



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Seneca County, NY

Seneca County Health Department Senior Safeguard Program



Introduction

The Seneca County Senior Safeguard Program targets residents of the county who are 65+ and living independently. Our goal is to educate this population about the risks that climate change and extreme weather pose to their health and aid in addressing those risks. We do this by hosting community-based presentations and by partnering with the Seneca County Healthy Neighborhoods Program.



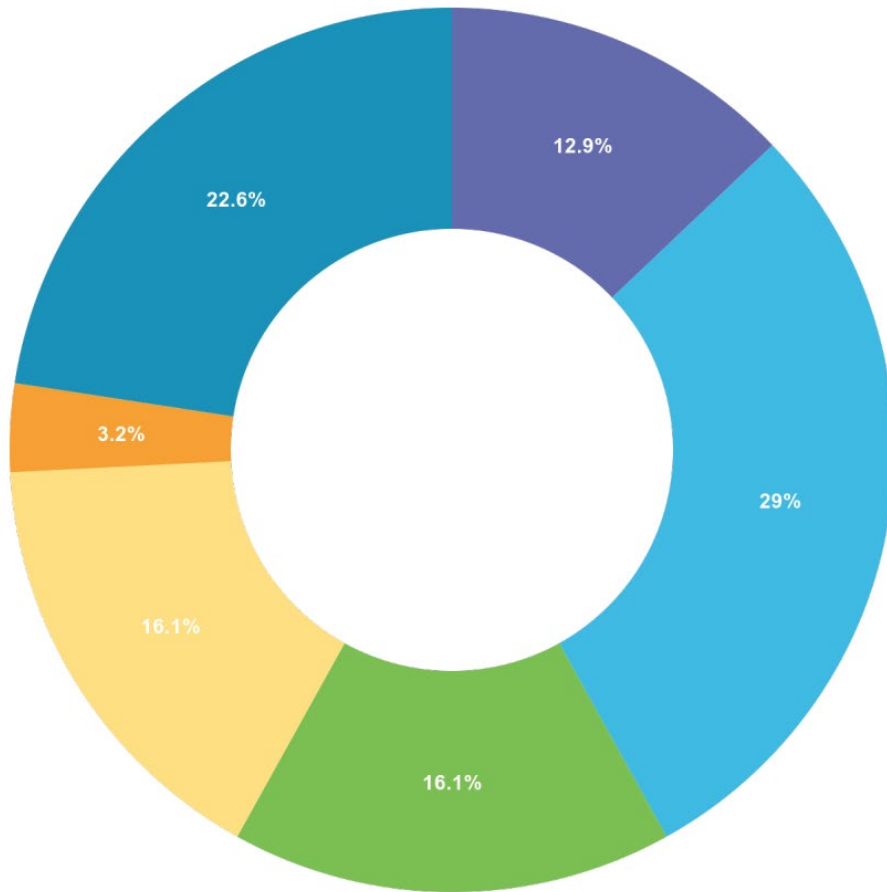
OFA Presentation -5/13/2025-

Presentation

- Where: Seneca County Office of the Aging
- When: During a recurrent lunch event
- Number of participants: 26
- What was provided:
 - Definition of Extreme Weather
 - Barriers preventing preparation
 - Resources to address these barriers
 - Ready-made “go bag” with the basics



Barriers that kept OFA participants from preparing for extreme weather events:



- Access to air conditioners – 4
- Health Issues (i.e., breathing, physical limitations) – 9
- Medication dependency – 5
- Transportation – 5
- Social Isolation – 1
- Healthcare Resources – 0
- Mental Health – 0
- Other – 7

(Most participants found that our presentation addressed these barriers)

Additional Data

Before Presentation

- Three participants knew where Seneca County Cooling Centers are located
- Half of the participants knew what a “Go-Bag” is
- 1/3 of the participants had a “Go-Bag” prepared
- No participants were signed up for Emergency Alerts

After Presentation

- 19 participants stated they know where the Cooling Centers are in Seneca County
- Only three participants failed to answer if they knew what a “Go-Bag” is and provide two examples of items that would be found in a “Go-Bag.”
- Everyone who attended the presentation went home with a “Go-Bag.”
- Only 7 participants stated they did not know how to sign-up for Emergency Alerts.

Seneca County Healthy Neighborhoods Program Partnership

June 2025 - Ongoing

Seneca County Healthy Neighborhoods Now Providing Emergency Go-Bags!

- *First Aid Kit*
- *AM/FM Transistor Radio*
- *Finger Lakes Regional Map*
- *Emergency Whistle*
- *Water Purification Tablets*
- *Mylar Emergency Blanket*
- *Multi Tool*
- *Compass*

Be Prepared!
No Cost!
No Income Qualification!

**While
Supplies Last!**



(315) 539-1638

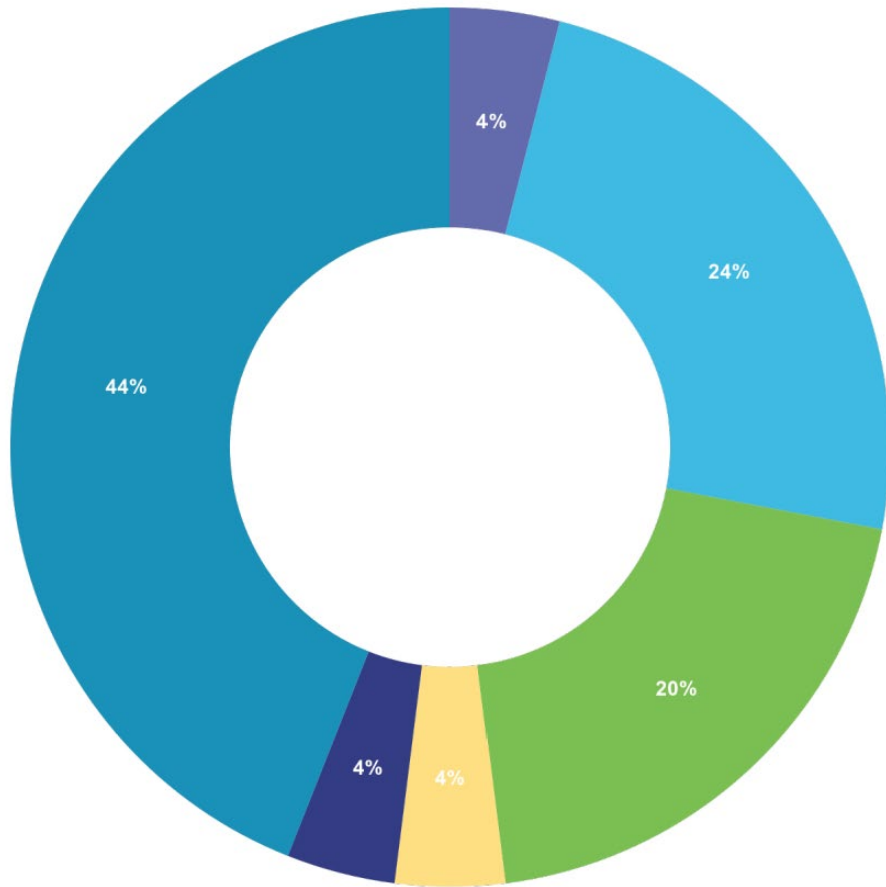


What's Included

- Emergency “Go Bag”
- Assistance in signing up for NY Alerts and/or Hyper Reach
- Yellow Dot Program Paperwork
- Education:
 - Cooling Center Locations
 - HEAP handouts
 - What needs to be added to the “go bag”
 - How to prepare for extreme weather



Barriers that kept Healthy Neighborhood respondents from preparing for extreme weather:



- Access to air conditioners – 1
- Health Issues (i.e. breathing, physical limitations) – 6
- Medication dependency – 5
- Transportation – 1
- Social Isolation – 0
- Healthcare Resources – 0
- Mental Health – 1
- Other – 11

So far, due to information and materials received through this program, all respondents who completed a post-program survey have stated they no longer feel that these barriers affect their preparation.

Additional Data

Before Home Visit

- Only two participants knew where the Seneca County Cooling Centers are located.
- Less than 40% of participants knew what a “Go-Bag” was.
- None of the participants had a “Go Bag” already.
- About 1/3 of participants were signed up for emergency alerts prior to their home visit.

After Home Visit

- Almost all participants indicated they now know where the Seneca County Cooling Centers are located (only one did not).
- So far, every participant has known what a “Go Bag” is.
- Everyone who participates in the home visits receives a “Go-Bag” and information on additional items to add to it.
- Every participant who was not signed up for emergency alerts prior to their home visits, has accepted help to sign up during their visit.

Goals

- By December 31, 2025, Seneca County Health Department will work with the Healthy Neighborhood Program to extend and expand the program for the foreseeable future. The Healthy Neighborhoods Program will continue to offer “Go-Bags” to all program participants.
- By November 30, 2025, Seneca County Health Department Staff will have completed educational sessions with at least 120 individuals (representing at least 75 distinct households) from the priority population.
 - At least 25% of program participants, who complete a survey, will state they have added to their “Go-Bags” and/or signed up for Emergency Alerts through the state or county alert systems.
 - At least 50% of all program participants will report an increased level of self-efficacy in surviving extreme precipitation or heat events.

Results

- The data we are collecting and success we are seeing with the Senior Safeguard Program will aid in pitching these changes to the NYS Healthy Neighborhoods Program. We plan on submitting this request towards the end of August/beginning of September, well before our goal's deadline.
- As of July 25, 2025, we have had 62 individuals participate in the Senior Safeguard Program. 26 participants attended the OFA presentation, and 37 individuals have participated in home visits.
- So far, 87% of participants have either signed up for Emergency Alerts or stated they know how to. 43% of Healthy Neighborhood Program participants have stated they added additional supplies to their "Go Bags."

Lesson's Learned

- Using OFA to host our presentation, they already have an established lunch group that attends these events. Unfortunately, this means the presentation could only happen once in the timeframe we have to evaluate.
- Having the option to attend a group presentation or participate in a home visit allows us to assist a variety of individuals with different needs. However, how we evaluated their successes in relation to our goals posed some difficulties.
- The Healthy Neighborhoods Program has a very different timeline than this grant cycle allows. Typically, our Healthy Neighborhoods revisits are scheduled for 3-6 months after the initial visit. As a result of the program's timeline, calls were being made for follow-ups only a month or two after the initial visit.
- We do have periodic Healthy Neighborhoods appointment cancellations; fortunately, this has not impacted us hitting our goal so far.

Thank you

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[Emergency Preparedness Program – Seneca
County Health Department](#)