

Snohomish County Area Agency on Aging

The Snohomish County Division of Long Term Care and Aging is part of the County's Human Services Department and is the Area Agency on Aging for the county. Area Agencies on Aging provide funding for senior and long-term care services. Additional functions include planning and advocacy. Our focus is to foster personal independence and dignity of older and disabled persons. Services are available to all persons who are age 60 or older, and younger adults who are functionally disabled.

Washington State has thirteen Area Agencies on Aging. Included in this number are special aging programs which are administered by two Native American tribal organizations located in Eastern Washington.

The "Aging Network" includes all individuals who work or volunteer in service delivery for older or functionally impaired individuals, whether they be at the federal, state or local level. In Snohomish County this partnership includes the Division of Long Term Care and Aging, the Snohomish County Advisory Council on Aging, and all other community-based programs which provide services to older individuals or functionally impaired younger persons in Snohomish County.

The term Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is a very generic term. An Area Agency on Aging can be a public or private non-profit agency, designated by the state to address the needs and issues of older adults and disabled individuals. Most of these AAA's are responsible for a geographic area, such as Snohomish County. Some may be a city or local multi-county district. Of the 670 Area Agencies across the United States, about 66% are public/governmental agencies and 33% are private non-profit organizations. All are required to have an Advisory Council on Aging.

The Snohomish County Area Agency on Aging:

- develops and maintains services in the community,
- provides support to family and friends who are caregivers,
- assists organizations to work together effectively,
- promotes community involvement and participation,
- plans for future needs,
- enhances access to services,
- promotes development of long term care systems for the disabled,
- provides effective leadership for local advocacy and resource development,
- foster greater community awareness of the needs and problems of older persons and individuals who need long term care.

The Snohomish County Area Agency on Aging can be reached at (425) 388-7241.