



2023

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Clinton County
*Elderly Services
Program*



Welcome

Clinton County's Elderly Services Program (ESP) served 670 county residents in 2023. Despite rising costs and an ongoing national shortage of home care workers, our program is growing — serving more of our vulnerable friends, family members and neighbors than ever before.

How have we accomplished this? Partnership. ESP is a true community partnership, starting with county taxpayers who support the tax levy which funds the program. Clinton County Commissioners contract with Council on Aging (COA), the region's Area Agency on Aging, to administer ESP and also appoint members of an advisory council to work with COA to ensure the program meets the needs of our community. Service providers contract with COA to deliver the services available through ESP. As the saying goes, many hands make light work.

Amid rising costs and growing demand, this advisory council has been working with COA to identify ways to serve more individuals and fill gaps in care with the tax dollars available to us.

For example, many ESP clients live in older homes that need improvements or safety upgrades. This work can be costly, and ESP is not able to provide this service for everyone who needs it. COA was successful in securing a \$1.3 million federal grant to provide this service, which is available to eligible county residents, regardless of whether they are enrolled in ESP. This frees up local tax dollars for other important services including homecare assistance, transportation and meals.

Additionally, COA provided recommendations to this advisory council and county commissioners on how to best utilize the county's allocation of Ohio's Healthy Aging Grants. This funding will not only save county tax dollars, but it will also bring important new services to older adults in the county, including technology training and support.

Program growth has been driven by ESP's care management team. This team lives and works in our county and is committed to raising awareness and preserving the reputation of the program. The team conducted more than 30 outreach activities in 2023, visiting county businesses, housing facilities, health care providers, social service organizations, senior centers and more.

Despite this growth, there is no waiting list for services. This can be attributed to the network of service providers who stand ready to serve clients when they enroll. COA's Provider Relations team has worked hard in recent years to grow the provider network in our county and recently received a Clinton County Community Champion Award for their efforts. These service providers — many of which are based in Clinton County — are a critical piece of the ESP community partnership.

ESP is a unique partnership of individuals and organizations united behind a common goal: helping Clinton County older adults remain safe and independent in their homes. I hope you'll take a few minutes to learn more about the impact ESP has on our community in this, our 2023 Annual Report. Thank you for your continued support of this important 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; Deacon Bob Baker; Gene Breckel; Ray Camp; Sue Caplinger; Stella Cramer; Donald Gephart; Timothy Hawk

Council on Aging

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2023

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.

670 Clients Served



67%
FEMALE



33%
MALE



54%
LIVE ALONE



\$439
MONTHLY
OUT-OF-POCKET
MEDICAL EXPENSES



90%
AGE 70+ (3 100+)



\$1,824
MEAN MONTHLY
INCOME



663
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/ccesp2023

'Guardian angel' and ESP help Wilmington man remain independent at home

An important feature of the Elderly Services Program is the relationship that develops between clients and their care managers. Care managers play a critical role in ensuring clients receive the services they need in order to remain independent in their homes. According to ESP client Allen, his care manager, Carla, is his guardian angel.



Community partnerships bring health and wellness programs to older adults and caregivers

Approximately 77% of older adults have at least two chronic health conditions which may negatively impact their health and independence. COA offers free health and wellness programs designed to help older adults and caregivers better manage these conditions, improve overall health and activity levels, and increase socialization. Programs are offered at convenient, community-based locations, such as the Blanchester Senior Center, where the popular Tai Chi for Fall Prevention was recently offered. "They gained improved balance, increased mobility and socialization. To this day, people at the center often ask me, "When is Tai Chi coming back?" said center director Jo Slocum.



Council on Aging organizes vaccination clinics in Clinton County

In 2023, Council on Aging received funding from USAging's Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaborative to conduct activities to connect older adults and people with disabilities to COVID-19 and flu vaccines. The funding enabled COA to hold seven clinics, including three in Clinton County where more than 160 older adults were vaccinated. COA partnered with the Clinton County Health District to offer the clinics.



Senior services levy provides funding for capital improvement projects at two senior centers

Grants were awarded to two county senior centers for capital improvement projects that have improved accessibility at the centers. The goal of the grants, which were funded by the county's senior services levy, was to help the county's senior centers and other non-profit organizations rebound from the pandemic. In addition to benefiting local community organizations and the older adults who use them, the project work was completed by contractors based in Clinton 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 81% of ESP's funding. The most recent tax levy was approved by 60% 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 18% of ESP expenses. Additional funding comes from voluntary client donations and client co-payments.

Revenue

Federal and State (via Council on Aging)	\$376,525
Client Donations and Co-payments	\$26,637
Clinton County Elderly Services Levy	\$1,721,243
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,124,405

Expenses

SERVICE	CLIENTS SERVED	SERVICE UNITS	COST
Care Management	611	5,530 months	\$270,089
Home Care Assistance	365	19,425 hours	\$686,762
Electronic Monitoring Systems	329	3,320 months	\$81,485
Home Delivered Meals	276	44,437 meals	\$571,559
Home Medical Equipment	101	125 items	\$35,202
FastTrack Home Care Management	97	230 months	\$51,783
Minor Home Repairs	50	70 jobs	\$93,647
Consumer Directed Care	34	7,086 hours	\$129,415
Transportation	28	6,720 hours	\$29,334
Environmental Services*	5	17 jobs	\$9,050
Overnight Respite**	2	16 nights	\$6,784
Senior Center Funding***	N/A	N/A	\$26,956
Administration	N/A	N/A	\$134,330
Intake and Assessment	N/A	N/A	\$4,794
EXPENSES			\$2,124,405

*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 and total expenses exclude this amount.

***Funding distributed to senior centers for capital improvement projects.

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.

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

\$372 VS **\$6,000+**
Monthly costs for ESP services 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 2023:

72,006
requests for information and referral fulfilled

2,177
individuals throughout COA's service area received support to transition from one care setting to another

257
Clinton County residents received home- and community-based services through Medicaid-funded programs

\$535,490
in Title III funding allocated to local organizations for congregate meals, legal assistance, wellness education, caregiver support, transportation and other supportive services

