



OTSEGO DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Otsego District Library Launches Homebound Delivery Service for Homebound Senior Residents

OTSEGO, Mich. – The Otsego District Library is making it easier than ever for senior residents to enjoy books, movies, music, and more without leaving home through its Homebound Delivery Service, sponsored by a generous \$10,000 Molina Healthcare Grant.

The free service is available to Otsego District Library resident cardholders who are unable to visit the library due to age, disability, or mobility limitations. The program is primarily intended to serve senior citizens. Service will continue as long as grant funding remains available.

"Our goal is to ensure everyone in our community has access to library resources, regardless of their ability to travel," said Andrea Estelle, Library Director. "We want to bring the library directly to our senior patrons' doors if they are not able to come to us, and act as a beacon of hope amidst any loneliness and social isolation in our community."

Molina Healthcare of Michigan and The Molina Cares Accord donated \$130,000 to libraries across the lower peninsula for pilot programs addressing senior social isolation. Otsego District Public Library was one of 22 libraries in the lower peninsula to receive a grant award. Other libraries also chose to use their grants for programs that addressed caregiver support, digital literacy, and wellness programming.

A secondary use for the grant will be for the library's "Coffee and Conversations" program for seniors. On the third Friday of each month at 10 AM library staff offer coffee and snacks to seniors to offer a time to connect with other community members.

Social isolation is a major concern for aging adults. The higher risk of mortality associated with social isolation and loneliness is similar in scale to known health risks of cardiovascular disease, smoking, hypertension, and diabetes. Data show lacking social connection increased the risk of premature death by more than 60%.

“Libraries serve as all-inclusive community anchors, providing innovative programs and safe spaces for all,” said Tricia Wylie, Director of the Superiorland Library Cooperative. “The Molina Healthcare of Michigan grants support libraries as lifelines of connection, helping reduce loneliness and isolation by bringing people together and strengthening community well-being.”

“Molina believes in a comprehensive approach to wellness by providing high-quality care and support programs that address critical determinants of health,” said Terrisca Des Jardins, Plan President for Molina Healthcare of Michigan. “This grant allows evidence-based initiatives to be taken to scale by expanding the skillsets of those giving care to seniors in each community.”

About Molina Healthcare of Michigan

Molina Healthcare of Michigan, Inc. provides government-funded, quality health care, serving members through Medicaid, Medicare, and Marketplace programs in Michigan. Through its locally operated health plans, Molina Healthcare, Inc., a Fortune 500 company, provides managed health care services under the Medicaid and Medicare programs, and through state insurance marketplaces. For more information about Molina Healthcare of Michigan, visit MolinaHealthcare.com.

About The MolinaCares Accord

Established by Molina Healthcare, Inc., The MolinaCares Accord oversees a community investment platform created to improve the health and well-being of disadvantaged populations by funding meaningful, measurable, and innovative programs and solutions that improve health, life, and living in local communities.

How the program works at the Otsego District Public Library:

After completing an application, participants will have a brief phone interview with library staff to discuss their reading and entertainment preferences. Staff will create a personalized patron profile to select materials tailored to each individual's interests. Deliveries and pickups are made monthly on the third Friday.

Patrons may borrow up to 10 items per delivery, including: regular and large print books, audiobooks on CD and CD players, Music CDs, DVDs, and puzzles. Some specialty collections, including Wi-Fi hotspots, STEAM and Rising Reader kits, magazines, newspapers, and equipment such as projectors, are not available through the service due to limited collection size availability or shorter lending periods.

The Homebound Delivery Service is provided at no cost to participants. Overdue fines are waived for homebound materials; however, patrons remain responsible for lost or damaged items.

Deliveries are made by the Homebound Delivery Coordinator accompanied by a second library staff member. For safety reasons, staff deliver materials to the door or doorstep and do not enter homes or rooms. All animals must be secured during scheduled deliveries.

Residents interested in participating can call the library or apply online. Library cards can also be issued during the application process for those who do not already have one.

For more information or to apply, contact Diane DeVries, Community Liaison & Homebound Delivery Coordinator at the library: (269) 694-9690 or ddevries@otsego library.org.

*Press Release Submitted By and
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