



**What Is a COG?**

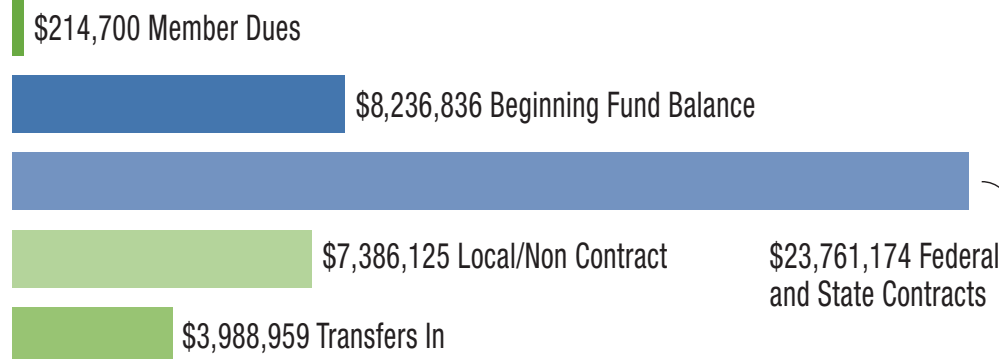
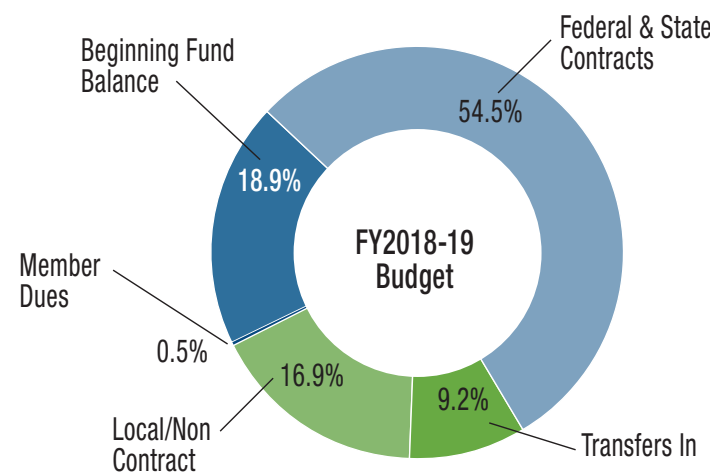
A Council of Governments is a voluntary association of cities, counties and special purpose districts within a region. COGs serve as regional planning, coordination, program development and service delivery organizations in local communities across the nation. Local issues often cross jurisdictional boundaries and can be most effectively addressed by communities working together within a regional forum. Councils of Governments differ in size and range of activities from one region to another, but their common purpose and function is solving area-wide problems. COGs are designed to help the public sector operate more efficiently and effectively through the pooling of resources so that communities accomplish more than they could individually. In Lane County, Oregon, the advantages of cooperation and joint ventures between local governments were recognized in the mid-1940s. Since 1945, Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) has served the jurisdictions in this community. LCOG has no taxing or ordinance authority; rather, it conducts its work at the direction and with the voluntary participation of its member agencies. Thirty-four governments and agencies are members of LCOG.

**LCOG Finances**

Financial support for LCOG's work is provided through annual dues paid by member agencies, by charges for special services, and by specific project-oriented federal and state grants. While the member dues component of LCOG's revenue

totals only a fraction of the overall budget, payment of annually adopted dues by units of local governments in Lane County provides for services to all members and the "leverage" by which LCOG is able to tap state and federal resources.

**FY2018-19 Budget: \$43.5 million**



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**Aging & Disability Resource Connection**  
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**Senior Meals Program**  
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View from Spencer Butte, photo by David Joyal, LCOG

**LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
 2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

**LCOG'S MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES**

City of Coburg  
 City of Cottage Grove  
 City of Creswell  
 City of Dunes City  
 City of Eugene  
 City of Florence  
 City of Junction City  
 City of Lowell  
 City of Oakridge  
 City of Springfield  
 City of Veneta  
 City of Westfir

Emerald People's Utility District  
 Eugene Water & Electric Board  
 Fern Ridge Library District  
 Heceta Water People's Utility District  
 Junction City Rural Fire Protection District  
 Lane Community College  
 Lane County  
 Lane Education Service District  
 Lane Library District  
 Lane Transit District  
 Port of Siuslaw  
 Rainbow Water and Fire District

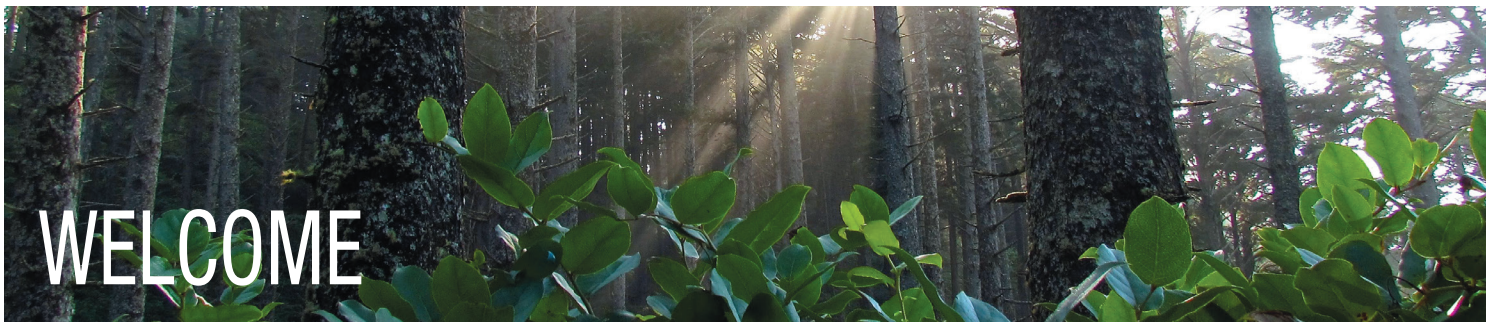
River Road Park and Recreation  
 School District 19 – Springfield  
 School District 4J – Eugene  
 School District 40 – Creswell  
 School District 52 – Bethel  
 School District 68 – McKenzie  
 School District 45J – South Lane  
 Siuslaw Library District  
 Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue  
 Western Lane Ambulance District  
 Willamalane Park & Recreation District



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Updated February 2019. Photo credits: Paula Taylor, Ann Terrell



Message from LCOG's 2018 Board Chair – Sherry Duerst-Higgins, Lane Education Service District

What an honor and privilege it is has been to serve as Chair of the LCOG Board for 2018. My thanks to all the members of LCOG. The strength of this organization comes from the diversity we represent, and our willingness to work collaboratively to help make the Lane County region a better place for all of its citizens.

With the assistance of LCOG's Executive Director and staff, the LCOG Board worked diligently throughout this past year to accomplish some broad-based interests and initiatives:

Replaced our end-of-life Telecom System; updated the Park Place Building lobby and began strategic planning for the preservation and maintenance of the building; began coordination of the rollout of ShakeAlert in Lane County, an earthquake early warning system; continued the

great work on EUGNet with regional partners to provide broadband service in the region; and continued a GIS Strategic Planning Initiative to make sure our GIS services are right-sized for our members.

We also approved the first steps for LCOG to become the rural transit provider for Lane County. And recruited and hired a new Senior and Disability Services Division Director and Deputy Director.

By working together, the local governments of the region have leveraged the resources available and increased the quality of life for their citizens. As we move forward in 2019 and beyond, I am proud of what LCOG accomplished in 2018 and am excited about the future.

enhance the quality of life of the people in the region. LCOG can be viewed in a number of ways. Perhaps most significantly, LCOG represents a regional toolbox that is wholly owned and shared by its member governments.

As LCOG's Executive Director for almost 7 years, I am profoundly grateful for the constant efforts of dedicated policy makers, energized citizens, and talented professional staff members who have contributed to LCOG's story of success. The Board of Directors has offered strong leadership and provided wise counsel and support to me and to LCOG's staff. I am also appreciative for the spirit of cooperation among the talented staffs of the region's local governments. As we go forward, we must continue to collaborate on a regional level – while keeping an eye on what's important to us as a region - and work to create opportunities for all. As often stated, LCOG is in the business of assisting governments to serve the public efficiently and effectively. That remains a vitally important business to be in.

By any measure, the past year has been challenging. The overarching issue for our region and for millions of people throughout the world has been uncertainty. However, difficult times tend to increase the importance of cooperation and joint venture for the sake of efficiency and effectiveness.

For over seventy years, LCOG has facilitated cooperation and joint ventures among local governments and has worked to couple vision with determination to transform ideas into reality. Whether it is upgrading our technology capabilities, spurring our regional economy with transportation planning, or providing essential wrap-around services to seniors and adults with disabilities – all are opportunities and challenges we faced together as a region.

LCOG's 35 member governments and the citizens of the region can be proud of the agency's stewardship of the public assets with which it has been entrusted. Every effort has been made to make the best possible use of those resources to serve the community and, ultimately, to



Message from LCOG's Executive Director – Brenda Wilson



## Planning

Facilitated the River Districts Group; played a leadership role in regional broadband expansion; assisted Lane County with processing a backlog of Comprehensive Plan amendments; re-initiated the maintaining of the Metro Plan for Eugene, Springfield, and Lane County; supported the City of Lowell in the creation of a Downtown Master Plan; and completed Code Assistance projects for the Cities of Yoncalla and Coburg.

## Public Agency Network (PAN) & Regional Fiber

The PAN community added new circuits and completed a two-year process to convert fiber assets to a lower cost dark fiber model. The highlight of the year was a City of Eugene project to complete a system-wide splice case audit.

## Natural Resources

Continued to work closely with Oregon Department of State Lands, Department of Land Conservation and Development and the EPA on a project addressing a new methodology for assessing wetlands and new State rules for local wetlands, including criteria for establishing Locally "Significant" Wetlands.

## Legal Services

Served as hearings official in over 50 hearings on land use appeals, animal regulation violations, code enforcement, tree removal, and air pollution violations; and provided city attorney services to Coburg, Lowell, Lakeside, and Oakland. Currently negotiating a cable franchise renewal with Comcast for Lane County, Springfield, and Eugene with staff from those jurisdictions; and working to finalize renewals of dark fiber leases on behalf of the Regional Fiber Consortium.

## Grant Services

Worked with partner agencies to write over \$7 million in successful grant and loan applications providing funding for the State Bomb Teams, the District Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Office, the

City of Coburg, Kids' FIRST, Homes for Good, and Lane ESD.

## Community Safety

Provided professional and administrative support for the statutorily required, 21-member Lane County Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) and the PSCC Budget Committee, Workplan Workgroup, Adult Reentry Task Force, and Behavioral Health & Criminal Justice System Workgroup. Also prepared revisions to the Lane County Community Corrections Plan and Justice Reinvestment Act Grant Program Plan.

## Transportation

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), LCOG continued its partnership with local agencies and community members through the Safe Lane Coalition working to reduce fatal and severe crashes; and updated and adopted a Title VI and Environmental Justice Plan and 2019 annual report. LCOG also provided staff support to Lane Transit District in administering the Statewide Transportation Improvement Funds process for Lane County.

## Economic Development

Packaged 13 loans for small businesses under various state and federal loan programs, expected to help small businesses create more than 75 jobs; staffed the Lane Economic Committee; the Lane County policy board for the Economic Development District and a forum for Lane County development agencies and local businesses to explore economic development ideas for Lane County.

## Geographic Information Systems Services and Rlid

Continued to restructure the regional GIS data consortium known as the Cooperative Project Agreement, a program that produces the Regional Land Information Database (RLID). Also maintained and delivered e-911 response data to local Public Safety; worked on state-wide e-permitting and aerial imagery projects;

supported EWEB drinking water source protection; supported the Eugene, Springfield, and Bethel School districts with demographic analysis; and coordinated local preparation and planning for the 2020 Census.

## Telecommunications

Transitioned to a new VoIP telephone system. The new system is state-of-the-art, and provides enhanced capabilities including: instant messaging, conferencing and desktop sharing, Cloud backup, e911, electronic faxing, extension dialing and call recording, mobility, speech-to-text, visual call flow dashboards and reporting, etc. Benefits to members include significant carrier cost savings, high-speed deployment, and reduced pressure on internal IT department resources.

## Information Services

Performed significant network upgrades to support VoIP, enterprise application transitions, anti-virus and backup upgrades, wireless deployments, an innovative application for air quality, and the technology deployment for a brand new community library. The low-cost bandwidth capacity of the WIX was leveraged to build out a modern, fully redundant hardware infrastructure. Our server environment was virtualized and data is now backed up to the Cloud.

## Metro Television

Metro TV, LCOG's video production unit, was again recognized nationally with "Telly" awards for videos produced for the city of Eugene and Lane County. "Hua Tunan-20x21 Mural Project," produced for Eugene's Cultural Services Department, highlighted the work of Chinese street artist Hua Tunan, and "Transportation Safety Action Plan" brought attention to Lane County Public Works' efforts to reduce the number of traffic fatalities on our county roads. We also began cablecasting and streaming meetings of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Advisory Committee and the Poverty and Homelessness Board.



## Senior Connections

The Senior Connections program has offices in six Lane County communities. Senior Connections Area Coordinators completed the following:

- 1,305 consumers received case management services
- 219 consumers matched with volunteers of the Elder Help and Senior Companion programs
- 285 consumers received assistance with 7,571 rides to medical appointments
- 636 consumers received LIHEAP (energy assistance) funds
- 4,134 LTD transportation assessment hours
- 1,655 consumers received Information & Assistance
- 131 consumers received Family Caregiver Respite or related supplemental services
- 48 consumers received PEARLS services, an evidence-based depression intervention program

## Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)

The ADRC is a free service that offers the public a single source for information and assistance on issues affecting older adults and people with disabilities, regardless of income. The ADRC may be reached at 541-682-3353, or by visiting [www.ADRCoOregon.org](http://www.ADRCoOregon.org). Walk-ins are welcome at S&DS locations. ADRC staff received almost 18,000 phone calls last year with a 63 second average call wait time.

## Senior Meals Program – offering Café 60 Dining Rooms & Meals on Wheels

The delivery of Meals on Wheels in Eugene is contracted with FOOD for Lane County. S&DS delivers Meals on Wheels in Springfield and outlying communities.

- 181,188 Meals on Wheels meals delivered
- 62,687 meals served at 11 Café 60 Dining Room locations
- \$383,479 fundraised for Senior Meals in Lane County

## Other Community Programs

- 133 individuals received 2,691 hours of financial assistance through the Oregon Money Management Program
- 1,112 individuals received a total of 3,348 hours of no-cost legal services through the Senior Law Program, a partnership with The Oregon Law Center.
- 167 individuals participated in 17 Living Well workshops, an evidence based health management curriculum developed by Stanford University.

## Oregon Project Independence (OPI)

- OPI provides limited in-home services to people 60 and older who need help to continue living independently in their own homes.
- 79 consumers age 19 – 59 with disabilities received services through the OPI Pilot program
- 240 consumers age 60 and older received OPI services
- 37,624 total hours of in-home care provided
- 127 consumers received help with assistive technology devices

## Oregon Health Care Plan (OHP) & SNAP (Food Stamps)

- 18,044 total open cases
  - 644 average cases per Eligibility Services Worker
- As the Lane County population continued to age, the S&DS office received on average:
- 231 new SNAP/Medical cases per month

## Facilities Case Management

Facilities Case Managers are responsible for plans of care and ensuring appropriate placement into facilities when in-home care is not possible including: Assisted Living, Residential Care, and Nursing/Memory Care. There are 1,236 S&DS consumers locally residing in these facilities.

## Transition and Diversion

Staff provides intensive case management for individuals to either transition out of nursing

facilities back into the community or divert an individual from a nursing facility placement. Over the course of the year, staff provided transition and diversion services to 188 referred clients, with 79 diverted or transitioned from nursing facilities, with an estimated cost savings of \$5.7 million during the year.

## In-Home/Community Based Care

Case Managers provide plans of care and arrange for services to individuals to remain living in their own homes or in Adult Foster Homes.

- 83 average cases per Case Manager
- 4,301 consumers received services
- 3,258 Active Home Care Workers
- 9 In-Home Agencies providing assistance to Medicaid consumers

## Adult Foster Homes

We license and monitor the care of consumers who live in Adult Foster Homes across Lane County. There are currently 82 located in Lane County. 231 S&DS consumers are currently residing in this type of setting.

## Adult Protective Services

Adult Protective Services (APS) is responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect of Lane County's seniors and people with disabilities.

- 2,987 investigations were completed with 28% substantiated
- Neglect of care by a caregiver and financial exploitation were the top two abuse types
- 199 cases were referred to law enforcement resulting in 65 prosecutions with a 37% conviction rate.

## Volunteers

Many S&DS programs are volunteer-based, such as Meals on Wheels, Elder Help, Money Management, medical ride programs, and Café 60 dining sites. This past year S&DS had:

- Over 400 volunteers across programs
- Over 35,000 hours of volunteer service provided