

## ONI Budget Advisory Committee: Program Summary

### **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 senior 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 132 volunteers.

Our Elders in Action Commission is the official advisory group for the City of Portland on aging and issues affecting its senior 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 Commission volunteers contributed 5,781 hours of service in FY08-09.

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, and the Police Department and the community.

### **Major activities and accomplishments during current budget cycle (ending June 30, 2010)**

**Since July 1, 2009 we have:**

- Met twice a month with our liaison City Commissioner Nick Fish's staff and Commissioner Fish attended our October 21, 2009 Commission meeting. Senior leisure programs in the Bureau of Parks and Recreation and Safe and Affordable Housing concerns are important priorities for the Elders in Action Commission.
- We have a volunteer who represents the senior voice on the Portland Reusable Bag Outreach, Education and Distribution Task Force.
- We have a volunteer who is on the Sidewalk Access committee.
- We are a partner in the Everyone Counts 2010 Census Campaign.
- Our volunteers continue to advise and promote the Portland Department of Transportation's "Senior Strolls", and Pedestrian Safety Activities. We have a member on the PDOT Pedestrian and Bike Safety Advisory Committee.
- We have a volunteer who makes @ 60 follow up calls a month to elderly victims of crime at the Portland Police Bureau's Elder Crimes Unit. We also have followed up with 66 additional police reports from seniors referred from the Adult Protective Services.

- Lenore Bijan is our representative on the Mayors Citizen Corps and we promote and help people sign up for the Voluntary Emergency Registry.
- 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.
- Elders in Action has provided 45 Elder Friendly evaluations by trained senior volunteers for City offices this past year.
- 8,000 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.

**Note:** As a result of our FY 09-10 cut in the amount of \$7,034 we have eliminated one printing of our newsletter and have realigned staff duties to minimize overhead and administration costs. We also eliminated our Office Manager position as a result of reduction in ONI and other funding.

#### **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 09-10.

#### **Partnerships with other organizations;**

We have been pleased to work with SWNI and NWNW on 2 Aging in Place Forums and preliminary work on Community Conversations. 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. We will be a sponsor of the Second AARP Diversity and Aging Forum on November 17, 2009. 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.