

# AGING STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT PROJECT

## State Profile for

# ALASKA

## Home- and Community-based Services for Older Adults and Adults with Physical Disabilities

### Background

- Alaska's 60+ population was 80,613 in 2008 (11.7% of the state's total population), with 4.5% below the federal poverty level.<sup>1</sup>
- The 60+ population is projected to be 152,489 in 2025 (18.6% of the state's total population).<sup>2</sup>
- About 14.0% of all households in 2007 had one or more persons age 65 years and older, and 47.8% of persons age 65 years and older had a disability.<sup>3</sup>
- Of the 116,211 Medicaid beneficiaries in the state in 2003, 5.5% were aged, 10.6% were blind and disabled, 9.4% were Dual Eligible, and 3.7% were HCBS waiver beneficiaries.<sup>4</sup>
- Medicaid expenditures for institutional long-term care were 37.4% of total long-term-care expenditures, compared to 62.6% for HCBS, in fiscal year 2007.<sup>5</sup>

#### Abbreviations

AAA	Area Agency on Aging
ADL	Activities of Daily Living
AoA	Administration on Aging
CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
HCBS	Home- and Community-based Services
IADL	Instrumental Activities of Daily Living
MRDD	Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
OAA	Older Americans Act
PACE	Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly
SUA	State Unit on Aging

<sup>1</sup> Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging. (2009). *AGing Integrated Database (AGID): American Community Survey (ACS) demographic data 2004-2007 and state-level population estimates data 2000-2008* [Data files]. Available from <http://198.136.163.234/default.asp>

<sup>2</sup> Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging. (2009). *AGing statistics: Projected future growth of the Older population; By state: 2005-2030; Aged 60 and above* [Data files]. Available from [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Aging\\_Statistics/future\\_growth/future\\_growth.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Aging_Statistics/future_growth/future_growth.aspx).

<sup>3</sup> Reimbursement and Research Department, American Health Care Association. (2006, August 29). *The state long-term health care sector 2005: Characteristics, utilization, and government funding*. Washington, DC: Author.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey, United States and States. *Percent of households with one or more people 65 years and over (R1104) and Percent of people 65 years and over with a disability (R1803)*.

<sup>5</sup> Burwell, B., Sredl, K., & Eiken, S. (2008, September 26). *Medicaid long term care expenditures FY 2007*. Eagan, MN: Thomson Reuters.

## Government Structure to Manage HCBS

- **SUA:** Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. [www.alaskaaging.org](http://www.alaskaaging.org)
- **State Medicaid Agency:** Senior and Disability Services of the Department of Health and Social Services. [www.hss.state.ak.us/dhcs](http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dhcs)
- Alaska has a consolidated agency for long-term-care programs: The Department of Health and Social Services (among various divisions). The Long-Term Care Ombudsman is affiliated with long-term care but is in the Department of Revenue.
- The director of Alaska's SUA reports to the Deputy Commissioner for Family, Community & Integrated Services, who reports to the Commissioner of Health and Social Services, who reports to the Governor.
- Alaska does not have Area Agencies on Aging; Alaska is a single service-planning area.
- Alaska's Commission on Aging is the advisory board to the SUA.

## Single Point of Entry (SPE)/Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

- Alaska has an ADRC that is not statewide; it serves three service areas.
- All ADRC sites have a physical (bricks and mortar) infrastructure; all ADRC sites operate under a virtual model.
- In addition to serving older adults, the Alaska ADRC serves anyone who requests information.
- The ADRCs are functioning mainly as information and referral sites. Many of the sites are collaborating with the Centers for Independent Living.

## Assessment Process

### Medicaid

- For Medicaid applicants, in determining functional eligibility for nursing home pre-admission, Alaska does not require an in-person assessment by someone other than nursing home staff.

### Non-Medicaid

- For non-Medicaid applicants in Alaska, nursing home pre-admission assessment is not performed by someone other than nursing home staff.

## State Medicaid Plan

- Alaska provides HCBS through the state Medicaid plan.
- Refer to Table 1 for specific services provided.
- **PACE:** The state has no PACE sites.

## Medicaid Waivers

- Alaska has two waivers that provide HCBS to older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities. These are: Adults with Physical Disabilities and Older Alaskans Waiver.
- **Adults with Physical Disabilities:** This program serves those age 21 years and older who have physical disabilities. The income and asset limits for an individual are \$1,656/month and \$2,000, respectively; for a couple, they are \$3,312/month and \$3,000, respectively. A community spouse allowance of \$109,560 may apply. A small percentage of participants in this program receive habilitative services; to do so, an individual must meet nursing home level-of-care criteria and have a dual diagnosis of developmental disability.
- **Older Alaskans Waiver:** This program serves those age 60 and older, as well as those with MRDD, a physical disability, or another medical condition that requires a nursing home level of care. Spouses who remain in the community are allowed the maximum resource allowance. The income and asset limits for an

individual are \$1,660 and \$2,000, respectively; for a couple, the asset limit is \$3,000.

- Refer to Table 2 for an overview of selected HCBS programs. Table 1 shows the types of services offered under each program.

## CMS-funded Programs and Grants

- Alaska does not have CMS-funded programs and grants that provide HCBS to older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities.

## State-funded HCBS Programs

- Alaska has two state-funded programs that provide HCBS to older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities. They are: General Relief Assisted Living and Senior Benefits.
- **General Relief Assisted Living:** This program serves those age 18 and older who have come to the attention of Adult Protective Services and need a safe place to reside, but cannot live in an independent setting and/or have not yet qualified for Medicaid services. There is not case management in the traditional sense in this program. There is an expected client contribution under this program.
- **Senior Benefits:** This program serves those age 65 and older. The program is a cash assistance program for those individuals whose income is approximately 175% of the federal poverty level. The money can be used at the participant's discretion. Eligibility for this program does not qualify someone for Medicaid. The income limit is \$22,750 for an individual or \$30,625 for a couple.
- Alaska uses additional state funds to supplement OAA-funded programs. These are Senior Grants: Adult Day Services, Senior In-Home Services, and Alzheimer's disease and related disorders (ADRD) Education and Mini-grants.
- Refer to Table 2 for an overview of select HCBS programs. Table 1 shows the types of services offered.

## Locally Funded HCBS Programs

- Alaska uses local funds for HCBS for older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities.
- Provider agencies use a variety of funding sources to expand their operating revenues such as: donations, corporate and foundation grants, pull tabs and fundraisers.

## OAA-funded Programs and Grants

- Refer to Table 1 for services provided through Title III of the OAA.
- Alaska uses cost-sharing mechanisms or sliding fee scales in the delivery of state-funded programs, but not Title III services.

## Social Service Block Grants (SSBG) and Community Service Block Grants (CSBG) for HCBS

- Alaska does not use SSBG to provide HCBS for older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities.
- Alaska does not use CSBG to provide HCBS for older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities.

## Consumer Direction

- Alaska offers consumer-directed options. The HCBS program in the state that offers consumer direction is Senior Benefits.
- Models of consumer direction available in the state include: cash.
- Those permitted to provide services under consumer direction in Alaska are: provider agencies, adult children of the consumer, other family members, and friends.
- Spouses or parents of a minor child cannot provide services under consumer-directed options.
- Alaska does not use fiscal intermediary services in connection with consumer direction.

- Consumer direction in Alaska began in the 1990s, prior to the development of the current national model.

### Managed Care

- Alaska does not have HCBS programs run by managed care health plans.

### Major Accomplishments and Initiatives

- *Information not reported.*

Types of Services	Program Type / Funding Source						
	Medicaid Waivers		State-funded Programs			State Medicaid Plan	OAA Title III
	Adults with Physical Disabilities (APD)	Older Alaskans Waiver (OA)	General Relief Assisted Living	Senior Benefits	Senior Grants		
Adult Day Care / Adult Day Health	X				X		X
Assisted Living	X		X				
Caregiver Services / Respite / Education	X	X					x
Case Management / Care Coordination	X	X			X		
Chore / Homemaking	X	X			X		X
Companion Services / Socialization Activities							X
Employment							
Equipment /Supplies/Modifications/Assistive Technology	X						
Health Promotion Activities							X
Home Health / Personal Care		X				X	X
Information / Assistance / Referral		X			X		X
Legal Assistance / Financial Advice							X
Medical / Dental / Medication Care					X	X	
Mental and Behavioral Health Services							
Nursing	X						
Nutrition / Meals	X	X					X
Personal Supports for Community Living / Transitioning				X			
Rehabilitation / Therapy							
Residential Services	X						
Transportation	X	X					X
Other/Unspecified HCBS							

Table 2: Selected HCBS Programs for Older Adults and Adults with Physical Disabilities in Alaska

Program Type / Funding Source	Program Name	Ages Served	Nursing Home Level of Care Required	Entity Responsible for Functional Assessment	Entity Responsible for Financial Assessment	Entity Responsible for Case Management	Waiting List (Number)	Consumer Direction Option
Medicaid Waivers	Adults with Physical Disabilities (APD)	21+	Yes	State agency: Division of Senior and Disability Services	State agency: Division of Public Assistance	Provider entity	No	No
	Older Alaskans Waiver (OA)	60+	Yes	State agency: Division of Senior and Disability Services	State agency: Division of Public Assistance	Provider entity	No	No
State-funded Programs	General Relief Assisted Living	18+	No	No functional assessment	State agency: Division of Senior and Disability Services	State agency: Adult Protective Services	No	No
	Senior Grants	60+ or anyone with ADRD	No	Provider entity	No financial assessment	Provider entity	Yes (54)	No
	Senior Benefits	65+	No	No functional assessment	State agency: Division of Public Assistance	State agency: Division of Public Assistance	No	Yes