

Elder Services

January 2026 – June 2026





Our Mission

The mission of the Elder Service Division is to provide high quality in-home; access; and community based services for tribal elders to assure maximum health and independence.





ELDERS SERVED
THROUGH OUR
VARIOUS
PROGRAMS

JANUARY - JUNE

Congregate Meal Programs

Lunches are served at our four meal program locations Monday – Thursday at 11:30. Homebound elders receive fresh meals throughout the week, and those that choose to do so receive frozen meals to enjoy through the weekend. There are two full time cooks, five part time cooks, one meal program aide and one part time meal delivery driver that prepared, served and delivered the 25,679 meals this reporting period.

Congregate Meals

SAULT: 3,339
ST. IGNACE: 2,234
HESSEL: 2,171
MANISTIQUE: 2,514



Home Delivered Meals

SAULT: 4,637
ST. IGNACE: 1,447
HESSEL: 1,619
MANISTIQUE: 1,474



Frozen Meals

SAULT: 2,919
ST. IGNACE: 569
HESSEL: 1,619
MANISTIQUE: 1,137



Mackinac Island Elders

Tribal elders that live on Mackinac Island are sent vouchers twice per year, with one voucher that may be used per week at one of two restaurants on Mackinac Island. The restaurants mail the vouchers that are turned in back to Elder Services, and a disbursement voucher is completed to reimburse the restaurant. In January - June a total of 513 vouchers were used and mailed back to Elder Services.



Elder Health Fund

The Elder Health Fund is a program that helps supplement any payments that an elder may need to make for dental or optical care, after all insurances are billed, for care provided at any of the Sault Tribe Health Facilities. Lifeline alert devices may also be purchased utilizing the EHF. Elders living outside of the service area may also receive assistance with purchasing durable medical equipment. The EHF application is filled out on a yearly basis, and support provided is based upon income. There were 121 total applications completed during this reporting period.





Information and Assistance

Elder Services fields a number of phone calls with inquiries about our various programs and services. Elders are also able to borrow durable medical equipment that is needed while they wait for brand new equipment to come via the PRC program. Equipment is available to them at both Nokomis-Mishomis Gamik in the Sault, and the Elder Complex in St Ignace. Elder Services can loan equipment to elders in other parts of the service area via courier as well.

Phone Contacts: 6,622

Information & Assistance: 1,357

Loan Closet: 13

Sault: 13

St Ignace: 0

ELDER TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

The transportation team is led by the Transportation Coordinator. There is one full time driver and three part time drivers that cover the seven county service area. Our Outreach Coordinators and Registered Nurse also step in to provide rides when all of the drivers are already scheduled. Elder Services also partners with community transportation, providing vouchers for bus rides if transportation is otherwise unavailable.

Total Rides Provided

546

Total Miles Traveled

127,741

**Medication
Deliveries**

626

HEMECARE AND PERSONAL CARE SERVICES

Personal care is the provision of in-home assistance with activities of daily living. Homecare is the performance of routine household tasks to maintain an adequate living environment. Both services are provided by our four full time Home Health Technicians that are stationed in the Sault, St Ignace and Manistique areas.

**Elder Services partners with Alger, Northwoods and Arcadia agencies to fill gaps in coverage in our service area, to ensure elder needs are being met.

HEMECARE VISITS

Sault: 899
St Ignace: 201
Hessel: 101
Manistique: 399**
Munising: 117**
Marquette: 18**
Escanaba: 114**
Naubinway: 18
Newberry: 107**

PERSONAL CARE VISITS

Sault: 180
St Ignace: 38
Hessel: 3
Munising: 87**

REFERRALS AND CASE MANAGEMENT

The full time Registered Nurse plays an integral role in the Elder Service Division. She manages referrals, coordinates the ramp program, creates schedules for the home care and personal care, and does follow up assessments on a regular basis, in line with industry standards. If what is needed is outside of the scope for Elder Services, the Registered Nurse will assist the Elder and family with coordination of care with other divisions within Sault Tribe, or in the community.

Referrals: 98

Sault: 49

St Ignace: 15

Hessel: 4

Manistique: 13

Munising: 3

Marquette: 1

Escanaba: 6

Naubinway: 2

Newberry: 5

Case Management: 2,995

Sault: 969

St Ignace: 572

Hessel: 328

Manistique: 213

Munising: 127

Marquette: 176

Escanaba: 194

Naubinway: 179

Newberry: 237





RAMPS AND RAILS

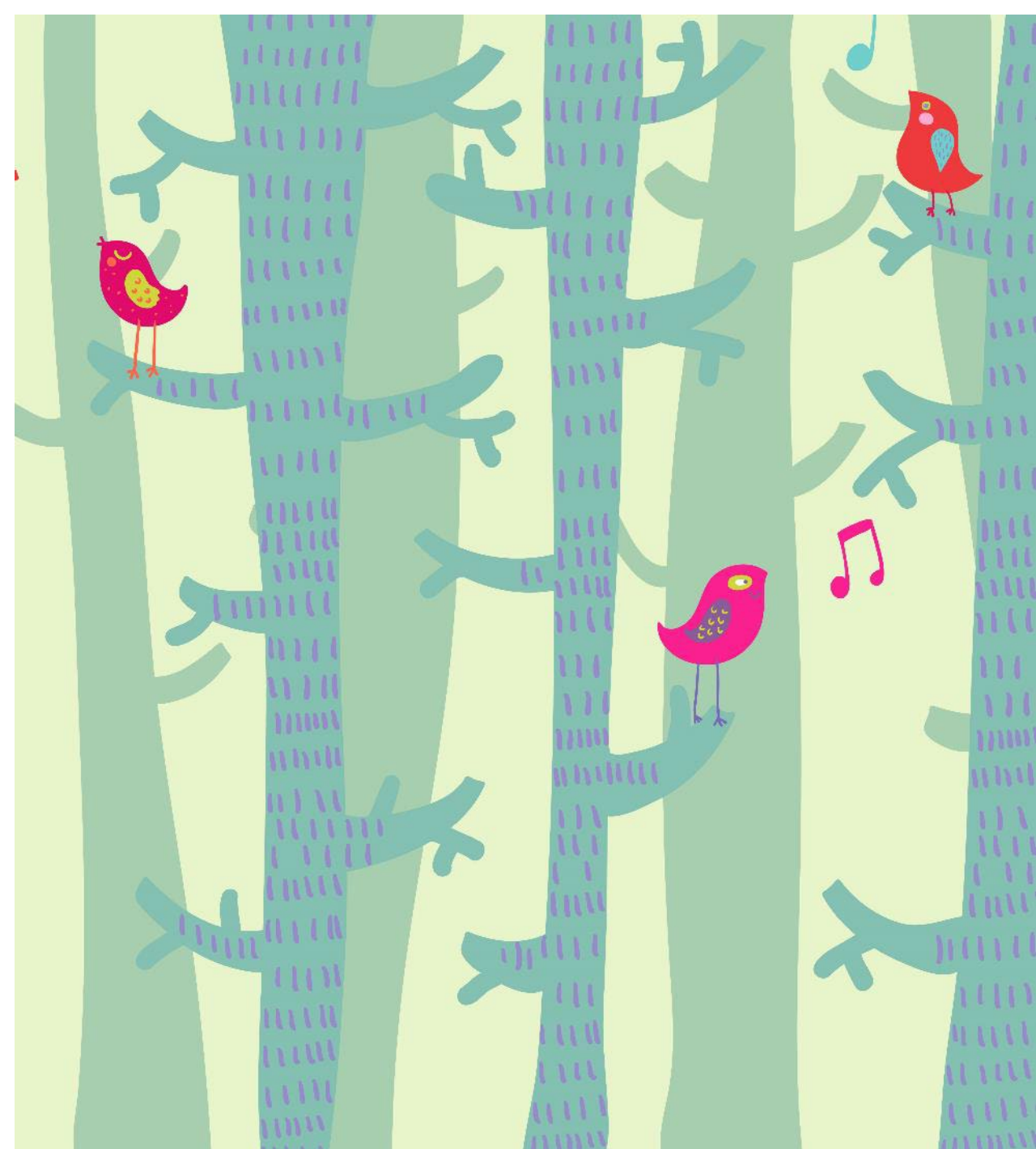
The Elder Services Ramps and Rails program provides ramps to assist the elder with safer and easier access into and out of the home. A referral is made to the Registered Nurse, who then assesses the need for the ramp. The ramps are custom built and installed by a local company owned by a Sault Tribe member. Depending on cost of materials, Elder Services is able to coordinate the installation of 4-5 ramps per year to elders throughout the service area, typically during the warmer weather months.

Ramps: 3

ELDER OUTREACH PROGRAM

The four full time Outreach Coordinators that cover the seven county service area assist the elders in a variety of ways. They attend the Elder Sub-Committee Meetings in their respective areas, coordinate social events, assist with program related surveys, and help to connect the elder with both tribal and non-tribal programs that will assist them in their area. And so much more.





OUTREACH BY AREA

SAULT: 1,316

ST. IGNACE: 2,330

MACKINAC ISLAND: 29

HESSEL: 247

MANISTIQUE: 1,143

MUNISING: 1,078

MARQUETTE: 588

ESCANABA: 1,321

NAUBINWAY: 158

NEWBERRY: 123

OUTSIDE SERVICE AREA: 609

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

PHONE CONTACTS: 2,866

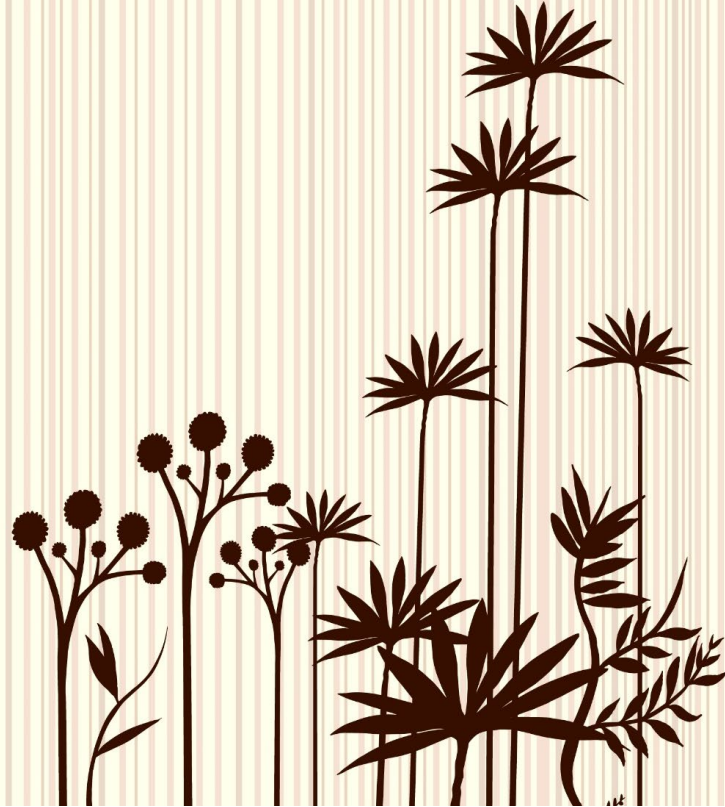
HOME VISITS: 1,051

EMAILS SENT: 857

ASSISTANCE WITH APPLICATIONS: 383

IN-PERSON INTERACTIONS: 3,337

MAILINGS: 363



ELDER SUB-COMMITTEES

MEETING SCHEDULE & LOCATIONS

Unit I - Sault Ste. Marie: 1st Wednesday at 12:00 p.m. - Sault Elder Building

Unit II – Hessel: 3rd Monday at 12:00 p.m. - Hessel Tribal Center

Unit II – Newberry: 3rd Friday at 10:30 a.m. - Zellar's Restaurant

Unit II – Naubinway: Last Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. - Naubinway Pavilion
(No Meetings Jan/Feb/March)

Unit 3 - St. Ignace: 2nd Thursday at 12:00 p.m. – St. Ignace Elder Complex

Unit 4 – Manistique: 2nd Wednesday 12:00 p.m. - Manistique Tribal Center

Unit 4 – Escanaba: 2nd Wednesday 4:00 p.m. – Escanaba Community Center

Unit 5 – Munising: 1st Thursday at 11:00 a.m. - Munising Tribal Health Center

Unit 5 – Marquette: 1st Thursday 5:00 p.m. – Marquette Community Center

Elder Advisory Council (EAC): 3rd Friday 1:00 p.m. - Newberry Tribal Center (March to October)





ELDER MEETINGS

There are nine elder sub-committees that meet each month across the service area. Meals are served at each meeting, either prepared by the Cooks in the Elder Meal Programs, or provided by a variety of caterers across the service area, and one group meets at a restaurant.

Meeting Participants: 1,520

Sault: 219

Marquette: 176

St Ignace: 231

Escanaba: 177

Hessel: 133

Naubinway: 73

Manistique: 243

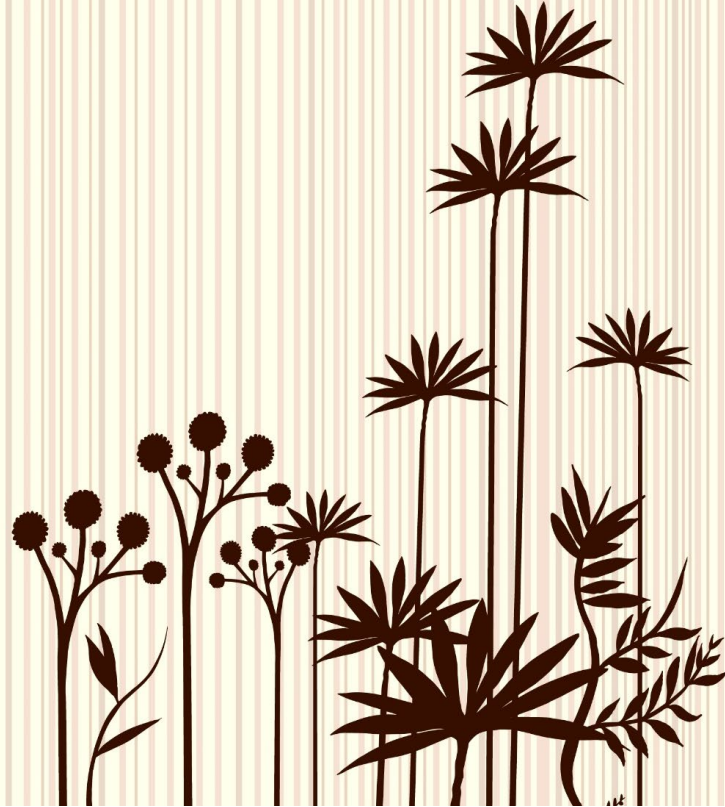
Newberry: 121

Munising: 247

ELDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Elder Advisory Committee is comprised of members of each sub-committee, and also meets once per month to discuss what is going on in their areas, as well as bring back information to their community. The Elder Advisory Committee also coordinates the Elder Advisory Committee scholarship. This annual scholarship is awarded to graduating seniors that plan to continue their education at a trade school, college or university. Each sub-committee contributes funds toward the scholarship on an annual basis. One or more of the members of the Elder Advisory Committee reviews the scholarships and selects the winner.





GRANT FUNDING

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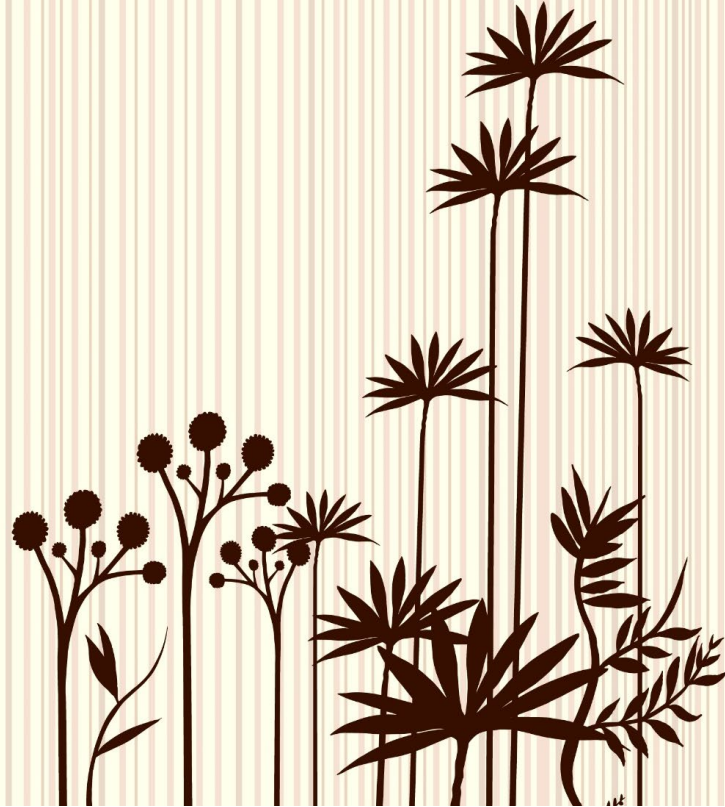
Elder Services is fortunate to have a number of grants to support our programming.

- The Title VI Elder Nutrition and Nutrition Services Incentive Program both support our meal programs. The federal grant runs on a three year cycle, on an April – March calendar.
- The UPCAP grants are at the state level and allow us to partner with agencies to provide services to Tribal Elders in our more rural areas of the service area.

**Grant 1: Title
VI Elder
Nutrition
Meal
Program
(CC 2724)**

**Grant 2:
Nutrition
Services
Incentive
Program
(CC 2721)**

**Grants 3 & 4:
Upper
Peninsula
Area Agency
on Aging –
UPCAP
(cc 3551 & 3553)**



UPCOMING & ONGOING PROJECTS



Continue to Support Program Opportunities Throughout the Service Area

Goal: Enhance Social and Recreational Activities

Tactics:

Promote, encourage and engage elders in events. It's Elder Picnic Season!

Support Elder Services team members in acquiring chauffeurs licenses to utilize mobility buses for larger group outings.

Support Elder Services team members in flexing days and schedules in order to accommodate assisting with transportation to a variety of outings.

Introduce More Congregate Meal Opportunities

Goal: Improve Access to Healthcare

Tactic: Offer additional opportunities for elders to access a nutritious meal outside of the once a month meeting and meal.

Tactic: Establish meal vouchers for Newberry and Naubinway elders for local restaurants, similar to the Mackinac Island meal program.

Tactic: Bring on additional caterers, and coordinate with already established caterers to provide additional meals for elders at the community centers in Escanaba, Marquette and Munising.





Offer Opportunities for Supplemental Insurance & estate planning Education

Goal: Ensure Financial Security

Tactics:

Invite insurance agents to visit Elder Sub-Committee meetings to educate elder groups on the importance of having a supplemental plan.

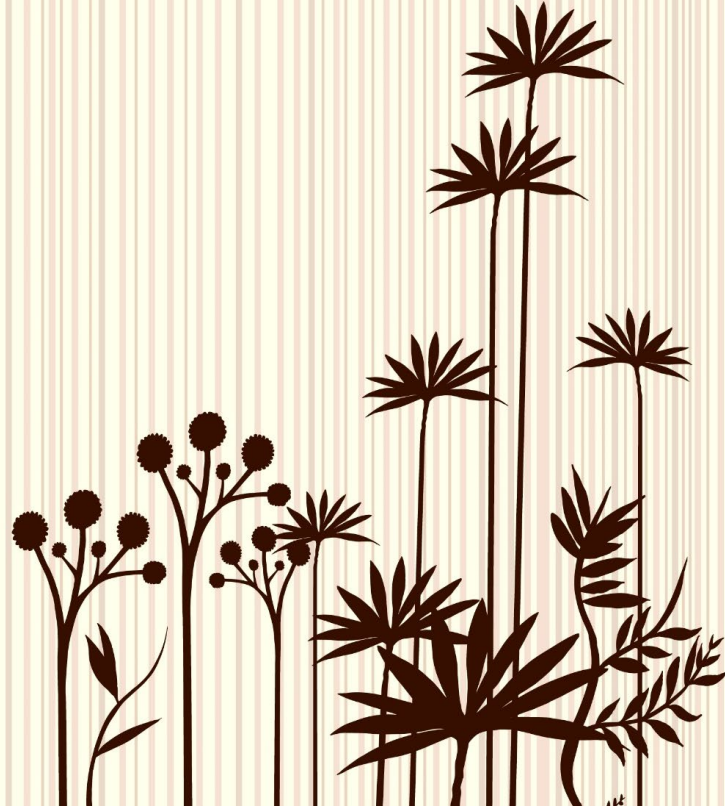
Invite attorney from Michigan Indian Legal Services to Elder Sub-Committee meetings to educate elder groups on the various estate planning options available to them.

FACILITY UPDATES

The interior renovations for Elder Services have started.

- New flooring throughout our portion of the building.
- Updates in the womens' and mens' bathrooms, to make them ADA/handicap accessible.
- Storage sheds in backyard painted to match the building.
- Drywall and paint touch ups in process throughout the building.
- Lobby/desk area upgrades in process.





ELDER SERVICES SCRAPBOOK





Elder Services had a number of senior LSSU nursing students spend a clinical day with our Registered Nurse during the winter semester. The students enjoyed interacting with the Elders and provided lunch and learns on important topics. We look forward to having them again this fall.



We are honored to partner with the WIOA Program. This summer we had three student workers, one of whom gets to work with her grandmother who is an Elder Worker.





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