

Ashtabula County Senior  
Services Levy

# Celebrating 20 Years

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



*Our mission is to provide superior service, promote well-being and self-sufficiency, alleviate conditions of poverty and improve health and safety.*

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## Letter from the Ashtabula Board of County Commissioners



**J.P. Ducro IV**



**Casey Kozlowski**



**Kathryn Whittington**

The Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners is pleased to provide this report of services and activities funded by the countywide Senior Services Levy during 2020.

The purpose of the 1-mill property tax levy is to fund services that help senior citizens remain in their homes as long as safely possible. In-home care, independence and wellness, protective services, transportation and special projects accomplish this goal. Administration of these funds, nearly \$1.8 million in 2020, is provided by Ashtabula County Job & Family Services. Administration costs were only 4.2 percent of the total Senior Services Levy spending in 2020, ensuring that the vast majority of taxpayer funds go toward their intended purpose.

As you read the report, it outlines how the levy assists thousands of County seniors every year, but there are hidden benefits in these numbers as well. Many of our middle-aged residents are caretakers for elderly loved ones, often while parenting and grand-parenting, and being employed full-time. These responsibilities can place great stress on the finances, health and relationships within a family. Programs sponsored by the levy alleviate these pressures by providing assistance and services, thus strengthening family units and our residents' physical, emotional and mental health.

Concurrently, our service providers face the geographic challenges of our county, Ohio's largest, with 702 square miles of territory to cover. We appreciate the agencies funded by the levy, and thank their employees and volunteers who travel great distances to ensure our seniors have the socialization, food and home-care services they need, regardless of where they live.

As Baby Boomers move into their senior years, the Senior Services Levy will become even more important to the overall economic health of Ashtabula County. During the 2020 service year, persons 60 years and older accounted for 20 percent of Ashtabula County's population.

County voters have renewed the levy four times since originally passing it nearly 21 years ago.

It is our pleasure as commissioners to work with the ACJFS and the Senior Services Levy Advisory Board to ensure funds are efficiently spent on necessary and meaningful programs, even as demand for services continue to increase.

We are appreciative of the members of the Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy Advisory Board for the countless hours they spend advising us on the best use of levy dollars and we recognize and thank the efforts of the Executive Director and staff of Ashtabula County Job & Family Services, who efficiently administer these programs. As Commissioners, we pledge to continue to seek the best and most efficient use of these levy funds so our valued seniors can stay in their homes and remain active in their communities as resources of wisdom and inspiration.

## Executive Director's and Board Chair's Letter

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Welcome to the 20<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy Annual Report. We place tremendous value on our Seniors in Ashtabula County and strive year after year to help promote their well-being, self-sufficiency and health and safety. As we begin our 21<sup>st</sup> year, statistics and trends indicate that older adult's value 'aging in place'. This trend continues to be a driving force behind our developing quality senior service programming and home care solutions.

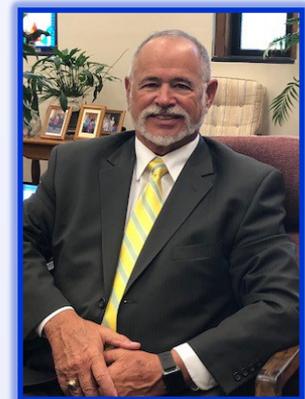
Over the past twenty years, you the voters have passed the levy overwhelmingly, time and time again. None of this is possible without YOU! In addition, the support and collaboration among our established local partners, the Ashtabula Board of County Commissioners, the committed volunteers of the Senior Services Levy Advisory Board, the staff of Ashtabula Job & Family Services, and our outstanding service providers, has been unparalleled.

On behalf of those we serve, we continue to be strongly committed to provide programming that addresses evolving wellness needs, meets a unique opportunity for technology, and promotes overall healthy living. We're excited about the role we play in helping seniors stay connected in their golden years and look forward to helping keep Ashtabula County a wonderful place in which to age.

With warmest regards,



**Patrick J. Arcaro,  
Executive Director**



**Jerome R. Brockway,  
Board Chair**



**The Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy** is a five-year, one-mill property tax levy that generates approximately \$1.8 million per year. The levy provides funding for programs that enhance the well-being of Ashtabula County seniors. These programs are available in every township of the county and help residents age 60 and over maintain their health and remain in their homes. Spending of Senior Levy funds is determined by surveys, studies, Senior Levy Advisory Board member recommendations, and the needs of Ashtabula County Seniors.

Levy funds are distributed among four main categories:

1. In-Home Care:
  - a. Chore
  - b. Home Delivered Meals
  - c. Homemaker
  - d. Personal Care
2. Transportation
3. Protective Services
4. Independence and Wellness:
  - a. Prescription Assistance

**For more information call: 440-994-1240**

# The Senior Service Levy Advisory Board

Board members are community volunteers who advise your County Job & Family Services Agency and your Board of County Commissioners in regard to the levy. These volunteers spend countless hours reviewing proposals, overseeing programs, providers, and expenditures; and educating residents on what services the levy provides. The Levy board faces many challenges with the expanding growth of our senior population. We witness this growth every year, which is why it is vital to continue providing these services in our community.



**Jerome R. Brockway Ph.D., Chair**~ Dr. Brockway earned both his Bachelor and Master degrees from Bowling Green State University, and his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. Dr. Brockway is currently the Superintendent of A-Tech Ashtabula County Technical & Career Campus.

## **Michelle Thomas, Vice-Chair**

As a lifelong resident of Ashtabula County, Michelle is a Licensed Social Worker and Nursing Home Administrator. She has committed her career to the advocacy and care of our area senior citizens both in the community and those that reside in Nursing Homes.

Michelle graduated from Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor of Science in Gerontology.



## **Patrick J. Arcaro, Ex-Officio**

Mr. Arcaro received his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Gannon University and earned a Master's degree in Public Administration from Cleveland State University. He has served as Executive Director of Ashtabula County Job & Family Services since 2004.

# The 2020 Senior Levy Advisory Board



**Willietta Bunch-Marbury**~ Mrs. Bunch-Marbury is a graduate of Kent State University where she majored in Business Management. In 2003, Ms. Bunch-Marbury retired from Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority as House Manager. She volunteered at Ashtabula County Medical Center and the Mary Chatman Center as a tutor and served as Secretary of Ashtabula branch NAACP.

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**Mary Pepperney**~ Mary Pepperney earned her Master's degree from Loyola University, New Orleans, holds a Graduate Certificate in Clinical Bioethics from Cleveland State University and is a licensed social worker that has spent thirty-five years working in the field of hospice, end of life care and grief counseling.

**Rev. Neroy Carter**~ Reverend Carter received his Bachelor's of Theology in Apostolic Studies from Apostolic Bible Institute, St. Paul, Minnesota. He is pastor emeritus of New Hope Pentecostal Church and Executive Director of Ridgeview Terrace and Terra Quest, Ashtabula, Ohio. He also serves on the boards of: Ashtabula County Medical Center, (Past Chairman) and presently chair of the Quality committee and a member of the ethics Committee, Hospice of the Western Reserve, and the Ashtabula Salvation Army.



**Paul Fuller**~ Mr. Fuller obtained a Bachelor's Degree from Gannon University and a Master of Public Administration from Cleveland State University. Before retiring in 2004, Mr. Fuller was Executive Director of Ashtabula County Job & Family Services.



**Christine Litwiler**~ Mrs. Litwiler has served her community for many years. Chris was the Director of the Jefferson Senior Center for over ten years. In addition, Ms. Litwiler instructed classes for the Arthritis Foundation for over 20 years and briefly served the Ashtabula United Way as the Assistant Director.

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**Mary Runyan** ~ Ms. Runyan attended Baldwin-Wallace University and Fairview Park Hospital. Mary spent forty-six years as a registered nurse. Mary was the Director of Nursing at the Ashtabula County Medical Center. She also is the current organist / choir director for Ashtabula First United Methodist Church. Ms. Runyan has served on the Ashtabula Choral Society Board for twenty-six years.

# The 2020 Senior Levy Advisory Board



**Dianne A. Solembrino** – Ms. Solembrino holds a Master’s Degree of Social Sciences from Case Western Reserve University and is a Licensed Independent Social Worker. Prior to retirement she was Executive Director for the Ashtabula County Children Services Board and worked part time as a Licensed Medical Social Worker for several Home Health Agencies. Currently serves on the Board of Ashtabula County Prevention Coalition and is an active member of an Alzheimer’s Support Group.

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**Joseph Rapose**~ Mr. Rapose graduated from St. John High School and holds a B.S. degree in Education from Kent State University and a master’s degree in Administration from Youngstown State University. Mr. Rapose retired from Ashtabula Area City Schools after thirty-two years of service as a teacher, Assistant Principal and Principle. After retirement, Mr. Rapose has been actively involved in Our Lady of Peace Parish serving on the Finance Council and the Covenant Committee.

**Pam Zack**~ Mrs. Zack is the current owner/President of Rapid Photo. She has 43 years’ experience in the photo industry, 29 as owner. Pam is a lifelong resident of Ashtabula County, now residing in Jefferson Township for the past 40 years. She was former Board President of the Geneva Community Center.



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**Virginia Walker**~ Virginia Walker retired from Ashtabula County Job & Family Services in 2014. As Program Administrator, she had worked with many programs to benefit families and seniors in the community. She attended Lakeland Community College and is currently on the Board of Directors for Ashtabula County Residential Services Corporation.



**Rhonda Rodriguez**~ Ms. Rodriguez is a lifelong resident of Ashtabula County. Rhonda served the low income and elderly population for 40 plus years working in the beginning of her career with Ashtabula County Community Action and finishing with the Department of Job and Family Services. Since her retirement she has enjoyed volunteering on the Senior Conference and seeing some familiar faces as well as meeting new people.



**Jane Wallace** ~ Ms. Wallace did her undergrad studies at Kent State, then returned to the area where she worked at Children Services for 34 years, retiring at the end of 2012. Ms. Wallace works as a clinical social worker at local nursing homes where she receives referrals from staff and completes assessments of patients, develop treatment plans and then provide the necessary counseling. Jane volunteers for Faith In Action Caregivers providing transportation to appointments locally and out of county.

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# The 2020 Senior Levy Advisory Board



**Lynn M. Zalewski**~ Mrs. Zalewski attended Kent State University where she received her Bachelor of Business Administration and Marketing degrees. She earned a Master's degree in Nonprofit Management from Regis University. Lynn retired from Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County where she served since 1996. She was the Executive Director from 2008 up to her retirement. She currently is the Chair of the Ashtabula County Emergency Food and Shelter Board and the Chair of the Family and Children First Council's Public Information Committee. She serves on the Region 5 Homeless Planning Team Executive Board, Ashtabula County Prevention Coalition, and For the Common Good Committee. She has served as an Account Executive for the United Way of Ashtabula County, and is past Secretary and Treasurer of the Ashtabula Area Ministerial Association.



*Making a difference in the lives of Seniors since 2020*



# Areas of Programming

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## In-Home Care

In-Home Care programs were created to allow those persons aged 60 and older to remain independent and in their homes. The programs provide home delivered meals, personal care, chore, and homemaker services. This type of in-home assistance provides an alternative to institutional care for the frail or homebound, as well as, person-to-person interaction.

### Chore:

Ashtabula County Council on Aging, and Country Neighbor Program, Inc. offer Chore services to seniors. This service is designed to improve, restore, and maintain a clean and safe living environment through the performance of minor household repairs that are beyond the senior's capability. This service offers seniors assistance while still allowing them to maintain a sense of self sufficiency. The total hours of Chore provided in 2020 were **1,621**.

### Homemaker:

Ashtabula County Community Action Agency, Conneaut Human Resource Center and Country Neighbor Program, Inc. provide Homemaker services through the levy. The Homemaker program provides supportive daily living services to seniors enabling them to continue living independently in a safe, clean and healthy environment. This program assists the senior with housecleaning, laundry, meal planning, kitchen care, and other simple homemaking tasks. The total hours of Homemaker provided in 2020 were **6,910**.

### Home Delivered Meals:

Ashtabula County Community Action Agency and Country Neighbor Program, Inc. provide meals made at their own facilities to Ashtabula County seniors. The meals are available to seniors in every Township of the County. This program consists of services designed to prepare and deliver one or more hot meals a day to an individual's residence. This service helps to prevent institutionalization, malnutrition and isolation, therefore allowing seniors to remain in their home. Eligible participants must be aged 60 or older, or a spouse of an eligible participant, and reside in Ashtabula County. The total amount of Home Delivered Meals provided in 2020 was **71,537**.

### Personal Care:

Ashtabula Regional Home Health and Country Neighbor Program, Inc. were the Levy providers in 2020. The personal care program provides basic health maintenance and/or personal hygiene assistance to individuals in their homes who are unable to manage these tasks on their own. This care assists seniors in their Activities of Daily Living (ADL's) and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL's) but not at the level provided by a nursing home. This program includes, but is not limited to, trained paramedical care, bedside nursing therapy (i.e. occupational, physical, or speech), and personal hygiene which may include using the tub, shower, and partial bath techniques. The total hours of Personal Care provided in 2020 were **5,903**.

# Areas of Programming

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## Independence and Wellness

The Independence and Wellness component helps to enhance the quality of life for seniors by preventing isolation and improving health, and offering the opportunity for socialization. Offered programs connect seniors to vital community services that can help them stay healthy and independent.

### Senior Programs:

The Senior Levy funds senior centers, services and programs within the county through the following providers: Ashtabula County Community Action Agency, Ashtabula County Council on Aging, Ashtabula County YMCA, Conneaut Human Resource Center, Country Neighbor Program, Inc., and Geneva Area Seniors Corporation. Programs enhance the health and wellness of older adults by providing opportunities to participate in an educational class, learn a new craft or hobby, play BINGO, engage in physical exercise and be a part of a community. These programs offer seniors a place to gather that supports social independence and prevents isolation. This gives our seniors a sense of security and purpose. The total Independence & Wellness hours provided in 2020 were **13,836**.

### Information and Referral:

Funds also provide the “Information and Referral” services through Ashtabula County Community Action Agency’s 2-1-1 call center. By calling 2-1-1, seniors can obtain free information about any social, health and human service program and resource available in Ashtabula County. Over the years, 2-1-1 has provided a valuable service that has resulted in positive outcomes and customer satisfaction. Senior citizens of the County greatly appreciate the programs’ guidance and support. The total calls for this service in 2020 were **592**.

### Prescription Assistance for Seniors:

Since 2000 the Prescription Assistance Program (PAS) has offered seniors the help and support needed with obtaining low or no cost prescriptions. Originally, the program was created to assist residents aged 60 and older to gain access to prescription drug assistance programs offered by pharmaceutical manufacturers. However, since Medicare Part D, caseworkers have assisted seniors with the often confusing paperwork associated with this program. During the lifetime of the Levy, the program has saved area seniors millions of dollars in prescription costs. Caseworkers are available for seniors to explore options available through this program at local senior centers.

### Congregate Meals:

In 2016, congregate meals became a part of the newly opened Andover Senior Center. The purpose of including meals was to ensure that seniors visiting the center would have access to a meal while they are engaging in the various offerings at the center. What began as a pilot program has blossomed into a verified need that represents the overall objectives of the levy. The total amount of Congregate Meals provided in 2020 were **509**.

# Areas of Programming

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## Adult Protective Services:

Elder abuse can occur anywhere; there are no socioeconomic boundaries. Every year senior citizens find themselves the target of abuse, neglect, or exploitation often at the hands of those they trust the most. More seniors find themselves no longer able to provide for their own basic needs due to health or other issues. According to the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA), one in ten older persons may experience some type of abuse, but only one in five cases are reported.

Ashtabula County Job & Family Services' (ACJFS) Adult Protective Services (APS) unit helps to protect the well-being of the citizens of Ashtabula County by investigating allegations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of community members aged 60 and older. Ohio law mandates this investigation. During the period of January 1, 2020– December 31, 2020, ACJFS received approximately **203** reports of abuse.

## Guardianship/Payeeship:

Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County provides assistance to those receiving funds from the Social Security Administration who are unable to manage their income. The Payee administers the funds received on behalf of the beneficiary and allocates funds for shelter, clothes, food, medical care, and personal comfort. Total Payeeship hours provided in 2020 were **504**.

Guardianship services provided by Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County helps to protect the most vulnerable members of society. Through legal arrangements, this program ensures that a senior citizens' physical, emotional, and financial needs are met. Total Guardianship hours provided in 2020 were **267**.

## Transportation

Ashtabula County encompasses over 702 square miles; it is geographically the largest county in the state of Ohio. Due to its size and rural nature, transportation continues to be a challenge for its aging population. Our seniors may not be able to drive due to medical issues, limited resources, or lack of family living in close proximity.

Ashtabula County Seniors are able to access transportation to medical appointments, work, and social events through funding provided by the Senior Services Levy. The majority of rides provided in 2020 have been for medical appointments both in and out of Ashtabula County.

There are a variety of transportation services and options offered from the following providers: Ashtabula County Transportation System (ACTS) and Country Neighbor Program, Inc. The total miles provided to seniors under the levy in 2020 were **211,190**.

# Thank you to our community partners for their continued dedication to providing valuable services:

Ashtabula County Community Action Agency .....Home Delivered Meals; Independence & Wellness; Information & Referral (211); Homemaker

Ashtabula County Council on Aging.....Chore; Independence & Wellness

Ashtabula County Job & Family Services.....Adult Protective Services

Ashtabula County Transportation System.....Transportation

Ashtabula County YMCA.....Independence & Wellness

Ashtabula Regional Home Health Services.....Personal Care

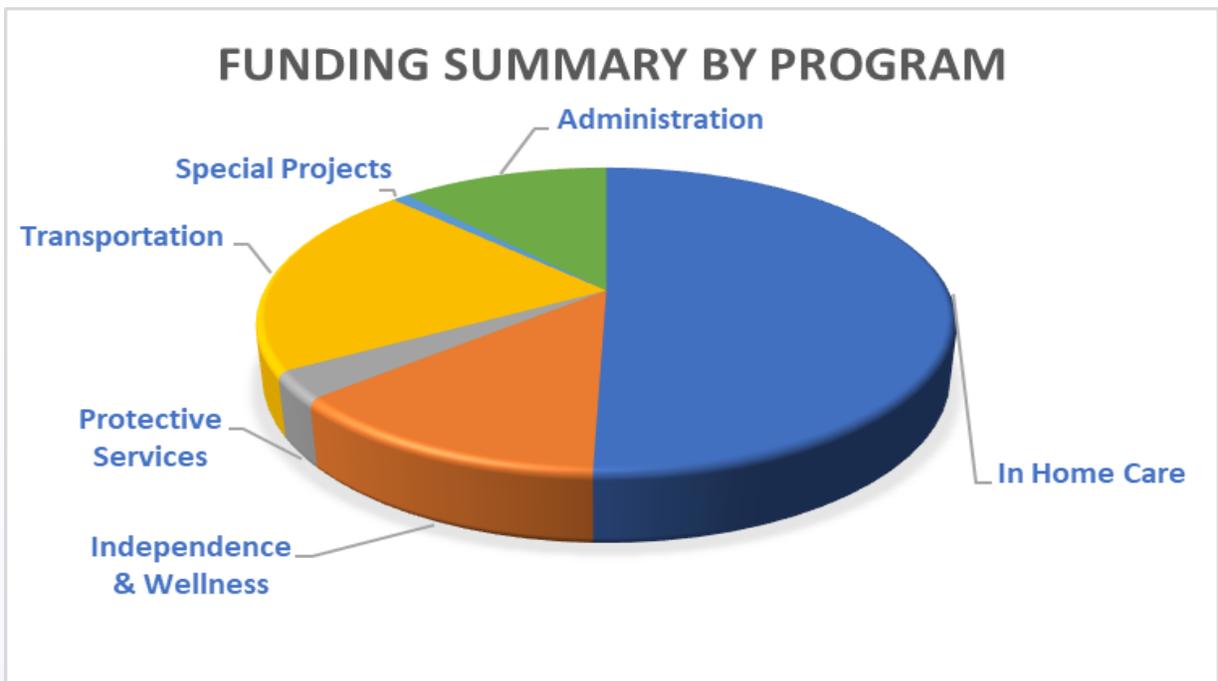
Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County.....Senior Protective Services; Guardianship & Payeeship

Conneaut Human Resource Center.....Homemaker; Independence & Wellness

Country Neighbor Program, Inc.....Chore; Independence & Wellness; Home Delivered Meals; Homemaker; Personal Care & Transportation

Geneva Area Seniors Corporation.....Independence & Wellness

# Funding Summary by Category



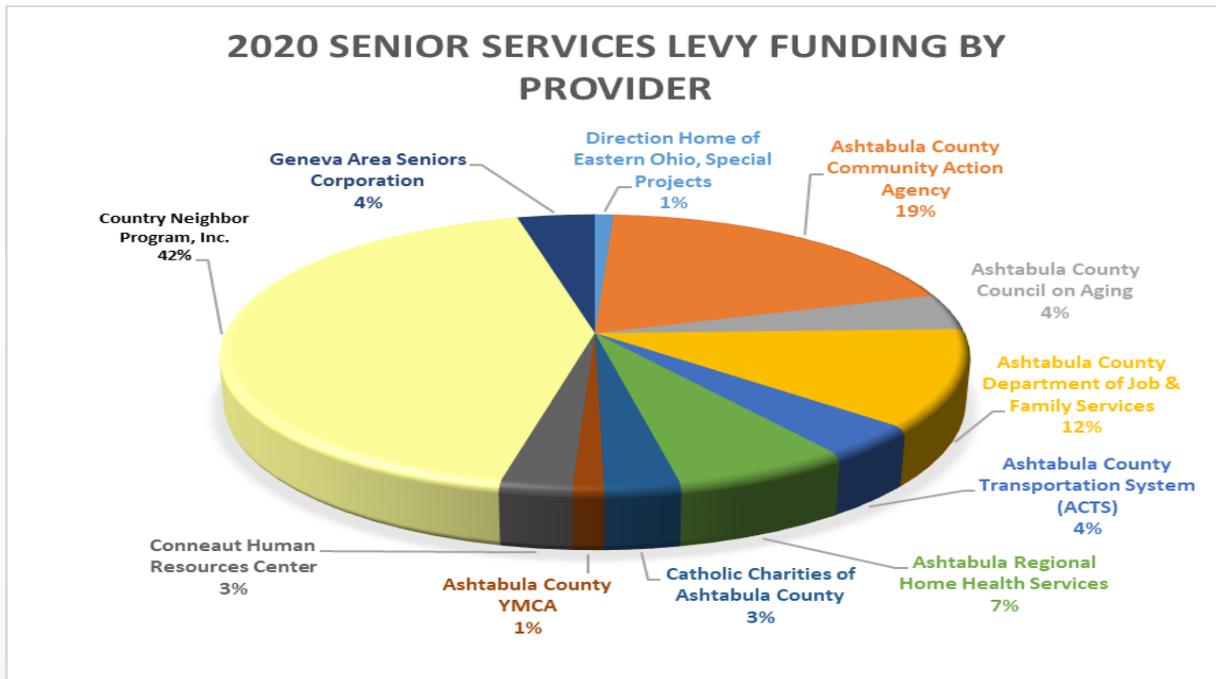
## In Home Care:

◆ Home Delivered Meals	\$571,667.00
◆ Personal Care	\$184,368.30
◆ Homemaker	\$153,343.29
◆ Chore	\$31,884.50

In-Home Care total:	\$941,263.09
Independence & Wellness	\$244,909.31
Protective Services	\$54,533.54
Transportation	\$389,261.44
Special Projects	\$17,217.86
Administration	\$216,471.41
<b>Total expenses of all Programs:</b>	<b>\$1,863,656.65</b>

## 2020 Actual Expenditures

(Financial information presented provides the level of funding allocated amongst the various providers for programs funded by the Levy.)



Direction Home of Eastern Ohio, Special Projects	\$17,217.86
Ashtabula County Community Action Agency	\$360,969.11
Ashtabula County Council On Aging	\$78,782.00
Ashtabula County Job & Family Services	\$216,471.41
(Adult Protective Services, Administration, and Transit)	
Ashtabula County Transportation System (ACTS)	\$71,021.44
Ashtabula Regional Home Health Services	\$126,396.00
Ashtabula County YMCA	\$22,173.55
Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County	\$54,533.54
Conneaut Human Resource Center	\$52,225.00
Country Neighbor Program, Inc.	\$792,321.80
Geneva Area Seniors Corporation	\$71,544.94
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,863,656.65</b>



## The Senior Levy is Administered by:

Ashtabula County Job & Family Services

Patrick J. Arcaro, Executive Director

2924 Donahoe Drive

Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

440-998-1110

Toll Free 1-800-935-0242

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Board of County Commissioners, Grantee:

J.P. Ducro IV

Casey Kozlowski

Kathryn Whittington

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**ASHTABULA COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES LEVY**

or

<https://www.facebook.com/Ashtabula-County-Senior-Services-Levy-113875910799/>