



# Community Services Program

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** August 7, 2018

**TO:** Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC) and  
Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)

**FROM:** Jennifer Moore, Community Services Program (CSP) Director

**RE:** **CSP Program Updates**

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### **Benton County Veteran's Services Office (VSO)**

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. In Oregon, one in five victims of suicide is a Veteran. To raise awareness and publicize available options for mental health assistance and wellness, the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) made funding available to all Oregon Counties for Veteran Suicide Awareness and Prevention efforts. The Benton County VSO was awarded \$4,700; plans include working with Benton County Mental Health, Oregon State University, Samaritan Veterans Outreach, and other community partners to further promote existing programs and increase reach to specific service groups. Where possible, activities will be coordinated to highlight September 22nd as a day to recognize the 22 Veteran suicides that occur daily across the U.S.

### ***Meals on Wheels (MOW)***

OCWCOG Board of Directors and SSAC and DSAC members are invited to attend two upcoming volunteer recognition events to celebrate *MOW* volunteers. Newport's event is August 12th from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the South Shore Clubhouse in South Beach; and Mill City's is on September 12th from 12:00 – 2:00 pm at Trexler Farms in Lyons.

### ***Money Management Program (MMP)***

*MMP* provides free assistance to adults, age 18 and over, with personal money management tasks through specially trained and certified volunteers. Program staff and volunteers meet with client(s) at least once a month to help them get organized and to keep their finances on track. Client support can include helping clients budget, pay bills, organize financial papers, balance checkbook(s), and help with banking tasks. Benefits include helping low-income seniors and people with disabilities maintain peace of mind, independence, and protection against fraud and financial exploitation. *MMP* currently serves 53 clients.

## ***Older Adult Behavioral Health Initiative (OABHI)***

The *Older Adult Behavioral Health Initiative (OABHI)* is designed to identify service gaps, strengthen existing services, expand the skills of the workforce, and expand the development of behavioral health services and supports to improve the lives of adults over the age of 60, who are experiencing behavioral health challenges, or physical disabilities. *OABHI* relies on Behavioral Health Specialists who have skills and expertise in mental health and aging, knowledge of the community and service systems, and community development skills.

## ***Senior Corps Programs***

OCWCOG's *Senior Corps* program is expanding its community services to house all three Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS) programs. OCWCOG already administers the *Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)* and the *Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)*; moving forward, OCWCOG will now house the *Senior Companion Program (SCP)* as well.

Two new three-year funding awards were received on July 1, 2018 allowing OCWCOG to add evidence-based support to *FGP*, and to launch *SCP*. Details on each of these awards is provided below. These awards help OCWCOG maximize operating efficiencies and continue meeting critical community needs, while providing robust opportunities for our local *Senior Corps* volunteers.

### ***Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)***

Under its existing *Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)*, OCWCOG was awarded a three-year augmentation grant of \$190,000. Funds will support volunteers serving youth in local evidence-based programs, including mentors with the Boys and Girls Club of America<sup>®</sup> (BGCA) *Project Learn* in Linn and Benton Counties, and literacy tutors with *Start Making a Reader Today (SMART)* in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties.

*Project Learn* is a non-school program striving to increase students' interest in education, as well as scholastic abilities, to improve school grades. The objective is to help narrow low educational achievement gap(s), including difficult behavior and limited employment opportunities.

Since 1992, SMART has been working with students in kindergarten through second grade who are at risk of reading failure. SMART is a volunteer tutoring program designed to be a low-cost, easy-to-implement intervention that places volunteer tutors in schools where at least 40% of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. Volunteers read one-on-one with students twice weekly for half an hour. Students receive two new books each month to encourage families to read together.

### ***Senior Companion Program (SCP)***

OCWCOG received a three-year grant award to operate the *SCP*. Created in 1974, *SCP* provides a way for volunteers 55 and over to stay active by serving less-able seniors and other adults, helping them maintain independence in the client's home. Among other activities, Senior Companions assist with daily living tasks, such as grocery shopping and bill paying; provide friendship and companionship; alert doctors and family members to potential problems; and provide respite to family caregivers. Senior Companions serve 15 to 40 hours per week across the Region. The primary focus area of this project is *Healthy Futures, Aging in Place*; program outcomes include participants showing increased social ties and perceived social support. The *SCP* Federal investment of \$117,876 will be supplemented by \$26,731 from local support to include local match and in-kind funding.