

Priority: Basic Needs
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs: 25027

Lead Agency: County Human Services
Program Contact: Mary Shortall

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Elders in Action Commission serves as the federally mandated advisory council to Aging and Disability Services (ADS). Elders in Action personal advocate volunteers provide individualized help to seniors who have complex problems in their lives. These include crime victimization, housing problems and other life challenges that would be difficult or impossible for a frail person to deal with alone. Members of the Elders in Action speakers bureau present information to community groups on a variety of topics affecting seniors, ranging from health care to how to protect oneself from fraud and identity theft.

Program Description

Elders in Action Commission serves as the federally mandated advisory council to Aging and Disability Services. The Commission members provide input and advocacy to ADS, Multnomah County Board of County Commissioners, the Portland City Council, and others on a wide range of issues that impact seniors, including housing, transportation, elder abuse and crime, healthcare and other important services. Commission members advocate at the state level for senior programs. Trained senior volunteers evaluate county-operated facilities to make sure they are accessible for seniors and persons with disabilities. They also evaluate the customer service provided by county staff and lend technical assistance to county managers on how to make their programs accessible and friendly to seniors.

Personal Advocate Volunteers work one-on-one to solve problems and support seniors who are facing difficult circumstances, including crime victimization, housing problems and other life challenges. They operate a peer support program where volunteers provide assistance with problem-solving that would be especially hard for a senior to face alone.

Finally, members of the Elders in Action Speakers Bureau present information to community groups on a variety of topics affecting seniors, ranging from health care to how to protect oneself from fraud and identity theft.

Program Justification

Elders in Action (EIA) advises local government on issues, programs, and policy that impact seniors in Multnomah County. Elders in Action (EIA) advocates on behalf of 92,000 local seniors including the 85+ age group, which is the fastest growing segment of Multnomah County's population. Last year, about 150 Elders in Action volunteers provided 11,105 service hours as advisors to local government, personal advocates for at-risk seniors and as community educators. Using service results of local and national studies and the tools of nationally recognized Elder Friendly® Certification program, Elders in Action program ensures that services and businesses in Multnomah County are appropriate and accessible to serve the rapidly aging population.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY07-08)	Current Year Purchased (FY08-09)	Current Year Estimate (FY08-09)	Next Year Offer (FY09-10)
Output	Hours of service provided by volunteers	10,178	13,000	10,000	10,500
Outcome	Value of volunteer hours (\$)¹	176,385	225,290	173,300	181,965

Performance Measure - Description

¹Hourly rate calculation drawn from Independent Sector, a national organization for volunteerism. The \$17.33 hourly rate used here is tailored specifically for the state of Oregon for 2007.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Multnomah County/City of Portland Inter Governmental Agreement and Multnomah County Ordinance 171424 designating Elders in Action as the official advisory agency on aging issues for Multnomah County and the City of Portland and outlines ongoing financial commitment to support a County/City Commission on Aging.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2009	2009	2010	2010
Program Expenses				
Contracts	\$158,000	\$0	\$158,000	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$158,000	\$0	\$158,000	\$0
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$5,069	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$12,471	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$17,540	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$158,000	\$0	\$175,540	\$0
Program Total:	\$158,000		\$175,540	
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

County General Fund - \$158,000

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #25030, Elders In Action Personal Advocacy and Commission Activities