

# Aging and Disability Services COVID Social Connectivity Initiative

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Community Technology Advisory Board  
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**Seattle**  
Human Services  
Equity • Support • Community



*Aging and Disability Services*  
Area Agency on Aging for Seattle and King County

# Outline

- Area Agency on Aging
- Aging and Disability Services
- COVID Social Connectivity Initiative
- Current status and next steps

# AAA's Across the Nation

- Nationally established in the 1973 Older Americans Act
- “On the ground” organizations charged with helping vulnerable older adults live with independence and dignity within their communities.

AAAs play a key role in



a wide range of long-term services and supports



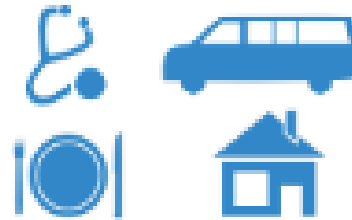
# The Local Aging Network

- AAA is granted the ability to adapt to its local service area
- AAAs contract with local service providers to deliver many direct services
- Some AAAs are direct providers of services, such as case management

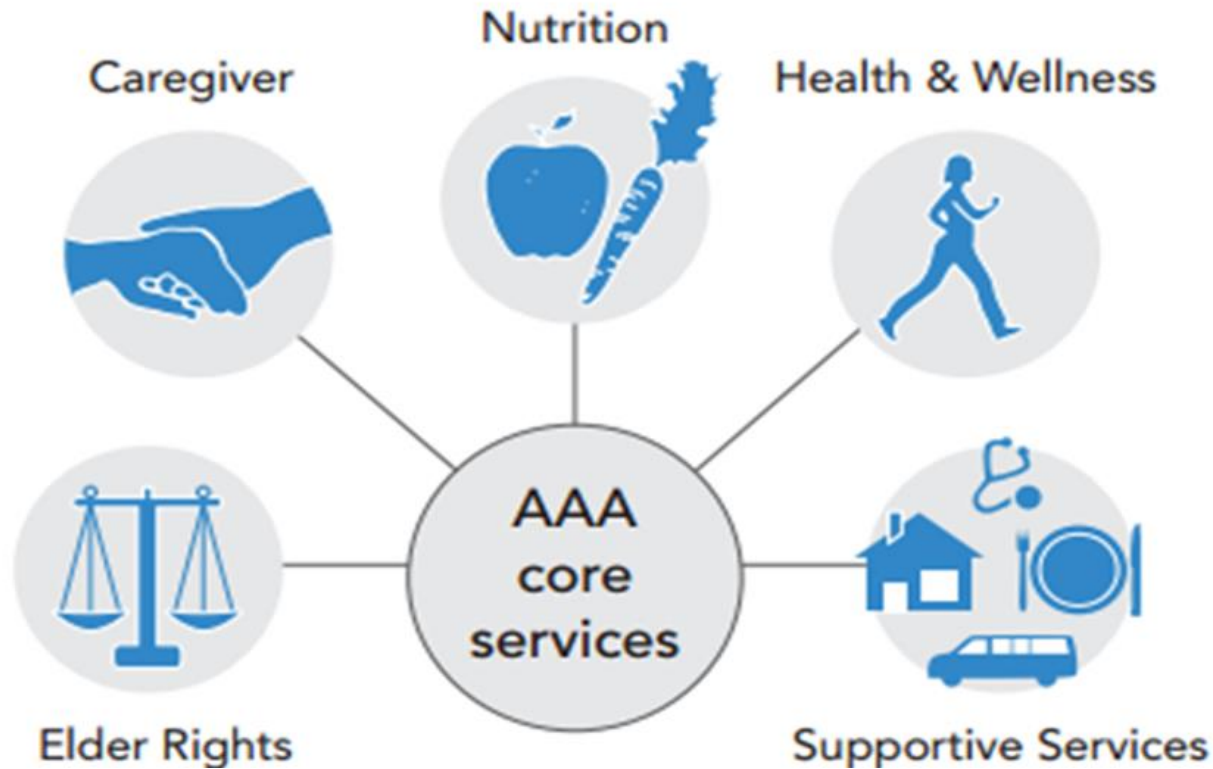
**Area Agency on Aging**



**Local Service Providers**



# AAA Services



- May leverage other state or local dollars to offer additional programs

# ADS by the Numbers

- 2021 Budget: \$82.6 million
- 150 contracts with 70 community provider agencies to provide services throughout King County
- 209 ADS Staff
  - 177 Case Management Program
  - 21 Contracts
  - 9 Planning
  - 7 Division Administration
- Served over 51,000 individuals in King County in 2020 (unduplicated)

# Where can I Find Information?

## COMMUNITY LIVING CONNECTIONS

— Seattle & King County —

[communitylivingconnections.org](https://communitylivingconnections.org)

1-844-348-5464

# COVID Social Connectivity Initiative

- Planning staff shifted 100% to emergency response in the early days of 2020.
- Response areas were food, health services/access, and vaccine access (in 2021)
- Quickly realized that promoting social connectivity was also needed.





# “All of the Above Strategy” to social connectivity

- Low tech
- Mid tech
- High tech

**Many strategies required digital equity!**



# Specific technology strategies

- Digital Skills Coaches
- Tablet and WiFi Distribution
- Other devices – Portal and VidStream
- Acquaint
- “Furry Friends”
- Close to Home

# Current status and next steps

- Wrapping up COVID projects
- Determine next steps for Digital Skills Coaches (partnering to increase the reach)
- Contributing to Internet for all Seattle and other Digital Equity initiatives

# Contact Information

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