

# KING COUNTY AGING SERVICES FUNDING POLICY

## DEFINITIONS OF SERVICES

**According to Need:** According to need, as used in the Framework Policies, is defined as local services (not mandated) which:

- reflect the wishes of residents of unincorporated residents;
- address demonstrated needs of the target population; or
- are generally consistent with local human services provided by cities.

**Local Services:** Criteria for identifying local services: services meeting unique, local needs and strongly supported by local communities. Services which fit into local partnerships (especially school districts and other key local parties). Services that do not fall into any "regional" categories and services whose core is recreation. King County's local role in human services shall be to help ensure that residents of unincorporated areas (both urban and rural) have access to a broad spectrum of human services, and to provide directly for those services which are considered a "local" responsibility. As the local government for unincorporated King County, King County recognizes that it has the *sole* governmental responsibility.

**Mandated Services:** Service areas mandated by federal and/or state government. King County CX/CJ funds shall not be used in mandated service areas unless the particular service falls outside the scope of the state mandate or is within the scope but is funded at a plainly insufficient level; is a high County priority; and continues to be unavailable from state and federal resources despite significant advocacy.

**Regional services:** Criteria for identifying regional services: services which are not feasible to offer in every locality and/or for which economies of scale make broader geographic delivery the most viable option. Services for which there is a regional need but insufficient local demand to justify operation/development of local services. Services which people may need access to in localities other than where they reside. Services necessary to support other regional systems. It is King County's position that support for regionally organized human services is a shared responsibility among state and local governments - including the cities of King County - and the private sector.

**Adult Day Health and Day Care Services:** Adult Day Health services are provided to frail and disabled adults in order to prevent or delay the need for institutional care. Participants attend centers during the day on a regular basis and receive care designed to meet their physical, mental, and emotional needs. Basic core services provided for both adult day health and day care services include client screening, individual assessment, care planning, basic health monitoring, social services, therapeutic activities, and at least one nutritional meal per day. Services also provide respite for family caregivers of frail seniors whose needs are more intense than what can be met through senior center services.

Services at **adult day care programs** are usually less medically oriented, and are appropriate for clients who have chronic medical conditions that do not require the services of a skilled health professional on a routine basis. The basic core services identified above are provided along with additional social, educational and recreational activities.

In addition to the basic core services identified above, services at **adult day health centers** also include rehabilitative nursing, occupational therapy, and psychological/counseling services with a focus on prevention, teaching, and health monitoring.

**Adult Day Support:** Training and advocacy for adult day health and adult day care providers and staff. Advocacy includes increasing support for reasonable funding levels for adult day services, Medicaid reimbursement of the full cost of services, and appropriate recognition of adult day health as a part of the spectrum of community long term care services.

**Aging Network:** This term is used to refer to the body of funders and providers who serve older adults. Some members of this network are specifically focused on the elderly population, such as the King County Aging Program; other network members, such as health care professionals, provide service to older adults as a part of serving the general population.

**Aging Population:** The Aging Program in King County provides services for older adults in King County who are 55 years and older, their families, and caregivers.

**Area Agency on Aging (AAA):** As required by the Older Americans Act. Administered by Seattle's Aging and Disability Services (ADS). Has the lead role in providing services for vulnerable elderly in all areas of King County, and is the designated recipient of state and federal funding for the elderly in King County. AAA is "sponsored" by the City of Seattle, United Way, and King County. The sponsors collaborate to make policy, allocate funds, and provide oversight of AAA actions. AAA is both a funding agency and a locus for the coordination of funding/planning activities of the various funding sources of programs for older adults in King County.

**Ethnic Outreach:** Services used to identify older persons of identifiable ethnic origin who would not otherwise come into contact with existing and traditional referral services. The purpose of outreach is to inform older persons about available services and entitlements, and to encourage their participation in aging programs.

**Information & Assistance:** Includes outreach services and also provides individuals with information, referral, help in coordinating and obtaining the needed service(s) from local providers. May also include legal assistance—preparation of wills, long term care insurance purchase and interpretation, public assistance applications, power of attorney, landlord/tenant relations, etc.

**Nutrition – Meals, Transportation:** Provision of congregate (at senior centers) and home delivered meals, transportation of those meals, and education on nutrition.

**Senior Centers:** Senior Centers serve as the focal point for the coordination, provision of and access to a basic array of services. Services include education, nutrition, health screening, recreational and social activities. Other funding sources (Federal, State, local) support specific services while County funds support operations and maintenance.

**Small Cities:** Cities of less than 12,000 in population. This term is used most often, in the phrase "unincorporated areas and small cities" to define King County's area of responsibility as identified in the 1989 Aging Policy.

**Volunteer Chore Services:** Provides volunteers to assist eligible elders with chores such as housework, shopping, laundry, transportation, yard work, etc. This helps frail elders to remain independent and avoid being prematurely or unnecessarily institutionalized.

**Volunteer Training and Placement:** Culturally-specific: recruit and train family members to be caregivers for their elders. General: recruit and train elders for placement as volunteers in community-based organizations.

**Vulnerable Elderly:** This term is used to describe the subset of the elderly population that is viewed to be "at risk" for some level of institutionalized care. The Area Agency on Aging has adopted a list of criteria for use in defining the vulnerable elderly. Any older adult who possess one or more of the following characteristics is considered to be vulnerable or "at-risk"; seventy-five years old or older, low income, limited or non-English speaking, ethnic/racial minority, homebound or disable, living alone and/or geographically isolated.

***Sources for Definitions:***

- *Aging & Disability Services Area Plan on Aging, 2000-2003, Seattle-King County, 1999*
- *Final Report: King County Framework Policies for Human Services, September 1999*
- *King County Aging Program Funding Policy & Allocation Plan, May 1989*
- *Washington Administrative Code 388-15-650 through 388-15-662, May 1999*