

Oneida Nation Elder Services

“Our respite care voucher program relieves caregivers of the stresses of care...It lets them get out of the house...away from the stress”

– Florence Petri, Program Director, Oneida Nation Elder Services

Program Description

Oneida Nation Elder Services provides caregiver support to tribe members through Title VI, Part C and tribally contributed dollars. The program offers caregiver support groups, vouchers for respite care, medical equipment on loan, and homemaker services. Services are available for community members caring for an elder and for grandparents caring for grandchildren.

Successful Strategies

Oneida Nation Elder Services has a strong relationship with tribal leadership, including a tribal advisory board that advocates for the program. Outreach workers conduct a thorough needs assessment when an individual requests supports to determine if any needs exist in addition to those requested.

Partnership

Oneida Nation Elder Services works with national and state nonprofit organizations to provide caregiver support groups. They also partner with other tribally operated programs to offer services such as equipment provision for individuals with disabilities. Partner organizations and agencies include:

- AARP
- Alzheimer’s Association
- Oneida Community Health Center
- Oneida Nation Social Services
- Wisconsin Institute of Healthy Aging

Operated by: Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

Location: Oneida, WI

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Community: Oneida Nation Elder Services is a tribally operated program that provides home- and community-based services to the community’s elders.



LTSS Research: Caregiver Support

Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

Training

Program staff receive training through the educational workshop, “Powerful Tools for Caregivers.” Staff also receive training to effectively address caregiving concerns and issues, such as:

- Fall prevention
- Dementia
- Chronic disease management

“In Indian Country, we just think we’re supposed to take care of others; we don’t always think about ourselves.”

– Florence Petri, Program Director,
Oneida Nation Elder Services

Funding

Funding sources for the program include:

- Title VI, Part C grant monies for caregiver support services
- Tribal contributions
- County grants for services, like bus passes

Future Considerations

Program staff hope awareness of and participation in caregiver support programs grows in Indian Country and across the nation. In Oneida, spreading awareness about available services and recruiting volunteers has been challenging. Because of this, Oneida Nation Elder Services staff suggest that other tribal communities trying to establish caregiver support programs initially focus on marketing, recruitment, and training.

Program staff plan to incorporate elements of tribal culture, such as dance and the Oneida language, into their programming.