

Senior Centers promote physical and mental well-being for seniors, provide info and support to caregivers, and host nursing, OT, public health & other student interns. Health promotion for seniors is an important factor in reducing demand for health & emergency services.

The COA has been planning a new facility for over two decades. 24 sites have been reviewed, few sites near downtown meet the criteria for size, parking, single story, and walkability / proximity to Main St. The COA has been planning for the baby boomers for over 15 years. The baby boomers are here. Boomers comprise 30% of our current participants. Greenfield does not have adequate facilities to meet the growing number of seniors and the spike in social service needs.

The Greenfield Senior Center facility has a long history of problems. The building is privately owned, physical adjustments and repairs are outside of the Town's control. And why would we invest public dollars into a privately owned space where we have no lease.

Air quality Assessed by state air quality agency in 1999/2000. Senior Center closed for required mold remediation.

Leaks from the Weldon House AC system and other plumbing cause a severe moisture problem and mold. Heavy mold in the HVAC room. High CO2 levels, No bathroom ventilation

Physical access barriers exterior:

Insufficient parking

Long walk from drop off to entrance -- too far for frail elders

Poor drainage: standing water which freezes over in the winter;

Insufficient curb cuts for walkers & wheelchairs, poor placement of existing curb cuts;

Lack of maintenance to sidewalks creates fall risk;

Bus stop not visible from inside Senior Center, waiting outside for the bus is a hardship on most seniors.

Physical access barriers interior:

Most of the offices do not accommodate a wheelchair.

Columns throughout the space are problematic for sight-lines, and for simple navigation

The main room (2,000 square feet) serves as our meal space AND as our gym.

Open concept layout: only one of the three program rooms has a door

Computer lab is in a corridor: no heating, cooling or ventilation

Restrooms too small and often unusable or out of order, floor drains are blocked -- needing excavation to repair.

Privacy and noise: Open concept layout, only one program room can be "closed door". Social services, support groups, etc. need confidentiality.