

## **2009 Innovations Awards Program APPLICATION**

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ID # (assigned by CSG): 09-S-15OK

**Please provide the following information, adding space as necessary:**

State:   Oklahoma  

Assign Program Category (applicant): Health and Human Services-Aging

1. Program Name: Masonic Assistance Program for Seniors ( MAPS )
2. Administering Agency: Oklahoma Association of Area Agencies on Aging ( O4A )
3. Contact Person: John Shea
4. Address 400 N. Bell Street, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801
5. Telephone Number 405-273-6410 x 131
6. FAX Number 405-273-3213
7. E-mail Address jshea@sbcglobal.net
8. Web site Address www.coedd.org
9. Please provide a two-sentence description of the program. The MAPS program provides direct services to people 55 years of age or older. The program addresses a person's health and safety issues that aren't currently assisted with by any local, state or federal program.
10. How long has this program been operational (month and year)? Began in January 2007 until present.
11. Why was the program created? The program was created because the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma had funding available to assist persons over the age of 55 statewide and Oklahoma's Area Agencies on Aging had statewide coverage and knew where the gaps in services were and could locate individuals who had health and safety threats that were unmet. What problem[s] or issue[s] was it designed to address? The program is designed to help older persons with health and safety needs that are not being addressed by other programs or services. The program provides assistance with minor home repairs, construction of wheelchair ramps, purchase dentures, eyeglasses, handicap modifications to bathrooms/homes and purchase emergency medication/medical equipment to name a few.
12. Describe the specific activities and operations of the program in chronological order. Older individuals simply call the statewide senior info-line or walk in to any of the states eleven (11) Area Agency on Aging offices and request a simple one page application. The application is filled out and returned with any supporting documentation required (i.e. bids for repairs, quotes, proof of home ownership etc.) The application is reviewed by a screening committee for approval. If approved the applicant receives the service requested and the service provider submits an invoice for payment. In most cases from the time of application to the time the service is rendered is normally two weeks.
13. Why is the program a new and creative approach or method? The MAPS program demonstrates a cost-effective, innovative seamless coordination to meet the special needs of seniors 55 years and older, statewide, in Oklahoma (77 counties). The MAPS program is the only program that covers the entire state of Oklahoma and assists older persons with needs that previously there was no formal or informal program in place to help.

14. What were the program's start-up costs? (Provide details about specific purchases for this program, staffing needs and other financial expenditures, as well as existing materials, technology and staff already in place.) The program required little or no start-up costs. The eleven (11) Area Agencies on Aging across Oklahoma had the staff in-place to handle the calls, oversee the application process and pay service providers. Microsoft Excel spreadsheets are utilized to track applicants, report program activities to funding agency and to monitor fund balance. The Area Agencies on Aging are recognized for their expertise as the go-to entity to address the needs of services in Oklahoma. This partnership minimized administrative costs and allowed the Masonic funding to be used for services for seniors, statewide.

15. What are the program's annual operational costs? 5% of the yearly allocation is allocated for administration, in 2009 \$ 35,114 was set aside for operational/administration costs. The remaining \$ 667,168 was utilized for direct services to older persons. Fiscal responsibility and accountability of the MAPS funds is accomplished by a systematic process of AAA's submitted Quarterly Expenditure Reports to the MAPS Board of Directors and an Annual Audit.

16. How is the program funded? Interest from a large endowment given to the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma with the stipulation that the funding help persons 55 years of age and older with direct services. The Masonic Foundation Board increased the funding from its original contract amount of \$596,359 in 2007 to the current contract amount of \$702,282 in 2009 with potential funding of \$1,000,000 in 2010.

17. Did this program require the passage of legislation, executive order or regulations? No

18. What equipment, technology and software are used to operate and administer this program? Basic office equipment telephone, fax , computer, Microsoft Word and Excel software are utilized.

19. To the best of your knowledge, did this program originate in your state? Yes If YES, please indicate the innovator's name, present address, telephone number and e-mail address. Innovators information is listed in lines 3 through 7 of this application.

20. Are you aware of similar programs in other states? No

21. Has the program been fully implemented? Yes

22. Briefly evaluate (pro and con) the program's effectiveness in addressing the defined problem[s] or issue[s]. Provide tangible examples. The program assisted 1,380 older Oklahomans during 2007 and 1,526 older persons were helped during 2008. The program has been very effective in solving older persons health and safety threats. Occasionally the program denies a request for assistance because the need is beyond the scope of the program and/or is too costly.

23. How has the program grown and/or changed since its inception? Funding for the program has grown by \$ 100,000. since inception.

24. What limitations or obstacles might other states expect to encounter if they attempt to adopt this program? Masonic organizations in other states may not have had an endowment given to them with the condition that the funds help older persons with direct services.

## **2009 Innovations Awards Program Program Categories and Subcategories**

Use these as guidelines to determine the appropriate *Program Category* for your state's submission and list that program category on page one of this application. Choose only one.

### *Infrastructure and Economic Development*

- Business/Commerce
- Economic Development
- Transportation

### *Government Operations*

- Administration
- Elections
- Public Information
- Revenue

### *Health & Human Services*

- Aging
- Children & Families
- Health Services
- Housing
- Human Services

### *Human Resources/Education*

- Education
- Labor
- Management
- Personnel
- Training and Development
- Workforce Development

### *Natural Resources*

- Agriculture
- Energy
- Environment
- Environmental Protection
- Natural Resources
- Parks & Recreation
- Water Resources

### *Public Safety/Corrections*

- Corrections
- Courts
- Criminal Justice
- Drugs
- Emergency Management
- Public Safety

**Save in .doc or rtf. Return completed application electronically to [innovations@csg.org](mailto:innovations@csg.org) or mail to:**

CSG Innovations Awards 2009  
The Council of State Governments  
2760 Research Park Drive, P.O. Box 11910  
Lexington, KY 40578-1910

### **Contact:**

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This application is also available at [www.csg.org](http://www.csg.org), in the Programs section.

**Deadline: March 2, 2009**