

Oregon Project Independence Program (OPI)

The Oregon Project Independence Program (OPI) was created by the Oregon Legislature in the early 1980s.

The purpose of the program was to provide a "safety net" for those individuals 60 years of age and over who did not qualify for Medicaid because of income or resources but still needed help in their homes because of inability to perform daily tasks.

The main purpose of OPI Program was to keep people in their own homes.

In Columbia County, the Oregon Project Independence Program is managed through the State of Oregon, by Community Action Team/ Senior, Respite, and Veteran Service Programs.

The maximum number of in-home personal care or housekeeping hours allowed each month under OPI is **20 hours**.

- The Oregon Legislature in 2006 added a **\$5.00 per year fee** for clients enrolled in the OPI Program.

The process to receive OPI services is as follows:

- The client must fill out a one page application requesting in-home services.
- When the application is returned then a case manager will schedule an appointment with the family and/or client to complete a CAPS Assessment.
- The client and/or family must complete an income form listing current income and out of pocket medical expenses. 95% of our clients receiving OPI services do not pay anything for services. The rest of the clients MAY pay very little for their in-home services. The OPI Program is very cost effective.
- The CAPS assessment is a series of question designed to measure ADLs (Activities of Daily Living.) The ADLS are things such as: housekeeping, laundry, personal care issues, mobility, transportation, etc...
- The CAPS Assessment assigns a numerical value to each ability and disability. The numerical value scale is **1-18**.
- The CAPS Assessment is done initially before the client can receive services and then yearly after that to see if there is improvement in the clients condition or more assistance is needed.

- An example of a Service Priority 1 is a person that needs everything done for them because of a major disability. An example of an Service Priority 18 is a person that can do all things for themselves but may need help with all aspects of housekeeping. If you are a Service Priority 19 then you do not qualify for services under OPI.

After the assessment is completed and the person qualifies for in-home services, the client must then select a Home Care Worker from our list of qualified providers.

Care Providers:

In-home care providers (Home Care Workers) are screened through an application process that includes a initial criminal background check followed by yearly checks.

Home Care Workers also go through reference check process.

Home Care Workers are offered on-going training by the State of Oregon regarding care giving skills.

Good Match-

The OPI client must choose their Home Care Worker only from the list of qualified providers.

The choice **MUST** be a good match between the client receiving services and the Home Care Worker providing services.

I always recommend that the client receiving OPI services have a list of interview questions available to ask the Home Care Worker before choosing a worker.

How Home Care Workers (HCWs) are Paid-

When you have chosen a Home Care Worker (HCW) you must let our programs know who you have chosen and when they will begin work.

The Home Care Workers and the client are sent a care plan (work plan) that says the number of hours authorized each month and what tasks the Home Care Worker must complete. Only the tasks outlined on the Care Plan or work plan, are paid for through OPI.

The Home Care Workers each month are issued pay vouchers by our program. The vouchers have the allowed work hours per month.

At the end of the work month the Home Care Worker **MUST** sign the voucher stating that she/he has completed the hours allowed.

- The OPI client or his legal representative MUST also sign the voucher stating that the Home Care Worker has completed the work assigned for the month.
- The Home Care Worker sends in the signed pay voucher and the Home Care Worker is issued a check for their months work.

Case Managers-

If the client OR client's family has a question about the OPI Program or their Home Care Worker the questions should be directed first to the local case manager.

There is a local Community Action Team Case Manager located at each Senior Center in Columbia County.

If the question cannot be first resolved by the case manager, then you are invited to contact the Program Director, Ken Johnson at **503-366-6543** located in St. Helens.

Confidentiality-

When you sign-up for OPI Services you will also be asked to sign a confidentiality form. This form goes over your rights and expectations regarding confidentiality.

All of our staff and Home Care Workers have signed a confidentiality agreement regarding protecting the confidentiality of the clients we serve.

Have More Questions?

Contact:

Ken Corliss, OPI/Respite Case Manager at - **503-366-6543/800-404-3511ext 276**
E-mail – kcorliss@cat-team.org

Juliann Davis, Program Assistant at – **503-366-6584/800-404-3511 ext 285**
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