

SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CENTER & COUNCIL ON AGING

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

MISSION

The Southampton Senior Center and Council on Aging (COA) provides:

- Information, referrals and access to community resources
- Medicare/SHINE counseling (SHINE: **S**erving the **H**ealth **I**nsurance **N**eeds of **E**veryone)
- Public benefits counseling
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Low Income Heat and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and housing application assistance
- Transportation
- Programming & Activities
- Volunteer opportunities
- Socialization opportunities to 60+ population in Southampton (more than 2300 residents!)

COUNCIL ON AGING STAFF

- Kate DiSanto, Director & SHINE Counselor (32 hours/week)
- Andrea Barouxis, Volunteer Coordinator (14 hours/week)
- Pamela Connett, Program Coordinator (18 hours/week)
- Michelle Murdock, Outreach Worker & SHINE Counselor (18 hours/week)
- Darlene Matyoka, Administrative Assistant (4 hours/week)
- Tim Huber, FRTA Van Driver (Tuesdays & Thursdays)
- William Kaleta, FRTA Van Driver (Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays)

Operating Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
FRTA Van Rides available Monday - Friday

The Council on Aging is also supported by the Council on Aging Board, the Friends of the Southampton Council on Aging, and the Senior Center Building Committee. We are grateful for their time and support.

Mondays

- Mahjong
- Memory Café
- Mindful Movement Chair Yoga
- Spades/Hearts Card Game
- Technical Support
- Walking Group

Wednesdays

- Bingo
- Craft Group
- Coffee Hour
- Mindful Movement Chair Yoga
- Highland Valley Lunch Distribution
- Public Health Nurses
- Spanish Class
- Walking Group
- State and Local Legislators Office Hours

Fridays

- Walking Group

Tuesdays

- Card Making Class
- Cribbage
- Foot Care Clinic
- Healthy Bones & Balance
- Hearing Clinic Line Dancing

Thursdays

- Art & Watercolor Class
- Healthy Bones and Balance
- Pickleball
- Pitch
- Veterans' Coffee Hour

Everyday

- Exercise Equipment
- Book Nook
- Outreach Appointments/Services
- Public Benefits Counseling
- Puzzles
- Coffee/Tea
- FRTA Van Rides

REGULAR PROGRAMMING & ACTIVITIES

- Monthly Luncheons and Special Events hosted/sponsored by the Friends of the Southampton COA
- Pancakes with Town Administrator Scott Szczebak, Fire Dept. Chief Rich Fasoli & Police Dept. Chief Ian Illingsworth
- Elder Law Education Presentations
- One-Day Bus Trips (3-4 times/year) with Landmark Tours
- Special Musical Performances
- Cultural Council Grant Event Opportunities
- Stroke Education Class with Baystate Noble Hospital
- Falls Prevention Series with Cooley Dickinson Hospital
- Holyoke Gas and Electric Safety Presentations
- Highland Valley Nutrition Education Presentations
- Falls Prevention, CPR, and Kitchen/Cooking Safety Classes with Southampton Fire Department
- Holiday Parties at the Senior Center
- Annual Volunteer Appreciation Awards & Luncheon; Volunteer Appreciation Reception
- Ice Cream Social
- Veterans' Day Appreciation Brunch
- Specialized Art Programs
- Voices of the Valley Concerts
- Scams and Fraud Education Presentation from the Northwestern District Attorney's Office
- Medicare Open Enrollment Presentations
- Talks from various community organizations and committees



HIGHLIGHT OF SPECIAL EVENTS

IMPACT ON THE SOUTHAMPTON COMMUNITY

- Attendance & Membership Increases
 - 2024 attendance: 421 individuals; 48 new members
 - 2025 attendance: 523 individuals; 70 new members
- Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) Van
- SHINE/Medicare & Public Benefits Counseling
 - More than 150 Medicare-specific appointments in 2025
 - Public benefits counseling including eligibility for:
 - Medicare Savings Program
 - LIHEAP/Fuel Assistance/Utility Discounts
 - SNAP
- SNAP Outreach Partnership
 - Reimbursement partnership with the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) and the UMass Medical School in Worcester
 - As of December 2025, there were more than 400 individuals receiving SNAP benefits. 117 of those households are aged 60+.
- Giving Back Initiatives for the Southampton Community
 - FOSCOA Grocery Bag Giveaway
 - School Supply Drive for Norris Elementary School Teachers and Students
 - Winter Clothing Drive for Norris Elementary School and Hampshire Regional High School



HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES

Highlights

- 2025 numbers increased by more than 20% in individual participation and attendance. 70 new members joined the Senior Center in 2025.
- We launched several new programs and events focused on health, well-being, education, art, further creating increased socialization opportunities and resource sharing.
- We distributed 865 Wednesday lunches in partnership with Highland Valley Elder Services.
- 1264 trips were taken on the FRTA van to medical appointments, grocery and miscellaneous trips.
- Our volunteers logged more than 3220 hours of service for the Senior Center in 2025.
- Our TRIAD program is growing, and more Southampton residents are participating in the partnership program which includes Durable Medical Equipment lending, Sand for Seniors, lock boxes, and reflective house number signs.

Challenges

- Funding needed for COA salaries – Volunteer Coordinator and Outreach Worker; increase in paid hours for COA Director
- Lack of office space, specifically for private meetings and accommodations for current staffing needs
- Lack of event space for cross-programming opportunities, new programming options, and continuously increasing class sizes.
- Although the FRTA van drivers are funded through a reimbursement process with FRTA, the COA does not have a designated staff member to manage the FRTA van. This includes scheduling rides for appointments, managing phone calls/messages, assisting with applications, coordinating driver trainings and certifications, and contacting riders for updated information.
- Facilities related challenges

Fund Name	Total Funds	Funded By	Fiscal/ Calendar Year
COA Operating Expenses	\$2500	Town of Southampton	FY26
COA Salaries – not 100% funded	\$89,428	Town of Southampton	FY26

ANNUAL FUNDING & REVENUE SOURCES

Fund/Grant Name	Total Funds	Funded/Awarded By	Funding Cycle
State Formula Grant	\$30,640 (pending distribution of funds from the state)	Executive Office of Aging and Independence	FY26
FRTA Van Reimbursement Grant	\$35,000 budgeted	Franklin Regional Transit Authority	FY26
Senior Center Modernization	\$5,900	EOEA/MCOA	FY26
Friends of the Southampton COA	\$4,380	Friends of the Southampton COA	Calendar Year 2025
COA Appropriation (FY26) – Programming & Improvements	\$25,000 (pending distribution of funds from the state)	Senator Velis’s Office/Governor’s Budget	FY26 One-time Funding
Class Revenue (Chair Yoga & Line Dancing – estimated)	\$5,500	COA Class Participants	FY26

EXTERNAL FUNDING AND GRANT ACTIVITY

BUDGET REQUESTS & OUTLOOK FOR FY27

- The Town of Southampton currently funds 100% of the Director's, Program Coordinator, and Administrative Assistant's salaries, and 50% of the volunteer coordinator's salary (total estimated \$89,428).
- The remaining 50% of the volunteer coordinator's salary is funded by the State Formula Grant (estimated \$7,702.50).
- The total State Formula Grant for FY26 is \$30,640, and it funds the Volunteer Coordinator partial salary, programming, supplies, and additional required funding for operational costs for the COA not subsidized by the Friends of the Southampton COA.
- The Outreach Worker's salary was 100% paid for by the FY22 COA Earmark (estimated \$24,044.36 with current pay rate in FY26 chart). This earmark was one-time funding and expected to deplete by the start of June 2026. Remaining FY26 funds needed for the Outreach Worker salary will be funded through the State Formula Grant.
- FRTA driver salaries are reimbursed monthly by the Franklin Regional Transit Authority.

BUDGET REQUESTS & OUTLOOK FOR FY27

- The Southampton Council on Aging is requesting a level services budget for FY27. This includes:
 - Full funding of COA salaries which includes the addition of the Outreach Worker and the remaining 50% of the Volunteer Coordinator position
 - Level funded operating budget: \$2500
 - An increase in the Director's hours from 32 hours to 35 hours per week to reflect additional hours worked per week and increased demands/needs of the position and the COA.

THANK YOU!

Southampton Senior Center &
Council on Aging