



# Active Aging Center Concept

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*Presented by*

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# What is the Active Aging Center?

**Mission: To empower all people to age in community.**

A physical space that:

- Brings one of Buncombe County's strategic priorities to life
- Promotes diversity, equity and inclusion
- Creates a one stop shop
- Innovates the delivery of services for older adults, families and community members to address social determinants of health
- Optimizes intergenerational opportunities

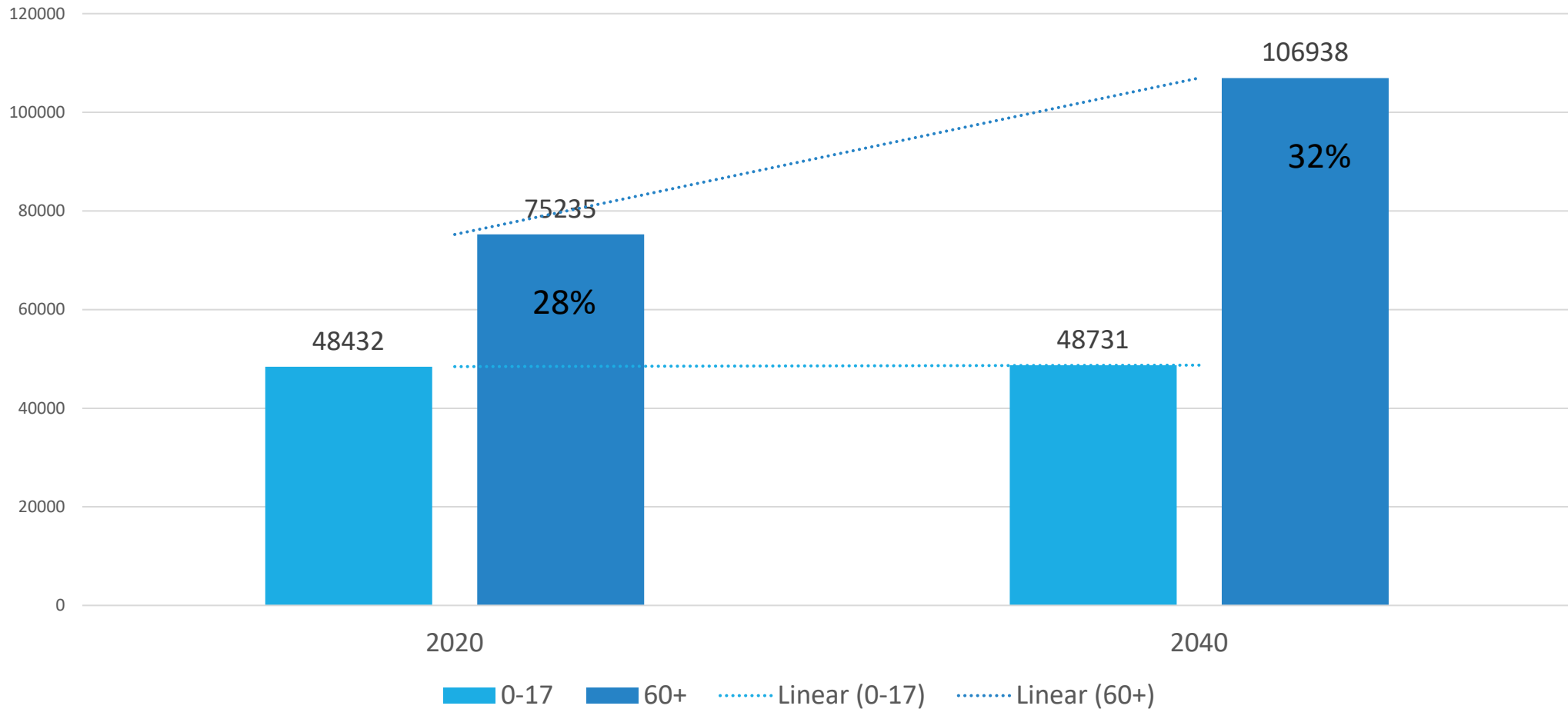


# Timeline

- Spring 2019: Community meeting
- October/November 2019: \$115,000 secured for a consultant by community agency
- June 2021: Finalized Business Plan
- July 2021: Steering team voted to recommend Buncombe County owner/operator of AAC
- August 2021: HHS Board voted unanimously in support of recommendation
- December 2021: UNCA Leadership and County Management meet
- September 26, 2022: UNCA Board of Trustees: endorses in principle the idea of the Buncombe County Active Aging Center being located on UNC Asheville's campus
- October 18, 2022: Presentation to Buncombe County Commissioners



# Population Trends in Buncombe County



Source: NC Department of Health and Human Services: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/media/14889/open>



# Research Conducted

- Evaluation of 5 systems in NC
  - Forsyth (non-profit)
  - Ashe (non-profit)
  - Chatham (blended)
  - Orange (county)
  - Durham (county)
- Eighty one-on-one interviews
- Three listening sessions with 50+ participants
- Results: recognition of current gaps in service, technology needs, more coordination among providers, physical space that is diverse offers opportunities for civic engagement, classes, workshops, services, etc.



# Regional Landscape for Senior Services

- Haywood County (blended model between HHS and non-profit Community Action Agency)
- Henderson County (non-profit model through Council on Aging)
- Jackson County (county model through Aging Department)
- Macon County (county model within DSS)
- Polk County (county model within HHS Public Health Division)
- Transylvania County (county model within Parks and Recreation)



# Vision

## SERVICES

- Adult Day Care/Day Health
- Aging service providers
- Childcare
- Intergenerational activities
- Food pantry/storage
- Technology space
- Clinical services
- Fitness area
- Commercial kitchen
- Dining space
- Flex space
- Outdoor space



# Strategy

- One-stop shop
- Hub and Spoke Model
- Efficiency for consumer
- Navigation
- Reducing capacity limitations
- Comprehensive in scope
- Age in place





# Steering Team

BC Health and  
Human Services

MountainCare

Council on Aging  
of Buncombe  
County

Land of Sky Area  
Agency on Aging

Buncombe  
County Parks  
and Recreation

YWCA

Buncombe  
County Library  
Services

MAHEC

UNC Asheville

Community  
Members

City of Asheville  
Parks and  
Recreation

Verner Child  
Development



# Next Steps for Consideration

- Will Buncombe County be the owner/operator of the Active Aging Center
  - These considerations exist:
    - Project management cost (\$125,000)
    - Assistance with construction cost (up to \$10 million)
    - Ongoing operating cost when fully operational
      - Coordinator (yearly salary expense)
      - Maintenance
      - Electric, water, etc. (shared among tenants)
    - For-profits will pay rent



**Thank you so much for your time.**

## **Comments/Questions**

**For additional information about the Active Aging Center:  
<https://www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/dss/adults/active-aging-center.aspx>**

**To share your thoughts about the Active Aging Center  
and/or other Age-Friendly initiatives visit:  
<https://engage.buncombecounty.org/X0442>**

