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**Senior & Disabled Services**

*a division of LCOG*

# MEMO

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**To:** Interested Parties  
**From:** Patti Little, Contracts Manager/Planner  
**Subject:** The Oregon Project Independence Program  
**t**  
**Date:** March 3, 2009

This memo is to share some important information about funding for the Oregon Project Independence Program (OPI). As you know, OPI is an innovative in-home program that serves adults ages 60 and older and those affected with Alzheimer's who are challenged in their abilities to function independently. OPI offers a little bit of in-home help to support independent living, and has been shown to prevent or delay a person's need for more expensive Medicaid assistance. The program is currently funded solely using money generated through the State Senior Property Tax Deferral Trust Fund. Due to the downturn in the housing market this fund has drastically declined. **At this time, the Department of Revenue estimates that there will be insufficient funds available from this revenue source to support the Oregon Project Independence program beginning July 2009.** Unless the State Legislature intervenes by allocating funds from a different funding source, such as the State General Fund, this important program will not be available beginning July 2009.

In Lane County, there are currently about 160 individuals receiving OPI services. Because the future of OPI is uncertain, we regretfully inform you that as of today **OPI intakes are closed.** Services to existing OPI clients will continue, at least for now. Once the State Legislature has completed its work on the budget for 2009-11 we will have more information about the fate of OPI and will determine appropriate action at that time.

We do wish to make it clear that we will continue to offer other services to seniors and persons with disabilities, such as Older Americans Act and Medicaid Programs. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you or the clients you serve and will notify you should the situation change.

If you have any questions regarding this message, please do not hesitate to contact me directly by phone at 541-682-4137 or by e-mail at [plittle@lcog.org](mailto:plittle@lcog.org).

