



2024

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Clinton County *Elderly Services Program*



Welcome

As chair of the Clinton County Elderly Services Program (ESP) Advisory Council, I am pleased to share our program's 2024 Annual Report. In 2024, ESP, which is funded by the county's senior services tax levy, served 637 of our friends, neighbors and loved ones.

ESP is administered by Council on Aging (COA), our region's state-designated Area Agency on Aging. I am proud to share that across COA's service area, Clinton County ESP continues to be the least impacted by the national home care workforce shortage. In fact, in partnership with COA, we've found opportunities to expand or offer new services while maintaining a balanced budget.

For example, Clinton County homeowners like Emeline, an ESP client and Army veteran whose story is featured in our report, are benefiting from a \$1.25 million federal grant secured by COA to provide home modifications and safety upgrades aimed at preserving independence in the home. This funding frees up local tax dollars for other important services including homecare assistance, transportation and meals.

Additionally, a \$220,000 Healthy Aging grant awarded by the state helped offset costs for critical services delivered through ESP and provided the opportunity to address some of the unmet needs of older adults in the county, such as utility assistance and technology training.

Also in 2024, we identified opportunities for cost savings, which helped us stretch tax dollars to serve more people.

- A competitive bidding process for Electronic Monitoring Service allowed COA to leverage regional volume and lower costs. This process resulted in \$105,137 in savings for our program, bringing in a monthly service rate of \$19 – a rate 42% lower than the Medicaid rate.
- Following ESP's payor of last resort model, we saved \$24,000 in 2024 by helping clients access benefits provided and paid for by Medicare.
- COA-led advocacy with Ohio's Common Sense Initiative relieved regulatory burdens impacting home-delivered meals clients and providers. This initiative played a significant role in reducing meal costs by 12% in Clinton County ESP during 2024.

Another key component of our program's success is the community outreach conducted by ESP and COA staff members. In a rural county such as ours, it is important for program staff to be out in the community, meeting and talking with people where they live, work and congregate, so they know who to call when they need help. Staff members conducted approximately 90 outreach activities in Clinton County in 2024.

On behalf of this advisory council and the many older adults and families served by our program, thank you for reading our report and for your continued support of the Clinton County Elderly Services Program.



Nicole Rodman
Chair, Clinton County
Elderly Services Program
Advisory Council

ESP is a Community Partnership

Clinton County Commissioners

Brenda K. Woods, Kerry R. Steed, Mike McCarty

Clinton County Elderly Services Program Advisory Council

Nicole Rodman, Chair; Sue Caplinger; Stella Cramer;
Donald Gephart; Timothy Hawk; David Moore; Jeffrey Orth

Council on Aging

2333 Rombach Ave., Wilmington, OH 45177
(937) 584-7200 www.help4seniors.org





2024

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.

637 Clients Served


67%
FEMALE


33%
MALE



53%
LIVE ALONE



\$427
MONTHLY
OUT-OF-POCKET
MEDICAL EXPENSES



90%
AGE 70+ (1100+)



\$1,958
MEAN MONTHLY
INCOME



606
AVERAGE DAYS
ON THE PROGRAM

Demographic data includes individuals enrolled in ESP and FastTrack Home.



Success Stories

To read these full success stories and more, scan the code with your mobile device or visit www.help4seniors.org/ccesp2024

Healthy Aging grant helps fill unmet needs of Clinton County older adults

In 2023, Clinton County commissioners received \$220,000 from the state's Healthy Aging grant to support programs and services to keep at-risk older adults in their homes and communities. Council on Aging worked with county leaders to develop a plan to use grant dollars to address unmet needs in the county, including technology classes for adults age 60+. COA and county service providers successfully delivered the services supported by the grant, serving nearly 600 older adults.

HUD grant saves local tax dollars while helping homeowners with age-friendly modifications

A \$1.25 million federal grant secured by Council on Aging is helping older homeowners in Clinton County make modifications that can help them remain in their homes as long as possible. ESP client and Army veteran, Emeline, qualified for assistance and received grab bars, a raised toilet seat with handrails, a light replacement and a ramp to her front door. "Putting all these things in, it actually makes you feel emotionally better. I have more independence," Emeline said.

Competitive bidding yields big savings for ESP

As ESP's administrator, Council on Aging's goal is to contract with the highest quality providers at the lowest possible price to serve as many individuals as possible with the tax dollars available. A competitive bidding process completed in 2024 for Electronic Monitoring Systems resulted in \$105,137 in savings for Clinton County ESP.

COA-backed rule change benefits home-delivered meals clients; cuts expenses

As the Area Agency on Aging for Clinton County, Council on Aging advocates on behalf of older adults and the provider network that serves them. In 2024, after 10 years of unsuccessful advocacy with the Ohio Department of Aging, COA worked through Ohio's Common Sense Initiative to change unnecessary and burdensome rules that required a prescription for older adults to receive meals that met their dietary needs. The rule change contributed to a 12% reduction in home-delivered meals expenses in Clinton County ESP.

Senior services levy funds maintenance projects at two senior centers

Grants were awarded to the New Vienna Senior Center and the Clinton County Community Action Program's Aging Up Center in Wilmington for much-needed maintenance projects. The goal of the grants, which were funded by the county's senior services levy, was to improve services to older adults in the county.



Expenses + 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 71% of ESP's funding. The current 2.35-mill property tax levy was approved by 60% of voters in 2021 and was estimated at that time to cost \$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 19% of ESP expenses. Additional funding comes from voluntary client donations and client co-payments.

Revenue

Federal and State (via Council on Aging)	\$48,702
Client Donations and Co-payments	\$36,563
Healthy Aging Grants	\$220,066
HUD Grant	\$418,958
Clinton County Elderly Services Levy	\$1,777,458
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,501,747

Expenses

SERVICE	CLIENTS SERVED	SERVICE UNITS	COST
Care Management	592	5,471 months	\$306,454
Home-Delivered Meals ¹	404	45,459 meals	\$502,145
Home Care Assistance	332	18,621 hours	\$663,380
Electronic Monitoring Systems	318	3,239 months	\$73,228
Healthy Aging ²	178	N/A	\$71,020
HUD Home Repairs and Modifications ³	94	54 jobs	\$418,958
FastTrack Home Care Transitions	72	168 months	\$42,005
Home Medical Equipment	63	78 items	\$32,063
Minor Home Repairs	51	65 repairs	\$12,782
Consumer-Directed Care	35	7,164 hours	\$144,108
Transportation	30	217 one-way trips	\$21,986
Overnight Respite ⁴	4	28 nights	\$9,208
Environmental Services ⁵	3	9 jobs	\$3,925
Senior Center Funding ⁶	N/A	N/A	\$81,488
Administration	N/A	N/A	\$117,201
Intake and Assessment	N/A	N/A	\$1,796
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$2,501,747

¹ Services funded in whole or in part by Healthy Aging Grant

² Utility assistance, technology training and benefits enrollment assistance funded by Healthy Aging Grant

³ Funded by federal grant drawn down by Council on Aging. Levy dollars were not used for this service.

⁴ Service funded in whole or in part by Federal Older Americans Act, drawn down by Council on Aging

⁵ Pest control, major housekeeping and waste removal

⁶ Funding distributed to senior centers for capital improvement projects

What is ESP?

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

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

The program is operated by Council on Aging (COA) 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. In some cases, clients may hire their own service providers. Clients, caregivers and taxpayers round out the partnership. ESP is a compassionate and cost-effective alternative to nursing home care.

Cost to Taxpayers

\$344

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 2024:

78,165

requests for information and referral fulfilled

73

Clinton County older adults received support to transition from one care setting to another

236

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

\$269,442

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

