

2021-2025 Clackamas County Area Plan Executive Summary

Why we do an Area Plan

Every four years Clackamas County Social Services, the Area Agency on Aging for Clackamas County, is required to develop an Area Plan that describes how the agency will use federal Older American Act (OAA) funding and Oregon Project Independence (OPI) funding to assist residents of Clackamas County to remain independent, healthy, and engaged in their communities for as long as possible.

The Plan includes an overview of the agency, county demographic information, current services and programs available to seniors and their caregivers, an assessment of the need for services for older adults, and a detailed timeline of goals and activities that will be accomplished during the four year Plan period.

Demographics

The population of Clackamas County is aging and steadily increasing in racial and ethnic diversity. More older adults are living in poverty, employed, and living with at least one disability than during the previous plan period.

The county's fastest growing population segment is adults age 60 years and older. Between 2010 and 2018, the number of residents age 60 years and older increased by 40 percent or 28,202 people and accounted for 80 percent of the overall population growth in the county. While the overall percentage of county residents living below the federal poverty line has declined since 2010, the percentage of residents aged 60 and older living in poverty has increased by 68 percent from 4,139 to 6,920 in 2018. Similarly, while the number of people with a disability has increased by just 281 people in the county overall since 2010, for those aged 65 and older the number has increased from 18,717 to 22,071; 32 percent of those 65 years or older are living with at least one disability.

While 92.2 percent of residents age 60 years and older in the county are white, the racial and ethnic diversity in the county is steadily growing in all population segments. This is illustrated within the older adult population by the growth in the number of residents 65 years and older who speak a language other than English at home, which increased by 47 percent between 2010 and 2018. The largest increase occurred in those who speak Indo-European languages at home, including Russian, which increased from 1,275 residents in 2010 to 2,164 in 2018.

Service Delivery Network in Clackamas County

Clackamas County is a large and diverse county, covering 1,879 square miles with 16 incorporated cities and towns, as well numerous unincorporated communities. The more urbanized northern section of the county contrasts with the rural southern and eastern portions. To serve older adults residing in all areas, Clackamas County Social Services (CCSS) uses a single entry approach, working with a comprehensive network of 10 Senior, Adult or Community Centers, to ensure that every older adult has easy access to information and services.

In addition to the services and programs offered by CCSS, the service delivery system includes a Senior Citizens Council, Clackamas County Behavioral Health, four branch offices of State Department of Human Services/Aging and Persons with Disabilities, the Senior Community Service Employment Program (Title V) and Legal Aid Services of Oregon. CCSS has contractual relationships or active MOUs with all of these organizations.

Planning and Review Process

CCSS conducted a comprehensive community needs assessment from late fall 2018 through fall 2020. In collaboration with other social service agencies, adult community centers, and Aging Services Advisory Council (ASAC) members, CCSS documented individual and community needs, service gaps, and opportunities to improve county communities. The information gathered was used by CCSS staff and ASAC members to develop all aspects of this Area Plan.

Components of the needs assessment included:

- A **survey** documenting the experiences, perceptions and needs of older adults, persons with disabilities, caregivers and social service staff (offered on paper and online in English, Russian and Spanish).
- **Focus groups** with targeted older adult populations, including family caregivers, Russian- speaking residents (held in Russian), residents living in rural areas of the county, and the LGBTQ community.
- **Listening sessions** hosted in collaboration with the Asian Health and Services Center and held in Cantonese, Korean, Mandarin, and Vietnamese.
- A **listening session** with attendees at the Governor's Commission on Senior Services public meeting held in West Linn, OR on June 13, 2019.
- **Analysis of data** from multiple sources including the U.S. Census Bureau, Oregon Department of Human Services, Clackamas County ADRC, 211 info, Feeding America, Partnership for a Hunger Free Oregon, Oregon Hunger Task Force, Healthy Columbia Willamette Collaborative, Clackamas County Coordinated Housing Access.
- A **review of Clackamas County reports and data**, including annual CCSS program reports, 2019 Point-in-Time Count, Clackamas County Community Survey, Housing Affordability & Homelessness Needs Assessment, Blueprint Clackamas (www.blueprintclackamas.com).

How OAA funds can be used

OAA funds may only be used for specific types of services. These include case management, information and assistance, transportation, legal services, nutrition, wellness activities, elder abuse education, and family caregiver support services. The full Area Plan has identified goals, objectives, and activities for 11 focus areas: Information and Assistance, Nutrition Services, Health Promotion, Family Caregivers, Elder Rights and Legal Assistance, Older Native Americans, Older Adult Behavioral Health, Volunteering, Aging Friendly Communities, Transportation, and Housing.

OPI funding may only be used for in-home services (case management, homemaker, personal care, home delivered meals, respite) for clients who are not eligible for Medicaid programs but have needs they are unable to manage on their own.

Main Goals of the Area Plan?

CCSS has identified three main goals that guided the development of each focus area. They are:

- Reduce barriers to accessing older adult services throughout the county, especially for populations who have lower service participation rates than expected.
- Create and update quality assurance efforts to ensure program quality
- Expand programming to meet the needs of a growing older adult population.

The plan has 11 focus areas that each has specific proposed goals, measures, and activities.

To obtain a complete copy of the proposed Clackamas County Social Services Division Aging and Disability Services (ADS) Area Plan contact Social Services at 503-650-8640 or AKelsey@clackamas.us. You may request either an electronic copy or a hard copy of the Area Plan document.

How to Comment on the Area Plan

CCSS is holding public listening session on the Area Plan on Thursday, January 14, 2021 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually and can be accessed by registering at https://clackamascounty.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wsYynxQxTO62vmCqY2opow

All comments collected from the listening session and any changes made based on the comments will be noted in the final Area Plan. Those unable to attend the listening session may submit comments to Amy Kelsey at AKelsey@clackamas.us.