

Correcting Some Misinformation Circulating About the Lafourche Council on Aging

I would like to clarify some misinformation within a post that has been circulating about the Lafourche Council on Aging.

The Lafourche Council on Aging has a separate charter from the Lafourche Parish Government; therefore, government employees do not always understand the inner workings of our programs, how they are funded, or how those funds are allocated. Some of our services are income based. Home delivered meals, homemaker services, and transportation services, however, are not income based. The screening and application process for all the Seniors is the same.

There are certification requirements and yearly recertification's where clients inform us of any changes to their situations. We rely on their honesty to notify us of any changes. Clients receive the service until they no longer qualify or they pass away. We do ask for donations but they are not required. All donations are reinvested in the program they came from. We would love to help every single person, but we just cannot. We serve roughly 5,500 meals every month. Our home delivered meals program does not receive funding from, and is not affiliated with "Meals on Wheels America" program, they are a separate entity.

I would also like to discuss our actual funding and the money we receive from our current millage. Our funding dropped from 2.1 million to 1.7 million when the watercraft assessments decreased. If Amendment 4 passes in May, our agency will lose another \$109,280.87. Decreasing funding decreases services. The Lafourche Council on Aging does not have access to unlimited funds so there may be waiting lists. Please seriously consider supporting our agency. If you would like to make a personal donation to help fund programs, please feel free to mail your donations to LCOA, P. O. Box 500, Raceland, LA 70394. If there are any questions please do not rely on others for answers, call me at (985) 532-0457. I will be happy to talk to you.

There are 5 Amendments on the ballot this May and there is also a renewal of our millage. Keep in mind that these are 2 separate issues. We can't tell you how to vote, we are just stating facts.

Charlene R. Rodriguez
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Lafourche Council on Aging, Inc.