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Executive Summary

Curry County is situated along the Pacific Coast in the Southwest corner of Oregon. It is bounded on the South by California, on the West by the Pacific Ocean, on the North by Coos County, and on the East by Josephine County. The three main communities are Port Orford/Langlois, Gold Beach and Brookings/Harbor. The county has a population of 22,200 of which 41% of the residents are 55 or older, with an ever growing retired and senior population. Brookings/Harbor is the largest community with over 14,000 residents, continuing to grow with a large and robust retirement community

Healthy Futures is the proposed focus area for Curry County RSVP, utilizing the talents and skills of our most vibrant citizens, retirees proud to live amidst our beautiful natural landscape and temperate climate.

A Healthy Futures focus is substantiated by documented need. Curry has the highest rate of premature death in the state of Oregon, with most years of lost life to cardio-vascular disease, stroke, and cancer (Oregon Health Authority, 2010). 36% of Curry residents over the age of 45 have disabilities (Oregon BRFSS, 2010). Of the emergency transport services for Curry residents over 65% in 2011, 75% were home-bound (Cal-OR life flight, 2011). 30% of Curry's youth are obese (Children's First of Oregon).

Curry County RSVP is uniquely positioned to impact these challenges and enhances the lives of volunteers by providing quality opportunities for individuals to contribute their time, talent, and treasure to our local communities.

Strengthening Communities

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Fishing and timber harvest used to be the main employment, but with restrictions to these industries, our coastal communities survive mostly on tourism.

Curry County Government and public schools are Curry's largest employers. The Federal Government will be withdrawing O & C Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act funding in 2013. This will place an enormous strain on County Government, resulting closing many departments and needed services for county residents. Healthy Futures is the proposed focus area for Curry County RSVP, utilizing the talents and skills of our most vibrant citizens, retirees proud to live amidst our beautiful natural landscape and temperate climate.

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Currently, RSVP has 232 active volunteers that serve over 35 stations throughout the county; continually processing new registrations. RSVP partners with Curry's Agency on Aging, the Department of Human Services to provide services not within their budgets such as Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA), Money Management and Medicare Part D enrollment and assistance. Our volunteers are active in meals-on-wheels, law enforcement, food banks, and helpful

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chores programs, many take on leadership roles and coordinator positions within their volunteer stations when funding is cut for programs. With Money Management Programs and meals-on-wheels vulnerable seniors can remain independent in their own homes longer. With new funding through the RSVP program, we will develop a home-safe program that will engage volunteers in making weekly calls and/or visits to home-bound seniors.

In partnership with the Curry Healthy Communities program, RSVP volunteers will be trained to facilitate the Positive Action, evidence-based curriculum proven to increase healthy behaviors and decrease obesity. RSVP volunteers will also help assist in after-school programming that provides academic support as well as recreational enrichment activities.

Recruitment and Development

As demonstrated above, the focus on Healthy Futures responds to the growing needs of our communities as well as the expanded interests of our volunteers. Currently there are 35 stations that, providing challenging opportunities for every volunteer. Each volunteer is encouraged to take on as much as they feel they can, many take on management roles in the programs in which they volunteer, others continue to expand their programs to provide much needed services to their communities.

These volunteers are leaders in their communities and have a lot to give with their life experiences and leadership qualities. Our program recruits volunteers through many different avenues, media partnerships, participation in community functions, Senior Centers, existing stations, schools and current volunteers. The "Volunteer Reporter" is used to manage and track volunteers; its data base allows easy selection of trained and interested volunteers in several different skills and levels of volunteering. All of our volunteers are trained by the station agency and our RSVP office regularly offers opportunities for volunteer development (classes, trainings, webinars). RSVP keeps track of and

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pays for all of the SHIBA training opportunities for volunteers.

Recognition is a critical component of volunteer retention; every August, community members and station organizations sponsor and take part in a gala event to recognize and commend volunteers county-wide. Every year businesses donate hundreds of dollars worth of recognition gifts for the event. Curry County RSVP enhances the lives of volunteers by providing quality opportunities for individuals to contribute their time, talent, and treasure to our local communities.

Program Management

Curry County has successfully managed the RSVP program since 1972, helping to provide experienced senior volunteers to meet the needs of community members in the county. Through insight provided by the Advisory Council, volunteer stations are created to address specified community needs and provide meaningful placements for the volunteers. With predetermined work plans in mind, the RSVP Director assesses the project performance of each volunteer station. Monthly, timesheets are handed in and data is collected and processed to determine the number of volunteers, hours contributed, the impact of volunteer retention efforts, the relationship between the stations and the volunteers and to assess the concrete impact of RSVP projects. This information is presented to the Advisory Council quarterly and reviewed annually during a formal review conducted by the Curry County Board of Commissioners office.

Goals, objectives, project accomplishments, and impact on the community are the primary areas of review. The results of the annual review are then reported back to the Advisory Council to be used to provide further direction and support to the Director of RSVP. Due to limited resources, the RSVP Director manages project resources, both financial and in-kind, to ensure accountability and effective use of available resources. With careful consideration not to use volunteers in place of paid staff and to

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avoid fund raising by the RSVP Director, the Advisory Council keeps close tabs on the limited resources, assesses utilization of resources, and tracks how they are obtained and managed. Due to the longevity of this program in Curry County, dedicated community partners have a long history of providing cash and in-kind contributions on a consistent basis. RSVP relies on community resources, as well as the Advisory Council and the Curry County Board of Commissioners to procure future resources for sustainability.

Organizational Capability

Curry County RSVP has been sponsored by the Curry County Board of Commissioners since 1972. Vicky McGuinness has been the Director since 2010. All program oversight and fiscal responsibilities are provided by Mrs. McGuinness, with additional fiscal oversight provided by the Curry County business office, which also tracks over \$8 million in grant funded projects each year. Mrs. McGuinness is the only RSVP paid staff and is responsible for recruiting, training, retaining, and recognizing volunteers, as she has been for the last 2 years. She is the contact person for the Commissioner's Office regarding issues related to RSVP, she provides all clerical support, program management, and internal budgeting of the program. Mrs. McGuinness is responsible for ensuring the program has adequate facilities, equipment, supplies, and purchasing by following policy and procedures provided by Curry County and with the support provided by the Commissioners.

The Commissioners have a high level of respect and appreciation of the RSVP program; therefore paying close attention to programmatic needs. The Curry County Board of Commissioners evaluate the Director and the RSVP Program in a formal process annually and encourages community input in the form of a 4 member Advisory Council. The Advisory Council oversees the RSVP program, meeting every 3 months. Mrs. McGuinness provides and receives input regarding RSVP through the Advisory Council and attends all Advisory meetings.