



Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments
and Lincoln County
Annual Report

January 2022
Edition 1 - 2021

This report covers the many ways in which OCWCOG has impacted your community over that last year.

A Message from the Executive Director

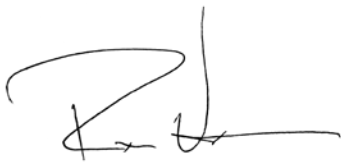
I am proud and excited to provide the first ever, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments' (OCWCOG) year-end County reports. The Council of Governments (COG) impacts many people throughout the Linn/Benton/Lincoln Region by our various services like delivering hot meals and a warm smile to a family in need, providing small business loans to improve the vibrancy and livability of our communities, or orchestrating multi-million dollar transportation initiatives.

In the next few pages, you will see highlights of the work we do and how that has affected your County over this last year. The report is not exhaustive, but merely a snapshot of the great work which is being authorized and championed by 19 cities, 3 Counties, the Siletz Tribe, and the Port of Newport in the Linn/Benton/Lincoln Region.

The work captured in this report is being carried out by approximately 200 staff in every corner of the Region. These dedicated individuals care deeply about the area and everyone living in it. They are committed to making the Region a more livable, safe, and prosperous area for generations to come. As you know, 2021 was extremely challenging in numerous ways and many of our staff have adapted to delivering services from their homes, in an ongoing response to the COVID pandemic. We have adjusted other programs and processes to provide continuous services safely to many of our consumers, where in-person contact was still required.

Here at the COG, we are always looking to improve and better serve the people of our Region. Last year we went beyond our normal practices and explored alternative funding opportunities to enhance and expand services. We have begun participating in regional conversations regarding housing solutions, and are leading an effort to explore a Regional Bias Incident Response system.

I am grateful for the support of our staff, our many community partners, and our active Board of Directors for the support and hard work it takes to provide these services to you.



Ryan Vogt
Executive Director



Senior and Disability Services

The Senior and Disability Services (SDS) department is committed to providing services and supports to keep older adults and people with disabilities independent, safe, secure, and healthy in your communities. SDS staff provide case management, and authorize and coordinate supportive services such as assistance with dressing, bathing, toileting, and grooming.

- Approximately 398 Lincoln County residents received these vital services in their home on any given day.
- Another 162 residents received these services daily in one of 45 longterm care facilities. These care facilities include: Assisted Living, Memory Care, Adult Foster Homes that serve older adults and people with physical disabilities, and one nursing facility.



Eligibility

Eligibility workers processed 6,957 applications for Food and Medical benefits in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties in 2021.

Adult Protective Services

Adult Protective Services (APS) workers within the Senior and Disability Services department investigate allegations of abuse and/or neglect of seniors and adults with disabilities.

- APS screeners received 828 calls of concern about the safety and health of these citizens in Lincoln County. These calls led to:
 - 233 community APS investigations.
 - 90 facility APS investigations.

Aging and Disability Resource Connection

The Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) is a free service that offers the public a single point of entry to access resources, information and assistance on issues affecting older adults and people with disabilities regardless of their income.

- Call center agents answered 248 calls from Lincoln County residents requesting information and assistance in 2021.



Community Service Programs

In Lincoln County, Community Service Program (CSP) staff and volunteers supported programming at: 60+ Center, SMART Reading Program- Ocean Lake Elementary School, and Lincoln County Head Start. Programming was supported by various federal, state and city contracts and grants, as well as Samaritan Health Services Social Accountability Grants, Trust Management Services, Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, Lincoln County Transit, and the Oregon Community Foundation. The CSP Department served Lincoln County this past year through various programming, including:

Meals On Wheels: Meals on Wheels serves fresh, hot, nutritionally balanced meals to older adults, adults with disabilities, and spouses/life partners who often live alone and have limited resources or ability to care for themselves. Along with a nutritionally balanced lunch, MOW provides a daily well-check and social connection, thereby assisting limited-income, low-mobility clients to remain safe and independent in the home of their own choosing, for as long as possible while avoiding premature placement in a facility.

In 2021 a total of 60,678 meals were served in Lincoln to include:

- 54,180 home delivered meals, delivered to the porches of our homebound clients.
- 4,507 congregate meals, served “grab and go” style during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1,991 “blizzard boxes”, which contain 5 emergency shelf stable meals.

Meals on Wheels was awarded a \$13,000 District Grant from the Rotary Club of Corvallis. A multi-club grant, the Rotary Club of Corvallis partnered with Greater Corvallis, Philomath, Albany, and Newport Clubs to obtain matching grant funding from Rotary District 5110. The grant helps support Meals on Wheels in Lincoln County.



Stand-By-Me (\$BM): Stand By Me-Oregon is a financial empowerment program that replicates \$BM Delaware; a proven coaching model that helps provide financial stability to individuals and families. There are four primary outcomes: budgeting, reducing debt, improving credit ratings, and building savings.

- Lincoln County’s Community Services Consortium’s (CSC) Head Start program is trained to commence coaching in 2022.
- Thanks to a \$36,000 grant from The Oregon Community Foundation, \$Stand By Me financial coaches received specialized training from DevNW on obtaining and improving credit, creating savings, decreasing debt, student loans and home buying. We now offer coaching in English and Spanish.

Money Management for Seniors: This program provides free assistance with personal money management tasks through specially trained volunteers. Service is personalized, confidential, and safe; and is offered free of charge to eligible individuals.

- There were 6 Lincoln County seniors or people with disabilities who were served in 2021.
 - 3 were assisted as Bill Pay clients who receive assistance in budgeting and check writing.
 - 3 used the program for Representative Payee services. A Representative Payee is someone appointed by the Federal Benefit payers to manage benefit payments on behalf of an incapable beneficiary.



AmeriCorps Seniors - Foster Grandparent Program: National Service Foster Grandparent volunteers, sponsored by OCWCOG, tutor and mentor local youth ages 3-18 in public schools, after school, and through various literacy programs.

- In Lincoln County, 5 Foster Grandparent volunteers served local youth through its mentoring and tutoring Program, chiefly online, due to the pandemic.
- Lincoln County currently serves students from SMART Reading, Ocean Lake Elementary School (Lincoln City) and Crestview Heights Elementary School (Waldport).

AmeriCorps Seniors – RSVP: Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is America’s largest volunteer network for people age 55 and over. RSVP volunteers choose how, where, and how often they want to serve. Volunteer community duty station opportunities include food pantry assistance, SHIBA Medicare counseling, money management coaching, meal delivery, reading with youth, tax preparation, gleaners, and more.

The most active RSVP program, The Senior Health Insurance Benefit Assistance Program (SHIBA), is administered by OCWCOG on behalf of the State of Oregon. This program educates local residents on Medicare benefits elections. SHIBA counselors provide one-on-one free counseling as well as “New to Medicare” Seminar classes. Volunteers are certified by the State and serve both remotely and plan to return to in person at the Avery Building.

- Last year, SHIBA volunteers served 482 Lincoln County residents.

AmeriCorps Seniors - Senior Companion Program:

Senior Companion volunteers provide assistance and friendship to older adults who have difficulty with daily living tasks, such as shopping or paying bills. Through this program, volunteers keep seniors independent longer and provide respite to family caregivers.

- In 2021, 7 volunteers completed 159 rides for local homebound seniors residing in Otis, Lincoln City, Gleneden Beach, Newport, and Waldport. These clients were not eligible for Ride Line, and are screened and referred by in-house Options Counselors.
 - Trips included medical appointments (both in-County and in Salem/Corvallis), grocery and errand runs, and food porch drop-offs donated from Salvation Army during the pandemic.



Oregon Project Independence: Oregon Project Independence (OPI) is a program providing assistance that supports daily activities of living which can be provided by home care workers or in-home care agencies. Examples of in-home assistance includes help with dressing, meal prep, bathing, shopping, and housekeeping. OPI is an alternative to Medicaid and offers up to 20 hours a month of in-home assistance.

- There was approximately 44 Lincoln County residents that benefited from this program in 2021.

These community-facing programs were provided thanks to braided funding from federal, state and city contracts and grants, as well as supports from Samaritan Health Services Social Accountability Grants, Trust Management Services, Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, and the Oregon Community Foundation.

Community and Economic Development (CED)

Transportation Services and Planning

Transportation is the largest program area within Community and Economic Development (CED) department, and provides an array of services including these programs:

Cascades West Ride Line: The Ride Line program is the region's Non-Emergent Medical Transportation (NEMT) for physical, dental, drug and alcohol, and mental health treatment. For the year 2021 Ride Line has made an incredible impact in Lincoln County by:

- Providing 30,672 rides for 1,496 people.
- These rides put over \$1,861,000 back into Lincoln County.
- Planning the expansion of Ride Line to Medicare consumers through benefits with the Samaritan Advantage Health Plan. This project will launch in 2022.

Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation (CWACT): provides a forum for local governments to collaborate on local, regional, and State transportation issues in the Region. The CWACT is chartered by the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) and provides input, advice, and recommendations to the OTC and ODOT on State transportation plans and policies. In 2021, CWACT provided input on multiple State funding programs including recommendations for funding priorities in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), reviewed applications for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Discretionary Grant Program, and provided feedback on ODOT's "Leverage" funds that were added to ODOT projects within the region.



Transportation Options Program: This program provides outreach, education, and carpool/vanpool matching services for commuters living or working in the Region. The program connects commuters within the Region and beyond, to major cities such as Eugene, Salem, and Portland. Our program administered a challenge for bike month in May with 42 participants across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties traveling over 2,400 miles, saving over 2,000 lbs of CO₂, and burning 200,000 calories! 33 participants received safety related prizes. Staff participated at in-person tabling events at the OSU Beaver Fair and Linn Benton Community College Welcome Day engaging over 100 people. The annual Get There Challenge in October had statewide participation of over 1,400 participants and 13 prize winners from our region.

Other grants received from STIF to assist in transportation improvement efforts in Lincoln County are:

- \$150,000 to update the Human Services Coordinated Plans for Linn/Benton/Lincoln Counties.
- \$64,280 to build the Regional Transit Access Plan.

Other transportation related projects that impact Lincoln County are:

- Completion of the Seamless Transportation Project connecting bus service to all three Counties, with real-time bus information and online ticketing.

Community Development

The Community Development program seeks to improve the quality of life for residents in Lincoln County. OCWCOG has professional staff to assist communities, especially smaller communities, with specialized tasks. Here are some of the projects Community Development has worked on in Lincoln County:

- Providing on-site land use planning services to Toledo.
- Providing staffing to the Cascades West Regional Consortium and helped secure a \$130,000 grant from Business Oregon to fund a wetlands mitigation bank feasibility study.
- Secured technical assistance from Department of Land Conservation and Development to develop a Regional Housing Toolkit, working with Toledo on their housing development planning goals.

Brownfields Project: A Brownfield is a property that is not being used to its full potential because of known or suspected environmental pollution. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant is intended to support brownfield redevelopment in developed areas within the Yaquina River watershed: the Cities of Newport and Toledo, and the areas of Lincoln County located near the Yaquina River between the cities.

- A \$600,000 EPA grant that was awarded to assess the 7 brownfield sites in the Yaquina Bay watershed is near completion.
 - Tokyo Slough
 - Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians' Toledo Mill
 - King Salvage
 - Former Yaquina Fruit Property
 - Rogue Brewery Seawall
 - Lincoln County Commons
 - Oregon Parks and Recreation former Oregon State Police Shooting Range

Economic Development

OCWCOG provides staffing for the Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD), which creates, adopts and works to implement the priorities of the Region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). OCWCOG supports local economic development initiatives through research, grant writing, convening, project development and management, and technical assistance.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Grants: CARES funding is designed to assist partners with responding to the specific recovery needs in the unique communities across the district. Eligible applicants included City and County governments in the Region to support economic resiliency and recovery. In Lincoln County three CARES micro-grants were awarded:

- \$10,000 was awarded to the City of Toledo for a murals. These funds will be used for a Mural project that engages community members, including youth and new artists, to create several larger murals in Toledo. In addition, the city will create a professional development pipeline for new artists by providing opportunities to create public art on vacant windows, utility boxes, and other locations that can help artists stair-step into larger murals.
- \$2,950 to the City of Toledo for commercial and industrial property data management. This grant was used for Oregon Prospector research and data entry. Oregon Prospector, managed by Business Oregon, is a robust mapping and property marketing tool for commercial property for sale, buildings for lease, and buildable land inventory throughout the county.
- \$4,800 to the City of Newport for strategic planning. This grant will help develop a regional information tool on the web. This tool will allow multiple organizations to easily share their priority focus areas and active projects. Once this project is established, the is hope that it can be deployed to other communities through the Ford Family Foundation's Community Website Partnership Program.

- \$7,594 to Siletz Public Library for computer system upgrade to provide better security and greater processing ability. Additionally, six new laptops were purchased for classes and activity groups. The new system will be used by adults and youth for workforce support, accessing resources, completing schoolwork, taking college courses, conducting research, playing games, and staying in touch with family and friends.
- \$10,000 to The Port of Newport to replace their financial system. The Port needs to adapt and streamline its processes to save time and money. A new financial system allows the Port to properly cost and price each activity the Port performs.

Cascade West Business Lending: Cascades West Business Lending (CWBL) efforts aim to encourage new employment opportunities, and promote a stable and diversified economy in the tri-County Region. CWBL delivers expert commercial loan packaging, closing, servicing, and collection services through various direct and indirect loan programs. Our team provides administrative services, technical assistance, and professional lending services through contractual partnerships to local government and non-profit organizations, who offer economic development oriented commercial loans. Our Small Business Lending program currently has over \$3.45 million in loans throughout our tri-county region. In Lincoln County we funded:



- \$240,000 loan for a food cart pod including a main pavilion building with indoor seating and beverage service
- \$111,000 loan for the remodel and modernization of a kitchen gadget shop
- \$28,000 loan to a restaurant in Waldport.
- We also contracted with Lincoln City on a \$250,000 loan to help renovate a non-profit transitional housing facility.

Technology Service Contracts

OCWCOG Business Services provides Information Technology (IT) services and supports to member agencies. In Lincoln County, we have agreements to provide support to:

- Siletz