

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

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**The Older Americans Act intent is 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 aged 60 and over.*
- *Number of people aged 60 and over with greatest economic need.*
- *Number of racial and ethnic minority people aged 60 and over.*
- *Number of limited English speaking people aged 60 and over.*
- *Number of people aged 60 and over, with difficulty performing activities of daily living.*
- *Number of people aged 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 years, service purchasing power has declined due to minimal funding, the impact of overall product price increases, and annual inflation. The demographics reflected in the Selected Population and Aging Service Utilization Forecast, indicates the number of seniors 60+ years old in PSA 09 has increased from 2020 to 2022 by 4%. In addition, the intrastate funding formula has not changed to fully measure the impact of PSA 09's "large rural geography," health disparities of ethnic minorities, inequity to access of needed services, 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 GetCare reports that include utilization and targeting percentages. We also receive demographic information on each 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 Council of each county.