

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chatham County Launches Community Aging Plan Initiative

PITTSBORO, NC—Chatham County is proud to announce the launch of its Community Aging Plan initiative to develop a comprehensive strategy for addressing the needs of older adults, caregivers, and the broader community. This initiative is designed to ensure that Chatham County remains a great place to live, work, and age by enhancing support for aging residents and their families.

The Community Aging Plan will address critical areas for aging such as housing, transportation, healthcare, and access to resources, while also exploring opportunities to strengthen community engagement and caregiver support. By incorporating feedback from residents of all ages, Chatham County is committed to developing a plan that reflects the diverse needs and aspirations of the community.

The creation of the Community Aging Plan is particularly important as Chatham County continues to grow at an unprecedented rate. According to a 2023 report from the North Carolina State Demographer's Office, nearly 3 in 10 individuals in Chatham County are 65 years of age or older. That places Chatham as 8th among North Carolina's 100 counties.

"It is vital that all sectors of our community continue to plan for ways to serve as well as further engage our older population," said Ashlyn Martin, Chatham County Aging Services director. "Together, we can work to build an even better community for our older residents by not limiting our thinking about aging, combating stereotypes, emphasizing the many positive aspects of aging, inspiring older adults to push past traditional boundaries, and embracing our community's diversity."

Survey Launch: The Public is Encouraged to be Part of the Process

To kick off the initiative, Chatham County staff and the Aging Services Department are launching the Community Aging Plan Survey, inviting residents to share their insights, experiences, and ideas. This survey will identify existing strengths, uncover unmet needs, and establish priorities for the future of aging in Chatham County.

How Individuals Can Participate

The survey is now open and can be completed in English and Spanish until February 28, 2025:

- Online: https://chathamcommunitynexus/chathamagingplan
- Comment By Phone: Call 855-925-2801, project code: 10861

Flyers featuring a QR code for quick access will also be available at Chatham County public libraries, community centers, and other public spaces.

For those who prefer paper surveys, copies can be completed and submitted at any <u>Chatham County</u> <u>library branch</u> or the <u>Chatham County Centers for Active Living</u>.

- Chatham Community Library 197 NC Hwy 87 N Pittsboro, NC 27312
- Wren Memorial Library 500 N Second Avenue Siler City, NC 27344
- Goldston Public Library
 9235 Pittsboro-Goldston Road
 Goldston, NC 27252
- Pittsboro Center for Active Living 365 Highway 87 North Pittsboro, NC 27312
- Siler City Center for Active Living 112 Village Lake Road Siler City, NC 27344

Next Steps

The input collected from the survey will directly inform the development of the Chatham County Community Aging Plan. Additional opportunities for public engagement, including in-person input sessions, will be announced in the coming weeks. Progress updates and details about the plan will be shared with local and regional media and on the County's website and social media platforms.

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