

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Promoting a thriving region through service, connectivity, and innovation. Here's a snapshot of a year of our impact.



OREGON
Cascades West
Council of Governments





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Dedicated to serving community members in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties, with a vision to make lives and communities better with our unique suite of services.

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FOREWORD FROM OUR DIRECTORS

Cascades West has been serving our region for 59 years with the goal of helping communities work better, together. Across Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties we bring coordination, momentum, and expertise to local initiatives to help our member agencies provide incredible services to our residents.

Over the past year, we continued to strengthen the systems that support aging populations, economic vitality, transportation access, and community well-being. Through planning, convening, and service delivery, Cascades West helps turn shared priorities into action, ensuring that public investments remain effective and aligned with local goals.

By connecting local governments, partners, and service providers, we create pathways for communities to respond to change and lead thoughtfully through it. The work reflected in this report demonstrates how coordination, trust, and long-term thinking result in tangible outcomes.

I am grateful for the partnerships and collaboration that make this work possible. Together, we are building a region that is prepared, resilient, and focused on sustained progress.



Ryan Vogt
Executive Director

The work of Cascades West is deeply personal because it centers on people at pivotal moments in their lives.

Every day, staff engage directly with individuals and families as they navigate important decisions about health care, housing, nutrition, financial stability, and independence. Our team grounds these interactions in expertise, empathy, and making complex systems understandable and accessible.

They take the time to explain options, follow through on next steps, and ensure people feel supported rather than rushed or overlooked. The outcomes in this report are built from thousands of these interactions, each one handled with professionalism and respect.

Cascades West is a people-centered community advocate. The trust placed in us is earned through daily practice, and it is reflected in the impact shared in these pages. I am proud of the teams who do this work with care and accountability, and grateful for the partners and community members who make it possible.



Paul Egbert
Agency Director



WHO WE ARE

For nearly **60 years**, CW has been helping communities collaborate to solve problems and connecting member governments, businesses, and individuals with a wide array of **supportive and transformational services**.

Our regional impact is further strengthened as a state and federally-designated organization in transportation, aging, economic development, business lending, and regional planning.



VISION

Make lives and communities better.



MISSION

Promote a thriving region through service, connectivity, and innovation.



MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

Linn County

Albany

Halsey

Millersburg

Port of Newport

Tangent

Confederated Tribe
of Siletz Indians

Benton County

Brownsville

Harrisburg

Monroe

Siletz

Toledo

Lincoln County

Corvallis

Lebanon

Newport

Sodaville

Waldport

Adair Village

Depoe Bay

Lincoln City

Philomath

Sweet Home

Yachats

We serve and collaborate with these counties, cities, port, and tribal partners to help shape regional priorities, strengthen local communities, and provide solutions that reflect the needs of the people and places they represent.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CW is led by a Board of Directors, composed of **local elected officials**, who serve on the Commissions and Councils, within, and including, Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties.

Several committees support this work, including the Budget Committee, which reviews the budget and provides recommendations; the Executive Committee, which acts on administrative matters and advises the Executive Director; and the Finance Committee, which meets as needed to review financial matters and advise the Board.

We're proud to have this group of regional representatives as an integral part of the CW organization as **collaborative partners and trusted advisors** to take our impact further!

BENTON COUNTY

Pat Malone, Chair,
Commissioner,
Benton County

Jim Moorefield,
Councilor, City of Corvallis

Jeanni Cuthbertson,
Councilor, City of Monroe

Christopher McMorran,
Mayor, City of Philomath

LINCOLN COUNTY

Claire Hall, Vice Chair,
Commissioner
In memorial of 20+ years of service

Jan Kaplan, Mayor,
City of Newport

Ian Keene, Member of
Siletz Conf. Tribe

Debbie Poland, Councilor,
City of Depoe Bay

Gil Sylvia, Comssioner,
Port of Newport

Kevin Hohnbaum,
Councilor, Lincoln City

Rick Booth, Councilor,
City of Waldport

LINN COUNTY

Sherrie Sprenger, Treasurer,
Commissioner,
Linn County

Alex Johnson II,
Mayor, City of Albany

Mike Caughey Councilor,
City of Harrisburg

Scott Cowan, Mayor,
City of Millersburg

Ken Bronson, Councilor,
City of Sweet Home

Joseph Parsons,
Councilor, City of Sodaville

Loel Trulove, Councilor,
City of Tangent

We are on a mission
to promote a thriving region
through supportive and
transformational services.



AGING & DISABILITY SUPPORT

Connecting older adults and people with disabilities to the services, protections, and supports needed to live safely and independently.

FOOD ACCESS & NUTRITION

Expanding access to nutritious food through meal services and support programs that help individuals and families meet daily needs.

TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

Improving access to care and opportunity through transportation services and regional planning that keep communities connected.

COMMUNITY SERVICE & VOLUNTEERISM

Bringing people together across generations through relationship-based volunteering, promoting companionship and mentorship.

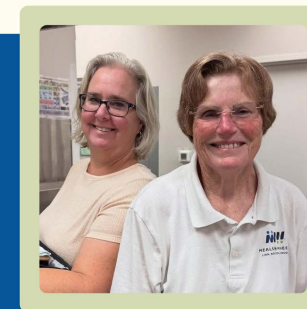
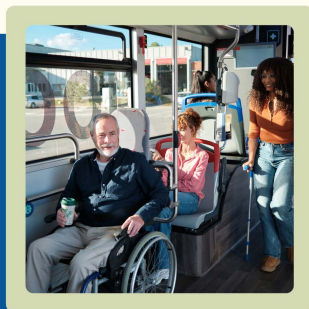
HEALTH & FINANCIAL NAVIGATION

Helping individuals navigate health coverage, financial resources, and veteran services to improve stability and well-being.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening local communities and businesses through planning, funding, and grant support that fosters regional growth.

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- •
- •
- •
- •



Make lives and communities better.

SENIOR & DISABILITY SERVICES

Providing services, support, and resources that help older adults and people with disabilities live independently, safely, and with dignity in our communities.

CALL THE ADRC TODAY



855-673-2372



AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CONNECTION

The Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) is a **free, trusted starting point** for older adults, people with disabilities, and their families. ADRC staff provide information, referrals, and personalized assistance to help people understand their options and connect to the services they need, regardless of income.

2,668

REFERRALS MADE

2,675

PEOPLE SERVED

78%

OVER THE AGE OF 65

83%

REPORTED HAVING A DISABILITY

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Adult Protective Services (APS) responds to reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation involving older adults and people with physical disabilities. APS staff work within the Senior & Disability Services department to investigate concerns and help ensure safety and protection for vulnerable adults.

4,821

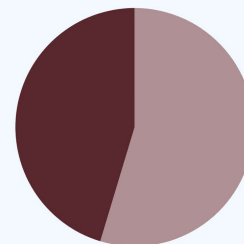
CALLS RECEIVED

1,473

RESULTED IN INVESTIGATION

45.3%

668 Facility
Investigations



54.7%

805 Community
Investigations

Our work reflects a shared commitment to protect, guide, and stand alongside older adults and people with disabilities across our region.





3,180

**CASES
MANAGED**

21,114

**ACTIVE
MEDICAL CASES**

ELIGIBILITY & CASE MANAGEMENT

Through Medicaid-funded programs in partnership with the Oregon Department of Human Services, our teams support eligible Oregonians as they navigate options, understand benefits, and coordinate care and supportive services, including **medical coverage, food and financial assistance, long-term care,** and other essential supports.

SUPPORTING A HEALTHY HOME

A healthy home looks different for everyone.

Through housing navigation and case management, we help older adults and people with disabilities explore options, weigh what will work best for their needs, and access the supports that make daily life safer and more stable.

From remaining at home with additional support to transitioning to assisted living, adult foster care, or skilled nursing, our staff works alongside individuals and families to help identify the right setting and services for each person.

HOUSING NAVIGATION OUTCOMES

67 REGIONAL HOUSING CONNECTIONS

34 INDIVIDUALS SUCCESSFULLY HOUSED

ONGOING CARE SUPPORTS

2,113 RECEIVING IN-HOME CARE

625 IN ASSISTED LIVING & RESIDENTIAL CARE

91 IN ADULT FOSTER HOMES

236 IN NURSING FACILITIES

47 COMMERCIAL ADULT FOSTER HOMES



EMPOWERING AN INDEPENDENT LIFESTYLE

Oregon Project Independence – Medicaid (OPI-M) helps eligible Oregonians remain safely in their homes by providing support with daily living activities. Services may include personal care, meal preparation, housekeeping, and other assistance that helps maintain independence and stability.

Publicly launched mid-2025, OPI-M added a new option for people who need in-home care and supports. As a state-funded, federally supported program, OPI-M is easier to qualify for than traditional Medicaid, expanding access while ensuring continuity of services for those transitioning from OPI Classic. By offering flexible, person-centered support, the program can delay or prevent the need for more intensive care while supporting quality of life.

308 OPI-M RECIPIENTS



Cascades West is committed to reducing food insecurity across our region.

Through a combination of nutrition assistance programs, we work to ensure individuals and families have reliable access to food at every stage of life, whether that means help with grocery costs or nutritious meals and connections at home or in the community.



10,397
Total SNAP
Recipients

Cascades West administers the SNAP program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, for Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties on behalf of the State of Oregon.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels serves fresh, nutritionally balanced meals to senior adults, seniors with disabilities, and their life partners, who often live alone and have limited resources or ability to care for themselves.

This is a **volunteer-led program**, made possible through hundreds of amazingly dedicated volunteers across the region! Beyond food, we also provide consistent wellness checks and social connection, empowering low mobility clients to remain safe and independent in their own homes.



320,802

TOTAL MEALS SERVED

2,429

CLIENTS SERVED

15,942

IN-PERSON DINING MEALS

11

MEAL SITES

303,610

HOME DELIVERED MEALS

6,250

SHELF STABLE MEALS DELIVERED

400
VOLUNTEERS

43,418
HOURS OF SERVICE



In 2025, generous donors gave more than **\$500,000** in support.

With demand rising, your continued support helps ensure all our neighbors are fed.

Give today!

S
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COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS

Providing opportunities and resources that help residents stay connected and engaged in ways that support community building and well-being.



AmeriCorps
Seniors



AMERICORPS SENIORS PROGRAMS

SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

Senior Companion volunteers provide assistance and friendship to older adults who have difficulty with daily tasks, such as shopping or paying bills. Through this program, volunteers keep seniors independent longer and provide respite to family caregivers.

56

SENIORS SERVED

13

NATIONAL SERVICE MEMBERS

8,314

HOURS OF SERVICE

\$55,244

PAID IN SERVICE STIPENDS

FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

We partner with schools, after-school programs, and other community partners to provide the regional Foster Grandparent program. This intergenerational program is offered in 9 cities, providing volunteers aged 55 and older with the opportunity to help children aged 3 to 18 build personal and academic confidence.

12

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

21

NATIONAL SERVICE MEMBERS

11,993

HOURS OF SERVICE

\$59,807

PAID IN SERVICE STIPENDS

Our work centers on creating opportunities for residents to connect, contribute, and strengthen communities across our region.





417

INTERVIEW
APPOINTMENTS

\$1.2M

TOTAL CLAIMS, BENEFITS,
AND RETRO AWARDS

BENTON COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES OFFICE

The Benton County Veterans Services Office (BCVSO) is staffed by Cascades West to assist Veterans and Veteran families in submitting claims for VA benefits, including compensation, pension, survivor's benefits, and VA Healthcare.



YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT HELPED ME TURN MY LIFE AROUND AND FINALLY MAKE MEANINGFUL RECOVERY AND PROGRESS.

-BCVSO Client

SENIOR HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) program, administered by Cascades West on behalf of the State of Oregon, educates and advocates for residents across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties as they navigate Medicare. Through one-on-one counseling and Medicare education classes, SHIBA helps beneficiaries understand their coverage options, timelines, and annual changes, enabling them to make informed healthcare decisions.

Across the region, beneficiaries consistently describe SHIBA counselors as kind, patient, and deeply knowledgeable. They leave feeling confident, supported, and grateful for a service that makes a complicated system clearer and more manageable.

2,216

BENEFICIARIES SERVED

21

VOLUNTEER COUNSELORS

27

MEDICARE PRESENTATIONS



CLARITY WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

When Medicare questions feel overwhelming, SHIBA is there with trusted guidance and a calm presence.

During open enrollment, the regional SHIBA team fielded 2,682 Medicare-related calls, more than 1,000 above a typical year following a major Medicare program change. This increased demand was met by a dedicated team of just two staff members, highlighting both the growing need for Medicare assistance and the SHIBA team's commitment to providing accurate, timely, and empathetic support.





Cascades West is committed to supporting financial well-being and economic stability across our region.

Through \$tand By Me Oregon, we provide **free** financial education that helps people move toward long-term financial security and empowerment.

Our coaches meet participants where they are, offering unbiased guidance, practical tools, and encouragement at every step.

HOW WE INNOVATED:

- Partnered with **Oregon State Credit Union** to:
 - Curate a financial literacy website that strengthens access to trusted financial resources across the region.
 - Launch a financial literacy podcast to share practical information and reach audiences beyond traditional workshops and coaching sessions.
- Established the **\$tand By Me Community Advisory Council** to ensure community voices inform program design and ensure services reflect local needs.

19 WORKSHOPS

Coaches provided workshops across the region on the basics of financial wellness, credit, business ownership, and more.

69 PARTICIPANTS

Participants received free personal coaching to help achieve financial wellness and goals.

\$132,298 DEBT REDUCED

Coaches worked with clients to reduce their overall debt and increase their credit scores, thereby improving their financial health and well-being.

\$142,083 TOTAL SAVINGS

Clients received tools and education on how to save on spending and for big purchases such as homes, cars, and more.

37% of participants were Latino **75%** of participants were women **90%** of participants created a budget

Listen to our podcast **SCAN** 

Explore the Banzai financial literacy website **SCAN** 



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Supporting local governments, businesses, and communities with tools, resources, and partnerships that strengthen regional economies.



GRANTS

We helped jurisdictions in our region secure funding that advances infrastructure, housing, transportation safety, economic vitality, and long-term planning efforts. Grant programs remain competitive, and our team continues to provide strategic grant guidance and technical assistance.

\$869,383 GRANT AWARD TOTAL

8 GRANTS SECURED

SMALL BUSINESS LENDING

We support small businesses by expanding access to non-traditional financing, strengthening the regional network of lenders and business partners. Through outreach and collaboration, we helped ensure capital reached entrepreneurs at critical stages of start-up and growth.

\$85,550 LOAN TOTAL

24 ENGAGEMENT EVENTS ATTENDED

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NETWORK

The Local Government Network program strengthens relationships between Cascades West and governments across the region. We provide regular outreach, share timely grant and funding opportunities, and connect jurisdictions to relevant resources and expertise.

Every participating jurisdiction received direct contact and ongoing support, helping communities navigate shared challenges with a trusted regional partner.

Our work is rooted in partnership, turning local priorities into action through funding, collaboration, and long-term planning support.

CASCADES WEST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

The Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD) supports regional economic strategy across Linn, Benton, Lincoln, and Lane Counties.

In 2025, CWEDD advanced long-range planning, strengthened partnerships, and aligned local priorities with state and federal funding opportunities through adoption of the 2025–2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.





BROWNFIELDS

Brownfields are underutilized properties where redevelopment may be complicated by real or perceived environmental conditions. We help communities assess these sites, opening the door for cleanup, reinvestment, and future economic use.

4	EXISTING SITES CONTINUED
2	NEW SITES SELECTED
55	ACRES OF LAND SUPPORTED

ALBANY AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) coordinates regional transportation planning to improve safety, efficiency, and access. In 2025, AAMPO supported planning, data collection, and project development to help communities compete for transportation funding and deliver safer streets.

6	LOCAL GOVTS COORDINATED
\$2.3M	STBG FUNDS AWARDED

CORVALLIS AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) supports safe, connected transportation systems across Benton County. In 2025, CAMPO advanced regional safety planning, active transportation data collection, and project coordination to improve mobility for people of all ages and abilities.

2	SAFETY ACTION PLANS SUPPORTED
3	BIKE & PEDESTRIAN COUNT LOCATIONS



ALBANY PAVES THE WAY

AAMPO supported the City of Albany with Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds for resurfacing projects. As a result, the City of Albany was recognized as a recipient of the 2025 Paving Award by the Asphalt Pavement Association of Oregon.





RIDE LINE STATS

169,570

CALLS ANSWERED

4.4M

MILES TRAVELED

3,075

NEW MEMBERS

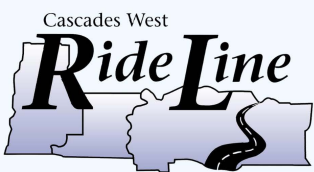
114,616

TRIPS IN OREGON

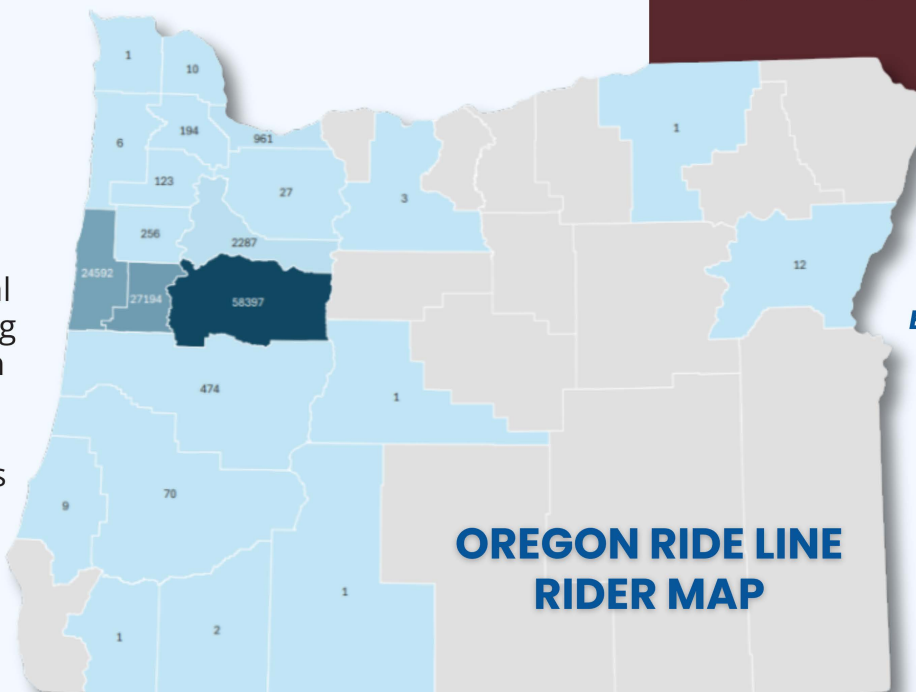
Cascades West is committed to reducing transportation barriers by helping residents navigate options, access support, and stay connected to their communities.

SUPPORT WE PROVIDED:

- Helped residents understand and navigate available transportation options, including transit, volunteer rides, and community-based services.
- Expanded the use of **Get There Oregon**, connecting people to a centralized tool for exploring local transportation choices.
- Personalized transportation assistance and travel training to support access to work, medical care, and essential services.
- Conducted outreach across the region, with a focus on rural communities and Spanish-speaking residents.



Cascades West Ride Line provides non-emergent medical transportation, helping eligible Oregon Health Plan and Medicaid recipients access medical appointments across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties and beyond when medical necessity requires.



Explore the
Get There
Oregon
website



Cascades West and CSC fit together like puzzle pieces.

Our strategic alignment allows us to deliver a comprehensive suite of social, workforce, and economic support programs, focused exclusively on workforce development services. Together, we ensure people of all ages and stages in our region have what they need to live healthy and stable lives.



Regional Convener

Bringing providers, governments, industries, and community members together across the region to **collaborate and make decisions**.

Community Action Agency

State-dedicated CAA for 46 years, providing a broad suite of anti-poverty and homelessness services that empower individuals.

Economic Development Hub

Partnering with regional governments to build more **sustainable and resilient communities**, businesses, transportation, and infrastructure.

Workforce Transformation

Hands-on **workforce development** that builds individual skills and strengthens local industries, supported by wrap-around services that promote long-term stability.

Supporting Vulnerable Populations

The **Area Agency on Aging**, providing support to seniors and people with disabilities with programs like **Case Management, Meals on Wheels** and **AmeriCorps Senior Programs**.

Foundations for Tomorrow

Meeting basic life essentials like food and housing and providing early interventions, such as **Head Start**, to build brighter futures.

HELP US CONTINUE MAKING AN IMPACT



Visit our **NEW**
website at
orcw.gov!



Albany

1400 Queen Avenue SE, Suite 201
Albany, OR 97322
541-967-8630

Corvallis

1121 NW Ninth Street
Corvallis, OR 97330
541-758-1595

Toledo

203 North Main Street
Toledo, OR 97391
541-336-2289

Cascades West is committed to serving our region with integrity, collaboration, and purpose. This report reflects more than a year of work; it took decades of partnership and shared responsibility.

Progress depends on engagement from many directions. Local governments, service providers, volunteers, donors, and community members each play a critical role in strengthening the systems that support well-being in our communities.

Together, we will continue building solutions that serve people today and strengthen our region for the future.

Pat Malone

Board Chair; Commissioner, Benton County

