



# Benton County

## 2024 Annual Report

**30** BENTON COUNTY RESIDENTS EMPLOYED AND SUPPORTED BY OCWCOG

### SENIOR & DISABILITY SERVICES

#### MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels (MoW) serves fresh, nutritionally balanced meals to older adults, people with disabilities, and life partners who often live alone and have limited resources or ability to care for themselves. This program is made possible through **hundreds of amazingly dedicated volunteers**. Beyond food, MoW also provides consistent wellness checks and social connection, empowering low mobility clients to remain safe and independent in their own home.



**56,059**  
MEALS SERVED



**55,066**  
HOME DELIVERIES



**230**  
FOOD BOXES



**1**  
MEAL SITE



**763**  
IN-PERSON DINING MEALS

#### CITIES FED WITH MEALS ON WHEELS

Corvallis | Monroe | Philomath

## AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CONNECTION (ADRC)

The ADRC is a **free** service that offers the public a single point of entry to access resources, information, and assistance on issues affecting older adults and people with disabilities regardless of their income.



**1,793**  
REFERRALS PROVIDED



**736**  
CONSUMERS SERVED

## ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (APS)

Trained APS workers respond to reports of physical, financial, emotional, and other types of abuse, mistreatment and neglect of older adults and people with physical disabilities.



**973**  
CALLS RECEIVED



**403 or 41%**  
RESULTED IN INVESTIGATIONS

## LONG TERM CARE SERVICES AND SUPPORTS (LTSS)

Cases supported included individuals residing in in-home care, received care in a nursing facility, Assisted Living or Residential Care Facility, and an Adult Foster Homes.



**455** CASES MANAGED

## ELIGIBILITY SERVICES

Medicaid-funded programs in partnership with Oregon Department of Human Services, providing essential support to eligible Oregonians. Including, medical, food, financial assistance, childcare, and more. Medical assistance may cover long term supports, such as in-home or facility care, as well as help with Medicare premiums.



**3,327** ACTIVE MEDICAL CASES

## OREGON PROJECT INDEPENDENCE (OPI)

OPI provides monthly assistance with daily life activities with the help of a home care workers. Support includes bathing, dressing, meal preparation, shopping, housekeeping, and more, helping seniors and people with disabilities **maintain their daily needs and quality of life.**



**45** OPI RECIPIENTS SUPPORTED

## SENIOR HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SHIBA)

SHIBA is a Medicare education program where counselors provide free one-on-one advising services on Medicare benefit elections, certified by the State.



**635**  
CLIENTS  
SUPPORTED



**95**  
MEDICARE 101  
ATTENDEES

## THE POWER OF NAVIGATION

*"SHIBA helped my understanding of Medicare tremendously. I don't know how I would navigate healthcare without you. Thank you for ALL you do!"*

## FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

Partnering with schools, after-school programs, and other community partners, we provide the regional Foster Grandparent program, connecting **volunteers aged 55 and over with children 3 - 18 years old** to gain personal and academic confidence.



**26**  
TOTAL  
VOLUNTEERS



**3**  
PROGRAM  
PARTNERS



**2**  
CITIES IN  
BENTON COUNTY

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

*In 2024, we held and/or participated in 18 Benton County community events! Including...*



### Linn-Benton Festival Latino

OCWCOG participated in this incredible annual event for Latinx and Spanish-speaking populations, and all members of the public! A dedicated COG employee, Ana Ojeda Duffy, participated in the planning and execution as part of the Linn-Benton Hispanic Advisory Committee. There was an estimated 750 community members in attendance last year, more than 30 service providers, and 3 local food vendors, as well as regional music groups and cultural performances.

### Meeting People Where They Are

Our team of outreach representatives was proud to travel to all the corners of our tri-county service region, meeting people in trusted, accessible spaces. In Benton County, we met people in small, rural communities, students, unhoused individuals at street outreach events, Veterans, and more. Every area of our services, Senior & Disability Services, Community Services Programs, and Community & Economic Development services, made an appearance at Benton County events, with plenty more in 2025!



## BENTON COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES OFFICE

The Benton County VSO is staffed by OCWCOG to assist Veterans and their families in submitting claims for VA benefits including compensation, pension, survivor's benefits, and VA Healthcare. VSO appointments are typically one-on-one with trained Veteran Services Officers, often having served themselves, dedicated to assisting Veterans and their families access the benefits and resources due to them.



### \$1.2M

TOTAL CLAIMS, BENEFITS,  
AND RETRO AWARDS



### 346

INTERVIEW  
APPOINTMENTS



### 2,720

TOTAL CONTACTS FOR ELIGIBILITY,  
REFERRALS, AND RESOURCES

## THE POWER OF SERVICES

A Veteran Services Officer (VSO) met with a surviving spouse of a Vietnam Veteran. After being diagnosed with terminal lung cancer, the VSO assisted her and her family in understanding and applying for her claim. Thanks to the VSO's diligence, she was awarded a **retro payment \$56K she was owed**. Her family shared the recouped funds will help them afford care to keep her comfortable and supported at home.



### 8

LOCAL VETERANS  
EVENTS

We were honored to participate in and presented at **resource fairs, parades, school assemblies, and other local Veteran events** in 2024. At these events, we may be staffing resource tables, talking with community members about supportive services available to Veterans, give educational presentations, meet with unhoused Veterans, teach young students about honoring and celebrating Veterans, and more!

LINN-BENTON  
VETERANS'  
*Stand Down*



## CORVALLIS AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) is the designated organization coordinating transportation options and specialized projects for Corvallis, Philomath, Adair Village, and portions of North Albany and Benton County.



**\$1.3M**

dedicated in passthrough funding to resurface 19<sup>th</sup> Ave in Philomath



**\$25M**

identified in safety, transportation, & congestion relief along Highway 20



### Bus Driver Shortage

Conducted research project to identify causes and solutions to local bus driver shortage for future workforce investments

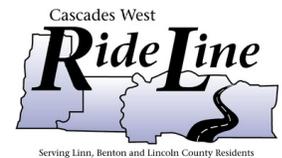


### Safe School Routes

School mapping to determine safest walk and bike routes for children and identified potential areas for safety improvements

## CASCADES WEST RIDE LINE (CWRL)

CWRL is the region's Non-Emergent Medical Transportation (NEMT) which provides rides to non-emergency medical appointments for eligible Oregon Health Plan (OHP) and some Medicare clients in Benton County and the surrounding communities.



**41,508**

Trips provided in Benton County



**2,902,410**

Miles traveled regionally, enough to drive around the earth 117 times!

## LINN & BENTON BROWNSFIELDS

Brownsfields are properties that are not being used to their full potential due to known or suspected environmental pollution. For example, a former gas station needs special testing to be ready to be turned into land for a park.



**4** BROWNFIELDS SITES SELECTED



**54** ACRES OF LAND

Including the Champion Mill in Lebanon, Quonset Hut in Tangent, and Downtown Parking Lots in Albany. This land is on its way to becoming something more usable and productive in our communities!

