Program looks at problems of elderly

Aging can lead to mental health problems. And with the number of older people g ch year, there is an increased demand for ental health services.

each year, there is an increased demand for more mental health services.

Through a new project called "Building Ties," state aging experts hope to find out just what those needs are — and better address them.

Agendes in Oakland and Wayne counties are part of the joint effort by Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) and the Area Agendes on Aging Association in Michigan. The 12-month federally and the project about a result in local plant for dealing with aging profilems.

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that is."
Funded by a \$110,000 grant from the Administration on Aging, "Building Ties" is one of just two
proposals approved by the federal agency. The
other is a Wisconsin program in peer counseling for
the agent

THE MICHIGAN program is helping 13 countles develop proposals which would address mental

heasin necus on resultant as an extra the plans fundcoordinators are also working to get the plans fundcid.

"We're not promising, but we will try to bustle
the money for them," said Carol Tamminga, who
with fellow Michigan OSA employee Chuck Maynard is coordinating the project.

"Building Ties" sums up the other goal of the
project, which is to get members of the "Aging Network" and "Mentall Health System" to work better
together.

Tamminga said the Michigan Department of
Mental Health's tight budget does not allow it to
offer the home services needed by many senior citizens. And many older adults are too proud to seek
out heip.

"Most are isolated or live independently, don'
get out and there's a stigma attached to asking for
help. The Mental Health System doesn't go to them
and they don't go to Mental Health." Tamminga
said.
"And the Asins Network does work in homes, but

"And the Aging Network does work in homes, but it doesn't have the psychiatrists and psychologists on staff that the Department of Mental Health does.

does.
"We're trying to get the two together, because
people keep falling through the cracks."
Tammings said there are 1.3 million older adults
in Michigan with 15-20 percent of those in need of
mental health care. But she said only 4 percent are
getting that help.

THE ORIGINAL grant proposal was written by aging and mental health specialist Sally Grady, who is employed by both the OSA and and was also you can be exployed by both the OSA and and was also you can be considered by the proposal state of th

goal is to design a program specifically for each community.
So far, Oakland is considering an in-home counseling program. Other areas are looking into solutions like medication monitoring/health care and a geriatric clinic. Half are looking into some form of outreach.





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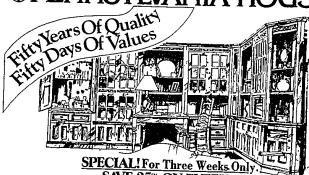
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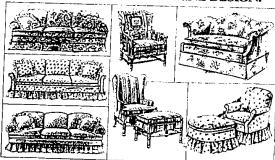
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