

Lumpkin County, Georgia



Lumpkin County Senior Center

Agenda Item: LOCAL COST SHARE AND COMMITMENT LETTER –
April 12, 2016 LEGACY LINK, INC. SFY2017

Item Description:

LOCAL COST SHARE AND COMMITMENT LETTER - SFY2017 Each year the Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners is requested to submit an approved Local Share Commitment Letter and to pay its local share amount of \$9,450.00 to Legacy Link, Inc.

Facts & Historical Information:

Legacy Link provides federal and state monies from the Georgia Division of Aging Services for the Lumpkin County Senior Center. For the fiscal year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, Legacy plans to sub-contract \$115,823.00 for Center management, congregate meals, home-delivered meals and transportation. Legacy Link provides federal and state funds for senior centers to all 13 counties in the region.

In addition to the funds provided to senior centers, **Legacy Link** provides the following additional services for and in all 13 counties in the region (including Lumpkin County):

- Information, telephone screening and counseling through its Gateway Office for various services for families seeking assistance for seniors and persons with disabilities.
- Long-term care Ombudsman staff visit all personal care and nursing homes in the area.
- Georgia Cares staff and volunteers provide counseling and assist with Medicare, other insurance, fraud and scam issues.
- Legacy Link subcontracts with agencies for Elderly Legal Services and homemaker and personal care services to benefit frail older individuals in the area and help them remain in their homes and avoid premature nursing home placement.
- RN's and social workers provide assessments and care management for non-Medicaid and Medicaid-funded health programs to help older adults with chronic health conditions remain in their own homes and communities and avoid premature nursing home placement.
- Kinship Care Program – Grandparents raising grandchildren.
- Senior Community Service and Employment Program which assists low income persons age 55+ in need of employment and training.
- Retired Senior & Volunteer Program which enrolls senior volunteers throughout the area who provide service in their community.

Match monies from all local government entities in the region are necessary for Legacy Link to continue to subcontract and provide the above described services. Each government entity's local share contribution is critical for Legacy Link to access federal and state monies for continuation of services that help families in each county.

Potential Courses of Action:

- A. Submit an approved and signed commitment letter and submit the local share payment of \$9,450.00 to Legacy Link, Inc.
- B. Do not submit an approved and signed commitment letter and do not submit the local share payment of \$9,450.00 to Legacy Link, Inc.

Comparison:

If Course A is chosen, the above referenced services will continue to be provided to elderly residents of Lumpkin County for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

If Course B is chosen, Lumpkin County is at risk for losing some or all of the above referenced services to elderly residents of Lumpkin County at the end of the current funding cycle (June 30, 2016).

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Course A be chosen and the approved and signed commitment letter and local cost share payment be submitted to Legacy Link, Inc. The above referenced services are valuable to elderly residents of Lumpkin County who otherwise may not be able to access such services.

Budget Impact:

There will be no impact to the 2016 budget as the local cost share was included in the budget. This local cost share is routinely included each year in the Senior Center budget.



March 21, 2016

Honorable Chris Dockery, Chairman
Lumpkin County Commission
99 Courthouse Hill, Suite H
Dahlonega, Georgia 30533

Dear Chairman Dockery:

Legacy Link plans to once again provide federal and state monies for the Lumpkin County Senior Center for the coming fiscal year. We plan to provide \$115,823.00 to you for Meals on Wheels, congregate meals, transportation, center management and services. The sub-contract will run July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Legacy provides state and federal funds for senior centers in 12 of the 13 counties in the region. In addition to these funds supplied to governments, Legacy provides the following in all 13 counties: Information, telephone screening and counseling through our Gateway Office for various services for families seeking assistance for seniors and persons with disabilities; Long Term Care Ombudsman staff visit all personal care and nursing homes in the area. Georgia Cares staff and volunteers provide counseling and assist with Medicare, other insurance, fraud and scam issues. We also subcontract with agencies for Elderly Legal Services as well as homemaker and personal care services to benefit frail older individuals in the region and help them remain in their homes.

Legacy Link RN's and social workers provide care management in all 13 counties for non-Medicaid and Medicaid-funded health programs to help nursing home eligible persons with chronic health conditions remain in their homes and communities. The RN's and Case Managers work with almost 1,000 persons of all ages and their families to arrange in-home and community health services to avoid premature nursing home placement.

Legacy staff also continues to work with families and nursing home staff to help residents move out of nursing homes and back into the community.

We also provide funding for services to help caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's Disease and other dementia. We will continue funding various services designed to help families caring for someone with Alzheimer's including Guest House in Gainesville and part-time day programs in Forsyth, White and Union Counties. We also have a Caregiver Specialist on staff to work with families who have caregiver issues.

A very popular Legacy program is the Kinship Care Program (Grandparents Raising Grandchildren) which continues to help relatives and the children in their care. Our Wellness Program for seniors is extensive and been highly successful in the region and the Retired Senior & Volunteer Program (RSVP) has about 350 volunteers aged 50+ enrolled throughout the area who provide services in their communities.

The Legacy Senior Community Service & Employment Program assists low income persons aged 55+ in need of employment and training. Trainees are assigned to local public and nonprofit agencies in all counties for training and we pay the Trainees minimum wage for part-time training on the job. Trainees are helping out their communities by working in your schools, courthouses, libraries, day care, senior centers, hospitals, parks & recreation, etc. while improving their workplace skills to gain an unsubsidized job. We also place Trainees in private businesses for short term training with the expectation of employment.

Local match monies from all county governments is necessary for us to continue sub-contracting and providing services as described in this letter and others, as well. Local dollars are required to match federal and state dollars for administration, information and referral, employment and training of older workers, volunteer programs and Medicare Prescription Insurance Counseling and Assistance in all counties.

Our local share match request of each government for the fiscal year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 remains at \$9,450.00. Each government's local share contribution is critical to draw down the federal and state monies for continuation of services that help families in your county. This amount may be paid in one payment, monthly, quarterly or semi-annually as in past years. We just need to know how you wish to contribute.

The "Commitment" page for your signature signifying approval of this request is enclosed with this letter. Please sign and return by May 1, 2016 in order that we might continue services offered in your county in the new fiscal year. If you have any questions about services operated or funded by Legacy Link in your county, please do not hesitate to call me.

We're happy to be able to contribute funding again for your Senior Center and most appreciative of your continuing support to Legacy Link over the years.

Sincerely,



Pat V. Freeman
C.E.O.

Enclosure

**LOCAL SHARE COMMITMENT LETTER
FY-17**

The FY-17 local share requested by Legacy Link, Inc. from each county is \$9,450.00. These funds will be used by the Area Agency on Aging as match to draw down the federal and state monies for administration coordination, information & referral, employment & training of older works, volunteer program and other services. These funds will also help to continue the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, Wellness Programs, Kinship Care Program and Medicare Prescription assistance in all counties.

The Lumpkin County Commission hereby approves the services to be offered for older citizens, family members and individuals in Lumpkin County in FY-17 and agrees to pay the necessary local share monies in the amount of \$9,450.00 to secure federal and state monies and continue services as noted above.

APPROVED: _____
Lumpkin County Commission Chairman

DATE: _____

Please return by May 1, 2016 to:

Pat V. Freeman, C.E.O.
Legacy Link, Inc.
P.O. Box 1480
Oakwood, Georgia 30566