



AND NOW, A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Happy New Year from the Grand Traverse County Commission on Aging!

As we welcome 2025, we're thrilled to share some exciting updates and milestones on the horizon. Here's a preview of what's to come this year:

Our New Home on Park Drive

We've settled comfortably into our new office on Park Drive, where we now share space with the Area Agency on Aging. This co-location makes it easier than ever for seniors to access services and enroll in programs, all in one convenient, central location. We're deeply grateful for this opportunity to better serve our community.

Celebrating 50 Years of Service

June 2025 marks the 50th anniversary of the Grand Traverse County Commission on Aging! For five decades, we've been proud to support seniors in our community. We're planning a special celebration to honor this milestone—stay tuned for details as we finalize plans for early summer.

The Return of the Senior Expo

We're delighted to announce the return of the Grand Traverse County Senior Expo! For the first time since 2019, the expo will be back this summer, offering valuable resources and opportunities for our senior community. Planning is underway, and we'll share more information as it becomes available.

Expanded Transportation Voucher Program

In 2025, we're increasing funding for the Commission on Aging Transportation Voucher program. This means more travel vouchers will be available to COA clients, helping to offset the rising costs of transportation. Be sure to check the article in this newsletter for full details on these changes.

Welcoming New Advisory Board Members

This year, we're excited to welcome Marilyn Jaquish and Dr. Dennis Mann to our COA Advisory Board. They will join us at our first meeting of the year on Tuesday, February 4th. Additionally, we're pleased to have Lacey Edgecomb, the new Senior Center Network Director, on the board. Together, we'll continue to plan for the evolving needs of seniors in Grand Traverse County.

We are honored to serve the seniors of Grand Traverse County and look forward to a year filled with progress, celebrations, and opportunities. Here's to a fantastic 2025!

Warm regards,

Lana Payne
Lana Payne

Director, Grand Traverse County Commission on Aging

FREE TAX HELP FOR SENIORS: STRESS-FREE FILING WITH NMCAA

The Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency (NMCAA) provides free tax preparation services designed to support seniors with low-to-moderate incomes. Certified volunteers ensure accurate filing of federal and state returns while helping maximize refunds and credits. This secure, IRS-approved program offers seniors a stress-free way to meet tax obligations and save money. Visit the NMCAA website to check eligibility and schedule your appointment: <https://nmcaa.net/free-tax-help/>. You may also call NMCAA directly at [\(231\) 947-3780](tel:2319473780).

EXCITING UPDATE: MORE TRANSPORTATION VOUCHERS AVAILABLE IN 2025!

Starting in January, we're offering more transportation vouchers than ever to help meet your needs.

What's New?

- Monthly Limit: Up to \$120 worth of vouchers (24 vouchers).
- Quarterly Limit: Up to \$360 worth of vouchers (72 vouchers).

How to Request Vouchers

You can choose:

1. Monthly Requests: Get vouchers for one month at a time.
2. Quarterly Requests: Get vouchers for three months at once.

Quarter Schedules

Vouchers are only available for the current month or the current quarter (not past periods). Each quarter is as follows:

- Quarter 1: January–March
- Quarter 2: April–June
- Quarter 3: July–September
- Quarter 4: October–December

Payment Information

- Payment is due at the time of request unless you qualify as a non-paying tier.

We're excited to provide this expanded support for your transportation needs!

IF YOU USE BILL PAY SERVICES FOR YOUR COMMISSION ON AGING INVOICES, PLEASE REMEMBER TO UPDATE OUR ADDRESS WITH YOUR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.

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