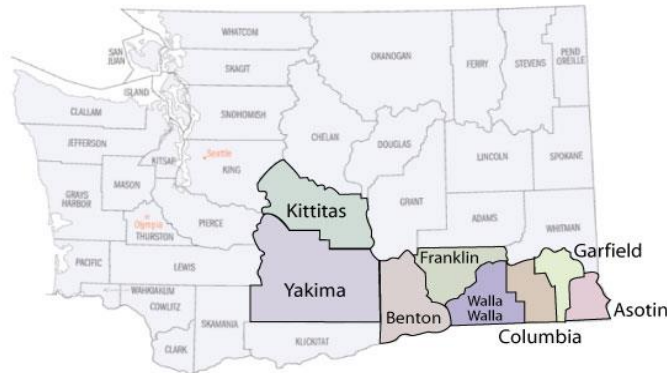


## Section A-3 PLANNING AND REVIEW PROCESS

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### Scope of Need:

ALTC Program Service Area (PSA) includes eight counties in southeast Washington.



Agriculture is the primary source of stability in the economy of all the counties except Benton and Franklin. The nature of agriculture, coupled with rurality, provides income and wealth in widely disparate ways. In the population of the elderly and the disabled, these disparities surface in key areas relevant to the Area Plan: Nutrition and hunger, transportation to nutrition and health care appointments, access to information (especially with access to internet connectivity), health care access, and housing options available to age in place.

The primary minority population in our service area are people of Hispanic/Latino origins. Many elderly of Hispanic/Latino origins have experienced health issues related to early years of strenuous physical labor. Many do not have or never have had access to any consistent health care, especially during the years of most intense physical work. Access to other services has been hampered by language barriers and fear of governmental bureaucracies.

Elders of any minority or special population tend to be the poorest members of our society. Often this is worse for women. In rural areas, regardless of economic need, seniors and adults with disabilities have long distances to travel, often without benefit of public transportation. Senior Centers with limited resources have struggled to keep up with the need for services in the rural areas.

Services to people with a disability tend to be more robust if the person's disability and income qualify them through the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), or through the home and community based services through the Aging and Long Term

Support Administration (ALTSA). Access to a good support system among family members, friends, or church helps. Even then, the central issues here are isolation, advocacy, and a lack of sufficient knowledge concerning chronic disease.

### **Persons Consulted:**

ALTC is especially challenged when trying to obtain local input in the planning process in eight different counties. In order to obtain input from the public, ALTC held three forums in 2019: Yakima for Kittitas/Yakima counties; Richland for Benton/Franklin counties; and Walla Walla for Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin counties. Contractors, partners, Advisory Council Members, and the service delivery network were sent flyers. We advertised on the ALTC website, social media platform, Facebook, and public notices in the local newspapers. All forums were well attended by a few Advisory Council Members from Yakima, Benton, and Walla. SEWA ALTC Council of Government Governing Board (COG) members attended the Yakima and Walla forums. The COG members also went over the area plan and approved it during a COG meeting in October 2019. ALTC also conducts one open hearing upon the completion of the draft Area Plan for public comment.

### **Tools Employed:**

Forums as described above, data searches, and consultation with key stakeholders comprised the variety of methods used to gather data. Key stakeholders included mental health professionals, physicians, nurses, county and city planners, emergency medical personnel, aging network partners, contractors, social service agencies and staff members from Greater Columbia 211 – Region 7.

### **Resources:**

Census data, ALTSA service data, regional demographic reports from Office of Financial Management (OFM), and county planning data (where available). Also utilized were data from national sources such as the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A), AARP, Administration for Community Living (ACL), National Council on Aging (NCOA), United Way, the Kadlec Neurological Resource Center and the Alzheimer's Association.

**See the Appendices** for documentation of forums, Advisory Council membership and public hearings.



*ALTC Advisory Council meeting*