

MEDICARE COORDINATION

Medicare Open Enrollment is upon us. Open Enrollment is from October 15, 2019 to December 7, 2019. If you have any questions regarding current Medicare, changing plans or adding plans, please email your questions to dent_st@ascog.org or call 580.736.7036 to reach STEPHANIE DENTON, the Medicare Coordinator for the following ten (10) counties: Greer, Harmon, Kiowa, Jackson, Tillman, Comanche, Cotton, Stephens, Jefferson and Garvin. For additional appointments please contact JAZMIN SHIPLEY at 580.736.7029 or KRISTINA MANRIQUEZ at 580.736.7976.

We will also be out and about at different locations making Medicare presentations and to meet one on one with seniors for Medicare counseling. The following is an up-to-date schedule as to where we will be, so please come out for more information.

NOVEMBER

4 th – Duncan North	19 th - Center for
5 th – Mountain View	Creative Living
6 th – Hobart	(Lawton)
12 th – Grandfield	20 th - Temple
13 th – Walters	26 th - Waurika
14 th – Tipton	

POSITION VACANCY

ASCOG is accepting applications for the position of Community and Economic Development Planner. Duties include preparing grant applications, tracking projects, maintaining project files and submitting required documents and reports in a timely manner. Applicant must have good communication skills to effectively interact with local government officials and community leaders. College degree is preferred; related work experience considered.

Starting annual salary \$26,208 with benefits including 100% paid health insurance for employee and 50% for spouse and/or children's health insurance (state health insurance), 97.5 hours vacation leave, 97.5 hours of sick leave, 96 hours of holiday leave, state retirement and \$20,000 employee life insurance.

Submit resume with references, copy of degree and transcript to Nancy English at engl_na@ascog.org. ASCOG is an equal opportunity employer. Resumes accepted through noon November 4 or until position is filled.



RURAL FIRE NEWS

Inventory has been going well including the durable list inventory (small items). Inventory will continue through the end of the year. Many departments around the ASCOG area have been doing very well with fundraiser events. Their respective communities have been very supportive.

80/20 grants have been turned in for approval with Swan Lake receiving the grant for construction (New Station addition) and Chattanooga for equipment (Building Grass Rig).

ASCOG HOLIDAYS

ASCOG will be closed Monday, November 11, to observe VETERANS DAY. The offices will also be closed for the THANKSGIVING holidays Thursday, November 28. Offices will reopen on Monday, December 2.

REAP SPOTLIGHT PROJECT IS ON COMANCHE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Comanche County Commissioner Gail Turner sponsored a REAP grant application to purchase and equip and Emergency Management Trailer. The county requested a \$36,000 grant with a cash match leverage of \$9,000 from the County. The trailer has been completed including painting and detailing.

The trailer is to be used throughout the rural area of the county as needed. Whether requested by an agency such as a fire or police department, or as deemed valuable by the Comanche County Emergency Management office, the trailer will serve as a portable command center from which the incident commander or chief can utilize its technology to better assess, respond, or recover from emergency situations. The trailer will be available for responses to wildfires, natural disasters, search and rescue, tactical rescue, civil disturbance, man-made attacks, etc.

The trailer will work out of the Comanche County Emergency Management office but is seen as a huge resource for all of the county's volunteer fire departments and community police departments who would not otherwise have access to the equipment and technology available within the trailer. Congratulations to Commissioner Turner and Emergency Management Director Michael Merritt for their vision and hard work to make this needed asset a viable option and available when needed.,



Advertise here



Promote your business! Advertise coming special events! Tell people what you have to offer. Each month our News 'n Briefs are emailed to hundreds of people in our 8-county area. Many are state and local politicians, businesses, and community leaders. The numbers are continually growing since all anyone has to do is to request to be added to our mailing list and provide ASCOG with a working email address.

To help defray the cost of writing and publishing our newsletters, website pages, resource directories and other items, ASCOG is now selling ads to be printed in the News 'n Briefs. Ads start at \$32.50 for a banner. For more information, please contact **KEN JONES** at 580.736.7972 or [jone ke@ascoq.org](mailto:jone_ke@ascoq.org). Due to contract limitations, ASCOG cannot accept advertisements from insurance companies or long-term care facilities.

Volunteer Fire Department fundraisers and Community tourism events will continue to be advertised at no cost.

TOWN ADVISOR COST ESTIMATION

Annual Contract

\$2,400 annually (\$200 month)

Includes 40 hours of Staff time annually

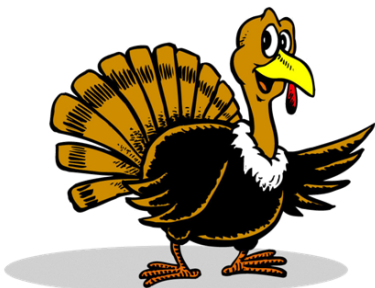
Time over 40 hours is billed at \$60/hr.
(quarter hour billing)

Mileage at the state rates (Right now \$.50/
mile)

As Needed

Anything other than an annual contract will be
\$85/hr. plus mileage at the state rates (Right now
\$.50/mile)

You determine what your budget can afford and
how much assistance you need. We can assist by project, by board meeting, or
at whatever interval is best for you.



November





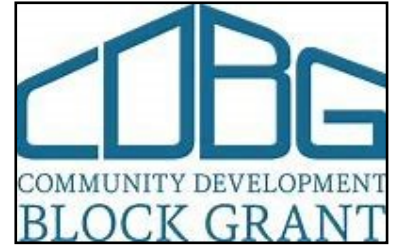
2020 REAP SCHEDULE

November 14 – Applications scored.

December 13 – Awardees announced on ASCOG Website.

2020 CDBG GRANT APPLICATIONS

CDBG applications are up next. Please encourage entities in your area to start preparing and take appropriate action now if they intend to apply for a CDBG. We always have some that will wait too late to get the required meetings and other actions completed. The public hearings must be advertised at least 7 days prior and then you must have a meeting to confirm what was done in the public hearing. Also, Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) Surveys may be necessary to qualify. If federal funds are to be used for engineering, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process is mandatory. Engineering plans and specifications take time, so you should be talking to engineers now. You **MUST HAVE YOUR 2019 AUDIT OR AGREED UPON PROCEDURES COMPLETED** and included with your application. If there are any questions, please contact CED Staff.



2020 CENSUS - GET 'EM COUNTED!

United States
**Census
2020**

Every community should be communicating with their residents about the upcoming census. An accurate count is vital for each community because it helps determine where to locate schools, day-care centers, roads, public transportation, hospitals, and other facilities. Census information is used to determine grant eligibility criteria as well as determining the numbers for how many seats Oklahoma will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. It is used to determine what has to be done for redistricting of state legislators, county and city officials as well as voting districts. Each community should consider adopting a proclamation of commitment for a 2020 CENSUS COMPLETE COUNT! Be sure your community receives all of the benefits it deserves by encouraging everyone to provide accurate information to the census workers. If you would like a draft copy of a proclamation, please contact **KEN JONES** at jone_ke@ascog.org or **TOM ZIGLER** at zigl_to@ascog.org.



INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

There are many reasons for individuals to call an ASCOG AAA Information and Assistance Specialist. Our responsibility as an Information and Assistance Specialist is to provide information, assistance, and support over the phone, by email and in person to facilitate the understanding of benefits and connect local providers of a wide range of services. Some of the topics individuals call about are:



STEPHANIE DENTON

- In-home assistance available for the care for self, a relative or a close friend?
- Referrals for Legal Aid,
- Sources for transportation to and from doctor appointments,
- Resources for assistance with medication costs and food, and
- Ties to various support groups.



For more information please contact Stephanie Denton by email at dent_st@ascog.org or by phone at 580.736.7036, , or visit us on Facebook.

CENA

The grant year is well underway for the Community Expansion of Nutrition Assistance program. The CENA program provides funding for nutrition sites in the form of food cost and utility reimbursement. This year's participants are Apache, Binger, Blanchard, Comanche, Dibble, Fort Cobb, Grandfield, Hinton, Minco, Newcastle, Tipton, Velma, Washington, Waurika, Wichita Mountain Area, Bray, Chattanooga, and Hastings. These sites spent time gathering data and submitting requests to be funded to best serve their communities sustainability. This grant allows sites to serve more participants and ensure that quality food



JAZMIN SHIPLEY

is ready for the seniors in these communities.

Without the hard work of the site managers, cooks, and other employees these nutrition centers would not be what they are. Make sure to stop by your local center and say "hello" and "thank you"! Questions for program administration can be directed to the AAA Planner, Jazmin Shipley (ship_ja@ascog.org or 580-736-7029).



DUNCAN'S ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW
October 31 - November 2, 2019
Stephens County Fair & Expo Center
2002 S.13th Street
Duncan (580) 255-3231

Enjoy a whole weekend of handmade wares at the Duncan Arts and Crafts Show. Centered at the Stephens County Fair and Expo Center, this one of a kind arts and crafts show spotlights local and regional crafts people. Not just anyone can sell their wares at this show, in order to exhibit, most of a vendor's product line has to be handmade. Come early and stay late, handcrafted door prizes will be given out all day

COTTON FESTIVAL & CHILI COOK-OFF

November 2, 2019

Tillman County Courthouse

Frederick (580) 335-2126

Come to the Cotton Festival & Chili Cook-Off in Frederick and celebrate the town's strong farming history. This annual community event will feature cotton crafts, cotton spinning, weaving, cotton displays, local cotton gin tours, antique farm equipment and tractors, as well as a variety of educational displays. Enjoy exhibits of cotton farming from the early 20th century, including a mini-cotton gin. Other activities at this year's Cotton Festival will include children's games and inflatables, crafts, food vendors, live entertainment and more.



The Cotton Festival in Frederick also features the annual Chili Cook-Off. Sample delicious chili and vote for your favorite team. Food vendors will also on hand selling corn dogs, caramel apples and homemade pie. Vendors will be set up throughout the festival area offering a wide variety of goods including candles, jewelry, gifts and crafts. Cheer on contestants in the Little Miss Cotton Bowl pageant, and watch as the winner is crowned.

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VETERAN'S DAY PARADE

November 9, 2019 @ 10:30

Downtown Duncan

Duncan (580) 736-0311

The Parade is to honor all veterans and their families. The Parade is sponsored by the American Legion, VFW, and AMVETS. Please come and support your veterans.



FALL FOLIAGE HIKE

November 9, 16, 23, 2019

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge

& Visitor's Center

(580) 429-2197

Head to the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge near Lawton and Medicine Park for a scenic Fall Foliage Hike through this beautiful part of Oklahoma. The Wichita Mountains are one of the most popular Oklahoma spots for viewing fall foliage. These guided hikes allow you to see this seasonal feast for the eyes up close. These hikes are moderate to strenuous and begin at the Visitor's Center.



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FORTRESS OF FAITH FALL FESTIVAL

November 9, 2019
198601 N 2700 Road



DUNCAN LITTLE THEATRE presents: YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

November 15-23, 2019
Simmons Center
800 Chisolm Trail Parkway
Duncan (580) 252-2900

George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart's famous comedy "You Can't Take It with You" is coming to the Simmons Center stage in Duncan this fall. Don't miss Duncan Little Theatre's presentation of this time-honored Broadway production.

Written in 1936, this three-act play tells the story of an eccentric family with a variety of artistic, idealistic dreams and pursuits. Their quirky routine is soon disrupted when one of the family members

brings her fiancé and his Wall Street family home for dinner. Experience a hilarious clash of cultures and discover how there's more than one way to live life to the fullest during this Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy in Duncan.

TRI-K BARREL RACE

November 15-17, 2019
Stephens County Fair & Expo Center
Duncan (580) 255-3231

Witness all the excitement of the Tri- Barrel Race, held at the Stephens County Fair & Expo Center in Duncan. Skilled horses and riders will showcase their skills as they race around barrels in the arena. Watch as riders attempt to beat other riders' times on each run, and cheer on your favorites. The Tri-K Barrel Race will be a great event for the entire family.



CRAFT HARVEST SHOW
November 22-24, 2019
Comanche County Fairgrounds
(580) 585-2447

Head to the Comanche County Fairgrounds for three days of shopping fun at Lawton's Craft Harvest Show, an annual fall and holiday craft show featuring a wide variety of handcrafted items. Browse over 200 booths filled with products including ceramics, Native American art, oil and acrylic paintings, holiday decorations, jewelry, woodwork, and more. Start your holiday shopping at the Craft Harvest Show to find unique, one-of-a-kind gifts or something special to keep for yourself.



DUNCAN ART GUILD
HOLIDAY ART SHOW
November 22 - December 18, 2019
Stephens County Historical Museum
1402 W. Beech, Duncan
(580) 252-4160

Beautiful paintings, photography, sculpture and other kinds of works of art come together to create the Duncan Art Guild Holiday Art Show at the Stephens County

Historical Museum. Local and regional artists display their work for the public to see and for a chance at prizes in different categories. Come see it all and admire the craft and dedication behind the pieces.

HOLIDAY STROLL
November 23, 2019
Main Street
Duncan (580) 252-8696

Kick off the holiday season at Duncan's annual Holiday Stroll. Enjoy live holiday music as the smell of funnel cake wafts through the air. Santa Claus will also be available to go over your wish list and visit with the children. Kids will also have the opportunity to make crafts to take home. Enjoy free refreshments, gift wrapping and in-store specials from Main Street businesses as well as food, hot chocolate, carriage rides and live entertainment.

