

Welcome

Despite the challenges created by the ongoing national shortage of homecare workers, your Butler County Elderly Services Program (ESP) is a lifeline for older adults who want to live independently at home. In 2022, ESP served 4,178 individuals, at a monthly cost of \$322 per client.

Though costs have risen in recent years, driven by the workforce shortage and inflation, Council on Aging (COA) – ESP’s administrator – has been working to identify cost savings within the program. For example, COA is connecting ESP clients to benefits they may be eligible for through other payer sources, including Medicare Advantage plans. In 2022, this work resulted in cost savings of more than \$324,000.

Our goal is to provide a high-quality, cost-effective program that meets our county’s needs. In 2022, we engaged experts at the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University to conduct an independent evaluation of the program.

While the evaluation pointed to ESP’s effectiveness at helping county residents remain independent, it also noted areas where changes should be considered to improve service delivery and program sustainability. One of the immediate changes as a result of the evaluation was a reduction in the age of eligibility from 65 to 60. You can read more about the evaluation elsewhere in this report.

As the workforce shortage continues, we remain committed to identifying innovative ways to meet the needs of those we serve. For example, COA is piloting service models that lessen the program’s reliance on traditional homecare workers. One example is allowing clients to use a laundry service to meet this common need, rather than relying on the availability of a home health aide.

Meeting the needs of our growing older adult population comes with many challenges and requires innovative thinking, but I have confidence in our ability to meet these challenges head on. My confidence is validated by the closing statement from Scripps’ evaluation of our program, which singled out Butler County ESP as one of the top programs in the state. This is something we, as a community, can all be proud of.



Jennifer Roth
Chair, Butler County
Elderly Services Program
Advisory Council

ESP is a Community Partnership

Butler County Commissioners
T.C. Rogers, President; Cindy Carpenter, Vice President;
Donald L. Dixon, Member



Butler County Elderly Services Program Advisory Council
Jennifer Roth, President; Sabrina Jewell, Vice President;
Michael Berding; Victoria Cheng; Shawn Cowan; Jennifer Heston-Mullins;
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What is ESP?

The Elderly Services Program helps eligible county residents age 60 and older 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 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 Butler County Commissioners, who appoint a board to advise on program needs and policies. Provider agencies deliver ESP services under a contract with COA. 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?

COA’s responsibilities for ESP in Butler County include program development, provider management, data analysis and reporting; financial services and oversight; information technology; quality improvement; and community engagement. As a state-designated Area Agency on Aging, COA provided these additional services in 2022:

58,334

requests for information and referral fulfilled

1,473

individuals throughout COA’s service area received support to transition from one care setting to another

\$1.6 million

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

2,074

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



2022

ANNUAL REPORT

Butler County Elderly Services Program





2022 Client Stats

Butler 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.

4,178 Clients Served



Butler 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.

Success Stories

To read these full success stories and more, scan the code with your mobile device or visit www.help4seniors.org/bcesp2022



Evaluation of ESP focuses on meeting growing need for in-home care services

A recent independent evaluation conducted by Miami University's Scripps Gerontology Center found Butler County's Elderly Services Program (ESP) to be one of the top programs in the state. The evaluation was commissioned by ESP's administrator, Council on Aging, with the goal of identifying opportunities to improve the program's service offerings, capacity and overall quality, in order to meet the needs of Butler County's growing older adult population.

Butler County older adults receive mental health support via Uplift

When Roger was widowed after 32 years of marriage, he began experiencing feelings of loneliness and depression. "I was the only one in the apartment," he said. "I was to the point where I was ramming my head into the wall." Roger was referred to Uplift, a joint program of Council on Aging (COA) and the Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board. Managed by Butler Behavioral Health Services, Uplift is for older adults like Roger who need help working through feelings of depression, anxiety and trauma-related grief.



COA partners with MidPointe Library to offer congregate meals to county older adults

Historically, senior centers have served as congregate meal sites. But in recent years, senior center closures have left many older adults searching for new places to socialize and enjoy a meal. Area Agencies on Aging, like Council on Aging, plan and oversee community services funded by the Older Americans Act and have had to get creative in identifying community-based locations to offer congregate meals. It's this creative thinking that led to the start of a congregate meal program within Butler County's MidPointe Library system.



Expenses + Revenue

How tax dollars are spent

ESP would not exist without the generous support of voters. A county tax levy in place since 1996 provides 88 percent of ESP's funding. The most recent tax levy was approved by 77 percent of voters in 2020. The 1.3-mill levy costs property owners \$39.81 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 Butler County, COA leverages state and federal funding to cover 11 percent of ESP expenses. Additional funding comes from voluntary client donations and client co-payments.

Revenue

Federal and State (via Council on Aging)	\$1,286,676
Client Donations and Co-payments	\$211,772
Butler County Elderly Services Levy	\$10,509,859
TOTAL REVENUE	\$12,008,307

Expenses

SERVICE	CLIENTS SERVED	SERVICE UNITS	COST
Care Management	4,178	38,447 months	\$2,488,419
Electronic Monitoring System	2,498	23,772 months	\$477,353
Home-Delivered Meals	2,157	386,797 meals	\$3,792,063
Home Care Assistance	1,001	80,871 hours	\$2,031,774
Transportation	537	10,393 one-way trips	\$488,737
Home Medical Equipment	455	913 items	\$107,223
Independent Living Assistance*	351	4,614 hours	\$251,665
Minor Home Repairs	255	290 repairs	\$316,508
Consumer Directed Care	187	46,291 months	\$747,478
Behavioral Health (Uplift)	167	N/A	\$39,300
Environmental Services**	46	197 jobs	\$93,530
Adaptive Cleaning Equipment	32	33 items	\$3,427
FastTrack Home Care Management***	24	55 months	\$4,820
Adult Day Services	20	618 days	\$40,526
Overnight Respite***	11	83 nights	\$29,770
Adult Day Transportation	10	623 miles	\$14,470
Kinship Meals***	6	1,706 meals	\$14,486
Administration	N/A	N/A	\$782,380
Intake and Assessment	N/A	N/A	\$284,377
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$12,008,307

*Help with benefit applications and organizing personal and household records.

**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.

Additional Expenses

Butler County Commissioners distributed funds from the senior services levy to the following organizations: Butler County Job and Family Services Adult Protective Services Unit, \$300,000; Butler County Prosecutor's Office for fraud prevention, \$200,000.