



Washoe County Services to Seniors and Veterans

Grady Tarbutton, Director, Senior Services
Ken Retterath, Director, Adult Services

Overview

- Social Services Programs
- Senior Services Programs
- Gaps
- Questions

Washoe County Social Services

- Social Services areas of responsibility
 - HCA Programs
 - General Assistance
- Nursing Home
 - County Match
 - 3787 patients
 - Straight County
 - 213 Patients
- Kids to Senior Korner
- A collaborative outreach program that provides social services to the seniors in their homes.
 - Immunizations (flu & pneumonia)
 - Case management services
 - Assistance with finding a health care home
 - Program serves over 1100 seniors a year



Washoe County Senior Services

- Department Outcomes
 - Keep people independent in their own homes at 2% of the annual cost of nursing home care.
- WCSS provides resources for those at greatest risk.
 - Poverty, health, chronic disease, long-term care, access to services
- Senior Centers
 - The community focal point for partner agencies, seniors, their families and caregivers throughout Washoe County.
- Aging and Disability Resource Center
 - Help seniors, families and caregivers facing the challenges of aging.
 - Help with decisions and access to services.
- Nutrition Programs
 - 211,587 Congregate and Home Delivered Meals to 1530 seniors per year
 - 9 area meal sites
 - Gerlach Senior Center
 - Reno Senior Center
 - Sparks Senior Center
 - Sun Valley Senior Center
 - Carville Park Apartments
 - Orvis Ring Apartments
 - Sierra Manor Apartments
 - Silverada Apartments
 - Rainbow Bend-Lockwood



More Senior Services

- Senior Law Project
 - Legal Representation to over 1300 seniors in FY 06-07 through:
 - Advice, representation and brief problem solving
 - Life Planning; Self help materials/Legal Information 900 more seniors
 - Community Legal Education through speaking and seminars
- Social Services
 - Social work assistance, case management and representative payee for 150 seniors
 - Continuity of care, follow-up and assistance to over 400 homebound clients
 - Assess 400 seniors for home delivered meal
 - Benefit assistance, housing inquiries, respite concerns to over 1200 seniors
- Day Break
 - The only medical model adult day service in Northern Nevada; 33 people served per day, with 70 on the waiting list.
- Mental Health Services
 - Helping seniors and families handle the emotional aspects of aging; depression/anxiety, family conflict, cognitive function.
 - Services are provided in the home and centers
- and much more!
 - Homemaker services, visiting nurse,
 - Pantry bags and commodity boxes.



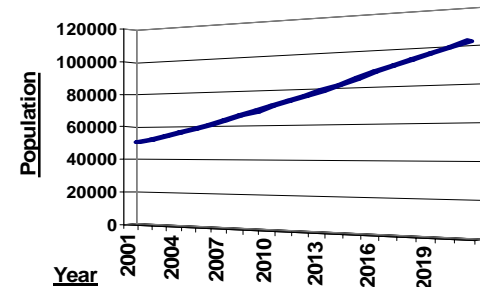
The Demographic Challenge

- Planning for a diverse, aging society
 - Washoe County will have more than 100,000 residents over 60 in 2020
 - Affecting all public, private and government agencies
 - Exceeding Census Bureau projections

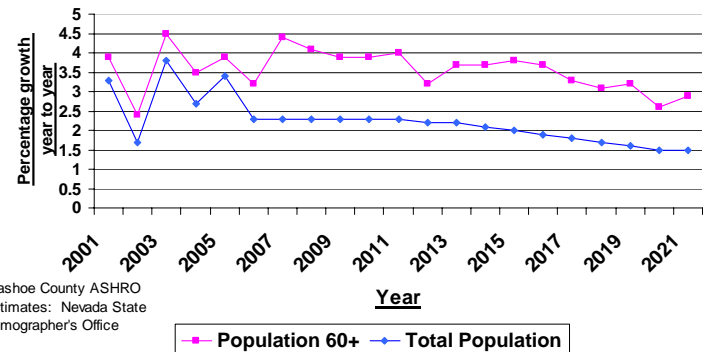


Washoe County People 60+ Years
Projections and Actual

Source: Nevada State Demographer, 2007



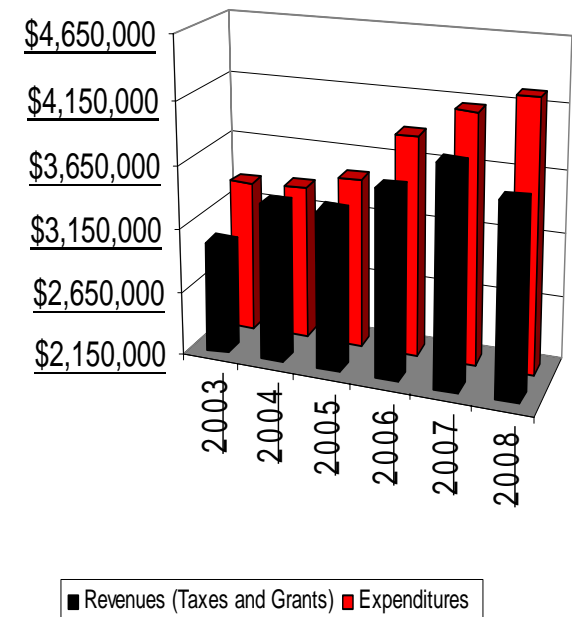
An Aging Community as 60+ population grows faster than all of Washoe County



Our Challenges

- **Helping underserved communities, today**
 - Unable to expand programs, even low cost programs or for those people with critical needs.
 - Mortgage defaults, reverse mortgage counseling, Medicare Part D counseling
 - Homemaker, DayBreak Day Care Services, Case Management, Aging and Disabilities Resource Center, Representative Payee, Outreach
- **Critical Program areas**
 - Keeping people independent in the community
 - In-home support
 - Monitoring, community based long-term care, Nutrition
 - Follow-up care after hospitalization
 - Safety
 - Disaster preparation
 - Evacuation of people with special needs (elderly, people with disabilities)
 - Safe and Sanitary housing
 - Define and protect legal rights
 - Information and Assistance
 - Support for seniors, families and caregivers
 - Healthy Aging (prevention programs)

Senior Services Expenses vs. Revenue, 2003 - 2008



Gaps for Seniors

- Fragmentation of local programs
 - Meet needs today.
 - Prepare for tomorrow
 - WC Senior Services Strategic Plan is integrating the efforts of partners.
- Continuum of care
 - Residents need chronic care and long-term care choices that allow them to remain at lowest level of care possible.



Gaps for Veterans

- University of Nevada-Reno study shows that 50% of veterans and dependants are unaware of the benefits for which they may be eligible.
 - Pension, aid-and-attendance, disability
 - 35 – 40,000 Veterans in Washoe County, alone
- Two accredited Veteran Services Officers in all of Northern Nevada to assist Veterans with benefit applications.
- County Veteran Services Officer is a cost effective model that reduces cost of Medicaid Long-term Care services

