

**A-4 Prioritization of Discretionary Funds:**

**With the reenactment of the Older Americans Act and its intent to serve the most vulnerable seniors, SE/ALTC first allocates funding to each county in its planning and service area based on a funding formula that includes a base amount and the following factors:**

- *Number of square miles*
- *Number of people age 60 and over*
- *Number of people age 60 and over living alone*
- *Number of people age 60 and over with greatest economic need*
- *Number of racial and ethnic minority people age 60 and over*
- *Number of limited English speaking people age 60 and over*
- *Number of people age 60 and over, with difficulty performing activities of daily living*



*Walla Walla Advisory Board members Evelyn Gibson and Elsie Wells on an Olympia visit*

The allocation to each county is provided through the existing SE/ALTC Executive Advisory Council policy which protects a county’s funding level so that it does not fall below the prior year’s funding amount. Over the past four years the purchasing

power of services has declined due to the demographics reflected in the 2000 census that indicated PSA 09 had declined in the number of seniors 60+ years old (as a share of the total 60+ state population) and of course 4% annual inflation has been a major factor. In addition, the intrastate funding formula has not changed to fully measure the impact of PSA 09’s “ruralness”, ethnic minority needs, service gaps, health care shortages and other factors more common in urban areas.

There is a distinct process of distributing the discretionary funds to each of the eight counties. The process begins with annual service provider presentations to each county Advisory Board and SE/ALTC staff, typically in August. Service providers share positive as well as negative issues that affect their area, funding needs and a declaration of a funding amount needed to provide the particular service. These oral presentations by service providers provide an opportunity for board members to ask pertinent questions about the service they provide to seniors. Advisory Board members are also provided information regarding SE/ALTC staff monitoring which identifies the accomplishments of a service provider as well as the areas needing improvement. In addition, the contracted targeting goals (e.g. minorities, persons living alone, persons over 85+ years of age) are also identified by the goals that were met and/or unmet. All of this information assists board members to make funding priorities to programs with the discretionary funding. SE/ALTC staff is also available to provide information regarding funding and community-based needs.

There are other considerations the advisory board members make after the funding

allocations have been decided. Local board members are requested to determine what they would like to see implemented if there was a one time funding opportunity but also if there were funding cuts, where they would want the decrease in funding applied.

SE/ALTC reviews the advisory board's funding priority recommendations although SE/ALTC ultimately has the responsibility for the final funding allocations.

The advisory board considers what type of recommendation they would suggest that would impact program(s) if there are reductions in funding. The advisory board makes recommendations also concerning this issue. ALTC reviews the advisory boards suggestions regarding loss of funding and how that will impact the overall programs available in a particular county,

add serving days to some meal sites that were not open 5 days per week and to incorporate HOT meals back into some home-delivery programs. A portion of the ARRA funds will go to the Yakima Salvation Army for the congregate meal programs at their senior center. Title V ARRA funds will be used to fund additional Senior Employment slots.



*Jan Zorb and JoAnne Cantrell, Garfield County I&A staff members visit with Richard Tate, Kittitas County Advisory Board member during our annual contractors meeting, which is held each spring*

SE/ALTC received ARRA funding for both Nutrition and Title V Senior Employment. The majority of the Nutrition funds were divided between our four senior nutrition contractors via the funding formula. They will be used to serve additional meals and to