

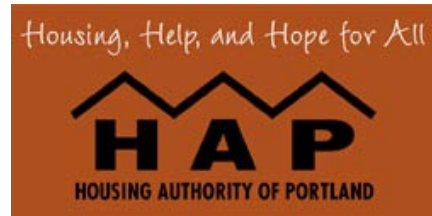
Congregate Housing Services Program: Portland, OR

Issue Area: Housing

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Summary:



Oregon was among the first to receive a Medicaid waiver, allowing them to divert funds from traditional nursing home care, and use them in a variety of other care settings, including the Congregate Housing Services Program. By combining HUD and Medicaid dollars, the Congregate Housing Services Program provides traditional "wavered" services (Housekeeping, Personal care, etc.). In addition to services that had previously been unavailable like Senior Companions and Medication Management. These Medicaid dollars, along with the HUD grant, have allowed many individuals to move from nursing home care back into the community. This combination of HUD and Health and Human Services dollars is the best financial aspect of this program, making it a model for other cities to examine.

For the past twenty years, the program has been using this type of funding to provide congregate housing for older adults throughout the Portland, OR area. The program began in 1981 and expanded in 1993 through additional funded sites. They now fund and run a total of one hundred and twenty-two congregate units in four HAP owned buildings. Through the use of the Congregate Housing Services Program, their goal has been to "improve the participant's quality of life by delivering services in a compassionate, efficient, and cost-effective manner while promoting independence and personal dignity." The program provides low-cost housing and a package of support services including daily meals, assistance with housekeeping and personal care, health and wellness programs, transportation, and senior companions. All of the costs are subsidized through the program, but additional costs for the services are charged to the senior residents based on ability to pay as determined by annual income. Program staff members have recently focused on program participants by creating an on-site presence and giving flexibility to participants to address their needs as they arise. This allows the older adults to feel a "family-style" care setting in a public housing agency.

The program is operated by HAP in collaboration with Oregon Senior and Disabled Services Division. The collaboration initially designed a program to assist people, who are elderly or disabled, live independently in their own apartment by providing basic

services. The program has expanded to provide housing in senior communities that effectively allow older adults to age in place in their community. The program is exemplary because of the numerous services offered and affordability to older adults. Because of their unique combination of HUD dollars with Health and Human Services funding, the Congregate Housing Services Program is an example of a unique and well-run program for any city.

Related Resources:

Congregate Housing Services Program.

<http://www.housingresearch.org/hrf/HRF_REFLIB.nsf/320d38b6b455f6fb8525699a005e0617/db13820477a126828525699a005e5019?OpenDocument>.

Housing Authority of Portland. *<<http://www.hapdx.org/>>.*

“Congregate Housing Services Program.” HAP.
<<http://www.hapdx.org/Programs/pdfs/X10.pdf>>.

Holgate House. *<<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/pihcc/holgatehouse.ppt>>.*