

Section A – AREA AGENCY PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

A-1 Introduction

Southeast Washington Aging and Long Term Care (ALTC) is a designated Area Agency on Aging (AAA). ALTC is one of thirteen such agencies throughout the state of Washington. Starting January 1, 2015, ALTC transitioned from Yakima County as our sponsoring agency to a Council of Governments (COG) with seven elected County Commissioners on its governing board. The governing board consists of one County Commissioner from Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin counties.

The AAA encompasses Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin counties, referred to as ALTC's planning and service area (PSA). All counties have a commissioner who serves on ALTC's governing board.

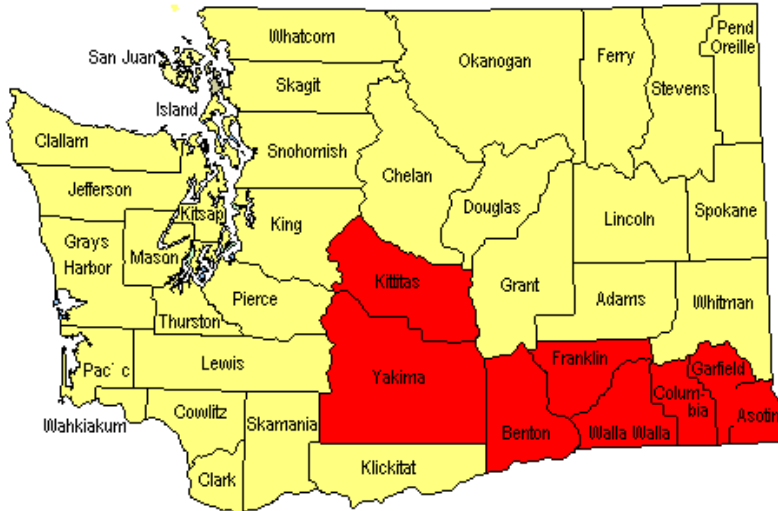
ALTC is responsible for administration of the Area Plan in accordance with all requirements of the Older Americans Act (OAA) and related state policy. ALTC promotes the development of a comprehensive and coordinated system of services to help meet the needs of older and disabled individuals and serves as the advocacy and local focal point for older people in the Planning and Service Area.

Policy requires AAAs to perform a planning process every four years with a two-year interim update to the narrative sections of their area plan, as well as to submit their annual area plan budget. This provides an opportunity every four years to revisit our policy direction and invite public input to ensure we are addressing emerging federal and state policy directions and issues, and that we are responding to local issues and concerns. This four year plan is for 2024 - 2027.

The primary function of ALTC is to:

- **Advocate** for older Americans within Southeast Washington
- **Identify needs** of elders at the local level and create multi-year plans for them
- **Development** of comprehensive community-based services to meet those needs
- **Administer** Older Americans Act, state and private funds
- **Contract** with community service providers, provide technical assistance and monitor for quality within these services
- **Provide** directly Aging and Disability Center (ADRC), T-XIX Case Management, Nurse Services, Medicaid Transformation Demonstration services - Medicaid Alternative Care (MAC) and Tailored Supports for Older Adults (TSOA), Health Home Lead, Care Coordination, and Family Caregiver Support services

- **Serve as a resource** for Long Term Care (LTC) information and create awareness of LTC trends and needs.



ALTC covers a large geographic area (11,451 square miles) encompassing eight counties: Kittitas, Yakima (except for Yakama Nation), Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield and Asotin counties. ALTC serves thirty-seven towns/cities and all the rural areas throughout southeast Washington. ALTC has satellite offices in order to ensure that the intent of the OAA is met. Benton and Franklin counties share a satellite office located in Kennewick, and in 2024 ALTC will have an additional office in Pasco. Yakima County has two offices, one in Yakima and the 2nd in Grandview. The other six counties each have a satellite office. Local continuum of service is available to help meet the needs of older citizens located in all areas.

ALTC provides all counties with Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC), Case Management, Nursing Services, Nutrition, Family Caregiver Support, Legal Services, Medicaid Personal Care (MPC), Community Options Program Entry System (COPES), Community First Choice (CFC), and Health Home Care Coordination services either directly or through contract. ALTC contracts for transportation services in three of eight counties, Adult Day Services in three of the counties, and foot care in six counties.

ALTC obtains input from the public via community forums throughout our region, and a public hearing. The public also can offer input to the area plan during the drafting phase by contacting ALTC at (509) 965-0105 or (877)-965-2582 and may ask for a draft copy of the Area Plan and/or by emailing the Planner of ALTC. That email address can be obtained by calling the number listed above. The current area plan is available on ALTC's website: <https://www.altcWashington.com/>.