

Priority: Accountability
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs:

Lead Agency: Non-Departmental - All
Program Contact: Julie Neburka

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Elders in Action is a powerful voice and resource for local seniors. As a non-profit organization relying on the skills and talents of more than 150 volunteers, Elders in Action works to solve problems, tackle important issues and create opportunities for Portland area seniors to get involved. Our volunteer driven programs maximize resources by infusing more than \$142,000 of volunteer talent into the community each year. We work in collaboration with other public and private organizations to accomplish significant and lasting results.

Program Description

Elders in Action Commission members provide a powerful voice for local seniors when it comes to the issues seniors care about. These city and county-appointed volunteers regularly meet with local and state officials to provide expert advice on critical issues ranging from housing and transportation to crime, healthcare and other important services. With achievements such as initiation of the 24 hour Senior Helpline, the Housing Emergency fund, and the Elder Crimes Response Team, the Commission has enhanced the network of aging services in the region. For nearly 40 years the Commission has fulfilled the Older American Act Mandate of 1965 to advise our local Area Agency on Aging.

We tackle important issues to make services more appropriate and accessible for low-income, frail, and non-english speaking older adults through local and state advocacy. Current areas of focus include funding for services, housing, crime and abuse, neighborhood livability, and prescription drug coverage and health care. Elders in Action has been a leader in the Our Oregon Coalition, with volunteers appearing at Press Conferences and meeting with legislators regarding revenue reform. We developed the "Commitment to Basic Human Needs" effort which was signed by 14 legislators in 2005. We are a strong partner in the Affordable Housing Now coalition and our senior housing advocates have been involved in HUD and City of Portland affordable and accessible housing efforts.

Program Justification

14.3% of the Multnomah County population, or 95,000, are people over the age of 60. Of those, 9.5%, or 9,000 are below poverty level. Mobility limitations impact close to one in 5 of those over age 60. And those 85+, the fastest growing segment of the population, and has increased 18% in the past decade. The 60+ population in East Multnomah County is expected to double by 2020. In 2006, 8,000 people are turning 60 years of age every day. The Baby Boomer age wave has begun.

The older population is more frail, less mobile and may experience vision or hearing loss, thus presenting unique challenges to social and health care systems already over-burdened. Service levels are being reduced at a time when demand is growing. In addition, our world is increasingly technical and complex which creates added difficulties for older people not familiar with technology, who may be confused, or suffering from other age-related losses or illnesses.

Performance Measures

| Measure Type | Primary Measure | Previous Year Actual (FY04-05) | Current Year Purchased (FY05-06) | Current Year Estimate (FY05-06) | Next Year Offer (FY06-07) |
|--------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Output | Hours of service provided by volunteers | 8,098 | 8,200 | 8,300 | 8,500 |
| Outcome | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Performance Measure - Description

Performance measure estimates for the current year and for next year yet to be determined. Hours of volunteer service last year valued at \$142,120.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Multnomah County's funding for Elders in Action is a discretionary General Fund expenditure.

Revenue/Expense Detail

| | Proposed General Fund | Proposed Other Funds | Proposed General Fund | Proposed Other Funds |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Program Expenses | 2006 | 2006 | 2007 | 2007 |
| Contracts | \$158,140 | \$0 | \$68,000 | \$0 |
| Subtotal: Direct Exps: | \$158,140 | \$0 | \$68,000 | \$0 |
| Administration | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Program Support | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Subtotal: Other Exps: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total GF/non-GF: | \$158,140 | \$0 | \$68,000 | \$0 |
| Program Total: | \$158,140 | | \$68,000 | |
| Program FTE | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Program Revenues | | | | |
| Program Revenue for Admin | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total Revenue: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Explanation of Revenues

Elders in Action has a diverse financial base, with funds from the County, the City of Portland, grants, fees, and corporate and individual donations. Multnomah County funds provide partial support for operation of the Elders in Action Commission.

This program offer was funded "one-time-only" with General Fund in the adopted budget for FY 2007.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #10025, Elders in Action

- Due to cuts in aging services and housing at the federal, state, and local level, and changes in Medicare, Elders in Action expects to see an increase in demand for service and advocacy to maintain current service levels. We will continue to be a powerful voice for local seniors using the expertise of our trained advocates who meet with public policy makers, Housing, Health Care, and Public Safety officials on a regular basis.
- We expect to expand our creative "Woodstock Neighbors Care" program to other parts of Multnomah County. This neighbor to neighbor approach in helping to care for seniors in our community celebrates the talent and experiences that seniors bring to our community and builds more avenues for seniors to actively contribute to our community. As the price of gas increases and the world becomes increasingly frenetic, people are looking to the confines of their neighborhood for safety and services. Seniors have a wealth of wisdom to share for the betterment of Multnomah County. This Elders in Action volunteer investment in Multnomah County results in positive dividends for all.