

TARGET POPULATION

Snohomish County Long Term Care & Aging (LTCA) will make every effort to comply with the Older Americans Act's preference in providing services to older individuals with the greatest economic and social needs and older individuals in rural areas, with particular attention to low-income minority individuals. The term "greatest economic need" means households with income levels at or below the federal poverty level, which in 2011 was set at \$10,890 per year for an individual and \$14,710 per year for a couple.

Although the federal poverty level helps determine eligibility for many assistance programs and identify individuals living in poverty, it does not measure economic security. The Elder Economic Security Standard Index (Elder Index) is a measure of well-being that identifies the income and supports needed for older adults to live modestly in the community. Section B-1 Population Profile lists the specific monthly and yearly incomes that older adults living in Snohomish County need in different circumstances (single or couple, renter or owner, healthy or in poor health) to cover basic living expenses. In the 2012-2015 Area Plan, Snohomish County LTCA will be targeting older adults on the basis of greatest economic need but also educating older adults in general about the need for economic security.

The term "greatest social need" refers to the need caused by non-economic factors that restrict the ability of an individual to perform normal daily activities or threaten the capacity of the individual to live independently. These factors include: physical and mental disabilities; language barriers; and cultural, social, or geographical isolation, including isolation caused by racial or ethnic status. In addition, social need comprises issues related to older Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) individuals. Special consideration is to be given to low-income minority individuals.

LTCA requires that contractors conduct outreach efforts identifying individuals who are eligible for assistance under the Older Americans Act. There will be special emphasis on: rural elderly; older individuals who have the greatest economic need (with particular attention to low-income minority individuals); older individuals who have the greatest social need (with particular attention to low-income minority individuals); older individuals with severe disabilities; older individuals with no or limited English-speaking ability; and older individuals with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders with neurological and organic brain dysfunction (and their caretakers). The contractors also must inform the older individuals referred to in this paragraph, and their caretakers of the availability of such assistance.

Additionally, contractors must provide services, either directly or through subcontract, to minority and limited-English speaking elderly in at least the same proportion as the population of minority and limited-English speaking elderly bear

to the population of older individuals in Snohomish County. They must also attempt to provide services to eligible low-income, minority older individuals in at least the same proportion as the population of low-income minority older individuals bears to the population of older individuals in Snohomish County.

Future LTCA contracts will include language requiring that contractors conduct outreach efforts, create a welcoming environment, and provide services to older GLBT individuals. LTCA staff are working with GLBT community advocates to provide additional training and resources for contractors. These efforts are outlined in Section C-6 Underserved Communities.

LTCA seeks to assure there is no discrimination against any person on the basis of his or her race, color, sex, religion, marital status, national origin, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, veteran status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability in accordance with state and federal laws.

LTCA conducts an open bidding process in accordance with Chapter 6, Section II of the Manual: *Policies and Procedures for Area Agency on Aging Operations*. Notices of Requests for Proposal (RFP) and Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) are published in newspapers of general circulation in Snohomish County. They are also routinely sent to service provider agencies and minority organizations.

Although Snohomish County's minority population is growing rapidly, it is still relatively small with an even smaller pool of potential minority contractors. To meet the goal of building the service capacity of minority organizations, Requests for Proposals contain language encouraging responding contractors to develop subcontracts with minority organizations. In the short term, this is an effective process for ensuring services to minority communities and limited English speaking individuals. Through the subcontracts, the minority organizations may develop the experience and service capacity needed to become independent contractors.

There are seven ethnic meal sites operated by the Senior Services of Snohomish County Nutrition Program. They serve the Tulalip Tribes, Korean, Filipino, Chinese, Hispanic, Southeast Asian, and Slavic populations. Senior Information and Assistance employs bi-lingual staff members who provide outreach and information services to the Korean, Chinese, Southeast Asian, Hispanic, Slavic and Filipino communities.

Case Management also employs several bi-lingual bi-cultural staff to address the needs of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) clients. Currently staff are bilingual in six languages. Interpreters are used to provide services for clients speaking other languages.

There are also services in place to serve rural areas of the County. Nutrition sites in Granite Falls and Darrington provide services in the most isolated communities in the County. Senior centers also operate in both communities.

