

**FOUR-YEAR AREA PLAN  
TITLE III and TITLE VII**

*OLDER AMERICANS ACT*

**REGION 10  
AREA AGENCY ON  
AGING**

**STATE FISCAL YEARS 2008-2011  
(7-1-07 TO 6-30-11)**

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## ***Section I – Executive Summary***

The Region 10 Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Four-Year Planning and Service Area Aging Plan is effective from 7/1/07-6/30/11. This plan is a statement of policy and serves as a guide for Region 10, Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties' planning efforts in developing a comprehensive, coordinated system of supportive services to persons aged 60 and over. The initiatives and goals set forth in this Plan are based on the needs and priorities of the older adult population and on the requirements in the region for meeting those needs with adequate funding sources.

AAA recognizes that a major challenge during the next four years is the need to balance the growing number of older adults and demand for services in the region with potential decrease in funding to meet those needs. Future funding from the Older Americans Act (OAA) appears to be flat at best with more stable funding coming from the Older Coloradans Act (OCA), at least for the next several years. However, both Federal and State funding fail to match the actual and growing needs of older adults in both Region 10 and Colorado.

Needs assessment information was gathered by Region 10 AAA staff through a series of community forums in September - October, 2006. The results of the forums were reviewed by the Regional Advisory Council and also distributed to local elected officials.

Regionally, older adults are concerned with their physical health, assistance with their daily activities, access to dependable and flexible transportation, the availability of affordable housing, assistance with financial challenges, access to recreational opportunities and the ability to maintain their independence in their own homes.

The primary initiative for Region 10 AAA is to continue to develop and streamline an integrated network of services for consumers to assist them in maintaining their independence within their communities. The AAA will continue to support and strengthen the array of senior services currently provided. AAA will increase its efforts in developing partnerships with subcontractors that can provide innovative, organized and cost effective older adult services for the regional aging network. In addition, AAA provides oversight and support to AAA subcontractors in all areas of fiscal and programmatic management.

The AAA also provides guidance in the development of closer coordination with various local providers/consumers to increase communications and avoid duplication of services and supports. This is imperative in times of limited resources.

Expansion of current initiatives is being implemented, including preventative dental, senior resource coordinators and caregiving programs. Service expansion in supporting homemaking, financial education and recreation/wellness programs are in the planning stages. The development and implementation of support for serving Hispanic older adults, promotion of affordable housing and integrated transportation systems are also service priorities.

The Regional Advisory Council will continue its role to provide advice and assistance to the AAA and to consumers in their respective counties. Members are active and available in the

coordination of services, providing information and referrals for their communities and advocacy for all older adults. Efforts to recruit new and diverse individuals as members in RAC activities will be undertaken in the next four years.

The AAA is planning to further strengthen its role in the region for information dissemination surrounding aging issues. Updating of the current website, continuation of the bi-monthly newsletter and expansion of outreach activities to various senior focal points will be a priority.

## ***Section II – Community Input and Stakeholder Involvement***

Community forums were held in six sites in Region 10 as the method used to determine unmet needs. All counties were represented. The forums were held at nutrition sites, community centers and Regional Advisory Council meetings. Elected officials, county social service organizations, senior service providers and other interested citizens were invited to attend.

The Community forums occurred at the following location and dates:

❖ Montrose Pavilion Senior Center, Montrose, CO	September 11, 2006
❖ Ouray Community Center, Ouray, CO	September 11, 2006
❖ Nucla Elks Lodge, Nucla, CO	September 13, 2006
❖ Gunnison Community Center, Gunnison, CO	September 20, 2006
❖ Delta County Memorial Hospital, Delta, CO	September 28, 2006
❖ Hinsdale Public Health, Lake City, CO	October 6, 2006
❖ Norwood Community Center, Norwood, CO	October 24, 2006

A facilitated discussion was led to determine the needs and concerns of seniors. A senior needs survey was then distributed to all community forum participants and completed. Surveys were collected during the forum process or mailed to AAA.

One hundred and thirty three seniors and thirteen community members participated at the forums. Results were tallied for each county and as a region as a whole. The results were provided to the Regional Advisory Council members, Senior Coordinators and the Region 10 Board.

The areas of concern most often expressed either during discussions and/or in the survey results included the following:

- ❖ Flexible transportation services
- ❖ Financial concerns
- ❖ Affordable housing
- ❖ Access to medical and mental healthcare

New services that forum participants recognized as needed in the next four years include assistance with...

- ❖ Physical health
- ❖ Everyday activities
- ❖ Financial challenges

Regarding how AAA should give preference and priority to services, forum participants listed the following as the most important considerations in prioritizing:

- ❖ Ability to access services
- ❖ Age
- ❖ Income levels

## **FOLLOW-UP WITH PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

As described in Section II, a series of community forums were held throughout Region 10 during the months of September-October, 2006, to gather public input into the four-year planning process.

Copies of the draft four-year plan were distributed to Regional Advisory Council members, Region 10 Board members and service providers. These members and providers were asked to review and provide input. They also were requested to distribute the draft to their respective organizations, County Council on Aging members and other interested citizens for their review and input.

## ***Section III– Demography***

### **Population Profile**

The overall population of the region is growing at an accelerated pace (1.8% for 2004), which is seen in the older adult population as well. Over the next four-year period the regional senior population is predicted to increase to about 22% of the total population. However, the disbursement of these seniors is hardly uniform. The majority of seniors remain in the Delta and Montrose areas, mainly due to the availability of services. Of the region's seniors about 41% live in Delta County and 42% live in Montrose County. Within individual counties, Delta's senior population comprises about 24% of the population, Gunnison seniors make up just over 11%, Hinsdale's senior population is almost 19%, Montrose seniors comprise about 20%, Ouray's population is about 20% seniors and San Miguel's senior population is about 8%.

COUNTY	% OF SENIORS	2004 POPULATION
Delta	24%	30,080
Gunnison	11%	14,191
Hinsdale	19%	836
Montrose	20%	36,933
Ouray	20%	4,174
San Miguel	8%	7,219

The 2004 Population Estimates (US Census) for the 60+ population for the region were as follows:

Over 75	6,223
Poverty	1,648
Minority	1,029
Rural	11,440
Total 60+ population	17,986

Of the total senior population throughout the region, 35% are over 75 years of age. Six percent of the over 60 population are minorities. About 9% of people over 60 are living at poverty level. One percent of people over 60 are classified as both poverty and minority. Nearly 64% are classified as rural (according to US Census data).

## Geographic Profile

The Region 10 Planning and Service area consists of six west central Colorado Counties; Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel. These counties cover an area of 9,569 square miles from the Continental Divide to the Utah border. Throughout the Region, rugged and varied topography creates an ever-changing landscape with slick rock canyon lands, broad fertile valleys, high plateaus, and jagged, snowcapped mountain peaks reaching over 14,000 feet.

Travel is hazardous during several months of each year in the mountain areas of this region. This, combined with distances, makes traveling to medical appointments and services quite difficult. It also can be assumed many of the seniors in this region are socially isolated.

## Demographic Trends

Region 10 continues to maintain a primarily rural nature with an average population density of about seven people per square mile. Approximately half of the people in Region 10 live in incorporated areas, and the three largest communities of Delta, Gunnison, and Montrose, contain about 30% of the region's population. These three communities also serve as county seats, provide the only hospitals in the region and account for more than 50% of all retail sales.

Crested Butte, Mt. Crested Butte, Mountain Village, and Telluride are ski resort communities. The population of older adults in these communities is affected by rising property values and taxes. Many seniors have sold their homes and moved to less expensive communities or to other states. Seniors in these communities tend to be those from the higher income brackets and less in need of some AAA services. Lake City and Ouray are summer resorts and again have the same types of issues with their older populations. The North Fork communities in Delta County are in the center of Colorado's extensive fruit-growing area, which has become a more desirable retirement area.

The rural demography of the region requires that services are needed to connect with consumers that are increasingly classified as the old-old (over 75 years), those that are isolated by long distances from both services and social networks (rural), and those that are new to AAA services (Boomers). The capacity of regional aging network to respond quickly to the changing economic and regulatory requirements, as well as the changing needs of seniors varies within the Region. The ability to provide updated infrastructure, experienced personnel and current technology are critical factors for aging network organizations to respond to change in a timely fashion.

## ***Section IV - Targeting***

The Region 10 Area Agency on Aging targets the delivery of services to older adults who are classified as having the greatest economic need, the greatest social need, frail, low income minority consumers, and consumers residing in rural areas. All of the contracted service providers submit target projections and outreach plans in their funding applications and are required to give priority to those seniors with the above needs.

The AAA will continue to target services by the following actions:

- ❖ Assist service providers to continue to target services through technical assistance and consultation presented at funding requests, annual-assessments, and training sessions
- ❖ Continue with region wide outreach and educational efforts are aimed at reaching those targeted groups with the greatest needs
- ❖ Continue networking with agencies such as County Department of Human Services, Low-Income Energy Assistance, Social Security Administration and other low income and housing programs for identification of clients in the greatest need for referral to AAA services
- ❖ Continue support for services with the Mexican American Development Association (MADA). MADA serves significant numbers of minority seniors within the region

## **Preference & Priority**

The AAA will continue to provide preference and priority to older adults based upon the following criteria:

- ❖ Older Americans Act priorities
- ❖ Needs identified in the State Strengths and Needs Survey for the Region 10
- ❖ Needs identified in the AAA Senior Needs Survey

Low-income minority seniors are at higher risk of being unable to access housing and medical alternatives due to affordability, accessibility and availability within their communities and counties. Transportation and in-home services are an issue for all low-income individuals, especially those living in the more rural areas of the Region. Access to adequate nutrition and identification of seniors at risk for adequate nutrition is another area of concern for seniors in rural areas, including low income, minority seniors. Through continued region wide education and outreach efforts, AAA will continue to identify specific consumers that most need assistance.

## ***Section V - Strengths & Trends from a Strengths Perspective***

### **Community Strengths**

The Strengths and Needs Assessment of Older Adults that was conducted by the Colorado Department of Human Services, State Unit on Aging (SUA), identified the following community strengths of the region:

- ❖ 99% said that being physically or emotionally abused had not been a problem in the past year
- ❖ 99% are able to manage their medications without help
- ❖ 98% said they were able to afford enough food to eat
- ❖ 96% said they had no problem having enough food to eat in the last year
- ❖ 96% agreed they could handle about anything that life throws at them
- ❖ 96% agreed they are generally happy
- ❖ 94% of older adults reported no problems having housing suited to their needs
- ❖ 94% said having inadequate transportation had not been a problem

- ❖ 93% needed no help getting or arranging transportation
- ❖ 91% agreed their community values older people
- ❖ 91% said they had visited their doctor or healthcare provider in the past year
- ❖ 90% of Region 10 adults rated their quality of life as very good or good

## **Regional Trends**

After analyzing the data, AAA concluded that the following trends increase the ability of seniors to maintain independence within their communities. Housing, nutrition and safety needs are being met. Seniors in the region are generally happy, have access to a primary care physician and can manage their medications without help. Seniors feel confident that adequate amounts of affordable food are available. Transportation challenges are not an issue for a majority of seniors. Seniors in the region are independent and feel their community values their worth.

## **Health Promotion Programs**

AAA provides ongoing dental prevention and medications management programs through subcontractors. AAA also participates and co-sponsors regional health promotion special events such as health fairs, wellness workshops, Caregiver's Expo, Western Slope Senior Energy conference, etc.

## ***Section VI - Best Practices***

AAA has recently developed programs that have made significant impacts in the services provided to older adults. The following programs could benefit the statewide aging network if properly incorporated into specific communities.

### **DENTAL PREVENTION PROGRAM**

AAA developed and implemented a Dental Prevention Program in 2006 to assist lower income seniors in accessing dental hygiene services. By contracting with a local dental hygienist, AAA is able to offer intra/extra oral evaluations, oral hygiene education, homecare instructions and a thorough dental cleaning at 50% of the cost of utilizing a dentist. AAA has projections of 100 clients participating in the initial year of service. Consumers from two counties have access to services for FY 2007 with additional county programs being developed for FY2008.

### **SENIOR COORDINATOR PROGRAM**

AAA has implemented a single entry program for resource, referral, service coordination and health education activities for seniors in five counties. The senior coordinator program provides a comprehensive, integrated, efficient and localized means for older adults to gain knowledge of

and participate in community resources, which assist them in maintaining their health and independence. The programs have proven very successful, with coordinators able to gain the trust and support of consumers, local governments, community organizations and senior service providers.

## ***Section VII – Initiatives***

### **Identification of AAA Initiatives**

The AAA analyzed available demographic data, results of the State Strengths and Needs Survey, results of the AAA Senior Needs Survey and public input to develop the priority initiatives for the next four years. The Regional Advisory Council assisted in guiding the development of the following initiatives.

- ❖ Increase the number of older adults who have access to an integrated system of healthcare services
- ❖ Increase the number of older adults that receive financial assistance and financial education
- ❖ Increase the number of older adults that participate in wellness and recreation programs
- ❖ Increase the number of people who benefit from in-home services
- ❖ Increase the number of older adults that benefit from multi-use transportation services
- ❖ Increase the number of older adults that have the opportunity to access affordable housing
- ❖ Increase the number of minority/low income older adults that receive AAA services
- ❖ Increase the AAA organizational capacity through an increase in collaborative efforts with regional governments, private/nonprofit organizations, and individuals
- ❖ Increase the AAA's efforts in developing partnerships with service provider organizations that can provide innovative, organized and cost effective services that meet older adult needs in the region

### **Building Organizational Capacity**

AAA will continue to build partnerships with potentially competing entities and consumers to enhance service delivery systems. Sharing concerns, removing barriers to service and development of networked resource organizations will continue to be a focus of the AAA.

Increasing the funding capacity for the Region 10 aging network will increase in priority over the next four years. New sources of potential funding will be sought out for both the AAA and subcontractors.

## **Strategy for Transportation Services**

Demand for flexible senior transportation services is rapidly increasing in the region despite flat funding from federal and state sources for the foreseeable future. Faced with rising administrative, personnel and operational costs, senior transportation providers need to maximize existing services through innovative regional collaborative efforts.

Currently, essential senior transportation services are provided by various small and underfunded organizations. Regional senior transportation providers need to become much more integrated through route and equipment sharing and/or merger of smaller organizations into a larger more effective single entity that maximizes resources. In the face of rising demand, shrinking dollars and rising fuel prices the status quo will not serve the specialized transportation needs of older adults.

## **Medicare Modernization Act**

AAA will continue to partner with RSVP to educate consumers about the benefits available under the new Medicare rules. RSVP is the designated Regional Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) provider and has done an excellent job in providing education and counseling for Medicare services.

## ***Section VIII - Services and Prioritization***

AAA will provide the following services over the next four years. These services are based on the regional strengths and needs for older adults. The surveys and discussions held regarding senior needs indicated these are still the most critical services necessary to meet the needs of the area's older adults.

### **Information and Assistance**

The AAA publishes brochures with information regarding all AAA funded services in the region, and other important resource information. These brochures are distributed to individuals, contracted service providers, senior centers, dining sites and other senior focal points in the region. AAA also has comprehensive AAA service information posted on the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance and Planning website. Educational information regarding AAA services is also published in Spanish format and distributed to those sections of the communities or counties where minorities participate (churches, dining sites, county agencies, etc.).

The AAA assists the contracted service providers with the development, publication and distribution of service specific brochures and educational materials. Regional older adult

workshops, seminars and special events are also promoted through the various mediums available to AAA.

Senior Coordinator Programs have been established in five counties (Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray) to provide comprehensive senior resources for consumers and public/private agencies. These programs have proven very successful at the local level and will continue to play an important role in regional information and assistance efforts.

### **Outreach Services**

The Mexican American Development Association (MADA) provides outreach targeting low income and minority individuals in Montrose and Delta Counties. MADA provides energy assistance, tax aid, counseling, information and referral, translating, and meals primarily to minority and low-income individuals. Outreach and targeting plans are included in the applications of AAA contracted service providers each year and are evaluated during year-end assessments.

### **Transportation Services**

Transportation services are provided in Montrose, Delta, Gunnison, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties for trips to dining sites, medical appointments, shopping and recreational trips.

Project directors are encouraged to explore additional funding sources for operational and equipment needs. They also are encouraged to coordinate service with other organizations and transit dependent populations. Newly integrated delivery systems are planned for the next four years.

### **In-home Services**

Homemaker services are available in Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose and Ouray Counties. Services provided include, housekeeping, grocery shopping, meal preparation, laundry, information and referral and occasional transportation. The need for this service continues to expand as the population of seniors over 75 years old is rapidly increasing.

### **Legal Assistance**

Legal assistance for civil matters is available in all six counties of the Region through the Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid office located in Montrose. They provide a wide range of services including advice, representation, mediation and negotiation. The need for this service continues to expand as the population of people over 60 increases in the Region.

### **Ombudsman Services**

Ombudsman services are available in the counties of Delta, Gunnison and Montrose. Hinsdale, Ouray and San Miguel counties do not have long-term care facilities. Ombudsman services are provided by Paonia Counseling Services. The contract provides for a full-time local Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman program also has developed three volunteer Ombudsmen to assist in providing services in the region.

## **Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Services**

A new Dental Prevention Program that provides dental hygiene and education services was developed and implemented in 2006. The program currently serves Delta and Montrose counties. Additional counties will be added as demand increases and funding becomes available.

AAA continues to support and participate in various regional health fairs, wellness workshops and health promotion networking organizations. Delta, Gunnison and Montrose counties currently have organized health promotion network organizations.

Nutritional health screenings, conducted by a registered dietitian, are provided to all home-delivered meal clients. The screenings also are offered to all participants at dining sites. Follow-up is provided on a scheduled basis. Medication check-ups also are being offered at dining sites.

## **Nutrition Services**

Columbine Senior Services, Inc. is the nutrition provider in Region 10 for congregate and home-delivered meals, nutrition counseling, and education. Each year, more individuals who were using the congregate programs need the home-delivered meal program. Finding new and innovative ways to increase participation of seniors new to AAA services is essential to the provision of meal services. Health, wellness and recreational information and activities at dining sites need to increase.

## **Advocacy, Coordination, and Program Development**

The AAA staff and contracted service providers are involved in advocacy, coordination and program development in the local communities. Examples of these efforts include coordination with the County Councils on Aging, attendance and assistance at local planning meetings for health and wellness activities, distribution of senior needs results to local elected officials and community leaders to aid them in community planning, and continued involvement in local committees for options for long-term care.

Region 10 AAA staff provides consultation and training to contracted service providers in budgetary, fiscal and reporting requirements to ensure correct expenditures of funds and accurate data. They also provide consultation on program development and coordination throughout the Region. Region 10 AAA staff provides the Social Assistance Management System (SAMS) and National Aging Program Information System (NAPIS) data input for all service providers, except one, in the Region.

In addition, the Regional Advisory Council is a primary source of support for the identification of needs and resources and in the implementation of programs and services in the six county Region. AAA staff facilitates the activities of the RAC.

## Material Aid

The Hearing Aid Bank provides hearing aids to low-income seniors throughout the Region and is supported by OAA funds. Follow-up is provided to the seniors not less than once every six months.

MADA provides food commodities on a regular basis to primarily low income, minority older adults. This valuable program will continue to play a prominent role in local communities as financial challenges increase over the next four years.

## Caregiver Program

Region 10 AAA is contracting with Montrose County Health and Human Services and Columbine Senior Services to provide family caregiver services in Region 10. The current plans include an emphasis on developing a cooperative relationship with current services and agencies in the region for information and referral and also to collaborate on the delivery of services to avoid duplication.

- ❖ **Information to Caregivers:** Both organizations are currently supplying information and referrals to local agencies and individuals. Brochures have been developed to provide updated information about current services in specific counties.
- ❖ **Assistance to Caregivers:** Assistance is provided to caregivers by trained professionals to access support and needed resources available through the Family Caregiver Programs or other services in the community that will meet their needs.
- ❖ **Individual Counseling or Training for Caregivers:** Counseling and training are provided by the programs, which includes nutrition, dietary and other health related counseling and information, trainings for increased knowledge of the physical, emotional and mental needs of the person receiving care, medications management, health and wellness information, and budget planning to meet household needs, etc.
- ❖ **Respite Care for Caregivers:** Services are offered through qualified providers who are obtained by the caregiver with the assistance of the Family Caregiver contractors.
- ❖ **Supplemental Services:** Assistance is provided to caregivers to obtain supplemental services to meet the needs of the caregivers, which may include home modifications, equipment and supplies, etc.

RSVP Colorado West is an important source of referrals for caregivers needing volunteer help, and will continue to provide volunteers for caregivers as appropriate. Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Colorado and Hospice of Gunnison will continue to provide support groups in the region. County single entry points, in-home service agencies, transportation and public health departments will be encouraged to network to plan and develop services and referrals.

## **Vulnerable Elder Rights Activity Services**

### **Ombudsman Services**

Ombudsman services are available in the counties of Delta, Gunnison and Montrose. The Ombudsman program is contracted to Paonia Counseling Services. The Ombudsman provides a monthly report to the AAA regarding visitations and activities. This report is monitored. The Ombudsman attends the RAC meetings to provide information and receive input concerning needs and services.

### **Protective Services**

The Ombudsman works with Adult Protection Services in the Region when there is a question as to the appropriateness of placement, reports of abuse and overall concern for the well being of residents. The Ombudsman makes referrals to Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid for resident or family assistance as needed. The Ombudsman provides educational information to the public through presentations at RAC meetings, community and senior groups. Ombudsman responsibilities include facility surveillance and activities to prevent elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. The Ombudsman also provides presentations regarding resident rights to facility owners and employees.

### **Administrative Services**

AAA will continue to collaborate with the State Unit on Aging (SUA) on the development of regional and statewide aging services. SUA consultation and direction provides valuable assistance in administering all AAA services.

Restructuring of the Region 10 organization will continue for the next four years. AAA will continue to be an active participant in the restructuring process and fully support new organizational directions. AAA will continue with its mandate from the Region 10 Board and Executive Director on increasing the accountability of both the AAA and its subcontractors.

### **Emergency Preparedness**

Emergency Response planning will continue to be a priority for AAA. Yearly Emergency Plans will be revised and implemented. Networking with regional Emergency Response Planners will increase.

AAA will continue to identify regional older adults at risk and volunteers who can assist during Emergency situations. Collaboration between service providers, local, county and nonprofit organizations on Emergency Preparedness Education will continue to be a priority.

## **Prioritization of Services**

AAA prioritizes services to ensure that adequate funding is provided to meet the specific regional needs of older adults. Access, in-home, legal assistance and nutritional services are priority services for the region. Targeting for special population needs is also part of the process. Greatest economic need, greatest social need, low-income, minority, frail, and rural are all special populations that receive priority for regional services.

Unmet needs of the community will be given priority too. The AAA Senior Needs Survey identified specific unmet needs that will be addressed.

## **Service Delivery Changes**

The services provided by Older Americans' Act funding will remain essentially the same as in past years. More effort will be placed on development of outreach services for low-income minority, "boomers" and 75+ consumers. AAA will take a more proactive role in development of integrated service delivery systems. Additional service contractors for in-home services, dental prevention, transportation and health promotion will be a priority.

## **Competitive Selection Process for Service Providers**

Each year after receiving funding details from the State, AAA announces through Public Notices and to potential service providers the availability of OAA funds. Applications are subject to the following competitive selection process with preference being given as follows:

- ❖ Minority organizations
- ❖ Organizations that meet specific needs of targeted, special populations
- ❖ Organizations that meet performance based criteria for a specific service

## ***Section IX – Assurances***

*OLDER AMERICANS ACT, AS AMENDED IN 2000*

Sec. 305(a) - (c), ORGANIZATION

(a)(2)(A) The State agency shall, except as provided in subsection (b)(5), designate for each such area (planning and service area) after consideration of the views offered by the unit or units of general purpose local government in such area, a public or private nonprofit agency or organization as the area agency on aging for such area.

(a)(2)(B) The State agency shall provide assurances, satisfactory to the Assistant Secretary, that the State agency will take into account, in connection with matters of general policy arising in the development and administration of the State plan for any fiscal year, the views of recipients

of supportive services or nutrition services, or individuals using multipurpose senior centers provided under such plan.

(a)(2)(E) The State agency shall provide assurance that preference will be given to providing services to older individuals with greatest economic need and older individuals with greatest social need, with particular attention to low-income minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas and include proposed methods of carrying out the preference in the State plan.

(a)(2)(F) The State agency shall provide assurances that the State agency will require use of outreach efforts described in section 307(a) (16).

(a)(2)(G)(ii) The State agency shall provide an assurance that the State agency will undertake specific program development, advocacy, and outreach efforts focused on the needs of low-income minority older individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas.

(c)(5) In the case of a State specified in subsection (b) (5), the State agency and area agencies shall provide assurance, determined adequate by the State agency, that the area agency on aging will have the ability to develop an area plan and to carry out, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, a program in accordance with the plan within the planning and service area.

States must assure that the following assurances (Section 306) will be met by its designated area agencies on agencies, or by the State in the case of single planning and service area states.

#### Sec. 306(a), AREA PLANS

(2) Each area agency on aging shall provide assurances that an adequate proportion, as required under section 307(a) (2), of the amount allotted for part B to the planning and service area will be expended for the delivery of each of the following categories of services-

(A) services associated with access to services (transportation, outreach, information and assistance, and case management services);

(B) in-home services, including supportive services for families of older individuals who are victims of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders with neurological and organic brain dysfunction; and

(C) legal assistance; and assurances that the area agency on aging will report annually to the State agency in detail the amount of funds expended for each such category during the fiscal year most recently concluded.

(4)(A)(i) Each area agency on aging shall provide assurances that the area agency on aging will set specific objectives for providing services to older individuals with greatest economic need and older individuals with greatest social need, include specific objectives for providing services to low-income minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas, and include proposed methods of carrying out the preference in the area plan.

(4)(A)(ii) Each area agency on aging shall provide assurances that the area agency on aging will include in each agreement made with a provider of any service under this title, a requirement that such provider will--

(I) specify how the provider intends to satisfy the service needs of low-income minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas in the area served by the provider;

(II) to the maximum extent feasible, provide services to low-income minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas in accordance with their need for such services; and

(III) meet specific objectives established by the area agency on aging, for providing services to low-income minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas within the planning and service area.

(4)(A)(iii) With respect to the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which such plan is prepared, each area agency on aging shall--

(I) identify the number of low-income minority older individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas in the planning and service area;

(II) describe the methods used to satisfy the service needs of such minority older individuals; and

(III) provide information on the extent to which the area agency on aging met the objectives described in clause (a) (4)(A)(i).

(4)(B)(i) Each area agency on aging shall provide assurances that the area agency on aging will use outreach efforts that will identify individuals eligible for assistance under this Act, with special emphasis on--

(I) older individuals residing in rural areas;

(II) older individuals with greatest economic need (with particular attention to low-income minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas);

(III) older individuals with greatest social need (with particular attention to low-income minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas);

(IV) older individuals with severe disabilities;

(V) older individuals with limited English-speaking ability; and

(VI) older individuals with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders with neurological and organic brain dysfunction (and the caretakers of such individuals);

and inform the older individuals referred to in (A) through (F), and the caretakers of such individuals, of the availability of such assistance.

(4)(C) Each area agency on agency shall provide assurance that the area agency on aging will ensure that each activity undertaken by the agency, including planning, advocacy, and systems development, will include a focus on the needs of low-income minority older individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas.

(5) Each area agency on aging shall provide assurances that the area agency on aging will coordinate planning, identification, assessment of needs, and provision of services for older individuals with disabilities, with particular attention to individuals with severe disabilities, with agencies that develop or provide services for individuals with disabilities.

(9) Each area agency on aging shall provide assurances that the area agency on aging, in carrying out the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman program under section 307(a)(9), will expend not less than the total amount of funds appropriated under this Act and expended by the agency in fiscal year 2000 in carrying out such a program under this title.

(11) Each area agency on aging shall provide information and assurances concerning services to older individuals who are Native Americans (referred to in this paragraph as "older Native Americans"), including-

(A) information concerning whether there is a significant population of older Native Americans in the planning and service area and if so, an assurance that the area agency on aging will pursue activities, including outreach, to increase access of those older Native Americans to programs and benefits provided under this title;

(B) an assurance that the area agency on aging will, to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate the services the agency provides under this title with services provided under title VI; and

(C) an assurance that the area agency on aging will make services under the area plan available, to the same extent as such services are available to older individuals within the planning and service area, to older Native Americans.

(13)(A) Each area agency on aging shall provide assurances that the area agency on aging will maintain the integrity and public purpose of services provided, and service providers, under this title in all contractual and commercial relationships.

(13)(B) Each area agency on aging shall provide assurances that the area agency on aging will disclose to the Assistant Secretary and the State agency--

(i) the identity of each nongovernmental entity with which such agency has a contract or commercial relationship relating to providing any service to older individuals; and

(ii) the nature of such contract or such relationship.

(13)(C) Each area agency on aging shall provide assurances that the area agency will demonstrate that a loss or diminution in the quantity or quality of the services provided, or to be provided, under this title by such agency has not resulted and will not result from such non-governmental contracts or such commercial relationships.

(13)(D) Each area agency on aging shall provide assurances that the area agency will demonstrate that the quantity or quality of the services to be provided under this title by such agency will be enhanced as a result of such non-governmental contracts or commercial relationships.

(13)(E) Each area agency on aging shall provide assurances that the area agency will, on the request of the Assistant Secretary or the State, for the purpose of monitoring compliance with this Act (including conducting an audit), disclose all sources and expenditures of funds such agency receives or expends to provide services to older individuals.

(14) Each area agency on aging shall provide assurances that funds received under this title will not be used to pay any part of a cost (including an administrative cost) incurred by the area agency on aging to carry out a contract or commercial relationship that is not carried out to implement this title.

(15) Each area agency on aging shall provide assurances that preference in receiving services under this title will not be given by the area agency on aging to particular older individuals as a result of a contract or commercial relationship that is not carried out to implement this title.

## ***Section X – Forms***

### **Attachment A: Four-Year Area Plan Service Projections**

Attachment A quantifies estimated services provided and numbers of persons who will receive those services in Region 10. Estimates for four-year service projections are based on 1.0% increase each year in services.

### **Attachment B: Four-Year Area Plan Fiscal Projections**

Attachment B represents the budget for service provision and persons served listed in Attachment A. Estimates for four-year fiscal projections are based on a 1.0% increase each year in services and 1.0% increase in funding thereof.

Revenues from city and county funding sources are not expected to increase in the next four years. Therefore, estimated allocations to AAA services are not expected to increase. Regional cities and counties are facing budget shortfalls on an annual basis.

Project income will be used to increase services in the next four years. Every subcontractor is required to utilize project income in this manner through contractual requirements.

No expected increases in project income are projected in the next four years because of the projected increase in cost of living expenses for regional older adults who live on fixed incomes. AAA subcontractors serve the correct proportion of seniors in poverty as is reported in the U.S. Census. This group of older adults also cannot be expected to increase contributions project/service in both their funding application and in their monthly fiscal reports.