



## *Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.*

Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging

[www.agingwashington.org](http://www.agingwashington.org) • [w4a@agingwashington.org](mailto:w4a@agingwashington.org)

The Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) is a 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation established in 1988 to serve as the collective voice of the thirteen local Area Agencies on Aging in Washington State. Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's) are critical for creating communities that support people as they age. Over the past decade, AAA's have increasingly focused on aging readiness—how communities, businesses and governments can prepare for an aging population.

### ***Area Agencies— Not just “Aging.”***



Area Agencies serve adults 18 years of age and older in need of supportive home and community-based services, offering tailored services in every county across the state.

Designated by the State to develop publicly accountable service plans for use of federal and state funds, Area Agencies have 40 years of on-the-ground experience navigating between health and human services delivery systems. They are highly visible and trusted as the place to go for help accessing services to maintain a healthy life in the community.

Publicly-sponsored Area Agencies on Aging have planned, coordinated, funded, provided and advocated for services for older adults since their establishment in the 1970's. Since 1995, AAAs have also supported adults with disabilities receiving Medicaid-funded community long-term services and supports.

### ***AAAs Support Families, too!***

The AAA emphasis has been on helping people remain in their own homes and communities and maximizes the role of family caregivers in achieving this goal. The strategy has been very successful, saving the State of Washington billions of dollars that would have been spent for more costly service interventions, while at the same time, honoring the consumer's preferred choice to remain in their own home.



### ***Access to Community Resources***



**Senior Information and Assistance** services have been a key component of the AAA network since their establishment under the Older Americans Act. Senior I&A Offices operate in

every county to support informed decisions about health and long-term support options. AAAs are now expanding to include individuals of all ages who need to plan for long-term support needs through the new **Community Living Connections programs (previously ADRCs)**.

## **The Social and Economic Impact of AAA Services on Washington State:**

- Over **1 Million Washingtonians** receive information or services annually.
- Around **1,400,000 senior dining meals** & over **1,550,000 home-delivered meals** are provided.
- About **420,000 information contacts** are made through Aging & Disability Resource Centers.
- The **AAAs directly manage over \$110 Million in state and federal funding** annually and **leverage an additional \$20 Million** of other funding.
- About **39,000 older adults and adults with disabilities statewide receive AAA Case Management services each year** as part of the Medicaid community LTSS program.
- **AAA Case Managers authorize over \$600 Million in home and community-based services** each year for recipients of Medicaid community long-term services and supports.
- The **AAAs manage over 1200 contracts statewide** through a network of local providers.
- The **AAAs provide employment for about 850 people.**

Washington State has been a national leader in developing cost-effective home and community-based long term services and supports for adults 18 years and older. Our successful Medicaid-funded community LTSS system ranks 2nd in the nation, but only 30<sup>th</sup> in per capita spending. Washington State serves 2.3 times more consumers in home and community based settings as compared to

nursing home settings, at an average monthly savings of almost \$4,300 per consumer. Legislative action to rebalance Medicaid options and to move away from expensive nursing home care has saved our state over \$3 Billion since 1996. The AAAs are proud of their partnership with DSHS in bending the cost curve for Medicaid LTSS services.

AAAs are part of a State and National network and are constantly evolving to meet the changing needs of the community. In Washington State, they are organized through county governments, councils of government, and tribes. A citizen advisory council guides the work of each AAA.

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) were first established under the federal Older Americans Act in 1974 to focus on issues affecting older Americans. They are consumer-oriented and provide grassroots services targeted to address local needs, with an emphasis on vulnerable people with chronic care needs and family caregivers. In partnership with Washington's Department of Social and Health Services, the AAAs also serve adults with disabilities who receive Medicaid community long-term services and supports (LTSS).

More details are available at [www.agingwashington.org](http://www.agingwashington.org)

Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
2404 Heritage Court SW, Olympia, WA 98502  
360-485-9761