



# Strategic Plan

to Increase Housing & Services for  
Older Adults

Slayton, MN | 2020 - 2025 



PREPARED BY:  
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## Planning Partners:

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City of  
Slayton



## Acknowledgments:

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### Operation Prairie Venture (OPV) Board

- Lynn Johnson, President
- Leeny MaloneBeach, Vice President
- Molly Malone, Secretary/Treasurer
- Connie Shaver
- Cal Wurpts

### Slayton City Council

- Chris Jacobson
- Kate Harmsen
- Mark Boerboom
- Blake Heronimus

Josh Malchow, Slayton City Administrator

Miron Carney, Slayton City Mayor

For help distributing and collecting surveys

- Left Bank Cafe
- Plaid Moose
- Slayton Public Library
- Wheel Herald

### Survey Participants

#### UMN Extension Southwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership

- Rajeev Atha, Graduate Student in Architecture, UMN
- Virajita Singh, Research Fellow, Center for Sustainable Building Research (CSBR), UMN

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# Introduction

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The sudden closure of the Slayton Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Slayton, Minnesota in May 2019 created the need to address housing and service needs for older adults in the area. As an initial response, a group of citizens, led by Slayton Attorney Lynn Johnson, held a listening session with state experts. The key takeaway from this meeting was that collaboration would be key to finding solutions to the community's concerns.

Between August and December 2019, support and momentum began to build. Several concerned citizens and local groups reached out to Lynn Johnson to discuss ways to move forward, locally, with housing and service options for the community's older adults.

In December 2019, Lynn Johnson organized a stakeholder meeting to discuss concerns and options. Represented at this meeting were: concerned citizens, religious leaders, the Center for Rural Affairs, the City of Slayton, Hospice of Murray County, Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging, Murray County Medical Center, Oasis Homecare, Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership, Southwest Regional Development Commission, and Wonderworld Preschool.

Action steps from the December 2019 meeting were to complete a feasibility study of the vacant nursing home to determine whether the facility and/or grounds were an option for rehabilitation or reuse. The Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership hit obstacles in being able to complete that plan; thus, local stakeholders decided to pivot.

In February 2020, Lynn Johnson spoke to the Slayton City Council about ways to shift the feasibility funding the city had offered toward strategic planning efforts.

Lynn and several other concerned citizens decided the best way to organize activities was to establish a formal, 501 (c) (3) non-profit called Operation Prairie Venture (OPV). Four volunteers, including Cal Wurpts, Molly Malone, Leeny MaloneBeach, and Connie Humphrey Shaver joined Lynn Johnson on the board.

In March 2020, the City of Slayton provided funding for the Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) to work on strategic planning efforts. This plan is one of the end results from that initiative.

In conjunction with the strategic planning efforts with the SRDC, Operation Prairie Venture received a project grant to work with the University of Minnesota Extension's Southwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (RSDP) in June 2020. This grant supported a 13-week architecture and design internship for the development of a model intergenerational neighborhood that would provide housing options for older adults and childcare for young children.

# Process

The city designated Lynn Johnson, President of Operation Prairie Venture (OPV), as the point person for managing the strategic planning process with Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC).

- SRDC conducted and/or participated in a series of meetings to coordinate the planning process and create mission/vision/value statements for OPV.
- SRDC assisted with web design and social media and gave guidance on a communications plan for OPV to raise community awareness of the issue and to solicit ideas about how to move forward.
- SRDC created a survey, disseminated it and collected the data. Leeny MaloneBeach at OPV provided much of the analysis [See Appendices A & B].
- RSDP project members had weekly meetings with OPV board members and hosted two virtual community meetings. Ideas generated from those meetings have been incorporated into the strategic plan.

## OPV: Mission | Vision | Values

**March 24, 2020:** SRDC staff met with Lynn Johnson, OPV Board President, and Molly Malone, OPV Secretary/Treasurer to discuss expectations, roles, tasks and timelines for the strategic planning process.

**March 26, 2020:** SRDC staff sent the OPV board members an email preparing them to think about mission and vision statements. This email was followed up with a short survey for the board to gather their initial thoughts and feedback. The table below was provided to help the group to define terms and provide guidance.

	Mission	Vision
<b>Defines:</b>	Core purpose & focus	Aspirations & wider impact we're aiming to create
<b>Timespan:</b>	Based in the Present & Near Future Everyday	Based in the Far Future Someday
<b>Answers:</b>	<b>What</b> do we do?/What problem are we aiming to solve? What are we trying to accomplish? What makes us different? <b>Who</b> do we serve? <b>How</b> do we serve them?	<b>Why</b> is it important to the organization? To the region? <b>Where</b> do we want to be in the future? <b>What</b> do we want to see happen?
<b>Represents:</b>	A roadmap to get to the vision The Effect Something to be accomplished	The destination and/or the motivation The Cause Something to pursue

**April 3, 2020:** SRDC staff met with the OPV board to discuss results from the short survey and to begin drafting statements. Common themes that emerged were that they wanted to be community-based, grassroots oriented, innovative, and intergenerational. They liked the idea of a “village” instead of an institution. They had concerns about an outside developer coming in and creating a new institution, but then abandoning the community 20-30 years down the road. They wanted to encourage more local/regional investment and/or ownership. During the meeting participants brainstormed answers to the following questions:

1. What is it that OPV will do?
2. How will OPV accomplish its goals?
3. Why does OPV want to do the things listed from the first two questions?

Some key terms generated a great deal of discussion.

- “Seniors” vs “older adults” vs “elders”.
- What is “local?” Is it just Slayton, or is it Murray County or is it the Southwest Minnesota region?

**April 10, 2020:** Before this meeting, OPV board members virtually rated and evaluated draft statements that staff generated from input received on April 3rd. The Board went through the OPV draft mission statement to decide on language for the working draft mission statement. They discussed location vs service areas. The benefits are much broader than Slayton, but the location of the space would be in Slayton.

Group draft 1: OPV’s mission is to build innovative, intergenerational services and spaces that enable all generations to live and thrive.

Group drafting 2: OPV’s mission is to build innovative, intergenerational services and spaces to create a vibrant community.

Working draft: OPV’s mission is to build local, innovative, intergenerational services and spaces that enable all generations to live and thrive in a vibrant community.

Regarding the vision, initial key words and phrases that emerged were:



“Age in place; optimized/optimal; serving beyond the county; high quality; talking about children; older adults, and employees and all of them are served and enriched; creative; workforce/jobs; healthy way of living and aging; security; go-to-venue/destination; housing shortages will be decreased; opportunities; asset; we don’t want an institution, but instead will have a \_\_\_\_\_ (destination, space); staying/retain/attract/encourage to remain in the area, not only keep people in the area but also attract people because of; infused in the community; dignity; respect; self-sustaining; model program; everyone”

**May 1, 2020:** SRDC Staff met with OPV to further develop the vision/value statements. Staff utilized another short survey and several emails to refine draft statements in the interim between meetings. During the meeting staff utilized a table that simulated drop down statements to assist with editing, as seen below.

Draft Vision—Select from the Blue Options						
Our	commitment to enriching the lives of	older adults and	aging-in-place	is	a	model for rural areas
	care and living solutions for		to community collaboration		a sustainable	America
			to continuing care within the community		the	

During this meeting, the group finalized their mission/vision/value statements, as seen on the next page. The group also discussed the following items:

**Logo:** They selected a logo for Operation Prairie Venture from designer Mark Forton. This decision then allowed the group to move forward on social media and website design.

**Website:** Connie and Jessica provided an update on their meeting discussions. Jessica would begin working on a website template through Wix. Domain names were discussed and the group wanted to use opv.org as the main domain name and also have [operationprairieventure.org](http://operationprairieventure.org) reroute to opv.org. An info@opv.org email address would be added.

**Community Engagement:** SRDC staff decided to begin work on survey planning and engagement strategies through May, with a plan to launch community engagement and outreach strategies in June.





OPERATION PRAIRIE VENTURE

SLAYTON • MINNESOTA

OUR VISION

Our care and living solutions serve as  
*the model*  
for rural America.

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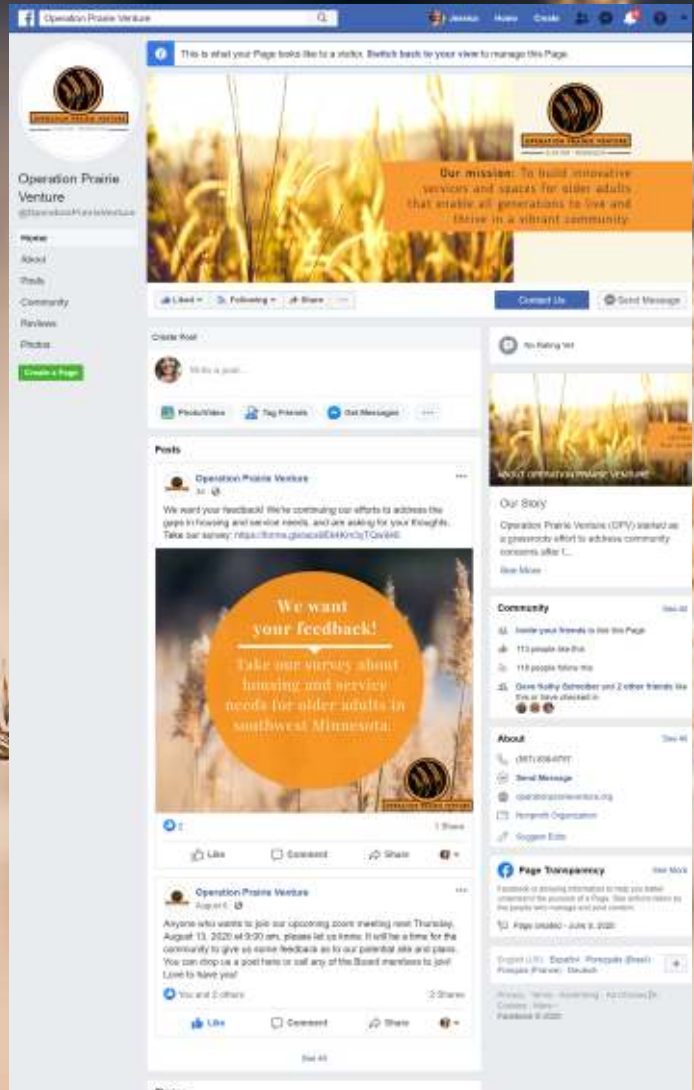
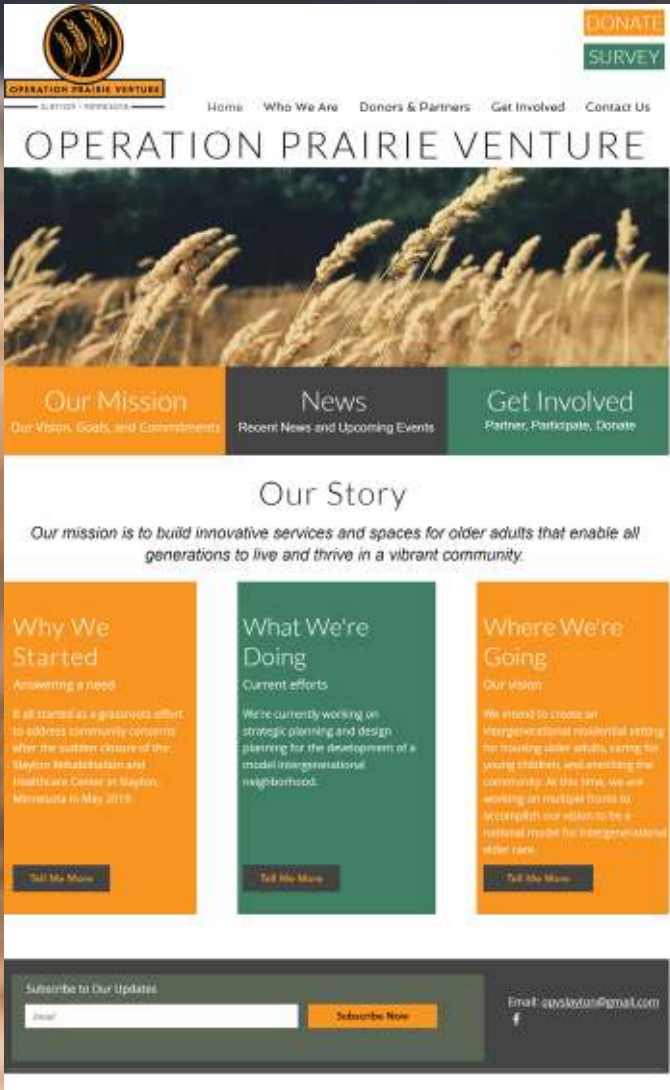
OUR MISSION

To build innovative services and spaces for older adults that enable all generations to live and thrive in a  
*vibrant community.*

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OUR VALUES

- Compassionate, quality care regardless of income
- Intergenerational living and support
- Sustainable spaces and services
- Grassroots leadership
- Competitive employment opportunities
- Collaborative partnerships
- Regional focus in a central location



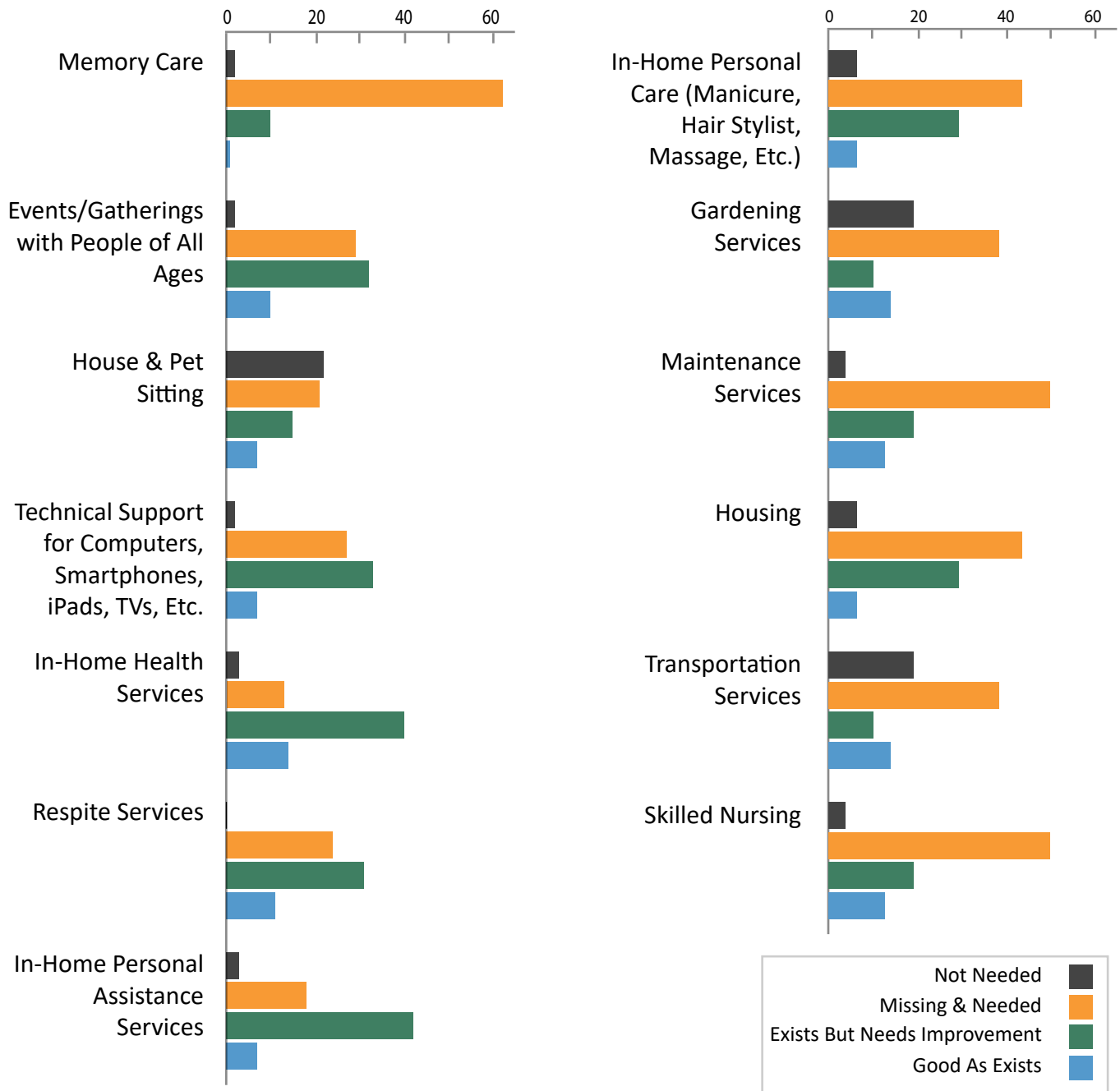
Operation Prairie Venture’s website and Facebook page were published in July 2020 as part of the community engagement strategies. Operation Prairie Venture maintains ownership of these pages.



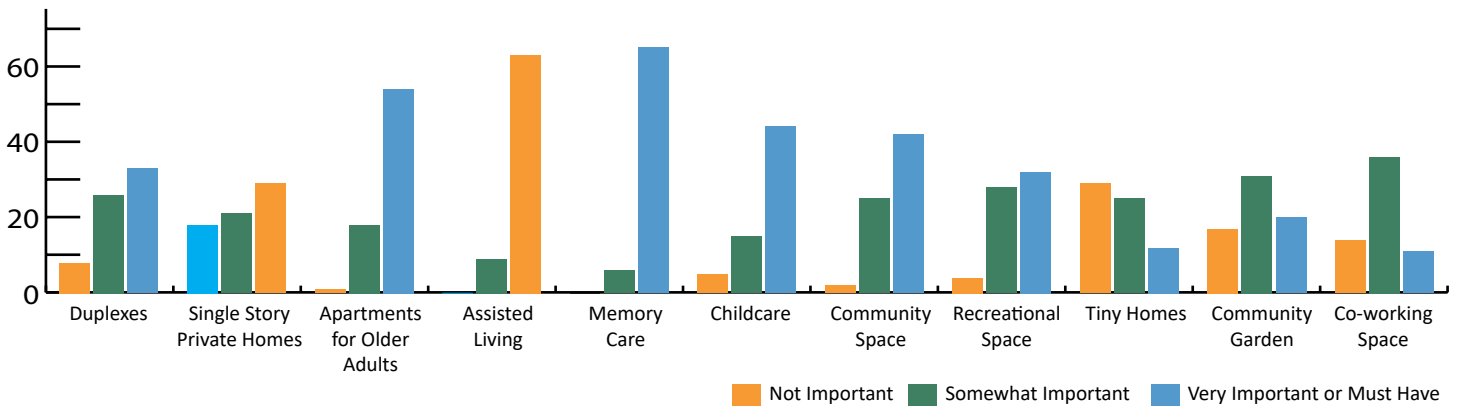
# Survey and Results

SRDC staff sent out a community-based survey on July 21, 2020 in both online and paper-based formats. Physical locations for picking up surveys included The Plaid Moose, Left Bank Cafe, and the Slayton Public Library. Surveys were also sent to area churches. Additionally, the survey was published in full in one issue of the Wheel Herald. If completing a paper-based survey, participants could mail them in or drop them off at the library or the SRDC office.

When asked what services are missing from Murray County or need improvement, memory care (n = 60) was the most cited response by a large margin. Maintenance services (n = 39) and housing (n = 39) were the next highest category of need, followed by skilled nursing (n = 31) and in-home personal care services (n = 31). In-home personal care services referred to manicurists, hair stylists, masseuses, etc.



Another major category of inquiry was around the type of housing projects that should be pursued. When the responses for *must have* and *very important* were combined, preferences were clear. Building for memory care (n = 65), assisted living (n = 63), and apartments (n = 54) were the top three priorities. These selections were then followed by facilities for child care (n = 44), community spaces (n = 42), duplexes (n = 33), single-story private homes (n = 29), community gardens (n = 26), tiny homes (n = 12), and shared work spaces (n = 11). Overall, these data indicate that respondents see a great need for memory care and assisted living. To a slightly lesser degree, they are also in favor of apartments, child care, community and recreational spaces. Interest in tiny homes and shared work space was marginal.



Leeny MaloneBeach’s survey analysis concludes:

“In sum, memory care and assisted living are seen as the most pressing needs in Slayton and its surrounding area. In addition, independent living spaces are needed and respondents are interested in some interaction with children. In lieu of improved housing options, an array of other services is needed. Put another way, assisted living and memory care, and childcare would resolve numerous needs that older adults in Murray County are experiencing.”

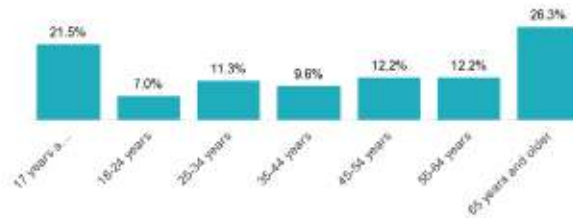
You will find a much more detailed and full survey analysis in Appendix B. You will find the survey questionnaire in Appendix A.

# Issue Background

In both conversations and in survey responses, local residents expressed a strong desire to “age in place.” Families want to have the option to have all generations live and thrive locally, and Slayton will need to continue to adapt to changing demographics in the coming decades.

In Slayton (pop 2,008), like much of rural Minnesota, the population is aging with over 38% of its population 45+ years old. Of that group, 26% are 65+ years old. As such, the demand for housing and services that is tailored to older adults is only going to increase in the coming years.

**Slayton, population by age group**



A report published by the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging (MNRAAA) analyzes service gaps in the City of Slayton and Murray County. In the report, MNRAAA concluded that Slayton needs additional in-home respite and chore services, and more long-term care and short-term rehabilitation. The report sites that “In review of the 2015-2016 Minnesota Department of Human Services Gaps Analysis for Region 8 (this report utilized as it focused on older adults), that most of the older population that has or may move out of the area would like to move back *‘if they had adequate supports’*.”

According to the report, within the community of Slayton and Murray County, the following services are currently being provided to assist older adults, in accordance with the Minnesota Department of Health Registry.

Facility Name	Registered Service	Units
Prairie View, Inc	Intermediate Care Facility Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities	14
Hospice of Murray County	Hospice	5
Sunrise Terrace Congregate Living Center	Housing with Services	20
Lindenwood Assisted Living	Housing with Services, Assisted Living Services	16
Murray County Medical Center (Hospital and Clinic)	Critical Access Hospital	25
Maple Lawn Senior Care	Skilled Nursing Facility	54
Mapleview Estates	Housing with Services	24
Maplewood Court Assisted Living	Housing with Services, Assisted Living Services	15

Also, within the geographical area are other services such as<sup>6</sup>:

Congregate Dining Sites	
Fulda Senior Center	Also provides Iona 1 times a week Home Delivered Meals
Slayton Senior Center	Also provides Currie 1 times a week Home Delivered Meals

Home Health Care Agencies	Area
Shetek Home Care	All of Murray County
Good Samaritan Society - Windom	All of Murray County
Sanford Worthington	30 mile radius of Worthington
Pipestone County Home Health Agency	All of Murray County

(Table Source: MNRAAA Report)

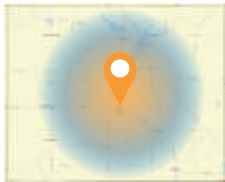
The full MNRAAA Report can be found in Appendix C.

## Guiding Principles:



### **COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS**

During the planning process, a number of stakeholders were identified; however, the depth of involvement varied greatly. An issue as large as this one will need the help of many partners over a large timespan. The city would benefit from continuously building on existing relationships while being open to engaging new players in the housing and services space.



### **REGIONAL FOCUS**

While the City of Slayton is focused on locating facilities within city limits, the housing and service options will have a broad regional effect in Murray County and beyond. Surrounding areas also have a need for additional service and housing options for older adults. Creating more of these amenities would serve to retain and attract people to the community.



### **COMPETITIVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Slayton wants people of all ages to have opportunities to live, grow and thrive. Having jobs that pay a living wage creates a strong, local economic multiplier effect.



### **SUSTAINABLE OR RESILIENT SERVICES**

When the Golden Living Center abruptly closed, it created a large gap in housing and services that are not easy to fill. Any future solutions need to be flexible and sustainable over time to avoid another crisis in local care.



# Goal A

## Increase Housing Options & Availability for Older Adults

As older adults move into new housing, their previous homes become available for younger generations and potential employees seeking housing opportunities within the city. In addition to new housing developments, Slayton will also explore creating incentive to renovate older properties to create attractive and inexpensive housing using current housing supply.

### »» Strategies for Goal A

**Intergenerational Village, as outlined in the Southwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (RSDP) [Report](#) (See Appendix D for full report).**

- Explore land options.
- Seek investors.
- Contract with an architect for design plans.
- Fundraise.
- Partner with OPV to build its capacity to accomplish its mission, vision, and goals.

#### **Golden Living Property**

- Seek proposals for land development.
- Develop incentives for development.

#### **Prairie Estates Development Area (single story homes & duplexes)**

- Encourage developers to build single story homes and duplexes based on speculation.
- Market the available parcels to targeted populations.

#### **Other Properties**

- Identify any other properties for renovation.
- Identify new building opportunities in undeveloped spaces or spaces for redevelopment.

## Goal B

# Increase Services for Older Adults

Being able to continue living in the same community as members grow older was important to many people in the survey and in conversations with OPV. Slayton wants people of all ages to have opportunities to live, work and thrive locally. As people age, the city will work to bring services into the community that allow residents to be as independent as possible, and keep families close together.

### »» Strategies for Goal B

#### Memory Care

- Explore one or more options for a memory care facility, which could include:
  - The Golden Living property,
  - The village concept from work with OPV and RSDP, and
  - Other potential empty lots or properties that could be redeveloped.

#### Increase Home-Based Services

- Market the need for home maintenance services including home repairs, snow removal and lawn care.
- Market the need for home care services which includes providing personal care, medical care, IT services, and running errands.
- Partner with school and/or community organizations to provide home-based services itemized above.
- Create a community-based task force to work on creating and promoting home-based services.

#### Childcare

- If possible, integrate childcare into the same facility or complex of facilities that also provide assisted living and memory care services.
- If not co-located, assist with building partnerships between childcare providers and facilities that provide services for older adults for mutual benefits.

# Goal C

## Build Local Capacity

Slayton and Operation Prairie Venture cannot accomplish their goals around housing and services for older adults without building the social, political, financial and human capital that is needed to succeed. By building capacity in all of these capitals, the city will be ready to respond quickly to future opportunities.

### »» Strategies for Goal C

#### Stakeholder Development

- Strengthen current relationships with Operation Prairie Venture, Murray County EDA, Murray County Hospital, MNRAAA, ACE, and Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership.
- Explore other partnerships for funding, services, and housing development based on how needs/priorities progress or change.
- Create a targeted outreach plan for each stakeholder based on what they will provide, such as finances, services, volunteers, expertise, etc.

#### Team Development

- Create a city task force with representatives from organizations that could include, but is not limited to, Operation Prairie Venture, Murray County EDA, Murray County Hospital, MNRAAA, ACE, and the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership.
- Designate key lead(s) to coordinate and be a liaison between stakeholders.

#### Funding

- Explore and apply for grants/programs (county, city, state, national).
- Identify and reach out to potential investors.
- Seek private donations (either through City EDA or OPV depending on the specifics of the project).
- Reach out to foundations (local, state, national).

## Next Steps & Conclusion

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As of the writing of this plan (January 2021), the City of Slayton had received four separate proposals for the development of the Golden Living property. From those proposals, the city decided to move forward with the proposal from Minnesota Signature Care to build a 24-bed facility (14 assisted living and 10 memory care) with plans to open their doors by January 2022. The city planned to handle the demolition of the current building to deliver a clean site for new construction to Minnesota Signature Care. This project will use 1.8 of the 2.8 acres at the site, which creates an opportunity for other another development project on the remaining one acre of land. (Source: Murray County Wheel article “Nursing Home Redevelopment Project to Start in the Spring, January 25, 2021, p1A)

### **Building the Team**

Getting a developer from Minnesota to build a 24-bed facility for assisted living and memory care is a major victory for the city, all stakeholders, and concerned citizens. This project alone; however, will not meet all of the local needs for housing and services for older adults. The city has the opportunity to build on the momentum of this project to build new partnerships, strengthen existing relationships, and pursue creative venues to fulfill the remaining housing and service needs in Slayton. A recommended next step would be to identify a key organization or leader to spearhead a team of representatives from the city, county, hospital, hospice, Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership, OPV, and other key stakeholders to continue work on these issues.

A plan is only useful if a dedicated team is regularly monitoring progress toward the goals and objectives contained in that plan. It must be a living document that is regularly updated to reflect current conditions and needs. Another key recommendation would be for the designated team to take the general goals and strategies contained in this plan and create a concrete action plan with clearly designated tasks, persons responsible, and deadlines.

Addressing housing and services for older adults has positive ripple effects for the entire community. As older adults downsize, new housing becomes available to a younger generation. Building new facilities creates jobs and builds a stronger tax base. Successfully working to build projects generates greater social capital and higher quality of life, which then makes the community a more attractive place to live. These combined efforts will contribute to a place everyone is excited to call “home.”



## Appendices

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- 18 A. Survey
- 21 B. Leeny MaloneBeach's Survey Analysis
- 39 C. MNRAAA Report
- [Link](#) D. RSDP Report: "Intergenerational Village"

## Operation Prairie Venture Intergenerational Housing and Care Survey

1. What services are missing or need improvement for older adults?

	Not Needed	Missing And Needed	Exists But Needs Improvement	Good As Exists
Memory Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Events/Gatherings with People of All Ages	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
House and Pet Sitting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technical Support for Computers, Smartphones, Ipads, Televisions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In-Home Health Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Respite Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In-Home Personal Assistance Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In-Home Personal Care (manicure, hair stylist, massage, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardening Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skilled Nursing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. What comments do you have about service needs for older adults?

3. What types of building projects should Operation Prairie Venture pursue?

	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important	Must Have
Duplexes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Single Story Private Homes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Apartments for Older Adults	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assisted Living	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Memory Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Childcare	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreational Space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tiny Homes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Garden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-Working Space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





www.operationprairieventure.org

# Intergenerational Housing and Care Survey

SLAYTON - MINNESOTA

OPERATION PRAIRIE VENTURE



### Return to:

Operation Prairie Venture  
C/O Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC)  
2401 Broadway Ave  
Slayton, MN 56172

### Drop-off locations at:

- Slayton Library
- Front Entry of SRDC Office



Planning Partners:

Thank You!

The sudden closure of the Slayton Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in May 2019 left locals scrambling to find new homes and services for parents and loved ones. To address this gap in housing and service needs, a group of concerned citizens, led by Lynn Johnson, created a new nonprofit -- Operation Prairie Venture (OPV). OPV's mission "is to build innovative services and spaces for older adults that enable all generations to live and thrive in a vibrant community." To fulfill this mission will require the feedback, leadership and energy from a wide-range of people in Slayton and beyond.

OPV continues its efforts to address the gaps in housing and service needs, and is asking for your thoughts. Please take a few moments to answer the following questions. The results of this survey will inform the design of Operation Prairie Venture.





## Executive Summary

### Intergenerational Housing and Care Survey

#### Procedure

At the request of Lynn Johnson, Operation Prairie Venture Board Chair, a nonrandom survey was deployed in Murray County to determine the wants and needs of the local community concerning housing, health and social care particularly for older adults. The Intergenerational Housing and Care Survey was funded by the City of Slayton and conducted by the Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC). It was available through the local newspapers, banks, local churches, the library, the senior center, numerous businesses and agencies, online via the Operation Prairie Venture website and social media. The survey was available for four weeks. Paper surveys were collected by OPV board members, mailed, or delivered to the Lynn Johnson Law Office or SRDC Office. All others were delivered online.

Eighty-one responses were received. No demographic data was collected although many respondents included their email and/residential addresses. The number of responses varies across questions; the number of responses is included in the discussion of each.

#### Survey Instrument

The survey comprised 13 quantitative questions with categorical response options: *not needed*, *missing and needed*, *exists but needs improvement*, and *good as exists*. Six open-ended questions included:

- What comments do you have about service needs for older adults?
- What types of building projects should Operation Prairie Venture pursue?
- If these services and/or spaces were to be combined, which would best fit together in one location?
- What comments do you have about housing needs for older adults in the Slayton area? We want to hear your story.
- How has the closure of the Slayton Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center impacted you, your family and/or your community?

●  
The survey ended with two quantitative questions regarding interest in contributing to Operation Prairie Venture:

- What ways would you like to be involved in building innovative services and spaces for older adults that enable all generations to live and thrive in a vibrant community? (Check all that apply).
- Additional Comments.
- Would you like to receive updates from Operation Prairie Venture? If so, please add your contact information.

## Results

When asked what services are missing from Murray County or need improvement, memory care ( $n = 60$ ) was the most cited response. Cited equally, maintenance services ( $n = 39$ ) and housing ( $n = 39$ ) were the next highest category of need. These were followed by skilled nursing ( $n = 31$ ) and in-home personal care services ( $n = 31$ ). In-home personal care services referred to manicurist, hair stylist, masseuse.

In identifying services that are available but not adequate, in-home personal care services ( $n = 42$ ) received the highest rank. This was followed closely by in-home health services ( $n = 40$ ). Technical support ( $n = 33$ ), noted as assistance with computers, ipads, cell phones and other communication devices was equal to that of transportation ( $n = 33$ ). The need for community events and social gatherings followed closely at  $n = 32$  and respite care ( $n = 31$ ). The responses to this question overlapped slightly with the responses to the previous question and reflects the perceived need for the delivery of services to clients rather than services that they would drive to access.

When asked to identify services that are good as they currently exist, transportation ( $n = 19$ ) garnered the most responses. In-home health services ( $n = 14$ ) received 14 responses followed by tech support ( $n = 11$ ), skilled nursing care ( $n = 11$ ), and gardening assistance ( $n = 11$ ). Only one respondent indicated that the need for memory care was adequate.

The results of the survey indicated that the need for gardening assistance ( $n = 30$ ) was good at the current level. Fifteen respondents saw no need for gardening services. In terms of services that are not needed, two respondents indicated that memory care ( $n = 2$ ). and skilled nursing care are not needed. One respondent noted that housing is meeting current needs. No one indicated that transportation was not a service need.

Looking specifically at memory care ( $n = 62$ ) the area identified as the highest need overall, two respondents indicated that *no need existed* and one respondent cited it as a *need already met*. Ten responded that memory care is *available but it needs to be improved*. In this case, *no need* ( $n = 2$ ) and *good as exists* ( $n = 1$ ) may be redundant and could be collapsed into a single category.

Maintenance service was viewed as *missing and needed* by 39 respondents and *exists but needs improvement* by 15 respondents, summing to 64 individuals who see a need for attention to maintenance services. A total of 13 respondents see *no need* ( $n = 3$ ) or *needs already met* ( $n = 10$ ).

Housing ( $n = 1$ ), a particular interest of this survey, was not seen as a need by one respondent and four others ( $N = 4$ ) felt that housing needs were adequately addressed. Here, too, these responses can be collapsed into a single group of five, versus the 33 who checked *missing and needed* and the 27 who felt housing *exists but needs improvement*. Seen from this perspective, a clear need for more and better housing can be inferred.

Skilled nursing was seen as *missing and needed* by 31 respondents and *exists but needs improvement* by 25 respondents. Thus, 56 individuals have concerns about the adequacy of current skilled nursing services in the area. Conversely, 13 respondents see the absence of need or that the needs are currently addressed well.

In home personal care services showed a slightly different trend than the services discussed so far. In this grouping, 42 respondents opined that services were *available but in need of improvement* whereas 18 said that the services were *absent and needed*. Overall, 60 respondents were concerned about the adequacy of in-home personal care. Ten respondents felt *no need* or that *needs* were well *addressed* in regard to personal care services. To some extent this may reflect a gender bias in the respondents. Specifically, the items listed to clarify what personal care services are tend to be used more by women than by men. In addition, women are more inclined to partake in surveys than men, and the older the survey population, the greater the representation of women. While these factors are likely to include a gender bias, they also reflect the reality of population aging and the need for these services in the context of Murray County.

In-home health care service depicts yet another pattern. Here, 40 noted the *need for improvement in existing services* and the opinion that the *needs are well met* ( $n = 14$ ) is second. Thirteen respondents felt that the in-home health services were *needed but absent* and three indicated that the *needs are met*. In this case, 53 wanted better or more in-home health care; 16 saw no concern regarding in-home health care.

### **What comments do you have about service needs for older adults?**

#### Memory Care

- Memory care housing is a need. Memory care units within a 60-mile radius of Slayton have waiting lists.
- Memory Care should be a primary item as there is little to no assistance in Murray County for this illness.
- Need a home for dementia and Alzheimer's.
- With the increased dementia diagnoses services for this is urgent.
- Memory care, and/ or elder care assisted living facilities needed.
- Good and active memory care is needed in an immediate time frame

#### Home Care:

- Additional services for Home Care is also needed. There is no home care within a 30-mile radius that offers daily services to Murray County residents, for example to help with getting dressed, apply support stockings, medication compliance reminders from pill caddies, just to name a few. These services aren't billable to Medicare or other insurances. Home Care is very expensive for the services provided. Elderly residents who live in our county who live on limited income and have limited assets aren't able to afford services and don't qualify for a

waivered service to help pay for services and then there are some county residents able to afford the services, but don't want to pay due to the expense (wanting to save the farm and assets for their children or feel the housing or services are very expensive refusing to pay).

### Transportation

- Transportation needed for wheelchair is very limited. Bus is available thru Action Community Services, but is not available after 4:30 pm and weekends. More difficult on a short term notice if a person lives outside of Slayton. Transportation for appointments outside of the county is very difficult to find and is very expensive which most elderly aren't able to afford again, especially if anyone should need a wheelchair.
- I have not used the Transportation Services but have heard it is very expensive. Why does it have to be so expensive? The driver has to wait many times & uses it to buy groc & other items -- so gets a free chance to do that buying out of town.

### Nursing Home Care

- Nursing home placement is also getting more difficult, especially those that need quite a bit of care or have memory deficits due to the staffing shortages in the nursing homes where they aren't able to meet the needs requested and refuse the admission. These are just a few of the priority needs that I see.

### Housing

- More local senior housing options from independent living to assisted through skilled.
- I know there is a shortage of housing for seniors in my opinion.
- more congregate living
- There is not enough housing in Murray County for those needing assistance.
- Nothing has been done for seniors who want to downsize their living. Moving out of our bigger homes to a smaller, one level condo or apt complex. Even assistant living to nursing home. Look at Fulda!!
- Housing for all stages of the elderly. Assisted and independent living housing. The residents' cares to be met with compassion and tenderness.
- Elder care services badly needed, nursing home care, and extension of assisted living facilities. Would be great to see individual and congregate housing facilities that could help older citizens transition for home ownership to independent living facility, whether that be twin homes or apartments, to assisted living, to nursing home care, without having to leave town for obtain care. With the housing shortage, this would enable seniors to sell their homes and move to independent/congregate living, which will open up their home for sales to younger families and keep the housing stock in good shape.

### Assisted Living

- I'd probably need assisted living some day, with garages, with garages and basements -- MN – Winters
- Would love to see a smaller asst living/nursing set up.
- Memory care, and/ or elder care assisted living facilities needed.
- Definitely there is a need for additional housing for the elderly. Independent,
- Congregate and Assisted Living are needed, as there are waiting lists on these types of housing that are within our county.

- We need assisted living that offer higher level of care also and also will accept insulin dependent diabetics.

### Nursing Home

- need a nursing home for rehab
- Nursing home closer to home will benefit all families

### Respite care

- Not sure if this is a service need but visits from people other than family. Just someone to talk to or have a meal with.

### Information and Referral

- They need to learn what's available in their community when they can access it independently and make their own choices,(retirement age) before they are too frail that they solely rely on others to give them/set up the information and services for them
- Not just older adults, but those with special needs. another category needed for those who don't know about available services
- With Covid, I'm not sure how services are going for the older people in town. I don't live right in town, so there might be services I do not know about.
- some there but older adults don't know how to get or us! Need more education about everything in the communities

### In-home Personal Care Services

- Someone to come in and help with daily chores, someone to check on them.

### In-home Health Care Services

- Having had covid 19 and Hospitalized home health care and medical equipment all had to come from outside our county.
- My understanding is that public health & other agencies provides some of the in-home nursing and personal care services. Also, ACE has a respite volunteer program. Don't create something new but make sure public health and ACE are involved in these discussions. Perhaps these agencies need more funding instead of creating and thus duplicating what can or is already being provided. Also, is the Area Agency on Aging involved in this?

### Intergenerational

- Adult daycare along with child daycare. Plenty of room for both.

### Adult day program

- Adult daycare along with child daycare. Plenty of room for both.
- While there are many services available through Hospice of Murray County and the Murray County Medical Center, more options are always welcome. Home care for the "day to day" needs of people who are otherwise able to function independently would be very helpful, I suspect.

### Golden Living Center

- There is no use fixing that old place up. It will cost lot more & more money if you push it down & start over with all new you have old sewer, water pipes, heating which not much good right now. The heating has been cold for a long time. I took care of a 72 unit of Duplexes for 9 years. You stick money in some thing that old .... End up putting money down a rat hole.

#### Aging in Slayton

- I always thought I'd have a place to go if I could not drive & when eye sight gets bad -- I'd like to stay at home if I couldn't handle it myself I'd have a place to go.
- We need Great Caring Services to see that Our Older family members are taken Care of In Slayton
- I have been lucky as I've been able to get help on the farm & in the house. But needed extra help twice in the past as I could not care for myself, was able to get Pipestone services , nursing skills, vacuuming & bathing help so got by. It was decided to probably move to a facility in the twin cities where my daughters live. It would be half way between the boys.
- I feel Slayton's Residents are very good about looking in on our seniors however this corona virus has done a lot of damage to visiting and checking on
- There are so many older adults in Murray Co & most of these services are welcome. I am 91 yrs & in my own home & when the time comes I still want to stay in the Slayton area.
- I am an outsider but interested in outcome

#### Advice and Reservations

- Need services beyond assisted living, affordable, with well trained/supervised staff; would be nice to have a community garden (flowers & vegetables), bird feeding/watching area, place for families to gather with residents for birthdays, Christmas, etc.
- Dorothy Mitchell (she included a drawing of a driveway with the word "garages" cs

#### Unaddressed in the Survey

- I wasn't sure what is being considered under "Gardening Services".
- The services older adults require can be hit or miss, need a more localized listing with names and numbers of services offered.

#### **What types of building projects should Operation Prairie Venture pursue?**

This question provided a list of housing options that were each rated: *not important*, *somewhat important*, *very important* and *must have*. The options included duplexes, single-story private homes, apartments for older adults, assisted living, memory care, childcare, community space, recreational space, tiny homes, community garden, co-working space. For *must have*, memory care was ranked highest ( $n = 33$ ), apartments for older adults ( $n = 23$ ) was second and assisted living ( $n = 30$ ) followed closely. Child care ( $n = 16$ ) and community space ( $n = 16$ ) were considered *must haves* by equal numbers of respondents. The remaining options, in descending order were: duplexes ( $n = 11$ ), single story private homes ( $n = 11$ ), recreation spaces ( $n = 9$ ), community garden ( $n = 6$ ), coworking space ( $n = 4$ ) and tiny homes ( $n = 3$ ).

Rankings of very important ranged accordingly: assisted living ( $n = 33$ ), memory care ( $n = 32$ ), apartments for older adults ( $n = 31$ ), childcare ( $n = 28$ ), community space ( $n = 26$ ), recreational



space ( $n = 23$ ), duplexes ( $n = 22$ ), single-story private homes ( $n = 18$ ), community garden ( $n = 14$ ), tiny homes ( $n = 9$ ), and co-working space ( $n = 7$ ).

In combining the responses for *must have* and *very important*, preferences are even clearer: Memory care ( $n = 65$ ), assisted living ( $n = 63$ ), apartments ( $n = 54$ ), child care ( $n = 44$ ), community space ( $n = 42$ ), duplexes ( $n = 33$ ), single-story private homes ( $n = 29$ ), community garden ( $n = 26$ ), tiny homes ( $n = 12$ ), and shared work space ( $n = 11$ ). Overall, these data indicate that respondents see a great need for memory care and assisted living. To a slightly lesser degree, they are also in favor of apartments, child care, community and recreational spaces. Interest in tiny homes and shared work space was marginal.

### **If these services and/or spaces were to be combined, which would best fit together in one location?**

Fifty-six people answered this question. Their responses are categorized below, guided by the preference data. Because combinations are represented in each answer, a single response may be listed in more than one category.

#### Memory Care/Adult Day Program/Respite

- Apts., Assisted Living, Memory Care, Community Space
- Elder care, memory care, community space, nursing home, assisted living
- Assisted living and memory care. Duplexes and apartments for older adults.
- I think an area where there are twin homes or condos. Connected with assisted living. Memory care/day care/recreational space/community space
- WonderWorld daycare along with adult daycare.
- assisted living, memory care, childcare
- Nursing Home/Memory Care & assisted living
- Memory care and housing
- Care setting for frail elderly/memory care
- Assisted Living and Memory Care
- Would like to see twin homes, or possibly even smaller /tiny homes single family private homes, together with apartments, and then facility for memory care/assisted living, with community space for recreational/social/working areas all in one community of buildings with community gardens. Would also like to see nursing home facility, if state laws would allow. The vision would be a retirement community where seniors could move from one facility to more advance care facility as they age, as their needs require.
- Assisted living, memory care, childcare
- Independent living, assisted living, nursing home and child care
- Assisted Living -- Memory Care -- Respite
- Having Old Adults Living, Assisted Living, Memory and Nursing Care together
- Respite & adult day services
- memory care, Assisted Living, Transportation, Skilled Nursing, Duplexes
- Assisted Living Memory Care
- skilled nursing assisted living memory care

#### Nursing Home

- Nursing Home/Memory Care & assisted living

- skilled nursing assisted living memory care
- Assisted living, independent living, and nursing home care
- Nursing home is what is needed - up with garages & basement for bad weather (ice, snow etc) in MN
- Elder care, memory care, community space, nursing home, assisted living
- A nursing home is probably too difficult to get back at this time.
- Would like to see twin homes, or possibly even smaller /tiny homes single family private homes, together with apartments, and then facility for memory care/assisted living, with community space for recreational/social/working areas all in one community of buildings with community gardens. Would also like to see nursing home facility, if state laws would allow. The vision would be a retirement community where seniors could move from one facility to more advance care facility as they age, as their needs require.
- Independent living, assisted living, nursing home and child care
- memory care, Assisted Living, Transportation, Skilled Nursing, Duplexes

### Assisted Living

- Assisted living, independent living, and nursing home care
- assisted living, memory care, childcare Having Old Adults Living, Assisted Living, Memory and Nursing Care together
- skilled nursing assisted living memory care
- Assisted Living and Memory Care
- Independent living, assisted living, nursing home and child care
- Assisted living and childcare. Somewhere central in Slayton.
- Assisted living, memory care, childcare
- memory care, Assisted Living, Transportation, Skilled Nursing, Duplexes
- Nursing Home/Memory Care & assisted living
- Apartments for seniors & assisted living, childcare, older adult care, co-working space
- Assisted Living/childcare
- I like the tiny home. I think an assisted living that was like a tiny home with a central area for gathering but a small space that was their own . Small kitchen , living area bedroom
- Childcare & assisted living
- Assisted Living should be available to all adult who no longer take care of themselves in their own homes
- Apts., Assisted Living, Memory Care, Community Space
- Elder care, memory care, community space, nursing home, assisted living
- Assisted living and memory care. Duplexes and apartments for older adults.
- I think an area where there are twin homes or condos. Connected with assisted living. Memory care/day care/recreational space/community space
- Independent living to assistant living to nursing home in one facility. Community garden could be a focus.
- Assisted Living -- Memory Care -- Respite
- Assisted Living Memory Care
- Apartments for older adults and co-working space. Childcare and community space. Assisted Living and community gardens.

### Independent living/Apartments, Single-Story Private Homes, Duplexes

- condos -- affordable & modern twin homes -- affordable & modern double garages nice landscaping
- Living facilities with community areas & gardening would be great
- either duplexes with garages or tiny convenient homes
- Area for apartments for independent and assisted individuals. A section for more care needs to be separated.
- Apts., Assisted Living, Memory Care, Community Space
- memory care, Assisted Living, Transportation, Skilled Nursing, Duplexes
- Assisted living and memory care. Duplexes and apartments for older adults.
- It would be nice if several options could be located in one part of town. I would prefer to see something like more condos or town homes along with some comfortable apartments.  
Example: Paynesville, Mn. has a number of condos or townhomes for seniors that are very desirable and always seem to have someone living in them. If they then need more services, there is an assisted living facility near by, and also a nursing home for skilled care in the same part of town. So the moving from one situation to another is less painful and can meet their needs as they age and their needs change. It's awesome. Apartments
- community space & recreational space Asst living & apartments for older adults
- Duplex/single story
- I think an area where there are twin homes or condos. Connected with assisted living.  
Memory care/day care/recreational space/community space
- Child Care/Recreational Space/Community Garden/Apartments for Older Adults
- Could use condos or town houses - connected somehow then include a space for child care + play yard with windows for seniors to watch children play
- Independent living to assistant living to nursing home in one facility. Community garden could be a focus.
- apt. for older adults, single story homes, assisted living, community garden, working spaces
- Apartments for seniors & assisted living, childcare, older adult care, co-working space
- Would like to see twin homes, or possibly even smaller /tiny homes single family private homes, together with apartments, and then facility for memory care/assisted living, with community space for recreational/social/working areas all in one community of buildings with community gardens. Would also like to see nursing home facility, if state laws would allow.  
The vision would be a retirement community where seniors could move from one facility to more advance care facility as they age, as their needs require.
- Independent living, assisted living, nursing home and child care
- Housing
- Small apartments single story with garden and community, rec space
- Assisted living, independent living, and nursing home care

### Child Care

- Assisted living and childcare. Somewhere central in Slayton.
- Cowork, recreation, garden, community space, child care
- Apartments for older adults and co-working space. Childcare and community space. Assisted Living and community gardens.
- I think an area where there are twin homes or condos. Connected with assisted living.  
Memory care/day care/recreational space/community space
- Assisted living, memory care, childcare

- Childcare & assisted living
- WonderWorld daycare along with adult daycare.
- Independent living, assisted living, nursing home and child care
- Community Space; co-working space and possible childcare could all be in one building.
- Child Day Care/ recreational
- Child Care/Recreational Space/Community Garden/Apartments for Older Adults
- Assisted Living/childcare
- Could use condos or town houses - connected somehow then include a space for child care + play yard with windows for seniors to watch children play
- Apartments for seniors & assisted living, childcare, older adult care, co-working space
- assisted living, memory care, childcare

### Community Space/Recreation

- Cowork, recreation, garden, community space, child care
- Apts., Assisted Living, Memory Care, Community Space
- Child Care/Recreational Space/Community Garden/Apartments for Older Adults
- Community Space; co-working space and possible childcare could all be in one building.
- I think an area where there are twin homes or condos. Connected with assisted living. Memory care/day care/recreational space/community space
- Small apartments single story with garden and community, rec space
- community, recreational and garden spaces could be combined in a central location
- Apartments for older adults and co-working space. Childcare and community space. Assisted Living and community gardens.
- community space & recreational space Asst living & apartments for older adults
- Living facilities with community areas & gardening would be great

### Community Garden

- Cowork, recreation, garden, community space, child care
- apt. for older adults, single story homes, assisted living, community garden, working spaces
- Living facilities with community areas & gardening would be great
- Apartments for older adults and co-working space. Childcare and community space. Assisted Living and community gardens.
- community, recreational and garden spaces could be combined in a central location
- Independent living to assistant living to nursing home in one facility. Community garden could be a focus.
- Child Care/Recreational Space/Community Garden/Apartments for Older Adults
- Would like to see twin homes, or possibly even smaller /tiny homes single family private homes, together with apartments, and then facility for memory care/assisted living, with community space for recreational/social/working areas all in one community of buildings with community gardens. Would also like to see nursing home facility, if state laws would allow. The vision would be a retirement community where seniors could move from one facility to more advance care facility as they age, as their needs require.
- Small apartments single story with garden and community, rec space

### Tiny Homes

- either duplexes with garages or tiny convenient homes

- Would like to see twin homes, or possibly even smaller /tiny homes, single family private homes, together with apartments, and then facility for memory care/assisted living, with community space for recreational/social/working areas all in one community of buildings with community gardens. Would also like to see nursing home facility, if state laws would allow. The vision would be a retirement community where seniors could move from one facility to more advance care facility as they age, as their needs require.
- I like the tiny home. I think an assisted living that was like a tiny home with a central area for gathering but a small space that was their own. Small kitchen, living area, bedroom
- Small houses
- Tiny homes with recreational center and/or community garden.

#### Shared Work Space

- Apartments for seniors & assisted living, childcare, older adult care, co-working space
- apt. for older adults, single story homes, assisted living, community garden, working spaces
- Community Space; co-working space and possible childcare could all be in one building.

#### Additional Comments and Ideas

- Consider talking with Cliff Carmody at SWWC Service Coop in Marshall; they are looking for space for an Educational Learning Center for students with disabilities. Could perhaps pair services with elderly with disabilities? Offer CNA training to students, have them get experience working with residents?
  - Personal Care Attendant, Nurse, Hair stylist, Groceries.
  - all in one would probably be the best

### **What comments do you have about housing needs for older adults in the Slayton area? (N = 50)**

The responses to this question were generated by the participants rather than being chosen from a prepared list. The things listed here may reflect the items listed in previous questions or they may add emphasis to their choices. Categories emerged from the data and serve to organize the responses.

#### Need for elder housing

- There are lists of up to 20 or more waiting to secure housing in Slayton Senior housing so we need to look in other towns if we need to move. Some of us have lived here all our lives and would like to stay in our "golden" years. Slayton has done well to provide for its youth, i.e., swimming pool, summer rec., library, excellent school programs, churches provide youth programs also
- we need it bad!!
- older adults who are healthy are looking for smaller, independent living with less upkeep. addressing this would also open up housing market for others.
- getting more important for aging and vulnerable people
- They are non-existent.
- need apartments for elderly
- We need a Great Caring facility for our older adults
- There are many of us who will need to downsize! Very important for our community
- definitely need town homes/duplexes

- Independent Assisted Memory
- There simply needs to be affordable and safe housing for seniors here.
- Not enough spaces or variety of housing options
- need them
- There is not near enough.
- The Housing needs continue to increase each year. If older people are to continue to live in Slayton we need housing. Nice twin homes are missing. Duplexes are missing. More assisted living space is needed. I have been looking in other communities that do have this housing but prefer to stay in Slayton.
- Would like to see option for seniors to feel comfortable leaving their owned homes to a community facility as they age. That would allow those homes to be sold to younger people and families, and would be a way to keep the housing stock in the community vibrant and updated.
- We need a nursing home
- More opportunities beyond assisted living needed
- Assisted living, nursing home with memory care wing are all needed
- We need to have a stronger memory care unit and nursing home.
- Memory care / assisted living is needed
- Assisted Living is the Best Place for an Adult who can take care of themselves but not take care of their own home.
- I am not an older adult. But from what I have heard from that community, there are many that are looking to move out of the large homes they raised their families in for decades. They want single level, maybe 2-3 bedroom rentals. Or they are willing to move into areas that are senior living with the option for assisted living.
- Affordable/single story
- Twin homes or condos,
- None
- Nice, move in ready one-story town or twin homes for retired people.
- A big need for assistant living as well as housing for those who have memory lost.
- More assisted living
- Rental townhouses or condos are needed
- Needed. We are a retirement community. We want to stay in Slayton, but will want to downsize into a duplex or townhome eventually. Not available now.
- There is a great need for condos or town houses. Many elderly live in homes with a yard to take care of + it gets to be too much work. Possibly with 2 bedrooms + (no steps) + garages
- Housing for older adults that cannot take care by themselves is needed.

#### Affordable

- There is definitely a need for affordable housing for seniors. Assisted living and Memory Care units may be difficult to staff due to demands of the staff and the wages.
- reasonable priced handicap living for aging adults. With two stall garage space.
- There is a great need for low {income} family housing.

#### Accessible

- Very necessary to have more accessible housing for seniors
- reasonable priced handicap living for aging adults. With two stall garage space.



### Shortage of workers

- There is definitely a need for affordable housing for seniors. Assisted living and Memory Care units may be difficult to staff due to demands of the staff and the wages.

### Exodus of young people

- Kids aren't sticking around so something needs to be in place to help. Need more things available in winter months so elderly don't just sit around. Most of the adult population is elderly so why not spend a bit more money on their needs. Have kids do gardening or pet sitting to get them active in summer months. Get some of the gardening kits where elderly can garden from their wheelchair so they are active.

If not for the hospitals and wonderful care they give then graduate to physical therapy, it all would come more quickly to leave more the area

### Intergenerational

- Kids aren't sticking around so something needs to be in place to help. Need more things available in winter months so elderly don't just sit around. Most of the adult population is elderly so why not spend a bit more money on their needs. Have kids do gardening or pet sitting to get them active in summer months. Get some of the gardening kits where elderly can garden from their wheelchair so they are active.
- I could also see a child care facility of some sort in the same area so seniors could at least be volunteers and help even if not staff at a child care facility.

### Golden Living Center

- It is an eyesore in the community It has certainly impacted families even though not use personally
- I believe what the Golden Living Center did was wrong. Unfortunately, people who have lived here all their lives had to move to other areas. I think we, as a community, need to help seniors in our area.

### Healthcare shortage

- There is limited housing for older adults that need add'l healthcare services

### Stay in Slayton

- I really want our elders to be able to stay in the local community when living alone becomes untenable.
- I believe what the Golden Living Center did was wrong. Unfortunately, people who have lived here all their lives had to move to other areas. I think we, as a community, need to help seniors in our area.
- The Housing needs continue to increase each year. If older people are to continue to live in Slayton we need housing. Nice twin homes are missing. Duplexes are missing. More assisted living space is needed. I have been looking in other communities that do have this housing but prefer to stay in Slayton.
- We are a retirement community. We want to stay in Slayton, but will want to downsize into a duplex or townhome eventually. Not available now.
- it would be a great benefit to Slayton and Murray County

- Sad that Older Adults need to leave Slayton for NH care. Sad for families that have to have their loved ones in other communities.
- To so many Slayton is home. This is an urgent need.
- People are interested in a transition place, where they can give up the whole property care, and stay locally where family and friends that they have grown to know can still stop in and have conversations with them till the end of their life. Those local people are familiar faces.
- There are lists of up to 20 or more waiting to secure housing in Slayton Senior housing so we need to look in other towns if we need to move. Some of us have lived here all our lives and would like to stay in our "golden" years. Slayton has done well to provide for its youth, i.e., swimming pool, summer rec., library, excellent school programs, churches provide youth programs also

#### Let's Be Resourceful

- Why aren't we making better use of what is there? I believe that Sunrise Terrace has many vacancies but not sure if that is correct. Also, is Lindenwood full?

#### **We want to hear your story. How has the closure of the Slayton Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center impacted you, your family and/or your community?**

- Most of the community is elderly and their children aren't around to help and the constant turnover at the hospital and lack of community knowledge/awareness of the issues, doesn't do anything to keep medical professionals around. Even lack of knowledge from law enforcement during the flooding and blizzards has put People at risk, so why would anyone stay in a community like that? People need to stop having their safety compromised just because their elderly.
- Sorry to see it go; I might need it someday
- It hasn't affected my family directly, but with working as discharge planner at the hospital, it has made it very challenging to find housing and services for those that need it.
- There is no place to go in Slayton that can provide skilled care.
- For us it would be that if we need nursing care, we would need to move out of town.
- family had to move to other homes in other towns
- I personally have not been affected too much. I am a Hospice volunteer and I know it has affected their census. It is a lovely area but the building should go. Build some condos in that area. My husband Dr. JLBader put the first shovel in the ground to build the nursing home so it was very sad to see it close.
- Family needs to place loved ones farther away. Volunteers have less opportunities. Jobs lost.
- None..so far. But we are in our 80s and thought we knew we had a place.
- Had to put loved one in Worthington. Now we need to travel to see her and her friends don't visit. Not able to stop in for a quick visit.
- YES, my mother was forced to leave a community where she had lived her whole life to a facility in another community. She took the move well, but it was obvious that it caused her depression and deterioration of her health, as her social network had been disrupted. She recently passed away from COVID infection. The last year of her life was sad for her, and hard for her family to adjust to the change and the driving.
- Brother in law had to seek services outside the county, causing a hardship for his wife and greater distances to travel to see him. Lost jobs impacted friends. Liked having the option in Slayton available as I age (now 61).

- If did affect Mark & I directly. We did have friends whose parents were affected to find new housing for loved ones. We have friends who lost their job. It affected the local clinic & hospital --
- As a community member I would like to see it utilized as apartments. Housing is needed.
- I am a pastor. I now have to travel at least 20 minutes to get to the nearest nursing/retirement home to visit my members who can no longer live in their homes. I suspect some of my members are living in their homes when they should have skilled care or assisted living because they don't want to move away from the community.
- The closure did not have an impact on my nor my family -- but it hurt the community many had to go out of town for employment. (Try not to build anything quite small)
- It's not affected my family.
- We no longer have a place to go when we need to go to a nursing home. We will need to look outside community for a place to be.
- Live in Fulda, no immediate impact other than having more of these services, facilities in Murray County
- It definitely impacted the community and those in need of the services offered there
- I think it has forced many who would prefer to reside in this area to have to look elsewhere. Having these people move out the of county is not good for the economy nor having our community elders farther away from us.
- I was hoping it would be here for my mother, who is living by herself, and doing well, but has health issues. she is 89.
- Both of my elderly parents resided at the Slayton Rehabilitation Center one or more times. Our community needs that service ... for the patients and their families. And, it's sooo hard to see that building and site sitting there empty with no activity.
- The closing has forced families to place placed ones in location NOT easily accessible due to traveling distances. Having the center in Slayton allowed friends and relatives the opportunity to visit. The closing has contributed to a sense of isolation not only among the elderly but family as well. There is a sense of betrayal because family had to move their loved ones away from the familiar to the scary and unknown (places and people who are unfamiliar and the environment not as family orientated as Slayton was)
- Impact to me was so hard to see that someone had the ability to come and evict residents that have lived there for years and felt comfortable with the people around them and the care they were receiving. Community - it ripped the area apart as people moved away to find employment, along with loved ones being pulled away from the people that would see them regularly. It is like pushing the ones away from home to send them to another town. So very sad.
- No nursing home care for elderly
- It is greatly missed
- Took jobs away from people, people parents cannot live close
- The closure of the Slayton Rehabilitation Center was a Terrific Loss to Slayton. It hurt the hospital and many staff had to work in another town. I wish there would be a way of reopening it for the residents here in our won Residences if needed
- Losing caring people in our community, nurses and caregivers!
- Loved one had to be moved further from family
- Less placement options
- Hasn't

- someone in my family was there when it closed and came home, which was too soon making it difficult for the care giver.
- It certainly helped make the decision to probably leave the community if & when that time comes. One only guesses what one will need.
- My mother had to leave town and be placed in a different nursing home. The limited frequency of visitors has been hard on her. Loss of jobs for our community is always a negative.
- It has not .
- I have lost touch with many senior members of the community because they moved out of town, and of course, Covid has only made it worse. I hope they have all found new people in their lives, none of them were my relatives.
- It is sad and watching the building deteriorate is worse it is in a beautiful area - location and would be an asset to our community to have a project down there!
- No personal affect, but loss of jobs to the community/surrounding area. As we live nearby it is difficult to watch/see the poor upkeep -- weeds, etc.
- So many friends were devastated with moving loved ones so far away. Devastating to the residents also.
- I worked at the facility for about 10 years before and after it was sold to a large corporation and saw the effectiveness of a community run nursing facility. Having local control over a senior living makes it a much friendlier and responsive atmosphere.
- Friends & family that were near cannot visit/see their relatives after the closure without traveling longer distances. With COVID in the picture at this time they can't visit their relatives at all.
- My grandpa was in the nursing home when it closed. He was able to be at home for several months afterward but coordinating in-home services seemed to be a challenge.
- There's a sadness among people. Relatives, family members and friends have been displaced to all parts of the state. Slayton is their home.
- We need this because of loss of all those jobs. This closing sure hurt the future of our city.
- We lost friends to other communities, other than that it didn't affect our family much.
- Family member was displaced and friends lost their job
- didn't impact me -- I did enjoy volunteering there to help the residents
- I work for the SeniorLinkAge Line in Slayton and have seen first hand the devastation that is caused by family members that were in LTC needing to go to other communities. Very Sad for Consumers and Family to be separated or moved from their community that has always been home.

**What ways would you like to be involved in building innovative services and spaces for older adults that enable all generations to live and thrive in a vibrant community?** (Check all that apply).

This question resulted in 64 responses. *Help spread the word* received 25 responses (39.1%). Twenty-four (37.5%) checked *No additional involvement at this time*. *Donate* garnered 18 (28.1%) responses and *Attend planning meetings* was next ( $n = 13$ ; 20.3%). These were trailed by *Help fundraise* ( $n = 7$ ; 10.9%) and *Serve on a taskforce* ( $n = 6$ ; 9.4%). Note that the numbers do not sum since respondents could check as many options as they wanted.

The pattern of responses to this question may reflect the development of Operation Prairie Venture at a point in time. So far, about 40% of the respondents are willing to talk about the project. Almost the same number of respondents want to wait to get involved or maybe have no interest in involvement at any time. They may wish to hear more about the project, watch how it develops before joining the initiative. Both serving on a committee and fundraising necessitate a significant commitment; in any case, fewer individuals are willing/able to extend themselves to this extent.

## Summary

At the request of Operation Prairie Venture, the City of Slayton funded an intergenerational and housing survey, deployed in Murray County, in an effort to quantify informal comments regarding the need for better and more housing options and services for older adults. The data converged on a number of preferences that will be valuable in guiding elder care, housing and development in Slayton and Murray County.

First, memory care was cited as the first and second most urgent need for many of the respondents. This is reflected in the quantitative responses and reiterated in the respondent-generated responses. The qualitative responses also listed respite care, Alzheimer's care and adult day programs. In practice, these may be combined with memory care; to the extent that this is the case, memory care may be under-represented.

Assisted living was also chosen by many participants both as their first choice, second choice, and in combination with other services. The most frequent combinations were with memory care or nursing homes or both. If implemented, assisted living would relieve pressure on memory care needs and independent living needs, as those with lower levels of cognitive impairment could be served here. Those who are still able to live independently but are looking to their future might also select assisted living.

Childcare was of particular interest to the planners and although it was not a top priority, nearly half of the participants indicated that this is quite important when queried specifically. It's importance was reiterated in the listing of their own ideas. When responses suggested combinations of services, childcare was combined with memory care, with assisted living, and with nursing home care. For other respondents, children were depicted as visitors to the older adults rather than as a group with whom space would be shared. Overall, some level of interaction with and proximity to children is viewed as desirable and important for the participants in the survey.

In terms of independent living spaces, responses were spread across an array of possibilities: single-story homes, apartments, duplexes, and tiny homes. A general need for housing options in their home community was evident in these responses. Additional comments attested to significant interest in aging in their home community of Slayton.

Some respondents suggested housing in terms of a continuation of care; that is, an array of supportive services in which the clients move to the setting within their care community that is optimal for their ability level. Tiny homes generated little interest.

Personal care services and in-home services resulted in bi-modal distributions with a sizable need indicated and another grouping that felt these needs were met or nonexistent. This likely reflects the functional abilities of the participants in the survey. For those who are unimpaired, these needs are not needed; thus, they may not yet be aware of any absence of services. For those who need these services, the need is likely to be urgent. From the perspective of community needs, both of these needs could be met within an assisted living or memory care setting.

Although Murray County is one of the most rural counties in Minnesota, only about one-fourth of the respondents felt that transportation services need improvement. Typically, transportation is the most cited problem in rural areas and that could be expected in an area with more extreme weather (Minnesota). However, this lack of interest in transportation may suggest that the roads are consistently well maintained. The attention to transportation needs and an overview of the data suggest that this may reflect a need for transportation that is handicap accessible.

Maintenance service was viewed as a missing and needed service by almost half of the respondents and another 20% felt that improvement was needed in existing services. This area of interest needs further exploration because “maintenance service” was not defined. It remains unclear whether respondents were referring to maintenance of their personal homes and properties or if they are referring to county and state infrastructure. This category might be larger if a clear definition had been provided. Alternately, more than one category may have emerged.

In sum, memory care and assisted living are seen as the most pressing needs in Slayton and its surrounding area. In addition, independent living spaces are needed and respondents are interested in some interaction with children. In lieu of improved housing options, an array of other services is needed. Put another way, assisted living and memory care, and childcare would resolve numerous needs that older adults in Murray County are experiencing.

Survey by Jason Walker and Jessica Welu, Southwest Regional Development Commission, in consultation with the Operation Prairie Venture Board of Directors..

Summary by Leeny MaloneBeach, PhD, in consultation with the Operation Prairie Venture Board of Directors.





## Slayton Study

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to produce this report about the City of Slayton and County of Murray in relation to the older population, current services being offered in the area and gaps in services.

### **Demographics of Slayton and Murray County**

Slayton and Murray County are not unlike other rural Southwest Minnesota communities and counties where they are seeing an increase in the older generations, with a decrease in the younger population.<sup>1</sup> Slayton, the county seat of Murray County, has a population of 1,997.<sup>2</sup> Murray County has an estimated population of 8,145<sup>3</sup>, with an estimated 27.6% of the population over the age of sixty-five (65) and an estimated 3.6% of the population over the age of eighty-five (85); comparison to the State of Minnesota, 17.1% and 2.3%, respectfully.<sup>4</sup> These numbers are expected to continue to rise over the next ten (10) years.

### **Current Services**

Within the community of Slayton and County of Murray, the following services are being provided to assist with seniors, in accordance with Minnesota Department of Health registry<sup>5</sup>

**Facility Name Registered Service Units** Prairie View, Inc Intermediate Care Facility Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities 14  
Hospice of Murray County Hospice 5 Sunrise Terrace Congregate Living Center Housing with Services 20 Lindenwood Assisted Living Housing with Services, Assisted Living Services 16 Murray County Medical Center (Hospital and Clinic) Critical Access Hospital 25 Maple Lawn Senior Care Skilled Nursing Facility 54 Mapleview Estates Housing with Services 24 Maplewood Court Assisted Living Housing with Services, Assisted Living Services 15

Also, within the geographical area are other services such as<sup>6</sup>;

### **Congregate Dining Sites**

Fulda Senior Center Also provides Iona 1 times a week Home Delivered Meals Slayton Senior Center Also provides Currie 1 times a week Home Delivered Meals

<sup>1</sup> Minnesota Compass, Aging Demographics (<http://www.mncompass.org/aging/demographics#6-11561-g>) <sup>2</sup> American Fact Finder, 2018 Population Estimate ([https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml)) <sup>3</sup> Minnesota Department of Human Services, Aging Data Profiles (<https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/news-initiatives-reports/workgroups/aging/aging-2030/data-profiles/>)

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Minnesota Department of Health, Health Care Provider Directory (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/regulation/directory/providerselect.html>)

<sup>6</sup> Lutheran Social Services, LSS Meal Locations, <https://www.lssmn.org/services/older-adults/lss-meals/locations/region8>  
Ph: 507.387.1256 | Fx: 507.387.6223 | [www.mnraaa.org](http://www.mnraaa.org) |

Good Samaritan Society - Windom All of Murray County  
Sanford Worthington 30 mile radius of Worthington  
Pipestone County Home Health Agency All of Murray County

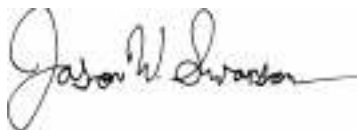
### **Service Gaps**<sup>7</sup>

In review of the 2015-2016 Minnesota Department of Human Services Gaps Analysis for Region 8 (this report utilized as it focused on older adults), that most of the older population that has or may move out of the area would like to move back “*if they had adequate supports*”<sup>8</sup>. The report further breaks down, in reference to older adults, that people can stay in their homes if they had access to; Homemaker Services, Personal Care Assistance, Medication Management and Chore Services<sup>9</sup>. The report also shows that there was no Chore Service or In-Home Respite Care options available in the area<sup>10</sup>.

### **Summary**

As we continue to see a rise in the number of the older population with a dramatic decrease in the workforce numbers over the next five years<sup>11</sup>, rural areas will need to find new and innovative ways to care for the older population. In review of the demographics and gaps in services a need arises in the city of Slayton to provide the following services, In-Home Respite and Chore Services. It should be noted that at the time of the Service Gap Study, Slayton still had a nursing home (closed July 19, 2019<sup>12</sup>) and a gap was then created for long term care and short-term rehabilitation.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jason W. Swanson, HSE  
Executive Director

Disclaimer: This report prepared for informational use and does not constitute any authorization of services or potential plans by Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging, Inc. and/or their grantees and partners.

<sup>7</sup> Minnesota Department of Human Services, Gaps Analysis, <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrver/Public/DHS-7302D-ENG>

<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Minnesota Compass, <https://www.mncompass.org/trends/insights/2019-05-13-minnesotas-workforce-shortage> <sup>12</sup> Marshall Independent, <https://www.marshallindependent.com/news/local-news/2019/05/second-area-nursing-home-to-close/>



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