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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Local agency awarded competitive grant to support healthy aging**

(Gaylord, MI) Otsego County Commission on Aging (OCCOA) has been awarded a grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to support healthy aging. This award allows OCCOA to advance and promote healthy aging and community engagement through innovative technology and processes. For details, visit [otsegocountycoa.org](http://otsegocountycoa.org) or [mhealthfund.com](http://mhealthfund.com).

Consistent with OCCOA's goals to improve the lives of older adults and to support family caregivers in Otsego County, the Health Fund grant will enable the community-wide implementation of creative healthy aging solutions. Furthermore, it will extend Otsego County's successes and spirit of innovation to additional Michigan communities. With a focus on healthy aging, OCCOA will leverage technology and related services to benefit each participating community and their residents. The project will bring innovative, supportive services to 75 varied community organizations and a projected 28,000 Michigan residents. The technology and services platform for this initiative, Community Oxygen (CommunO<sub>2</sub>), is the successor to an earlier system piloted in Otsego County. Incorporating numerous suggestions and requested product enhancements from the OCCOA Community Partnership Program participants, CommunO<sub>2</sub> provides an innovative and integrated set of safe, affordable, and easy capabilities for family and community engagement. With the funding from the Health Fund and the CommunO<sub>2</sub> technology platform, OCCOA will address supportive services in collaboration with local organizations. These include organizations representing social services, healthcare, senior housing, faith, governmental services, education, professional services, retail, arts and leisure.

OCCOA remains dedicated to its core mission of supporting older adults and family caregivers. According to Dona Wishart, OCCOA Executive Director, "The people of Otsego County and Otsego County Commission on Aging have a history of – and success in – nurturing an innovative community spirit. With the support of the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, OCCOA and Otsego County continue to lead Michigan in embracing next-generation solutions for increased quality of life and reduced social isolation."

## About Michigan Health Endowment Fund



The Michigan Health Endowment Fund works to improve the health and wellness of Michigan residents and reduce the cost of healthcare, with a special focus on children and seniors. More information about the Health Fund can be found at [mhealthfund.com](http://mhealthfund.com).

## About OCCOA



The mission of the Otsego County Commission on Aging is promoting the independence and well-being of the older adults of Otsego County and supporting family caregivers. For more information, visit [otsegocountycoa.org](http://otsegocountycoa.org).

## About CommunO<sub>2</sub>



CommunO<sub>2</sub> is a unique “SuperApp”, a community-wide utility for the cost-effective delivery of appropriate and safe, secure, face-to-face engagement and support services. CommunO<sub>2</sub> makes the benefits of modern information and communications technologies available to all, regardless of age, socio-economic position, health, technical ability, education, location, ethnicity, or language. Additional information available at [CommunO2.com](http://CommunO2.com).