*Proposed Area Plan Language*

Prioritization of Discretionary Funding

A small amount of SDS' budget is considered discretionary, meaning that once SDS meets its minimum service and contractual requirements, we have discretion to use any remaining funds to pilot new programs or enhance existing services.

SDS Advisory Councils, staff, consumers, and other stakeholders provided critical input on prioritizing how discretionary funds are to be spent in our region, and chose to support programs that have a focus on:

1.  Positively impacting the Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) for our consumers and communities, specifically focusing on food security, housing, financial empowerment, and transportation.

2.  Maintaining current service levels for *Meals on Wheels* (*MOW*), and assuring long term program sustainability.

3.  Leveraging resources and reducing program duplication in our communities so regional funds stretch as far as possible.

4.  Supporting family caregivers by providing respite, supplemental services, training, and recognition.

6.  Reducing social isolation for older adults and people with disabilities in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties.

7.  Breaking down barriers between Behavioral Health and Long Term-Service and Support programs allowing us to support physical care needs and mental health needs simultaneously.

8.  Providing inclusive and equitable service to all of our community members, but especially working with those at the greatest social and economic risk.

OCWCOG SDS has not changed service priority levels or implemented waiting list for any services during the period of the previous Area Plan. If a future decrease in funding requires altering program models, prioritization will be given to keeping services to current consumers as stable as possible. In the event of a waitlist – a risk tool will be used to identify and prioritize consumers most in need. ADRC Call Center and Options Counseling staff will work with waitlisted consumers to access other benefits and resources.