**Iron County Senior Nutrition Program**

**Suggested Donation Increase on September 1st**

*By Trista Olson, Aging & ADRC Manager*

Beginning September 1st, 2022, the suggested donation for senior dining meals and home delivered meals will increase to $5.00 per meal.

Our goal is always to find ways to reduce or maintain our costs without lowering the quality or nutritional value of our meals. Volunteers have continued to give their time helping our nutrition program and we work hard to keep cost down as much as possible. Keeping the costs down allows us to be able to serve the increasing senior population within Iron County. Our average cost to prepare, serve, package and deliver is $10.82 per meal.

Our meals are partially funded through federal legislation called the Older Americans Act. This is very important legislation that specifically says we cannot charge older adults over the age of 60 for their meals and must offer older adults an opportunity to contribute toward the cost of their meals.

All donations are voluntary and are kept confidential regardless of amount. Nobody will be denied meals if they are unable or choose not to donate. You may donate more or less than the suggested amount. You may continue to donate the same amount you have been. Families may purchase gift meals or dining site tickets to help a loved one. Thirty-five percent of the nutrition program revenues come from participant and community donations, so they are very important to the sustainability of this program.

For more information about senior dining, home delivered meals, or the increase in suggested donation, please contact Trista Olson at (715) 561-2108 ext. 4. Thank you for your support and understanding.