

The new *Neighborhood Nutrition Kitchen* will:

1. Address the nutritional gap between state-funded Older Americans Act meals and *the actual need* for home delivered meals for **Lorain County ages 60+ who are at high nutritional risk**. *This is also referred to as “unfunded” meals.*
2. Reduce the food cost for the Home Delivered Meals program **by as much as 40% per meal**. This will be possible by obtaining some of the raw foods including seasonal fruits and vegetables from Second Harvest.
3. Realize significant cost efficiencies and higher quality nutrition by transitioning the catered **meals for the Haven Center** in-house. Currently the agency contracts with local restaurants to cater these meals; these partnerships were formed during the pandemic. *47,000 meals per year.*
4. Realize significant cost efficiencies and higher quality nutrition by transitioning the catered **meals for the Childcare Centers** in-house. The agency currently has an outside catering company providing breakfast, afternoon snack and lunch. All of these meals could be prepared in the Neighborhood Nutrition Kitchen. The Food Service license will be held at the LLC and all commercial kitchen employees would be Serve-Safe Certified. *Over 10,000 meals/snacks per year.*
5. Next, tackle the nutritional gap in Lorain County for **disabled, low-income individuals ages 50 to 60**. The observation based on the number of calls the agency receives from this population suggests that this is a significant group with high food insecurities. *The Lorain County Needs Assessment for Older Adults will provide hard data later in 2021.*
6. Expand services to provide **meals for younger seniors, those under age 60**. We currently prioritize adding in those 85+ years of age due to funding limitations. The agency is seeing greater needs in the very oldest Lorain County residents. This is due to the population growth in the 85+ low income, high nutritional risk group. As Baby Boomers retire, large numbers are in need of home delivered meals. *One example of a resident we could not serve was a veteran who was in dire need, due to the priority system in place for consistency, the staff was not able to advance him over others on the waitlist.*