

## **Section A-4 PRIORITIZATION OF DISCRETIONARY FUNDS**

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**With the reenactment of the Older Americans Act and its intent to serve the most vulnerable seniors, 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 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*
- *Number of people age 60 and over living alone*

The allocation to each county is provided through the existing ALTC policy which protects a county's funding level so that it does not fall below a certain threshold. Over the past twenty years, service purchasing power has declined due to stagnant funding; the impact of sequestration and loss of III-B funding; the demographics reflected in the 2010 census that indicated the number of seniors 60+ years old in PSA 09 had declined (as a share of the total 60+ state population); and, of course, annual inflation. In addition, the intrastate funding formula has not changed to fully measure the impact of PSA 09's "large rural geography," ethnic minority needs, service gaps, health care shortages, limited economies of scale and other factors that are not as common in urban areas.

ALTC looks at the utilization and the target population of each program and service delivery reports that include utilization and targeting percentages. They also receive demographic information on their county. ALTC reviews emerging issues impacting older adults and health care data including, falls data, and the number of individuals with dementia. ALTC Advisory Council quarterly meetings assist in informing our process for service priorities along with ALTC's Community Planning Forums where public input is considered. .

Other factors considered by ALTC Administration when setting priorities include policy directions from the State and Federal governments. The governing board of the Council

of Governments also offers input. This process includes review and analysis of evidence-based programs, Washington Association of Area Agency on Aging (W4A) white papers, Health Care Authority (HCA) and Department of Social and Health (DSHS) concept papers, innovations and policy initiatives. These assist ALTC to remain relevant and consistent with the direction that health care is taking with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the role that is being etched out for Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS).

ALTC's discretionary funding would first be ADRC, followed by Senior Nutrition, which follows the vulnerability criteria established by OAA. Other priorities would vary by county depending upon area plan objectives that are informed by the AAA planning process, stakeholder input from community forums, and ALTC Advisory County of each local area.