Mobile / Pop-Up Pharmacy Pilot – Sierra County, California

Funding Source

Older Americans Act (OAA) – Program Development (3-Year Designation)

Project Summary

Sierra County currently has no operating pharmacy, requiring residents—especially older adults—to travel to Grass Valley, CA or Reno, NV for prescriptions. This creates significant barriers to medication access, adherence, and health outcomes.

This proposal seeks OAA program development funding to establish a mobile and/or pop-up pharmacy model that delivers essential pharmacy services directly within Sierra County. The program will prioritize older adults and individuals with mobility, transportation, or health access challenges.

Need & Justification

- No local pharmacy; travel distances exceed 45–90 minutes each way
- Disproportionate burden on older adults and individuals with chronic conditions
- Transportation programs require ongoing staffing, fuel, and coordination costs
- A mobile/pop-up pharmacy provides direct service delivery, reducing repeated transportation costs and improving efficiency

Project Design

The program will implement a hybrid model:

- Mobile pharmacy unit (scheduled routes and delivery days)
- Pop-up pharmacy clinics (weekly or biweekly at central community locations)

Core services include:

- Prescription dispensing and refills
- Medication counseling and adherence support
- Coordination with healthcare providers
- Potential expansion: vaccinations and medication therapy management

Key Partners

Confirmed:
- Inc Seniors
- Sierra County Supervisor Sharon Dryden
- Sierra County staff (Melanie Del Carlo)

Potential:
- Eastern Plumas Health Care
- Dignity Health
- Sierra County Health & Human Services

Benchmarks & Timeline

Year 1 – Planning & Pilot Launch:
- Establish partnerships and regulatory compliance
- Launch pilot in 1–2 communities
- Serve 50–75 older adults

Year 2 – Expansion:
- Expand to 3–4 locations
- Serve 100–150 participants
- Add expanded services

Year 3 – Sustainability:
- Serve 150+ participants annually
- Secure long-term funding and partnerships

Achievable Goals

- Reduce travel burden by 50%+
- Improve medication adherence
- Demonstrate cost-effectiveness
- Create a replicable rural model

Sustainability Strategy

- Healthcare partnerships for operational support
- Insurance billing and reimbursement
- County and local investment
- Grant funding opportunities
- Scalable model for rural replication

Conclusion

A mobile/pop-up pharmacy is a practical, cost-effective solution to a critical service gap in Sierra County. This model improves access, reduces costs compared to transportation-only approaches, and supports older adults in aging safely within their community.