

## 2007-08 APPLICATION SUMMARY

**PROGRAM TITLE:** Legal Services

**PROVIDER:** Senior Law Program: Lane County Legal Aid & Advocacy Center

**DESCRIPTION:** The Senior Law Program of Lane County Legal Aid & Advocacy Center provides civil legal services to persons age 60 and over who reside in Lane County. Any person age 60 or over has access to the program and in most cases, an opportunity to confer with a volunteer attorney about a civil legal problem. Services are delivered by both volunteer attorneys and staff. The target population for service, with respect to both volunteers and staff, consists of those with the greatest economic or social need. Case types handled by the Senior Law Service staff focus on the area of poverty law: public benefit income maintenance, health care issues, long-term care issues, basic needs (nutrition, housing, utilities). In addition, services are provided in the areas of guardianship defense, elder abuse, neglect, exploitation. Ongoing efforts are made to recruit additional private, volunteer attorneys in order to meet the growing need for legal services and to develop systems of delivery to accommodate the needs of the target population. Older people frequently present with multiple problems, both legal and other. Information and referral is provided in connection with non-legal problems.

A volunteer attorney is on duty at two different senior center locations on Saturday mornings. The idea is to bring legal services to older people in a comfortable, non-threatening environment: the senior center. (Home visits are available when needed.) In addition, a volunteer attorney is on duty at a senior center in Cottage Grove once per month on a Friday morning and at the senior center in Springfield on a Wednesday afternoon. A volunteer attorney in Eugene circuit rides to Florence on an intermittent basis. Staff members are on duty from 8:30 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

In addition to providing individual legal assistance to older persons who have one or more legal problems, Senior Law Service conducts a program of community education and prepares and distributes written material to educate and help elderly persons to avoid legal problems before they occur. A website is maintained for the same purpose and contains links to self-help materials.

For the coming year, the program plans to establish a panel of attorneys to review contracts for elderly people. The goal is to promote the practice of understanding contracts before they are signed. A further project is to expand the online materials available through the program website.

**SERVICE OBJECTIVES:** The Senior Law Program's goal is to provide 3,295 units of service to approximately 1,090 unduplicated persons during FY 2007-08. Attorneys and other volunteers and staff provide education, advice and/or consultation to seniors. Those needing representation in court can also receive services from staff or volunteer attorneys.

**METHOD OF SERVICE PROVISION:** The program funds 35 % time for one Staff Attorney, Steve Skipton, and 55 % time for the Program Director, Jean Beachdel. The program also relies on services performed by many community volunteers - 13 non-attorney volunteers and 70 Lane County Bar Association members - who volunteer time to the program. With an emphasis on outreach, attorneys are available on a regular basis at outreach locations (Campbell Center, Willamalane, Florence, and Cottage Grove). Home visits are made when necessary. Individuals in outlying areas, such as Oakridge and Veneta, are seen at the locations listed above or special arrangements are made for them to confer with attorneys by phone whenever possible. Pamphlets, brochures and handouts are widely used.

**SENIOR LAW MONITORING SUMMARY:** This past year the Procurement and Monitoring Committee (PMC) completed one site visit to the Senior Law program. Liaison visits were also conducted by the Contract Manager. Issues addressed during the above-mentioned visits included: 1) Review of the Older Americans Act monthly report; 2) Review of the program's compliance with contract provisions; 3) Review of the program's brochure and written handouts; 4) Review of the Elder Law in Oregon handbook which was co-authored by Senior Law; 5) Review of programs financial audit; 6) Review of case type priorities; 7) A discussion regarding the merger of Lane County Legal Aid Service with Legal Aid Services of Oregon; and 8) The committee found that the program meets or exceeds state and contract standards and offers an excellent array of services for the legal needs of seniors in Lane County.

**REVENUE SUMMARY:**

OAA	\$ 56,835
Fees	0
Donations	200
Fundraising	8,700 (est. United Way)
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$ 65,735</b>

In Kind: \$184,318 (Required In-Kind \$6,320)

**COMPARATIVE SUMMARY (OAA Funds - Does Not Include In Kind)**

	<b>2005 – 06 Actual</b>	<b>2006 - 07 Projected</b>	<b>2006 - 07 Thru 2-28-07 (67%)</b>	<b>2006- 07 Proposed</b>
<b>Units of Service*</b>	3547	3,358	2,263 (67%)	3,295
<b>Persons Served**</b>	1,119	1,220	727 (60%)	1,090
<b>LCOG Funds</b>	\$58,869	\$56,507	\$37,974 (67%)	\$56,835
<b>OAA Unit Rate</b>	\$16.82	\$16.82	\$16.82	\$17.25

\* A "Unit of Service" is one hour of staff time, including volunteer attorney and non-attorney time, expended on behalf of clients including:

- Actual time legal assistance is provided directly to the client or legal work performed on the client's case, and time spent for community education;
- Reasonable travel time to a facility or client's home where legal assistance is provided and back to point of departure; and
- Time of assistance recorded to the nearest quarter hour.

All other time not stated above, such as training, administration, vacation and sick leave are not to be included in computing hours or units of service.

\*\* "Person Served" is the number of unduplicated persons served with legal assistance by the Senior Law Program. Legal Assistance means legal advice and representation by an attorney (and may include, to the extent feasible, counseling or other appropriate assistance by a paralegal or law student under the supervision of an attorney), and may include counseling or representation

by a non-lawyer where permitted by law, to older persons with economic or social needs.

**COMMENTS:**

1. The units of service on the Comparative Summary Chart reflect the total number of units of service provided by OAA funds.
2. The program anticipates serving 13 fewer individuals than served this year.
3. The program anticipates providing 63 less units of service than projected for FY 2006-07.
4. The Program Director's percent of time charged to the program is 10 % less and the Staff Attorney's percent of time charged to the program is 8% less than last year.
5. The number of volunteers (attorney) utilized by the Senior Law program is 7 more than last year and the number of non-attorney volunteers is three more.
6. The Senior Law's proposed unit rate is \$.43 more than in FY 2006-07.

**PMC RECOMMENDATION:** That SSAC recommend that LCOG: (1) Accept the application submitted by the Lane County Law and Advocacy Center to operate the Senior Law program in 2007-08, and (2) That it award the program up to \$56,835 of Older Americans Act III-B funds, payable at the rate of \$17.25 per unit of service, not to exceed a total of 3,295 units of service annually.