

ONI Budget Advisory Committee: Program Summary
October 2010

Organization / Program title

Elders in Action 503 235-5474

Mission: *"To assure a vibrant community through the active involvement of older adults"*

Briefly describe the program funded with city dollars

Elders in Action, a powerful voice of older adults since 1968, is pleased to be an active partner with the City of Portland to help ensure that city services are "Elder Friendly" and that City staff, Bureaus, and community partners are prepared to meet the needs of the growing elder population. City dollars help Elders in Action to continue to advise city officials, connect the talent of older adults for the good of the city and provide services to City residents so that they may be actively involved with their community. Our work is carried out by harnessing the wisdom, talent and experience of our 150 volunteers. Our volunteers provided 13,401 hours of volunteer service in FY 09-10.

Our Elders in Action Commission is the official advisory group for the City of Portland on aging and issues affecting its elder citizens. Our Commission members meet a minimum of two times a month at our Leadership Team, and at the full Commission meeting. We meet one on one with City Commissioners and various City Bureau personnel to help them better serve the growing older adult population.

Our volunteers provide aging awareness training for city personnel and partner agencies. We provide Elder Friendly evaluations of city offices, and receive referrals to our Personal Advocate program from ONI, the Mayor's Office, City Ombudsman, and City Commissioners, the Police Department and the community.

Major activities and accomplishments during current budget cycle (ending June 30, 2011). Include Summary of what changed as a result of FY2011 budget cuts. If accomplishments planned were not achieved, please describe the challenges/reasons.

Since July 1, 2010 we have:

- Met twice a month with our liaison City Commissioner Nick Fish's staff and worked with Commissioner Fish and the Bureau of Parks and Recreation to restore \$60,000 in funding for the 8 City District Senior Centers. Safe and Affordable Housing concerns are important priorities for the Elders in Action Commission.
- We continue to attend the Sharing the Sidewalks Committee with Commissioner Fritz to advocate for senior mobility and safety in Downtown Portland.
- Our volunteers continue to advise and promote the Portland Bureau of Transportation's "Senior Strolls", and Pedestrian Safety Activities. We have a member on the PDOT Pedestrian and Bike Safety Advisory Committee and we spoke at recent ribbon cutting ceremonies for pedestrian improvements at Beach Elementary School and the SE Multicultural Center 36th and SE Belmont sites.
- We have an 84 year old volunteer who works 4 days a week at the Portland Police Bureau's Elder Crimes Unit. He makes @ 75 follow up calls a month to elderly victims

of crime We also have followed up with 76 additional police reports from seniors referred from the Adult Protective Services.

- We have a representative on the Mayors Citizen Corps and we promote and help people sign up for the Voluntary Emergency Registry.
- We helped to plan and promote the 20th Anniversary of the Americans' with Disabilities Act in July in partnership with the Portland Commission on Disabilities and others.
- Last year, our Personal Advocate volunteers assisted hundreds of City residents with problems related to housing, health care, crime or abuse. We continue to get referrals from the City/County I & R, City Housing Inspectors, and the City Auditors office.
- Our Service Learning Project on: *Hidden Hunger: Food Insecurity Among our Elders* provided specific assistance to the Neighborhood House and Hollywood Senior Centers by stocking the food pantry, providing personal shopping services for seniors at the Hollywood Farmers Market and gleaning left over produce and delivering to Portland low income senior housing complexes.
- 11,000 people a day are turning 60 in the US today. Elders in Action looks forward to helping the City of Portland be prepared for the "Age Wave", as an "Elder Friendly" community benefits everyone. As people age, accessible neighborhood services become increasingly important, as 21% of people over 65 do not drive. We want to develop a network of neighbors to keep older adults involved in our community, and to care for our elders, neighbor by neighbor. We want to celebrate the talent and experiences that seniors bring to our community, and build more avenues for seniors to actively contribute to our community.

Summary of program budget and staffing

ONI City Funding of \$133,652 supports 1.7 staff and Materials & Services for operating the Commission, Personal Advocate, and Elder Friendly Certification programs for the City of Portland in FY 10-11.

This funding represents 25 % of our budget and allows us to leverage \$180,800 in additional grants and donations and 13,401 in-kind volunteer hours valued at \$271,370.

Partnerships with other organizations

We were pleased to receive an ONI mini grant from NWNW to help support our May 22, 2010 Grand Works Northwest Art Festival which engaged artists from Colored Pencils and 50 other artists ages 50 to 102 from diverse backgrounds and artistic media. On June 3, 2010 we organized a special senior- focused Portland Plan event at the Native American Youth and Family Association. We have worked with many organizations this past year, and have partnered with Ride Connection and other ONI Partners at various Neighborhood Festivals and Events including 5 Sunday Parkway Events. We were a sponsor of the Second AARP Diversity and Aging Forum on November 17, 2009. We are working with Well Arts to create a Voices of Our Elders Theater Event in April 2011. On a regular basis we work with the Urban League, IRCO, YWCA, Portland Impact, Hollywood Senior Center, Neighborhood House, Friendly House, Metropolitan Family Services, Jewish Family Services, PSU Institute on Aging, Tri-met, Multnomah County Aging and Disability Services, Store to Door, Loaves and Fishes, Willamette Pedestrian Coalition, Northwest Portland Ministries, Housing Authority of Portland, Bridge Meadows, Oregon Public Broadcasting, and others.