

The Elderly Services Program (ESP) helps older adults remain safe and independent in their homes, preventing or delaying nursing home placement.

ESP provides a care manager who identifies resources to meet a client's needs, which may include services such as Meals on Wheels, personal care, homemaking and transportation, to name a few.

Care managers also answer questions and coordinate care clients may already receive from family and friends.

ESP is made possible thanks to the generous support of area taxpayers via senior services tax levies. Other funding comes from federal and state money, grants, donations and client co-payments.

Council on Aging operates ESP via contracts with county commissioners in Butler, Clinton, Hamilton and Warren counties.

### **How much will my ESP care cost?**

There is no income qualification for this program. However, to help the program serve as many people as possible with the tax dollars available, *some clients – depending on income and assets – are required to help pay for the cost of their care through a co-payment.*

Payment is on a sliding scale based on your income and medical expenses. Some people with a low income and high medical expenses may pay nothing. Other people with higher incomes pay for part or all of their services. About 30 percent of ESP clients have a co-payment.

### **I thought ESP was supported by a tax levy. Why should I have to pay?**

We work hard to keep costs low, but the tax levy does not cover everything. By combining tax dollars with co-payments, we can serve more older adults.



*“Every day in my home is just a miracle.”*

–Monica, Elderly Services Program client

### **Who decides whether I must pay?**

Council on Aging decides based on financial information that you provide.

### **What financial information do I have to provide?**

We will need to know your monthly income from all sources, which must be supported by specific documents. Certain

out-of-pocket medical expenses are deducted from your income. Your care manager will review this with you at your initial meeting.

If you want to enroll but choose not to provide the financial documentation, you must sign a form stating you agree to pay the full cost of your services. These costs will be reviewed annually.

### **If I have a co-payment, how do I pay?**

You will receive a monthly bill from Council on Aging.

### **Why should I enroll in ESP?**

In addition to an array of services, ESP offers:

- A care manager to coordinate your care
- Negotiated rates with service providers
- Quality control of service providers
- Your county tax dollars support this program

### **How do I enroll?**

- Butler County: (513) 868-9281
- Clinton County: (937) 449-0642
- Hamilton County: (513) 721-1025, Option 2
- Warren County: (513) 695-2271

ESP services are funded by a special tax levy. ESP does not supplant care provided by families, but rather secures the necessary additional care the family is unable to provide. ESP expects families to take responsibility to care for family members to the fullest extent possible.