direction COG

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments

Serving Benton, Lincoln, and Linn Counties Since 1975

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Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments
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www.OCWCOG.org
www.StateoftheRegion.org
Executive Director: Fred Abousleman
March 2016

About *directionCOG*

The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) administers, staffs, and participates in over 250 grants, projects, and contracts, divided amongst the organization's three main program areas - Senior and Disability Services, Community and Economic Development Services (including Transportation Services), and General Administration (including Human Resources, Finance and Accounting, and Technology Services). *directionCOG*, OCWCOG's program guide, is designed to give you a brief overview of these programs and to show you where you can find additional information about them.

ICONS: The icons you see throughout *directonCOG* correspond to sections on OCWCOG's website: www.OCWCOG.org.

Community Development - These programs assist local governments and partners in planning for strong and resilient communities. Additional information about these programs are available at www.OCWCOG.org/CommunityDevelopment.

Donate - OCWCOG accepts donations for several of its programs. Information for how to donate, and what specific programs accept donations is available at www.OCWCOG.org/Donate.

Economic Development - This program provides the region's economic development strategy and promotes coordinated economic development efforts. Additional information about these programs are available at www.OCWCOG.org/EconomicDevelopment.

Lending - The lending programs provide a wide-range of loan options to businesses to meet their financing needs. More information about OCWCOG's lending program is available www.OCWCOG.org/BusinessLoans.

Transportation - These programs staff the two metropolitan planning organizations and the Area Commission on Transportation in the region; administer the non-emergent medical transportation program; run the carpool/vanpool programs for the region; and several other transportation programs. Additional information about OCWCOG's transportation program is available at www.OCWCOG.org/Transportation.

Seniors and Disability - These programs serve the region's aging and people with disabilities population. Additional information about OCWCOG's Seniors and Disability's programs are available at www.OCWCOG.org/Seniors-Disability.

Volunteer - OCWCOG has many volunteer opportunities available to its members and the community. Visit www.OCWCOG.org/Volunteer to learn more.

If multiple icons are displayed, that program can be found in locations across OCWCOG's website and provides you multiple opportunities to participate or interact with OCWCOG staff and community.

We look forward to the continued positive impact that OCWCOG programs have on the region.

Fred Abousleman
Executive Director
541.924.8465
fabousle@ocwcog.org

OUR PROGRAMS

OCWCOG PROFILE

The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) manages local, state, and federal programs to serve residents, local governments, and businesses in our tri-County region. OCWCOG is recognized by the State of Oregon as an Area Commission on Transportation (ACT) and a Type B Medicaid Transfer Agency. Additionally, the association is recognized by the Federal Government as an Area Agency on Aging (AAA), an Economic Development District (EDD), a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Revolving Loan Fund Coordinator, a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Revolving Loan Agency, and staffs the two Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in the region. These designations enhance OCWCOG's ability to serve our communities' needs.

As an Oregon intergovernmental entity, in addition to the programs and services that OCWCOG is required by State or Federal contract to provide, OCWCOG:
- helps businesses find appropriate capital;
- facilitates seniors and persons with disabilities plan for independent living;
- coordinates local road improvement priorities; and
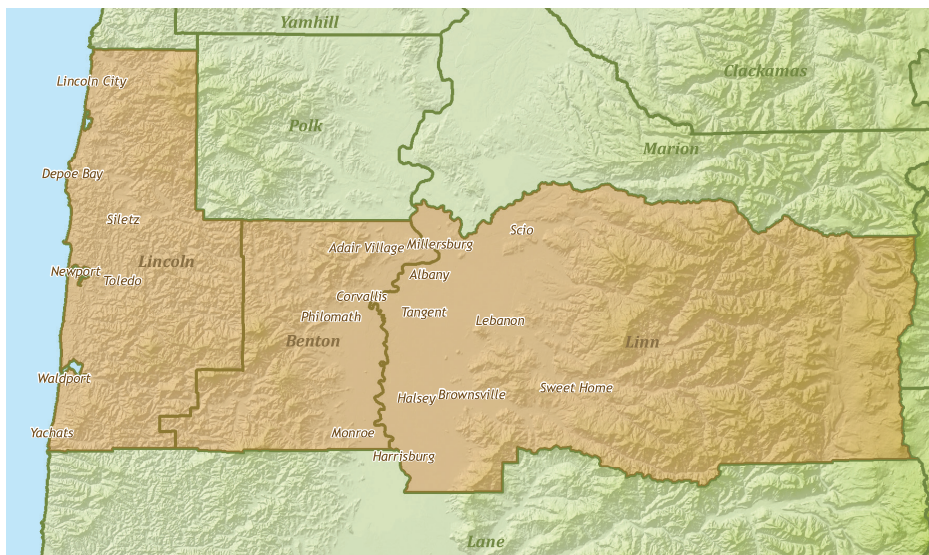- assists with administration and technical support for its member governments.

Each program works towards *OCWCOG's mission of helping the region's communities collaborate to solve problems and connect member governments, businesses, and individuals with a wide array of resources.*

www.OCWCOG.org

LEADERSHIP

OCWCOG is led by a Board of Directors, composed of local elected officials, who serve on the Commissions and Councils, within, and including, the Counties of Benton, Lincoln, and Linn. The Board sets the policy for the association, and approves OCWCOG's annual *Work Program and Budget*.

www.OCWCOG.org/BoardofDirectors

MEMBERSHIP

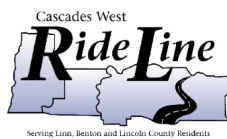The OCWCOG's membership is:

COUNTIES: Benton, Lincoln, and Linn

CITIES: Adair Village, Albany, Brownsville, Corvallis, Depoe Bay, Halsey, Harrisburg, Lebanon, Lincoln City, Lyons, Millersburg, Monroe, Newport, Philomath, Scio, Siletz, Sweet Home, Tangent, Toledo, Waldport, and Yachats

SOVEREIGN NATION: Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
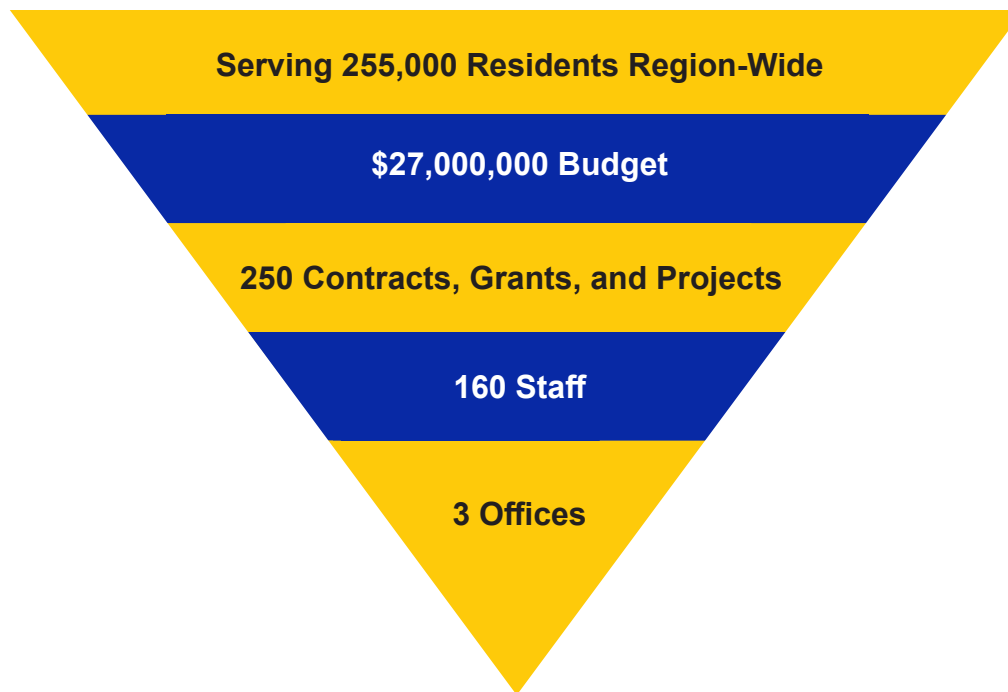
PORT: Port of Newport

www.OCWCOG.org/Members

COG FAMILY AND AFFILIATES

Benton County Veterans' Services – Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation – Cascades West Economic Development District

OCWCOG BY THE NUMBERS

Serving 255,000 Residents Region-Wide

$27,000,000 Budget

250 Contracts, Grants, and Projects
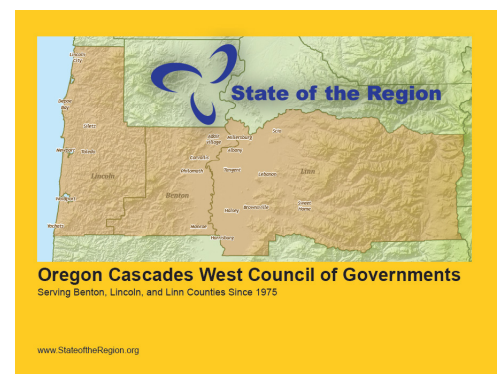
160 Staff

3 Offices

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

In addition to programs, OCWCOG undertakes original research to address policy and program questions in our region. For example, research may include broadband needs, banking/financial assessments, or a data project for the region. Through this effort, OCWCOG is working to develop a research collaborative, bringing together interested parties under it's *Cascades to Coast Research* (C2C) initiative. Through partnerships and the buildout of OCWCOG's datacenter, original research will continue to be published that is timely and relevant for the region.

In 2015, OCWCOG released its *State of the Region* report, which highlights trends, connections, and indicators related to the people and the economy of our region, including migration, agriculture, business patents, philanthropic investments, and more. Findings were developed and illustrated through a rigorous data collection process undertaken by a project team at OCWCOG. Our goals for the *State of the Region* were:

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www.StateoftheRegion.org

1. To capture data related to our region, present it, and make it available in easy-to-use, scalable, and interactive formats. The data were not meant to be comprehensive, but rather to provide a snapshot and encourage future conversations.
2. To build internal and external capacity in data collection, maintenance, and visualization.
3. To provide decision-makers with data to help set the stage for policy and program decisions concerning our collective priorities, investments, and vision.

Visit www.StateoftheRegion.org to access the project website, report, and data, which will be updated, as often as possible throughout the year.

Senior and Disability Services

OCWCOG's Senior and Disability Services Department provides federal, state, and local programs to support the long-term care of seniors and persons with disabilities. The majority of the Department's programmatic work serves clients in OCWCOG's tri-County region.

Contacting Senior and Disability Services
www.OCWCOG.org/Seniors-Disability

Albany:
800.638.0510

Toledo:
800.282.6194
541.336.2289

Corvallis:
800.508.1698
541.758.1595

Benton County Veteran's Office:
541.758.1595
veterans@ocwcog.org

Aging and Disability Resources Connection:
Linn or Benton Counties:
    800.638.0510
    541.967.8630
Lincoln County:
    800.282.6194
    541.336.2289
Statewide:
    855.673.2372
    541.967.8630
ADRCmail@ocwcog.org

Food Security

The Senior and Disability Services Department assists the vulnerable populations in our region with food assistance programs. Low-income, elderly, or disabled individuals can work with OCWCOG qualified case workers to ensure they will receive the benefits to which they are entitled.

Senior Meals / Meals on Wheels Program

232,000 individuals received meals through Senior Meals / Meals on Wheels program

210,000 meals served

$956,560 total cost of the meals

The *Senior Meals* program serves hot, nutritious midday meals and offers companionship to those who are at least 60 years of age and their spouses, and to Native Americans who are at least 55 years of age. These meals are served in community centers in Albany, Brownsville, Corvallis, Lebanon, Lincoln City, Mill City, Newport, Siletz, Sweet Home, Toledo, and Waldport. The program provides nutrition education at each meal site.

Meals On Wheels is designed for seniors and people with disabilities who are homebound and/or are unable to prepare their own meals. In addition, consumers in all three Counties can participate in the pet food delivery program, which provides donated pet food for animal companions to those receiving home delivered meals.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

8,200 residents were SNAP recipients

The *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program* (*SNAP*) program, otherwise known as the *Food Stamp* program, is administered for the region on behalf of the State of Oregon to eligible, low-income individuals and families. *SNAP* assists those who are eligible to receive *Oregon Trail* cards for *SNAP* benefits, as well as discounted phone service and school lunches for their children. *SNAP* consumers also receive resources and referrals to other social service agencies.

Caregiver Resources

The Senior and Disability Services Department offers the following resources for those who take it upon themselves to care for elderly or disabled family members or friends. These resources are free of charge.

Family Caregiver Support Program

The *Family Caregiver Support* program assists families who provide 24-hour care to a family member or friend. The program develops a plan to foster a supportive, caring environment, along with a healthy, quality of life for the caregiver and care-receiver. Twenty-three community organizations across the region partner with OCWCOG.

162 residents participate in the Family Caregiver Support *program*

Oregon Project Independence

Oregon Project Independence (OPI) helps older adults stay in their homes through the assistance of home care workers. OPI is an alternative to Medicaid and offers up to 20-hours a month of in-home assistance, including bathing, dressing, personal care, meal preparation, housekeeping, transportation, and medication reminders. OCWCOG's Senior and Disability Services staff provides case management support, connecting people with community resources and setting up a plan to meet their needs.

206 residents participate in Oregon Project Independence

Medicaid Programs

The Senior and Disability Services Department delivers a variety of services for Medicaid clients that live within our region. Those services are delivered through local Coordinated Care Organizations and InterCommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO/INH-CCO). CCO/INH-CCOs provide health care, long-term support and services, and medical and prescription benefits. These organizations are networks of all types of healthcare providers who have agreed to work together to provide healthcare to Medicaid clients.

More than 2,170 people with physical disabilities are assisted with their long-term care coordination

8,000 from our region participate in the Oregon Health Plan

30 volunteers provided 5,810 hours to the success of the SHIBA program.

22 free SHIBA classes provided training to 374 participants.

15 community partners provided over $60,000 in in-kind services.

Long-Term Support and Services

Long-Term Care Support and Services are designed to ensure client access to and coordination of social and health care resources with an emphasis on client choice, independence, and cost-effectiveness. This support and services provides medical and assistance daily with activities, to qualified participants in-home, in a community-based facility, or in a nursing home facility.

Medical / Prescription Benefits

OCWCOG assists consumers apply for medical assistance through the Oregon Health Plan and Medicaid. In doing so, the consumer receives a medical card, counselling on the role of the CCO/INH-CCO, and refers them to the Oregon Health Plan, when there are insurance coverage issues. These consumers may also be receiving *SNAP* and/or Long-Term Support and Services benefits.

Senior Health Insurance Benefit Assistance Program

The *Senior Health Insurance Benefit Assistance* (SHIBA) program, is administered by OCWCOG on behalf of the State of Oregon to educate and advocate for the residents in our region about Medicare. By providing in-kind counselling space, technology, and meeting space, 15 community partners make it possible to provide the free classes for the public.

Other Senior and Disability Services Programs

Adult Protective Services

OCWCOG's Senior and Disability Services Department investigates alleged abuse and/or neglect of seniors and adults with disabilities. Mistreatment or neglect of a senior or adult with a disability may include: physical violence; financial exploitation; neglect of care or abandonment; emotional or verbal abuse; sexual abuse or unwanted sexual contact; harassment; or self-neglect that leads to harm.

Investigated over 500 cases of abuse, neglect, or exploitation in region in 2015

Aging and Disability Resource Connections - Information and Assistance

The Senior and Disability Services Department staffs the *Aging and Disability Resource Connection* (ADRC), a free service that offers the public a single source of information and assistance on issues affecting older adults and people with disabilities, regardless of their income, on behalf of the State of Oregon. With a call or visit to the *ADRC*, you can obtain information regarding community resources, long-term care services, benefit incomes, outreach for those with special needs, and receive options-counseling services, among many other free services.

ADRC - Information and Assistance assists more than 11,000 residents

Other Senior and Disability Services Programs

Benton County Veteran Services

New claims resulting in over $12 million in benefits for veterans

OCWCOG staffs the Benton County's Veterans' Service Office. The Service Officer, accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, assists Veterans in applying for Veterans Affairs claims and benefits. Services can include identifying potential claims and entitlements; assisting in completing necessary applications; providing guidance to clients to obtain supporting documents or materials; and providing presentations and trainings, as requested for groups and other agencies. All services provided by the Benton County Veterans Services Office are free.

Foster Grandparent Program

27 senior volunteers

117 child participants

In partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service, OCWCOG recruits and matches volunteers to children aged five to 18 in Benton, Lincoln, and Linn Counties through the *Foster Grandparent Program* (*FGP*). The *FGP* is intergenerational, providing volunteers age 55 and over the opportunity to mentor, nurture, and support children with special or exceptional needs, or who are at an academic, social, or financial disadvantage. OCWCOG leverages the skills of foster grandparents to improve school readiness and help children gain academic confidence to excel in school.

Program to Encourage Active and Rewarding Lives

72 referrals to the PEARLS program

18 enrollments

OCWCOG's *Program to Encourage Active and Rewarding Lives* (PEARLS) is an evidence based program from the University of Washington, which is designed to reduce depression in seniors and people with disabilities through goals setting and social activation. This free program is available to eligible participants in our tri-County region.

Volunteer and Advocacy Opportunities

The Senior and Disability Services Department offers a variety of volunteer and advocacy opportunities for residents of OCWCOG's region. These opportunities include assisting peer citizens with time and expertise, and participating in Committees to develop future programs.

Disability and Senior Services Advisory Councils

The Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC) and Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC) are established by OCWCOG to advise the Senior and Disability Services staff and the OCWCOG Board of Directors on matters relating to the development and operation of a comprehensive service delivery system for older adults in the OCWCOG's tri-County region of Benton, Lincoln, and Linn Counties. The group advocates both locally and at the state level on issues related to aging and disabilities. The Advisory Councils have a number of subcommittees devoted to specific issues, such as long term services, transportation, and nutrition.
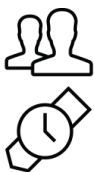
Money Management Program

OCWCOG's *Money Management Program* provides assistance with personal money management tasks through specially trained volunteers. Service is personalized, confidential, and safe. Program services are offered free of charge to eligible individuals.

8 volunteers

1,509 hours of service

49 participants

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

The *Retired and Senior Volunteer Program* (RSVP) is America's largest volunteer network for people age 55 and over, which matches volunteers with agencies whose primary focus is to assist seniors age in place. *RSVP* volunteers assisted with several community events throughout the region including: *Project Homeless Connect* and the *Veteran Stand Down* in Lincoln County; the Oregon State University Gerontology Conference in Benton County; and health fairs at Mennonite Village and the Lebanon Senior Center in Linn County.

66,624 hours

2,000 seniors

45 agencies

446 volunteers

$1.5 million in value

Volunteer and Advocacy Opportunities

*More than **300** volunteers package and deliver meals*

Senior Meals Advisory Council

The Senior Meals Advisory Council members serve as Advisors to the Senior Services Advisory Council and the *Senior Meals* program management team. These members are liaisons between the Meal Sites and the Program Management Team. Members must be able to be present at their Meal Sites on a quarterly basis, as well as participate in the bi-monthly Senior Meals Advisory Council meetings.

Senior Meals Volunteers

Supporting the *Senior Meals* program, Senior Meals Volunteers work with Meal Site Managers to prepare and deliver meals, and interact with seniors and people with disabilities. Volunteers are integral to the success of the program and to the lives of our most vulnerable population across the tri-County region.

Interested in Volunteering?

Volunteers must complete an application form and pass a criminal background check to work with consumers. Individuals interested in joining the Disability or Senior Services Advisory Council seats must complete an application form, though no background check is required.

Additional information about any volunteer activity identified on these pages or throughout *directionCOG*, can be found on OCWCOG's Volunteer webpage:

www.OCWCOG.org/Volunteer

Community and Economic Development Services

The Community and Economic Development Services Department provides region-wide services in the areas of community facility development, business lending, economic development planning, and inter-jurisdictional collaboration.

Contacting Community and Economic Development Services
www.OCWCOG.org/Development

Community and Economic Development:
Phil Warnock
541.924.8474
pwarnock@ocwcog.org

Business Lending:
Sandra Easdale
541.924.8460
seasdale@ocwcog.org

Business Lending

The Business Lending program with the Community and Economic Development Services Department aims to foster economic development by providing access to capital for small business owners, for either start-up or expansion needs. This gives businesses the opportunity and capacity to play an important role in determining their futures. Ultimately it means the creation or retention of jobs in our communities.

43.5 jobs created or retained

$3,560,650 total value of all loan projects in 2015

Business Investment Fund Loans

Available in Benton, Lane, Lincoln, and Linn Counties, Business Investment Fund Loans assist for-profit and not-for-profit businesses to acquire or improve land, buildings, machinery and equipment, furniture and fixtures; or those in need of working capital. Refinancing is available under some conditions.

Lincoln City Urban Renewal Business Expansion Loan Program

Available in Lincoln City only, as the City has made funds available for businesses. OCWCOG is providing assistance with approval, closing, and servicing of this loan program. The goal of this program is to provide existing businesses and not-for-profit organizations with funding for business expansion within the Urban Renewal District including building renovation, additions to existing buildings, equipment purchase, business diversification, and relocation assistance.

Lincoln County Rural Development Fund Loans

Available in Lincoln County only, the Lincoln County Rural Development Fund Loans assist for-profit or not-for-profit businesses that are ineligible for other public or private financing and in need of short-term operating capital; no real estate projects are eligible. Refinancing requests may be eligible, if certain conditions apply. There are no job creation or retention requirements for this loan.

Business Lending

Rural Development Fund Loans

Available in Benton, Lincoln, and Linn Counties rural locations (outside of Albany and Corvallis), the Rural Development Fund Loans assist for-profit or not-for-profit businesses acquiring, remodeling, or refurbishing land, building, machinery and equipment, furniture and fixtures; or those in need of working capital. Refinancing is available under certain conditions. Funding for those loans comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Small Business Administration 504 Loans

Available across the State, the Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 Loans allow for-profit businesses to finance land and building acquisition, construction, or remodeling; or purchase machinery and equipment. This funding cannot be used for working capital or short-term assets. Refinancing transactions will be considered on an exception basis.

Revolving Loan Funds

Available in Lincoln and Linn Counties, Revolving Loan Funds allow for-profit and not-for-profit businesses to acquire or improve land, buildings, machinery and equipment, furniture and fixtures; or assist those in need of working capital. Funding for these loans come from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration.

In partnering with banks and credit unions, we require borrowers to bring less funds to the table and make it easier for them to get loans.

Community Development

The Community Development program of the Community and Economic Development Services Department programs assist local governments and partners in planning for strong and resilient communities.

Community Facilities Development

The Community Development Department assists local governments to develop facilities plans, obtain financing, and construct facilities in OCWCOG's tri-County region. Additionally, staff will provide planning and technical assistance to meet these facilities project needs.

Geographic Information Systems

OCWOG's staff is trained in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and maintains a library of GIS data with sources ranging from local cities and counties, and the state and federal agencies. From these diverse sources, COG staff can produce maps illustrating base layers; aerial imagery and shaded relief imagery; highway conditions and hazards; soils and potential wetland areas; and environmental constraints and hazards. These existing layers can also be paired with data collected locally, information from county assessors, or data from the Oregon Department of Transportation, and other state or federal agencies, to produce specific GIS analysis. GIS projects are typically completed as a part of larger planning efforts. However individual and/or specialized requests can also be accommodated after consultation with OCWCOG staff.

Planning Services

OCWCOG's Community Development Department staff assists communities with land use, transportation, facilities and services planning. Services include facilitation, visioning and goal setting, research, scenario development, alternatives analysis, and public involvement. Staff has worked on collaborative jobs-housing balance, criminal justice, and emergency planning efforts.

Economic Development

The Community and Economic Development Services Department provides the region's economic development strategy, works on priority efforts under a regional action plan, and promotes coordinated economic development efforts. OCWCOG supports local economic development initiatives through research, grant writing, project development and management, and technical assistance.

Cascades West Economic Development District

The Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD), is designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) to work on economic development efforts in Benton, Lane, Lincoln, and Linn Counties. The CWEDD advocates for, supports, and coordinates regionally significant economic development activities in the region. It is staffed jointly by OCWCOG's Economic Development Department and the Lane Council of Governments.

Community Economic Development Strategy

Every five years, the Community and Economic Development Services Department updates the *Community Economic Development Strategy* (CEDS), as required by EDA. Regional information, issues, opportunities, and activities to improve the economy are reported in this document. The current *CEDS* document expires on December 31, 2020.

CEDS document includes
Benton, Lane, Lincoln, and Linn Counties

Economic Development Projects

OCWCOG's Community and Economic Development Services Department works closely with its members to complete economic development projects across the region.

Transportation Services

Transportation Services, a division of the Community and Development Services Department, provides region-wide services in the areas of non-emergent medical transportation; transportation options to reduce carbon emissions and single-occupant vehicles on the roads during commute times; and transportation planning and programming services. Additionally, this Department also staffs the two Metropolitan Planning Organizations for the region - Albany and Corvallis, and the region's Area Commission on Transportation.

Contacting Transportation Services
www.OCWCOG.org/Transportation

Transportation Programs:
Phil Warnock
541.924.8474
pwarnock@ocwcog.org

Albany Area MPO:
Theresa Conley
541.924.4548
tconley@ocwcog.org

Cascades West Ride Line:
Brenda Mainord
541.924.8420
bmainord@ocwcog.org

Corvallis Area MPO:
Ali Bonakdar
541-758-1911
abonakda@ocwcog.org

Metropolitan Planning Organizations

A metropolitan planning organization (MPO) is a federally mandated and federally funded transportation policy-making organization in the United States, that is made up of representatives from local government and governmental transportation authorities. In our region, there are two MPOs - the Albany Area MPO and the Corvallis Area MPO.

Albany Area MPO

The Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) was established in 2013 as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Greater Albany Urbanized Area which includes the Cities of Albany, Jefferson, Millersburg, and Tangent, as well as Benton and Linn Counties, and the Oregon Department of Transportation. AAMPO develops the *Regional Transportation Plan* (*RTP*), which provides a regional vision and policies to guide development and management of the regional system over the next 20 years. AAMPO also develops the regions' four-year *Transportation Improvement Program*, which programs millions of Federal transportation program funds for local projects. As part of the *RTP*, AAMPO is developing an *Albany Transit Development Plan*.

56,997 population served by AAMPO

34 square miles in district

135 bridges within the boundaries

5 state or federal highways

Corvallis Area MPO

The Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) was established in 2002 as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Corvallis Urbanized Area, which includes the cities of Corvallis, Philomath, and Adair Village, and the adjacent portions of Benton County, and the Oregon Department of Transportation. CAMPO develops the *Regional Transportation Plan* which provides a regional vision and policies to guide development and management of the regional system over the next 20 years. CAMPO also develops the regions' four-year *Transportation Improvement Program*, which programs millions of Federal transportation program funds for local projects. In addition to transportation planning and programming, CAMPO has been actively involved in planning for reducing greenhouse gases.

64,000 population served by CAMPO

49 square miles in district

Non-Emergent Medical Transportation

OCWCOG provides non-emergent medical transportation for eligible Oregon Health Plan (OHP) and Medicaid clients traveling to and from covered non-emergency medical services. Transportation is provided to those OHP eligible clients living in Benton, Lincoln, and Linn Counties who have no other way to get to their medical services.

Cascades West Ride Line

163,812 rides

6,666 clients who took rides

55,000 eligible individuals

Cascades West Ride Line provides non-emergent medical transportation (NEMT) for Medicaid eligible clients enrolled in the OHP through either InterCommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization (IHN-CCO) or the Oregon Health Authority. In accordance with Oregon Administrative Regulations, traveling to and from covered medical services is available for Medicaid recipients. Ride Line, working with transport providers, coordinates the most appropriate and cost effective rides to and from Medical appointments using a variety of modes of transport including: transit, sedan, wheelchair, stretcher, secured, mileage reimbursement, when client or someone drives them to and from appointment, and evening, weekend, and holiday after hours transport available for urgent, but non-emergent.

Transportation Options

OCWCOG works with partners throughout the region to collaborate to improve the roads in our region and the vital transportation facilities. Additionally, staff also assist residents with cutting their fuel costs, saving on parking costs, reducing air emissions, reducing the wear and tear on their vehicles, and matching them with carpool or vanpool rides near where they work or live.

Cascades West Rideshare

Cascades West Rideshare provides transportation options outreach, including carpool and vanpool matching services for commuters living or working in Oregon's Benton, Lincoln, and Linn Counties, with connections to major cities such as Eugene, Portland, and Salem.

Cascades West Rideshare, *Cherriots Rideshare* at Salem Keizer Transit District, and *Point2point* at Lane Transit District spearheaded a regional carpool incentive program called *Carpool Karma*. Additionally, Cascades West Rideshare ran the *Drive Less Connect* Campaign with the Oregon Department of Transportation, specifically targeting Benton, Lincoln, and Linn Counties. The goal of both campaigns was to aid Willamette Valley commuters to begin (or continue) carpooling.

Safe Routes to School Program

OCWCOG administers the Oregon Department of Transportation's *Safe Routes to School* program for several communities including Lincoln and portions of Linn Counties. Activities included developing an "Action Plan" for addressing goals for promoting walking and biking to schools, as well as organizing *Walk and Bike to School Days*.

Carpool Karma:

138,033 non-drive-alone miles

67,773 pounds of CO_2 saved

3,314 gallons of gas saved

$25,536 saved by commuters

Drive Less Connect:

46,442 tracked by transportation other than car

60,097 pounds of CO_2 saved

$22,896 saved by commuters

Area Commission on Transportation

Area Commissions on Transportation (ACT) are advisory bodies to the Oregon Transportation Commission, whose role is to address all aspects of transportation (surface, marine, air, rail, and safety), with their primary focus being on the state transportation system. Regional and local issues will only be considered, if they affect the state system. The ACT works with local transportation organizations, such as the Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, and other local agencies, on related issues. ACTs were created in the late 1990s to expand opportunities to allow local elected officials and their jurisdictions, and other stakeholders more opportunities to participate in the transportation selection process and to be involved within the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) decision-making process.

Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation

The Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation (CWACT) is one of the twelve ACTs in the state that review the ODOT's transportation planning and programming activities and make recommendations to the Oregon Transportation Commission. CWACT's membership includes representatives of Benton, Lincoln, and Linn Counties, and the cities within the three counties, as well as representatives of private sectors and the Ports. Chief among the responsibilities of the ACT is to recommend the funding of transportation projects in the *Statewide Transportation Improvement Program*.

Administration, Support, and Business Services

Administration, Support, and Business Services provides organization-wide Human Resources; Accounting and Finance; and Technology Services. These services are provided to member governments and partners for a nominal fee.

Contacting General Administration
www.OCWCOG.org/Administration

Lydia George:
Deputy Director
541.924.8408   lgeorge@ocwcog.org

Sue Forty:
Finance Director
541.924.8462   sforty@ocwcog.org

Eric Wolke:
Human Resources Manager
541.812.2000   ewolke@ocwcog.org

OCWCOG's Human Resources department manages a staff of 160 employees, and provides training, performance, communication, and other services.

OCWCOG administers more than 250 Local, State, and Federal contracts.

OCWCOG administers and manages 5 internal websites, as well as 4 additional websites for its members.

15 of OCWCOG members are also our customers.

Human Resources

OCWCOG's Human Resources provides a wide range of services to the organization in the areas of recruitment and selection; classification and compensation; employee benefits; employee relations; organizational consulting and development; employee and team training; employee recognition and wellness.

Finance and Accounting

Finance processes payroll, accounts receivable, and accounts payable for all of OCWCOG's facilities. Finance and Accounting is responsible for the annual audit, as well as budget preparation, and publishing of the annual *Work Program and Budget*.

Technology Services

The Technology Services' Department provides comprehensive, agency-wide Information Technology (IT) management. Services include network implementation; software and Web site maintenance; computer and phone maintenance; consulting; and project management for OCWCOG departments, and by contract to other agencies.

Business Services

OCWCOG's Business Services include Human Resources; Finance and Accounting; IT and Website; and Communications and Event consulting services. These services are available to its members, partners, and local businesses at a nominal cost.

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