



MEDIA CONTACT: **David Zook**
435-890-9239

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PRESS RELEASE

Cache County Secures Grant to Plan for New Senior Center

LOGAN -- Cache County officials today received notice from the State of Utah that the county was awarded a \$25,000 grant to prepare a plan for a new senior center. The grant, awarded by the state's Community Impact Board, requires equivalent matching funds from the county, resulting in a \$50,000 total to be spent on the plan.

"Our community is growing, and that includes seniors," said Cache County Executive David Zook. "Our current senior center is bursting at the seams with participants in the many programs provided there. Our seniors need and deserve a bigger and better facility."

Cache County operates a senior center located on 100 East in downtown Logan. The current center, built more than 50 years ago, provides 15,000 square feet of space. The building has a commercial kitchen, cafeteria, exercise room, small library, game and craft spaces, and a ceramics room. The kitchen is also used to support the Meals on Wheels program, which provided more than 53,000 nutritious meals to seniors last year.

The current facility is not only too small, but doorways into the classrooms and offices are narrow, making it difficult for patrons who use wheelchairs to enter and exit. Meals and events hosted in the cafeteria can only accommodate about 100 attendees; gatherings larger than this make it inaccessible for wheelchair users. The bathrooms only have one ADA stall for men and one ADA stall for women. Another challenge of the current center is that it lacks adequate parking, with many patrons struggling to find parking during peak hours.

Senior Center Director Giselle Madrid added that, "A new Senior Center is vital to address the needs of our rapidly growing older adult population. The existing facility is outdated and lacks the space and resources to adequately support the diverse programs and services that our patrons rely on, such as fitness classes, meal programs, and social activities. As more people enter retirement, the demand for a modern, accessible, and well-equipped center continues to rise. Older adults today are more active than ever due to improved health care, increased awareness of the benefits of physical activity, and a cultural shift toward healthy aging. Senior centers contribute to encouraging older adults to remain active and stay engaged in their community. A new senior center would profoundly impact older adults by providing a modern, safe, accessible space tailored to their needs. It would offer expanded programs and activities, such as fitness classes, educational workshops, and social events, fostering physical health, mental well-being, and community. Improved facilities would make it easier for patrons to access essential services, like meal programs, health screenings, and caregiver support, Medicare counseling, all under one roof. Additionally, a new center could serve as a hub for social connection, reducing isolation and promoting an active, fulfilling lifestyle for the older adult population."

County staff plan to hire a consultant to assist with developing a plan for a new senior center, including determining the appropriate size, amenities to be offered, a suitable location, and financing for the new facility.

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