

History

The Monroe County Commission on Aging was officially established by the Monroe County Board of Commissioners November 28, 1973. Prior to that, service providers would go directly to the County Board to request funds. The Older American Act made more funds available requiring more local match dollars.

Prior to the inception of the millage in 1981, the County of Monroe funded some of the available senior services. They funded roughly \$100,000.00 from the county general fund to provide services mostly at the operating senior centers. Before the millage vote in 1980, a coalition of the funded county senior agencies organized and formed a committee called the Every Ninth American committee. This group formed as a vehicle to petition the County Board of Commissioners to have the millage language placed on the ballot.

Membership on the Commission on Aging consists of nine members. Each county commissioner appoints one person to the Commission on Aging. Commission members have the same term as the county commissioners.

By establishing the Commission on Aging, the County Board created a body whose purpose was to review and evaluate senior programs, and recommend funding allocations for them. Now, service providers present their budget requests to the Commission on Aging, which, in turn, make one comprehensive recommendation to the County Board of Commissioners.

Before the passage of the millage for senior citizen services, the County Board of Commissioners allocated funds from the County General Fund. Currently, there is no County General Fund money in senior programs. Today, the Commission on Aging budget runs solely on funds generated by the .5 millage.