

**Aging and People with Disabilities**

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**Number: APD-IM-14-043**

**Issue date: 8/5/2014**

**Topic:** Long Term Care

**Subject:** Pilot Expansion of Oregon Project Independence to Individuals age 19-59

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging             | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families                 | Disabilities Services (ODDS)   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other ( <i>please specify</i> ): OVRs Managers |

**Message:** Please share the following information with individuals who are age 19-59 and may benefit from in-home services and/or community partners who serve these individuals:

**Oregon Project Independence (OPI)**

Oregon Project Independence (OPI) was created in 1975 to assist individuals over the age of 60 with services to help them stay in their own homes.

In 2014 the Oregon Legislature provided funding to expand the OPI program to serve individuals between the ages of 19-59 in certain areas of the state. This is a one year pilot project which will study the need and cost of providing the OPI program to younger adults on a permanent basis.

To qualify for OPI an individual must need in-home assistance based on an assessment and not be receiving full medical coverage through Medicaid.

**Counties participating in the Pilot**

Beginning in August 2014, the following counties will offer OPI services to adults between the ages of 19-59:

**Benton, Clatsop, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Lincoln, Morrow, Multnomah, Polk, Umatilla and Washington.**

*\*Please note that the OPI program serving adults age 60 and over is available in all*

Oregon counties, although some areas may have waiting lists.

## **OPI Can Help Individuals Stay in Their Own Home**

The OPI pilot project is administered by local Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities. The consumer and an employee from the pilot program will complete an assessment. The assessment will help the consumer and the employee develop a plan to assist the consumer with activities such as walking, getting in/out of a chair, bathing, dressing, personal hygiene, taking medications, housekeeping, meal preparation, shopping, transportation, and laundry.

## **Participant Costs**

Based on the consumer's income after deductions for medical expenses, the consumer may be asked to pay a fee for a portion of the services they receive. If their income is low they will only pay a small amount.

The 2014 sliding fee schedule can be viewed at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/spwpd/sua/docs/opi-fee-schedule.pdf> .

## **How to Connect with OPI**

Call toll-free to Oregon's Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) at 1-855-673-2372 to be connected to the Area Agency on Aging and Disability serving the local community by entering the desired zip code when prompted.

You can also visit the ADRC website at [www.adrcforegon.org](http://www.adrcforegon.org) and click on the "Connect" button to view the contact information for the agency serving each county.

Please contact Elaine Young and NorthWest Senior and Disability Services at 503-967-1826 or [Elaine.young@nwsds.org](mailto:Elaine.young@nwsds.org) for more information.

*If you have any questions about this information, contact:*

<b>Contact(s):</b>	Ashley Carson-Cottingham		
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