

Welcome

I'd like to say thank you to all who voted "yes," for the Clinton County Senior Services Levy in fall of 2021. The passage is especially notable because voters were asked for approval a year earlier than usual, and with an increase in millage. The levy funds 83 percent of the Clinton County Elderly Services Program (ESP), and the previous level of funding limited our ability to help all those seeking help from the program. ESP served 622 clients in 2021.



Now, we will be able to help more older adults remain safely in their homes, and provide caregivers the relief of knowing their loved ones are receiving care while they tend to their jobs and their own families.

The national home health aide shortage unfortunately continues to impact in-home care services such as those provided by ESP. ESP administrator Council on Aging's (COA) efforts to lessen the impact in our county have been largely successful – the recruitment of additional home health agencies has improved consistency in aide matches with clients. But, the demand for in-home help in our county is growing at such a rate that some clients are waiting longer than normal for certain services. ESP's Consumer Directed Care option is a good alternative for clients who want to hire their own caregivers. COA recently contracted with a new financial management service provider with the goal of making it easier for clients to use Consumer Directed Care. The impact of this change will be felt in 2022.

If you've ever been a family caregiver, you know that burnout is very real. The Caregiver Support Program available through COA in 2021 began to offer up to 14 days annually of overnight respite. Care recipients stay in an appropriate care facility, giving caregivers an often much-needed break to rest, take a vacation, catch up on housework, or whatever they need to do to recharge.

Pandemic-related support for county residents continued in 2021, with an emphasis on helping older adults access vaccines. In fact, COA received a Clinton County Community Champions (C4) Award for developing a program to bring vaccines to homebound older adults.

There are many great ESP stories to share from 2021, so I encourage you to read this printed report, and then scan the QR code for even more important stories and highlights.

Sincerely,
Nicole Rodman
Chair, Clinton County Elderly Services Program Advisory Council

ESP Is a Community Partnership



Clinton County Commissioners
Mike McCarty, Kerry R. Steed, Brenda K. Woods



Clinton County Elderly Services Program Advisory Council
Nicole Rodman, Chair; Deacon Bob Baker; Charles Breckel; Ray Camp; Sue Caplinger; Timothy Hawk; Duane Weyand



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What Is ESP?

The Elderly Services Program helps eligible county residents age 65 and older to remain safe and independent in their homes by providing help with certain activities of daily living (bathing, cleaning, cooking, transportation and more), filling gaps in care already provided by family caregivers.

ESP offers flexible care to meet clients' changing needs. Eligibility and care needs are determined by an in-home assessment. A professional care manager coordinates and monitors clients' care. While income is not an eligibility factor, some clients have a co-payment based on income.

ESP is a community partnership. It's managed by Council on Aging via a contract with Clinton County Commissioners, who appoint a board to advise on program needs and policies. Provider agencies deliver ESP services via competitive contracts with COA. Clients, caregivers and taxpayers round out the partnership. ESP is a compassionate and cost-effective alternative to nursing home care.

COST TO TAXPAYERS:

\$322
Monthly costs for ESP services

VS

\$6,000+
Monthly costs for nursing home care

What Is COA's Role?

As the program's operator, COA provides: eligibility assessments; care management; program development; provider management; data analytics; financial services; information technology; quality improvement and community engagement. As a state-designated Area Agency on Aging, COA provided these additional services to county residents in 2021:



55,966

requests for information and referral fulfilled



1,326

individuals throughout COA's service area were provided support to transition from one care setting to another



\$214,451

in Title III funding allocated to local organizations for congregate meals, legal assistance, wellness education, caregiver support, transportation and other supportive services



241

Clinton County residents received home- and community-based services through Medicaid-funded programs

CLINTON COUNTY
Elderly Services Program



2021

Annual Report



2021

Client Stats

Clinton County ESP clients are caught in the middle: with income too high to qualify for Medicaid, but too low to pay for private in-home care. They need help with basic activities like personal care and transportation. Between raising a family and going to work, family members help as much as they can, but ESP fills in gaps in care so our older neighbors and loved ones can continue to live independently in their homes and communities. ESP is a program that benefits our entire community.

622
CLIENTS
SERVED



67%
FEMALE



33%
MALE



57%
LIVE ALONE

91%
AGE 70+



812 DAYS
AVG TIME ON
PROGRAM



\$117/MO
OUT-OF-POCKET
MEDICAL EXPENSES

\$1,860
MEAN MONTHLY
INCOME

Success Stories

ESP helps the “James Brown of Wilmington” stay in his home full of memories



Church, dogs, and James Brown – those are what touch the heart of Clinton County ESP client, Dennis, lifting him up when times are hard. In his 78 years, he has endured and overcome much: cancer, the death of his wife, and the deaths of several children, including a son who collapsed in Dennis’ front yard from an asthma attack. Dennis had a memorial cross made to mark the spot.

“I have had a lot of tragedy,” he said. “I can feel it too. It gets a little lonely in this house. I have my moments and shed a few tears about that.”

But, he said, the house is where his wife and son died and he wants to keep his memories there. “It’s important to stay here. I don’t know what I would do if I had to leave.” ([scan QR code for more](#))

To read these full success stories and more, scan the code with your mobile device or visit www.help4seniors.org/ccesp2021



New financial management services provider makes it easier for ESP clients to hire their own caregiver



As ESP’s administrator, COA contracts with organizations to deliver services to clients. Contracts are awarded through a competitive bidding process via requests for proposals (RFPs). The goal of the RFP process is to identify and contract with service providers who can offer the highest quality services at the lowest possible cost in order to serve as many older adults as possible with the available tax dollars.

In September, COA issued an RFP for Financial Management Services (FMS) in the Elderly Services Program. The FMS provider supports ESP clients who utilize the program’s consumer-directed care option to recruit and hire their own aides. In this case the ESP client or designated family member is the “employer” and the aide they hire is their “employee.” The FMS provider, on the client’s behalf, manages all the financial and payroll related responsibilities in addition to criminal background checks that go along with being an “employer.” ([scan QR code for more](#))

Council on Aging helps older adults get COVID-19 vaccinations



Since February 2021, Council on Aging (COA) has played a key role in helping more than 3,000 area older adults get vaccinated against COVID-19, while helping countless others connect to information about the available vaccines.

When Ohio rolled out its statewide COVID-19 vaccination plan in February 2021, older adults were among the first eligible groups to receive a vaccination. However, older adults had difficulty getting vaccinated for two primary reasons: 1) there was not enough vaccine to meet the demand; and 2) most vaccine registration systems required use of a computer or smart phone to make an appointment – a barrier for many older adults.

There was also confusion about where older adults could go for assistance in navigating a fragmented vaccine system. ([scan QR code for more](#))

Expenses and Revenue

How tax dollars are spent

ESP would not exist without the generous support of voters. A county tax levy in place since 1998 provides 83 percent of ESP’s funding. The most recent tax levy was approved by 60 percent of voters in 2021. The 2.35-mill levy costs property owners \$64.28 per \$100,000 of property valuation annually. COA’s goal is to ensure the highest quality services at the lowest cost in order to serve as many people as possible with the tax dollars available.

As the Area Agency on Aging for southwestern Ohio, including Clinton County, COA leverages state and federal funding to cover 15 percent of ESP expenses. Additional funding comes from voluntary client donations and client co-payments.

Revenue

Federal and State (via Council on Aging)	\$242,996
Client Donations and Co-payments	\$35,252
Clinton County Elderly Services Levy	\$1,348,382
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,631,630

Expenses

SERVICE	CLIENTS SERVED	SERVICE UNITS	COST
Care Management	611	4,590 months	\$222,747
Electronic Monitoring System	374	3,522 months	\$82,670
Homemaking	351	19,450 hours	\$580,648
Home-Delivered Meals	182	31,097 meals	\$285,785
Personal Care	60	3,157 hours	\$105,631
Home Medical Equipment	44	55 items	\$19,932
FastTrack Home Care Management	37	51 months	\$44,924
Consumer-Directed Care	26	7,066 hours	\$104,542
Minor Home Repairs	25	32 repairs	\$39,918
Respite	24	1,236 hours	\$14,887
Environmental Services*	12	31 jobs	\$16,447
Medical Transportation	10	108 one-way trips	\$5,726
Institutional Respite**	2	14 nights	\$5,565
Intake and Assessment	N/A	N/A	\$2,449
Administration	N/A	N/A	\$99,760
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$1,631,630

*Pest control, major housekeeping and waste removal.

**Service made possible by Federal Older Americans Act funding drawn down by Council on Aging. Levy dollars were not used for this service.

Clinton County 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. ESP does not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, color, religion (creed), sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, national or ethnic origin (ancestry), marital status, or disability.