



## **Smart investments to achieve better care, better outcomes and lower costs in services for Oregon's seniors and people with disabilities.**

The Governor's Balanced Budget made significant investments in key programs for Oregon's seniors and people with disabilities. The recommendations in the GBB acknowledge that the best way to avoid unnecessary or premature reliance on publicly funded long-term services and supports is to invest in prevention and early intervention. Oregon's nationally recognized system of long-term services and supports can increase the focus on better care, better outcomes and lower costs to help achieve the Triple Aim for our seniors and people with disabilities.

Key investments include:

- **\$1.8m GF** (\$6.8m TF) investment in **options counseling services** to help Oregonians and their families make informed choices when long-term care services are needed.
- **\$3.7m GF** (\$13.7m TF) investment to **improve services** to older Oregonians with mental illness, traumatic brain injury and other dementia related diseases.
- **\$2.5m GF** (\$5m TF) investment to increase and improve access to eligibility and protective services **through implementation of the workload model**. This model is currently in place for the Children/Adult/Families division of DHS. This investment would bring parity for the service system to Oregon's seniors and people with disabilities as compared to other parts of the Department of Human Services and reduce wait times for individuals needing assistance or seeking help through Adult Protective Services.
- **Oregon Project Independence** – this cost efficient and effective program was flat funded in the Governor's budget at \$9.7m in General Funds. O4AD recommends restoring this program to **\$12.6m** in General Fund as was the level in previous biennia to help reduce the number of individuals on wait lists around the state and increase the number of individuals able to stay in their own homes and off of Medicaid funded services.

Legislative leadership can help support Oregon's seniors and people with disabilities by including these investments in the Co-Chairs and Ways & Means Budgets for the 13-15 biennium.

Oregon's system of long-term services and supports requires investment to support healthy aging, meet the needs of a culturally diverse population, prevent and/or delay entry into unnecessary or premature entitlement services and prioritize independence, dignity, choice and safety for our seniors and people with disabilities.

**Support these key investments for the 2013-15 biennium.**