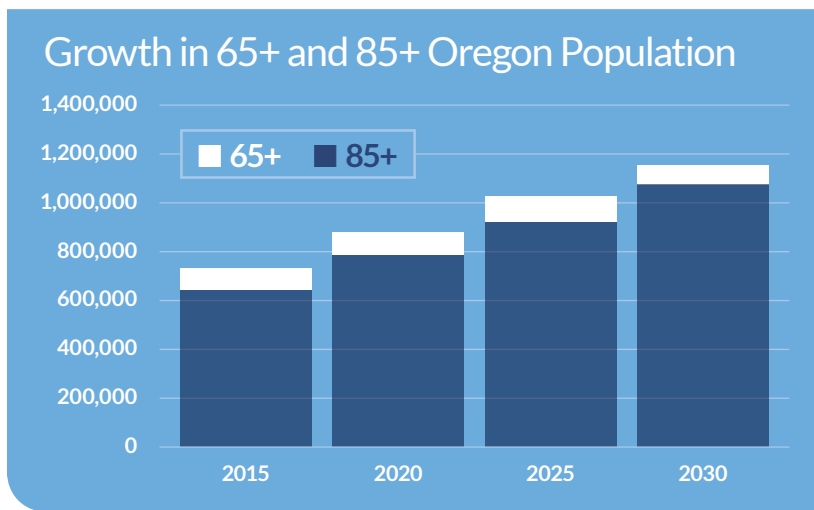




Oregon Association
of Area Agencies on
Aging & Disabilities

Meeting the Needs of Oregon's Seniors and People with Disabilities —An Overview

Economic forecasts project the older adult (65+) population in Oregon to continue to increase through 2022 by an average 3.83%.



Oregon's population of individuals with disabilities is also growing. Nearly one-third of the adult population in Oregon has a disability and about half of adults in Oregon over the age of 80 have a disability.

Oregon values independence, dignity, choice and safety in the care of older adults and people with disabilities. And are serving individuals in a variety of settings.

Oregon's system of long term services and supports is serving:

- 11,000 Medicaid residents in community-based care
- 20,000 Medicaid Long Term Care consumers via in-home services
- 4,770 Medicaid residents in nursing facilities
- 4,000 individuals in Oregon Project Independence
- Over 13,000 investigations in Adult Protective Services
- 163,000 Financial Eligibility determinations (Medicaid, SNAP) processed
- 76,000 inquiries via the ADRC (Aging & Disability Resource Connection)
- 258,000 seniors through the Older Americans Act

Source: Oregon DHS Ways & Means Presentation, 2017

To meet this growing need, it is critical that we have a system in place that allows qualified candidates to accept positions as case managers, homecare workers, eligibility specialists, and adult protective service staff in a timely way. Currently, background check backlog is prohibiting bringing on needed staff and causing the loss of qualified candidates. It can take up to 10 weeks for a background check to be processed which has put a significant strain on the network in meeting the needs of older adults and people with disabilities.

O4AD supports the DHS request to increase the capacity of the Background Check Unit (BCU) through a rebalance of Agency funds (no new General Fund needed for this request). Approving this request will result in:

- More efficient hiring process for qualified applicants in key positions including case managers, and eligibility specialists
- Improving the current adult protective services system through efficient hiring of qualified candidates to meet the growing need for abuse investigations
- Increasing volunteer support within the network through timely background check processing, a requirement for many volunteer positions
- Helping meet the critical need for home care workers to help vulnerable individuals stay in their own homes



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