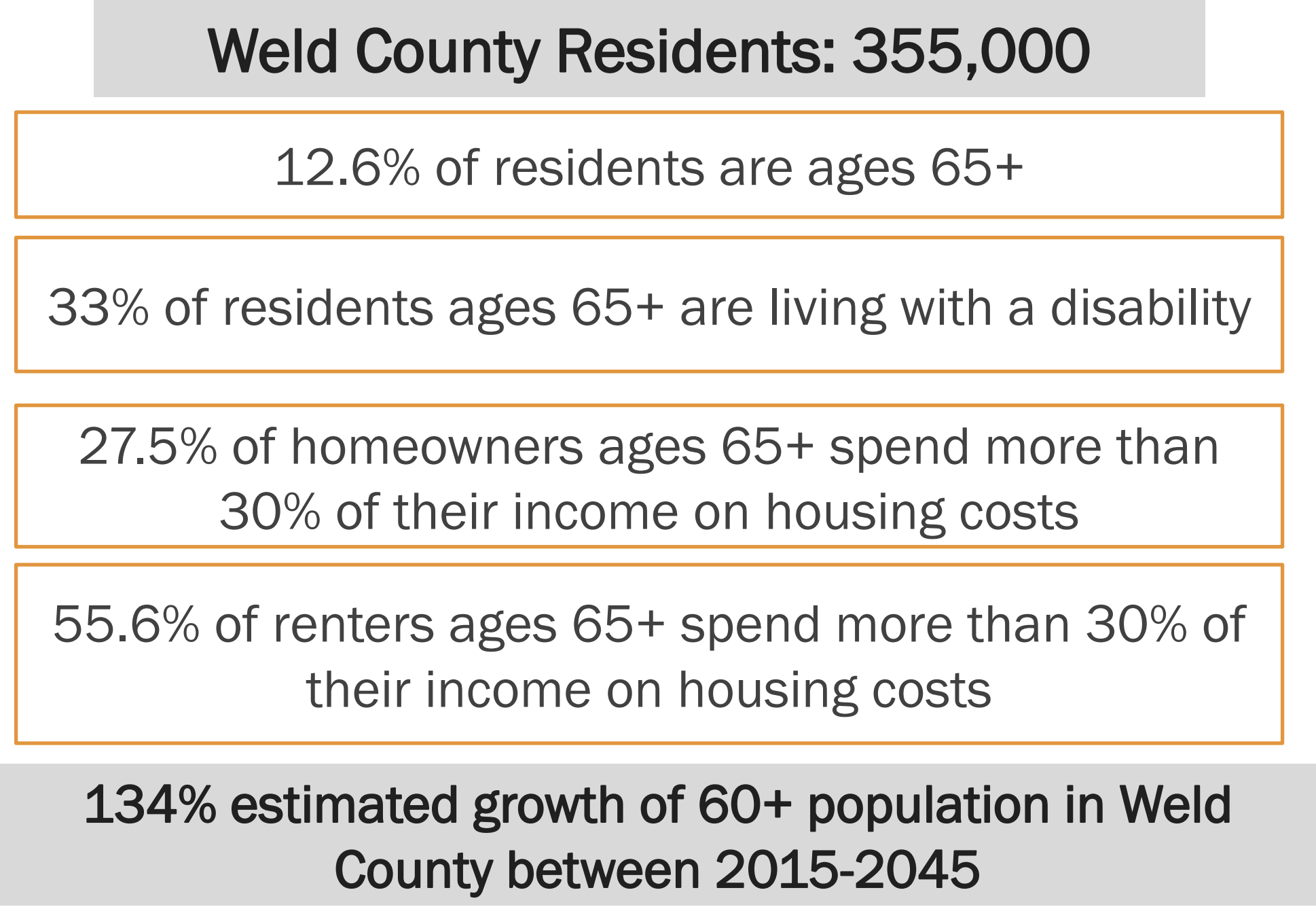


## INTRODUCTION

**Background**  
 In spring 2022, Weld County’s Aging Well team distributed surveys to understand residents’ perception of living in Weld County. The four areas of greatest need for Weld County older adults are: 1) affordable housing, 2) affordable and efficient transportation, 3) affordable and expanded in-home support services, and 4) centralized communication. To address the need of centralized communication, the Age-Friendly Weld initiative will build a website where older adults, family members, and caregivers can easily find and use age-related resources.

**Vision Statement of Age-Friendly Weld: An Aging Well Initiative**  
 Every older adult in Weld County has opportunities to age well.

**Goal Statement on Centralized Communication**  
 To build a stronger community by providing accessible information and resources to older adults, families, caregivers, and community agencies/businesses.



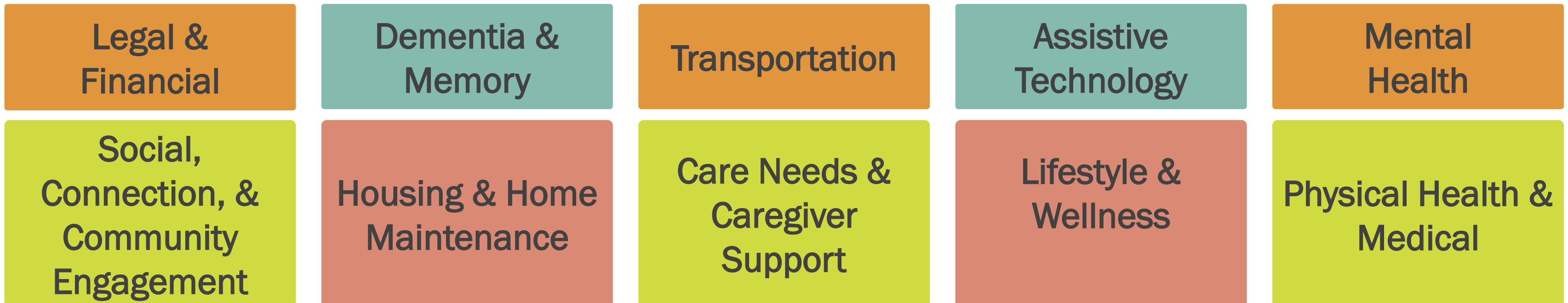
## RESOURCE GAPS

After analyzing services provided by each resource, unmet needs were identified by comparing services provided by each resource and tasks and skills generated by the activity analysis for each category. The following unmet needs were identified:

- Future legal planning for custodial guardianship of grandchildren
- Safe sexual health practices for older adults
- Local needle exchange programs in Weld County
- Caregiving for a family member living with a mental health illness
- Financial assistance for assistance technologies
- Local AA/NA support groups unaffiliated with religion
- Unstable housing resources unaffiliated with religion
- Pet care assistance
- Spanish speaking non-crisis services after working hours
- BIPOC, Indigenous Americans, and LGBT+ caregiver resources

## RESOURCE CATEGORIES

“Senior Access Points for Larimer County” was used a guide for initial resource categorization. “Assistive Technology” was added during the resource collection process. These categories also reflect the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities guidelines.



## IMPACTS OF IDENTITY

Reflection of personal identities is important for understanding how biases may affect choosing which resources are perceived as important or unimportant. Although creating categories improves the navigability of the website, biases affect how resource categories are chosen, named, and defined. By creating categories, resources that do not fit any category may be subject to exclusion or may have not been initially searched for. For example, although Weld County has a prominent agriculture population, there is not a category for resources that are specifically for farmers and ranchers.

As the student intern searching for and categorizing resources, I recognize my identities and experiences do not reflect the residents of Weld County. White papers such as “Age Friendly Weld: An Aging Well Initiative” and “Weld County AAA: Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults: January 2023” were used to gain a deeper understanding of the needs of Weld County residents.

## RESOURCE COLLECTION PROCESS

To find resources, we performed an activity analysis for each resource category. By listing every task or skill an older adult, family member, or caregiver may need to engage in related to the category, several possible terms were generated that could be used as search terms in web search engines. The activity analysis also assists with identifying needs a resource does not address that could be a focus of a different resource. After the activity analysis, we first used web search engines to find resources located in Weld County, then expanded the search to state-wide resources in Colorado and finally, resources that provides services to all states. The figure below demonstrates the resource collection process for “Care Needs & Caregiver Support;” however, the list of resources is not exhaustive from all the resources found. In a spreadsheet, each resource’s website link, contact information, location, hours of operation, description of services were added. For needs that were not addressed in any resource, we searched for a blog posts that discussed the need.

**Resource Collection Process Steps for “Care Needs & Caregiver Support”**

<p><b>1. Activity Analysis of Category</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe practices for feeding, showering, transferring, toileting, etc.</li> <li>• Managing medications and insurance</li> <li>• Monitoring vital signs</li> <li>• End of life care &amp; funeral planning</li> <li>• Healthcare system communication</li> <li>• Kinship: understanding 504s/IEPs</li> <li>• Kinship: legal work for obtaining guardianship</li> <li>• Self-care practices for caregivers</li> <li>• Emergency planning</li> </ul>	<p><b>2. Local County Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Arc of Weld County</li> <li>• Weld County Area Agency on Aging</li> <li>• Weld County Family Resource Division: Kinship Support Group</li> <li>• CSU Extension: Weld County</li> <li>• CSU Center for Healthy Aging</li> <li>• Grandparents Raising Grandchildren</li> </ul>	<p><b>3. State Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grand Family Coalition, Inc.</li> <li>• Colorado Department of Human Services: Relative Guardianship Assistance Program</li> <li>• Colorado Division of Homeland Security &amp; Emergency Management</li> <li>• Colorado Care Planning</li> <li>• CSU Extension</li> </ul>	<p><b>4. National Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powerful Tools for Caregivers</li> <li>• Caregiver Action Network</li> <li>• National Institute on Aging</li> <li>• Alzheimer’s Association</li> <li>• Veterans Affairs: PTSD Family Coach</li> <li>• American Stroke Association</li> <li>• Veterans Affairs: PTSD Family Coach</li> </ul>	<p><b>5. Blog Curation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Institute on Aging: “What To Do After Someone Dies”</li> <li>• National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization: “Long-Distance Caregiving and How Technology Can Help”</li> <li>• CSU Extension: “Grandparents: As Parents”</li> </ul>
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## OUTCOMES & NEXT STEPS

After the initial resource collection process, 271 resources and 44 blogs were identified for the website and added to a master spreadsheet for future use. Next steps involve:

- Develop a criteria to analyze resources and remove resources that could cause potential harm.
- Create subcategories to organize resources and identify the resources that will go on the website.
- Consult with professionals and residents from Weld County
- Design and publish the website for public use.
- Advertise the website to residents of Weld County.
- Monitor website analytics to understand website usage