



2025

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Warren County

ESP



Welcome

As chair of the Warren County ESP Advisory Council, I am pleased to share with you our program's 2025 Annual Report. In 2025, ESP, which is managed by our county commissioners and funded by the county's senior services tax levy, served 2,777 county residents.

ESP is administered by Council on Aging (COA), the state-designated Area Agency on Aging for southwestern Ohio, including Warren County.

As we have shared in previous annual reports, workforce shortages in the home care industry have impacted our ability to provide home care assistance (housekeeping, personal care, respite) to older adults enrolled in our program. However, I'm pleased to report a reversal in this trend, brought about thanks to recent improvements in hiring and retaining home care workers. Our local provider network now reports greater staffing stability, allowing ESP to deliver more reliable care to clients. As a result, the number of clients not matched with a home care provider dropped by nearly half from the beginning of 2025 to the end of the year, despite a slight uptick in the number of overall clients enrolled in ESP.

Along with this increase in service delivery comes an increase in costs. 2026 marks the end of the five-year funding cycle for the county's senior services levy. During the year, this advisory council will work closely with COA to manage costs and reduce expenses with the goal of delaying or preventing the need to manage enrollment into the program before the levy cycle ends, and to ensure we are positioned to keep the program within budget over the next five-year levy cycle.

We'll also be working to educate the community about the need to renew this important levy so we can continue to help our older friends, neighbors and loved ones remain safe and independent in their homes.

The senior services levy also provides support to our county Adult Protection Unit, which includes two case workers who work hard during the year to provide protective services for adults age 60+ at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation. In 2025, the unit received 684 new referrals and opened more than 250 cases.

I hope you will take a few minutes to read our annual report and gain a better understanding of how ESP and the senior services levy impact our entire community. For example, it may surprise you to learn that ESP serves 18 county residents age 100 and older. You can read about how our care managers approach the task of caring for centenarians in our county and hear from a Maineville caregiver who is grateful for the support she receives in helping her 106-year-old aunt stay at home.

On behalf of this advisory council and the thousands of older adults and families served by our program, thank you for your continued support of Warren County ESP.



Dave Gully
Chair, Warren County ESP
Advisory Council

ESP is a Community Partnership

Warren County Commissioners

Tom Grossmann, Shannon Jones, David G. Young

Warren County ESP Advisory Council

Dave Gully, Chair; Dr. Don Juszczak, Vice Chair; Kendra Couch; Jerry Harrod; Jeff Moore; Matt Nolan; Martin Russell

Administered by Council on Aging

4601 Malsbary Road, Blue Ash, OH 45242
(513) 721-1025 www.help4seniors.org

Intake and Care Management by Warren County Community Services, Inc.

645 Oak St., Lebanon, OH 45036
(513) 695-2271 www.wccsi.org





2025

Client Stats

Warren County ESP clients are caught in the middle: with income too high to qualify for Medicaid, but too low to pay for private in-home care. They need help with basic activities like personal care and transportation. Between raising a family and going to work, family members help as much as they can, but ESP fills in gaps in care so our older neighbors and loved ones can continue to live independently in their homes and communities. ESP is a program that benefits our entire community.

2,777 Clients Served



65%
FEMALE



35%
MALE



49%
LIVE ALONE



\$426
MONTHLY
OUT-OF-POCKET
MEDICAL EXPENSES



87%
AGE 70+ (18 100+)



\$2,122
MEAN MONTHLY
INCOME



784
AVERAGE DAYS
ON THE PROGRAM

Demographic data includes individuals enrolled in ESP and FastTrack Home only.



Success Stories

To read these full success stories and more, scan the code with your mobile device or visit www.help4seniors.org/wcesp2025

As Warren County ages, more centenarians served by ESP

Warren County is seeing a rapid rise in its oldest residents, with the population of adults 85+ expected to more than double by 2050. This includes a growing number of centenarians served by Warren County ESP. Despite assumptions that those age 100 and older require extensive support, many remain remarkably independent, with basic support from ESP. In fact, care managers say their perseverance – and unique life experiences – make this group both inspiring and deeply rewarding to serve.

At 106, ESP client proves you're never too old to live independently

At 106, Maineville resident Marvel – affectionately called Marvelous Marvel by those who know her – has fully lived every year of her long life. She enjoyed a marriage of more than 50 years, cared for her mother, raised dairy cattle, sold hay until she was 101, and was a real-life Rosie the Riveter during World War II. Today, she gets help to live independently from her niece, hospice and Warren County ESP.



Warren County ESP adopts new cost sharing model

Warren County ESP has implemented a new cost sharing model designed to simplify billing, improve consistency and better align costs with the financial realities faced by older adults. The previous percentage-based model often produced unpredictable monthly bills due to fluctuating service use, provider billing cycles and complex calculations. By shifting to a flat monthly cost share and introducing a streamlined tool for real time calculation, the new model reduces administrative burden while offering clients greater clarity and stability. Initial results indicate notable increases in participation and revenue, as well as better alignment with individuals' financial ability to contribute.

Bill Thornton recognized as 2025 Senior Who Rocks

In 2025, Council on Aging nominated long-time Warren County resident and advocate, Bill Thornton, for Pro Seniors' annual Seniors Who Rock awards. Thornton was one of three award winners honored at a ceremony in August, and he had the crowd in tears with his acceptance speech. "For nearly 20 years, Bill has been a tireless advocate for Council on Aging and those we serve," said Council on Aging CEO Suzanne Burke. "In fact, I would say he's our Number One advocate! Bill understands our business needs as an organization, as well as the needs of older adults in our region. His knowledge and passion have contributed to countless advocacy victories for our region and our state. Bill truly is a Senior Who Rocks!" Thornton also received the President's Award at COA's 2025 Annual Meeting and Awards program.



Use the QR code at the top of this page to read more, including these additional stories:

- New directory connects county residents to resources during times of need
- County resident honored as a Home Health Aide Hero

Expenses + Revenue

How tax dollars are spent

ESP exists thanks to the generosity of county voters. A tax levy in place since 2002 provides 94% of ESP's funding. The current 1.21-mill levy was approved by 78% of voters in 2021. It costs property owners \$29.93 per \$100,000 of property valuation annually.

As Warren County's Area Agency on Aging, COA leverages state and federal funding and seeks alternative funding sources to help offset costs to the levy. Additional funding comes from client cost sharing and voluntary client donations. COA's goal: ensure the highest quality services at the lowest cost to serve as many people as possible with the tax dollars available.

Revenue

Federal and State (via Council on Aging)	\$324,224
Client Donation, Cost Sharing and Interest Earned	\$229,267
Warren County Senior Services Levy	\$9,748,448
TOTAL REVENUE	\$10,301,939

Expenses

SERVICE	CLIENTS SERVED	SERVICE UNITS	COST
Care Management	2,662	23,043 months	\$1,826,446
Home-Delivered Meals ¹	1,484	278,669 meals	\$3,256,757
Electronic Monitoring Systems	1,287	11,843 months of rentals	\$237,812
Home Care Assistance	1,015	77,704 hours	\$2,309,549
Transportation	320	6,955 one-way trips	\$575,127
FastTrack Home Care Transitions ¹	187	447 months	\$158,874
Minor Home Repairs	162	173 repairs	\$229,775
Home Medical Equipment	142	234 items	\$47,341
Laundry Service	122	3,598 jobs	\$148,720
Consumer-Directed Care	104	29,019 hours	\$581,635
Independent Living Assistance ²	50	396 hours	\$34,210
Adult Day Services ¹	34	1,513 days	\$122,666
Environmental Services ³	12	39 jobs	\$25,090
Overnight Respite ¹	6	34 nights	\$11,527
Kinship Meals ⁴	5	1,447 meals	\$21,050
Adult Day Transportation	2	6 one-way trips	\$964
Administration	N/A	N/A	\$628,757
Intake and Assessment	N/A	N/A	\$106,691
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$10,301,939

¹ Services funded in whole or in part by Federal Older Americans Act, drawn down by Council on Aging.

² Help with benefit applications and organizing personal and household records.

³ Pest control, major housekeeping and waste removal.

⁴ Service made possible by grants and/or Federal funding secured or drawn down by Council on Aging. Levy dollars were not used for this service.

Additional Expenses

Warren County Commissioners distributed \$45,000 from the senior services levy to Warren County Department of Human Services' Adult Protective Services Unit.

What is ESP?

ESP helps eligible county residents age 60 and older remain safe and independent in their homes, providing help with activities of daily living (bathing, cleaning, cooking, transportation and more), and filling gaps in care that may already be provided by family caregivers.

ESP offers flexible care to meet clients' changing needs. Eligibility and care needs are determined during an in-home assessment by a professional care manager who coordinates and monitors clients' care. Income is not an eligibility factor for ESP, but some clients have a cost share based on their income.

The program is operated by Council on Aging (COA) via a contract with Warren County Commissioners, who appoint a board to advise on program needs and policies. Provider agencies deliver ESP services via competitive contracts with COA. In some cases, clients may hire their own service providers. Clients, caregivers and taxpayers round out the partnership. ESP is a compassionate and cost-effective alternative to nursing home care.

Cost to Taxpayers

\$426

Monthly costs for ESP services

VS

\$8,000+

Monthly costs for nursing home care

What is COA's Role in ESP?

COA's responsibilities for ESP in Warren County include: program development; provider management; data analysis and reporting; financial services and oversight; information technology; quality improvement; and community engagement. As a state-designated Area Agency on Aging, COA provided these additional services to county residents in 2025:

85,364

requests for information and referral fulfilled

225

individuals in Warren County received support to transition from one care setting to another

759

Warren County residents received home- and community-based services through Medicaid funded programs

342

eligible Warren County older adults enrolled in the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

2

Warren County veterans received care management support to help them receive self-directed in-home care through the Veteran Directed Care Program

\$407,727

in Title III funding allocated to local organizations for congregate meals, legal assistance, wellness education, caregiver support, transportation and other supportive services

