



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

St. Clair County Senior Citizens Millage

Commission on Aging
200 Grand River Avenue, Suite 203
Port Huron MI 48060

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OVERVIEW

History of the Millage

Public Act 39 of 1979 is the enabling law that permits the establishment of a Senior Citizens Millage in the state of Michigan. It authorizes local units of government to appropriate funds for the purpose of providing activities or services to older persons. A Special Election on September 11, 1979 established the St. Clair County Senior Millage at .4 of a mill, equating to \$492,605.

Over the years, the millage rate has been increased twice: 1986 to .5 mill and 2012 to .8 mill. In 2022, the rate was rolled back to .7983 mill due to the Headlee Amendment. The Headlee Amendment requires a local unit of government to reduce its millage when annual growth on existing property value is greater than the rate of inflation. Consequently, the local unit's millage rate is "rolled back" so that the resulting growth in property tax revenue, community-wide, is no more than the rate of inflation.

The Senior Citizens Millage was renewed by the voters on August 2, 2022 Primary Election. The 4-year millage renewed at .7983 of a mill. The St. Clair County Senior Citizens Millage is typically renewed by an overwhelming majority of voters. The 2022 vote was no different with *over 78% of the voters approving* the renewal of the Senior Citizens' Millage for 2022-2025.



About Us: Commission on Aging

The Commission on Aging (COA) was established in 1979 via Resolution 79-82 as an advisory board to the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners appoints the nine (9) member COA with 3-year terms. The positions represent each of the seven (7) Board of Commissioner Districts and the member must reside in the commission district. There are two (2) at-large positions that can reside anywhere within St. Clair County. The Senior Citizens Millage Administrator serves as the Secretary to the COA and is a non-voting member.

The duties and responsibilities of the COA members are as follows:

- Stay abreast of current issues related to St. Clair County seniors.

- Educate the public on the resources available through the Senior Citizens Millage.
- Make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on senior services and Senior Citizens Millage annual budget.
- Monitor expenditures of the millage service providers.
- Seeks proposals for new services funded by the millage as the needs of St. Clair County seniors change.

Mission Statement

The Commission's purpose is to recommend prudent spending of public funds (Senior Citizens Millage Fund) and to coordinate programs and services that meet the changing needs of St. Clair County seniors 60 years of age and older that promote their well-being and quality of life.

Current Membership

Term Expiration

District 1 - Linda Schmitt	12/31/2025
District 2 - Kristal Jones (2023-24 Vice Chair)	12/31/2024
District 3 - Diane Cooper	12/31/2026
District 4 - Karynn Carrell (2023-24 Chairperson)	12/31/2026
District 5 - Todd Bigger	12/31/2025
District 6 - CarolAnn Wasilco	12/31/2024
District 7 - Judy Wallis	12/31/2026
At-Large position - Sharron DeFever	12/31/2025
At Large position - Bonnie DiNardo	12/31/2024
Secretary/Senior Millage Administrator - Jennifer Posey	By Virtue of Position

Contact Information:

Jennifer Posey, Senior Citizens Millage Administrator

200 Grand River Avenue, Suite 203

Port Huron, MI 48060

Phone: (810) 989-6900

E-mail: jposey@stclaircounty.org

Hours: M-F 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SENIOR SERVICES

Senior Services funded by the St. Clair County Senior Citizens Millage are available to residents 60 years of age and older. Many of the services are free of charge, utilize a sliding fee scale and/or are available for a small donation to qualifying residents. In order to determine eligibility, residents should contact the appropriate service provider.

Services and Providers

There are currently 12 Service Providers and more than 25 programs being funded by the Senior Citizens Millage. Below is a listing of the current providers, along with some details of the services they provide our resident seniors.

Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA 1-B) - (800) 852-7795

The AAA 1-B is part of a national network of Area Agencies on Aging that access federal and state grants to support local seniors. The millage provides necessary “match money” to receive the state and federal grants for services to St. Clair County residents.

Blue Water Safe Horizons - (810) 989-5246 or Crisis Hotline (888) 985-5538

Blue Water Safe Horizons offers shelter and support services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse. With the assistance of millage funds, Seniors receive shelter, case management and advocacy services.

Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan - (810) 987-9100

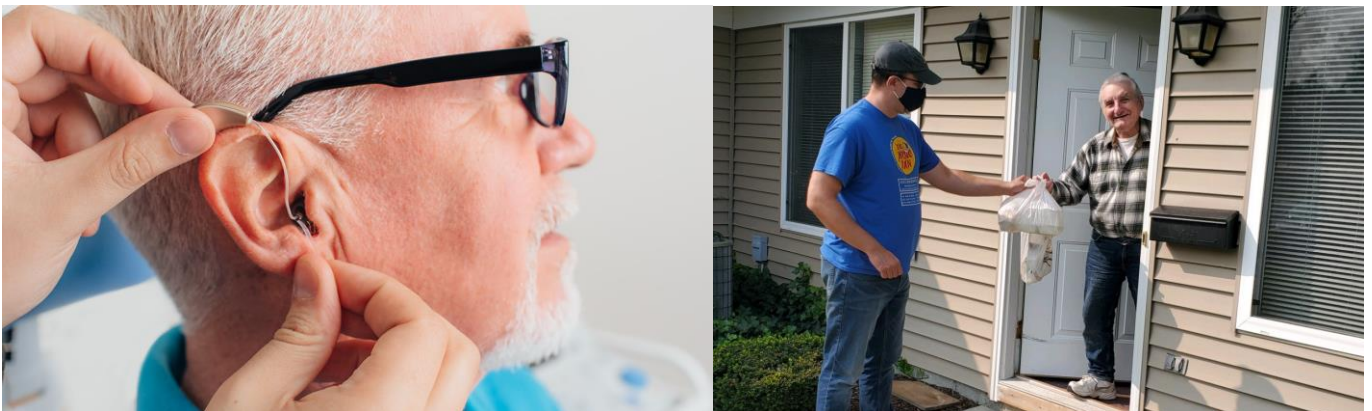
Catholic Charities provides counseling services for seniors and/or caregivers. The program works to assist the individual with life changes such as loss of a significant other person, grief process, coping with chronic illness, marital and family problems, retirement adjustment, economic stresses, housing changes, abuse, neglect, isolation, and/or abuse of alcohol or medications.



Council on Aging, serving St. Clair County - (810) 987-8811

Council on Aging is the millage's largest service provider and offers an array of services to keep resident seniors safe and independent in their own homes. Some of the millage-provided services include the following:

- adult day care,
- assistance with chores necessary to maintain their homes,
- Foster Grandparent program,
- homemaker/personal care services to assist with daily living,
- home repair services for general home repairs or security concerns,
- outreach/advocacy services to identify seniors in need and assist with finding resources,
- programs that provide fitness, health, education, social or recreations activities,
- transportation services to medical appointments, shopping, senior centers, etc.,
- hearing and vision services (new in 2023), including hearing aids and glasses to those that qualify,
- congregate meals and home delivered meals for homebound or impaired seniors, as well as new delivery vehicles, as needed.
- Miles for Memories ID Bracelet Program provides support for the person in early stages of dementia to continue to be active. The bracelet allows for emergency and medical information to be stored and accessed by emergency personnel when your loved one is found.



Housing Matters Inc. - (810) 984-3173

Housing Matters provides temporary housing (2 beds) for seniors who are homeless or at high-risk of becoming homeless. The Foundations Program is a program that opened in September 2021. Seniors must be relatively independent and referred by a partner agency. Port Huron

Housing Commission provides a case manager to assist the senior in finding a permanent residence, as well as other supports to remain independent.

Hunter Hospitality House - (810) 824-3679

Hunter Hospitality House (HHH) provides free lodging, transportation and amenities during a medical crisis to St. Clair County residents 60 years and older at one of their facilities. HHH is available to those with a hospitalized loved one or if a senior is needing treatment at a local medical facility.

Lakeshore Legal Aid - (810) 985-5107

Lakeshore Legal Aid provides legal assistance and representation by an attorney for resident seniors. The Port Huron office focuses its work on senior abuse and exploitation issues, domestic violence cases, consumer protection cases, housing and public benefit and other non-criminal matters (legal advice, review/prepare legal documents, etc.).



Life Skills Centers - (810) 331-0030

Life Skills provides a Memory Care program for seniors with Alzheimer's and other related forms of dementia. The millage currently provides a portion of the program cost for low income seniors 60 years of age and older, as well as snacks and meals during the program day.

Port Huron Housing Commission - (810) 984-3173

Port Huron Housing Commission (PHHC) provides bed bug remediation program and a senior bed program in low income housing complexes for seniors 60 years of age and older. Direct service costs are provided for bed bug preparation/purchase of beds and mattress covers/hotel accommodations for residents in Port Huron, Marysville, St. Clair and Algonac Public Housing Commission. In addition, the PHHC provides beds to seniors that could not otherwise afford a bed of their own.

Public Guardian's Office - (810) 985-2095

The Public Guardian's Office provides court-ordered guardianship and conservatorship for legally incapacitated seniors, including designated case manager for seniors to assist with food, shelter and living support. A Case Manager assists with housing needs for seniors under public guardianship.



Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home - (810) 985-5631

Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home provides four (4) dedicated beds for seniors that are homeless or in jeopardy of becoming homeless. They provide assisted living services including housing, personal care services, meals, medication administration, laundry services, etc.

Visiting Nurses Association - (810) 984-4131

Visiting Nurse Association & Blue Water Hospice (VNA & BWH) provides Private Duty Home Care (personal care for daily living activities), Home Health (skilled medical care), Hospice Care, respite care for in-home relief to primary care providers and families, bereavement services for individual counseling & support groups, as well as Blue Water Hospice Home Room & Board supplement for seniors who cannot afford it. In 2023, VNA & BWH began the Personal Emergency Response System (PERS Alert), allowing a senior to call for help with the push of a button.



How Many Seniors are Being Served?

2023 Senior Citizens' Millage - Unduplicated Clients	
Service Provider	# Seniors
Blue Water Safe Horizons - Shelter	4
Blue Water Safe Horizons - Case Management	19
Catholic Charities of SEMI - Counseling Services	156
Council on Aging - Adult Day Care	24
Council on Aging - Chore Services	217
Council on Aging - Foster Grandparent Program	65
Council on Aging - Homemaker/Personal Care	717
Council on Aging - Home Repair	415
Council on Aging - Community Liaison	2,728
Council on Aging - Programs	4,007
Council on Aging - Transportation	689
Council on Aging - Congregate Meals	931
Council on Aging - Home Delivered Meals	1,569
Council on Aging - Hearing Services	7
Council on Aging - Vision Services	7
Council on Aging - Miles for Memories Bracelets	25
Housing Matters - Foundations Homeless Program	6
Hunter Hospitality House - Accommodations	9
Lakeshore Legal Aid - Legal Services	483
Life Skills Centers* - Memory Care Program (2 subsidized)	23
Port Huron Housing Commission - Bed Bug Remediation	18
Port Huron Housing Commission - New Bed	6
Public Guardian's Office - Housing Crisis Program	113
Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home - Homeless Program	15
Visiting Nurses Association - PERS program	172
Visiting Nurses Association - Blue Water Hospice Home	51
Visiting Nurses Association - Personal/Respite Care	78
Visiting Nurses Association - Bereavement	370
Total Unduplicated Client Count	12,924
Note: Unduplicated per program	
* LSC - 2 seniors are subsidized with millage funds.	

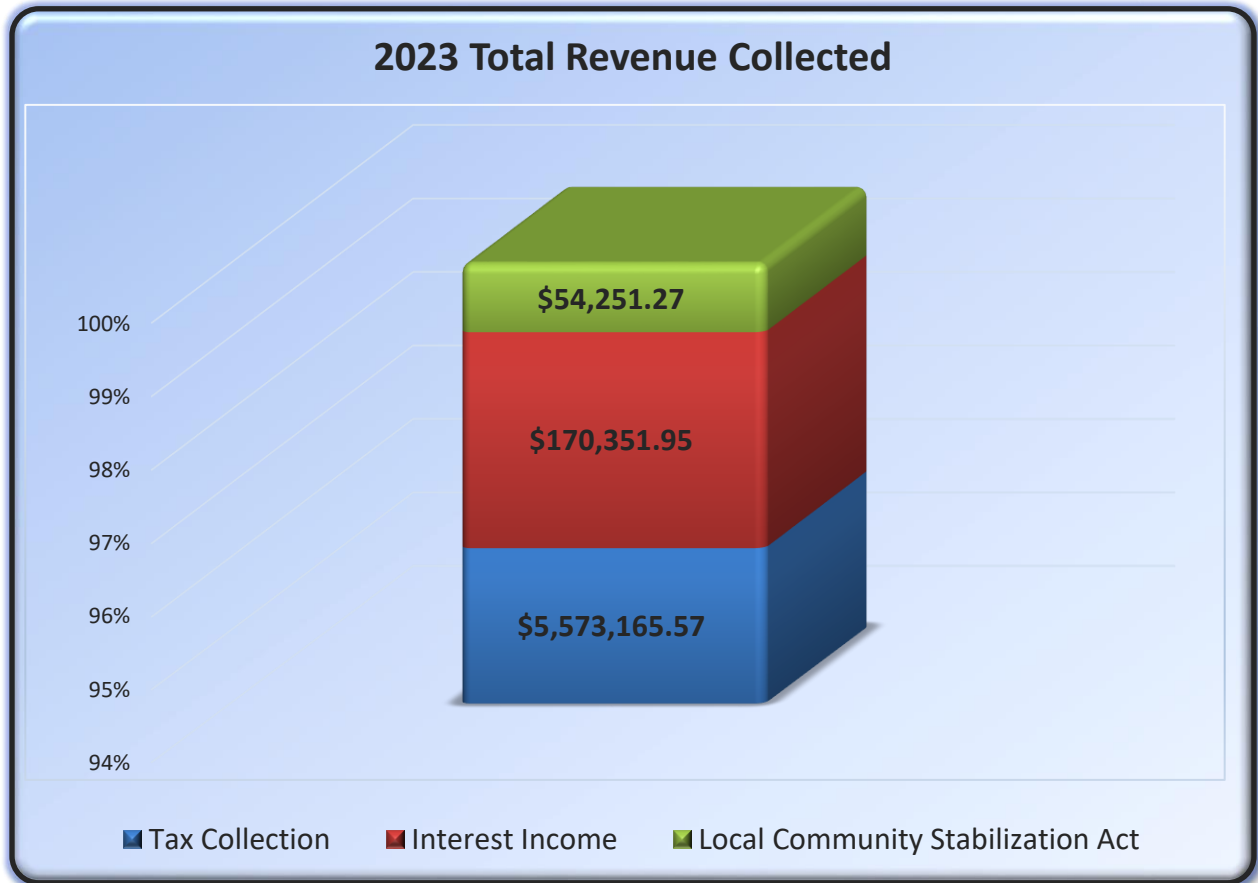
Additional Program Statistics - 2023

Provider/Measurement	#
Blue Water Safe Horizons - Nights of Stay	169
Catholic Charities of SE MI - Counseling Hours	1,653
CoA Adult Day Care - Hours	8,955
CoA Chore - Hours	5,797
CoA Foster Grandparent - Hours	50,806
CoA Homemaker/Personal Care - Hours	22,358
CoA Home Repair - Hours	7,601
CoA Community Liaison - Hours	24,930
CoA Programs - Activities Attended	460,788
CoA Transportation - Rides	50,131
CoA Congregate - Meals	10,122
CoA Home Delivered - Meals	287,385
CoA Hearing - Hearing Aids	13
CoA Vision - Pairs of Glasses	7
CoA - Meal Delivery Vehicle	1
Housing Matters - Nights of Stay	375
Hunter Hospitality House - Nights of Stay	111
Lakeshore Legal Aid - Hours	10,762
Life Skills Centers - Hours Subsidized	1,237
Port Huron Housing Commission - New Beds	6
Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home - Nights of Stay	1,337
VNA Bereavement - Hours	3,713
VNA Personal/Respite - Hours	8,773
VNA Hospice Home - Nights of Stay	944
VNA Personal Emergency Response - Hours	382
VNA Personal Emergency Response - Devices	172
Total Hours	146,966
Total Nights of Stay	2,936

FINANCIALS

Millage Revenue

The Senior Citizens Millage fund is comprised of revenue from three sources: tax collection, interest income and local community stabilization act funds. In 2023, the total revenue collected was \$5,797,769.



Millage Expenditure

The Commission on Aging makes recommendations for the allocation to each service provider and the County Board of Commissioners adopts the Senior Citizens Millage budget along with the other Special Revenue Funds each December. The following page outlines the annual budget, as well as the actual expenditures for each service provider for 2023.

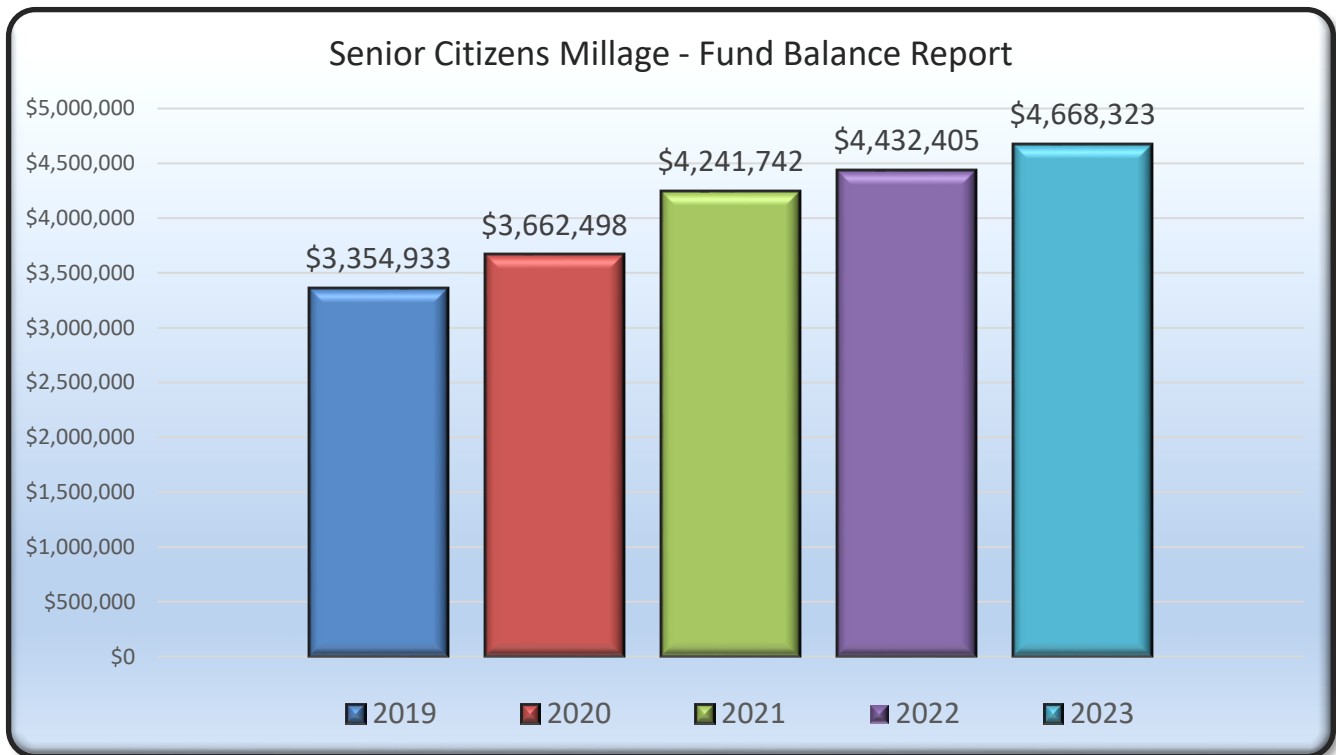
2023 Budget to Actual Report

St. Clair County Senior Citizens Millage Fund Final Annual Expenditure Report 12/31/2023					
Provider	Service Type	2023 Budget		Expenditures	% Spent
AAA 1- B	County Dues/Match Money		\$ 16,260	\$ 16,260.00	100.00%
Blue Water Safe Horizons			\$ 50,130	\$ 50,130.00	100.00%
	Emergency Shelter	\$ 9,762		\$ 7,237	74.13%
	Outreach/Advocate	\$ 40,368		\$ 42,893	106.26%
Catholic Charities of SE MI	Counseling (includes capital cost of \$4000 for roof/HVAC)		\$ 176,000	\$ 160,580.85	91.24%
Council on Aging			\$ 4,445,436	\$ 4,236,490.65	95.30%
	Adult Day Care - StarPath	\$ 110,000		\$ 133,118	121.02%
	Chore Services	\$ 150,369		\$ 112,648	74.91%
	Foster Grandparents	\$ 74,058		\$ 67,315	90.89%
	Homemaker/Personal Care Services	\$ 1,108,226		\$ 952,979	85.99%
	Home Repair Services	\$ 208,761		\$ 216,869	103.88%
	Community Liaison Programs	\$ 326,526		\$ 362,149	110.91%
	Transportation	\$ 725,000		\$ 758,455	104.61%
	Congregate/Group Meals	\$ 413,868		\$ 503,027	121.54%
	Home Delivered Meals	\$ 40,000		\$ 21,410	53.52%
	MOW Truck - none budgeted for 2023; 2022 truck recd in 3/23	\$ 972,136		\$ 1,027,587	105.70%
		\$ -		\$ 61,739	
	Vision Services	\$ 68,246		\$ 1,795	2.63%
	Hearing Services	\$ 248,246		\$ 8,402	3.38%
	Miles for Memories (approved 03/22/23)			\$ 9,000	
Housing Matters Inc.			\$ 14,900	\$ 14,400.00	96.64%
	Foundations Program - Rent	\$ 14,400		\$ 14,400	100.00%
	Foundations program - supplies	\$ 500		\$ -	0.00%
Hunter Hospitality House	Lodging, Transportation, Amenities		\$ 11,760	\$ 5,439.00	46.25%
Lakeshore Legal Aid	Legal Services		\$ 395,038	\$ 395,035.00	100.00%
Life Skills Centers			\$ 52,466	\$ 23,936.72	45.62%
	Memory Care Program	\$ 47,865		\$ 20,922	
	Dietary Supplement	\$ 4,601		\$ 3,015	
Port Huron Housing Commission			\$ 24,090	\$ 24,090.00	100.00%
	Bed Bug Remediation	\$ 22,500		\$ 22,888	101.72%
	New Bed Program	\$ 1,590		\$ 1,202	75.61%
Public Guardian	Senior Emergency Housing Case Manager		\$ 72,792	\$ 70,240.58	96.49%
Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home			\$ 100,000	\$ 81,044.83	81.04%
	Room and Board			\$ 88,995	
	Client co-pay (Reimbursements)			\$ 7,950	
Visiting Nurses Association			\$ 562,961	\$ 447,275.21	79.45%
	Respite/Personal Care Services	\$ 300,000		\$ 293,547	97.85%
	Hospice Room and Board	\$ 153,725		\$ 82,192	53.47%
	Bereavement Services	\$ 30,000		\$ 24,915	83.05%
	One-time Capital Purchases for Hospice House	\$ 1,313		\$ 1,313	100.00%
	Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)	\$ 77,923		\$ 45,308	
Commission on Aging	Planning and Administration		\$ 37,563	\$ 36,928.26	98.31%
Contingency			\$ 60,000	\$ -	0.00%
TOTALS			\$ 6,019,396	\$ 5,561,851.10	92.40%
Revenue & Expenditure Overview			Budget	Actual to Date	
Revenue	Tax Collection	\$5,634,518		\$5,573,165.57	
	Interest Income	\$10,000		\$170,351.95	
	Local Community Stabilization Act	\$10,000		\$54,251.27	
	Total Revenues		\$5,654,518	\$5,797,768.79	
Expenditures	Total Expenditures for Services/Administration		\$6,019,396	\$5,561,851.10	
Estimated Ending Balance			(\$364,878)	\$235,917.69	
Audited Fund Balance 12/31/21		\$4,241,742			
Audited Fund Balance 12/31/22		\$4,432,405			
Unaudited Fund Balance 12/31/23		\$4,668,323			

Fund Balance

In general, Fund Balance is the total accumulation of operating surpluses and deficits since the establishment of the account. Fund Balance can be used annually for operating expenses, special requests, new services or continuation of programs in the event the millage did not pass. The current Fund Balance would allow services to be provided for an additional 9-10 months.

A history of the Senior Citizens Millage Fund Balance can be seen below.



*Note: Audited Fund Balance from the Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports, with the exception of 2023.

Independent Auditors

The Senior Citizens Millage fund is audited annually in conjunction with County of St. Clair, MI's independent audit. The current auditor is UHY LLP, Certified Public Accountants.