand how the plan will benefit the County's aging population.
 - Share their perspectives on how the County can better support aging residents.
- Feedback collected during these sessions was used to develop the plan's goals, strategies, and metrics.



Steering Committee + Working Groups

- The Master Aging Plan leadership team created a steering committee consisting of Chatham County employees, elected officials, Chatham County Centers for Active Living participates, and community leaders.
- Committee members were selected based on:
 - Their relevant expertise.
 - Their organizations' involvement with the Master Aging Plan.
 - Their organizations' engagement with Chatham County's aging population.
- The steering committee was organized into working groups based on AARP's 8 Domains of Livability.
- These working groups reviewed public input and developed an initial set of goals, strategies, and needs tailored to Chatham County's aging population.



Data and Assets



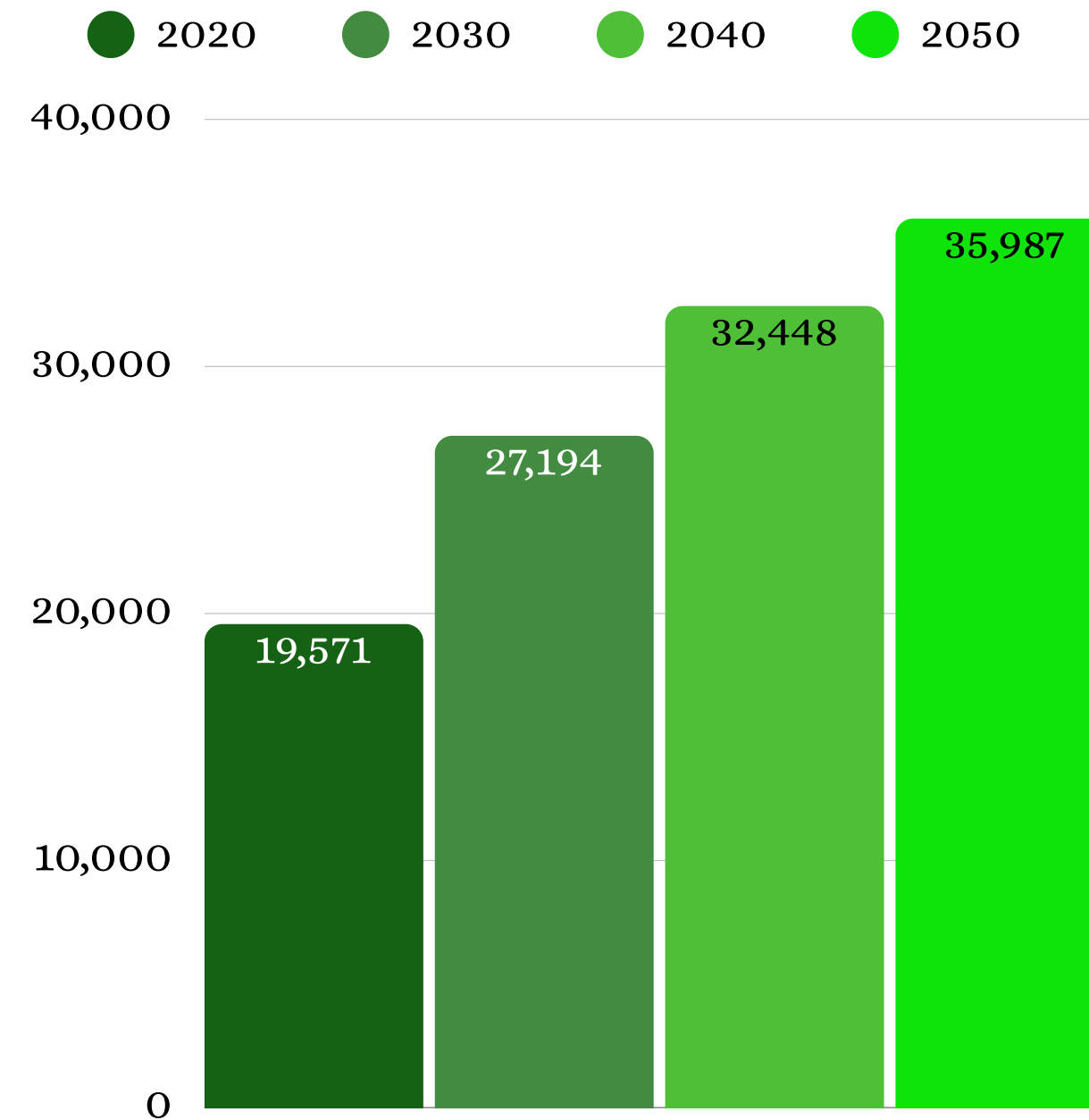
Chatham County Age Projections

- Chatham County is one of the fastest-growing counties in North Carolina.
- By 2040, the County's population is projected to grow by approximately 33%, ranking 11th among North Carolina's 100 counties.
- Chatham County's median age is 48, compared with the statewide median age of 39.

2020			2030		
Age Range	Population	Percentage	Age Range	Population	Percentage
0-17	14,494	19%	0-17	14,770	16.4%
18-24	5,440	7.1%	18-24	6,688	7.4%
25-44	15,198	19.9%	25-44	18,288	20.3%
45-64	21,634	28.3%	45-64	22,912	25.5%
65+	19,571	25.6%	65+	27,194	30.3%
2040			2050		
Age Range	Population	Percentage	Age Range	Population	Percentage
0-17	17,452	17.2%	0-17	19,055	16.9%
18-24	6,220	6.1%	18-24	7,595	6.7%
25-44	21,616	21.3%	25-44	22,679	20.1%
45-64	23,623	23.3%	45-64	27,607	24.4%
65+	32,448	32%	65+	35,987	31.9%

Chatham County Population Projections

- The population of the residents aged 65 and older is **the fastest growing** population in Chatham County.
- **Between 2020 and 2050** Chatham is projected to see this is population increase by about 84%.
- **By 2045** Chatham County is projected to have a 202% increase the population of residents 85 years or older.



Asset Inventory

- As part of the Master Aging Plan, an asset inventory was completed to identify Chatham County programs and services that support aging residents.
- The inventory is organized around AARP's 8 Domains of Livability.
- It establishes a baseline of the County's current efforts and provides context for the work the plan seeks to build upon.



8 Domains of Livability



Overarching Goals

- Several priorities extend across all eight domains and provide a foundation for implementing the Master Aging Plan.
- These overarching goals focus on:
 - Improving communication,
 - Strengthening community partnerships,
 - and ensuring equitable and accessible access to aging-related information and services.



Domain 1: Respect and Social Inclusion

- Respect and Social Inclusion ensures that people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities feel welcomed, valued, and able to participate fully in community life.
- The goals, strategies, and metrics of this domain focus on:
 - Strengthening community connections;
 - Intergenerational programming;
 - and improved accessibility for older adults.



Domain 2: Social Participation

- Social Participation helps residents remain active, connected, and engaged in community life.
- The goals of this domain focus on:
 - Expanding age-friendly social opportunities.
 - Improving access to digital services for aging residents.



Domain 3: Health Services and Community Supports

- Health Services and Community Support addresses the health and wellness needs of aging residents.
- The goals of this domain focus on:
 - Expanding access to healthcare.
 - Enhancing health services in Chatham County.
 - Addressing food insecurity among aging residents.



Domain 4: Housing

- Housing supports aging in place by helping residents remain independent and connected to their communities.
- The goals of this domain focus on:
 - Expanding safe and affordable housing options.
 - Increasing access to home repair and maintenance programs.
 - Strengthening housing stability for aging residents.



Domain 5: Outdoor Spaces, Buildings, and Recreation

- Outdoor Spaces support social connection, recreation, and physical health for residents of all ages.
- The goals of this domain focus on:
 - Improving access to outdoor spaces and recreation facilities.
 - Expanding participation in recreation programs and events.
 - Promoting safe and age-friendly public spaces.



Domain 6: Transportation

- Accessible transportation helps aging residents maintain their independence and remain engaged in community life.
- The goals of this domain focus on:
 - Expanding transportation options for aging residents.
 - Strengthening partnerships to improve transportation access.



Domain 7: Civic Participation and Employment

- Civic Participation and Employment helps aging residents remain connected, contribute to their communities, and maintain independence.
- The goals of this domain focus on:
 - Expanding volunteer opportunities for aging residents.
 - Strengthening partnerships that support civic participation.
 - Supporting skill-building and employment opportunities for older adults.



Domain 8: Communication and Information

- Communication and Information ensures aging residents can easily access information about available programs and services.
- The goals of this domain focus on:
 - Expanding communication platforms.
 - Creating accessible and inclusive communications.
 - Partnering with community organizations to strengthen outreach.



Moving Forward



Master Aging Plan Tracking

- The Chatham County Information Hub serves as the central location for tracking the County's strategic planning efforts.
- A dedicated page has been developed to track progress on all goals within the Master Aging Plan and future strategic plans.
- Most goals will be updated quarterly, while longer-term goals will be updated annually.
- The page will allow residents to publicly view the County's progress toward achieving its goals.



Questions?



Board Action

- Motion to adopt 2026-2031 Chatham County Master Aging Plan.
- Motion to approve letter recognizing support for the designation of Chatham County as an Age Friendly Community.



Appendix: Plan Goals



Appendix: Goals

Overarching Goals

- Improve communication about aging related programs and services through coordinated outreach and accessible formats.
- Strengthen relationships with community organizations and partners to expand aging-related services and supports.
- Ensure equitable, accessible, and culturally responsive dissemination of aging-related information to all community members.

Respect and Social Inclusion

- Promote inclusion and equity for all older adults in Chatham County.
- Ensure accessibility across all Chatham County facilities and programs.
- Expand intergenerational programs that connect older adults with youth.
- Increase opportunities for engagement outside of aging centers by supporting geographically inclusive activities in community spaces.



Appendix: Goals

Social Participation

- Reach underserved older adults across all townships to promote social engagement and reduce isolation.
- Ensure all sanctioned County events are age-friendly, inclusive, and welcoming to older adults.
- Increase digital access and literacy for older adults to support safe, comfortable participation in digital communities.

Health Services and Community Supports

- Expand access to wellness and health programs that promote physical and mental well-being.
- Increase availability of in-home supports, day programs, and respite services for caregivers and families.
- Enhance healthcare and mental health services in aging centers through strategic partnerships.
- Pursue Dementia Friendly Community designation to ensure safety, respect, and inclusion for individuals with dementia.
- Address food insecurity among older adults through partnerships with local food and service providers.



Appendix: Goals

Housing

- Expand affordable and accessible housing opportunities for older adults through collaboration with Housing and Community Development.
- Increase home repair and maintenance programs to support safe sustainable aging in place.
- Strengthen eviction prevention and housing stability initiatives for older adults with fixed or limited incomes.

Outdoor Spaces and Public Buildings

- Improve accessibility in parks and public spaces.
- Expand participation in senior games and recreational opportunities.
- Strengthen arts and cultural programming for aging adults.
- Promote safe and age-friendly outdoor environments (e.g. Chatham County Parks and Recreation Peaceful Pathways).



Appendix: Goals

Transportation

- Expand transportation options for older adults through partnerships with transit providers, including exploration of micro transit and fixed-route options.
- Build partnerships with healthcare systems and universities to expand ride options and shared transportation resources.
- Enhance coordination and planning of transportation services, including exploration of technology-based scheduling tools and bilingual access.

Civic Participation and Employment

- Increase opportunities for older adults to participate in civic, volunteer, and leadership roles across Chatham County.
- Promote older adult civic engagement and voter participation by partnering with election and community organizations.
- Support employment and skill-building programs for older adults to encourage continued workforce participation.
- Develop and enhance an ambassador to connect older adults to civic and community engagement opportunities.



Appendix: Goals

Communication and Information

- Establish a multi-platform communications system (including robocalls, print, and digital options) to better share information with older adults.
- Create inclusive communications that meet older adults where they are, ensuring access for those without reliable internet or technology.
- Using Aging Services Ambassadors re-engage the faith community and nonprofit partners to share trusted and consistent information about services.
- Strengthen collaboration with local media outlets and radio stations to improve visibility of aging-related programs.

