



Benton County

2023 Annual Report

Senior & Disability Services

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels (MOW) serves fresh, hot, nutritionally balanced meals to older adults, adults with disabilities, and spouses/life partners who often live alone and have limited resources or ability to care for themselves. Along with a nutritionally balanced meal, MOW provides a daily safety check and social connection, assisting limited-income, low mobility clients to remain safe and independent in their own home for as long as possible.



45,705
TOTAL MEALS
SERVED



44,949
HOME DELIVERED
MEALS



756
IN-PERSON
DINING MEALS



\$44,429
COMMUNITY
DONATIONS



938
SHELF-STABLE
FOOD BOXES



323
CONSUMERS
SERVED

“Our family would like to thank you and the Meals on Wheels organization for providing our mom with not just meals over the last almost 2 years, but also being our eyes to check in on her when we were all working each day.”

- Family Member of Consumer

**COMPASSION • COLLABORATION
DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION • INTEGRITY • RESPECT**

OCWCOG LICENSES ADULT FOSTER HOMES THAT HOUSE OLDER ADULTS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE COUNTY.



29

ADULT FOSTER HOMES
Provided up to 145 residents
safe housing in 2023.

AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CONNECTION

The Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) is a free service that offers the public a single source of information and assistance on issues affecting older adults and people with disabilities regardless of their income.

CASE MANAGEMENT

1,662
CASES
MANAGED

1,259
NEW
REQUESTS

OCWCOG staff provide case management for Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) throughout the region.

1,213

**BENTON COUNTY
CONSUMERS SERVED**

62%

**WERE OVER
THE AGE OF 65**

66%

**REPORTED DIFFICULTY
DOING TASKS**

41

**OREGON PROJECT
INDEPENDENCE
CONSUMERS**

Oregon Project Independence provides assistance that supports daily activities of living which can be provided by home care workers or in-home care agencies.

24

**MONEY
MANAGEMENT
CONSUMERS**

The Money Management Program (MMP) provides free assistance with personal money management tasks through specially trained volunteers.

Senior and Disability Services hired the first ever Housing Navigator and Housing Coordinators for the region in fall of 2023. These two positions have already formed close relationships with Linn and Benton County Shelters providers, are working to create a shelter specific referral process to streamline services for vulnerable individuals who reside in shelter settings and have set up a weekly outreach schedule at 3 different drop-in centers.



Community Service Programs

SENIOR HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

521 Benton County residents received one on one counseling on their Medicare benefits through the Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) program. This counseling was provided by **14** certified volunteer counselors from Benton County.

7 MEDICARE 101 PRESENTATIONS

Benefited Benton County residents in 2023

Medicare 101 seminars are designed for anyone who is new to Medicare. They are also helpful for current beneficiaries who would like a better understanding of their Medicare benefits and options.

STAND BY ME FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

\$10,000
TO SUPPORT
WORKSHOPS
& TRAININGS

\$10,000 in grant funding from the Benton Community Foundation was awarded to Stand By Me. This will help fund the Benton County Expansion Project which will bring bilingual coaching to Benton County.

FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM



3 FOSTER GRANDPARENT VOLUNTEERS

Foster Grandparent volunteers served in schools, libraries, after school programs, and at nonprofit organizations. These volunteers provided **2,753** volunteer hours in Benton County.

SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

THREE VOLUNTEERS

provided **686** volunteer hours of assistance to elderly adults in Benton County by giving them transportation for errands, grocery shopping, and more.

Five TRANSPORTATION CARE PLANS PROVIDED

Five TRANSPORTATION CARE PLANS PROVIDED

BEHAVIORAL ACTIVATION

OCWCOG added Get Activated, a behavioral activation group for homebound seniors in partnership with the Older Adult Behavioral Health Initiative (OAHBI). The six-week courses are delivered via videoconferencing in a virtual group setting to ensure professional, real-time sessions with group camaraderie, as well as individualized follow-up coaching to benefit Benton County residents.



BENTON COUNTY

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE



640

CLAIMS FILED IN 2023

By the Benton County Veterans Service Office



236

CLAIMS AWARDED

To veterans and their surviving spouses

Many claims are still in the queue and yet to be decided.

339

APPOINTMENTS

Held by Benton County Veteran Service Officers

Appointments were held in person and via teleconferencing. In addition to appointments, Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) exchanged **1,380** emails with veterans and had **1,043** phone contacts.

OCWCOG has 2 Veteran Service Officers that support Benton County.

Benton County Veteran Service Officers (VSO) assist local veterans with claims and provide them with a variety of resources.



\$241,762 NEW MONETARY AWARDS



\$1,203,441 RETROACTIVE FUNDS AWARDED

Benton County Veteran Service Officers were able to help veterans receive funds from the date their claim was filed, not just the effective date of the claim. This resulted in **\$1,203,441** in retroactive funds awarded, **\$358,379** more funds than 2022.



VETERANS DAY AND MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

Benton County VSO Mark Lapinskas attended the Benton County Board of Commissioners meeting in November to read a proclamation for Veterans Day and Military Appreciation Month. Veterans employed by the county and OCWCOG were invited to a ceremony prior to the meeting where they were presented with Benton County challenge coins.

Pictured: Retired Sgt. Major Vinnie Jacques, Commissioner Xan Augerot, Sheriff Jef Van Arsdall, VSO Mark Lapinskas.

The Benton County Veteran Service Office expanded outreach to rural areas in 2023, offering regular outreach and meeting opportunities in Monroe, Alpine, Kings Valley, Blodgett, Alsea, and Bellfountain.

Community & Economic Development

CASCADES WEST RIDE LINE

Cascades West Ride Line is the region's Non-Emergent Medical Transportation (NEMT) that provides rides to non-emergency medical appointments for eligible Oregon Health Plan (OHP) and Medicaid clients.

32,552 TRIPS PROVIDED

429,846 TOTAL MILES TRAVELED



\$1 MILLION BROWNFIELDS GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED

OCWCOG was the recipient of **\$1 million** in brownfields funds to clean up contaminated areas and make them useable again. There is 1 Benton County site that will be impacted by this project.



BROADBAND FEASIBILITY GRANT PROGRESS

Benton and Lincoln received a **\$24.9 million** USDA Reconnect grant OCWCOG supported, and Strategic County Plans have been developed.



RURAL CAPACITY & FORD FAMILY FOUNDATION FUNDS

OCWCOG wrapped up Rural Capacity and Ford Family Foundation grant work. This included staying in touch with rural communities, prospecting for grants, and looking at regional solutions.

CASCADES WEST BUSINESS LENDING

Cascades West Business Lending supports small businesses in Benton County with **1** active loan in Philomath.

EATS AND TREATS CAFE



CWBL was awarded **\$1 million** from the Business Oregon Community Lender Loan Loss Reserve Program (CLLLRP). As new loans are funded, they are enrolled in the program. If an enrolled loan defaults, after OCWCOG has completed its standard liquidation process, any remaining principal loss can be recouped by the program. This program will assist us in getting much needed capital into the hands of small businesses that may not qualify for conventional lending.

CORVALLIS AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

CAMPO staff drafted two successful grant applications for the Carbon Reduction Program, totalling **\$1.5 million** delivered to our members. One grant will purchase an electric bike lane sweeper by the City of Corvallis that will be shared among the region. The second will complete preliminary engineering for the Corvallis to Albany shared use path, a decade long priority project for Benton County.