

Senior Center Emergency Readiness

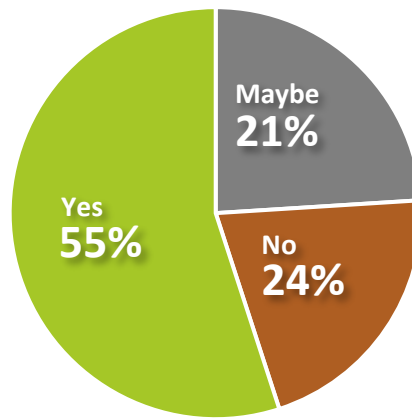
Our region is experiencing more extreme temperatures due to climate change, and older adults are uniquely vulnerable to excessive heat and cold. Senior Centers are often looked to as potential cooling and warming sites; however, while these centers serve a vital role in communities, they are not always equipped to operate in this capacity.



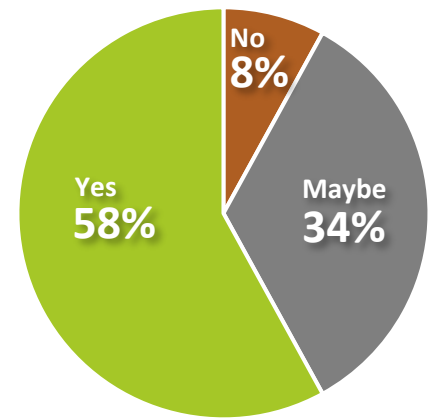
In the spring of 2023, we surveyed 38 Senior Centers to understand how locations are currently prepared to offer services during an emergency, and where specific gaps and barriers exist. Key findings are presented in this document.

Cooling and Heating Site Capacity

In the event of extreme heat, could your agency act as a cooling site?



In the event of extreme cold, could your agency act as a warming site?



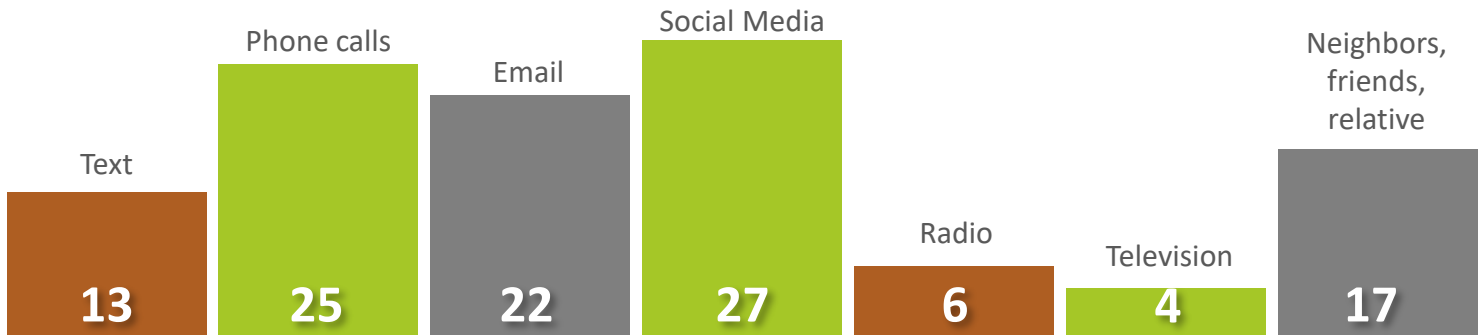
Emergency Resources Available

	Yes	No
Air Conditioning	74%	26%
Fans	61%	39%
Generator or back-up power supply	39%	61%
Staff or reliable volunteers who can identify and respond to symptoms of heat stroke, frost bite, and stroke	63%	37%
10 days of drinking water for agency participants	21%	79%
Cost, blankets	18%	82%
First Aid Kits	87%	13%
Refrigeration for medicine	74%	26%
Charging stations	45%	55%
Space for overnight sheltering	50%	50%

Senior Center Emergency Readiness *Continued*

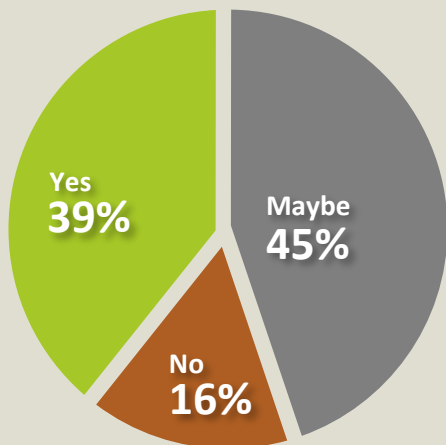
Emergency Notification Methods

What have been the best ways for your participants to receive emergency messages in the past? Select all that apply.

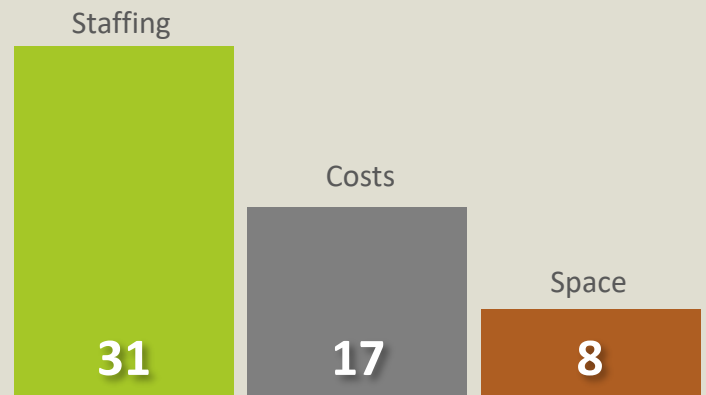


Extended Hours Potential

If needed, could your agency offer extended hours (i.e., evenings, weekends)?



Please specify your greatest barriers to offering extended hours. Select all that apply.



In early 2022, the King County Department of Human and Community Services, the City of Seattle Aging and Disability Services, and Age Friendly Seattle undertook a joint project to better understand the level of emergency preparedness at Senior Centers across the County. This was supported by a grant from Trust for America’s Health and coordinated in partnership with the Washington State Department of Health.

This work builds on previous efforts to support emergency readiness among organizations serving older adults, including an all-day “Prepare to Prosper” training in April 2022. We hope this data aids planning and preparedness efforts in our region and further facilitates intergovernmental collaboration.