

PRESS RELEASE
February 22, 2024

FIVE OREGON AREA COMMUNITIES STRIKE MULTI-YEAR DEAL TO FUND OLDER ADULT SERVICES

The villages of Brooklyn and Oregon, and the towns of Dunn, Rutland, and Oregon partnered over 40 years ago in 1980 to create and fund the Oregon Area Senior Center (OASC), located at 219 Park Street in downtown Oregon. The partnership has endured in formal and informal ways since then, but a renewed collaborative effort will now bring all five communities back under one funding agreement for the first time in ten years.

The new five-year agreement will ensure stable funding and services offered by OASC for older adult residents of the area communities through 2028.

OASC offers services that are critical for the health and well-being of many older adults who are 50 years and older, including a nutrition program that provided over 12,000 on-site and home delivered meals in the last year, case managers who provided nearly 2,000 hours of case management services during that time, transportation services, and an adult daycare program. The Center also offers exercise classes, wellness services, educational opportunities, and entertainment offerings.

Funding over the five years, which is based on several factors including a community's recent usage of the Center and total population, will be locked in at a flat annual contribution from each of the area communities providing greater transparency and stability for annual budgeting.

The new agreement has also been streamlined and simplified to make better and more efficient use of public resources. Time-consuming administrative requirements and costs in the current agreement have been eliminated.

Town of Dunn residents will continue to receive case management, home delivered meals and transportation services from McFarland Senior Outreach, but Dunn residents will now gain access to the Oregon Area Senior Center's medical equipment loan closet under the new agreement, which was previously only available to the other four communities.

Senior Center Director Rachel Brickner expressed appreciation for the work and commitment of the communities to reach this milestone agreement, "The arrangement between the communities is unique and special in Dane County. Over 40 years ago there was, and today there continues to be, a tremendous amount of foresight amongst the leaders in all the communities to do this together. It has created a level of high quality older adult services for our area that could not have



happened, and would not happen today, without this partnership. I am grateful for what this new agreement will bring: peace of mind for everyone--for our local governments who will have budgeting stability and peace of mind for our talented staff, who can focus on doing their jobs and what they love to do, and not worry about funding from year to year. Most importantly, this agreement provides peace of mind for those we serve, whose quality of life and, in many cases, their very lives, depend on the availability of our services.”
