

Early History



1921 – The Seattle Community Fund streamlines fundraising efforts among Seattle’s charitable health and welfare agencies.

1929 – A stock market crash triggers The Great Depression, lasting two decades.

1935 – The Social Security Act is signed into law, helping to address burdens of old age, poverty and unemployment.

Older Americans Act, Medicare & Medicaid



1965 – The federal Older Americans Act is signed into law.

1965 – Medicare and Medicaid are added to the federal Social Security Act.

1966 – The United Good Neighbor Fund of King County and the Council on Aging publishes a landmark study called “Seattle’s Older Population.”

1967 – Senior Services of King County is founded.

1967 & 1969 – Reauthorizations of the Older Americans Act provide funding for nutrition, model demonstration projects, foster grandparents, volunteer programs, multi-purpose senior centers, and senior employment was established. Attention focuses on services for vulnerable older adults and independent community living. States are given responsibility for designating Area Agencies on Aging.

Serving the Community

1984 – The Council on Aging’s name changes to the Seattle-King County Advisory Council on Aging.

1990 – The Americans with Disabilities Act is signed into law by President George H.W. Bush.

1995 – New health care reforms include a long-term care benefit for functionally disabled persons of all ages and income levels, allowing Area Agencies on Aging to serve Medicaid beneficiaries age 18 and up.

1997 – Mayor Norman B. Rice creates the African American Elders Project, providing in-home care, housing, day care, counseling, shelters, legal assistance, mental health services, meals, volunteer chore, emergency services and referrals.



Older Americans Act Reauthorization

2011 – The Older Americans Act expires.

2015 – Aging Network organizations throughout the nation call on Congress to reauthorize the Older Americans Act and to fund OAA programs to keep pace with the increasing numbers, needs, and diversity of the senior population.

2015 – The federal Administration on Community Living sets “Get Into The Act” as the 2015 theme for Older Americans Month (May).

Our Elders, Our Selves: Visiting the Past, Planning for Our Future

Before 1960

1956 – The Seattle-King County Council on Aging is created—an outgrowth of the Department of Aging in the Health and Welfare Council of the Seattle Community Chest (an organization pre-dating United Way of King County).

1958 – The University District Kiwanis Club founds Tallmadge Hamilton House, the first senior activity center in the Pacific NW and possibly the first west of the Mississippi.



1960s

The Uhlman Era

1970 – Mayor Wes Uhlman—at age 34, the youngest mayor of Seattle ever elected—takes office.

1970 – The United Indians of All Tribes Foundation is founded, providing activities for Native elders.

1971 – Mayor Uhlman creates a Division on Aging in the Office of Human Resources.

1972 – The Chinese Information & Service Center is founded to help non-English speaking elderly in the community.

1973 – The City of Seattle, King County, and United Way form a Council on Aging, responsible for planning and coordinating the distribution of resources for older adults in King County.

1970s



1973 – Area Agencies on Aging are established.

1973 – Asian Counseling & Referral Service is created to serve Asian Pacific Americans at risk of misdiagnosis and inappropriate care.

1975 – Mayor Uhlman creates a Senior Information Center, the predecessor to Seattle’s Mayor’s Office for Senior Citizens.

1978 – King County Executive John Spellman establishes an Office on Aging to serve the fast-growing senior population in suburban and unincorporated King County.

1978 – Sea Mar establishes a clinic in Seattle’s South Park neighborhood to provide community-based, comprehensive health care, including services for elders.



1980s–Present

2000 – The Washington State Legislature establishes the Family Caregiver Support Program.

2002 – DSHS launches Washington’s Medicaid Integration Project

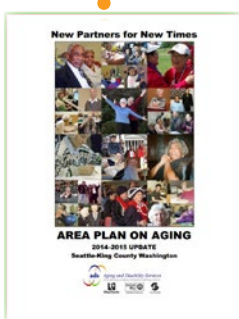
2004 – Catholic Community Services is selected as the community-based sponsor of the African American Elders Program.

2012 – Washington State submits a proposal to CMS to create a program for high-risk Medicaid/Medicare dually eligible individuals.

2016 & Beyond

Area Plan on Aging

2015 – Aging and Disability Services (ADS)—the Area Agency on Aging for Seattle-King County—begins development of its Area Plan on Aging for 2016–2019, which will chart the course they will follow to create an elder-friendly community.



“A revolution is in its infancy. A revolution not of the young, but of the old. A revolution led not by the SLA or the George Jackson Brigade, but by the Gray Panthers; the Elder Citizens Coalition; AARP; retired teachers; and other men and women who have crossed the line into retirement.” – Seattle Mayor Wes Uhlman (March 16, 1976)

