

2017-2020 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 adults with disabilities, and a detailed timeline of goals and activities that will be accomplished during the four-year plan period.

Detailed goals and activities for the following areas are included in the Plan:

- Information and Assistance
- Nutrition Services
- Health Promotion
- Family Caregivers
- Elder Rights
- Behavioral Health for Older Adults
- Volunteerism
- Age Friendly Communities
- Transportation

Successfully accomplishing the activities outlined in the plan will help the county address Social Determinants of Health and create more Age Friendly Communities.

Demographics

Since the last Area Plan, Clackamas County's overall population has grown, including an increase in the number of older adults from 12.7 percent in 2010 to 16.7 percent today. While the overall number of people living below the poverty line is lower, the number of people aged 60 and older living in poverty has increased from 4,521 to 5,603. Similarly, the number of people with a disability has declined since the last Area Plan in all age groups except for those aged 65 and older, which increased from 18,717 to 19,692

While showing a modest increase, the minority population remains quite low, which creates challenges to providing culturally appropriate support. The lack of adequate public transportation continues to create challenges for seniors and people with disabilities who need to access services.

Service Delivery Network in Clackamas County

Clackamas County is a large and diverse county, covering 1,879 square miles with 17 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. In order to serve older adults residing in all areas, Clackamas County Social Services (CCSS) utilizes a single entry approach, working with a comprehensive network of ten Senior, Adult or Community Centers, to ensure that every older adult has easy access to information and services.

Another key access point for services for older adults and persons with disabilities is the Aging and Disability Resource Connection, or ADRC. ADRCs utilize the skills of trained Information and Assistance Specialists to answer questions and direct older adults, caregivers and family members to services and supports. In operation since 2010, in 2013 the Clackamas Resource Connection became part of the regional Metro Aging and Disability Resource Connection and was renamed the Clackamas Aging and Disability Resource Connection.

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 needs assessment for older adults and persons with disabilities from the fall of 2014 through winter 2016. In partnership with other social service agencies, advisory committees, and adult community centers, CCSS documented individual needs and identified ways to make communities more age-friendly.

Scope of Need

The community assessment found common challenges for older adults and persons with disabilities in both urban and rural communities in the areas of transportation, housing, warmth, social inclusion and food security. Poverty is an underlying cause of housing and food insecurity, and under-funded public transportation programs are creating challenges for many to access the services and supports they need to remain living independently in the community of their choosing.

How can comments on the Area Plan be made?

CCSS will hold a number of public hearings on the Area Plan prior to its formal adoption. Comments made by public hearing attendees will be noted in the Area Plan. Comments may also be submitted to Valerie Skinner at valerieski@clackamas.us or by calling 503-650-5643.

To obtain a complete copy of the Clackamas County Area Plan, call Valerie Skinner at 503-650-5643 or access the document via [the Social Services website](#).