

April 2024 NEWSLETTER



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LCOG MEMBER DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

Each year, LCOG invites the region to spend an evening to give thanks to our members and partners and recognize community leaders and outstanding contributions to making Lane County a great place. This year's Annual Member Appreciation Dinner and Silent Auction was held on Friday, March 8 at the historic Cottage Grove Armory. More than 130 elected and appointed officials, business and community members, and public employees from across Lane County attended, which also included a silent auction that raised nearly \$3,000 for the LCOG Senior Meals Program. That's 300 meals!

Congratulations to the 2023 LCOG Annual Award Recipients!

Outstanding Senior Advocate Award

Debbie Guiley, NW Neighbors Senior Meals Site Coordinator

Award of Merit for Economic Enhancement

Big City Gamin'

Outstanding Public Employee

Michael Wargo, Willamalane Park and Recreation District

Outstanding Elected Official

Oregon Senator Floyd Prozanski

Outstanding Intergovernmental Team

Rivers to Ridges Partnership

Outstanding Citizens

Egan Warming Center Volunteers

Outstanding Hero

Robbie McCoy, City of Veneta

Outstanding Public Career

Kristie Hammitt, City of Eugene

Outstanding Lifetime Public Service

Terry McDonald, St. Vincent de Paul

Outstanding Community Service

Carleen Reilly

S&DS COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

LCOG Senior & Disability Services (S&DS) is collecting information to learn about the needs of people with disabilities, older adults, and their caregivers.

The information gathered through this survey will be used by S&DS to identify gaps, leverage resources, and prioritize services. The strategic plan that will be created to meet the needs identified in this survey will be called the 2025-2029 Senior & Disability Services Area Plan. It is a requirement under the Older Americans Act.

This survey is anonymous and flexible. We will not ask your name. You can skip any questions you don't want to answer, and you can stop at any time. You answers will greatly help us to serve our community the best way possible.

To complete the survey, visit <http://tinyurl.com/SDS2024CommunityNeeds>
Thank you very much for your time! We appreciate your feedback.

Assistance is available to take this survey over the phone. If you would like this survey in another language or need any other accommodation or assistance, please call 541-682-4512.

SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS

We are seeking volunteers to serve on our Senior Services Advisory Council.

Seniors (age 60 or older), professionals who work with seniors, and advocates for seniors or aging related issues are invited to apply.

Senior & Disability Services provides all of Lane County with a wide range of publicly funded services for older adults and persons with disabilities. The advisory council advises on services and advocates on senior topics.

Membership applications are due by May 3, 2024. For more information, call 541-682-4512, email sdsadvisorycouncil@lcoog.org, or go online to www.lcog.org/sdslane.

LCOG ADOPTS LINK LANE TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The LCOG Board of Directors has adopted the Link Lane Transit Development Plan (TDP). The plan evaluates the needs and explores options for transit service for rural communities throughout Lane County, including via LCOG's Link Lane services and through partner opportunities. The plan also establishes a framework to provide safe, affordable, and reliable travel options for Lane County residents and visitors, enhance and expand public transportation services in the county, and identify implementation strategies and funding sources to support services.

LCOG began providing Link Lane transit services in 2019. Currently, Link Lane bus services include the Florence-Eugene Connector, the Florence-Yachats Connector, and on-demand services in South Lane County. The TDP helps define Link Lane's role as a public transportation service provider.

"We are excited for the TDP adoption. This plan lays a framework for Link Lane's future, highlighting the transit needs of our community, the funding opportunities that Link Lane can pursue, and the partnerships that will help build better transit systems across and around Lane County," said Kate Wilson, Link Lane Co-Manager.

Based on data findings and community feedback, the TDP recommends increasing weekday and weekend frequency for the Eugene-Florence route and the Florence-Yachats route. The TDP also recommends providing more on-demand services from unserved or underserved communities. The TDP also identifies implementation needs such as funding, vehicles, as well as potential partnerships to help see the TDP recommendations come to fruition. The TDP was funded through an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Transportation Growth Management (TGM) grant and was supported by work through Kittelson & Associates and Cogito Partners.

The creation of the TDP included ongoing community outreach at several key milestones during the plan development. Outreach efforts began in the Winter of 2022 to help identify existing needs and goals. Another round of outreach occurred in Spring of 2023 to evaluate service options. Lastly, Link Lane staff and consultant partners presented the draft TDP in a final round of community outreach in Fall of 2023 to provide feedback to the LCOG Board of Directors for the final version of the plan. The plan places a large emphasis on increasing transit accessibility for rural communities in Lane County to provide more economic opportunities, better access to essential services, and increase opportunities for recreational tourism.

A Project Advisory Committee (PAC) was assembled to help guide the development of the plan. PAC members represented other transit providers in the region, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), local cities, colleges, tourism organizations, rural community organizations, and others with key perspective on the transit needs in rural Lane County. The LCOG Board reviewed a draft version of the TDP in September 2023 and provided feedback on the draft. They formally adopted the TDP in December 2023.

To learn more about the TDP or get involved in future LCOG transit planning

Senior & Disability Services Receives Grant from Trillium Community Health Plan to Fund Mobile Eligibility Outreach in Lane County

Senior & Disability Services (S&DS), a division of Lane Council of Governments, announced today that it has received a 2023 Trillium Community Benefit Initiative grant from Trillium Community Health Plan (Trillium). With this grant, S&DS will support the Lane County community through its Mobile Eligibility Outreach efforts.

S&DS is on a mission to meet people where they live, work, and congregate and provide to them access to vital social services. As part of the Mobile Eligibility Outreach project, S&DS plans to purchase a Mobile Outreach Vehicle outfitted as an office space where consumers can receive services regardless of location. This grant also funds the staff needed to provide the Eligibility Services in rural locations, including out of the Mobile Outreach Vehicle once purchased.

“We at Senior & Disability Services are honored to be one of the recipients of the 2023 Trillium Community Benefit Initiative grant,” said Stephanie Sheelar, S&DS Division Director. “With this grant from Trillium Community Health Plan, we will be able to expand our work in serving the community and bridging the gap of healthcare through reducing barriers to accessing vital social services we currently provide. We will be able to provide services on site wherever we can bring the Mobile Outreach Vehicle.” If you are a community organization and are interested in S&DS providing eligibility services on site at your location, please contact Marisa Andrews at mandrews@lcog.org or 541-682-4512.

Trillium awarded funds to local organizations that provide service to communities among our Tri-County and Southwest regions. All grant funding is designed to support projects that drive healthcare quality solutions to improve the social determinants of health through community benefit initiatives.

“Trillium is committed to collaborating with local organizations to increase access to integrated, culturally responsive healthcare services for our members and for the community as a whole,” said Trillium Community Health Plan Spokesperson. “We’re proud to make this investment in innovative partnerships that will help advance health equity and build healthy communities throughout Oregon.”

For more information about Senior & Disability Services, visit www.lcog.org/sdslane. For more information about Trillium, visit www.trilliumohp.com.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

- April 9 - Willamalane's Trips Showcase - Springfield ([link](#))

- April 13-14 - Giant Book Sale - Friends of Eugene Public Library - Eugene ([link](#))
- April 20 - SOLVE's Oregon Spring Cleanup ([link](#))
- April 27 - McKenzie River Wooden Boat Festival - Vida([link](#))

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

In addition to this newsletter, LCOG hosts pages on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn where members can track and find information about what's happening in the region. Scroll down and click on hit the buttons below the log, and be sure to like and follow LCOG's pages.



Lane Council of Governments

859 Willamette St., Suite 500
Eugene, OR 97401
Phone: +1 541-682-4283
Email: bwilson@lcog.org

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