

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 **18 hours**.

- In 2006, the Oregon Legislature added a **\$25.00 one time 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.
- Applicants will be placed on a waiting list for in-home assessments. Currently it takes 2-4 weeks for an assessment to be scheduled.
- Once the applicant comes to the top of the waitlist, 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. 70% 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 client's 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 a 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. Clients will have 30 days to choose their Home Care Worker. If a client is inactive for 30 days or more, they will be dropped from the OPI program. However, a person may reapply at any time. Hours of service can only be held for a 30 day period according to 411-032 rule.

Care Providers:

- In-home care providers (Home Care Workers) are screened through an application process that includes an 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.
- It is 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 Worker and the client are sent a care plan stating the number of authorized hours each month and what tasks the Home Care Worker must complete. Only the tasks outlined on the Care Plan are paid for through OPI.

- Home Care Workers will not be assigned tasks such as pet care, outside yard care, transporting clients in a car/riding with clients in a car, or care for other household members not eligible for OPI services.
- The Home Care Worker is issued a pay voucher each month. 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. If the Home Care Worker does not work during the month, the voucher must be marked as 0 hours worked and submitted to CAT.
- 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 a check will be issued for the month's work.
- If a client has a pay-in, the fee will be billed according to the total number of hours worked during the month by the Home Care Worker. Pay-in fees are mandatory and service will be stopped if not paid.

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 to their case manager. The main number for Community Action Team is: 503-397-3511 or 1-800-404-3511.

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 protecting the confidentiality of the clients we serve.

Have More Questions?

Contact:

Community Action Team: 503-397-3511 or 1-800-404-3511 Please ask for the Worker of the Day for assistance. Applications and information is also available on our web page at: www.cat-team.org.